

Agenda

Oxford-Ohoka Community Board

Wednesday 6 May 2026

6.30pm

Oxford Town Hall
34 Main Street
Oxford

Members:

Sarah Barkle (Chairperson)

Thomas Robson (Deputy Chairperson)

Mark Brown

Tim Fulton

Wayne Godfrey

Ray Harpur

Niki Mealings

Pete Merrifield



AGENDA CONTENTS – OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Item Topic</u>	<u>Page numbers</u>
4	Confirmation of Minutes	
4.1	Minutes of 8 April 2026	7-21
7	Reports	
7.1	Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve Enhancement Plan	22-59
7.2	Ratification of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board's submissions to the Waimakariri District Council and Environment Canterbury's draft 2026-27 Annual Plans	60-68
11	Members information Exchange	
11.1	Mark Brown	69
11.2	Tim Fulton	70
11.3	Wayne Godfrey	71-72

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD TO BE HELD AT THE OXFORD TOWN HALL, MAIN STREET, OXFORD, ON WEDNESDAY, 6 MAY 2026, AT 6.30PM.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORTS ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS
COUNCIL POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL

BUSINESS

PAGES

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **PUBLIC FORUM**

3. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

4.1. **Minutes of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board – 8 April 2026**

7-21

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Confirms**, as a true and accurate record, the circulated Minutes of the Inaugural Oxford-Ohoka Community Board meeting, held on 8 April 2026.

4.2. **Matters Arising (From Minutes)**

5. **DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

6. **ADJOURNED BUSINESS**

Nil.

7. **REPORTS**

7.1. **Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve Enhancement Plan – Bex Dollery (Biodiversity Team Leader)**

22-59

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260120009234.
- (b) **Approves** the enhancement works for the Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve including weed removal and planting scheduled over 3 years with 5 years maintenance (Trim: 251219243191).
- (c) **Notes** that the project is budgeted for by the Arohata te Awa Working Groups programme of works (Code - 101554.000.5223; c. \$230,000).

- (d) **Notes** that ecologists within the Biodiversity Team will continue to work with the Water Services Unit to ensure no adverse impacts to the Ohoka Stream following hydraulic assessments for planting in the riparian area.
- (e) **Notes** that staff will continue to work with the Utilities and Roding team to ensure safe access to the site and the possibility of a carpark in the southern area of the site.
- (f) **Notes** that staff will liaise with local community groups (including the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust) to organise planting days and events for the area.
- (g) **Circulates** this report to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board for information.

7.2. **Ratification of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board's submissions to the Waimakariri District Council and Environment Canterbury's draft 2026-27 Annual Plans – Kay Rabe (Governance Advisor)**

60-68

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 260414095877.
- (b) **Ratifies** its submission to the Waimakariri District Council draft 2026-27 Annual Plan (Trim Ref: 260414095680).
- (c) **Ratifies** its submission to Environment Canterbury's draft 2026-27 Annual Plan (Trim Ref: 260330086773).
- (d) **Notes** that the Board Chairperson and/or Deputy Chairperson will speak at the Waimakariri District Council Submission Hearings to convey the Board's view in person on Thursday, 7 May 2026.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

9. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

9.1. **Chairperson's Report for April 2026**

The Chairperson will provide a verbal update.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** the verbal report from the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Chairperson.

10. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 10.1. **Woodend-Sefton Community Board Meeting Minutes 13 April 2026.**
- 10.2. **Rangiora-Ashley Community Board Meeting Minutes 8 April 2026.**
- 10.3. **Kaipoi-Tuahiwi Community Board Meeting Minutes 20 April 2026.**
- 10.4. **Approval of the Transportation Procurement Strategy 2026 – Report to Utilities and Roding Committee Meeting 14 April 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.**
- 10.5. **New Zealand Transport Agency Procedural Audit Report March 2026 – Report to Utilities and Roding Committee Meeting 14 April 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.**

- 10.6. Annual Stormwater Compliance and Monitoring Reports for 2024-25 for Oxford, Woodend and Kaiapoi – Report to Utilities and Roading Committee Meeting 14 April 2026 – Circulates to the Oxford-Ohoka, Kaiapoi-Tuahwi and Woodend-Sefton Community Boards.
- 10.7. May 2025 Flood Recovery Progress Update and Project Update on Infrastructure Resilience Fund for 2024/2025 and 2025/026 – Report to Utilities and Roading Committee Meeting 14 April 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.
- 10.8. Aquatics April Update – Report to Community and Recreation Committee Meeting 21 April 2026 – Circulates to all Boards
- 10.9. Libraries Update to April 2026 – Report to Community and Recreation Committee Meeting 21 April 2026 – Circulates to all Boards

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** the information in Items 10.1 to 10.9.

Note:

- 1. *The links for Matters for Information were previously circulated to members as part of the relevant meeting agendas.*

11. MEMBERS' INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- 11.1. **Mark Brown** 69
(Trim: 260428103504).
- 11.2. **Tim Fulton** 70
(Trim: 260428103990).
- 11.3. **Wayne Godfrey** 71-72
(Trim: 260428103526).

The purpose of this exchange is to provide a short update to other members in relation to activities/meetings that have been attended or to provide general Board-related information.

Any written information submitted by members will be circulated via email prior to the meeting.

12. CONSULTATION PROJECTS

- 12.1. **Woodend/Pegasus Area Strategy Review**
<https://letstalk.waimakariri.govt.nz/woodend-pegasus-area-strategy-review>

13. BOARD FUNDING UPDATE

- 13.1. **Board Discretionary Grant**
Balance as at 30 April 2026: \$2,984.
- 13.2. **General Landscaping Fund**
Balance as at 30 April 2026: \$6,000.

14. **MEDIA ITEMS**

15. **QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS**

16. **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS UNDER STANDING ORDERS**

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board is scheduled for 6.30pm, Wednesday 3 June 2026 at the Mandeville Sports Club.

Workshops

- *Members Forum*

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD HELD AT THE OHOKA HALL, MILL ROAD, OHOKA, ON WEDNESDAY, 8 APRIL 2026, AT 6.30PM.

PRESENT

S Barkle (Chairperson), T Robson (Deputy Chairperson), M Brown, T Fulton, W Godfrey, R Harpur, N Mealings and P Merrifield.

IN ATTENDANCE

G Cleary (General Manager Utilities and Roading), K Simpson (3 Waters Manager), C Fahey (Water and Wastewater Asset Manager), K Howat (Parks and Facilities Team Leader), G Stephens (Design and Planning Team Leader), S Maxwell (Roading Compliance Officer), S Morrow (Rates Officer – Property Specialist), T Kunkel (Governance Team Leader) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

There were two members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts declared.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board – 4 March 2026

Moved: S Barkle

Seconded: N Mealings

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Confirms**, as a true and accurate record, the circulated Minutes of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board meeting, held on 4 March 2026.

CARRIED

4.2. Matters Arising (From Minutes)

There were no matters arising.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1. Pearson Park Stage Cover - Dave MacPherson

D MacPherson noted that he had reviewed the Council staff's report on the Pearson Park Stage Cover Proposal included in the meeting agenda. He highlighted the following in relation to projects the staff indicated had not been progressed, as the Pearson Park Advisory Group (PPAG) looked at installing the stage cover:

- The community-led bike track project, including the BMX track in Oxford, had involved the PPAG in its early stages; however, it was funded externally, apart from the bollards provided by the PPAG.
- The PPAG had been approached for support to extend the skatepark, and they had provided that support.
- The report also referenced several community and sporting initiatives, such as the Menz Shed, Oxford Football, and the recent gym installation, all of which required funding to progress. He stated that the PPAG did not consider it its responsibility to fund sports clubs or gym facilities.

D MacPherson acknowledged that the stage had not been fully utilised and lacked a presence that attracted people, which was why the PPAG wished to install a roof over it. While the report suggested there was no community support for the proposal, he advised that the PPAG had received support from the Oxford Lions Club, Oxford Promotions, Oxford Area School, the Oxford Community Trust, and other individuals.

D MacPherson advised that, since the construction of the stage, he had been involved in the development of a number of complementary amenities within the park, including the pétanque court, the half-court, pathways, and the installation of tables and seating. He further noted that Bike Oxford had expressed interest in installing a pump track; however, due to opposition to its location in Pearson Park, alternative sites are currently being investigated.

D MacPherson reported that the PPAG had been working with an estimated cost of \$40,000 for the proposed roof structure. He observed that the report assumed a 30-year lifespan, but the PPAG intended to construct the roof with permanent materials, and, in his view, a 30-year lifespan would be inadequate. He added that the structure was not expected to require significant maintenance over its operational life.

M Brown sought clarification on whether the PPAG could fund the proposed roof from its own reserves and D MacPherson confirmed that the PPAG did have the capacity to do so.

Item 7.1 "Pearson Park Stage Cover Proposal" was taken at this time. The agenda order was retained in the Minutes to mitigate confusion.

6. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

- 6.1. **Request to Approve Intersection Controls on Woodfields Road and Catherwoods Road** – N Puthupparambil (Transportation Engineer) and S Binder (Senior Transportation Engineer)

Moved: S Barkle

Seconded: T Robson

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 251201228465.
- (b) **Approves** the following intersection control changes pursuant to section 2 of the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004, with effect from the date of installation of appropriate signage:

Item	Road to be Controlled	Road to Remain Uncontrolled	Type of Control to be Imposed	Type of Control to be Revoked
1	Woodfields Road	Chapmans Boundary Road	Stop	-

- (c) **Notes** that staff evaluated visibility at the intersection of Powells Road at Barracks Road / Weld Street and considers that the available visibility was appropriate for the existing intersection priority (Powell's Road has a Give Way control).
- (d) **Circulates** this report to the Utilities and Rooding Committee for information.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS

7.1. Pearson Park Stage Cover Proposal – K Howat (Parks and Facilities Team Leader)

K Howat took the report as read and provided an overview of the background information contained within it.

T Fulton asked whether, within the Greenspace Portfolio generally, it was common practice to undertake a Feasibility Assessment. K Howat advised that in most cases, some form of community consultation would be undertaken to determine the level of need.

S Barkle questioned the reason for bringing the matter before the Board. K Howat explained that the original Pearson Park Concept Plan identified the stage as a priority community asset; however, it did not include a roof structure. As a result, the proposal now constituted a standalone project requiring formal approval. Should the Board approve the project, this would form a recommendation to the Council for final approval.

N Mealings noted that the PPAG had been working with an estimated cost of \$40,000, which was below the \$57,000 it holds for capital improvements for Pearson Park, and that the PPAG were proposing to undertake the work. She asked how the project would proceed if it was approved. K Howat advised that, as the funds were currently held by the PPAG, staff would work with the PPAG to access the required funds. He also noted that the PPAG had indicated the potential for additional external funding.

Responding to a question from T Fulton, K Howat advised that during the detailed design and approval process in 2016, the option of a roof was considered but not pursued due to budget constraints. It was explicitly noted that a roof could be added later, subject to external funding supplementing the Council's capital contribution.

S Barkle questioned why, if the roof had not formed part of the original Pearson Park Concept Plan, funding was nevertheless available. G Cleary responded that the construction of the roof would result in the Council inheriting a substantial asset. He noted that the Council provided a \$10,000 annual grant to the PPAG, and the Group had accumulated these funds to enable the construction of a roof. Given the asset's value, it would ultimately be a Council decision whether to assume the ongoing costs of owning and maintaining it.

W. Godfrey asked what elements of the 2015 Pearson Park Concept Plan remained outstanding. K Howat advised that the final component under consideration was the informal dirt track, and that staff were working through Bike Oxford's proposal for a pump track.

T Robson sought clarification on how the funds for capital improvements at Pearson Park could be used. K Howat explained that, because the proposal constituted a high-value capital project, it required Council approval before any funds could be committed.

Moved: T Fulton

Seconded: M Brown

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250812148839.
- (b) **Recommends** to Council that the request to install a roof over the Pearson Park stage be approved and that the Pearson Park Advisory Group be authorised to proceed with construction using available allocated funds.
- (c) **Notes** that hiring a covered stage is standard practice across Canterbury for event organisers, and that the associated costs relate to hire only, rather than creating a Council-owned asset that would require depreciation, renewal funding, and ongoing maintenance. This is an avenue that the Pearson Park Advisory Group may be interested in pursuing.
- (d) **Notes** that the Pearson Park Advisory Group are invited to give a deputation to the Community Board to outline recent project proposals from the community and how it intends to use the funds it has from Council to meet these needs.
- (e) **Notes** that the proposal is supported by the Oxford Community Trust, Oxford Promotions Action Committee and Oxford Lions Club.
- (f) **Notes** that no events are currently booked or have enquired about the stage including no indication that the presence of a roof would attract artists.
- (g) **Notes** the supplied concept design is only a visual concept, and no engineering design or costings have been undertaken.
- (h) **Requests** that the Community Board and Council staff work with the Pearson Park Advisory Group to look at other ways to enhance the area to increase activation in conjunction with this.

CARRIED

T Fulton expressed his appreciation to D MacPherson for his efforts on the project and acknowledged the significant contribution he had made to the community. He noted that Pearson Park was an important asset for Oxford, with the potential for further development. T Fulton also thanked K Howat for his work, observing that it had been a lengthy process involving numerous considerations.

Item 7.4 "Nitrate Issue in the Oxford Rural 1 Drinking Water Supply" was taken at this time. The agenda order was retained in the Minutes to mitigate confusion.

7.2. **Oxford Ohoka General Landscaping Budget** – K Howat (Parks and Facilities Team Leader)

K Howat spoke to the report, noting the proposed six projects to be funded through the Board's general landscape budget in the 2025/26 financial year. He advised that the report had allocated \$6,000 for the Oxford Dog Park shelter; however, as this amount would be insufficient to complete the project, it had, therefore, been withdrawn from the programme. K Howat noted that reinstating the project remained an option should the Board wish to do so.

