

# Waimakariri District Council

## Community and Recreation Committee

# Agenda

Tuesday 26 November  
2024  
3:30pm

Council Chambers  
215 High Street  
Rangiora

**Members:**

Cr Brent Cairns (Chairperson)

Cr Robbie Brine

Cr Al Blackie

Cr Niki Mealings

Cr Philip Redmond

Mayor Dan Gordon (ex officio)

## **AGENDA CONTENTS – COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

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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 26 NOVEMBER 2024 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 17 September 2024**

*RECOMMENDATION*

7 – 13

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 17 September 2024 as a true and accurate record.

3.2 **Matters arising (From Minutes)**

3.3 **Notes of the Community and Recreation Committee Workshop held on 17 September 2024**

*RECOMMENDATION*

14

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the circulated notes of the Community and Recreation Committee workshop, held on 17 September 2024.

4 **DEPUTATIONS**

Nil.

**5 REPORTS**

**5.1 Arohatia te Awa Programme of Works – Bex Dollery (Ecologist – Biodiversity)**

*RECOMMENDATION*

15 – 45

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241113200896.
- (b) **Approves** the Arohatia te Awa Programme of Works for years one to ten years allowing the Arohatia te awa Working Group to continue operations.
- (c) **Notes** staff will report back to the Community and Recreation Committee during the last quarter of the financial year to update on the status of the project and budget.
- (d) **Notes** that any programme changes will be reported to the Community and Recreation Committee.
- (e) **Notes** that the project currently has a budget of \$472,802 with an annual budget of \$110,000 ongoing.
- (f) **Notes** that whilst the Programme of Works exceeds the current budget (below), work undertaken will not exceed the available budget and actions will be taken to fundraise, request “work in kind” and down-scale plans where necessary.

Year	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	5-Yr Sub-total
<b>Approved Budget</b>	\$472, 802	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	<b>\$912,802</b>
<b>Total (All Works)</b>	\$152, 500	\$217, 500	\$282, 500	\$230, 000	\$245, 000	<b>\$1,127,500</b>
<b>Remaining Budget/Shortfall</b>	\$320, 302	-\$107, 500	-\$172, 500	-\$120, 000	-\$135, 000	<b>-\$214,698</b>
Year	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	10-Yr Total
<b>Approved Budget</b>	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	<b>\$1,462, 802</b>
<b>Total (All Works)</b>	\$140, 000	\$145, 000	\$145, 000	\$150, 000	\$150, 000	<b>\$1,857, 500</b>
<b>Remaining Budget/ Shortfall</b>	-\$30, 000	-\$35, 000	-\$35 ,000	-\$40, 000	-\$40 ,000	<b><u>-\$394, 698</u></b>

- (g) **Circulates** this report to all Community Boards for their information.



5.2 **Fee Waiver Grants Scheme Update – Ken Howat (Parks and Facilities Team Leader)**

RECOMMENDATION

46 – 52

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241113200505.
- (b) **Notes** that fee waivers for facility hire costs totalling \$3,819 were approved to 14 groups and consent grants totalling \$17,111.25 were approved for four community groups.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

5.3 **Aquatics November Report – Matthew Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)**

RECOMMENDATION

53 – 62

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241104191022.
- (b) **Notes** the progress on current and planned maintenance activities to support the ongoing operation of the facilities.
- (c) **Approves** support for the Coastguard Big Swim fundraising initiative by offering free lane swimming for the month of June 2025 for those participating in the fundraising for the event.
- (d) **Notes** that while there is no direct cost to the Council for being involved, an estimated likely impact to income is around \$650 for 10 people however this is likely to be recovered from further repeat business.
- (e) **Approves** the trial of three season pass ticket prices at the Oxford Pool for the coming season, being Adult \$244.40, Senior/community service \$183.80 and Child \$138.70.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

5.4 **Community Team Year in Review Report 2023/24 – Tessa Sturley (Community Team Manager)**

RECOMMENDATION

63 – 105

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 241112199722.
- (b) **Notes** the collaborative, community-led approach adopted by the Community Team as part of business as usual and Civil Defence response and social recovery.
- (c) **Notes** that, as detailed in the Community Team Year in Review Report 2023/2024, all population and performance measure targets for the Community Development Strategy 2015 -2025 have now been met or exceeded.
- (d) **Notes** the pending review of the Community Development Strategy, due for completion before June 2025.
- (e) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

5.5 **Libraries Update from 5 September to 14 November 2024 – Luke Sole (District Libraries Manager)**

RECOMMENDATION

106 – 113

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241118203393.
- (b) **Notes** the community benefits of the below initiatives, with reference to increasing visitation, lending, and event attendance for 2023/2024-year, recent achievements with digital initiatives, and record attendance for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

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 **QUESTIONS**

9 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee will be held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 at 1pm.

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 3:30PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors R Brine (Chairperson), B Cairns, P Redmond and Mayor D Gordon.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors J Ward and P Williams.

J Millward (Chief Executive), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), G Stephens (Design and Planning Team Leader), I Clark (Project Manager Community and Recreation), M Pugh (Community Development Facilitator) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

**1 APOLOGIES**

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Received** and sustained leave of absence from Councillors Blackie and Mealings.

**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 July 2024**

Moved: Councillor Redmond

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 July 2024, as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

**3.2 Matters Arising (From Minutes)**

There were no matters arising.

### 3.3 Notes of the Community and Recreation Committee Workshop held on 23 July 2024

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the circulated workshop notes of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 23 July 2024.

**CARRIED**

## 4 DEPUTATIONS

### 4.1 Waikuku Beach Accessibility Matting – Katie Croft and Biddy Riley

B Riley reported that Ocean Access Advocates Roopu (OAAR), was a group of local residents advocating for equitable access to beaches and coastal areas for all people. OAAR's approach was to educate and advocate in the hope of enhancing understanding. OAAR ran an accessible mat trial during the 2023/24 summer season; it was a 10-metre loan mat from C1 South to test at Waikuku Beach. She noted that OAAR were grateful for the support of the lifeguards and the volunteers at the Waikuku Surf Lifesaving Club during the trial. Feedback indicated that the mats' installation was straightforward; however, daily visual inspections were recommended, with a more thorough physical inspection carried out once a week. B Riley noted that the mats would be a Council asset, however, they had been informed there would be no liability to the Council if volunteers inspected the mat.

K Croft commented that wheelchairs and beach matting were available at Sumner and North Beaches in Christchurch. OAAR believed this was an opportunity for the Waimakariri District to provide unrestricted access to its beaches. OAAR had liaised with North Beach, Christchurch residents about the requirements for installing beach accessibility matting. It seemed that the Resident's Association applied to the Christchurch City Council for funding to purchase the mat, which was rolled out daily and monitored by the lifesavers. In terms of the operational requirements of a mat at Waikuku Beach, the beach environment was changeable. It was, therefore, important OAAR worked on the access to the beach in terms of the IRB for the surf club for emergency access.

Mayor Gordon enquired about the cost of installing beach accessibility matting at Waikuku Beach. K Croft noted that the matting cost approximately \$1,000 a metre. C1 South had indicated that they would donate the 10-metre matting used during the trial. OAAR estimated they would need another 40 metres to ensure to the ocean. It was highly recommended to also have some matting, perpendicular to the access mat where people could leave their wheelchairs while they swam.

Responding to Mayor Gordon's question, K Croft confirmed OAAR had not tried to secure any external funding.

Councillor Cairns asked if the proposed length measured was from the viewing platform or the sheds at Waikuku Beach. K Croft explained it was from the Waikuku Surf Lifesaving Club building.

Councillor Cairns noted that 40-50 metres of matting would be a very large roll. He asked if the anticipated costs included storage and whether OAAR had spoken with the Waikuku Surf Lifesaving Club about storage. K Croft explained that the matting would be wound on a 'pool net' roll and attached to the outside of the building with a metal cage and lock box around it. In terms of the funding, the storage would be an additional cost.

## 5 REPORTS

### 5.1 Libraries Update to 5 September 2024 – L Sole (District Libraries Manager)

L Sole took the report as read; however, he highlighted the following:

- National Poetry Day, which drew in around 100 people.
- Libraries held several classes teaching school-aged children writing skills, who had contributed some of their poems for inclusion in a journal that staff had produced. He acknowledged the contribution of Jason Clements, who edited that journal.
- Staff was working with Alzheimer's New Zealand on being accredited as Dementia-friendly libraries. A monthly Next Chapter Group co-led with Dementia Canterbury started in Kaiapoi, facilitated by the Waimakariri Libraries Team. The aim was to socially connect dementia patients within their community. Staff had also been working on a new collection called 'Suitcase of Memories' aimed at people with Dementia.
- The Robotics Club had gone from strength to strength; they had a group of regular participants from local schools.
- Staff recently collaborated with the greater Christchurch schools' network to offer a podcasting programme for school children. It was a facilitated session where they learnt how to record, edit and publish those.

Responding to a question from Councillor Redmond, J Millward explained that there were no contributions in the current financial year. However, the Contributions Policy made provision for ten years in advance and ten years in arrears, so even no expenditure had occurred, development contributions were charged.

Councillor Cairns noted the 8,637 visitors over the last week of Kids Fest and asked what the regular number of visitors was. L Sole advised that they had employed a people-counting solution that was 98% accurate. Often, over such busy periods, visitor volumes could go up a third or sometimes even double.

Councillor Cairns enquired if the Council would fund the Learning Connections Coordinator Jason Clements' trip to Madurai, India, in November 2024. However, L Sole confirmed that the trip would be self-funded.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 240911154839.
- (b) **Notes** the community benefits of the below initiatives, with reference to children's literacy development, providing valuable social and vocational skills as part of a curriculum-based robotics initiative, and the addition of further services to promote inclusion and social connection for those with Alzheimer's and dementia or related conditions.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Gordon commented that the library was a very busy and active community space, and he was proud of this activity. The Waimakariri Libraries were well-used spaces that reflected their communities. He thanked the staff for the work they were doing.

Councillor Cairns commended the library's staff for the work they did.

## 5.2 Aquatics September 2024 Report – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)

M Greenwood was not present to present the report.

Councillor Redmond questioned the dates in paragraphs 5.3 and 6.1 of the report. J Millward noted that the dates were incorrect however the data was current.

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 240905150863.
- (b) **Notes** a strong response to recent recruitment activity with over 60 candidates applying for Lifeguard and Learn to Swim positions at our facilities.
- (c) **Notes** council staff working closely with the Ministry of Social Development to identify opportunities for funded training and development of employment opportunities.
- (d) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Cairns congratulated staff for the support of the Kanes Shield event in Kaiapoi.

## 6 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

## 7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

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

Councillor Blackie was not present.

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

- Southbrook Sports Club Meeting - They held their Annual General Meeting six weeks ago where some accounting issues were raised, some were addressed at the meeting with others still to be addressed.

### 7.3 Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Brent Cairns.

- Celebrate Te Reo Māori - Multiple sessions were held at libraries throughout the district, hosting story times, toddler times, etc, starting at 1.30pm on Monday, 16 September 2024, at Chamber Gallery and ending at 11am on 26 September 2024 at Kaiapoi.
- There were reports of an increasing number of elderly people arriving at Christchurch Emergency Department malnourished. Local food banks were in discussions to ascertain what could be done. Food Banks were also reporting a growing number of over 65's coming to collect food parcels.
- Kaiapoi Community Wellbeing started a trial of handing out food parcels and vegetables growing in pots. This was to teach and inspire people/families to grow their own food and see how easy it was, even if they were renting or living in their cars. The first given out was lettuces and peas; the next would be strawberries, potatoes, and tomatoes. The aim was to do the trial for six months to a year to

gauge/measure the response/impact with the aim that people started growing their own food. Thus far, the reaction had been very positive. Have approached the Kaiapoi Garden Club to help with growing seedlings.

- Kaiapoi Garden Club donated and planted two Ash trees at the new fire station in Kaiapoi.
- Citizens' Advice was now open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 4:30pm.
- St John was offering the "Three Steps to Life" Program for free to groups.
- Woodend School Fair would be held from 10am till 3pm on Sunday 22 September 2024
- Received much positive feedback regarding the increase in number of days the Council were funding for Surf Lifesaving at its beaches.
- The Inclusive Sports event would be held at MainPower Stadium from 10.30am to 2.30pm on 4 October 2024 from 10.30am to 2.30pm.
- 28 September 2024 Big Variety Show - fundraiser for Big Brother Big Sisters.
- 9 October 2024 - Older Persons Expo at Rangiora RSA.
- Darnley Club Annual General Meeting: The many volunteers who look after the elderly were thanked. They had a new van and were adding on to the garage to accommodate its larger size.
- Join Waimakariri's Driver Mentor Programme, which matched up learner drivers with fully licensed volunteer mentors to assist them in learning safe driving practices and the skills needed to pass the Restricted Driver's Licence test.
- Waimakariri Youth Council, Ashley Rakahuri River Care Group, Environment Canterbury, Eco Educate, 4WD Club, Keep Rangiora Beautiful, Rangiora Rotary, Rangiora Tramping Club and the Waimakariri District Council on Saturday 21 September 2024 on the Ashley Rakahuri River.
- A Marketing 101 Workshop for Community Groups, Clubs, and Not-for-profits would be held from 9.30am to 3.30pm on Friday, September 20, at the Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre.
- Waimakariri Youth Development Grant was open for applications.
- Kaiapoi Food Forest had a busy weekend with workshops on how to grow kumara and grafting fruit trees. They also received a substantial donation of trees from the Order of St Lazareth. The last donation of trees resulted in a number of them being quickly stolen.
- The food forest was visited by a US University Graduate who had been funded for a year to visit Food Forests all over the world. She spent several hours understanding how it started and how the community had been involved. Each year, a section of IBM selects and funds 30 graduate programs.
- Food Secure North Canterbury was having its next workshop on 24 October 2024 about "Food Security at a Time of Disruption." This workshop would result in the mapping of local growers and producers.
- A presenter at the Kaiapoi Garden Club spoke about there being 100mm less rainfall this year. Which may impact water supplies going forward.
- Food Box providers had changed the way they tracked the volume of food they gave out. They were now reporting on the number of meals, as opposed to the number of boxes, as each provider was giving out different-sized boxes of food. This would give a more accurate number of meals being provided.
- Waimak United Football team lost the first of their promotion games against Nelson.

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

Councillor Blackie was not present.

**8 QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

**9 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no 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 was moved:

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

**That** the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

- Item 10.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the public excluded portion of a meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 July 2024.
- Item 10.2 Contract CON2418 Pines Beach Relocation Tender Evaluation and Contract Award Report.

The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public was 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 were as follows:

Meeting Item No. and subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public-
10.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the public excluded portion a meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 23 July 2024.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	Section 7(h) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act; "enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities".
10.2 Contract CON2418 Pines Beach Relocation Tender Evaluation and Contract Award Report.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7	Section 7(h) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act; "enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities".

**CLOSED MEETING**

*See Public Excluded Agenda (separate document)*

**OPEN MEETING**



**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee would be held on Tuesday 26 November 2024 at 3.30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:51PM.

**CONFIRMED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Unconfirmed

**NOTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE WORKSHOP HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, RANGIORA SERVICE CENTRE, ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024, AT 4.25PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors R Brine (Chairperson), B Cairns, P Redmond and Mayor D Gordon.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors J Ward and P Williams.

J Millward (Chief Executive), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), G Stephens (Design and Planning Team Leader), I Clark (Project Manager Community and Recreation), and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

**APOLOGIES**

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Received** and sustained leave of absence from Councillors Blackie and Mealings.

**CARRIED**

**1. Waikuku Beach Accessibility matting**

Presenter(s) - G Stephens (Design and Planning Team Leader) and I Clark (Project Manager Community and Recreation)

- Had staff spoken to the Surf Lifesaving Club about the challenges of rescuing people with limited mobility?  
*The conversations with the Surf Lifesaving Club primarily focused on managing the matting and whether the club would be able to manage the visual inspections. However, the Club did raise concerns about the matting not being in the flag locations. Staff understood that Club members had training in dealing with people with limited mobility.*
- Had staff considered that the volunteers could potentially do the callouts if there were problems with the mats?  
*The cost per callout was roughly \$1,500, and staff estimated there would be 10 per year. If volunteers were used, it could be difficult to get someone out at a moment's notice. Also, the Council would like to coordinate the callout if cost would be involved.*
- Beach matting was available at Sumner and North Beaches in Christchurch. Did Ocean Access Advocates Roopu (OAAR) have any data on usage, and how many people were from North Canterbury?  
*OAAR did not specifically ask the people using the matting to access the beach where they were from.*
- Could ordinary wheelchairs be used on the beach matting?  
*You could use a normal wheelchair on the mat. There were specific wheelchairs designed for the water.*

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE WORKSHOP CONCLUDED AT 4.51PM.

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR DECISION**

**FILE NO and TRIM NO:** RES-34 / 241113200896

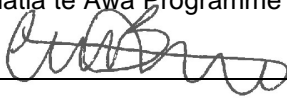
**REPORT TO:** Community and Recreation Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2024

**AUTHOR(S):** Bex Dollery, Ecologist - Biodiversity

**SUBJECT:** Arohatia te Awa Programme of Works

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Community and Recreation Committee for the proposed programme of works for the Arohatia te Awa project over the next 10 years.
- 1.2. This process is to create a line of sight for elected members to have good visibility of the programme of work for this project. This allows for any unknowns or up-front communication that decision-makers may be aware of to assist staff in the work being carried out.
- 1.3. This project is dedicated to enhancing water quality, biodiversity and recreational access across the District and has developed four main focus items for the next 10 years which have been itemised and budgeted.
- 1.4. The allocated budget does not cover all of the actions desired in the project scope, but the works undertaken will not exceed the budget and actions will be taken to fundraise, request "work in kind" and down-scale plans where necessary.

**Attachments:**

- i. Arohatia te Awa 10-year Work Plan and Budget (TRIM:241025186831).
- ii. Arohatia te Awa project approval Land and Water Working Group (TRIM:190314033747).
- iii. Let's Talk A4 Booklet Arohatia te Awa Feedback Form (1) (TRIM: 210331053473).
- iv. Arohatia te Awa terms of reference report March 2020 (TRIM: 200316035838).
- v. Arohatia te Awa terms of reference report Modified November 2023. (TRIM: 231123188215).

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241113200896.
- (b) **Approves** the Arohatia te awa programme of works for years one to ten years allowing the Arohatia te awa Working Group to continue operations.
- (c) **Notes** staff will report back to the Community and Recreation Committee during the last quarter of the financial year to update on the status of the project and budget.
- (d) **Notes** that any programme changes will be reported to the Community & Recreation Committee. For example, this might be due to factors such as project engagement results, pricing or changes in direction.

- (e) **Notes** that the project currently has a budget of \$472,802 with an annual budget of \$110,000 ongoing (Table 1).
- (f) **Notes** that whilst the programme of works exceeds the current budget (Table 1), work undertaken will not exceed the available budget and actions will be taken to fundraise, request “work in kind” and down-scale plans where necessary.

**Table 1. Approved ten-year budget with allocation for forecasted and proposed works (full details in attachment i.).**

Year	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	5-Yr Sub-total
<b>Approved Budget</b>	\$472, 802	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	\$110, 000	<b>\$912,802</b>
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<b>Total (All Works)</b>	\$140, 000	\$145, 000	\$145, 000	\$150, 000	\$150, 000	<b>\$1,857, 500</b>
<b>Remaining Budget/ Shortfall</b>	-\$30, 000	-\$35, 000	-\$35 ,000	-\$40, 000	-\$40 ,000	<b><u>-\$394, 698</u></b>

- (g) **Circulates** this report to all Boards for their information.

### 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The Arohatia te Awa project was established prior to the 2021 Long-term Plan, gaining funding through the adoption of the plan. The project was suggested by elected members and council staff including Chris Brown, Gerard Cleary and Grant McLeod. The project proposed to “to link up and provide access to publicly-owned land along waterways in the District, while also carrying out restoration work, with community input and ownership to enhance biodiversity”. The main aims were to improve water quality through riparian planting, enhance cultural values and create ecological corridors for biodiversity. It was also noted that there would be the potential to increase recreation and amenities throughout the District (attachments ii. and ii.).
- 3.2. The proposals were linked to initiatives, such as Environment Canterbury’s project, “Clean Green Silverstream”, that aimed to link Kaiapoi to the Waimakariri River Reserve and the trails which have been created within the back dunes of land maintained by Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara and the cycle trails which were being developed (and are now completed) by the council.
- 3.3. The original project scope was outlined as follows:
- “To create a network of walkways and cycleways primarily suitable for recreational users. It is not anticipated to receive any significant commuter usage.*
  - A network to be placed alongside waterways off-road, with some connector sections along other networks, such as road, only if required.*
  - To focus on biodiversity restoration of threatened ecosystem types of the Canterbury plains, such as wetland and drylands ecosystems.*
  - For the whole of the Waimakariri District, however with initial pilot areas potentially along the Cam River and coastal area of the District.*

- e) *To focus on the use of Waimakariri District Council and other public land, however with the possibility for access negotiations with private landowners, such as easements.*"
- 3.4. To achieve effective governance of the project, the Arohatia te Awa Working Group was formed in 2020 including elected members, managers and technical staff from Greenspace and 3 Waters with Terms of Reference (attachment vi.) citing the vision:
- "To improve instream rehabilitation, ecological and recreational networks along our district waterways to create healthy ecosystems and a community of guardians."*
- 3.5. In 2023, the Terms of Reference were altered to include Lineside Road development project and to broaden the group membership and include Environment Canterbury members, including river engineers (attachment v). The Working Group objectives were altered:
- a) *"To **scope, promote and govern the development and delivery** of the Arohatia te Awa and Lineside Road projects with recommendations to Council for future works and funding.*
  - b) *To agree and endorse to Council a **work plan and implementation plan** for Arohatia te Awa and the Lineside Road project.*
  - c) *To meet and agree on **action items** within an agreed work plan for both projects and ensure project capital and operational plan is meeting timeline targets.*
  - d) *To work through **solutions** for issues that require escalation from the project group and to govern the agreed work plan for the projects.*
  - e) *To continue to progress the Arohatia te Awa project aims of creating a **network of walkways and cycleways** primarily suitable for recreational users and create further recreational and cultural opportunities within the District.*
  - f) *To **increase biodiversity pathways for flora and fauna** within the district and create nature-based solutions for issues such as climate change, degraded water quality.*
  - g) *Catalyse **economic diversification**, for example through agri-tourism along the network and potentially create a 'drawcard' or promotional vehicle for Waimakariri District.*
  - h) *To partner with **other agencies** as required and offer high level support to the project team as required.*
  - i) *To **work effectively with the community through engagement** and to ensure they have a role within the projects. The Working Group will also endorse opportunities for the community to be directly involved through onsite works and planning discussions as required. "*

#### **4. ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1. The Terms of Reference for the Arohatia te Awa Working Group state that they have delegation to create and recommend the work plans for the project to the Community and Recreation Committee. As such, a forecasted 10-year work plan has been devised with associated budget (attachment i.).
- 4.2. To date, the main project focus has been restoration efforts along the Ruitaniwha-Cam River. There have been a number of setbacks and challenges with the progress of the walkway and planting along the waterway including land ownership issues and health and safety concerns. Therefore, the Working Group recommends a widened scope to include

four sub-projects, including the work along the Ruitaniwha-Cam River. This sub-project will continue to progress, installing riparian planting in areas which are under Council ownership and promoting public walkways where there is access and agreement from neighbouring residents.