W Godfrey questioned the cost of the West Eyreton Community Centre shelter, noting that although the amount appeared modest, the work involved seemed substantial. K Howat explained that a degree of community involvement was anticipated. He advised that the Council's arborist contractors would undertake the removal and ringing of the trees, after which volunteers would assist with disposal, thereby reducing overall costs.

Moved: T Robson

Seconded: N Mealings

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260316077487.
- (b) **Notes** the Community Board currently has \$14,330 available to allocate to general landscape projects within the Oxford Ohoka ward from the 2026/2027 General Landscaping Budget, plus an additional \$6,000 is available for reallocation following the withdrawal for consideration for the Oxford Dog Park shelter and seating from the 2024/2025 financial year (PJ 101052.000.5223).
- (c) **Approves** the allocation of \$3,000 for a picnic table at West Eyreton Oaks Reserve.
- (d) **Approves** the allocation of \$1,200 for Oxford Cemetery Commemorative Plaque recognising the unmarked graves.
- (e) **Approves** the allocation of \$1,500 for way-finder signage at Ohoka Domain.
- (f) **Approves** the allocation of \$2,000 for stage 2 of Wards Roding walkway planting project.
- (g) **Approves** the allocation of \$3,600 for clearing overgrown shelter trees at West Eyreton Community Centre.
- (h) **Approves** the allocation of \$3,000 for the installation of two railway siding signs in Ohoka and East Oxford.
- (i) **Notes** with the allocation of the funds in recommendation (c) through to (h) there is no further funding available in the current financial year for the Oxford Ohoka Community Board general landscape budget.
- (j) **Notes** that staff will keep the Oxford Ohoka Community Board updated on the above projects and their delivery in the 2025/2026 financial year.
- (k) **Investigate** with the \$6,000 returned from the pavilion project, at the Oxford Dog Park agility equipment.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned for a workshop from 7.47pm to 8.13pm to discuss the Board's Landscaping Budget Review.

7.3. **Approval to Install Two Cattle Stops on Dixon Road, Between Carleton Road and Wrights Road** – S Maxwell (Roding Compliance Officer) and J McBride (Roding and Transport Manager)

S Maxwell took the report as read.

N Mealings asked whether, in the event that the farmer sold the property, the cattle stops would be required to be removed. S Maxwell advised that if the farm were sold and the new owner wished to retain the cattle stops, the Council would transfer the licence to occupy accordingly.

Moved: T Robson

Seconded: M Brown

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260323082003.

- (b) **Approves** the construction of two cattle stops and associated fences on Dixon Road at the location shown on the attached diagram (TRIM no. 260323082001) for the purpose of enabling the efficient movement of cows across Dixon Road while at the same time keeping the road safe and accessible for road users.
- (c) **Approves** the drafting of a Licence to Occupy (LTO) to ensure that all costs for the construction and ongoing maintenance of the cattle stops and associated fences and gates are met by the property owner and enables the Council to require the cattle stops to be removed if, for some reason, circumstances change in the future. (LTO template TRIM no. 230301027827).
- (d) **Notes** that all costs associated with the construction/installation, maintenance, and removal of the cattle stops, fences, gates, permanent warning signs, and sealing of the road up to and between the stops will be met by the property owner.
- (e) **Notes** that the property owner will be required to remove the cattle stops, fences and gates if and when they cease dairy farming operations or if they change their method of operation that does not require the regular movement of cows across Dixon Road.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to the Utilities and Roading Committee for information.

CARRIED

Item 7.5 "Road Naming – Morgan McIntosh Limited" was taken at this time. The agenda order was retained in the Minutes to mitigate confusion.

7.4. Nitrate Issue in the Oxford Rural 1 Drinking Water Supply – C Fahey (Water and Wastewater Asset Manager)

C Fahey spoke to the report, noting that Oxford was supplied by two wells, Bore One and Bore Two. Bore One, the longest-serving bore, had recently been tested and was found to have elevated nitrate levels. The maximum allowable limit for nitrates was 11.3 mg/L, and testing had shown that Bore One had exceeded half of that limit since January 2026. The Council had continued to monitor the bore; however, it had now been taken offline and was being retained only as a backup source. The Council was currently using Bore Two to supply the Oxford Rural 1 Drinking Water Supply, with nitrate levels recorded at 3.5 mg/L. Council staff were undertaking investigations to determine the cause of the elevated nitrate levels in Bore One.

S Barkle sought clarity on the investigations undertaken to determine why Bore One had elevated nitrate levels. C Fahey advised that the Council had engaged an independent consultant to assess Bore One and compare it with Bore Two. The consultant was reviewing test results to identify potential causes of the elevated nitrate levels. Staff were also examining current and historical trends and considering whether any groundwater-related modifications might be feasible.

N Mealings sought confirmation that Bore One was no longer being used as the primary source for the Oxford Rural 1 Drinking Water Supply and asked under what circumstances Bore One might be used again. C Fahey confirmed that, provided that Bore Two continued to operate as expected, there should be no need to use Bore One. It would only be used as a short-term contingency if Bore Two were to fail.

M Brown enquired what would occur if the nitrate levels in Bore Two increased to the same extent as those in Bore One over a similar timeframe. G Cleary stated that staff were not suggesting that the issues with Bore One had been resolved; Bore One was still under the maximum allowable value (MAV). Rather, Bore Two was currently the better-performing well, and it was therefore appropriate to use the source with lower nitrate levels. C Fahey added that if nitrate levels in Bore Two began to rise, the Council would revert to the Drinking Water Standards and consider all possible measures to improve water quality.

S Barkle sought confirmation that no other water quality parameters had changed. C Fahey confirmed that this was correct and that only nitrate levels had increased.

Moved: T Robson

Seconded: P Merrifield

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260318078920.
- (b) **Notes** that the Oxford Rural 1 drinking water supply is now solely supplied by McPhedrons Bore 2, which has a nitrate level of 3.9 mg/L (maximum) and 3.5 mg/L (median) to ensure that the community continues to receive drinking water with nitrate levels less than half of the nitrate MAV for drinking water.
- (c) **Notes** that in response to the changes in the nitrate levels in McPhedrons Bore 1, it is no longer being used as a primary source to supply the Oxford Rural 1 drinking water supply. This is now a backup source only.
- (d) **Notes** that Bore 1 has been observed to reach or exceed half of the legislative maximum allowable value (MAV) for nitrates in drinking water (5.65 mg/L NO₃-N per the Water Services (Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand) Regulations 2022) since January 2026. The MAV for nitrate is (NO₃-N) 11.3 mg/L.
- (e) **Notes** that the maximum nitrate level measured to date in Bore 1 is 6.3 mg/L, compared to the historic median of 4.9 mg/L over the previous 12 months.
- (f) **Notes** that all the Waimakariri District Council drinking water supplies, including Oxford Rural 1, provide drinking water that is in compliance with the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards and are safe to drink.
- (g) **Notes** that staff are undertaking some investigations to understand the nitrate levels observed in Bore 1. Results will help inform understanding of trends and potential options for managing the issue in the short- to long-term.
- (h) **Circulates** this report to the Utilities and Roding Committee for information.

CARRIED

Item 7.3 "Approval to Install Two Cattle Stops on Dixon Road, Between Carleton Road and Wrights Road" was taken at this time. The agenda order was retained in the Minutes to mitigate confusion.

7.5. **Road Naming – Morgan McIntosh Limited** – S Morrow (Rates Officer – Property Specialist)

S Morrow took the report as read, and there were no questions from elected members.

Moved: S Barkle

Seconded: T Robson

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260326084823.
- (b) **Approves** the following proposed road names for the new subdivision shown as Roads 1 to 5 on the subdivision plan (Trim 260326084823):
 1. Black Beech Drive.
 2. Reevehill Road.
 3. Littledene Lane.
 4. Kenrick Lane.
 5. Mann Lane (Private Road).
- (c) **Notes that** the Oxford Ohoka Community Board may replace any of the names with a name of their own choice.

CARRIED

Item 7.2 “Oxford Ohoka General Landscaping Budget” was taken at this time. The agenda order was retained in the Minutes to mitigate confusion.

7.6. **Applications to the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board’s 2025/26 Discretionary Grant Fund** – K Rabe (Governance Advisor)

T Kunkel spoke to the report, noting that the Board had received an application from the Rangiora Boxing Club for a grant to support the provision of medical services at the South Island Golden Gloves Tournament, to be hosted in Kaiapoi. She advised that the application met the Board’s criteria in part, as it was submitted by a community-based organisation and the amount requested fell within the \$750 funding limit. However, only approximately 10 percent of participants were expected to be from the Oxford-Ohoka Ward, and the Board might therefore wish to consider the broader economic benefit of the event to the Waimakariri District.

T Kunkel further noted that the Club had applied to all four Community Boards for funding. The Woodend-Sefton Community Board had declined the application, while the Rangiora-Ashley and Kaiapoi-Tuahwi Community Boards had each approved grants of \$500.

P Merrifield noted that the Board was not allowed to fund wages. T Kunkel advised that the application did not state that the funding would be for the payment of medical personnel's wages, but rather for the provision of general medical services. The Board had approved similar applications for events in the past.

Moved: N Mealings

Seconded: P Merrifield

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 260220060624.
- (b) **Declines** a grant to the Rangiora Boxing Club.

CARRIED

N Mealings commented that the Board's Discretionary Grant Application Criteria required that grant funding be limited to projects primarily within the Board area or benefiting the residents of the area. She therefore did not believe that the application qualified for funding, as only 10 per cent of the people expected to benefit were from the Oxford-Ohoka Ward. In addition, the event would be hosted by the Rangiora Boxing Club in Kaiapoi.

7.7. **ANZAC Day Services 2026 – K Rabe (Governance Advisor)**

T Kunkel took the report as read, and there were no questions from elected members.

Moved: S Barkle

Seconded: T Robson

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 260316076862.
- (b) **Appoints** Board member(s) R Harpur, W Godfrey and S Barkle to attend the Ohoka Anzac Day Service to be held at 11am on Friday, 24 April 2026, at Ohoka Hall, Mill Road, and to lay a wreath. Noting that the wreath will be laid in conjunction with a Council representative.
- (c) **Appoints** Board member(s) T Robson and P Merrifield to attend the Oxford Anzac Day Service at 9.30am on Saturday, 25 April 2026, at the Oxford Cenotaph and lay a wreath. Noting that a Council representative will also be laying a wreath.
- (d) **Appoints** Board member(s) T Robson and S Barkle to attend the West Eyreton Anzac Day Service to be held at 11.30am on Saturday, 25 April 2026, at the West Eyreton Memorial Gates, and lay a wreath. Noting that the wreath will be laid in conjunction with a Council representative.

CARRIED

7.8. **Approval of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Plan 2025-28** – K Rabe (Governance Advisor)

T Kunkel thanked the members who contributed to the Board's Plan for 2025/28. She highlighted that some minor amendments had been requested by members and asked that any further amendments be emailed to the Governance Team.

Moved: M Brown

Seconded: W Godfrey

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 260309072074.
- (b) **Approves** the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Plan 2025-28 (Trim: 260112003773).
- (c) **Authorises** the Chairperson to approve the final version of the updated Oxford-Ohoka Community Plan 2025-28 if any further minor editorial corrections are required.

CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairperson tabled a letter from West Eyreton residents regarding joyriders damaging the large roadside reserve extending up North Eyre Road from the Poyntzs and North Eyre Roads intersection.

Moved: M Brown

Seconded: T Robson

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** the letter from Mark Baily on behalf of West Eyreton residents regarding joyriders damaging the large roadside reserve extending up North Eyre Road from the Poyntzs and North Eyre Roads intersection (Trim 260409092177).

9. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

9.1. Chairperson's Report for March 2026

- Received a Call from a Mandeville Resident, who was concerned about the design of the Mandeville Resurgent Stage 1A design.
- Received an email for the residents maintaining the plantings along the Wards Road walkway, including watering, weed control, and preparation for the next planting day. They had proposed that the next planting day take place on the morning of Wednesday, 15 April 2026. They had potted approximately 150 plants but anticipated that 400 would be required for the next round of planting. She noted that she had spoken with teachers at Te Koromiko School, who were interested in planting some of their Koromiko plants at the site and in propagating additional plants through the Eco Warriors Programme later in the planting season.
- She reported that she had attended the National Council of Women Annual Meeting, along with several other Waimakariri elected members. She noted that it was an enjoyable event and that it provided an opportunity to offer feedback on matters relevant to the National Council of Women. The meeting was held at Rutherford House, which she considered an appropriate venue for the occasion.
- She advised that the Board's submission to ECan's draft 2026-27 Annual Plan was lodged on 31 March 2026. The submission included matters raised in the Board's previous submission, including public transport, water allocations, groundwater and water security, and river maintenance. Additional concerns were raised regarding compliance officers' capacity to follow up on complaints, including the need for adequate staffing and funding. The submission also addressed ECan's Communications Policy, noting the importance of elected members being accessible and responsive to ratepayers' concerns, particularly regarding significant issues within the ward, such as the Woodstock Quarry landfill, Canterbury Landscape Supplies, the Burnt Hill Storage Dam, and the Ohoka development. The submission further highlighted concerns about reduced public engagement resulting from the replacement of formal submissions with drop-in sessions.
- Woodfield's Road/Chapman Boundary Road Intersection – spoke to a number of local residents about this intersection. They felt that the Chapmans Boundary Road was the dominant road, and Woodfield's Road should be the one to stop. This aligned with the recommendation from Council Staff.
- Petition going around in regard to bus services to service the Clarkville/Ohoka/Mandeville area; however, it was more an ECan issue.

Moved: T Fulton

Seconded: M Brown

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** the report from the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Chairperson (Trim: 260401088654).

CARRIED

10. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 10.1. Woodend-Sefton Community Board Meeting Minutes 10 March 2026.
 10.2. Rangiora-Ashley Community Board Meeting Minutes 11 March 2026.
 10.3. Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board Meeting Minutes 16 March 2026.
 10.4. Proposed Stock Movement Bylaw 2026 – Draft for Formal Public Consultation Request – Report to Council Meeting 3 March 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.
 10.5. Rangiora Airfield Governance Review 2026 – Report to Council Meeting 3 March 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.
 10.6. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report January 2026 to February 2026 – Report to Council Meeting 3 March 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.
 10.7. Enterprise North Canterbury's Approved Six-Month Report to Council 31 December 2025, Draft Statement of Intent for the Financial Year Beginning 1 July 2026 and ENC Actual Expenditure to 31 December 2025 – Report to Audit and Risk Meeting 17 March 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.
 10.8. Water Services Alternative Rating Structure Review – Report to Council Meeting 31 March 2026 – Circulates to all Boards
 10.9. Fee Waiver Terms of Reference and Grants Scheme Update – Report to Council Meeting 31 March 2026 – Circulates to all Boards
 10.10. Storm Related Tree Damage Response – Report to Council Meeting 31 March 2026 – Circulates to all Boards
 10.11. Council Submissions to Central Government for the Local Government Consultation Period, February 2026 – Report to Council Meeting 31 March 2026 – Circulates to all Boards
 10.12. ANZAC Day Services 2026 – Report to Council Meeting 31 March 2026 – Circulates to all Boards
 10.13. Adoption of the 2025-2028 Governance Statement – Report to Council Meeting 31 March 2026 – Circulates to all Boards
 10.14. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report February 2026 to March 16 2026 – Report to Council Meeting 31 March 2026 – Circulates to all Boards

Public Excluded

- 10.15. Partial Acquisition of Lees Valley Road, Oxford – Report to Council Meeting 3 March 2026 – Circulates to the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board

Moved: T Robson

Seconded: P Merrifield

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** the information in Items 10.1 to 10.14.
 (b) **Receives** the separately circulated public excluded information in Item 10.15.

CARRIED

11. MEMBERS' INFORMATION EXCHANGE

T Robson

- The Woodstock Quarries landfill continued to be a significant topic of concern within the community. He suggested that it might be appropriate for the Board to provide a further update on its Facebook page.
- West Oxford Reserve – He had received calls and emails regarding campers staying for extended periods at the reserve, noting that this remained an issue for nearby residents. There had been a request for additional signage outlining camping rules. He observed that there appeared to be some confusion regarding what actions the Council could and could not take. T Robson suggested that it would be beneficial for the Board to convene a meeting with the Department of Conservation, ECan, and the Council to develop a coordinated approach to resolving the matter.
- Oxford Promotions - He reported that he had attended the organisation's Annual General Meeting in his capacity as a community member.
- Pearson Park Advisory Group - He had attended a Pearson Park Advisory Group meeting, at which a number of long-standing matters were discussed, including the stage roof, the former bowling green and shed maintenance, and the location of the proposed bike track.

W Godfrey

- He reported that the Ohoka Domain Working Bee had proceeded without issue, noting strong engagement from the group. Propagation had commenced for approximately 150 Carex plants intended for stream-side planting.
- He advised that he had attended a meeting of the Northern Biosecurity Advisory Group, which was reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan. The Group discussed what had and had not worked over the past seven years. He noted the significant contribution from Laurence Smith, who had extensive experience in biosecurity with Environment Canterbury. The Group also received a report from Steve Belton, Team Leader (North), providing an update on compliance activities.

R Harpur

- The Waimakariri Access Group's accessibility training was well attended, and there were a lot of new staff. The Group was looking at accessibility at the Mandeville Sports Centre

M Brown

- Attended the Oxford Promotions Association's Annual General Meeting and monthly meeting.
- Noted the letter regarding joyriders damaging the large roadside reserve extending up North Eyre Road from the Poyntz and North Eyre Roads intersection.
- Spoke to a local resident, who was concerned regarding Waimakariri Irrigation's storage ponds being developed at Wrights Road, Burnt Hill.
- A public key stakeholder meeting would be held on 28 April 2026 to discuss Oxford's future health services.

T Fulton

- He was appointed as the Council's representative on the Community Liaison Group for Waimakariri Irrigation's storage ponds being developed at Wrights Road, Burnt Hill.
- He was also appointed as the Chairperson of the Water Services Rating Review Working Group.
- Met with Council staff, also residents D Winter and G Boakes, regarding the Ohoka Loop flood management concerns, including Mandeville 1A works.
- Request from M Brown for an update on the West Eyreton pit assessment for planting.

- Responded to several drainage and roading service requests.
- The work on the Wolffs Road footbridge continued.
- Received an update from M Brown about West Eyreton dirt bike riders.
- Discussions in several forums on the development of land adjacent to the West Oxford Reserve.
- Liaison with staff on artwork for West Eyreton heritage display at the Oak Reserve.
- Advice provided to a Kaiapoi Councillor on placement of a replica railway sign at 'Waverley', near the Mill Road and Island Road intersection in the Kaiapoi Ward.
- Support for Southern Community Hub in Rangiora – as an appointee to the Working Group.
- Pearson Park Advisory Group – advancing sound stage, kids dirt track and pump track consultation.

N Mealings

- She had attended an Ohoka Domain site visit, meeting with members of the Ohoka Domain Advisory Group, the Council Ecologist, and the Council Ranger to discuss proposed underplanting species for the Ohoka Bush within the reserve. She advised that this work was now progressing.
- She had attended the Kate Valley Stakeholders Open Day, a triennial visit for shareholding councils to review progress at the Kate Valley Landfill and Energy Park, as well as the Tiromoana Bush. She noted that several significant developments were underway at what she described as a well-run, world-class facility.
- N Mealings participated in a site tour and meetings with the Mandeville Sports Club. She noted that this had been the final meeting for the current long-serving groundskeeper, who had now concluded his role. The Club expressed its appreciation for his exemplary service to the various sporting codes and the wider community and extended its best wishes for his future. His position had not yet been filled. Prior to his departure, she accompanied him and two new Board members on a tour of the grounds as part of the transition process. During the visit, Board members raised concerns regarding pedestrian safety at the southeast corner of the clubrooms and the condition of the seal. She advised that these matters were now being addressed by the Council through the installation of traffic-calming measures and seal repairs.
- She reported that at a recent Council meeting, the Council had resolved to defer the Mill Road SMA project by three years due to uncertainty in the current regulatory environment and the need for private legal matters to be resolved. At this stage, the Council was unable either to cancel the project or to proceed with it.
- N Mealings had attended a meeting of the Waimakariri Youth Council, which had completed its recruitment process and welcomed nine new Youth Councillors. She noted that the new members were enthusiastic and ready to contribute.
- She had received an email from an Ohoka resident expressing concerns about safe walking and cycling access to the school from areas not served by separated paths. She had arranged a site visit with the Council's Road Safety Coordinator to discuss the matter.
- She had been contacted by Ohoka School, with the principal confirming the time and date for the Ohoka ANZAC service on 24 April 2026. The school was particularly pleased that the service fell within the school term for the first time in ten years. The entire school, along with staff and some whānau, planned to walk to the service. As the event coincided with the Ohoka Farmers Market, it was expected to be a significant occasion.

N Mealings reported that during a conversation with the Ohoka Hall Committee regarding the school's attendance at the ANZAC service, it was noted that the sump in front of the hall was full of gravel and leaves. She submitted a SnapSendSolve service request, and the issue had already been resolved.

- She advised that she had received an email from a Cust resident seeking an update on the replacement site for the Cust Rural Recycling Station. She obtained information from the Solid Waste Manager and provided the resident with an update.
- N Mealings noted that the monthly Ohoka Domain Working Bee had been postponed to Sunday, 12 April, from 9.00 am to 11.00 am due to the Easter period.

12. **CONSULTATION PROJECTS**

12.1. **Waimakariri District Council Draft Annual Plan 2026-27**

<https://letstalk.waimakariri.govt.nz/draft-annual-plan-2026-27>

Consultation closed on Monday, 20 April 2026.

12.2. **Woodend/Pegasus Area Strategy Review**

<https://letstalk.waimakariri.govt.nz/woodend-pegasus-area-strategy-review>

The Board noted the consultation projects.

13. **BOARD FUNDING UPDATE**

13.1. **Board Discretionary Grant**

Balance as at 31 March 2026: \$2,984.

13.2. **General Landscaping Fund**

Balance as at 31 March 2026: \$14,330.

The Board noted the funding update.

14. **MEDIA ITEMS**

Nil.

15. **QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS**

Nil.

16. **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS UNDER STANDING ORDERS**

Nil.

17. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board was scheduled for 6.30pm, Wednesday 6 May 2026 at the Oxford Town Hall.

Workshops (7:47pm to 8:13pm)

- *Landscaping Budget Review – Grant Stephens (Design and Planning Team Leader) 20 mins*
- *Members Forum*

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:52PM.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date

Unconfirmed

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION**

FILE NO and TRIM NO: RES-34 / 260120009234

REPORT TO: Oxford Ohoka Community Board


DATE OF MEETING: 6 May 2026

AUTHOR(S): Bex Dollery, Biodiversity Team Leader

SUBJECT: Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve Enhancement Plan

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 Oxford Ohoka Community Board for the enhancement plan designed for the Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve under the guidance of, and using funding attributed to, the Arohatia te Awa project.
- 1.2. The Arohatia te Awa Working Group have identified in its program of works that the Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve is one of its key priorities to complete in the projects work plan. The project has the potential to meet several of the group's goals, including water quality and biodiversity improvement, and recreational access to natural areas.
- 1.3. The Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve will create a recreational looped walking track and is located along the Ohoka Stream, Butchers Road, Ohoka Road and eventually via an easement over Department of Conservation (DOC) land to the north (Figure 1). The area is used by local residents for walking and, there has been some native planting along part of the reserve and a grass path which is mown.



Figure 1. Location of Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve (red outline)

- 1.4. To enhance the biodiversity, recreational opportunity and water quality of the stream, a list of actions has been developed over 3 years with a 5 year maintenance period. The actions and considerations required are; weed removal and planting; Ohoka Stream capacity and maintenance; safe access to the walkway; access across DOC land; and assessment of abandoned structures on site.
- 1.5. **Weed removal and indigenous planting** will enhance the terrestrial and aquatic habitat conditions and biodiversity. The Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust have expressed an interest in being involved with the delivery of this project. If approved, staff would work with the trust and other local community groups (such as the Silverstream Volunteers and Pest Free Waimakariri) to enhance the area through planting days and other connection events.
- 1.6. The **Ohoka Stream capacity and maintenance** is a major consideration of this project. The stream is undergoing hydraulic capacity investigations in 2026-2027 to assess any requirements for increasing capacity by the Water Services Unit. This may lead to earthworks in 330 m strip of esplanade reserve adjacent to the stream. As such, no enhancement works will occur in this section of the walkway until the full investigations have been completed. The enhancements outlined in the concept plan are proposals that may be subject to variation in collaboration with the Water Services Unit once the investigations are complete and any capacity works are known. Enhancement works will be designed to assist capacity and ongoing maintenance using plants that do not restrict access by machinery to the stream (low growing, soft stemmed species such as sedges and rushes) with stands of taller shrub and tree species in groups that machinery can work around. This will be confirmed with the Water Services Unit in 2027.
- 1.7. The area is currently used informally by residents of the neighbouring Silverstream Village to the east who access the track by crossing the Ohoka Road. Discussions are ongoing with the Arohatia te Awa working group, the WDC Roding Team and the Project Delivery Unit regarding the **safe access to the walkway**. Access under bridges were discussed but these structures were not built to have foot traffic underneath. Therefore, investigations are ongoing regarding the possibility of installing one or two crossing islands along the Ohoka Road.
- 1.8. The Arohatia te Awa working group have discussed the potential for a small, gravelled carpark to be located to the south of the reserve. Discussions with the WDC Roding team have highlighted safety concerns around this and noted that further exploration and feasibility studies are required due to the current road speed and proposed location which is on a road bend. However, this will continue to be discussed to find a suitable solution following full assessment.
- 1.9. The WDC Property team have been working with DOC to create the **easement across the DOC land** parcel to the north. There has been an indication that this is feasible but no formal notification to date. In the interim, DOC and the Property team are developing an agreement that allows for any planting works on the land (at the fenceline).
- 1.10. **Abandoned shed buildings** on site are being assessed as to whether they can be safely retained or will require removal. Advice from professionals will be sought and operations will follow the guidance to ensure health and safety in the area.
- 1.11. To progress the enhancement of the walkway, Council staff seek approval from the Oxford Ohoka Community Board to undertake actions outlined in the enhancement plan and continue discussions around the prospect of a safe crossing over Ohoka Road and the potential for a carpark in the future.