- 4.3. The four sub-projects will be the main focus of the work for the Arohatia te Awa project and include works on the Ruitaniwha-Cam River and tributaries (including support for the North Brook Trail); restoration of land at 46 Main North Road; Lineside Road development project; and the Ohoka Trail. Having multiple projects removes the risk of the wider project halting when challenges arise and allows for some flexibility for the on-the-ground operations.
- 4.4. It is noted that extended future planning cannot predict changes, challenges and opportunities that may arise and require the group to shift focus. Therefore, it is recommended that the Working Group review the work plan at the start of each financial year and present to the Community and Recreation Committee for approval with any alterations highlighted.
- 4.5. The works anticipated for the four sub-projects are detailed in attachment v. along with the associated allocated funding. Whilst the budget only allows for the focussed projects and there is a shortfall of approximately \$394K over the 10 years (Table 1), the Working Group will not exceed the budget, securing outside fundraising, work “in-kind” or moderating project design to ensure completion within budgetary constraints.
- 4.6. The options available to the Committee are to approve or decline the recommendations. If the work programme is accepted, the works will commence with immediate effect. Updated work plans will then be brought back to the Committee at the last quarter of the financial year for approval.
- 4.7. If the recommendations are declined, there is the option to request further efforts to define the work programme by the Working Group with subsequent reporting back to the Committee.
- 4.8. If the recommendations are declined, the Committee has the option to request changes to the work programme followed by reporting recommended changes to Council.

#### **Implications for Community Wellbeing**

- 4.9. There are positive implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report. The works proposed by the project will increase community wellbeing through providing ecosystems services relating to cultural and educational values, offering mental and physical health enhancement opportunities through connection with nature and additional recreational areas in the District.
- 4.10. The Management Team has reviewed this report and support the recommendations.

## **5. COMMUNITY VIEWS**

### **5.1. Mana whenua**

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga are likely to have interest in the subject matter of this report, particularly as the project is directly related to enhancing indigenous biodiversity values using mahinga kai and taonga species which are aligned to Te Ao Māori. The Lineside Road development project also borders the MR873 land and therefore will have direct and indirect and anticipated positive impacts on MR873 with regard to biodiversity, water quality, safe food and fibre gathering and other ecosystems services.

The Arohatia te Awa Working Group includes Ngāi Tūāhuriri rūnanga representation and the group continues to ensure updates are provided to the rūnanga when requested and at meetings with representatives from Mahaanui Kurataiao.

## 5.2. **Groups and Organisations**

There are numerous groups and organisations likely to have an interest in the Arohatia te Awa project and work plan such as the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust who currently attend the meetings. The Working Group will ensure that appropriate, timely and accessible consultation is enabled to ensure all groups and organisations can have an option to comment on projects.

## 5.3. **Wider Community**

The wider community is likely to have an interest in the subject matter of this report and community members also attend meetings. As for groups and organisations, the Working Group will ensure community members are included in the consultation regarding projects.

## 6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

### 6.1. **Financial Implications**

There are not financial implications of the decisions sought by this report. As stated, the budget for the project was approved through 2024/2034 Long Term Plan. This report allocates the budgets effectively to maximise the efficiency and focus of works. Whilst the forecasted budget currently has a shortfall, the Working Group will ensure that there is no overspend and employ fundraising, request “work-in-kind” or down scale projects where necessary. Where changes are made, they will be reported to the Committee on an annual basis for approval.

### 6.2. **Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts**

This project as a whole feeds into the work commissioned by the Canterbury Climate Change Partnership which has charged the Waimakariri District Council with the task to “develop a blue-green network plan for Canterbury and accompanying guidance to support locally-led implementation”. The work programme includes the creation of ecological corridors as part of the wider blue-green network which will also consider land under council ownership which can be repurposed to achieve this goal.

The outcomes from the wider project and sub-projects will deliver significant positive benefits for both sustainability and climate change. The project will enhance and create resilient ecosystems with associated ecosystem services allowing for the showcasing of these areas to our local communities and offer educational opportunities.

### 6.3 **Risk Management**

There may be risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. Arohatia te Awa contains high profile projects for the Council and the District with the potential to offer many benefits to the community. As such, programme alterations with regards to financing, momentum and engagement need to be transparently communicated to Council to achieve proper management and governance.

The programme will also be circulated to the Community Boards and feedback is sought on an annual basis.

### 6.3 **Health and Safety**

There are not health and safety risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, the wider project and sub-projects will require careful consideration of health, and safety during construction and operational phases. Any contractors undertaking physical works contracts will be required to be SiteWise registered and meet minimum score requirements appropriate for the risk of the work being undertaken.

## 7. **CONTEXT**

### 7.1. **Consistency with Policy**

7.1.1. This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy. Full consultation on the project and sub-projects will be

developed and delivered by the Working Group informed by our Communications and Engagement team.

7.1.2. Aotearoa Biodiversity Strategy (2020) –

- 7.3.2 *“Ki uta ki tai – A whole of land and seascape approach is taken, focusing on understanding and managing interconnected resources and ecosystems from the mountains to the sea. Everyone is connecting, sharing and aligning projects across systems.”*
- 7.3.3 *“Indigenous biodiversity – We recognise and prioritise the special responsibility we have towards indigenous species, while still recognising the recreational, economic and cultural benefits of valued non-indigenous species.”*
- 7.3.3 *“Involvement in decision making – Roles and responsibilities are clear, transparent and effectively undertaken, and everyone has the support, knowledge and networks they need to help make informed decisions that protect and restore biodiversity.”*
- Objective 1 *“Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of the strategy outcomes”. Goal 1.4 “The costs and value of restoring indigenous biodiversity have been quantified and are being actively used to inform decision making”. Goal 1.5 “Sufficient ongoing resource and funding have been secured from multiple sources to implement the strategy”.*
- Objective 10 *“Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient and connected from mountain tops to ocean depths”.*
- Objective 11 *“Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management”.*
- Objective 13 *“Biodiversity provides nature based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects”.*

7.1.3. Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (2011) –

- Policy 7.3.3 *“To promote, and where appropriate require the protection, restoration and improvement of lakes, rivers, wetlands and their riparian zones and associated Ngāi Tahu values”.*
- Policy 9.34 *“To promote the enhancement and restoration of Canterbury’s ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, in appropriate locations, where this will improve the functioning and long term sustainability of these ecosystems.”*

7.1.4. Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy (2009) –

- Target 2 *“There is an on-going increase in the number, quality and effectiveness of ecosystem-based restoration projects and initiatives, particularly in areas where less than 30% indigenous cover remains”.*
- Target 8 *“There is an on-going increase in the number of inter-agency and agency/community partnerships that result in biodiversity improvements”.*

7.1.5. Waimakariri District Plan (2024) –

- Policy 6.1.1.7 – *“Identify, maintain and enhance ecological corridors which connect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.”.*
- Policy 6.2.1.1 – *“Safeguard the ecological integrity and natural functioning of wetlands”.*
- Policy 6.3.1.1 – *“Promote increased understanding and awareness of waterways and roadsides as areas of indigenous vegetation, mahinga kai and habitats of indigenous fauna”.*
- Policy 6.3.1.2 *“Develop waterways and roadsides as areas of indigenous vegetation, and habitats for indigenous fauna, whilst having regard to road*



*safety and the operation and maintenance of the drainage, irrigation and stock water networks”.*

## 7.2. Authorising Legislation

7.2.1. National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (2023) –

- “Policy 13: Restoration of indigenous biodiversity is promoted and provided for”.
- “Policy 14: Increased indigenous vegetation cover is promoted in both urban and nonurban environments”.

7.2.2. Resource Management Act (1991) – 6(d) provide for the following “*the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers*”.

## 7.3. Consistency with Community Outcomes

The Council’s community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report. The wider project will deliver results in each of the four values of the community outcomes. The table below shows a synopsis of how the project and sub-projects can tie into each of the four values:

Relevant Community Outcome Values	The Arohatia te Awa Project
<b>Social</b> - A place where everyone can have a sense of belonging..	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public spaces are diverse, respond to changing demographics and meet local needs for leisure and recreation.</li> <li>• Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimizing the risk of social harm to its communities.</li> <li>• Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project provides public open space.</li> <li>• The open spaces will offer ecosystem services around physical and mental health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• The open spaces will be accessible to the whole community.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural</b> - where our people are enabled to thrive & give creative expression to identity & heritage..	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public spaces express our cultural identities and help to foster an inclusive society and the distinctive character of our takiwā / district, arts and heritage are preserved and enhanced.</li> <li>• All members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project aims to include mahinga kai and taonga species.</li> <li>• Full consultation will be enabled for each sub-project and opportunities for the comment and involvement provided</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b> - that values and restores our environment...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are supported to participate in improving the health and sustainability of our environment.</li> <li>• Land use is sustainable; biodiversity is protected and restored.</li> <li>• Our district is resilient and able to quickly respond to and recover from natural disasters and the effects of climate change.</li> <li>• Our district transitions towards a reduced carbon and waste district.</li> <li>• The natural and built environment in which people live is clean, healthy and safe.</li> <li>• Our communities are able to access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public participation in the restoration of selected areas will be offered and encouraged.</li> <li>• Landuse will be designed with appropriate ecological input.</li> <li>• Providing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and techniques.</li> </ul> <p>The areas will be open to the public.</p>
<b>Economic</b> - and is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is access to meaningful, rewarding, and safe employment within the district.</li> <li>• Our district recognizes the value of both paid and unpaid work.</li> <li>• Infrastructure and services are sustainable, resilient, and affordable.</li> <li>• Our district readily adapts to innovation and emerging technologies that support its transition to a circular economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to provide eco-tourism for the area;</li> <li>• Potential job creation for development and restoration works;</li> <li>• Potential to offer new opportunities in an emerging climate change resilience/adaptation realm.</li> </ul>

**7.4. Authorising Delegations**

The Community and Recreation Committee has the delegations to approve and accept the recommendations in this report.

## Arohatia te Awa 10 Year Work Plan and Budget

It is recommended that four sub-projects become the focus of the wider Arohatia te Awa project. These are outlined below with the associated allocated budget found in Table 1.

### **Ruitaniwha – Cam River and Tributaries**

**Aim:** continue to encourage water quality and biodiversity improvements through ecological corridor creation alongside the long-term development of recreational routes throughout the District.

**Description:** This project would focus on council-owned land but explore other options, such as the North Brook Trail, to continue to make ecologically functional linkages through the landscape for biodiversity and recreational users where possible.

**Actions:** For this project to be successful, the following actions have been identified;

- Ensure appropriate project management for this project and the wider Arohatia te Awa projects;
- Provide maintenance for assets (plantings) already established);
- Undertake pest management and monitoring;
- Undertake annual ecological monitoring to ensure sufficient data is gathered to inform management and to offer reports to stakeholders;
- Explore opportunities to expand linkages, primarily on council-owned land, but also land in other ownership;
- Continue to enhance the ecological functioning of areas under which we have control/permission;
- Provide infrastructure where appropriate such as fencing, paths, and road safety features.

### **Lineside Road Land Purchase**

**Aim:** To explore the opportunities presented by this land to create an area that will benefit biodiversity, environment, and community.

**Description:** This project will explore all options for the land, being shaped and developed by a range of stakeholders and the community. This project will remain as a project under the governance of the Arohatia te Awa working group but the funding will be largely provided through the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy.

**Actions:** For this project to be successful, the following actions have been identified;

- Ensure appropriate data has been gathered to fully inform the project of the best use of the area;
- Provide effective consultation with all stakeholders and community during each phase of the project;
- Ensure opportunities for community involvement in every phase of the project;
- Provide maintenance for assets (plantings) already established);
- Undertake pest management and monitoring;
- Undertake annual ecological monitoring to ensure sufficient data is gathered to inform management and to offer reports to stakeholders;
- Carry out appropriate restoration operations;
- Provide infrastructure where appropriate such as fencing, paths, buildings for education or other use, and road safety features).

## 46 Main North Road

**Aim:** To restore an area of wetland along the Courtney Stream for biodiversity and recreational uses.

**Description:** This land parcel is on a main arterial and cycle route into Kaiapoi. The area has been retired from grazing and has become degraded by weeds. It is proposed that the area be restored, with input from surrounding land owners for the purpose of biodiversity conservation and enhancement and for the enjoyment of the community.

**Actions:** For this project to be successful, the following actions have been identified;

- Ensure the project is fully scoped and designed to achieve the aim;
- Provide effective engagement and consultation with all stakeholders and community during each phase of the project;
- Prepare, restore, and maintain the area in an ecologically sensitive manner in alignment with relevant legislation and policy;
- Undertake pest management and monitoring;
- Undertake annual ecological monitoring to ensure sufficient data is gathered to inform management and to offer reports to stakeholders;
- Provide infrastructure where appropriate such as fencing, paths, buildings for education or other use, and road safety features.

## Ohoka Trail

**Aim:** To provide a trail along the Ohoka Stream opposite the Silverstream residential development which can offer public recreation and biodiversity benefits to the community whilst maintaining access for the drainage team and associated works.

**Description:** This project will create a walking loop along the Ohoka Stream that will link to the Kaiapoi River/ and or the subdivision to the east. The project aims to also maintain the biodiversity of the area and enhance it through careful planting and restoration.

**Actions:** For this project to be successful, the following actions have been identified;

- Ensure appropriate data has been gathered to fully inform the project and design;
- Provide effective consultation and engagement with all stakeholders and community during each phase of the project;
- Provide preparation, restoration, and maintenance for the area;
- Undertake pest management and monitoring;
- Undertake annual ecological monitoring to ensure sufficient data is gathered to inform management and to offer reports to stakeholders;
- Provide infrastructure where appropriate such as fencing, paths, and road safety features).



<b>Main North Road</b>											
Weeding/maintenance	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$85,000
Pest control	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$50,000
Research and design	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$10,000	.							\$15,000
Consultation	In-house	In-house	In-house	In-house	In-house	In-house	In-house	In-house	In-house	In-house	\$0
Plantings		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000						\$80,000
Ecological survey/monitoring	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$50,000
Infrastructure (fencing, boardwalks, car park etc)		\$30,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$40,000						\$140,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$32,500</b>	<b>\$72,500</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$420,000</b>
<b>Ohoka Trail</b>											
Scoping design	In-house										\$0
Design		\$2,500									\$2,500
Consultation		\$2,500									\$2,500
Weeding/maintenance			\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$40,000
Pest control		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$45,000
Ecological survey/monitoring	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$50,000
Planting		\$20,000	\$20,000								\$40,000
Infrastructure (fencing, paths, road safety features etc)			\$30,000	\$30,000	\$40,000						\$100,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$280,000</b>
<b>Total (All Works)</b>	<b>\$152,500</b>	<b>\$217,500</b>	<b>\$282,500</b>	<b>\$230,000</b>	<b>\$245,000</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$145,000</b>	<b>\$145,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$1,857,500</b>
<b>Remaining Budget/Shortfall</b>	<b>\$320,302</b>	<b>-\$107,500</b>	<b>-\$172,500</b>	<b>-\$120,000</b>	<b>-\$135,000</b>	<b>-\$30,000</b>	<b>-\$35,000</b>	<b>-\$35,000</b>	<b>-\$40,000</b>	<b>-\$40,000</b>	<b><u>-\$394,698</u></b>

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR DECISION**

**FILE NO and TRIM NO:** WAT-11 / 190314033747

**REPORT TO:** Land and Water Working Group, Council

**DATE OF MEETING:** 25 July 2019

**FROM:** Sophie Allen – Water Environment Advisor  
Gerard Cleary – Manager Utilities and Roading  
Grant McLeod – Manager Greenspace

**SUBJECT:** 'Arohatia te Awa – Cherish the River' project approval

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks the approval, in principle, from Council for the concept 'Arohatia te Awa' (Cherish the River), creating a network of recreational walkways and cycleways along waterways, to be adopted as a Council project.
- 1.2 This report also seeks to define the objectives, scope, and timelines of the project 'Arohatia te Awa.'
- 1.3 Councillor Stewart proposed the concept Arohatia te Awa to the Waimakariri District Council (WDC) Management Team in December 2018 (refer to attachment 190306027090). Management Team are supportive of the concept in principle (MTO minutes, 17 December 2018), awaiting scoping of project details around governance, staff resourcing, funding and project(s) ownership. Gerard Cleary, Manager Utilities and Roading and Chris Brown, Manager Community and Recreation were nominated as staff leads to progress the concept within Waimakariri District Council.
- 1.4 It is recommended by WDC staff to establish a Project Control Group (PCG) to discuss governance, staff resourcing, funding and project(s) ownership, to provide a co-ordinated and strategic approach to Arohatia te Awa across Council departments.
- 1.5 The proposed objectives of Arohatia te Awa are to:
  - a. improve recreational amenity;
  - b. enhance cultural values;
  - c. encourage biodiversity improvements through ecological corridor creation;
  - d. catalyse economic diversification, for example through agri-tourism along the network; and
  - e. create a 'drawcard' or promotional vehicle for Waimakariri District.



## 2. RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Land and Water Working Group recommends that:

**THAT** the Council:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 190314033747.
- (b) **Approves** the 'Arohatia te Awa' project objectives, scope and timelines in principal.
- (c) **Notes** that a scoping phase, conducted by the Land and Water Project Action Group, is recommended in 2019-2020 to assess staff resources, project areas, similar initiatives and funding availability.
- (d) **Circulates** this report to Community Boards, the Utilities and Roading Committee and Community and Recreation Committee for their information.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. In 2015, WDC Green Space staff proposed a Recreation and Ecological Linkage Reserve Management Plan. Initial consultation was carried out with the community, however was placed on indefinite hold due to reallocation of staff resourcing. This Plan, created under the Reserves Act (1977) proposed to help Council make decisions on the management of recreation and ecological linkages. Recreation and ecological linkages, as noted by the initial consultation document, provide corridors for fauna to move along waterways and links for walking and cycling, among other benefits.
- 3.2. Councillor Stewart, in her role as the Drainage and Canterbury Water Management Strategy Portfolio holder and WDC representative on the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee, has articulated a concept of 'Arohatia te Awa – Cherish the River'. Arohatia te Awa is proposed to link up and provide access to publicly-owned land along waterways in the District, while also carrying out restoration work, with community input and ownership to enhance biodiversity. This would also have the potential to increase the recreation and amenity offering throughout the district. Economic enterprises would be encouraged by the Council to utilise the river access network, such as for cycling tours and agri-tourism ventures.

### **Related local initiatives**

- 3.3. Environment Canterbury manages an existing recreational trail network along the ecological corridors of the Waimakariri River Regional Park and Ashley Rakahuri Regional Park. These trails are popular for recreation. The regional parks also have associated biodiversity projects such as native plantings and inanga habitat creation.
- 3.4. Environment Canterbury has allocated \$300,000 in the 2018-19 to the project 'Clean Green Silverstream', creation of a cycleway/walkway loop from Kaiapoi, following the Silverstream catchment, to the existing Waimakariri River corridor walkway/cycleway, with a return to Kaiapoi. This loop track has associated biodiversity and water quality improvements, which will be showcased along the loop to the public.
- 3.5. Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust maintains the Pegasus and Tutaepatu Trails (see Figure 1), providing recreational cycleways and walkways through wetland and backdune coastal ecosystems of the District.



- 3.6. Waimakariri District Council is progressing an Urban Cycleways Programme (see Figure 1), for cycling traffic. There is potential for parts of this network to connect to an Arohatia te Awa network.



Figure 1: Urban Cycleways Programme network and selected recreational trails in the Waimakariri District

- 3.7. Enterprise North Canterbury is facilitating a proposal for a 'Wheels to Waipara' coastal cycleway and walkway along Pegasus Bay from the Waimakariri River to Waipara. Funding has been sought from the Provincial Growth Fund, with a decision still pending. This will connect to an existing 'Vineyard tour of Waipara cycleway' in the Hurunui District.
- 3.8. A cycle lane on the State Highway One bridge over the Waimakariri River is due for completion in 2019. This cycle lane will increase the potential for cycling and walking options to, and from, Christchurch into North Canterbury.

#### 4. ISSUES AND OPTIONS

##### Scope

- 4.1. The recommended project scope of Arohata te Awa is:
- a. To create a network of walkways and cycleways primarily suitable for recreational users. It is not anticipated to receive any significant commuter usage.
  - b. A network to be placed alongside waterways off-road, with some connector sections along other networks, such as road, only if required.
  - c. To focus on biodiversity restoration of threatened ecosystem types of the Canterbury plains, such as wetland and drylands ecosystems.
  - d. For the whole of the Waimakariri District, however with initial pilot areas potentially along the Cam River and coastal area of the District.
  - e. To focus on the use of Waimakariri District Council and other public land, however with the possibility for access negotiations with private landowners, such as easements.

### **Timelines**

- 4.2. A scoping phase, conducted by the Land and Water Project Action Group, is recommended in 2019-2020 to assess staff resources, project areas, similar initiatives and funding availability.
- 4.3. A report on existing budgets, future funding needs and proposed governance structure will be presented to the Land and Water Working Group late in 2019-20, provided there is Council approval to adopt the project.
- 4.4. Future work post 2019-20 could include the preparation of business cases, network plans, and implementation and maintenance of works.
- 4.5. Arohata te Awa is proposed to be on-going until such a time as the project is deemed to no longer be required.

### **Strategic Alignment**

- 4.6. Arohata te Awa aligns with objectives of other Council work, such as the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy to create ecological corridors from the mountains to the sea, and projects under the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA). Recommendation 1.26 of the ZIPA seeks that: 'Environment Canterbury and the Waimakariri District Council support projects that have enduring benefits for improved stream health, Ngāi Tūāhuriri values, improved recreational amenity in the North Waimakariri River Tributaries.'
- 4.7. The WDC Greenspace Manager has indicated it is a priority for the Greenspace team to re-commence work on a recreation and ecological linkages management plan. This plan would include direction for creation of esplanade reserves along specified waterways under the Resource Management Act (1991). This plan could underpin work carried out by the Land and Water Project Action Group.