Attachments:

- i. Ohoka Esplanade Reserve Enhancement Plan December 2025 (Trim: 251219243191)

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Oxford Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260120009234.
- (b) **Approves** the enhancement works for the Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve including weed removal and planting scheduled over 3 years with 5 years maintenance (Trim: 251219243191).
- (c) **Notes** that the project is budgeted for by the Arohatia te Awa Working Groups programme of works (Code - 101554.000.5223; c. \$230,000).
- (d) **Notes** that ecologists within the Biodiversity Team will continue to work with the Water Services Unit to ensure no adverse impacts to the Ohoka Stream following hydraulic assessments for planting in the riparian area.
- (e) **Notes** that staff will continue to work with the Utilities and Roading team to ensure safe access to the site and the possibility of a carpark in the southern area of the site.
- (f) **Notes** that staff will liaise with local community groups (including the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust) to organise planting days and events for the area.
- (g) **Circulates** this report to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board for information.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve was highlighted by the Arohatia te Awa working group as an enhancement opportunity that aligns with the objectives of the wider project to enhance the natural environment including water quality and to provide recreation and access to waterways in the District. The site also offers opportunities to achieve goals set out in the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (see section 7.1.1 of this report). As such, the Biodiversity Team carried out a number of studies in the area and has designed an enhancement plan (attachment i).
- 3.2. The reserve is located to the east of the Silverstream Village subdivision. It is adjacent to the Ohoka Road and creates a loop walkway along part of the Ohoka Stream to the west and across a proposed easement on DOC owned land to the north. The area is used by local residents who walk along the mown grass track adjacent to the Stream.
- 3.3. This area is close to other walking tracks in the area and has potential to link into the Clean and Green Silverstream initiative, a plan to improve the health of the Kaiapoi branch of the Waimakariri River with riparian plantings and public access along the catchment. This was devised by the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee which included Environment Canterbury, Waimakariri District Council, local iwi and community representatives.
- 3.4. The two properties located within the centre of the loop walkway are owned by residents who are fully aware and supportive of the enhancements. Council staff have also been approached by Pest Free Waimakariri and the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust who are keen to assist with any works in the area.

4. **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

4.1. Surveys of the esplanade reserve found that the area has potential to increase to indigenous planting and provide habitat for indigenous fauna whilst providing for safe recreation and improving the streams water quality and wildlife habitat capacity. To achieve this, the following actions and considerations would be required:

- 4.1.1. weed removal and indigenous planting installation;
- 4.1.2. sensitive location and species choice in riparian areas to avoid impacts to the Ohoka Stream capacity and maintenance;
- 4.1.3. assessment and decision around abandoned sheds located in the area;
- 4.1.4. safe crossing and potential for parking; and
- 4.1.5. granted access across DOC land;

Weed Removal and Planting

4.2. The reserve contains minimal native species aside from those planted in recent years along the walkway from Butchers Road and a few in the riparian zone along the Ohoka Stream. Of note, was the presence of swamp nettle, a rare but not threatened species which is host to the admiral butterflies which are also becoming rare and a species of concern. Also present are a number of weed species such as mayten, bramble, periwinkle, hemlock, ivy and elder. These species can smother other vegetation and are prolific spreaders. Therefore, it is proposed that these species are removed and the site prepared for indigenous plant installation. Full planting proposals can be found in the enhancement plan (attachment i).

Ohoka Stream Considerations

4.3. The WDC biodiversity team have discussed the project with the Water Services Unit to ensure that proposals do not impact the capacity of the stream, particularly in times of high flows, and still allow for maintenance of the stream which requires access for machinery. The Water Services Unit will be undertaking a hydraulic assessment of the stream in 2026-2027 and may indicate works within the esplanade reserve adjacent to the stream.

4.4. As such, the riparian area of the walkway is not scheduled to be enhanced until these works are complete in 2027. This will ensure that any plantings do not restrict capacity or maintenance and can remain in-situ rather than being removed to allow for any intended earthworks as directed by the assessment.

4.5. Proposals in the concept plan outline soft stemmed plants in the riparian areas which would allow for machinery to move across it if required. With regard to larger shrubs and trees, these are intended be grouped at appropriate intervals that would allow machinery to safely access the stream through extension of the digger arm from the banks for maintenance reasons if required. The intervals and width of tree groups would be bespoke distances for each site and therefore, a site walkover with Biodiversity Team and Water Services Unit staff accompanied by the machinery operator would be required to mark where these tree groups are most appropriately located.

Abandoned Shed Buildings

4.6. There are two abandoned shed like buildings on site. Both are overgrown with vegetation and require health and safety assessments and recommendations. Professional advice will be gained and operationally undertaken. This may result in buildings being removed or remaining in situ, potentially for repurposing reasons.

Safe Access Considerations

- 4.7. Local residents are currently using the Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve, entering from Butchers Road and walking along the Ohoka Stream. The majority of people are residing in Silverstream Village to the east of Ohoka Road. To enable safe crossing for residents, a number of options were considered, including whether pedestrian access could be gained under the bridge which carries the Ohoka Stream under Ohoka Road to the north or the bridge that carries the Silverstream waterway to the south. The WDC Roding team explained that the bridges were not safe for pedestrian access and the best option was to consider Island Road crossings close to Haysen Drive and perhaps another closer to the Silverstream Esplanade Reserve further south. The WDC Project Delivery Unit, in collaboration with the Roding team will investigate this option further and consider inclusion into the programme of works.
- 4.8. In addition to road crossing, the Arohatia te Awa working group discussed the prospect of a carpark to the south of the walkway. The advice from the roading specialists is that this requires further feasibility assessments for safety at this time. This is due to the proposed location being placed close to the road bend on Butchers Road which currently has a 100 km speed limit. This scoping work will be ongoing. In the interim, it was noted that most residents using the walkway are local and there is parking in the Silverstream subdivision. Therefore, the most pressing issue would be the safe crossing over Ohoka Road.

DOC Easement

- 4.9. To enable the walkway to be a connected short loop walk, access across DOC land is required. Staff in the WDC Property team have been discussing the situation with DOC and have received a positive response. However, council staff are awaiting the processing of the formal Statutory Land Application with DOC and have been advised by their Canterbury staff that if this is further delayed due to staffing issues, WDC can enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with DOC immediately to allow works to begin on the land if required. Therefore, the planting along the fenceline and formal opening of this section will be delayed until either the application or agreement is in place.
- 4.10. The considerations outlined above, will be progressed with the weed removal and planting proposed for 2026. The abandoned buildings will be assessed and made safe, the road crossing will be factored into the Utilities and Roding programme of works once agreed and the work on the DOC land will be undertaken once the agreement is in place.
- 4.11. **OPTIONS:** The community board have the following options for consideration:
- 4.11.1. **Approval of the enhancement plan.** This is the recommended option by staff. The work would be undertaken by council staff, contractors and the community following standard operational procedures and professional advice.
- 4.11.2. **Approval of parts of the enhancement plan with further revision.** This option may allow for some aspects of the enhancement plan to proceed and stall other aspects. This is not recommended by staff as it may cause delays to the enhancements and the health and safety aspects of the project. The walkway is already used by local residents, therefore, ensuring it is fit for purpose is important.
- 4.11.3. **Decline the enhancement plan and ask for further revisions.** This is not recommended by staff as it would cause significant delays to the enhancements, including the health and safety aspects, of the project.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

- 4.12. There are implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report. Community members are already using parts of the walkway which include abandoned buildings and a lack of formal road crossing. For health and safety reasons, these aspects need to be considered and any identified remediation or mitigation work undertaken.

- 4.13. In addition, the works proposed by the enhancement plan will increase community wellbeing through providing ecosystems services relating to cultural and supporting values, offering mental and physical health enhancement opportunities through connection with nature and additional recreational opportunities in the District.
- 4.14. The Management Team has reviewed this report and support the recommendations.

5. **COMMUNITY VIEWS**

5.1. **Mana whenua**

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū may have an interest in the subject matter of this report, particularly where there is an enhancement or degradation of ecological values and water quality which are aligned to Te Ao Māori.

The Arohatia te Awa Working Group who oversee the project includes Ngāi Tūāhuriri rūnanga representation and the group continues to ensure updates are provided to the rūnanga when requested.

5.2. **Groups and Organisations**

There are groups and organisations likely to be affected by, or who have an interest in the subject matter of this report, such as biodiversity organisations and conservation volunteers within the District. Pest Free Waimakariri already undertakes pest management and is involved in the biodiversity monitoring and the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust has expressed an interest to assist in the delivery of the scheme.

Wider Community

The wider community is likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in the subject matter of this report. There have been several community members present at the Arohatia te Awa working group meetings and expressions of interest through social media channels.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1. **Financial Implications**

There are financial implications sought by this report. The project costs to enact the enhancement plan will be met through the Arohatia te Awa budget which was approved through the 2024/2034 Long Term Plan and agree by the Community and Recreation Committee in 2024. The indicative costs are shown below but these may be altered with cost reductions where volunteer assistance for planting days is enabled.

Furthermore, please note the maintenance of \$10,000 for years 2029-2034 is an estimate and may change overtime depending on the success of planting and ecological functioning of the area, along with the level of volunteer support provided by groups such as the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust.

Estimated Costs 2026-2034 budgeted for from the 10 year Arohatia te Awa programme of works (this can be reviewed and amended to match available budget and volunteer contributions, this cost represents the amount required to meet levels of service for the esplanade reserve)

Item	Price	Estimated Cost (excl. GST)
Stage 1 (2026/7)		
Plants	\$4 x 1447	\$5,788
Plant guards	\$125/50 x 1447	\$3,617.5
Plant installation	\$4 x 1447 (a large part of this may be undertaken by volunteers)	\$5,788
Site preparation	\$5,000	\$5,000
Releasing and mowing	\$4,500	\$4,500
Stage 1 total		\$24,693.50
Stage 2 (2027/8)		
Plants	\$4 x 940	\$3,760
Plant guards	\$125/50 x 940	\$2,350
Plant installation	\$4 x 940 (a large part of this may be undertaken by volunteers)	\$3,760
Site preparation	\$5,000	\$5,000
Mulch (where possible)	\$3000 (delivered but not spread)	\$3,000
Releasing and mowing	\$7,000	\$7,000
Stage 2 total		\$24,870
Stage 3 (2028/9)		
Plants	\$4 x 1042	\$4,168
Plant guards	\$125/50 x 3053	\$2,605
Plant installation	\$4 x 3053 (a large part of this may be undertaken by volunteers)	\$4,168
Site preparation	\$5,000	\$5,000
Releasing and mowing	\$7,000	\$7,000
Stage 3 total		\$22,941
Infrastructure and Assessment (across 3 Stages as appropriate)		
Assessment of abandoned buildings		\$6,000
Oter infrastructure (road crossing, carpark etc)		\$95,000
Ongoing Maintenance		
Maintenance and pest control (c.\$10,000, 2029 – 2034)		\$60,000
Overall Total		\$233,504.50

6.2. Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts

This project feeds into the work commissioned by the Canterbury Climate Change Partnership¹ which has charged WDC 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.

- 6.3. The outcomes from the enhancement works will deliver significant positive benefits for both sustainability and climate change. The area will allow for the provision of wider ecosystem services which include water cycling and purification, climate regulation and nutrient cycling. Enabling access by the public, showcases these areas and may inspire their duplication across the district.

6.4. Risk Management

There may be risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. The Water Services Unit team identified that investigations to determine earthworks in the esplanade reserve are being undertaken and that access would always be required to the Ohoka Stream. Therefore the enhancements have been scheduled and designed with these considerations. However, the team will be fully involved with the enhancement proposals following investigation and assist in determining the layout of woody plants in the riparian zone to ensure access and stream capacity is maintained.

There is a risk that the Roding team do not undertake the installation of a crossing island for community members to safely cross from the Silverstream Village to the walkway. However, such items have been factored into the the Arohata te Awa budget, ensuring that cost is not a barrier. Furthermore, should the public not cross the road into the reserve, the enhancements will still be of benefit to ecological values of the area, contributing to nature-based solutions for a range of issues including connectivity for indigenous species, water quality improvement and climate change mitigation.

There is a minor risk that there may be issues with the granting of the Statutory Land Application from DOC. However, whilst this is worked through, an agreement will be in place, and residents will be able to enjoy the walk as a linear feature rather than a loop.

6.5. Health and Safety

There are not health and safety risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. 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. Community members and volunteers undertaking works will be subject to risk assessments and overseen by staff, as occurs on all council planting projects.

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. However, the report has relevance for:

¹ [Climate Partnership Plan | It's time, Canterbury](#)

- 7.1.1. **Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (2024)** – the project fulfils the strategic direction of connecting people and nature and enhancing the ecological integrity of the environment (specific examples show below).

Number	Action
2.1.2.2	Run community educational and connection events, including fun learning and activation programmes, and those that empower students and support student-led action (ABS).
2.1.4.1	Consider providing additional opportunities for the safe gathering of mahinga ka, rōngoā and perennial edibles when developing Council reserves.
2.1.4.7	Promote the uptake of compatible recreation opportunities in the District's natural areas.
4.2.1.3	Repurpose suitable Council land as indigenous bionodes. (ERP, NAP, NPSIB).
4.2.3.5	Promote and create more effective buffer zones between land uses and water bodies.
4.2.3.9	Continue to support the implementation of the ZIPA water catchment programme (PC 7, NPS-FM).
4.2.4.5	Continue to implement Arohata Te Awa.
4.2.4.9	Establish a strategic, district-wide approach to riparian management and ecological linkages to close gaps and prioritise the acquisition of esplanades.
4.2.4.11	Plant Council's undeveloped recreation and ecological linkages where these have the potential to contribute significant natural environment benefits.

- 7.1.2. **Waimakariri District Plan (2023)** – ECO Chapter which aims to protect, manage and maintain areas of ecological importance.
- 7.1.3. **Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy (2009)** - 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”.
- 7.1.4. **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.”
- 7.1.5. **Aotearoa Biodiversity Strategy (2020)** –Goals – “10.7.3 Indigenous species have expanded in range, abundance and genetic diversity and are more resilient to pressures, including climate change”; “12.6.1 Indigenous vegetation planting is standard practice in urban areas, riparian zones, agricultural buffers, transport corridors and other areas”; “12.6.3 Infrastructure and urban design are delivering increasing benefits for indigenous biodiversity”

7.2. Authorising Legislation

- 7.2.1. Allocations are made under the **Local Government Act 2002**.
- 7.2.2. **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”.
- 7.2.3. **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 in all of the four values of the community outcomes (see table below).

Relevant Community Outcome Values	Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve
Social - <i>A place where everyone can have a sense of belonging..</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project provides public open space. The open spaces will offer ecosystem services around physical and mental health and wellbeing. The area will be accessible to the community.
Cultural - where our people are enabled to thrive & give creative expression to identity & heritage..	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. All members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project aims to include mahinga kai and taonga species. Community members will be invited to be included in the creation of the walkway.
Environmental - that values and restores our environment...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People are supported to participate in improving the health and sustainability of our environment. Land use is sustainable; biodiversity is protected and restored. Our district transitions towards a reduced carbon and waste district. The natural and built environment in which people live is clean, healthy and safe. Our communities are able to access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public participation in the restoration of the area will be offered and encouraged Land use will be designed with appropriate ecological input. Providing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and techniques. The areas will be open to the public.
Economic - and is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our district recognizes the value of both paid and unpaid work. Infrastructure and services are sustainable, resilient, and affordable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential job creation for development and restoration works; Acknowledgement of volunteers in the district.

7.4. Authorising Delegations

The Oxford Ohoka Community Board has the delegation to approve and accept the recommendations in this report.

Arohatia te Awa

Ohoka Esplanade Reserve Concept Plan

Prepared by Waimakariri District Council
12 March 2026



Prepared for: Arohatia te Awa Working Group

Prepared by: Dr. Bex Dollery, Biodiversity Team Leader

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on behalf of Biodiversity Team, Waimakariri District Council

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. Arohata te Awa Project.....	1
1.2. Overview – Ecological Site Context	2
2. Baseline Conditions – Ecological Values.....	3
2.1. Methodology	3
2.2. Results.....	5
2.3. Conclusion and Restoration Wheel	8
3. Concept Plan.....	10
3.1. Important Staging Requirements	10
3.2. Restoration Planting Methodology	17
APPENDIX A. Habitat Map	21
APPENDIX B. Vegetation Inventory	22
APPENDIX C. Restoration Recovery Wheel Parameters.....	23
APPENDIX D. Community Outcomes Wheel Parameters	24

1. Introduction

The Arohatia te Awa Working Group, an advisory group for a large District-wide project, identified an esplanade reserve along the Ohoka stream that would meet the objectives of the wider project. The working group sought to scope the area and devise a concept plan for the enhancement of the area to include a walking track for local residents. This task was undertaken by the Waimakariri District Council Greenspace Team and this report outlines the background, the current values and issues on the land and the concept plan to maximise opportunities in the area.

NOTE: *Investigations into the hydraulic capacity of the Ohoka Stream are planned during the 2026-2027 period. This work may lead to recommendations of works to increase capacity that may include earthworks along the Ohoka Stream section of the proposed walking track. Therefore, ecological enhancement works outlined for this physical area are purely proposed and staged to occur after the investigations are complete. The enhancement proposals are subject to amendments should the investigations note earthworks are required in the area and the finalised enhancement plan will be devised in collaboration with the Water Services Unit. This timeline will ensure that the capacity of the stream is not impacted by any planting works and safeguard future plantings from removal for necessary hydraulic works.*

1.1. Arohatia te Awa Project

The Arohatia te Awa project was established prior to the 2021 “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 biodiversity¹”. 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.

The objectives for the project are to:

- To **scope, promote and govern** the development and delivery of the Arohatia te Awa and Revels Road projects with recommendations to Council for future works and funding.
- To **agree and endorse** to Council a work plan and implementation plan for Arohatia te Awa and the Revels Road project.
- 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**.
- To work through **solutions** for issues that require escalation from the project group and to govern the agreed work plan for the projects.
- 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.
- 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.
- Catalyse **economic diversification**, for example through agri-tourism along the network and potentially create a ‘drawcard’ or promotional vehicle for Waimakariri District.
- To **partner** with other agencies as required and offer high level support to the project team as required.
- 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.

¹ Arohatia te Awa terms of reference report Modified November 2023. (TRIM: 231123188215).

The Arohatia te Awa Working Group recognised that there was an unused esplanade reserve along the Ohoka Stream. This area was well suited to meeting the objectives of the wider project and offering increased recreation opportunities for residents whilst enhancing the ecological condition of the surrounding natural environment and offering increased ecosystem services such as water quality, biodiversity, pest and weed management etc.

1.2. Overview – Ecological Site Context

The Ohoka Stream Esplanade lies within the wider Low Plains ecological district which currently contains less than 10% indigenous native vegetation cover and therefore, protection of exiting ecological features and restoration efforts in the district are important and notable (McEwan, 1987²). The area is characterised by warm summer and cool winters with relatively low rainfall and strong nor westerly winds in autumn and spring (Macara, 2016³). The soils within the area are mapped with low confidence in Manaaki Whenua’s S-Map application⁴. They are noted as Temuka and Flaxton soils which are Orthic Gley soils being moderately deep with a predominately silt composition and prone to waterlogging.

The Ohoka Road Esplanade is located to the west of Kaiapoi, situated within the jurisdiction of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board. The surrounding land use is primarily rural comprising lifestyle blocks with an assortment of shelterbelts, paddocks and associated features. The Silverstream subdivision is located on the east side of Ohoka Road and includes a number of greenspace and esplanade reserves which offer potential connections to areas with a larger number of residents (Figure 1). The Ohoka Stream is located adjacent to the proposed walking track in the northwest. There is private property directly adjacent to the proposed walking track which is currently grazed, exotic pasture for cattle. It is noted that the track is currently informally used by a number of residents in the area.



Figure 1. The Ohoka Stream Esplanade showing the surrounding rural land use and the Silverstream subdivision to the east with location of greenspace and esplanade reserves.

² McEwan, W.M. (1987). Ecological regions and districts of New Zealand. Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand.

³ Macara, G., R. (2016) The Climate and Weather of Canterbury (2nd Edition). NIWA, Wellington, New Zealand.

⁴ <https://smap.landcareresearch.co.nz/maps-and-tools/app>

The main aims of the project are to enhance the area:

- Using **indigenous** specimens which are **native** to the area with a good chance of **survival**;
- Using **restoration techniques** that will reduce the effort required to maintain the area and not impact on the **capacity of the waterway**, particularly in high rain events;
- Using plants that promote the continued spread of **indigenous fauna** across the landscape and assist with water quality improvements; and
- To create a walking track to meet the **recreational needs** and desires of the local community.

2. Baseline Conditions – Ecological Values

To enable an effective enhancement plan, the site was explored through desktop survey and site inspection. The site survey was undertaken over a number of visits by Biodiversity Team staff members, Richard Chambers from Pest Free Waimakariri and Natasha Pagel-Aprill, a Masters of International Nature Conservation student from Lincoln University.

2.1. Methodology

2.1.1. Desktop Survey

A desktop investigation was undertaken in June 2025 and included a review of scientific literature, data held by the Waimakariri District Council and associated ecological organisations and relevant websites. Ecological databases which were accessed included:

- iNaturalist New Zealand – 2km radius from site
- LENZ Threatened Environments Classification
- NZ bird atlas
- Wilderlab eDNA database

In addition, any sites of ecological significant were identified by exploring the Waimakariri District Council's mapping software, Waimap, and the equivalent for Environment Canterbury, Canterbury Maps. Black maps were explored to ascertain the historical context of the area.

2.1.2. Field Investigations

Vegetation and Habitat Assessment

Field surveys were undertaken by on several occasions in June, July and October 2025. The survey assessed the vegetation and habitats found at the sites, recording prominent species including rare, protected or notable species. Potential habitat for faunal species was recorded and any signs of faunal activity recorded. An indicative habitat map can be found in Appendix A including numbered target notes (TN) denoting features of interest with a full species inventory in Appendix B.

Invertebrates

Invertebrate monitoring was conducted with wooden discs. While pitfall traps are commonly used for monitoring terrestrial invertebrates, wooden discs are a non-lethal and less labour-intensive alternative. They consist of rounds cut from a log and replicate the microhabitat created by a natural, decaying log. In

New Zealand, wooden discs have been used for studying soil-dwelling invertebrates in grasslands and forests^{5,6}.

The wooden discs used were cut from exotic Pinaceae trunks at c.7cm thickness. There was some variation in the diameter of the discs due to natural variation in the diameter of the trunk. Vegetation and debris were cleared from the ground and discs were placed flush with the bare soil. At least three weeks were allowed to pass after discs were placed to allow for invertebrate colonisation. During sampling, discs were flipped to the side, and two observers quantified the number of rough taxonomic units by order (for arthropods) or phylum (for non-arthropods) and the abundance of individuals on the disc and in the soil.

Mammals

Small mammal monitoring was conducted using tracking tunnels (Figure 2). 30 foldable plastic tracking tunnels were deployed at 20-meter intervals. They were separated into different “lines” of five to ten tunnels to compare different habitat types which followed the native plantings, the Ohoka Stream and the fence to the north.

Following the Department of Conservation tracking tunnel guidelines, tracking tunnels were set out at least three weeks before the first sampling. They were set with inked cards and baited with peanut butter for one night to monitor rodents. Following this, the tunnels were checked and cards with footprints were replaced while clean cards were reused. For the second round of sampling, the tunnels were baited with cat food for three nights to monitor mustelids⁷.

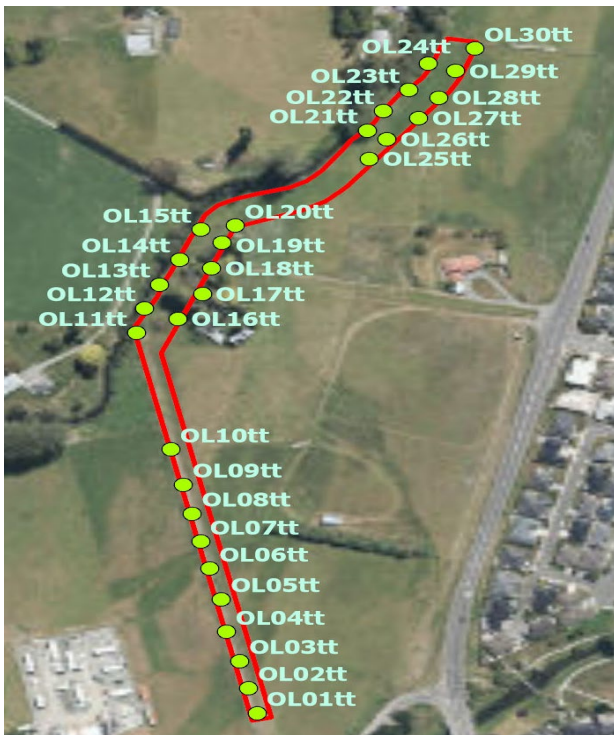


Figure 2. Placement of tracking tunnels across the site.

Pest Fee Waimakariri have also been trapping predators in the area so catch data from Trap.NZ was also used to supplement data on the pest fauna in the area.

⁵ Bowie, M. H., & Frampton, C. M. (2004). A practical technique for non-destructive monitoring of soil surface invertebrates for ecological restoration programmes. *Ecological Management & Restoration*, 5(1), 34-42.

⁶ Bowie, M. H., Stokvis, E., Barber, K., Marris, J., & Hodge, S. (2019). Identification of potential invertebrate bioindicators of restoration trajectory at a quarry site in Hunua, Auckland, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, 43(1), 1-11.

⁷ Gillies, C. A., and D. Williams. 2013. *DOC tracking tunnel guide v2.5.2: Using tracking tunnels to monitor rodents and mustelids*. Dept. of Conservation, Science & Capability Group, Hamilton, New Zealand. www.doc.govt.nz.

Birds

Four five-minute long point bird counts were conducted. The point counts were located at 140m intervals in a line that followed the length of the site. The counts were conducted by two individuals, one following the other.

2.1.3. Assumptions and Limitations

The main terrestrial ecology surveys conducted as part of this report were carried out in winter/early spring conditions, when some annual plant species may not be present, or when identifying features such as flowers or seed heads were absent or had degraded. In addition, two of the wooden discs were misplaced during the surveys, likely buried under vegetation.

2.2. Results

Vegetation and Habitat

The land currently comprises a strip of land leading from Butchers Road to the Ohoka Stream and a section of land running along Ohoka Road. The strip from Butchers Road previously had a row of pines planted along it. These have been felled and mulched. Indigenous species such as harakeke (*Phormium tenax*), lemonwood (*Pittosporum eugenoides*), and cabbage trees (*Cordyline australis*) have recently been planted in the mulch (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Native plantings within the mulched pine area along the walkway from Butchers Road to the Ohoka Stream (left) and the rank grassland and mown path in the centre of the site along the stream (right).

Other habitats included rank grassland, mown grassland, riparian strip, native plantings and old in the centre of the site (Figure 3, Target Note 5) surrounded by trees (Target Note 3). The mown grassland along Ohoka Road comprised the same suite of exotic grasses and low growing forbs as the found in the mulched section and streamside.

There were some differences between the “improved”/maintained grasslands at either end of the site, the rank grassland in the middle, and the riparian grasses. The maintained grasslands included grasses such as perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and creeping soft grass (*Holcus mollis*). The other areas were dominated by cock’sfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), as well as creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) on the river side. The exotic forbs in these areas were more substantial species such as spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and ivy (*Hedra helix*). However, indigenous plants were also found, including cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*) growing on the stream bank and young kōhūhū (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*) and lemonwood apparently self-establishing in the unmaintained grassland.



Figure 4. Native plants growing along the stream (left) and the steep banks of the stream (right).

A selection of unwanted plant species were found establishing mainly in the rank grassland in the centre of the site. Species of note include mayten (*Maytenus boaria*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), currant (*Ribes* sp.), ivy (*Hedera helix*), bamboo species.