### **Funding**

- 4.8. The Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) was adopted by Council in December 2018. \$70,000 per annum for two years has been allocated to implementing Recommendation 1.26 for 'improved stream health, Ngāi Tūāhuriri values, and improved recreational amenity': This allocated budget fits well with Arohata te Awa objectives.

- 4.9. Central government funding is potentially available for implementation of Arohatia te Awa, for example through the Provincial Growth Fund.

### **Relationships and Community Engagement**

- 4.10. It is recommended for the Land and Water Project Action Group to coordinate and cooperate with similar local initiatives, for example the Environment Canterbury 'Clean, Green, Silverstream' loop and the work of Enterprise North Canterbury to promote recreational trails.
- 4.11. Agreements for easement access over private land could be sought by Waimakariri District Council, however is only recommended for circumstances only where an access easement would permit completion of a network section along primarily public land.
- 4.12. It is anticipated that there will be a high level of community interest and engagement. Opportunities are recommended to be created for community to participate in planning and on-going use of the Arohatia te Awa network, such as trail maintenance, tree planting and weeding bee events.
- 4.13. It is recommended for the Land and Water Project Action Group, when considering governance structures for Arohatia te Awa, to consider establishment of a charitable trust, as a separate entity from the Council. A successful example of the use of this governance structure is the Hurunui Trails Trust, which has facilitated the creation of trails in the Hurunui District. Advantages of a separate trust could include access to a wider range of philanthropic / charitable funding sources.

### **Mapping**

- 4.14. GIS mapping of public land along waterways will be key for scoping potential network sections. The WDC Geospatial Team have trialled a pilot mapping exercise with the Cam River and tributaries. The pilot mapping exercise found that further mapping of the exact location of waterways, particularly smaller tributaries could be required by WDC. Features such as unformed legal roads and esplanade strips could require mapping manually, as no GIS layer currently exists.
- 4.15. The Management Team has reviewed this report and supports the recommendations.

## **5. COMMUNITY VIEWS**

### **5.1. Groups and Organisations**

#### **5.1.1. Environment Canterbury**

The Arohatia te Awa project would complement the 'Clean, Green Silverstream' project with similar objectives led by Environment Canterbury.

#### **5.1.2. Waimakariri Water Zone Committee (WWZC)**

Arohatia te Awa would support the implementation of WWZC Recommendation 1.26 in the ZIPA seeks that: 'Environment Canterbury and the Waimakariri District Council support projects that have enduring benefits for improved stream health, Ngāi Tūāhuriri values, improved recreational amenity in the North Waimakariri River Tributaries.'

#### **5.1.3. Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga**

Consultation on the project is proposed to be undertaken at a WDC-Rūnanga meeting. Consultation could focus specifically on how to improve cultural values, such as providing



access for mahinga kai (customary food gathering) and the desired role of the rūnanga with the project.

#### 5.1.4. Enterprise North Canterbury

Arohatia te Awa fits well with a current Enterprise North Canterbury project to promote recreational trails to tourists and local community. Enterprise North Canterbury has indicated an interest to work with the Land and Water Project Action Group.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

### 6.1. Financial Implications

6.1.1. Staff resourcing is available to progress this project within existing budgets at the initial phase of the project in 2019-20, particularly by the Water Environment Advisor role and proposed Biodiversity Officer role. Any funding requests would be presented in a future report to Council.

### 6.2. Community Implications

6.2.1. The community would receive;

6.2.1.1. increased recreational amenity;

6.2.1.2. improved biodiversity with more extensive ecological corridors;

6.2.1.3. opportunities for economic diversification; and

6.2.1.4. support for cultural values, such as providing access for mahinga kai, and providing habitat to sustain taonga species.

There is potentially a cost to ratepayers, if additional funding was sought to implement the project Arohatia te Awa from rates.

### 6.3. Risk Management

6.3.1. It is recommended to continually monitor and review the scope of the Arohatia te Awa project, to minimise the risk of losing focus and not meeting objectives. There is a risk of the scope changing over time, due to the multi-disciplinary nature of the project. It could be advantageous to focus on completing a few pilot sections, followed by an evaluation before up-scaling.

### 6.4. Health and Safety

6.4.1. There are no health and safety considerations regarding the adoption of the Arohatia te Awa project in itself. Health and safety considerations for sections of the recreational cycleway and walkway network, such as road traffic, heights and uneven ground, would be considered as part of the design process.

## 7. CONTEXT

### 7.1. Policy

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

### 7.2. Legislation

- 7.2.1. Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy (2008) – The vision statement of the strategy support ecological corridors with a vision for ‘a full range of healthy ecosystems stretching from the mountains to the sea.’
- 7.2.2. Resource Management Act (1991) – Sections 229-231 for vesting of esplanade reserves to a Council. Section 232 for creation of esplanade strips.
- 7.2.3. Reserves Act (1977) – Esplanade reserves are set aside as reserves under the Reserves Act (1977). The Act also permits the creation of a Reserve Management Plan, such as the ‘Recreation and Ecological Linkage Reserve Management Plan’, which was proposed by WDC in 2015.

### 7.3. **Community Outcomes**

There is a healthy and sustainable environment for all

- 7.3.1. Harm to the environment from the impacts of land use, use of water resources and air emissions is minimised.
- 7.3.2. Cultural values relating to water are acknowledged and respected.
- 7.3.3. The demand for water is kept to a sustainable level.
- 7.3.4. Harm to the environment from the spread of contaminants into ground water and surface water is minimised.

There are areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats for indigenous fauna

- 7.3.5. Conservation and restoration of significant areas of vegetation and/or habitats is encouraged.

Public spaces and facilities are plentiful, accessible and high quality

- 7.3.6. People enjoy clean water at our beaches, rivers and lakes.
- 7.3.7. There is a wide variety of public places and spaces to meet people’s needs.
- 7.3.8. There are wide-ranging opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors.

Transport is accessible, convenient, reliable and sustainable

- 7.3.9. Communities in our District are well linked with each other and Christchurch is readily accessible by a range of transport modes.

Businesses in the District are diverse, adaptable and growing

- 7.3.10. There are growing numbers of businesses and employment opportunities in our District.
- 7.3.11. There are sufficient and appropriate places where businesses are able to set up in our District.

### 7.4. **Delegations**

No delegations apply.





Attention: Chris Brown  
Let's Talk about - Arohatia te Awa  
Waimakariri District Council  
Private Bag 1005  
Rangiora 7440

Fold along line

Please seal on all sides with tape.

Fold along line

**We'd love to hear your thoughts...**

Name:

Email/Phone:

Comments: (Please feel free to add further pages inside if you wish)

Your feedback will go to: Chris Brown, Manager Community and Recreation, 0800 965 468, chris.brown@wmk.govt.nz

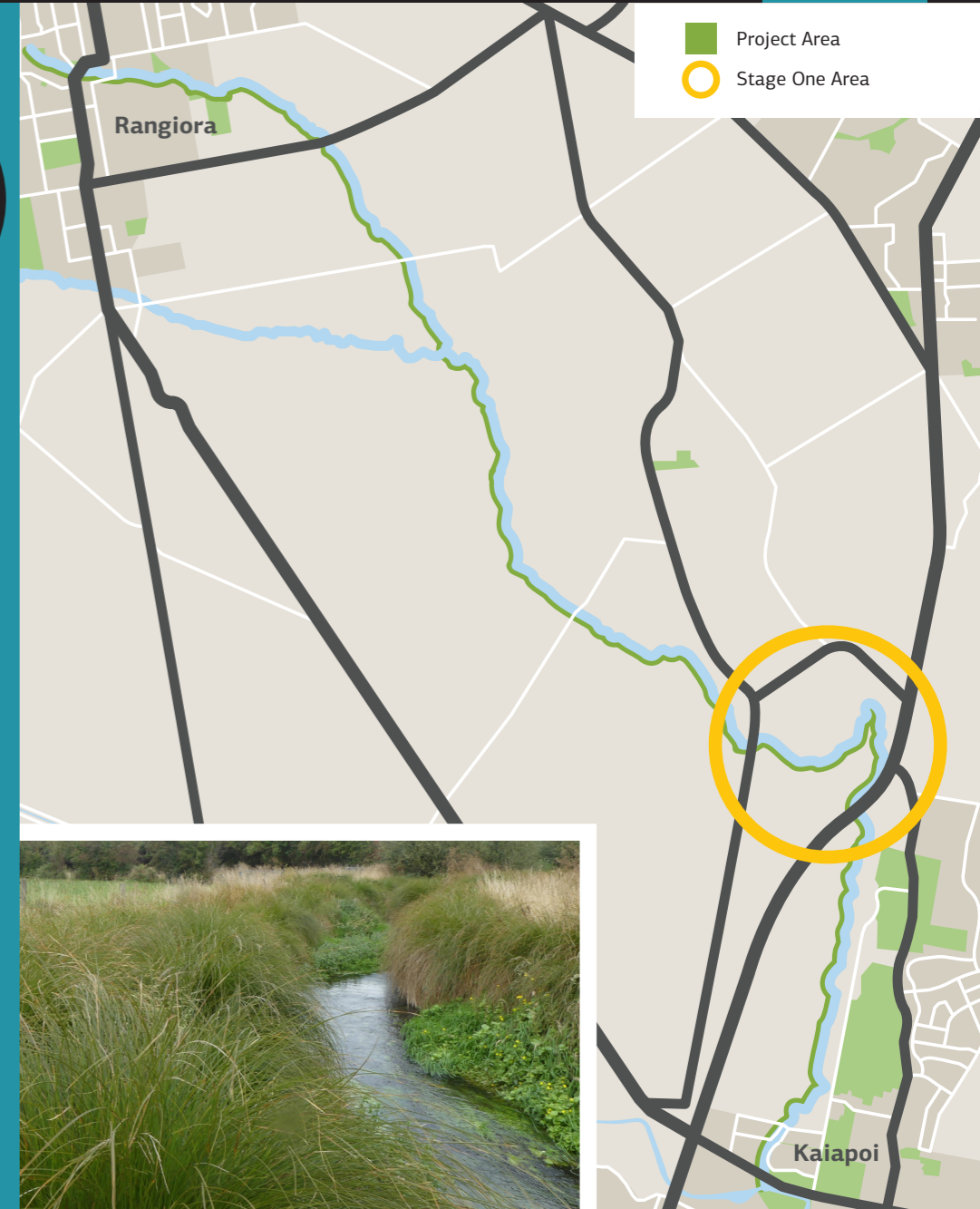
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**INVITATION TO BE INVOLVED - AROHATIA TE AWA  
(CHERISH THE RIVER) STAGE ONE**



**WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK?**

**We are planting  
our streams and  
rivers to improve  
water quality in  
the district.**



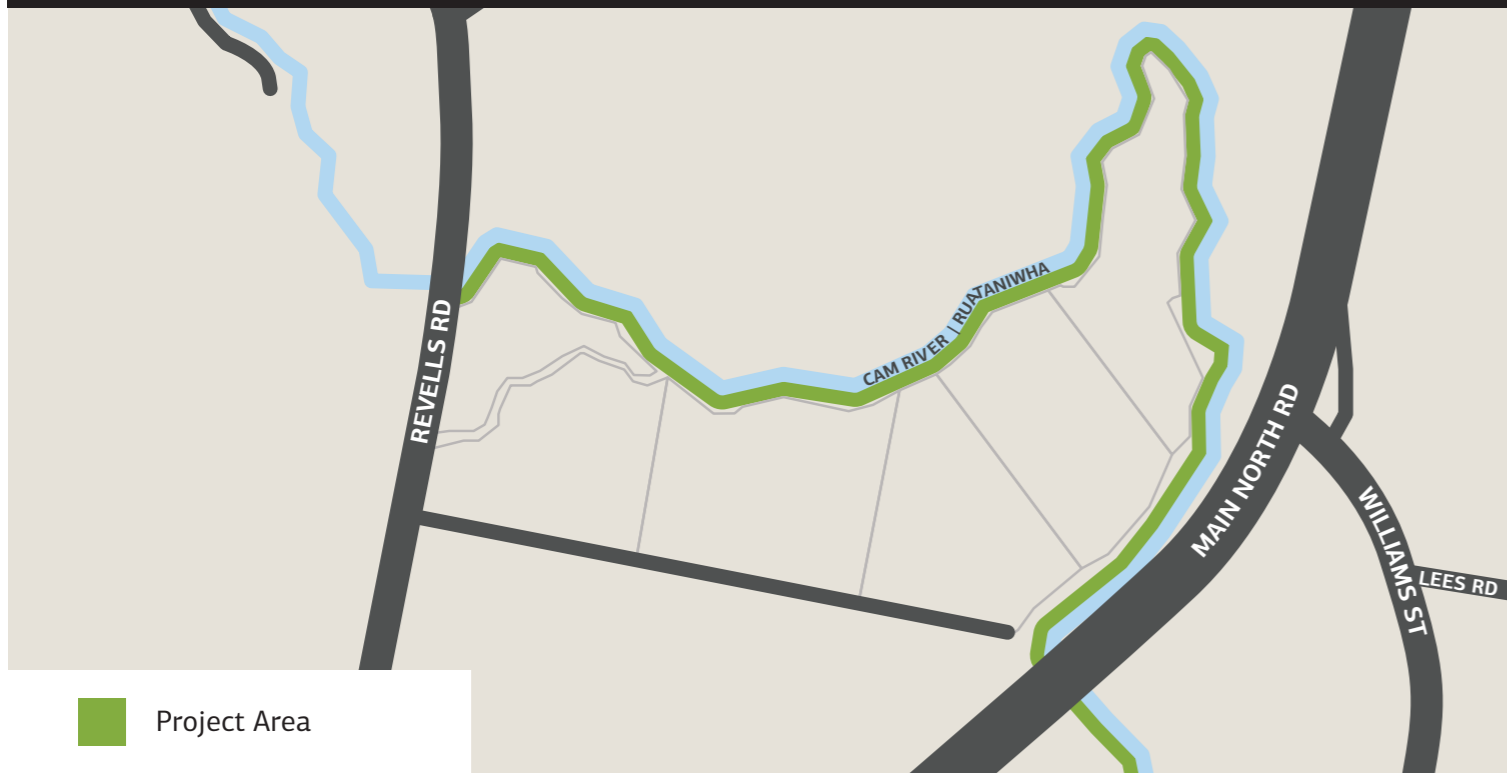
**Waimakariri District Council is creating a network of river and stream-side pathways connecting communities across the district while improving water quality through riparian planting.**

Called Arohatia te Awa – Cherish the River, the project aims to create off-road ecological corridors along the streams and rivers across the Waimakariri District while simultaneously helping to improve water quality for our streams and rivers.

This network will be progressively developed over the coming years as funding becomes available and will be incorporated into the wider plans of Waimakariri District walking and cycling networks.

This brochure outlines Council's vision for the project, the recreation benefits it will have for the Waimakariri community, the freshwater quality improvements it will bring, why we want to collaborate with residents.





Project Area

Above image: Stage one planting area

## What are we wanting to achieve?

Arohata te Awa – Cherish the River’s vision is to improve in-stream habitat, while creating ecological and recreational networks along our district waterways to create healthy ecosystems and a community of guardians.

It will encourage and enable recreation as well as foster connection to our waterways.

The reasons for doing this is because the degrading quality of freshwater in New Zealand is one of the most pressing issues facing our country.

New Zealanders want to swim, fish, gather mahinga kai and enjoy freshwater as our parents and grandparents did. We also need clean water to drink to both support our population’s health as well as a sustainable economy.

Our freshwater ecosystems are suffering as a result of urban development, agriculture, horticulture, forestry and other human activities.

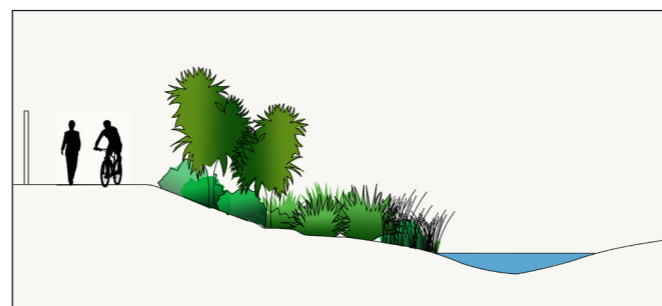
There are two primary goals with this project:

1. One is to involve residents in restoring the health of our streams and rivers through ongoing riparian planting – creating a sense of ownership for this natural resource as well as foster connection with the environment
2. The second is to create the cycle, walkway and ecological corridors that raise awareness of this significant natural public asset as well as providing safe spaces for people to exercise and get around.

To start with we are identifying corridors where we can have the most impact in the shortest term.

Simultaneously we’re developing a wider plan for the District and seeking partnerships with organisations like Environment Canterbury to fund this vision.

Below images: Planting examples



## What are the Benefits?

### First up are the benefits for the waterway itself and its inhabitants:

Planting fenced riparian areas adds benefit to the environment as plants work like a sieve, helping to filter out sediment and nutrients before they enter waterways.

Riparian planting also helps prevent erosion and increases the habitat for native wildlife. They do this by providing ‘shade’ which lowers water temperature and increases the habitability of the waterway for animals, fish and invertebrates.

### What are the benefits for residents?

Arohata te Awa will provide residents with safe, green spaces to walk, cycle and get around the district by opening up access to the publicly owned land that borders the rivers, streams and beaches across New Zealand.

We also want to foster locals having a connection with their streams and rivers, and understand that changes such as riparian planting and land design which minimises run-off into waterways can provide big benefits to freshwater quality.

### What does this mean for landowners who border streams and rivers?

A core part of this project involves opening access to walkers and cyclists while undertaking riparian planting of the public land which borders waterways across the District.

The publicly owned land varies between 10m – 20m in width.

Property owners who border this land may have been maintaining it in exchange for access, or may have fenced the boundary line already.

We are proposing two options for fencing and planting - depending on the width of land available. This will provide privacy and security for these owners while sticking to the goals of Arohata te Awa.

Examples of what this will look like are on the left:

We want to discuss this project with you, invite you to get involved, and are happy to come and meet with you directly at your home, workplace or somewhere you’re comfortable.

## What’s your initial route?

Our focus in the immediate future is to create a corridor along the Cam River utilising public land and ‘paper roads’ (unformed legal roads) which travel along the river banks.

The project will start in Kaiapoi and be developed in two initial stages.

The first stage will begin along Lower Camside Road following the Cam River towards Rangiora. It will duck under the State Highway 1 Bridge connecting to the ‘paper road’ which is owned by Waimakariri District Council but maintained by the owners between 242 – 250 Revells Rd.

The second stage continues from here and follows the river around the ‘horseshoe’, crossing Revells Rd and linking to Cox Road.

Following completion of these stages our focus would turn on the next stages to connect to Rangiora.

## Next Steps

The next steps for this project are:

- We want to discuss this project with you and are happy to come and meet with you directly at your home, workplace or somewhere you’re comfortable

This is an opportunity for you to ask questions of staff or elected members regarding the material within this brochure, and to meet the team who will be delivering the project

Contact us on the details below to arrange a time and date that suits.

- You are also able to visit [Waimakariri.govt.nz/letstalk](http://Waimakariri.govt.nz/letstalk) at any time to read material, see maps, and ask a question directly of the project team at your convenience.

## Questions

If you have any questions, please contact either of the below staff members:

**Name: Chris Brown, Manager Community and Recreation**

**Contact: 021 430 438, [chris.brown@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:chris.brown@wmk.govt.nz)**

**Name: Grant MacLeod, GreenSpace Manager**

**Contact: 027 230 1529, [grant.macleod@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:grant.macleod@wmk.govt.nz)**





**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR DECISION**

**FILE NO and TRIM NO:** RES-34 / 200316035838

**REPORT TO:** Land and Water Working Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** 11 June 2020

**FROM:** Grant MacLeod (Greenspace Manager)

**SUBJECT:** Arohatia te Awa Working Group Terms of Reference

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive

**1. SUMMARY**

1.1 This report is for the Land and Water Working Committee to consider the Purpose, Vision and Outcomes for the Arohatia te Awa project. The report is also recommending a Terms of Reference be set up to establish a Working Group to coordinate the project.

Attachments:

- i. Terms of Reference. 200316035470
- ii. 25 July 2019 report, Arohatia te Awa – Cherish the River, project approval. 190314033747

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Land and Water Working Committee

- (a) **Receives** report No. 200316035838
- (b) **Approves** the Terms of Reference for the Arohatia te Awa Working Group.
- (c) **Notes** the Working Group will be accountable for the development of a work plan for Arohatia te Awa.
- (d) **Approves** the membership of the working group and that this shall be for a term until the next Council elections:
  - i. Biodiversity Portfolio Holder/Councillor Representative (Cr Sandra Stewart)
  - ii. Manager Community and Recreation/Project Sponsor (Chris Brown)
  - iii. Manager Utilities and Roading (Gerard Cleary)
  - iv. Community Greenspace Manager (Grant MacLeod)
  - v. One other Elected Member Appointee
- (e) **Notes** that the draft annual plan has \$100,000 including for Arohatia te Awa, this being subject to the annual plan approval process.
- (f) **Notes** that staff will work with Community Boards and local groups in the establishment of the work plan for Arohatia te Awa.
- (g) **Notes** that the minutes of the Arohatia te Awa Working Group will be circulated to the Land and Water Working Committee and Community Boards.

### 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.2 In July 2019 the Land and Water Working Group (now the Land and Water Working Committee) received a report on a project titled Arohata te Awa – Cherish the River. The report outlined some guidance on what the concept of the project should be. This followed a proposal that Cr Stewart submitted to the Waimakariri District Council Management Team in December 2018. The Management Team supported the concept and requested that staff work towards detailing governance, staff resourcing, funding and project ownership.
- 3.3 The draft Annual Plan has a \$100,000.00 budget for this project to begin. Due to this staff are scoping the work, which is intended to be agreed by the Arohata te Awa Working Group through its purpose under the Terms of Reference.
- 3.4 The report from the 25 July 2019 identified the following objectives:
- i. Improve recreational amenity*
  - ii. Enhance cultural values*
  - iii. Encourage biodiversity improvements through ecological corridor creation*
  - iv. Catalyse economic diversification, for example through agri-tourism along the network*
  - v. Create a 'drawcard' or promotional vehicle for Waimakariri District.*
- 3.5 In line with this the report also identified the following to be part of a scope document:
- i. To create a network of walkways and cycleways primarily suitable for recreational users. It is not anticipated to receive any significant commuter usage.*
  - ii. A network to be placed alongside waterways off-road, with some connector sections along other networks, such as road, only if required.*
  - iii. To focus on biodiversity restoration of threatened ecosystem types of the Canterbury plains, such as wetland and drylands ecosystems.*
  - iv. For the whole of the Waimakariri District, however with initial pilot areas potentially along the Cam River and coastal area of the District.*
  - v. To focus on the use of Waimakariri District Council and other public land, however with the possibility for access negotiations with private landowners, such as easements.*
- 3.6 Currently a mapping exercise is being advanced that will identify opportunities along the waterways within the District. This will also include sharing of intelligence with Ecan to ensure accuracy and cross agency projects that may exist.

### 4. **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1. Arohata te Awa is intended to enhance opportunities to get the public recreating alongside our waterways, primarily through walking and cycling. This has a number of elements in order to succeed, there will need to be both physical works undertaken and in line with that planning and mapping so key gaps and linkages can be identified to develop a work plan that will achieve the purpose, vision and outcomes of this project.

- 4.2. This report has a terms of reference that staff are recommending for adoption. This Terms of Reference has a purpose, vision and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the Arohata te Awa project. The terms of reference term mirrors that of the current Council timeline so that it would be up for renewal post the next Local Government elections. The terms of reference also identifies that the Working Group will be accountable for the work plan and for ensuring public engagement throughout the projects lifecycle.

Option one: Adopt the Terms of Reference for the Arohata te Awa Working Group. This will allow the Working Group to bring together the scope and agree on this plus endorse a work plan that will see the project realised. The Terms of Reference proposes the following membership:

- i. Biodiversity Portfolio Holder/Councillor Representative (Cr Sandra Stewart)
- ii. Manager Community and Recreation/Project Sponsor (Chris Brown)
- iii. Manager Utilities and Roading (Gerard Cleary)
- iv. Community Greenspace Manager (Grant MacLeod)
- v. One other Elected Member Appointee

Technical staff to support this group:

- vi. Ecologist - Biodiversity (Kate Steel)
- vii. Community Projects Officer (Mike Kwant)
- viii. Water Environment Advisor (Sophie Allen)
- ix. Storm Water Engineer (Greg Bennett)

The above are expected through option one to be part of meetings to reach a quorum with staff being available as required through each bi-monthly meeting.

Option two: Don't adopt the Terms of Reference and do nothing at this point. This would not achieve the purpose, vision or Outcomes of this project and would mean that if the project is adopted through the annual plan, the project would not be ready to deliver. The likelihood is that this will delay any success that the project would otherwise have should the Terms of Reference and planning be finalised prior to the turn of the financial year.

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

## 5. **COMMUNITY VIEWS**

### 5.1. **Groups and Organisations**

- 5.1.1. Interest groups and organisations (such as Ecan) will be engaged through the specific projects of Arohata te Awa. This will outline the role they are expected to play and also to get feedback on ideas and methods for how the project objectives can be achieved.

### 5.2. **Wider Community**

- 5.2.1. The wider community will be engaged through each project within Arohata te Awa. It is also being consulted through the draft annual plan that is out for community comment with the addition of a \$100,000.00 budget for this project.

## 6. **IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

### 6.1. **Financial Implications**

- 6.1.1. Currently there is a proposed \$100,000.00 in the draft annual plan. This is out for consultation and is expected to be utilised along the Cam River. Operational expenditure that is required to support this project can be covered through existing work programs with any further funding applied for in next year's Long Term Plan.
- 6.1.2 Staff will work with other government agencies to look at ways to apply for funding as it becomes available to assist with this project. Staff will also work with partner agencies to work on projects that may offer either materials or services to help limit cost of project.

### 6.2. **Community Implication**

- 6.2.1. As this is a report on Terms of Reference acceptance and to set the Purpose, Vision and Outcomes for this project that is being consulted on through the draft annual plan, it is not envisaged that this outcome would have an impact on the community. Each project that is undertaken through the Arohatia te Awa work plan will require community engagement.

### 6.3. **Risk Management**

Each project will have a risk assessment at the time of implementation. In regards to the overarching work plan, the main risk is how land and a continuous corridor can be secured. This will require land owner agreements, use of public realm and if any other public agency land exists. Securing this corridor and obtaining funding through the Long Term plan will be the main risk in achieving the Outcomes of Arohatia te Awa.

### 6.4. **Health and Safety**

- 6.4.1. The Advisory Group for Arohatia te Awa does not provide direct health and safety advice on procedures. The operation of this group does not pose a risk to the public. All meetings will be held in line with Alert Level guidance for COVID.

## 7. **CONTEXT**

### 7.1. **Policy**

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

### 7.2. **Legislation**

- 7.2.1. This would be covered by the Local Government Act with some areas also being held under the Reserves Act 1977.

### 7.3. **Community Outcomes**

#### ***g. Public spaces and facilities are plentiful, accessible and high quality***

- There is a wide variety of public places and spaces to meet people's needs. <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>
- There are wide-ranging opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors. <sup>1,3</sup>
- The accessibility of community and recreation facilities meets the changing needs of our community. <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

### 7.4. **Delegations**

The Land and Water Working Committee has delegation for the decisions it is being recommended to make.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

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### AROHATIA TE AWA WORKING GROUP

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#### 1. Purpose

The Working Group is to offer high-level support to the Arohata te Awa and the Lineside Road project team to endorse to Council to scope, concept and design, the work plan and oversee implementation. The Working Group will assist in decision making for key issues during the life cycle of the projects including enabling inclusive communication and consultation. The Working Group will create the vision for the Lineside Road project and ensure that the vision for each project is adhered to with goals being met.

***Arohata te Awa Vision:*** *To improve instream rehabilitation, ecological and recreational networks along our district waterways to create healthy ecosystems and a community of guardians.*

#### 2. Membership

- Dan Gordon, Mayor
- Niki Mealings, Biodiversity Portfolio Holder/Councillor representative/Chair
- Al Blackie, Greenspace Portfolio Holder/Councillor representative
- Chris Brown, Manager Community and Recreation/Project Sponsor
- Gerard Cleary, Manager Utilities and Roading
- Grant MacLeod, Greenspace Manager
- Isibea Clark, Project Manager
- Bex Dollery, Technical lead and Project Manager, Ecologist-Biodiversity
- Arapata Reuben, Te Ngai Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative
- Anna Veltman, ECan representative
- Andrew Arps, ECan representative

#### 3. Staff, Consultant and Community Support

- Sophie Allen, Water Environment Advisor
- Waimakariri Storm Water Engineer
- Mike Kwant, Community Projects Officer
- Grant Stephens, Design and Planning Team Leader
- Fred Brooks, ECan River Engineer

#### 4. Administrative Support

- Mandy Fox, Parks and Facilities Administrator

#### 5. Quorum

Four members, noting no more than half of this being Waimakariri District Council staff. No Quorum can be reached unless there is at least one Elected Member in attendance.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

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### AROHATIA TE AWA WORKING GROUP

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#### 6. Objectives

- 6.1 To scope, promote and govern the development and delivery of the Arohata te Awa and Lineside Road projects with recommendations to Council for future works and funding.
- 6.2 To agree and endorse to Council a work plan and implementation plan for Arohata te Awa and the Lineside Road project.
- 6.3 To meet and agree on action items within an agreed work plan for both projects and ensure project capital and operational plan is meeting timeline targets.
- 6.4 To work through solutions for issues that require escalation from the project group and to govern the agreed work plan for the projects.
- 6.5 To continue to progress the Arohata te Awa project aims of creating a network of walkways and cycleways primarily suitable for recreational users and create further recreational and cultural opportunities within the District.
- 6.6 To increase biodiversity pathways for flora and fauna within the district and create nature-based solutions for issues such as climate change, degraded water quality.
- 6.7 Catalyse economic diversification, for example through agri-tourism along the network and potentially create a 'drawcard' or promotional vehicle for Waimakariri District.
- 6.8 To partner with other agencies as required and offer high level support to the project team as required.
- 6.9 To work effectively with the community through engagement and to ensure they have a role within the projects. The Working Group will also endorse opportunities for the community to be directly involved through onsite works and planning discussions as required.

#### 7. Outcomes

- 7.1 Governance support and decision making is implemented through to the project team.
- 7.2 Agreed work plans are approved, with clear targets for implementation delivered to the project team. Noting that this must follow agreed budget timelines as per the Long Term Plan.
- 7.3 Lineside road wetland is developed in partnership with Runanga and achieves the overall vision as set by the Working Group.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

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### AROHATIA TE AWA WORKING GROUP

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#### 8. Delegation

- 8.1 The Working Group will have delegation to create and recommend the work plans for Arohata te Awa and Lineside Road to the Community and Recreation Committee, as well as general governance of the projects once the work plans are approved by the Committee.
- 8.2 The Group can only request staff to carry out maintenance work or capital expenditure where there is sufficient budget approved by Council and it is justifiable under our Levels of Service or Activity Management Plan
- 8.3 If there is no approved budget for work that the Advisory Group wishes to undertake it will have to make a recommendation to the Community and Recreation Committee of Council.
- 8.4 All financial work orders and purchase orders can only be issued by Council staff
- 8.5 Only Council staff can authorise work to be undertaken and for the issuing of orders for services/supplies and the authorising of invoices for payment.

#### 9. Decision Making

- 9.1 Decisions will, in so far as it is possible, be reached by consensus. Where this is not achievable, decisions will be made by voting with a simple majority being required.
- 9.2 The Working Group will have the option of referring any matter to the Project Sponsor (Manager Community and Recreation) for a decision.
- 9.3 Key decisions once finalised will be reported back to the Community and Recreation Committee as recommendations.

#### 10. Financial Management

- 10.1 The Council's financial year is from 1 July to 30 June.
- 10.2 Accounts are closed off at the end of each year, and any under/over expenditure is absorbed into the Council's consolidated funds when it is targeted funds. This does not apply to group funds raised for developments either through Council development channels and/or community initiatives.
- 10.3 Carrying forward of unspent funds is possible where they relate to capital or programme maintenance works which were not completed for a specific reason. These funds must be approved by the Council during the budget process.

#### 11. Legal Responsibilities



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

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### AROHATIA TE AWA WORKING GROUP

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In working together to achieve the objectives of the project, the Council and the Arohata te Awa Working Group are required to comply with all relevant legislation and regulations.

These include, but are not limited to:

- The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
- Local Government Act 2002
- Reserves Act 1977

#### **12. Administration**

The agenda and minutes for the Arohata te Awa Working Group meeting will be prepared by the Greenspace Administrator. The agenda and minutes will be filed in TRIM and distributed to all members.

The outline agenda for the meeting shall generally be as follows:

1. Apologies
2. Previous Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Staff Reports (milestones, programme, issues, budget, risk, health and safety)
5. Risks, Issues or Concerns
6. Community Engagement and Media
7. Reports to Council, Committee or Community Board
8. General Business

#### **13. Meeting Frequency**

The Arohata te Awa Working Group shall meet quarterly or when requested to do so for urgent matters, or matters relating to the purpose of the Arohata te Awa Working Group.

#### **14. Duration**

The Arohata te Awa Working Group will function until the completion of both projects.

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

**FILE NO and TRIM NO:** CMS-09-10-02 / 241113200505

**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2024

**AUTHOR(S):** Ken Howat, Parks and Facilities Team Leader

**SUBJECT:** Fee Waiver Grants Scheme 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 update the Community and Recreation Committee on the Fee Waiver Grants scheme on groups that have received support for the 2024 / 25 financial year to date.
- 1.2. The Fee Waiver scheme is overseen by the Fee Waivers Subcommittee who exercise the authority delegated to the Community and Recreation Committee to waive fees and charges for community facilities and approve grants towards building and resource consent costs.
- 1.3. The Terms of Reference (attached) for the Fee Waiver Subcommittee sets out the framework for the committee to operate. Applications for annual and reoccurring bookings are usually received in May and June in preparation for the new financial year and on-demand as individual bookings and projects requiring building or resource consent arise during the year.
- 1.4. Staff receive and process applications which are then forwarded electronically to the Subcommittee for approval. The members of the Subcommittee are Councillor Philip Redmond, Councillor Robbie Brine, Councillor Jason Goldsworthy and Councillor Tim Fulton.

**Attachments:**

- i. Facilities and Consents Fee Waiver Subcommittee – Terms of Reference (TRIM 220622106356)

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241113200505
- (b) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.
- (c) **Notes** that fee waivers for facility hire costs totalling \$3,819 were approved to 14 groups and consent grants totalling \$17,111.25 were approved for four community groups.

### 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. In 2022 the Fee Waivers Terms of Reference were extended to include reductions in resource and building consent fees based on a criteria similar to those used under the community facilities fee waivers.
- 3.2. The Fee Waiver scheme has two components. Community facility grants and building and resource consents grants.
- 3.3. The community facilities grant is available where community groups find Council approved facility hire fees to be a financial barrier. Requests are considered based on the following:
  - 3.3.1. The hirer is 'not for profit'
  - 3.3.2. The required space is available.
  - 3.3.3. The community value of the activity is clearly identified.
  - 3.3.4. The financial position of the group identifies hardship.
  - 3.3.5. No other suitable grant is available from external sources.
- 3.4. Once approved, the agreed reduction in facility hire fees is applied to the groups booking rather than an actual grant made to the organisation.
- 3.5. The consent fee waiver is intended to recognise exceptional circumstances, designed to help community groups and organisations whose goals align with the Council community outcomes. Applications are considered using the same criteria as the community facilities fee waivers. In most instances the groups pay the consent fees to Council and then receive a grant for the approved amount.

### 4. **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1. During the reporting period fee waivers for facility hire costs totalling \$3,819 were made to 14 community groups and consent grants totalling \$17,111.25 were approved for four community groups.

#### **Summary of Grants Awarded**

<b>Community Group</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Fee Waiver %</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Woodend Indoor Bowls	Facility Hire Fees	Woodend Community Centre	50%	\$612
Woodend Country Music Club	Facility Hire Fees	Woodend Community Centre	50%	\$408
Waikuku Beach Surf Lifesaving Club	Storage Shed Building Consent		50%	\$1,137.25
Oxford Saygo – Falls Prevention	Facility Hire Fees	Oxford Jaycee Hall	50%	\$284

Exercise Programme				
Oxford Spinning Group	Facility Hire Fees	Oxford Jaycee Hall	25%	\$1,170
Ladies Exercise Group	Facility Hire Fees	Rangiora War Memorial Hall	50%	\$150
Kaiapoi Croquet Club	Clubrooms Building Consent		50%	\$3,500
Pegasus Saygo - Falls Prevention Exercise Programme	Facility Hire Fees	Pegasus Community Centre	50%	\$408
Oxford Scottish Country Dancing	Event	Oxford Town Hall	50%	\$73.20
Oxford Craft Market	Facility Hire Fees	Oxford Town Hall	50%	\$781
Night Writers	Facility Hire Fees	Rangiora Town Hall	50%	\$130.60
North Canterbury Chess Club	Facility Hire Fees	Rangiora War Memorial Hall	50%	\$284
Fernside Indoor Bowls	Facility Hire Fees	Fernside Memorial Hall	25%	\$107.92
Rangiora Rotary Club	Event	Rangiora Town Hall	50%	\$183
Woodend Friendship Club	Facility Hire Fees	Woodend Community Centre	50%	\$284
Waiora Links	Facility Hire Fees	Pegasus Community Centre	50%	\$113.50
John Knox Church	Building Consent		50%	\$7,500
Rangiora Pottery Group	Resource Consent		100%	\$4,974

### Applications Declined

Mahi Matatoa Home School Group	Cust Community Centre	Declined due to high number of participants and low fees being charged to families.
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TM Dance World	Oxford Town Hall	Declined due to being a commercial operation
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### **Implications for Community Wellbeing**

There are implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report. Community grants in the broadest sense contribute to all four elements of community wellbeing – social, cultural, environmental and economic.

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. By reducing facility hire costs a diverse range of community groups now have access to Council facilities.

### **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 Fee Waivers scheme has supported a range of community activities that promote social inclusion and offer a range of recreation activities to the local community and has supported projects aligned with Council community outcomes.

## **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **6.1. Financial Implications**

There are financial implications of the decisions sought by this report. A total of \$20,930.25 covering consent grants and facility hire grants has been spent to date from code 10.500.100.2461 Fee Waiver Funding Scheme which has an allocation of \$25,000. This equates to 83.5% of available funds.

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.

### **6.3 Risk Management**

There are risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. Robust processes around grant schemes allow Council to strategically support local organisations, reduce reputational risk and maximise effectiveness.

### **6.3 Health and Safety**

There are not 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**

Local Government Act 2002

### 7.3. **Consistency with Community Outcomes**

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

### 7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

The Community and Recreation Committee have the delegation to receive this report.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES**

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**Facilities and Consents Fee Waiver Subcommittee**

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**1. KEY ROLES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**a. The roles of the Subcommittee in relation to community facilities are to:**

- Review fee reduction applications from hirers of community facilities.
- Have the right to waive/amend any community facilities hire fees.
- Be involved in the review of the community facilities hire fees as part of the Council's Annual Plan/Long Term Plan consultation.

The following is taken directly from the Community Facilities Fees and Charges Policy: (Trim 190821116945)

Waiver of Charges

*The Community and Recreation Committee of Council have delegated authority to approve any fee waivers and this delegation is exercised through the Facilities and Consents Fee Waiver Subcommittee.*

*Waiving of fees is intended to provide affordable and equitable access to community facilities. It is designed to help community groups and organisations whose goals are aligned with Council's Community Outcomes.*

*Requests will be considered based on the following:*

- *The hirer is 'not for profit'/charitable organisation*
- *The required space is available*
- *The community value of the activity is clearly identified*
- *The financial position of the group identifies hardship*
- *Sufficient budgeted funds are available*
- *Whether circumstances exceptional to the above apply*

Fee Waiver Funding Process

*The Community and Recreation Committee has limited budgetary provision to assist groups to pay the fees for the use of Council owned facilities. This assistance may be full payment of fees or partial payment depending on the group's ability to contribute. The Committee may consider multi-year applications.*

**b. The role of the Subcommittee in relation to building and resource consent fees are to:**

- Review fee reduction applications from building or resource consent applicants.
- Have the right to waive/amend any building or resource consent fees.
- Be involved in the review of the building and resource consent fees as part of the Council's Annual Plan/Long Term Plan consultation

The Council has limited funding budgetary provision for consideration of reductions in building and resource consent fees by application on an exceptions basis. It delegates authority to approve any fee waivers to the Facilities and Consents Fee Waiver Subcommittee on a case by case basis.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

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### Facilities and Consents Fee Waiver Subcommittee

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Waiving of fees is intended to recognise exceptional circumstances. In part it is designed to help community groups and organisations whose goals are aligned with Council's Community Outcomes.

Requests will be considered based on the following:

- The applicant/intended purpose of the development is 'not for profit'/charitable organisation.
- Sufficient budgeted funds are available.
- The community value of the activity is clearly identified.
- The financial position of the applicant identifies hardship.
- Whether circumstances exceptional to the above apply.

#### 2. COMPOSITION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

2.1 Membership will consist of:

- The Community Facilities Portfolio Holder
- The Regulation Portfolio Holder
- One other Councillor

2.2 A quorum will be two members for any meetings that are required.

2.3 A Chair will be appointed by the members of the Group (by a simple majority). The Chair will be appointed annually at a meeting to be held in August each year.

2.4 Appointments of the group will be made by the Council.

#### 3. MEETING FREQUENCY

3.1 As this group is required as demand occurs, meetings and fee waiver approvals may be via electronic email or as and when required.

#### 4. DECISION MAKING

4.1 Decisions will, in so far as it is possible, be reached by consensus. Where this is not achievable decisions will be made by voting with a simple majority being required. The General Managers for Community and Recreation, and Planning and Regulation will ensure support for the Subcommittee.

4.2 The Group will have the option of referring any matter to the relevant Standing Committee of Council for a decision: either District Planning & Regulation or the Community and Recreation Committee.

#### 5. TERM OF GROUP

5.1 The role of the group, its membership and Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually at the first Council meeting of the new financial year (or sooner as directed by Council) to ensure that it is functioning as was intended.

Members will be appointed for a three year term to coincide with Local Body Elections.



**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR DECISION**

**FILE NO and TRIM NO:** GOV-01-04 / AQU-02-09 / 241104191022

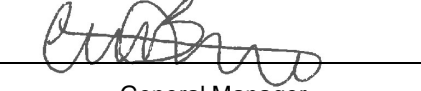
**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE


**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2024

**AUTHOR(S):** Matthew Greenwood, Aquatics Manager

**SUBJECT:** Aquatics November Report

**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 year to date progress, as measured against the unit's most significant Key Performance Indicators. It includes a summary of customer attendance data to 31 October 2024.
- 1.2. The report contains budget results for the year to 30 September 2024 and an update of facility maintenance activities.
- 1.3. Additionally, this report seeks approval for the introduction of three new entry types at Oxford pool and support for a Coastguard fundraising initiative which could potentially generate further income by through new customers.

**Attachments:**

- i. Nil

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241104191022.
- (b) **Notes** progress on current and planned maintenance activities to support the ongoing operation of the facilities.
- (c) **Approves** support for the Coastguard Big Swim fundraising initiative by offering free lane swimming for the month of June 2025 for those participating in fundraising for the event.
- (d) **Notes** that while there is no direct cost to the facility for being involved, an estimated likely impact to income is around \$650 for 10 people however this is likely to be recovered from further repeat business.
- (e) **Approves** the trial of three season pass ticket prices at Oxford Pool for the coming season, being Adult \$244.40, Senior/community service \$183.80 and Child \$138.70.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

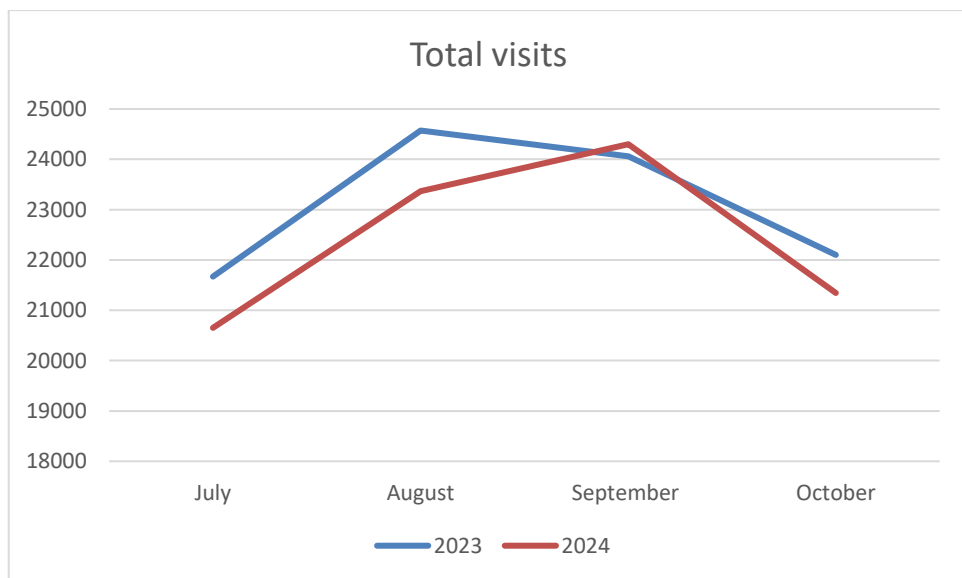
**3. BACKGROUND**

- 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.
- 3.2. Oxford summer pool operates from late November to mid March each year to take advantage of the warmer, more calm weather in that part of the district. Local residents are passionate about their facility and the opportunities for recreation that it offers, however due to its location well inland, and with the Ashley and Waimakariri gorge rivers nearby it can have limited appeal beyond those living nearby.
- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. With the facilities open 15 hours per day, 7 days a week we work hard to plan and schedule maintenance activities to minimise disruption to our customers. A number of tasks can be completed during normal activity through scheduling and space management however programmed maintenance closures are generally completed on a three year cycle. During these closures detailed maintenance is completed on key systems which would preclude operation such as circulating pumps, HVAC and heating systems.