The Ohoka Stream was located in the centre of the site with a moderate flow and steep banks in places (Figure 4). Swamp nettle (*Urtica perconfusa*) was found in one area, and although not classified as threatened, this plant is declining and often rare in waterways in the area. It is also host plant to a number of native butterfly species.

Mammals

The only mammal identified from the desk study within 2km of the site was a rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). Mammals were detected at most of the tracking tunnels installed. Low levels of mice, possums, and a hedgehog were detected along the planting area and the stream with possums clustered around the trees and buildings in the centre of the track (Figure 5).

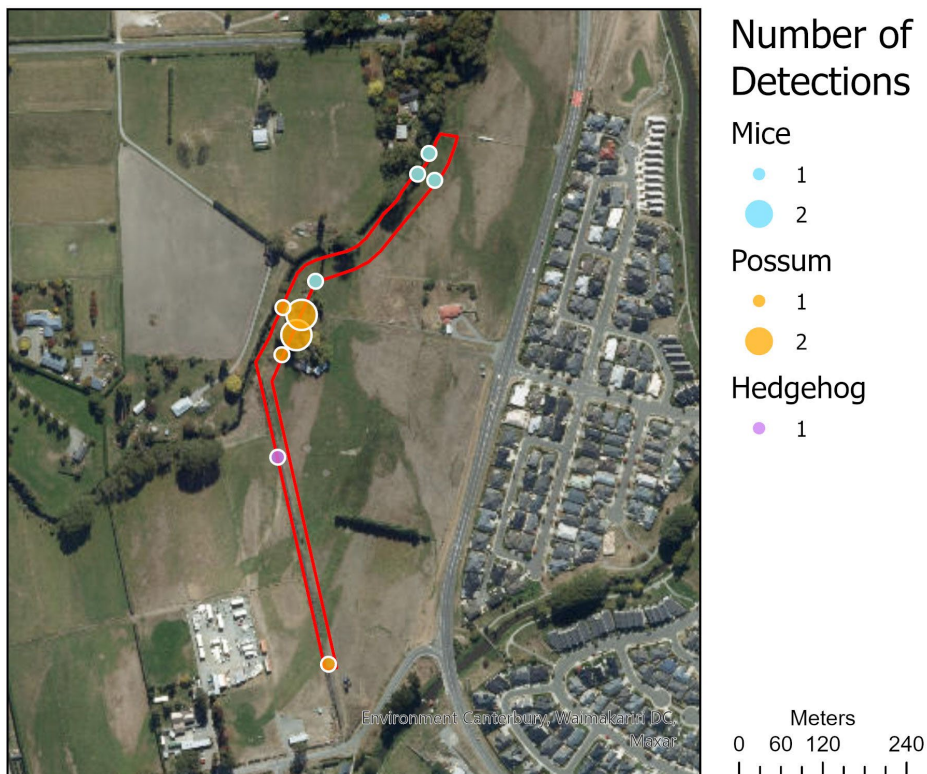


Figure 5. Location and abundance of mammal detections

Data from Pest Free Waimakariri reflected the results from the monitoring data with mice and rat catches along the grassland areas and possum catches clustered around the trees in the centre of the site (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Possum trap catches (left) and rat catches (right) from Pest Free Waimakariri data.

Invertebrates

No invertebrates of note were recorded during the desk study. The field investigation found low levels of common species across a range of taxa and associated with the exotic pasture (Figure 7). Native species of butterfly (yellow admiral, *Vanessa itea*) were observed and although this species is not listed as threatened, the numbers are likely declining.

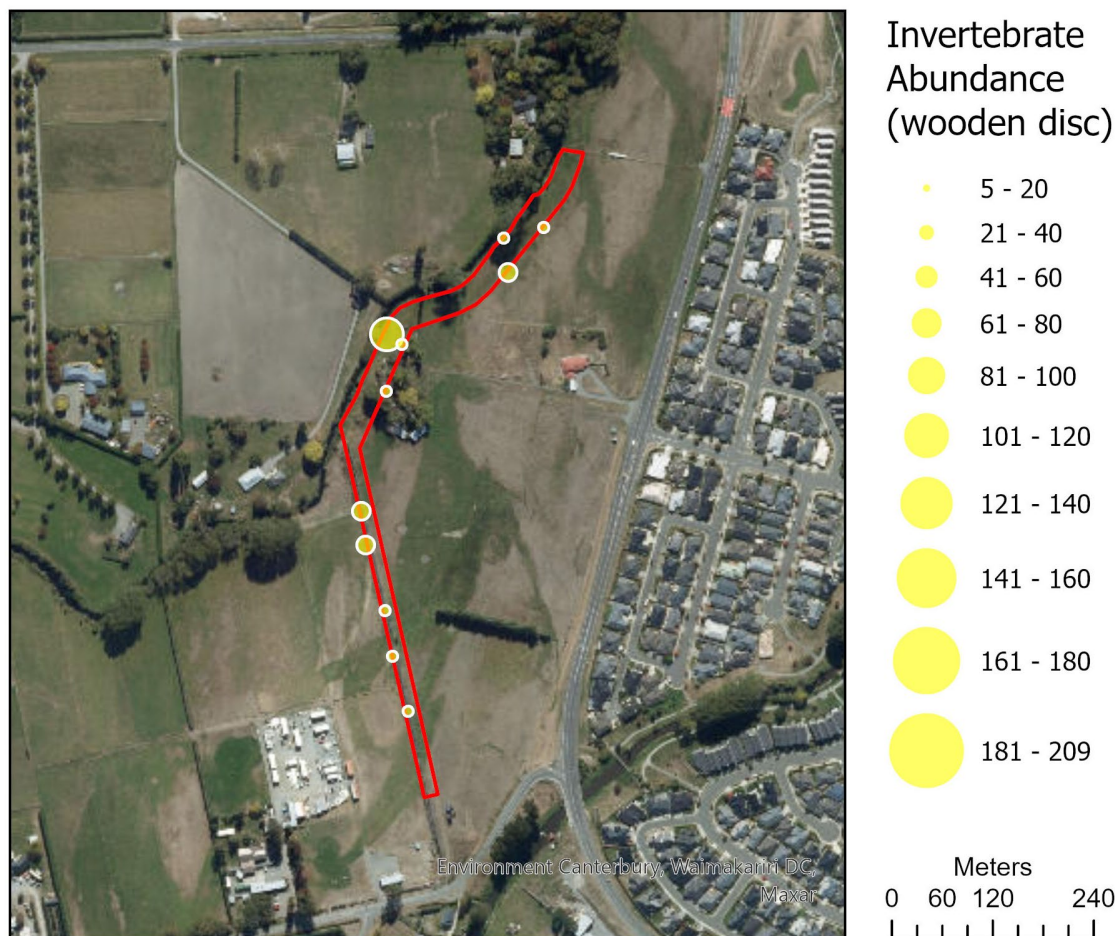


Figure 7. Location and abundance of invertebrates across the site.

Birds

The desk study identified 14 species of birds within 2km of the site with 8 being native species. Of note were records of black billed gulls within the Silverstream subdivision approx. 400m east and a white heron (*Ardea alba*) along the Kaiapoi River approx. 2km east.

The field survey mirrored the desktop results with a total of 16 species being recorded during point counts, 11 exotic and 5 native. None of the native birds were listed as threatened and included common species; paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*), pukeko (*Porphyrio melanotus*), grey warbler (*Gerygone igata*), welcome swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) and silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*).

Herpetofauna

No lizards were recorded within 2km of the site during the desk study search. The field visit also did not observe any animals but there are parts of the site which are suitable with the rank grassland providing potential habitat for Canterbury grass skinks (*Oligosoma aff. polychroma* Clade 4).

2.3. Conclusion and Restoration Wheel

2.3.1. Conclusion

The data gathering exercise found that the site had relatively low ecological values aside from the intrinsic value of the natural environment and the stream. The species recorded on site were mostly exotic or relatively common native species with the exception of the potential habitat for lizards and the opportunity to enhance the site further for birds and invertebrates. Aside from the tangible benefits of enhancement, ensuring that pest and weed species are removed and planting a riparian buffer could assist in increasing the values of the stream and offer ecosystem services such as the cultural benefits of connection to nature and the restoration of native flora.

2.3.2. Restoration Recovery and Community Outcomes Assessments

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) produced international guidelines for the practice of ecological restoration in 2016⁸. This document outlined the guiding principles underpinning restoration to ensure a successful outcome. The Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia has since modified the international document to adapt the advice and principals for the unique environments found in Oceania⁹.

The international and Australian standards use the same method to monitor and assess restoration trajectory and success. Six measurable parameters of success are given a 1 - 5 star rating based on how the ecosystem is recovering. A five-star recovery rating would be given to a project which closely resembles a reference ecosystem (an intact remnant example on which the restoration is based). The evaluation is semi - quantitative being adapted for the precise scale of the project and the type of ecosystem being restored¹⁰.

The Ohoka Loop project is not a true restoration project as it lacks a “reference ecosystem” and the plan is based on knowledge of the prior or expected vegetation pre-human arrival and the integrated recreational use by the public. Therefore, the restoration wheel has been filled in, assigning the star-rating against the intended outcomes for the area rather than the alignment with a reference ecosystem (Figure 8; description of parameters and star-rating can be found in Appendix C).

⁸ McDonald T, Gann GD, Jonson J, Dixon KW (2016a) International standards for the practice of ecological restoration – including principles and key concepts. Society for Ecological Restoration, Washington D.C.

⁹ McDonald T, Jonson J, Dixon KW (2016b) National standards for the practice of ecological restoration in Australia. *Restoration Ecology* **24**: S6–S32

¹⁰ Gann GD, McDonald T, Walder B, Young R, Dixon KW (2024) Updated six key ecosystem attributes table for SER's International principles and standards for the practice of ecological restoration; adapted from Gann et al. 2019; Standards Reference Group SERA 2021; Young et al. 2022. Society for Ecological Restoration. Washington, D.C. USA. <https://www.ser.org/page/Standards-Tools>

SER also acknowledged the benefit to and involvement of community in restoration projects as an important aspect to restoration practice. As such, a “social benefits” wheel was devised. Many of the social benefits listed are aligned with the Waimakariri District Council’s community outcomes. Therefore, the SER social benefit wheel has been adapted for the site to monitor the progress on community benefits (Figure 8; description of the parameters and star-rating in Appendix D). Both the restoration recovery wheel and the community outcomes wheel will be updated using data gathered from various sources bi-annually to track the trajectory.

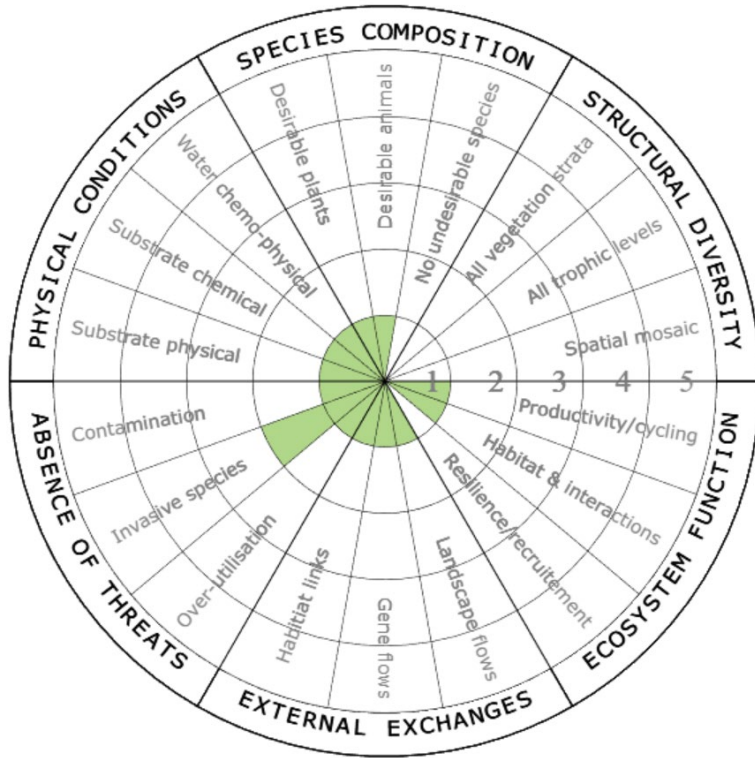
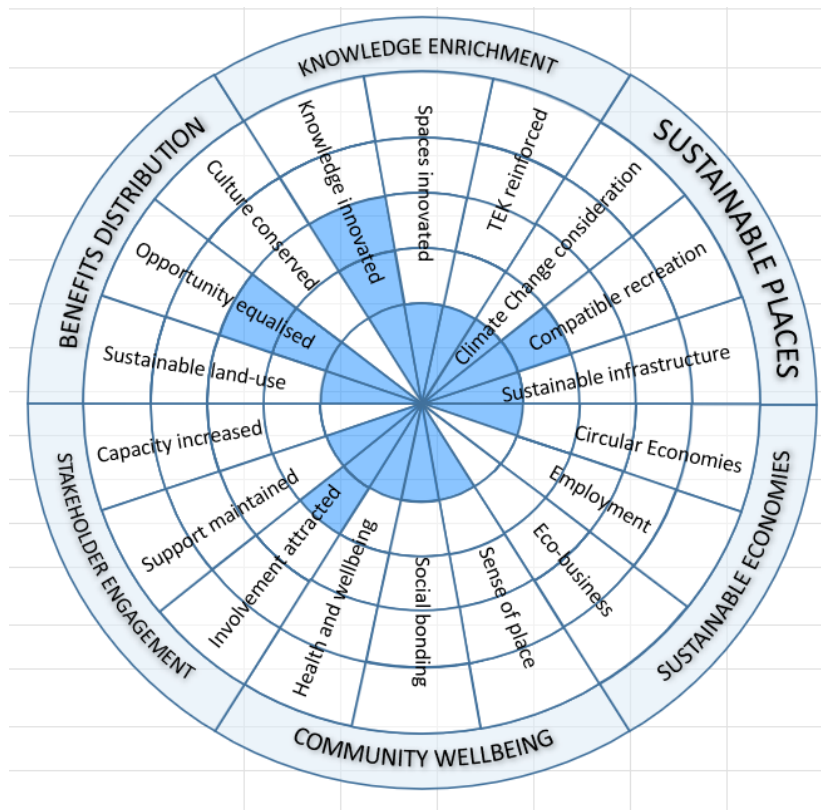


Figure 8. Restoration Recovery Wheel (above) and Community Outcomes Wheel (below) for the Ohoka Esplanade Reserve in 2025. Note that the aim is to achieve as much as the wheel coloured green/blue as possible denoting the achievement of various parameters (see Appendices C and D for parameter descriptions and star ratings).