**4. ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

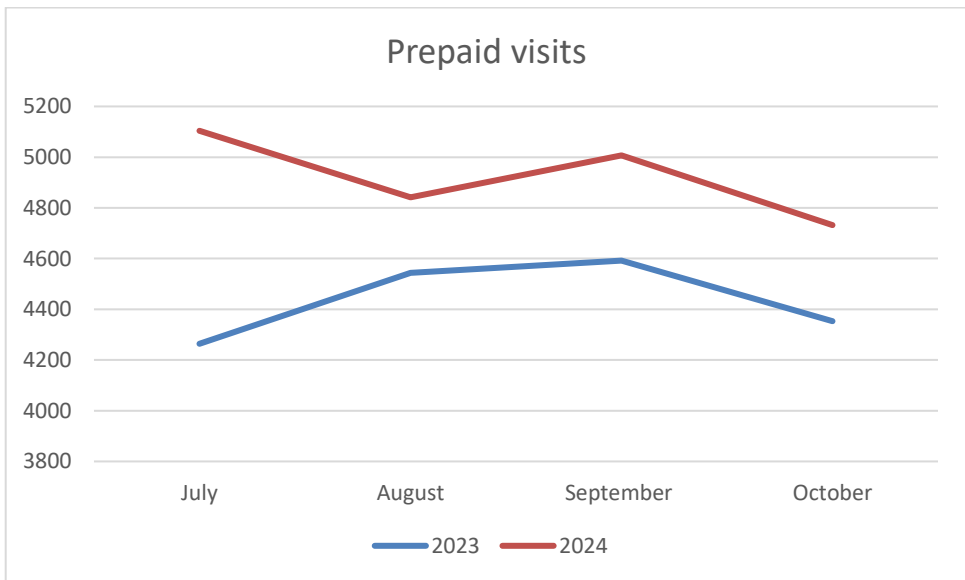
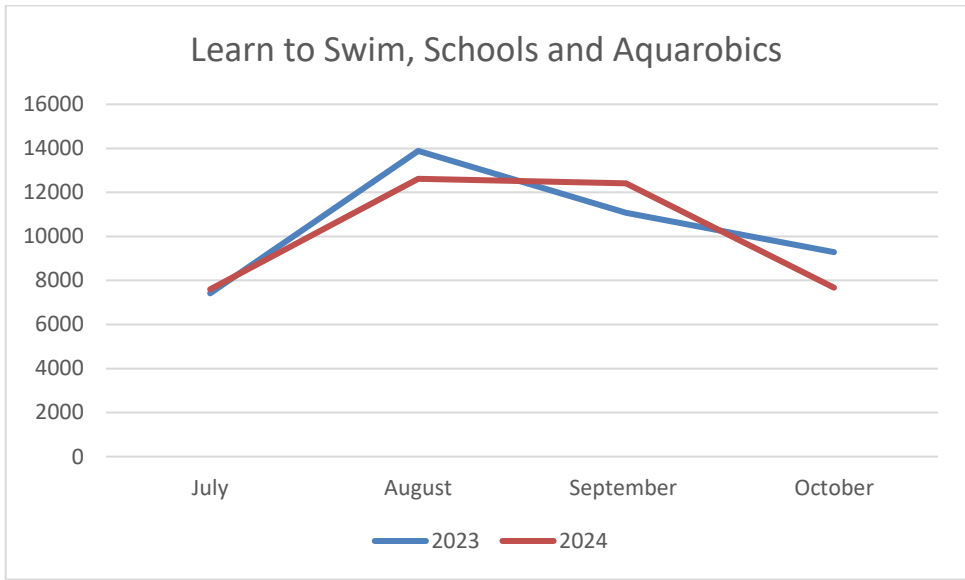
**4.1. Aquatics customer attendance**

The following tables provide a summary of ticket sales across the facilities to date as at 31 October 2024.



Total attendance was down by around 1000 swimmers in July, August and October when compared to last year. A break down of attendance by area of the business is available in the following three tables.

While impacts from Covid are now less common, outbreaks of RSV and winter sickness were rife within the team and our customers. Increased awareness of the risks of communicable diseases has seen an increased number of customers choosing not to visit casually or staying away from their booked lessons rather than risk spreading any sickness further.



**Overall**

Recreation swimming started down against last year but was closing up to come back with a positive result in October. Poor weather and a strong cold and flu season will have impacted on customers habits putting them off swimming in the cooler months.

Programmes attendance has been similar to the previous years. A large degree of variance in this table comes from the schools programme, with Learn to Swim and Aquarobics numbers staying fairly consistent. The schools programme attendance can vary as we need to work in with the attending schools who are balancing swimming within their curriculum and other school activities.

Pre-paid attendance, either via concession or membership cards has grown slightly against last years. Here you can see, other than July 2023 the pre-paid attendance rates stay fairly consistent with peaks around the school holiday periods when customers have a little more time on their hands.

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 and cost of living pressures impacting on discretionary spending.

The attendance figures in this report appear in a different format to previous reports as we identified an error in software tabulating total facility attendance for 2024 while writing the report. Due to reporting deadlines, staff were unable to produce the same comprehensive table however we are confident of the validity of the figures supplied here as they were gathered and compiled manually. We are working to resolve the issue and double check the numbers ahead of the next report.

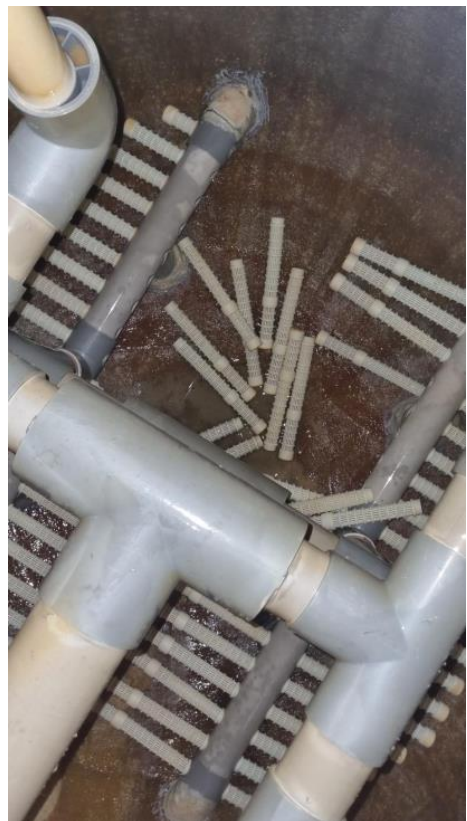
#### 4.2. **Maintenance update**

Over the last month we have been working thru a number of unfortunate issues with two of the pools at Dudley.

Staff noticed a small volume of sand in the spa pool and it was initially believed to have entered the system through a “burp” valve within the filter for releasing trapped air within the lines. Through further investigation it was identified that this was actually more likely caused by a cracked or broken return lateral within the filter as pictured here once the filter was opened and sand removed.

These laterals capture the filtered water within the filter, circulating it back to the pool. To access and replace this the sand needs to be removed and the internal structure of the filter removed. This work is currently booked to occur mid to late November, with some delay due to limited contractor availability and part sourcing. While the majority of our customers utilise the spa in addition to their swim, such as for relaxation after swimming lengths, there will be a small number of customers who only visit for the spa who haven’t been able to while this pool is out of operation. While this is less than ideal, its overall impact to customer numbers will be minor.

The learners pool has also experienced some issues with its pump, forcing us to relocate lessons to the main and leisure pools for just over a week. This pump received its annual service in August where it was identified that it would need to be taken offline during the



upcoming maintenance closure for some further replacement, however it didn't last that long.

We are working with contractors to schedule a shut down in the new year at Dudley, to work on touching up a number of key areas including the changing spaces and servicing of heating and air circulation systems which can not occur while the system is in full operation. With a key piece of the air circulation system on order, we are now working to clarify its arrival date and line up the other contractors to make best use of the opportunity while minimising impact to our customers.

In addition, we are working with the Community and Recreations strategic and special projects team on a process to better capture the condition of our equipment to better manage future maintenance and our capital replacements.

#### 4.3. **Season pass for Oxford pool trial**

Each year we receive a number of submissions from the community who wish to see a season pass implemented at Oxford Pool. We already have a number of payment options available including casual, concession and memberships, of which a number achieve a similar outcomes as a "season pass" but are just sold by a different name.

For those familiar with the old method of "purchasing a key to the pool gate," a season pass would allow users unlimited access to the facility over the season, within operating hours. This is in essence the same as our Pool Memberships. We sell these currently for use over fixed periods of 3, 6 and 12 months.

We are seeking approval to create three new entry types specific to the 15 week season at Oxford community pool with GST inclusive prices as follows:

Adult season pass	\$244.40
Senior/Community Service season pass	\$183.80
Child season pass	\$138.70

These passes would operate similar to a membership and allow unlimited entry for the season length, of 15 weeks. The price is based on the math of a 3 month membership extended out from 12, to 15 weeks.

We propose for this season to test the market with individual passes only, if they were to prove popular we could consider offering a family season pass. Family season passes would come with a high degree of complexity with family units coming in all shapes and sizes as well as having no standing precedent price to as easily link in to measure success. It remains that we still have a number of other family concession options available allowing discounted entry for bulk purchasing a number of swims, however these do not allow unlimited visits as a membership does or a season pass might.

Further, there is a fine balance of pricing the passes at a point that makes them both attractive for the customer while addressing the potential cost to the business. While its not yet clear how much of a demand there is for these passes, as membership passes have long been offered to our customers, it is considered more likely that this new offer may attract some new customers or be purchased as gifts, resulting in additional sales and income for the facility.

The following options are available

- 4.3.1. Option One – offer a new "Season Pass" membership option for adults, children and senior/community service card holders. This is likely to generate some additional income and is the recommended option.
- 4.3.2. Option Two – do not offer new passes. This will see no additional income and is not the recommended option.

4.3.3. Option Three – offer a season pass at a different price point. This is likely to either over value the passes, further decreasing facility income or make them unaffordable to users limiting how many are purchased. This is not the recommended option.

While this issue appears largely to be one born out of confusion, any actions we can take to increase useability and custom within the facilities is a positive one.

#### 4.4. Supporting the “Big Swim” fundraising initiative for Coastguard

The Big Swim is a fundraising initiative run by Coastguard to support their ongoing work within the community. The programme generates funds through individuals signing up to be sponsored to increase their fitness through swimming.

After the success of the first-ever Big Swim in July 2024, which attracted 1266 swimmers who collectively raised over \$350,000, Coastguard will once again be asking New Zealanders to take to their local pool to raising money to help keep Kiwis safe on the water. Unfortunately we were made aware of this event at too late a date to be involved and are seeking approval for the next round in June 2025.

Coastguard is the charity saving lives on the water. They deliver education through their boating courses as well as partnering with local instructors like our own WaiSwim Schools programme, while also providing a volunteer based search and rescue service for when emergencies strike.

Across New Zealand, more than 2,000 Coastguard volunteers are ready to jump into action 24/7 to save lives on the water. Our volunteers bring home 17 people safely to their families every day.

None of this would be possible without the financial support they receive from our funders, partners, members and donors who generously give to Coastguard so that our volunteers can continue to be there when Kiwis need them most.

Anyone who registers to take on the Big Swim and raises at least \$100 will receive a wristband which entitles the participant to swim for free at any of the official partner pools for the month of June 2025.

We have been approached by Coastguard to sign on as a partner pool. While there is no direct cost to being involved, it is possible that some of the people taking part would have paid to come swimming meaning some indirect cost as we miss out on that income.

However, involvement is likely to break even or result in a net positive with the “big swim”ers likely to bring family who would enter at cost and otherwise not have come swimming. Additionally the ongoing income from any new customers who pick this up and build swimming in to their regular fitness routine, continuing to swim post June, once again, at cost.

We expect around 10 participants, at around \$65 per person, based on a months membership, making the estimated potential income impact around \$650. If these individuals were all new swimmers and to continue swimming we would see an overall net positive of around \$1300 in the first 4 months from the sale of 10 memberships.

The following options are available



- 4.4.1. Option One – sign up to support the Coastguard Big Swim. There is no direct cost although there is a potential income impact estimated to be around \$650 which is likely to be balanced by the generation of new business. This is the recommended option.
- 4.4.2. Option Two – do not sign up to support the Coastguard Big Swim. This may have some limited impact on income if customers were to sign up to the Big Swim but were unable to access free swimming at our facilities and choose to continue to swim elsewhere. This is not the recommended option.

Coastguard are a valuable part of the Waimakariri community. Support for this activity would be beneficial to their fundraising efforts and either cost neutral for the business or potentially attract some new regular customers.

### **Implications for Community Wellbeing**

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.

- 4.5. 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 a number of groups and organisations who are affected by, or to have a vested interest in the ongoing operation of the districts Aquatic Facilities. Aquatics staff continue to work closely with 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 May 2024.

A review of the District Aquatics plan in 2023 reinforced the outcomes of the original document, with growing community demand for Hydrotherapy a key area of opportunity, additional leisure space at Kaiapoi and the integration of the Pavilion into the main facility at Dudley and what this would mean for current changing spaces.

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 2024/25 year as at 30 September 2024.

<b>Aquatic Facilities Budget Summary</b>	<b>YTD Actual \$'000</b>	<b>YTD Budget \$'000</b>	<b>Variance \$'000</b>
Operational Income	450	443	7
Rates Funding	1,131	1,143	(12)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>(4)</b>
Operation Expenses	919	1,036	117
Maintenance	70	92	21
Corporate overheads	234	228	(5)
Internal Interest	86	89	3
Depreciation	255	221	(35)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Total Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>(80)</b>	<b>97</b>

As noted in 4.1 attendance was down against the previous year for a number of reasons as discussed. The Learn to swim programme continues to operate at capacity with a number of new staff coming onboard to help address increased demand and prepare for the new year where we inevitably see a number of staff movements.

Of the three main activities, income results remain on budget for pre-paid entries, recreation just under budget and learn to swim income higher than forecast due to the recent increased numbers.

Direct staffing costs remained on budget due to the need to continue to meet contractual obligations and safe operating requirements.

Should the items in issue 4.4 and 4.5 proceed as recommended it is likely that both will have small but positive effects on income. Otherwise there are no significant 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

Changing attitudes around the risks from communicable diseases and colds continue to impact on both our staffing ability but also on customers attendance for recreation and programmed activities.

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, identifying new initiatives such as a season pass and partnering with Big Swim, 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.

### 6.3 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 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 are diverse, respond to changing demographics and meet local needs for leisure and recreation.

Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimizing the risk of social harm to its communities.

Our community has access to the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society and to exercise choice about how to live their lives.

People are able to enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whanau, communities, iwi and workplaces.

Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.

Public spaces express our cultural identities and help to foster an inclusive society.

People are supported to participate in improving the health and sustainability of our environment.

Our district transitions towards a reduced carbon and waste district.

The natural and built environment in which people live is clean, healthy and safe.

There is access to meaningful, rewarding, and safe employment within the district.

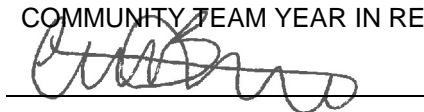
Infrastructure and services are sustainable, resilient, and affordable.

Our district readily adapts to innovation and emerging technologies that support its transition to a circular economy.

There are sufficient skills and education opportunities available to support the economy.

### 7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

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

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR INFORMATION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** GOV-01-04 / CMS-09-10-02 / 241112199722**REPORT TO:** Community and Recreation Committee**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2024**FROM:** Tessa Sturley – Community Team Manager**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY TEAM YEAR IN REVIEW REPORT 2023/2024**SIGNED BY:**  
(for Reports to Council,  
Committees or Boards)

  
 Department Manager


  
 Chief Executive
**1. SUMMARY**

1.1. This report provides an overview of the Community Team Year in Review report, 2023/2024, which details activity in four key areas:

- Community Development
- Community Safety
- Youth Development and Opportunity
- Civil Defence Welfare

1.2. It details the collaborative, community-led approach applied to the work of the Community Team in response to community-identified need and opportunity.

**Attachments:**

- i. Waimakariri District Council Community Team Year in Review 2023/2024 report (Trim # 241104191578)

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Community and Recreation committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 241112199722
- (b) **Notes** the collaborative, community-led approach adopted by the Community Team as part of business as usual and Civil Defence response and social recovery.
- (c) **Notes** that, as detailed in the Community Team Year in Review Report 2023/2024, all population and performance measure targets for the Community Development Strategy 2015 -2025 have now been met or exceeded.
- (d) **Notes** the pending review of the Community Development Strategy, due for completion before June 2025.

### 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. In line with the four pillars of the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy 2015 - 2025, the Community Team's collective role is to:
- **Engage** with the community and so capture its views, imagination, skills, experience and ideas.
  - **Inform** the community about significant relevant issues and opportunities that affect the lives of our residents.
  - **Connect** people, groups and organisations with others who can help to address those issues and opportunities.
  - Help them to establish working groups and **empower** them with the skills, information and resources they need to collectively translate their ideas into action.
- 3.2. The collective works of the Community Team align with 16 of Council's Community Outcomes.
- 3.3. Both business-as-usual and Civil Defence Emergency/pandemic recovery incorporate several key portfolios, facilitating and supporting the addressing of key community-identified priorities, as detailed in the table below:

SAFE COMMUNITIES	RELATIONSHIPS	Families	Youth	Peers
	RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING	Alcohol Positive Ageing	Suicide & Self Harm Civil Defence Welfare	
	SAFE ENVIRONMENTS	Homes Internet	Rural Properties	Streets
WELCOMING COMMUNITIES	CONNECTION	Residents Groups Social Isolation Easily accessible, relevant information	Subdivisions Collaborative Networks	
	INVOLVEMENT	Volunteering	Skill sharing Arts Strategy	
	INCLUSION	Migrants	Accessibility	
EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES	CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY BUILDING	Capability-building for volunteers, members, staff and leaders of community groups and organisations Support and advice for growing community groups, organisations and sectors (E.g. Arts)		
	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	Support and promotion to encourage residents to have a voice in local, regional and national consultations		
	OPPORTUNITY	WaiYouth - Events Youth Council - Youth Voice		

		<p>Youth Services Network - Opportunities and support for local young people</p> <p>Emergency and Transition Housing</p> <p>North Canterbury Youth Futures for Education and Employment Possibilities</p> <p>Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs</p> <p>Food Security</p> <p>Kaiapoi Community Hub</p> <p>Mobile Community Support Hub</p>
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- 3.4. The Community Team's 'Year in Review' report documents the work of the Community Team in the 2023/2024 financial year and acknowledges the contribution of the various geographic and 'of interest' communities that make up the Waimakariri District. Results are measured according to Results Based Accountability, which provides quantitative and qualitative evidence for success. – "What did we do? "How well did we do it?" and "Is anyone better off?"
- 3.5. As well as serving as accountability to funders and community partners, the 'Year in Review' report celebrates what has been achieved through the collaborative work of many local organisations to enhance the wellbeing, connection, inclusion and empowerment of people right across the District.

#### 4. **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1. The attached report provides an overview of key priorities, activities and results related to community-identified need and opportunity, both as business as usual, and in Civil Defence welfare response and social recovery from disaster, extreme weather and pandemic events.

It also details priority initiatives that address.

- Welfare response to Civil Defence-related and other local emergencies
  - Capability and capacity building for community and voluntary sector groups and agencies,
  - Community safety and wellbeing, including alcohol and drug harm, and suicide prevention.
  - Cultural competency, and empowerment for ethnic migrants
  - Social inclusion, including the creation of 'Welcoming' accessible and age-friendly communities
  - Youth Development, and employment
- 4.2. Results are recorded against the Engage, Connect, Inform and Empower pillars of the Community Development Strategy 2015 -2025. As detailed in the report, quantitative results for the 2023/2024 year have seen all 2025 targets met or exceeded for both population and performance indicators.

Qualitative performance impact for each objective is reported according to the Results Based Accountability indicator, 'Is anyone better off.'

4.3. With both population and performance targets achieved, this strategy is under review, however these pillars continue to provide an appropriate framework for effective community development.

4.4. While the report details key activity, overall things to note in relation to the four pillars are:

#### **4.4.1. Engaging new stakeholders**

- The maintenance of 18 networks and over 300 stakeholder relationships that inform and contribute to the delivery of initiatives that address local issues and opportunities.
- The incidental role of the Community Team in providing a welcoming, open door and link into community supports for some of our more vulnerable residents.
- The active role that Community Team staff play in relevant regional and national networks.

#### **4.4.2. Facilitating connection**

- The collaborative approach that the community has established and continues to operate as a successful means of delivering positive social outcomes for people in the Waimakariri District.
- The work done to facilitate connection between residents across demographic groups and communities of interest; and for some of our more vulnerable residents.
- The intentional approach applied to ensuring that new residents and migrant newcomers are welcomed and supported into the life of their communities.
- Development of a strategy to facilitate collaboration to increase the profile, capacity and capability of the local arts sector; and to increase the community's degree of connection with the arts.

#### **4.4.3. Informing people about the issues and opportunities that affect them**

- The broad range of professional development for local services, agencies and community leaders around key issues, ensuring that they are well informed and appropriately skilled to support our vulnerable residents
- The range of free, quality community education and support workshops that will help those most affected to address significant issues like suicide, drug and alcohol harm, injury and relationship violence
- The breadth of relevant, local information developed and disseminated by the Community Team through the appropriate avenues so that people can access support or opportunities to participate in the life of their community.
- The strong online and social media following that Community Team - facilitated, on-line communication fora have generated.

#### **4.4.4. Empowering Residents**

- The role of capability building workshops and one-on-one support in helping community groups and organisations to attract, manage and keep good staff and volunteers, build their profile and operate in a financially and operationally sustainable manner.

- The significant funding acquired to support a broad range of community-led initiatives, including food security, time-banking, migrants and newcomers initiatives, community safety, social support and youth development.
- The broad engagement and consultation that see hundreds of voices from the community services, social, health, business, education, faith, youth and general community sectors applied to planning local large and smaller scale projects.
- The opportunities created for young people and ethnic migrants to learn skills that will help them to gain employment.
- The work toward creating a more accessible and inclusive district
- The community-led approach applied to Civil Defence; including the January 2024 Loburn fire.