3. Concept Plan

The concept plan has been devised to include a walking track of mown grass, native planting enhancements for birds, invertebrates and lizards plus a riparian strip to assist with water quality and provide benefits for aquatic species in the stream (Figure 9). In addition, the potential for a carpark has been discussed with the WDC roading team who are considering the potential and feasibility of this. Due to Butchers Road having a speed limit of 100 km and the required sight lines, a traffic engineer is scoping the project. Furthermore, there is a large population of residents in the Silverstream Village which would not require parking but do require safe crossing over Ohoka Road to access the walkway. To ensure safe crossing, the PDU team are exploring the potential installation of in-road islands along Ohoka Road. These features will be planned for installation in 2026/2027.

The planting areas have been divided into 3 separate areas; native low forest planting (including the area which has already been mulched), fenceline grass and low shrub planting and riparian planting with an approx. 5 m width mown grassland path around the whole loop walk.

The planting has been spread over three consecutive years from 2025/6 – 2027/8 and is budgeted through the Arohatia te Awa project. It is anticipated that these works will be administered by the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, using interested and local volunteers for planting days in the autumn seasons.

Prior to planting, the area will require weed control and preparation to remove exotic species that will either become invasive or inhibit the growth and survival of plants. Plants of note include elderberry, bramble, mayten, ivy and periwinkle. This work should be undertaken by a qualified weed management person who will also identify any further plants of note in the site. The abandoned buildings and mature trees on site will also need to be assessed, removed or made safe by a qualified person and dealt to by Waimakariri District Council staff.

The planting plan will supplement the work which has already been started in the area ensuring enhancements are appropriate and support the health of the Ohoka Stream, whilst not obstructing access that may be required for maintenance by the Water Services Unit (this will be discuss and approved with he Water Services Unit following the Ohoka Stream hydraulic capacity assessment).

An indicative cross section of the area shows the width of different planting areas (Figure10). Species and quantities of plants can be seen in Table 1 below with an estimation of the costings for the enhancements in Table 2.

3.1. Important Staging Requirements

The Ohoka Stream enhancements will be staged to ensure the works manageable for maintenance reasons. In addition, the Ohoka Stream in the consideration of a wider hydraulic assessment by the Water Services Unit. This assessment is due to be undertaken 2026-2027 with results potentially signalling major works along the stream banks and within the portion of the esplanade reserve earmarked for restoration. To avoid any loss of plants in this area, the riparian planting will not be undertaken until 2028 and will be thoroughly scoped in collaboration with the Water Services Unit. For completeness, the enhancements for the area have been recommended in this report but these proposals are subject to change on completion of the investigation.

3.1.1. Stage 1 (2026-2027) - Fenceline and infill planting

It is recommended that the strip of planting along the path from the Butchers Road entrance have infill planting of some shrub and larger tree specimens such as tōtara and five-finger. The area is 400 m long

amounting to approx. 70 plants in total to achieve the low forest strip. At the fence edge to the north and east of the loop walk, grasses and shrubs will be planted to screen the private property and provide a corridor for invertebrates and lizards (total length of 1,100 m). This has been discussed with the residents who own properties within the looped walkway who are supportive of the proposals (21 and 61 Ohoka Road).

3.1.2. Stage 2 (2027-2028) - Low Forest Planting

Low forest planting is recommended along the Ohoka Stream section (total area of 2,500 m²), set back approx. 12 m from the water's edge. This will be a similar species compliment as recommended along Butchers Road and following the investigation of stream hydraulic capacity.

3.1.3. Stage 3 (2028-2029) - Riparian Planting

The riparian area is scheduled to be planted in 2028-2029 following any hydraulic assessments and associated works related to stream capacity. The area is 330 m in length with a proposed width of approx. 4 m, however this is variable along the length of the stream. The planting in this area will be a mixture of low growing sedges with areas of shrubs with trees grouped in certain areas to allow for view shafts of the stream and access for maintenance if required. These plans will be fully discussed and approved with the Water Services Unit to ensure planting will have no negative effects on the capacity of the waterway or access requirements following the 2026-2027 investigations.

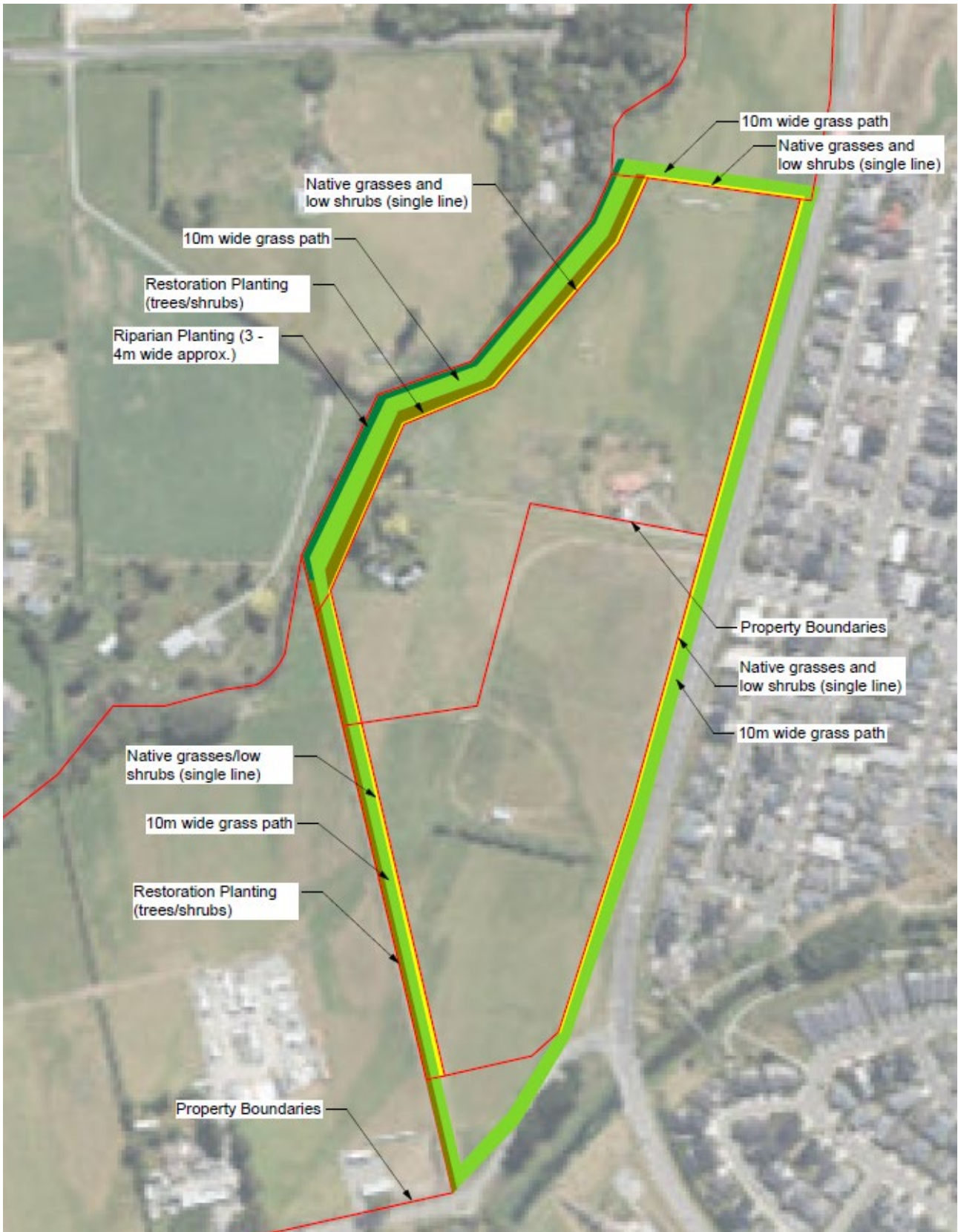


Figure 9. Concept plan for the Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve

Table 1. Suggested Species List for the different areas along the walking loop at Ohoka Esplanade Reserve.

Common Name	Latin Name	Spacing (m)	No. of plants	Comments	Ecosystem services
Grasses at fence (north and east loop, 1,100 m²)					
Grasses	<i>Anemantle lessoniana/Festuca novae-zealandiae/Poa cita</i>	1	1000	80% of the site	Erosion control, shelter, filtration, fibre, mahinga kai
Toetoe	<i>Austroderia richardii</i>	1.5	112	Scattered throughout site, group with harakeke and koromiko	Erosion control, filtration, fibre, nectar.
Koromiko	<i>Veronica salicifolia</i>	1.5	112	Scattered throughout site grouped with toetoe and harakeke	Erosion control, shelter, nectar. Cultural
Harakeke	<i>Phormium cookianum</i>	1.5	112	Scattered throughout site grouped with toetoe and koromiko	Erosion control, filtration, fibre, mahinga kai, rōngoa, nectar.
Total			1372		
Trees and Shrubs (mulched area infill)					
Mikimiki	<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	1.5	20	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Fruit (Bird), Fruit (Lizard)
Rohutu	<i>Lophomyrtus obcordata</i>	1.5	20	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Nectar (Insect)
Mapou	<i>Myrsine australis</i>	1.5	20	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Nectar (Insect), Fruit (Bird)
Five finger	<i>Pseudopanax arboeus</i>	NA	5	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Nectar (Insect), Fruit (Bird)
Totara	<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	NA	5	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Nectar (Insect), mahinga kai, Fruit
Kowhai	<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	NA	5	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Nectar (Insect, Bird)
Total			75		
Low Forest Planting (streamside section, 2,500m²)					
Kōhūhū	<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	1.5	150	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Nectar (Insect, bird), fruit (bird)
Ti kōuka, cabbage tree	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	1.5	150	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, filtration, fibre, mahinga kai, rōngoa, nectar, Nectar (Bird, insect), Cultural.
Lowland ribbonwood	<i>Plagianthus regius</i>	1.5	150	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Filtration, Timber, shade, Nectar (Bird), Nectar/Pollen (Lizard), Nectar (Insect)
Kānuka	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	1.5	150	Scattered throughout site	
Harakeke	<i>Phormium tenax</i>	1.5	100	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, filtration, fibre, mahinga kai, rōngoa, nectar.
Mikimiki	<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	1.5	45	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Fruit (Bird), Fruit (Lizard)

Common Name	Latin Name	Spacing (m)	No. of plants	Comments	Ecosystem services
Rohutu	<i>Lophomyrtus obcordata</i>	1.5	45	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Nectar (Insect)
Mapou	<i>Myrsine australis</i>	1.5	45	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Nectar (Insect), Fruit (Bird)
Five finger	<i>Pseudopanax arboeus</i>	NA	10	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Nectar (Insect), Fruit (Bird)
Totara	<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	NA	10	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Nectar (Insect), mahinga kai, Fruit
Kowhai	<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	NA	10	Scattered throughout site	Erosion control, Shelter, Nectar (Insect, Bird)
Total			940		
Riparian Planting (330 m in length/approx. 1,320 m²)					
Purei/ Rautahi	<i>Carex secta/ Carex geminata/ Carex virgata/ Luzula picta</i>	1	988	At least three strips of plants on the lower bank	Erosion control, sediment trapping, filtration, grain. Cultural
Harakeke	<i>Phormium tenax</i>	1.5	12	Two plants in 6 areas along with other trees/shrubs (excluding kahikatea)	Erosion control, filtration, fibre, mahinga kai, rōngoa, nectar.
Koromiko	<i>Veronica salicifolia</i>	1.5	12	Two plants in 6 areas along with other trees/shrubs (excluding kahikatea)	Erosion control, shelter, nectar. Cultural
Ti kōuka, cabbage tree	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	1.5	6	One plant in 6 areas along with other trees/shrubs (excluding kahikatea)	Erosion control, filtration, fibre, mahinga kai, rōngoa, nectar, Nectar (Bird, insect), Cultural.
Karamu	<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	1.5	6	One plant in 6 areas along with other trees/shrubs (excluding kahikatea)	Erosion control, Shelter, Fruit (Bird), Fruit (Lizard)
Toetoe	<i>Austroderia richardii</i>	1.5	6	One plant in 6 areas along with other trees/shrubs (excluding kahikatea)	Erosion control, filtration, grain. Cultural
Kahikatea	<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>		12	Planted in 2027/8 6 groups of 2	Erosion control, Filtration, Food, Shelter, Shade, Nectar (Bird), Fruit (Bird), Cultural
Total			1,042		
Total Plants			3,429		

Table 2. Indicative Costs 2026-2034 (this can be reviewed and amended to match available budget, this cost represents the amount required to meet levels of service for the esplanade reserve)