### **Implications for Community Wellbeing**

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

- 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.
- People are empowered with skills and opportunities to access employment and engage in the life of their community.
- Community groups and volunteer-involving organisations are adequately skilled and resources to support the needs and deliver quality service to local residents
- Our community will be able to sustain itself through future natural disasters or crises without strain being put on supply chains.
- The collective wisdom, experience and opinion of local residents is applied to local decision making.

## **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.

### **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.

### 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. **IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

### 6.1. **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications for Council in relation to the content of this report. However, Community Team staff will assist with the acquisition of external funding for some of the key projects that are identified by the networks that they support.

### 6.2. **Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts**

The information in this report does have sustainability impacts.

This work directly affects the sustainability of our community and our environment through initiatives that repurpose or reuse assets and through the expansion and development of community gardens, food forests and edible trees in public places. Using our greenspaces to support the health, wellbeing and physical nourishment of our community we maximise the use of the environmental resources we have.

### 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 for all Community Team facilitated initiatives.

## 7. **CONTEXT**

### 7.1. **Policy**

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

### 7.2. **Legislation**     N/A

### 7.3. **Community Outcomes**

This work is an active mechanism for delivery of several aspects of each of Council's four draft Community Outcomes for the Waimakariri District Council Long Term Plan:

Social: (That the Waimakariri District is) a place where everyone can have a sense of belonging

- Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimizing the risk of social harm to its communities.
- Our community groups are sustainable and able to get the support they need to succeed.
- Our community has access to the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society and to exercise choice about how to live their lives.
- People can enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whanau, communities, iwi and workplaces.



- Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.

Cultural: A place where our people are enabled to thrive and give creative expression to their identity and heritage.

- Public spaces express our cultural identities and help to foster an inclusive society.
- The distinctive character of our takiwā / district, arts and heritage are preserved and enhanced.
- All members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers.
- Waimakariri's diversity is freely expressed, respected and valued.
- There is an environment that supports creativity and innovation for all.
- Local arts, culture and heritage are able to make a growing contribution to the community and economy.

Environmental: A place that values and restores our environment

- Our district is resilient and able to quickly respond to and recover from natural disasters and the effects of climate change.
- Our communities can access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.

Economic: A place that is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.

- There is access to meaningful, rewarding, and safe employment within the district.
- Our district recognizes the value of both paid and unpaid work.
- There are sufficient skills and education opportunities available to support the economy.

#### 7.4. Delegations

None



Tessa Sturley  
COMMUNITY TEAM MANAGER



# Community Team Year in Review 2023/2024







Youth week - skate jam



Waimakariri Bike Project



Trade sector mental health breakfast



Mayors Taskforce for Jobs driver licence support



'InCommon' poster launch



On the Radio

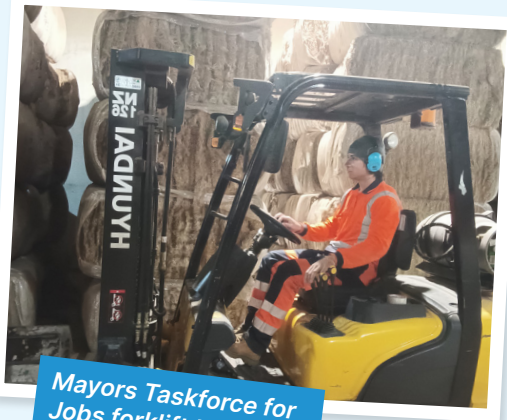
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Race Unity Day art competition



Accessibility training



Mayors Taskforce for Jobs forklift training



Mental resilience workshop

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# Introduction



**Tessa Sturley**  
Community Team Manager

## Ma tini ma mano ka rapa te whai

Many hands make light work — Unity is strength.

- **Engage** with our community so that we can capture its views, imagination, skills, experience and ideas
- **Inform** people about significant relevant issues and opportunities that affect the lives of our residents
- **Connect** people, groups and organisations with others who can help to address those issues and opportunities
- **Encourage** people and organisations to come together and empower them with the skills, information and resources they need, collectively translating their ideas into action.

We can then acknowledge and celebrate, with our community, the great work they have done.

While this report documents the work of the Waimakariri District Council Community Team, it also celebrates the incredible contribution of the various geographic and ‘of interest’ communities that make up the Waimakariri District. This is a great community in which to get a bunch of like-minded people together, to roll up their sleeves and get things done. That can see, for example, a contracting company, a mental health provider and a service club working together in an unlikely, but extremely successful context. Such collaboration results in an incredible array of community-led initiatives. This exemplifies the value of collective wisdom, ability and talent.

As a team of Council-based facilitators, our role is not so much to “do stuff”, but more to work with the people from these communities to “make stuff happen”. We are open eyes, listening ears and willing hands to support the community. We can then acknowledge and celebrate, with our community, the great work that they have done.

This report is part of that celebration. We hope that you enjoy seeing all that ‘you’ as a community have achieved over the 12-month period ending 30 June 2024 ... with support from us.



# Mayor and Chief Executive's Message



## Message from the Mayor

The Waimakariri District Council is committed to the well-being of our community, driven by our shared vision to work together with residents to create a thriving, safe, and supportive environment. We aim to build not only a healthy economy but also a strong sense of connection, safety, and vitality for everyone.

Our Community Team plays a vital role in this journey, focusing on Community Safety, Community Development, and Youth Development. Guided by the council's vision, the team takes a collaborative approach, working hand-in-hand with local organisations and residents to strengthen our communities, ensuring they remain safe, inclusive, and full of opportunity. This report highlights the key achievements of our Community Team's work alongside various partners in the community. As mayor I am incredibly proud of what has been accomplished so far, by working together and I look forward to continuing this work.

**Dan Gordon**  
Mayor



## Message from the Chief Executive

I am pleased to endorse this 'Year in Review' report. Its content details the results of the community-led, collaborative work of the Community Team in conjunction with a variety of local and national stakeholders in Community Safety, Community Development and Youth Development.

The documented results show the value of this approach and the outcomes that are possible when community workers, community volunteers, government and non-government agencies and the Council staff all work together on projects that enhance the quality of life for people living in the Waimakariri District.

**Jeff Millward**  
Chief Executive

# Overview: “The Waimakariri Way”

## Creating and maintaining strong, connected vibrant communities

The Community Team works under the umbrella of the Waimakariri District Council to facilitate an evidence-based, community-led approach to foster safe, resilient communities so that:

*“Waimakariri is a District where people are thriving.”*

*Waimakariri District Council Community Development Strategy 2015-2025.*

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. Collaborating with well over 300 community, business, education, government and non-government stakeholders, the Community Team facilitates a community-led approach in community development and community safety.

### Benefits of a community-based, facilitated response

Local facilitation is essential. These things don't just happen; they need someone to pull the strings, make the connections and facilitate action. Such functions sit outside the capacity (and often capability) of already stretched service providers.

### The facilitator role is:

- To scope the issues and opportunities
- To work with the experts and research proven models, and then apply local knowledge to ensure locally relevant and effective initiatives
- To identify and work with the right partners
- To ensure that the right connections and support mechanisms are in place for local people
- To ensure appropriate reach for resources, education and community supports
- To facilitate evaluation of initiatives, so that we are making a difference, rather than just being well intentioned.



Ashley Rakahuri River clean-up



White Ribbon Day 2023

## Alignment with Council Community Outcomes

This work is an active mechanism for delivery of several aspects of each of the Council's four Community Outcomes for the Waimakariri District Council Long Term Plan:

### Social:

(That the Waimakariri District is) a place where everyone can have a sense of belonging.

- Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimizing the risk of social harm to its communities.
- Our community groups are sustainable and able to get the support they need to succeed.
- Our community has access to the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society and to exercise choice about how to live their lives.
- People are able to enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whānau, communities, iwi and workplaces.
- Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.

### Environmental:

A place that values and restores our environment.

- Our District is resilient and able to quickly respond to and recover from natural disasters and the effects of climate change.
- Our communities are able to access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.

### Economic:

A place that is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.

- There is access to meaningful, rewarding, and safe employment within the District.
- Our District recognises the value of both paid and unpaid work.
- There are sufficient skills and education opportunities available to support the economy.

### Cultural:

A place where our people are enabled to thrive and give creative expression to their identity and heritage.

- The distinctive character of our Takiwā/District, arts and heritage are preserved and enhanced.
- All members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers.
- Waimakariri's diversity is freely expressed, respected and valued.
- There is an environment that supports creativity and innovation for all.
- Local arts, culture and heritage are able to make a growing contribution to the community and economy.



Regrow Loburn School planting



Performers at the launch of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy

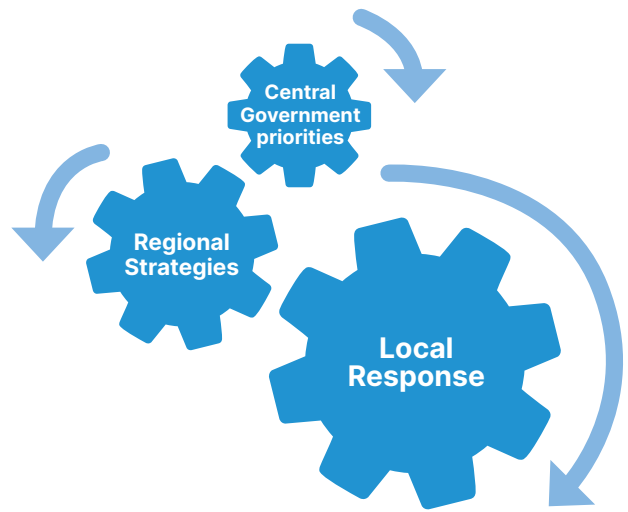


# Strategic Alignment

## Strategic alignment with Regional and Central Government priorities

The alignment with regional and national strategies ensures that wider evidence based research and best practice models are applied to the response to local priorities.

This translates into increased reach, as more stakeholders are brought into community-led, collaborative responses. The significant number of partner hours and/or dollars generated translates into a return on funder investment of at least double, in terms of capacity and reach.



*Youth focus Kia Rite Hoha event planning workshop in Hurunui*



*Trade sector mental health breakfast*



*Training day at the Marae*

# Key Priority Projects 2023/2024

1. Continued Response and Social Recovery from Covid-19 and Civil Defence weather emergencies:
  - Food Secure Project, reducing food poverty through education and accessibility to free, sustainable food sources
  - Kaiapoi Community Hub, creating a welcoming, inclusive vibrant space where people can be empowered through connection, learning and skill-sharing
  - Continuation of Next Steps website development, an easily accessible link to information about the support and services available to local residents; particularly in times of crisis.
  - Acquisition and fit out of a Mobile Community Hub, supporting communities in crisis.
2. Continued development and delivery of 'On Track' capability and capacity building series for community and voluntary sector groups and agencies.
3. Community safety and wellbeing to support and empower at-risk demographics. This included:
  - Family and relationship violence
  - Suicide prevention, wellbeing and resilience
  - Alcohol and drug harm
  - Support for the community-led Housing Response Working Group.
4. Cultural competency, and inclusion and empowerment for ethnic migrants.
5. Social connection and inclusion.
6. Facilitation of a strategy approach to local arts.
7. Youth Development, including facilitation of:
  - Waimakariri Youth Council
  - WaiYouth Action Groups
  - North Canterbury Youth Services Network
  - Youth Futures North Canterbury.
8. Accessible and age-friendly communities.
9. Civil Defence Response and Recovery.

## Emerging priorities and new projects under development

A number of key priorities have emerged this year:

1. Community Development Strategy review.
2. The need to review Youth Strategy 2018.
3. Completion, launch and resourcing acquisition to implement Ngā toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy.
4. Support for increased local provision of social, emergency, and transitional housing.
5. Full roll out of Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) and broader development of the North Canterbury Youth Futures project, with a focus on increasing employer awareness of the value of employing youth.
6. Launch, and release to the community, of the mobile community information and support hub.
7. Increased stakeholder support towards the establishment of the Kaiapoi Community Hub, particularly towards the acquisition of funding.
8. Engagement to inform the development of a Welcoming Communities plan, to ensure that ethnic migrants and other newcomers are welcomed and included into the life of the District, and its recreational, community, social and health services.
9. Support for social, community and voluntary sectors, given pressure on funding and deliverables.

# 2023/2024 Financial Year Results

The following report details a summary of results against Waimakariri Community Development Strategy Performance Measures, along with an overview of key outputs and achievements for the Team over the 2023/2024 financial year against the four strategic goals for the strategy.

## Community Development Strategy 2015–2025

- **Mission:** Facilitating stronger, safer, vibrant communities
- **Vision:** Waimakariri is a District where people are thriving
- **Strategic Goals:**

– to engage

– to connect

– to inform

– to empower

the Waimakariri community.

## Population indicator results

Measures that the work of the Community Team can claim some part of achieving.

Population indicator results				
Goal	Indicator	Benchmark	Target 2025	Result 2022/23
Connect	Percentage of respondent households involved in recreation, arts and cultural, school, church, community, sports or service groups/organisations.	40% <i>(WDC New Dwellings Survey, 2014)</i>	Revised to 75% in 2019	80%
Inform	Percentage of respondent households satisfied with the information about what is going on in the District.	30% <i>(Council Community Survey 2019)</i>	55%	82% <i>(Council Community Survey 2019)</i>



'InCommon' poster launch



Festival for the Future

### Performance indicator results 2023/24

These are specifically measurable as outcomes directly attributed to the work of the Community Team.

Performance indicator results 2023/24				
Goal	Indicator	Benchmark (WDC Performance measures 2014/15)	Target 2025	Result 2023/25
Engage	Total number of partners supporting Community Development, Youth Development and Community Safety initiatives.	300	≥ 300	300+
	Number of local groups that connect residents or organisations, supported by the Community Team.	12	≥ 12	23
Connect	Evidence of Community Team Support for the development of new groups that facilitate community connection.	N/A	≥ 8	12
	Community Team Facebook page following.	1,789	1,800	4,500
Inform	Annual hits on Community page of Waimakariri District Council website.	2,800	≥ 3000	10,200
	Number of community groups contributing to Chatter monthly community information newsletter each year.	150	≥ 150	144
Empower	Number of new community-led initiatives developed with support from the Community Team.	N/A	≥ 10	28

Progress against these goals is detailed on the following pages.

**Note:** With both Population and Performance Indicator targets well and truly exceeded, new targets are being set as part of a reviewed strategy 2024–2029.



# Engage

## Engaging with people, groups and organisations

### What did we do?

Maintained relationships with well over 300 local, regional and national partners covering the government, non-government, community and business sectors.

#### How well did we do it?

Maintained connections in the local government, iwi, health, education, social service, business and grassroots community sectors, including staff involvement and/or facilitation of the following networks:

#### a) Local

- Social Services Waimakariri
- Waimakariri Health Advisory Group
- Violence Free North Canterbury
- Waimakariri Access Group
- Waimakariri Drug and Alcohol Harm Prevention Steering Group
- Waimakariri Migrant Agency Steering Group
- Waimakariri Suicide Prevention Steering Group
- North Canterbury Youth Services Network
- Age Friendly Waimakariri Advisory Group
- Waimakariri Youth Council
- North Canterbury Youth Futures
- Volunteer Coordinators' Network
- Food Secure North Canterbury Steering Group
- Civil Defence Local Welfare Committee
- Welcoming Communities Steering group.

#### Is anyone better off?

Broad local, regional and national engagement provides increased opportunity to enhance the safety, wellbeing and resilience of Waimakariri residents.

There are more people to plan, to do the work and to fund the work, so that community aspirations are more easily achievable.



Youth Council speed chat

<p><b>b) Regional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active Canterbury</li> <li>• Waka Toa Ora (Healthy Greater Christchurch) Steering Group</li> <li>• INFoRM network of Refugee and Migrant Service Providers</li> <li>• Eldercare Canterbury</li> <li>• Together Hurunui</li> <li>• Rerenga Awa – Canterbury Youth Workers Collective</li> <li>• Youth Voice Canterbury</li> <li>• Welcoming Communities South Island Facilitators network.</li> </ul> <p><b>c) National</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hauora Whenua - Rural Health Alliance of Aotearoa NZ</li> <li>• Safer Aotearoa Network Transition Steering Group – as part of International Safe Community network.</li> <li>• Age Friendly Communities National Network</li> <li>• Family Violence network</li> <li>• Welcoming Communities National Facilitators Network.</li> </ul>	<p>Regional and national engagement ensures that Waimakariri initiatives are evidence-based, well-resourced and delivered in line with Best Practice.</p>
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<b>What did we do?</b> Provided a welcoming, open door and link into community supports for some of our more vulnerable residents.	
<b>How well did we do it?</b>	<b>Is anyone better off?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People often contact Council when they have nowhere to go, or they pop in, to see the Community Team office when they're feeling isolated or distressed.</li> <li>• Every week we receive emails, phone calls or drop-ins related to our more vulnerable residents. We provide links with appropriate supports and services. We're also a listening ear and a word of encouragement, or celebration when they have achieved a milestone.</li> <li>• Our local 'personalities', who might otherwise be lost and lonely, when services are closed, regularly pop in to show us their new shoes, Special Olympics medals, new bikes and photographs that they're proud of. While this is not our core business, the outcomes for these people are significant.</li> </ul>	<p>People have been linked into appropriate services for transitional and/or emergency housing when in crisis.</p> <p>Three of our most regular visitors are encouraged and supported, and kept safe and linked into appropriate support services when the need arises.</p> <p>Council front-counter and phone enquiry customers are linked with appropriate support services.</p> <p>People without access to eftpos or email have been supported to access DIA services remotely.</p> <p>Following on from phone or email enquiries, from various Council departments and/or from residents, many people have been linked with Police, family harm, addiction and social support agency assistance.</p> <p>We are better off too! It is such a blessing to be invited into people's lives in times of crisis and to see them blossom as they get the help they need.</p>

# Connect

## Connecting people

### What did we do?

Encouraged and supported collaboration between groups and services.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitated and/or actively contributed to 13 local collaborations that address local priorities, to support social, physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, safety, and inclusion, including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Suicide prevention and wellbeing promotion</li> <li>– Family Harm</li> <li>– Drug and Alcohol Harm</li> <li>– Food Secure North Canterbury</li> <li>– Support and opportunity for Ethnic Migrants</li> <li>– North Canterbury Housing Response Working Group</li> <li>– North Canterbury Youth Futures — transition to employment</li> <li>– North Canterbury Youth Service Network</li> <li>– Accessibility</li> <li>– District-wide Civil Defence welfare response and recovery</li> <li>– Waimakariri Health Advisory Group</li> <li>– Social Services Waimakariri</li> <li>– Waimakariri Access Group.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Facilitated 11 community group and organisation networking fora, held in Rangiora, Kaiapoi, Woodend, Oxford and Pegasus.</li> <li>• Supported Food Secure North Canterbury with capacity, funding guidance and community projects involving food distribution to residents.</li> <li>• Developed and launched Ngā toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>There is better local social and health service provision.</p> <p>Local Youth Services can connect, share trends, and acquire training that would not otherwise be available.</p> <p>Our community is supported with well-stocked foodbanks, to ensure fresh food and produce are available to our vulnerable residents.</p> <p>Residents with disabilities have a voice, and receive appropriate service delivery.</p> <p>Services collaborate to identify gaps, improve coordination, educate the community and destigmatise mental health.</p> <p>A broad range of stakeholders contributed to identifying needs, priorities and opportunities to increase the profile, reach and sustainability of the local arts sector. This will contribute to a stronger local economy and positive social outcomes for Waimakariri residents.</p> <div data-bbox="986 1491 1362 1980" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="935 1944 1278 2018" data-label="Caption"> <p><i>Waimakariri Bike Project at the Volunteer Expo</i></p> </div>

## What did we do?

Provided and promoted opportunities for people to get together.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Community Trailer was utilised for 35 community and neighbourhood events. This is nine more than the previous year.</li> <li>Supported the Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW) Group to coordinate an 8-week Multicultural Cooking Class series showcasing a variety of international cuisines.</li> <li>Supported the GLOW Group to maintain a monthly, multicultural social at a local pub's community meeting space. Regular attendance of people from up to 10 different cultures, including local New Zealanders.</li> <li>A Mid-Winter Multicultural Dinner was a family friendly event with a focus on bringing ethnically diverse people together over food. Attendees were encouraged to bring a plate of food from their 'home country' to share. With approximately 40 attendees, the event was an opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity that exists in the District and enhance cultural inclusion and connection.</li> </ul>	<p>Upwards of 600 people in a variety of communities and neighbourhoods had the opportunity to connect and get to know one another over a community-led barbeque or event.</p> <p>The wider community enjoys the Multicultural Cooking Class series to learn how to make cultural cuisine and understand more about other cultures. This year three classes sold out soon after advertising commenced.</p> <p>People had the opportunity to connect and increase their understanding of one another's culture and common experience of being new to New Zealand and the District. The result is a reduced social isolation.</p> <p>Our diverse communities were acknowledged, supported and celebrated.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported the Waimakariri Bike Project to maintain its volunteer force, be successful in receiving \$20,000 in DIA grants and continue their weekly workshops and community collaborations.</li> </ul>	<p>The bike project has continued to address hardship, by giving people free bikes, sometimes their only mode of transport. It has also provided social connection and a sense of self-worth for some of our vulnerable residents and 'hands-on' experience for young people, as they applied skills that they didn't know they had, to repair bikes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mobile Community Hub was launched in November 2023 and hired by a combination of community groups and Council departments to support Waimakariri residents. Hires included:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oxford Community Trust</li> <li>Oxford Search and Rescue</li> <li>Civil Defence</li> <li>Islamic Trust of Canterbury to support local Muslim residents.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The community has more accessible outreach access to engage, educate and support communities – particularly those in crisis or with pockets of more vulnerable residents.</p>



Mobile Community Hub at the Hope barbeque



## Connecting people

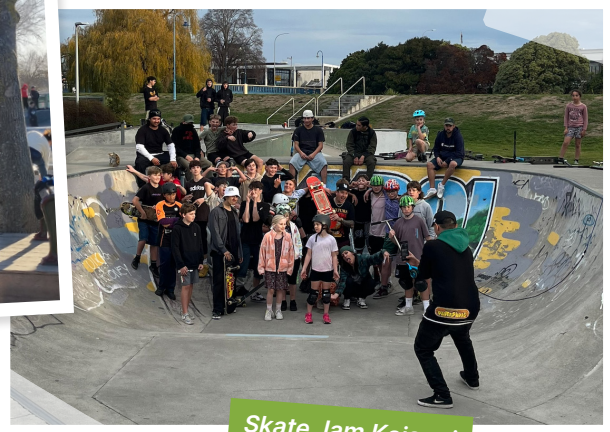
- Supported the Waimakariri Youth Council to deliver events that connect young people together. The Dudley Park Launch event saw approximately 80 young people, parents and grandparents enjoy the new activation platform and mural.
- Collaborated with Greenspace, Aquatics and Libraries teams as well as other community partners to deliver a series of Youth Week events with the purpose of connecting like-minded young people. Over 150 young people attended the various events, which included Skate Jams in Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Oxford, learner licensing support sessions, inflatable session at Dudley Aquatic Centre, and Library activities such as trace light board sketching, board games and planting days.

People are more connected with the Dudley Skate Park space. The activation platform allows a wider range of uses.

150 local youth learnt a new skill, made a new friend or connection, or found out how to get involved regularly with community initiatives.



Skate Jam Rangiora



Skate Jam Kaiapoi

### What did we do?

Supported developing subdivisions to create opportunities for connection.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported the Pegasus Community Centre to ensure that new residents in new parts of Pegasus were welcomed and informed through receiving a welcome bag or welcome bucket full of resources, and a friendly interaction with a local person from their community.</li> </ul>	<p>People in developing subdivisions were welcomed and informed about local services and opportunities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported the Greenspace Unit to consult the youth population of the Pegasus/Ravenswood/Woodend area to determine what young people want in Pegasus to make the greenspace areas more youth-friendly. This meant staff meeting with over 100 students, hearing their thoughts and ideas on what makes a good youth space, including what they currently enjoy about Pegasus.</li> </ul>	<p>Youth voice is heard and considered in a project that will impact them and the way they engage with the greenspaces around them.</p>

**What did we do?**

Supported Residents Groups and Community Associations.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff continued to support residents' groups with preparation for events, the Community Trailer and by linking them into information resources. These groups included Silverstream Residents Association and Pegasus Residents Group.</li> </ul>	<p>Residents' groups are equipped and supported to achieve their aspirations.</p>  <p><b>Community trailer</b></p>

**What did we do?**

Encouraged and supported volunteering as a means to connect residents into the life of the community.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organised three Volunteer Expos, held in Rangiora, Woodend and Kaiapoi. 36 volunteer reliant organisations participated, and approximately 90 potential volunteers attended these.</li> <li>Disseminated information about volunteering opportunities via a range of online, social and printed media.</li> <li>The Waimakariri Volunteer Directory which lists many local organisations seeking volunteers, is regularly updated and available online and in printed form.</li> <li>Connected Volunteering Canterbury with the Youth Futures Career Expo.</li> </ul>	<p>Local volunteer involving organisations are better able to attract and retain volunteers.</p> <p>People can find volunteering opportunities that suit their skills and interest. This will, in return, reward them with a sense of contribution, social connection and increased wellbeing.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated local provision of a Migrant Driver Mentor Programme.</li> </ul>	<p>Migrant drivers can overcome barriers such as access to a vehicle, petrol and insurance, to practise their driving skills with a mentor to prepare for their restricted licence.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Language Students gaining confidence in using their English language at the Hope Trust Op Shop.</li> </ul>	<p>English Language students gain confidence in talking to customers in a safe, friendly environment at the Hope Trust Op Shop.</p>

# Inform

## Informing people about issues and opportunities that affect them

### Education workshops and seminars

What did we do?	
How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported the Older Persons Expo and Celebration of International day of the Older Person event.</li> </ul>	Over 70 older persons accessed information about local support services and recreational opportunities, whilst celebrating the gift of being older, with music, singing and connection.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed a communications system to better inform migrants and ethnic communities of the opportunities to attend forums, workshops, events and community groups.</li> </ul>	Ethnic communities and migrants are better informed of what is happening in the District and encouraged to have a voice in local decision making.

What did we do?	
Facilitated local delivery of family and relationship violence prevention and response education.	
How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Recognise, Respond, Refer (RRR) Training</b> RRR training was coordinated for community organisations across North Canterbury in partnership with Violence Free North Canterbury and its member agencies. These trainings were delivered to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oxford Area School teachers</li> <li>North Canterbury Plunket team.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Local teachers were equipped with knowledge on how to recognise signs of abuse and tools on how to help students and whānau who may be experiencing it.</p> <p>15 Plunket nurses were educated on signs of family violence and given practical ways to ask new mums about safety in their homes and strategies to offer help, where needed. The team expressed enthusiasm for the training and shared that the workshop would have an impact on how they handled cases involving family violence going forward.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Youth Dating Violence Awareness Campaign</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The community was informed about the high numbers of teen relationship violence across New Zealand through a two-week digital campaign.</li> <li>Youth were provided with resources about recognising red flags and green flags in relationships through displays in teen spaces across Waimakariri libraries.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Over 250 local youth are better able to recognise the signs of an unhealthy relationship and respond appropriately to support themselves and/or others.

## Informing - education workshops and seminars

- **Youth-Focused Professional Development Workshop**

Led by VFNC and supported by Taima Korero and Brainwave Trust to deliver a workshop for local agencies, police, social workers, and youth workers focused on youth, including discussion around the impact of pornography.

33 local professionals gained understanding on the impact of pornography and abuse on the teenage brain. Local youth agencies had the opportunity to share the work they do in the community and the referral pathways available

- **White Ribbon Day Campaign with WR Riders**

- Family Violence Awareness Breakfast
- School Visits
- Council BBQ
- Jeremy Eparaima Workshop.



White Ribbon Day 2023

- **Elder Abuse Awareness Workshop**

Led by VFNC and supported by Age Friendly Waimakariri and local service providers, this was a workshop for local agencies, police, social workers and health professionals to upskill and learn about how to recognise and refer appropriately to elder abuse services.

30 local professionals increased their knowledge and understanding of the prevalence of elder abuse in Aotearoa New Zealand and the community resources available to support clients.

- **Violence Free Community Quiz Night Fundraiser**

The VFNC network hosted a community fundraiser to engage the community in its work and foster a safe, fun way to raise awareness about violence across the community.



Violence Free community quiz night

113 members of the community learned about the VFNC network and its work, while increasing their understanding of violence across the community. The network raised over \$3,000 to help support their work across North Canterbury.

### What did we do?

Facilitated a local response to alcohol and drug harm.

#### How well did we do it?

- The Alcohol and Drug Harm Prevention Steering Group finalised the Current Condition Qualitative Research Report. This report focused on the impact of alcohol and drug use across the Waimakariri District and community-informed priority actions moving forward. This report was endorsed by the Community and Recreation Committee in November 2023.

#### Is anyone better off?

A Best Practice approach has been applied to the development and delivery of initiatives that address local alcohol and drug harm.



## Informing - education workshops and seminars

- **Priority One: Community Education**

Two AOD 101 Workshops were organised and facilitated for our social service workers across the Waimakariri in June 2024.

58 social service providers from across the District were trained by qualified and experienced clinicians from Odyssey House Trust in their understanding of:

- Common substances in New Zealand and their risks
- Recognising problematic substance use
- Responding to substance use issues
- Harm reduction for AOD use
- Treatment services available and referral pathways
- The sessions also included engaging Q&A sessions.

### What did we do?

Facilitated local delivery of wellbeing-centred suicide prevention initiatives.

#### How well did we do it?

Staff continued to facilitate the Wailife Suicide Prevention Steering Group, with the following initiatives achieved:

- Mental Resilience Training to Secondary School teachers in the District (over 40 attendees).
- Support for a Trade Sector Mental Health Breakfast (over 100 attendees) raising awareness of services available in our District and tools for mental resilience.



Trade Sector Mental Health Breakfast

- Support for the delivery of the national suicide prevention campaign, in partnership with local pharmacies.
- Promote opportunities for suicide prevention training to community groups.
- Support was given to enable the local delivery of the WAVES bereaved by suicide eight-week support programme.
- Development and distribution of local resources for seeking mental health support.
- Delivery of Mental Health Awareness Week 'Five Winning Ways' campaign through local social media and community notices.
- A local campaign for Matariki, promoting wellbeing through connection with whānau and personal aspirations for the coming year.

#### Is anyone better off?

Local residents, community workers and support service providers are equipped with skills and knowledge to support themselves and others toward good mental health and wellbeing.

Over 300 people attended Mental Health Awareness training offering tools for self-help, promoting help seeking and education on how to support others who are struggling with mental health concerns.

Feedback included comments such as:

- *"I have discussed what I learned at this session with the family member who is currently going through a tough time."*
- *"Awesome event, well needed."*
- *"Please do more of these, it has really helped and I feel like I'm not alone."*
- *"Thank you for the enlightenment it has opened up new options for me."*
- *"Awesome morning alot of takeaways from today need more of this and more to reach out"*
- *"Thank you to all involved the event was magnificent really makes you think about the (tradie) culture and your mental state really its not just keep on keeping on."*
- *"It was relevant but also really positively presented and I think will have a marked impact on peoples mental health and wellbeing."*
- *"It was a helpful, interesting and captivating talk!"*
- *"We need more of these!"*

## What did we do?

Facilitated local provision of education and activities that enhance the safety and wellbeing of local children and families.

### How well did we do it?

#### Down the Back Paddock Rural Safety Education in Schools

With Covid-19 restrictions lifted, the programme was delivered to 400 children at two local primary schools, covering animal, poisons, fire, machinery, bike and home safety and security.

*Down the Back Paddock has now been operating successfully for over 15 years, with all primary schools in the District now offering it to their students.*

#### Raising the Next Generation with Confidence

Two parenting workshops were delivered in partnership with Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust and the Rangiora Youth Community Trust. The first addressing nutrition, its impact on mental health and wellbeing and the second on building resilience in teenagers – strategies and tools for families.

Workshop on building a resilience teenager



Nutrition workshop for parents



### Is anyone better off?

400 local school children learnt what they can do to reduce the likelihood of injury on our farms and lifestyle blocks. We continue to hear of parents being 'told off' by their kids for unsafe practices because of what they've learnt at Down the Back Paddock.

With over 15,000 local children (many now adults) learning safe practice and taking these messages home, we are creating a safer future on farms and lifestyle blocks across the Waimakariri District.

180 parents attended these workshops, benefiting from the experience of experts in their field but also meeting local service providers and learning what supports are available locally. They also had questions answered and take home resources provided.

Feedback received included:

- "Love to hear more info and education."
- "Thank you for making these sessions available and affordable, thoroughly enjoyed this"
- "Will definitely think more about how to adopt the things I learnt today"
- "I found the whole talk relevant and it has highlighted areas where we need to improve our family."
- "I will make more time to really connect with the kids."
- "Got some things to look up and talk to our girl about, to help her deal with stuff she's going through."
- "I plan to share this information with my students and fellow teachers."
- "I would love to make a change by helping my siblings make healthier choices."
- "I have started an Ag club for our homeschool community I will aim to add information that was presented tonight"
- "I plan to do a presentation to my school board."

## Informing - printed media

### Printed media

#### What did we do?

Billboards.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
Family Violence billboards are displayed in four key locations across the District.	People are confronted to consider unhealthy behaviours and those in crisis know where to go to get help.
'InCommon' posters were displayed in community centres, public spaces and Council areas.	Highlighting commonalities between very diverse people helps to foster a more welcoming and inclusive district.



'InCommon' poster launch

#### What did we do?

Chatter Community Information Newsletter.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribution of over 1,147 per month.</li> <li>Continued increase in contributors and readership.</li> </ul> <p>Staff continue to receive regular affirmations regarding the value of this resource.</p>	<p>Groups and organisations have access to free, high audience promotion for their activities.</p>



#### What did we do?

General Community Information Resources.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p><b>Welcome Bags</b></p> <p>Around 300 personalised 'Welcome to Waimakariri' information bags, or equivalent packs, were given to new residents in their respective communities. These are decorated by school children.</p> <p>Over 6,900 Welcome Bags have been distributed to new residents over recent years.</p>	<p>Local residents and community support agencies have easy access to information about supports, opportunities, and events.</p>

### Local Information Resources

The Community Team has developed a range of resources detailing local information about services, supports and opportunities related to:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Volunteering
- Recreational Sport and Hobbies
- Activities for Under 5s
- Family Violence Support
- Alcohol and Drug Harm Help
- Local Transport for Health Appointments
- Getting Advice Shows Strength booklet about local social support
- Suicide Prevention
- North Canterbury Youth Services Network - Newsletter
- Global Locals of Waimakariri brochure
- English Language Classes flyers
- Where to find food and support for homeless and rough sleepers.
- 'Next Steps' website resources.

As well as online, these are distributed via Citizens Advice Bureau, and at local libraries, information centres, community facilities, events and gatherings.

Public facilities and services are well stocked with relevant, up-to-date information about local supports, services and opportunities for people to engage in the life of the District.



## Social and online media

### What did we do?

Utilised social and online media to engage and inform the community about issues and options that affect them.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 10,200 interactions with Community Team related pages on the Council website.</li> <li>• Waimakariri Community Team Facebook page has a following of 4,500.</li> <li>• Waimakariri Community Team Facebook social media reach of 68,200.</li> <li>• WaiYouth and Youth Council has a following of 2,400 and a reach of 22,000 from Facebook and Instagram.</li> <li>• GLOW – (Global Locals of Waimakariri) has a following of 459.</li> <li>• GLOW – (Global Locals of Waimakariri) Facebook social media reach of 8,400.</li> </ul> <p>All community social and online media pages have increased following. The most popular posts related to events, volunteering opportunities, youth services and opportunities and mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>The community has easy access to information about supports, opportunities, and events.</p> <p>Sustained increase in social media following over the past eight years shows a growing audience for our information.</p> <p>Local groups and organisations have access to free, large audience promotion for their activities.</p>



# Empower

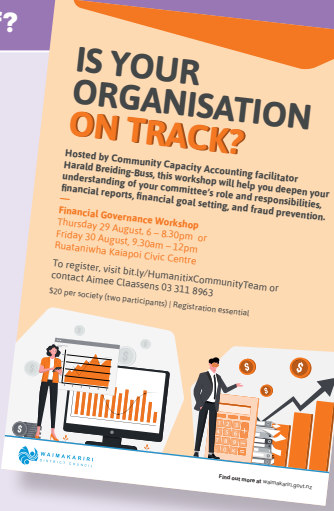
## Supporting and empowering people and organisations

### PRIORITY

Assist community groups and organisations to increase their capacity and capability

#### What did we do?

Facilitated a series of capability building workshops for the volunteer sector.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivered 12 'On Track' workshops. Topics covered included:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance and strategic planning</li> <li>Communication</li> <li>Funding requests</li> <li>Team dynamics</li> <li>Future proofing</li> <li>Incorporated societies act</li> <li>Funding requests.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Participants from 61 local groups and organisations gained new skills, knowledge and connections to enhance their contribution to running these valuable not for profit groups.</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivered three Kia Rite Hoha, introduction to event planning workshops, including a specific youth focus workshop, attended by 50 people.</li> </ul>	<p>50 local organisations will be better equipped to run local events.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated the North Canterbury Youth Services Network to grow their network and provided a range of training opportunities. Monthly e-newsletters were sent to the network. On average, there has been 15 service providers attend each meeting, whilst there were 70 service providers opening the newsletter monthly newsletter.</li> </ul>	<p>The value of this network function is evidenced by good meeting attendance and high engagement with the newsletter.</p>

#### What did we do?

Directly support key organisations to increase their membership and sustainability.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided direct advice and assistance with funding, strategic planning, governance, employment processes and promotion to some of our key community organisations and groups that connect local residents.</li> </ul>	<p>North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support have significantly increased their Getz Ready membership base, restructured their governance, strategic direction and delivery model, resulting in increased success with the acquisition of funding.</p>

## Empowering people and organisations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruited seven new Youth Council Members and four new WaiYouth members.</li> <li>Youth Council members were able to access training not only from their own training programme but as well through Youth Voice Canterbury. Youth Council members attended training in political neutrality, progressive governance, Kia Rite Hoha – event planning, and consultation planning and delivery.</li> </ul>	<p>Youth Council has broad ‘whole District’ representation so that a broader cohort of young people have their voices heard and are equipped to make a difference across the District’s communities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported partners within Food Secure North Canterbury with governance, people management and planning support.</li> </ul>	<p>Food Secure North Canterbury is in a strong position to support Waimakariri and Hurunui projects that support better local food systems for vulnerable residents.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Language Classes were delivered covering a range of abilities including Beginners and Intermediate. The classes are free to all adults with English as a second language are welcome to attend, starting at any time throughout the year. 49 students from 16 nationalities attended the classes, with most attending the intermediate level class. Enrolment was consistent throughout the year. The class has even supported a few teenage international students this year.</li> </ul>	<p>English Language Students continually improve and gain confidence through the classes. This enables them to converse more easily in day-to-day life. Three students have been able to volunteer in organisations because of their increased confidence. Students are also participating in community groups. The reputation of the class has spread by word of mouth from students.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitation of the Waimakariri Migrants Agency Group that met quarterly to network and discuss issues, trends and opportunities concerning migrants. The group consists of organisations and individuals that work with migrants.</li> </ul>	<p>Migrants Agency meetings provide a platform for information sharing, so those working with migrants can be aware of what other services and stakeholders are seeing and experiencing in the sector. Support and advice from relevant agencies and stakeholders can easily be accessed from within the group.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported a group of local Chinese speaking residents to promote and showcase their language and culture during Lunar New year celebrations. Events were celebrated throughout the week in partnership with Waimakariri Libraries, including “dumplings and spring rolls”, a “chop stick challenge”, Chinese word history and calligraphy workshop, lantern making and a Chinese Folk musician to entertain library visitors.</li> </ul>	<p>An official ‘Chinese Group’ has been established through the project and have provided them with more connection to others in the District they identify with. It also provided opportunities for New Zealanders to learn more about Chinese language and culture.</p>



Empowering people and organisations

**PRIORITY**

**Support and/or facilitate the acquisition of funding for community initiatives**

**What did we do?**

Supported or prepared funding applications for nine groups or organisations.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported community groups and organisations with the preparation of funding plans for their sustainable operation.</li> <li>Facilitated links with funding advisors from key funding organisations.</li> <li>Provided letters of endorsement and advice on applications to support the acquisition of funding for a range of community groups and organisations.</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitated or endorsed successful funding applications to support the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Secure North Canterbury</li> <li>Youth related initiatives</li> <li>Waimakariri Access Group – Inclusive Sports Festival</li> <li>Social Services Waimakariri</li> <li>Rangiora Pottery Group</li> <li>Kaiapoi Food Forest</li> <li>Waimakariri Access Group</li> <li>Hope Community Trust</li> <li>North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support</li> <li>Waimakariri Bike Project</li> <li>Oxford Community Trust</li> <li>Citizens Advice Bureau North Canterbury</li> <li>Big Brothers, Big Sisters North Canterbury.</li> </ul> <p>Funding acquired by our community partners has meant that Waimakariri residents have access to a wide range of education, entertainment, health, social support and recreational opportunities.</p>



*Inclusive Sports Festival\**



*Youth Council*

*\*Photograph courtesy of Podium Photography*

**PRIORITY**

**Facilitate groups and individuals to have their voice heard in local consultation**

**What did we do?**

Held community stakeholder forums to inform planning for key community issues.

**How well did we do it?**

Initiated a public survey, focus groups and sector meetings to learn more about the experiences of newcomers to the District.

**Is anyone better off?**

The results from this consultation will inform the development of the Welcoming Communities Plan.



Welcoming week 2023

**What did we do?**

Promoted and encouraged involvement in community consultations.

**How well did we do it?**

- Supported Waimakariri Youth Council to consult the youth population. Youth Council were involved in a Canterbury wide-project with Youth Voice Canterbury to understand the current perspective of young people across the region. From the 750 Canterbury respondents, the Waimakariri Youth Council were able to consult with over 250 local young people via paper and online surveys. The information gathered then supported Youth Council's submission to the Long Term Plan.
- Supported the Waimakariri Access Group to have input into the accessibility of ECan's regional public transport system, and local Council Long Term Plan consultation.
- Supported Age Friendly Waimakariri to have input into the GCP HuiHui Mai transport planning consultation.
- Supported Age Friendly Waimakariri to gather feedback from older persons groups in Waimakariri, to inform their work planning and report to Community and Recreation Committee on these results.

**Is anyone better off?**

People have equitable means to have their voice heard in local and regional consultations. The views, needs, experience and ideas of a diverse variety of residents are incorporated into planning for local and regional places, spaces and services.



Age Friendly Waimakariri



Empowering people and organisations

**PRIORITY**

**Facilitate an inclusive District, where people are empowered to achieve their aspirations**

**What did we do?**  
Supported initiatives that foster growth and development for young people.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<p><b>Youth Opportunity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported Youth Council to assist Mayor Dan Gordon in the continuation of the Youth Service Award for the second year, as well as the promotion of the award.</li> </ul>	<p>Young people are shown to be valued members of the community, and the awards showcase their volunteering efforts and successes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported two members of Youth Council to attend the Festival for the Future in Wellington. The two members who attended presented their learnings to Youth Council.</li> </ul>	<p>Festival for the Future learnings were shared among a wider group of young people, allowing the impact and value of the event more than those two attendees.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported the promotion and administration of Waimakariri Youth Grant, which resources young people to deliver activities that can benefit local youth.</li> </ul>	<p>This year's Youth Grant recipient coordinated and delivered professional-level leadership mentoring and development workshops to 40 local emerging leaders, chosen by our four local high schools. Attendees heard the wisdom and advice of local community and business leaders.</p>
<p><b>Youth in the Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported Youth Council to increase their involvement in environmentally focussed volunteering, including a river clean up on the Ashley Rakahuri River, with 65 Community Members and 6 organisations involved. The river clean-up was planned and delivered in partnership with the Ashley-Rakahuri River Care Group, Environment Canterbury, Keep Rangiora Beautiful, local 4WD Club, Eco Educate, and Rangiora Tramping Club. The event was a great example of youth-led, intergenerational collaboration.</li> </ul>	<p>Local young people have been linked into opportunities to show leadership in caring for local environments.</p> <p>Just under a tonne of rubbish was removed from a significant section of riverbed as a result.</p>



Ashley Rakahuri River clean-up

**Youth and Recreation**

- Supported Youth Council to continue the Dudley Park Project with the activation platform and the mural both being installed. A launch event was held in celebration of the hard work that Youth Council and the Greenspace team put in to make these installations happen.

Local young people have been given more sense of ownership over their projects.



Dudley Park mural

- Supported WaiYouth to continually think differently about their events and how they operate. This year WaiYouth has delivered a Quiz night and Movie night at Rangiora and Kaiapoi Libraries as well as a Learn to... series and delivered a cooking class for young people.

Young leaders are empowered to apply an informed, planned approach to their initiatives. They were able to deliver a mix of life skill learning opportunities and social events that build a more connected youth community.

**What did we do?**

Supported initiatives that facilitate a more accessible and inclusive District.

**How well did we do it?**

- Supported a young member of the Waimakariri Access Group and Waimakariri Youth Council to organise and deliver an 'Inclusive Sports Festival', funded and supported by the Halberg Foundation and North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust. Six sport providers volunteered their time for the event.

**Is anyone better off?**

40 participants plus 20 carers and parents attended this inaugural event for North Canterbury. The event provided the opportunity for people with disabilities to try multiple sports at one time.



Accessibility awareness training



Inclusive Sports Festival\*

- Supported the Waimakariri Access Group annual disability training day. This involves staff and elected members to 'walk a mile' in the shoes of a person in a wheelchair, on a walker, mobility scooter or with a visual impairment.

Participants cite this as 'an eye-opening experience' and 'useful for all Council departments. It guides planning, with accessibility more likely to be a consideration.

\*Photograph courtesy of Podium Photography

## Empowering people and organisations

- Supported the Baha'i Community with a community-led Race Unity Art Competition in schools, where children were invited to create a poster depicting the theme 'Celebrating Different Cultures.' The competition involved tamariki aged 5–16 years. 161 entries were received, and eight schools participated. A prizegiving ceremony was held to acknowledge the participants and their artwork, enabling whānau to be involved and as a means to generate interest in local media.

The remarkable number of entries highlighted the level of interest in the subject matter.

There was an increase in support from business, who donated prizes or food for the prizegiving afternoon tea, or who provided prizes at a discounted price.



Race Unity Day art competition winners



Competition entries on display at Rivertown Café.

### What did we do?

Empowered local ethnic migrants with skills and knowledge to help them gain employment and access local services and supports.

How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly English Language classes continued in Rangiora, with 10-16 students attending from Iran, Singapore, Vietnam, Germany, Japan, Russia, India, the Philippines, France, Thailand, Serbia, China, Indian, Sri Lanka and Ukraine. Classes cater for the needs of beginners and intermediate students.</li> <li>Citizens Advice Bureau supported English Language Class students by helping them with CVs that are relevant to NZ employers. Ethnic migrants gain the skills and grammar to attain the IELTS qualification necessary to access mainstream education and employment opportunity in New Zealand.</li> </ul>	<p>People can connect and practice their English in a relaxed setting where they make social connections and develop friendships.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Migrant Driver Mentor Programme was introduced this year as a result of an increase in the number of ethnically diverse people seeking driving practice to attain their restricted licence.</li> </ul>	<p>This programme is in its beginning stages. However there have been four enquiries from general public and one person signed up to become a mentor. The programme seeks to overcome barriers migrants face with getting driving practice and a driver licence can help with gaining employment if a licence is required.</p>



**What did we do?**

Supported initiatives that create employment and work-readiness opportunity for local youth.

**How well did we do it?**

**North Canterbury Youth Futures (NCYF)**

NCYF is a collaboration of local agencies whose collective purpose is to support the opportunities for young people in their transition into employment, education and/or training. Key projects this year were a Career Expo and a business breakfast. These were complemented by a comprehensive social media campaign to engage local youth in considering local employment pathways.

**Is anyone better off?**



**North Canterbury Youth Services Year in Review**

- Youth Employment Expo**  
At the Youth Futures Employment Expo, over 1,200 local young people and their families were linked into information from 45 education, employment, and training pathways.

Local young people have a better understanding of career paths and local options and exhibitors spoke favourably of the event:

*“For a four-hour event it was very consistent in attendee numbers. Had about 80 contacts, great thanks.”*

Those who completed the attendee survey rated the expo an average 4.30 out of 5 stars. 72% said they would return to next year’s event.

- Business Breakfast Forum**  
Over 75 local businesses attended to hear from the keynote speaker, Infometrics Financial Economist — Brad Olsen, about the current trends of employment and specific details about the Waimakariri District. The talk was followed by a workshop where business leaders discussed challenges and opportunities when employing young people and what supports and skills young people need to have the best start in employment.

Attendees at the business breakfast provided valuable information, which has informed planning for North Canterbury Youth Futures initiatives. Feedback was most positive.

*“I really enjoyed two aspects:*

*1. As a principal, talking with business owners about their experiences (concerns, challenges and opportunities) with hiring young people. Highly valuable feedback.*

*2. The Infometrics presentation by Brad was outstanding and incredibly valuable. His information is changing a number of aspects, directions, approaches, and initiatives for the near future.”*



**Business Breakfast forum**



## Empowering people and organisations

### Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ)

We were pleased to have been running MTFJ since March 2023. This programme is externally funded through partnership with Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). Its vision is to have all 16 to 24-year-olds engaged in employment or education within their local communities. Our main activities include training and support in work readiness, driving licences, pastoral care and financial support to local young people and the employers who have given them opportunities. We aim to provide a holistic service tailored to the needs of each job seeker who engages with us.



Elevated work platform course



Driver licencing support

In the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 we were contracted to deliver 14 full-time employment outcomes. We exceed this target and placed 29 people into full-time, permanent roles, and a further 20 into seasonal, part-time or casual employment.

MSD funding has now been committed out to 30 June 2026 and we look to supporting many more young people in our community into full-time employment.

#### Testimonials:

*"We have recently employed a junior builder's labourer via Mayors Taskforce. Our new employee is working well with other team members, shows great initiative and is very punctual. The support from Mayors Taskforce is excellent, great communication, follow ups with the business owner and arranged funding for tools. This has been an easy and stress-free process for us as Elizabeth vetted the candidates and chose a suitable employee. We found Mayors Taskforce beneficial and would highly recommend to other businesses looking to employ. Kind Regards,*

*Jamie Petersen Managing Director — Totalspan North Canterbury"*

*"The MTFJ program has helped me find a job and get me back on my feet earning good money. The best thing for me was actually finding a proper job rather than something casual. I have accomplished my goal of being able to buy a car I have wanted and getting a good job. I am still working towards a goal of finding what I want to do as a career but that will come with time and experience. I'm very grateful for this program and have already recommended it to all of my mates."*

*Job Seeker — B*



Sucessful recruitment through the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

**PRIORITY**

**Empower people to recover and develop resilience to disasters**

**What did we do?**

Civil Defence 'Welfare' response and recovery planning for local and national events.

**How well did we do it?**

- Filled the various functions of Civil Defence Emergency Operations Centre Welfare, addressing welfare-related issues for those affected by the January 2024 Loburn Fires.
- Facilitated and supported recovery:
  - A small group of locals set up a Regrow Loburn campaign and Facebook page to gather and respond to emerging needs for impacted residents.
  - Residents and businesses donated time and resources, so that an uninsured resident could have a roof over his head, and people who had lost necessities and uninsured equipment and household chattels had what they needed.
  - Residents donated around \$15,000 to a special fund for impacted residents.
  - Taskforce Kiwi spent two voluntary days helping to clear rubble and burnt trees from the old church site.
  - A church choir held a large working bee to restore a lost road-facing fence to restore privacy for an impacted homeowner.
  - People made meals, baked and provided a hug and listening ear to those impacted.
  - Department of Internal Affairs funding covered:
    - a 'reconnect community' engagement to ascertain gaps
    - a community-wide slash clear-up from road front sites
    - provision of 1,000 largely native plants, to regrow road facing treelines with low fire risk alternatives.

**Is anyone better off?**

Local residents impacted by emergency events are well supported and given the Community Team's breadth of contacts, linked with appropriate supports and services.

Through the generosity of our community, Rangiora Rotary and an especially established Mayoral Relief fund; as well as generous support from Department of Internal Affairs, Regrow Loburn has resulted in a stronger, more connected community.



Loburn fire recovery



Regrow Loburn plant project

## Empowering people and organisations

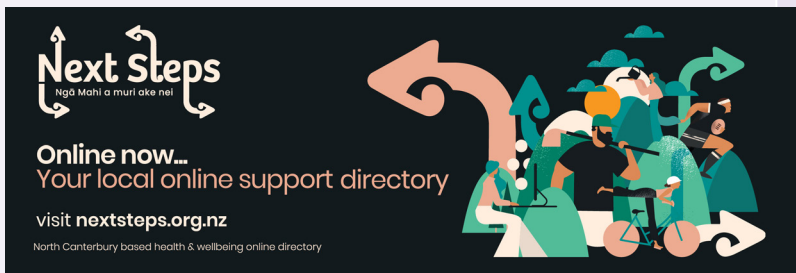
- Facilitated a workshop discussion between the Waimakariri Access Group and Civil Defence, highlighting particular issues.
- Contributed to a Disaster Preparedness, response and recovery for older people best practice review based on our experiences with flooding, community groups and older persons.

Our residents with disabilities have better knowledge of disaster preparation and what to do in an emergency.

- Continued to facilitate and/or support Covid-19 recovery projects, identified as:
  - Food Security and Kaiapoi Community Hub.
  - ‘Next Steps’ website designed to take information out and empower our community to be able to access the assistance they may need themselves. For example Doctors’ surgeries and community groups, as well as the general public.

Local residents will be able to access free, sustainable food sources and learn and share skills to support themselves and their families.

Those experiencing hardship have easy access to succinct information about local support services.



- Mobile Community Hub: Funding was secured for a community outreach and support vehicle. This is another resource that will really enable our community to respond to situations that arise by taking people and information to the area of need.

People can be directly supported 'in place' in times of crisis.



Mobile Community Hub





Youth Council 2024

'InCommon'  
poster campaign

Corporate Challenge

Trade sector mental  
health breakfastCulture exchange -  
calligraphy workshop

## Acknowledgements

Without the support of the many individuals, businesses and organisations that have generously given their skills, talents, time and resources, none of the initiatives detailed in this report would have been possible. We are most grateful to be working with such a passionate and motivated community.

We would particularly like to acknowledge our principle funders, who not only provided financial resourcing for our work, but also lent their advice and expertise as needed:

- Department of Internal Affairs, Community Matters, Office of Ethnic Communities and COGS

- Rata Foundation
- Ministry of Social Development, including Office for Seniors
- Creative New Zealand
- Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
- Youthtown
- Aotearoa Gaming Trust.

...and, of course, the many business partners detailed in this report, who provided financial and in-kind support to help make so many community-conceived initiatives happen.



215 High Street  
Private Bag 1005  
Rangiora 7440, New Zealand  
**Phone** 0800 965 468  
waimakariri.govt.nz

241104191578

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

**FILE NO and TRIM NO:** LIB-04-01 / 241118203393

**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

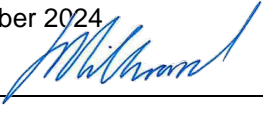
**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2024

**AUTHOR(S):** Luke Sole – District Libraries Manager

**SUBJECT:** Libraries update from 5 September to 14 November 2024

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

  
General Manager

  
Chief Executive

**1. SUMMARY**

1.1. This report provides an update on services, programmes and experiences offered to our hapori (community) by Waimakariri Libraries from 5 September to 14 November 2024. The report details recent improvements of note, including significant increases in visitation and lending and an overview of recent initiatives of significance.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 241118203393
- (b) **Notes** the community benefits of the below initiatives, with reference to increasing visitation, lending, and event attendance for 2023/2024-year, recent achievements with digital initiatives, and record attendance for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. Waimakariri Libraries promote literacy and lifelong learning to support healthier and more resilient communities, support pathways to vocational learning, contribute to economic and social wellbeing, and deliver excellence in public service.
- 3.2. Since the last update report there have been several programmes and events which have been undertaken which are described in more detail below.

**4. ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1. Waimakariri Libraries returns strong results for visitation, lending, and event attendance for 2023/2024 year.
  - 4.1.1. Waimakariri Libraries recently contributed 2023/2024 statistics as part of the Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) National Data Collection initiative. The project involves public libraries from across Aotearoa sharing key performance statistics including in-person visitation, lending across physical (book) and digital (eBook) collections across age ranges, and uptake in event and programme attendance. The initiative allows library networks to benchmark performance regionally and nationally, as well as identifying emerging trends and developments within the library profession relating to the evolution of library services and changing community demand.

4.1.2. Compared to the previous year (2022/2023), Waimakariri Libraries reported significant results in several key areas including in-person visitation, lending, and attendance at events and programmes. The result reflects growing community demand for library services in Waimakariri and the continual growth of libraries as community hubs in the broadest sense; reflecting libraries as places where our community come together to learn important skills, connect socially, and be entertained and inspired.

4.1.3. Some notable results include:

- An increase of 24,230 individual in-person visits across the three libraries (394,198 visits). This includes an increase of around 10% in-person visits at Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre.
- An increase of 801 library members (total of 17,390 active members). This equates to an increase of around 5%.
- An increase of 44,185 individual loans (total of 615,771 loans across physical and digital collections).
- An additional 217 individual events and programmes held within the three libraries (total of 1,166). This includes one-off events such as author talks, and external partnerships in addition to regular programmes such as reading groups and curriculum-based digital skills sessions.
- An additional 1,906 in-person visits for events and programmes (total of 20,590 attendees).

4.1.4. Of note is the consistent increase in in-person visitation across the libraries, particularly Trevor Inch Memorial Library and Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre. Given pressures relating to space constraints at Trevor Inch Memorial Library, staff are balancing the need to meet increased community demand for events and programmes against traditional lending and the space required to adequately house physical collections that meet the needs of a growing district. The upcoming shelving replacement project will partly address some space constraints in the short term; however, it is evident that increased visitation will continue to put pressure on the facility until an extension is completed.

4.1.5. Visitation at Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre has increased steadily over the past two years, with an increase of around 10% in-person visitation in 2023/2024. This is the result of additional events and programmes that are held at weekends or on Thursday evenings utilising the late closure. Staff have noted that this has resulted in an uptake in memberships for families and individuals that have previously struggled to engage with library services due to pressures of work and/or commuting. Some Kaiapoi-specific initiatives have contributed, including the recently launched Robotics Club for children, and high-quality family-centric events led by external facilitators such as Canterbury Museum.

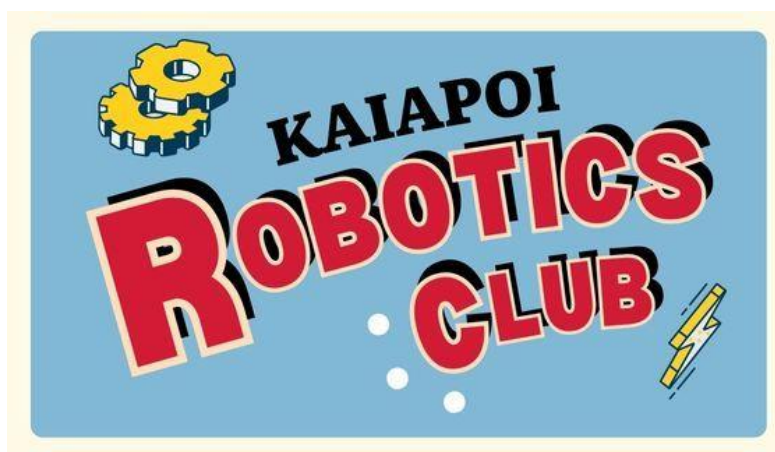
4.2. Waimakariri Libraries Robotics Club celebrate First LEGO League tournament award.

4.2.1. Members of Waimakariri Libraries Robotics Club, under the guidance of Library Programme and Discovery Assistant Laiza Abellanosa, competed in the South Island regionals for the First LEGO League competition, held at Lincoln Event Centre on November 8. They completed three practice rounds of the Robot Game, which led them to be 4th out of 28 active teams.





- 4.2.2. Despite struggling a little in the competition rounds, they were presented with the *Breakthrough Award* during prize-giving, which recognises teams that demonstrate growth in confidence, capability, and teamwork. The award is a significant achievement given it was the first time that Waimakariri Libraries participated in the competition, and the majority of the Robotics Club students are new to robotics. The students did not know each other prior to joining Robotics Club but have connected socially through their attendance. Waimakariri Libraries were the only regional library network represented.
- 4.2.3. Robotics Club is a programme introduced in 2024, which focuses on introducing foundational STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) skills to primary school-aged children. Participants learn coding, robot-building, problem solving skills, as well as social skills.
- 4.2.4. The purpose of the programme is to enable local children to access and participate in STEAM experiences that they may not otherwise be able to access at school or home. It is known that participation in STEAM learning builds important social skills, critical thinking, and problem solving. Contemporary research suggests that it also helps improve numeracy skills through the 'real world' application of mathematics and engineering, leading to vocational pathways in these areas.
- 4.2.5. Laiza says that it's incredibly heartening to see students embrace robotics through attendance at the weekly club and develop their confidence. "Some of the students said to me that they initially thought that robotics is 'just for the brainy kids', but they've gone on to grow from strength to strength and are now at a level where they can compete regionally with some of the top students", says Laiza.
- 4.2.6. While their placement at the South Island regionals was enough to secure a spot at the coveted national competition in Auckland, the team are going to refocus and begin fundraising in the new year, in the hope that they will qualify again for next year's national event.



- 4.3. Sustainability programmes providing core skills across the district this spring
- 4.3.1. Waimakariri Libraries offered workshops, in collaboration with Lesley Ottey from Eco Educate, to schools across the district in term 4. The students experienced stories and activities related to sustainability on Story Box Library and learned how to use recycled materials to create envelopes to store seeds, and containers to plant seeds. As part of the workshop tamariki (children) took home seeds for their families and to also plant in their school gardens.
- 4.3.2. Waimakariri Libraries worked with over 130 students and one of the highlights was a workshop with View Hill School, who were fully engaged in the session. Their enthusiasm led to digging over the school garden, and the phrase 'many hands make light work' was put to use, with over 20 tamariki working with rakes, spades, hoes, and hands to prepare the soil. Together they sowed celery, spinach, peas, bush beans, pumpkins, parsley, and parsnips.



- 4.3.3. In addition to the school workshops, evening sessions were held in Oxford, Kaiapoi, and Rangiora to connect with local gardening and community groups, learn how to grow fruit and vegetables from local experts, and gain knowledge about seed saving, and seed raising. Learning Connections Coordinator, Jason Clements has noted increased community demand for learning about growing

food and an increased awareness of issues relating to food security. “Given increased financial pressures in our community, people are becoming more aware of the cost and health benefits of growing their own food,” says Jason.

- 4.3.4. Waimakariri Libraries were appreciative of the support of the following community groups, who shared their expertise and wisdom during our sessions: Eco Educate, Kaiapoi Food Forest, Kaiapoi Gardening Club, Time Bank Waimakariri, and Rangiora Food Swap. Additional programmes are planned for next year, with an emphasis on harvesting and preserving fruit and vegetables.
- 4.4. Waimakariri Libraries provides crucial NCEA exam support for local students
- 4.4.1. Waimakariri Libraries launched a study campaign in November to assist our local rangatahi (teenagers) embarking on their NCEA external exams. The purpose of this initiative is to support our district’s teenagers by provide productive spaces for study purposes, whilst utilise library resources and building meaningful connections with library staff.
- 4.4.2. Libraries staff have been on hand to assist with accessing digital copies of NZQA practice exams, which have been separated into Levels 1,2, and 3 for staff to easily access. These are then printed on request and provided to students to complete within the library or at home. In addition, spaces have been designated at each of the libraries as quiet areas for students to utilise for study. Libraries staff have also been offering to book available rooms if space is at a premium.
- 4.4.3. Additional support was provided by Satisfy Food Rescue, which kindly donated snack food for students to access whilst engaged in their studies. This proved to be popular, with many students expressing their gratitude and commenting that they felt supported in a particularly stressful period.
- 4.5. Te Wiki o te Reo Māori Celebrations largest yet for Waimakariri Libraries



- 4.5.1. *Toku reo, toku ohooho. My language, my awakening.*
- 4.5.2. Te Wiki o te Reo Māori is an annual celebration for all New Zealanders to show their support for the Māori language, an official language of Aotearoa. It was held between 14 to 21 September.
- 4.5.3. Waimakariri Libraries were bustling with well attended events and activities for all ages in all three libraries. Highlights of the week include performances by kapa haka groups from Rangiora High School (pictured here), Rangiora Borough



School, and Oxford Area School, with Kaiapoi Borough School performing a haka to large number of parents and caregivers at Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre on Thursday 26 September. Events were widely attended by teachers, families and Council staff.

- 4.5.4. The Waimakariri Libraries preschool team incorporated bilingual stories into their Storytimes, Babytimes, and Toddler Times sessions, in collaboration with the Council Waiata Group. Visitors were encouraged to try the Kupu o te Rā (Te Reo Māori for word of the day), and the Kiriāhua, Selfie Frame, where they can share their picture on Instagram or Facebook.
- 4.5.5. Community & Culture Team Leader, Sam Armitage says that it was fantastic to see so many Council staff joining members of the community to enjoy the various performances. “Our kura (schools) put a huge amount of time and effort into preparing their haka and waiata and it was really special to see the students and teachers really giving it their all in front of their peers, families, and members of the community,” says Sam.



### **Implications for Community Wellbeing**

There are various initiatives that promote positive community wellbeing outcomes in the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report.

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

## **5. COMMUNITY VIEWS**

### **5.1. Mana whenua**

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū are likely to be affected by or have an interest in the subject matter of this report; particularly public events and collaboration with kura (schools) for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori.

### **5.2. Groups and Organisations**

While there are no specific groups or organisations affected as a result of the recommendations in this report, the Waimakariri Libraries service provides events and programmes for a number of groups and organisations. The events and programmes vary however all provide significant benefit for the groups and individuals involved.

### **5.3. Wider Community**

Waimakariri Libraries has growing visitor numbers, attendance at events and programmes, and borrowing across physical and digital collections.

## 6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

### 6.1. Financial Implications

The below summary report is dated to October 2024.

<b>Library</b>		<b>Summary Report October 2024</b>	
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	
<b>Revenue</b>			
Revenue	25,619	86,276	↓
Rates	1,700,212	1,697,564	→
Grants and Subsidies	-	56,668	↓
Development Contributions	-	273,440	↓
	1,674,592	2,113,948	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Operating Expenses	957,913	1,050,064	↑
Maintenance	148,123	277,280	↑
Overheads	395,489	396,144	→
Internal Interest	3,609	4,496	↑
Depreciation	371,582	343,084	↓
	1,876,716	2,071,068	↑
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(202,124)	42,880	↓

### 6.2. Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts

The recommendations in this report do have sustainability and/or climate change implications through the availability of technologies in a library setting reducing the need for participants in programmes to purchase their own technology and devices. Libraries promote sustainability by providing wide-ranging collections and resources that are borrowed extensively, including digital resources that carry a reduced carbon footprint. In addition, as public libraries act as providers of information, libraries play a role in teaching environmental literacy by educating communities to learn about climate change.

### 6.3. Risk Management

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

### 6.4. Health and Safety

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**

7.3. **Consistency with Community Outcomes**

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

7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

The Community and Recreation Committee have the delegation to receive this report.