Item	Price	Estimated Cost (excl. GST)
Stage 1 (2026/7)		
Plants	\$4 x 1447	\$5,788
Plant guards	\$125/50 x 1447	\$3,617.5
Plant installation	\$4 x 1447 (a large part of this may be undertaken by volunteers)	\$5,788
Site preparation	\$5,000	\$5,000
Releasing and mowing	\$4,500	\$4,500
Stage 1 total		\$24,693.50
Stage 2 (2027/8)		
Plants	\$4 x 940	\$3,760
Plant guards	\$125/50 x 940	\$2,350
Plant installation	\$4 x 940 (a large part of this may be undertaken by volunteers)	\$3,760
Site preparation	\$5,000	\$5,000
Mulch (where possible)	\$3000 (delivered but not spread)	\$3,000
Releasing and mowing	\$7,000	\$7,000
Stage 2 total		\$24,870
Stage 3 (2028/9)		
Plants	\$4 x 1042	\$4,168
Plant guards	\$125/50 x 3053	\$2,605
Plant installation	\$4 x 3053 (a large part of this may be undertaken by volunteers)	\$4,168
Site preparation	\$5,000	\$5,000
Releasing and mowing	\$7,000	\$7,000
Stage 3 total		\$22,941
Assessment of abandoned buildings		\$6,000
Oter infrastructure cost (road crossing, carpark etc)		\$95,000
Maintenance and pest control (c.\$10,000 2029 – 2034)		\$60,000
Overall Total		\$233,504.50

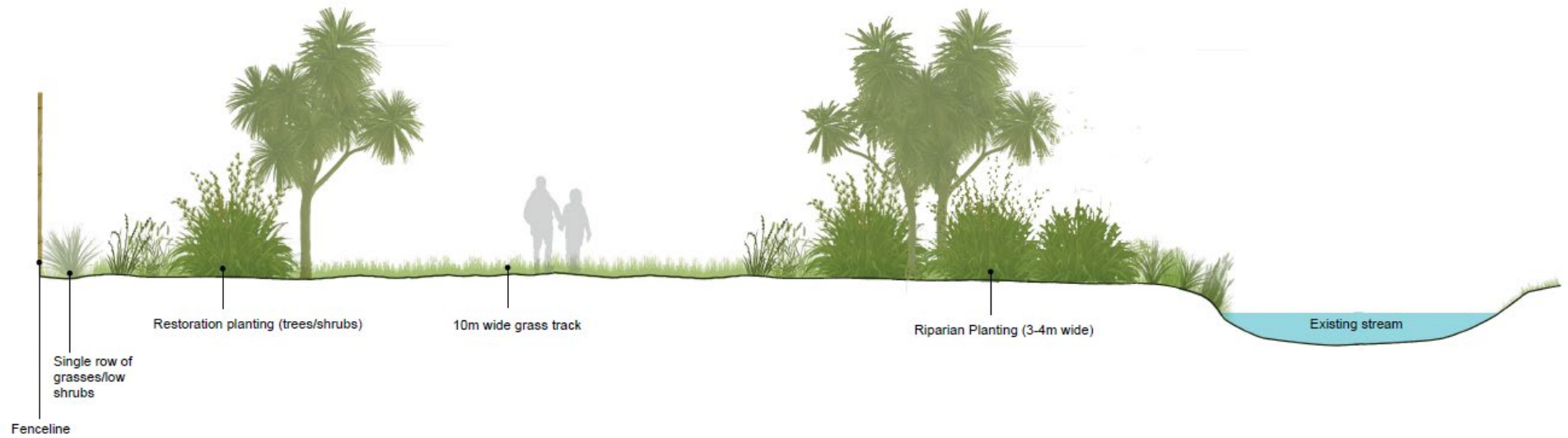


Figure 10. Indicative cross section for the Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve

3.2. Restoration Planting Methodology

3.2.1. Use of Volunteers

Parts of the project may be enacted using volunteer resource. This has benefits for the costing of the project but also enhances community engagement, the health and wellbeing of members and can foster social connections. It will also serve to highlight the walking track to local residents.

Council staff or appointed rangers will be responsible for purchasing plants to ensure correct provenance and preparing the site prior to planting. Volunteers can assist with planting days and the advertising of such events. Volunteers will require coordination from Council staff or Council appointed rangers during planting days to ensure that the site and equipment is appropriate, health and safety requirements are met and the location of plants is correct. This will guarantee that all objectives for the project are met, including positioning the riparian planting in a manner agreed with the WDC water unit to enable maintenance of the stream when required. There are further opportunities for volunteers to assist with ecological monitoring of the area going forward.

3.2.2. Site Preparation

Prior to planting and if weeds are present, it is recommended the site be cleared by mowing or other mechanical method. If acceptable, some form of weed suppressant would be beneficial. The usual form of chemical clearance would be at least one round of glyphosate, particularly targeting the area in which plants are to be planted (spot spraying). Two rounds would be ideal and applied by a suitably skilled and experienced person to ensure no spray drift and recognise any important native or non-native species. If not acceptable, additional manual maintenance may be required in the first 5 years. If invasive, tall growing, woody weeds are present (such as gorse and broom), mechanical clearance can be undertaken followed by stump painting with a systemic herbicide such as a high strength glyphosate.

Plant Introductions

- All plants will be sourced locally using specimens of local provenance (within Canterbury) where possible. It is recommended that the plants are small (1 year specimens and approx. 50 cm unless suggested otherwise by an appropriately qualified ecologist) to ensure maximum survival rates, allowing the plants to adapt to their new environment. For a closed canopy, it is recommended that plants are placed approximately 1.5 – 2 m apart (approximately 3000 - 5000 plants/ha).
- Where native plants naturally occur, these will be retained, identified and adequately protected during site preparation.
- Planting should occur in late autumn/winter (unless frosts are expected, and frost tender plants are used) to allow plants to grow roots which will enable them to survive in the dry summer period.

- Where possible, planting will take place when the weather is most suitable (avoiding hot or windy days).
- Plants should be soaked in water and left to drain immediately prior to planting.
- A hole twice the size of the plant container be dug with soil loosened at the bottom.
- Retain as much soil around the roots from the pot as possible when removing from container. In general, no cutting or teasing of roots should occur as many native plants are sensitive to root disturbance.
- Place in hole and add soil, firming each layer and water thoroughly.
- Plants will benefit from having the collar buried up to 5cm below the adjacent soil surface creating a hollow which surrounding water can drain into.
- In areas where soil quality is degraded, ensure nutrient supply and water retention by adding a scoop of good quality compost. Fertiliser tablets can be used but are not recommended for dry sites as they will not be broken down under the conditions of the soil.

Protection of plants

In almost all areas of Canterbury some form of plant protection is required. Research has shown that plant guards that are flexible and can be sculpted around the base of the plant to form a complete seal are the best. Examples are those of the Combiguards® which comprise a flexible, this plastic that can be sealed with stones or mulch around the outside. However, these must be removed when the plant has outgrown them. To combat this, a cardboard tree guard can be used which does not need to be removed by hand and will naturally degrade. If this guard is used, a substantial weed mat is recommended to alleviate the trade-off for sealing the guard with the ground. If wind is allowed to enter the tree guard, soil and plant moisture will be impacted. Therefore, a good mulch or wool weed mat is recommended at the base of each planted specimen.

Due to the minimal native ground cover and rank grass invasion, if financially viable and in areas which will not be inundated by the stream high flows, it is recommended that mulch of at least 10 cm depth is spread across the upper bank planting area or around the base of each plant (making sure not to let the mulch touch the stem of the plant). The mulch will aid soil moisture retention and temperature fluctuation and also provide further buffer against weed encroachment whilst the plants get established. Further weed management will be required before the plants reach canopy closure and outcompete adventive weeds but this methodology will incur additional costs for the project.

Maintenance

The first 2-5 years are the most important whilst the plants establish a good root system and at this time, maintenance is important. Maintenance will include removing any weeds which are growing within tree

guards and tall weeds outside of tree guards. Some trees may enjoy the shelter afforded by weeds but most restoration plantings begin with pioneer species which require full light and the exotic species may harbour pathogenic soil microbes which could affect plant growth and survival. Therefore, regular maintenance is required, especially in the growing seasons (spring and autumn for most weed species of drier habitats).

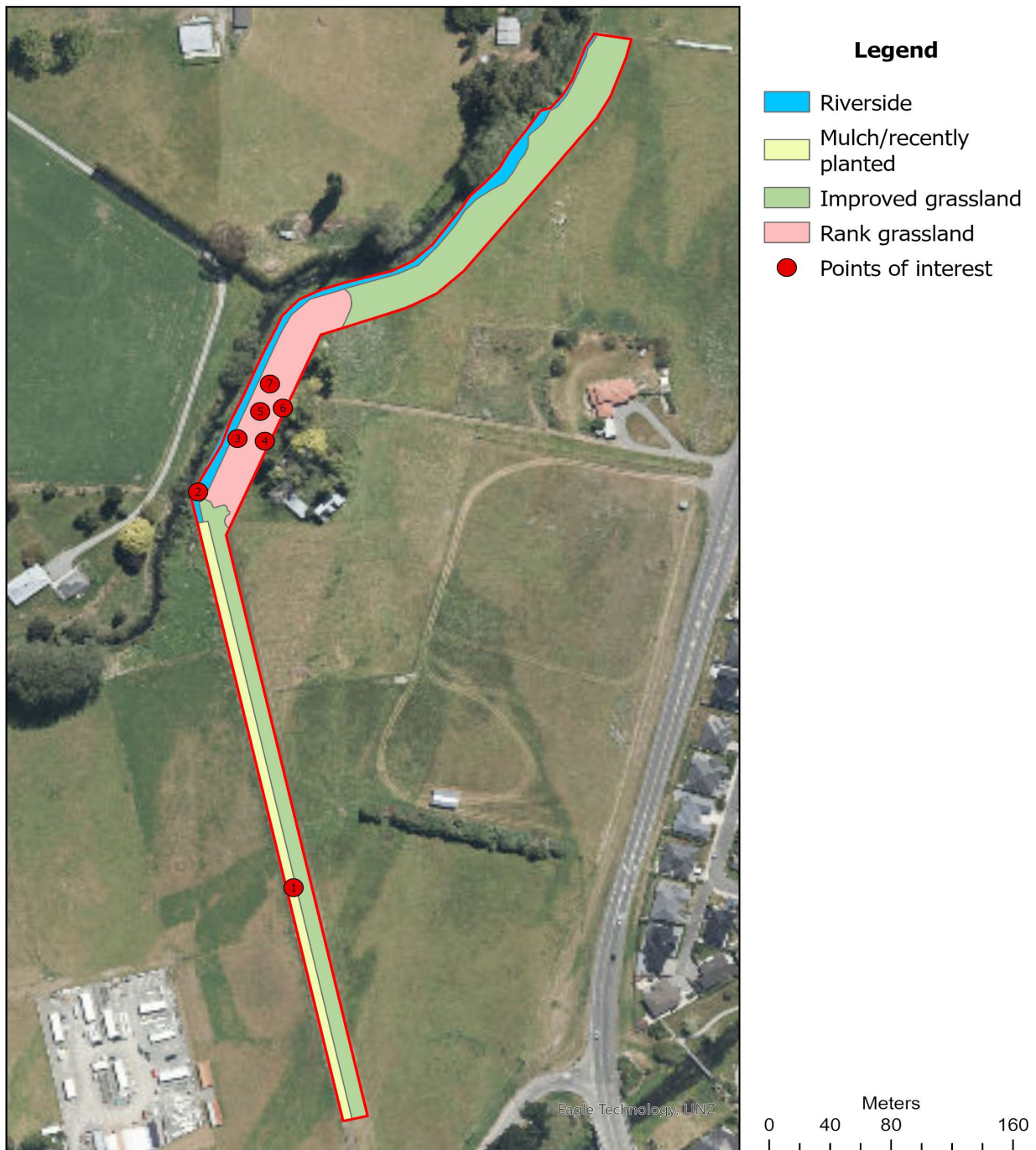
Maintenance is best undertaken manually through careful mowing and weed trimming. The tree guards afford some protection for the plants and act as indicators for where the desired plants are located. Spraying using herbicides can also be undertaken but must be done carefully. If systemic herbicides are used, be sure to be fully trained in their use and to only spray on calm days when spray drift would not be an issue. In many situations, the main weeds outcompeting native plants are exotic grasses such as cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*). In this situation, a monocot targeted chemical such as Gallant may be appropriate but used with caution around native grasses and flax plants. Alternatively, light grazing for a short time to remove grass can be effective with careful management.

The need for maintenance should lessen as the canopy expands and closes between planted trees and shrubs. However, maintenance of the area will almost always be required to remove exotic and invasive species which threaten the survival of the native plants. In addition, there may be understory plants that are desired once the canopy has closed and created enough shade and weed exclusion.

Monitoring

It is advised that monitoring is undertaken annually for the first five years to identify plant survival and report any observed ecological enhancements. This would include floral surveys plus bird, lizard and invertebrate species where possible. This information can then be used to update the restoration recovery and community outcomes wheels to monitor the trajectory of the restoration project.

APPENDIX A. Habitat Map



Ohoka points of interest:

- 1: Pine sapling growing amongst restoration plantings
- 2: Mayten
- 3: Row of cypresses (next door landowner is attached to these trees)
- 4: One kohuhu and one lemonwood apparently growing wild in this area
- 5: Various dilapidated structures and waste lying around in this area. There are two large sheds; the smaller one is missing its roof. The larger one has a floor covered in wood, straw, and old sacks; there are old equipment pieces, tires, rubbish, and gum boots inside. Electrical wiring, which still looks to be connected to the power lines outside is hanging from the ceiling. There is a toilet in another of the structures and dead possums are strewn throughout.
- 6: Mayten
- 7: Young cabbage tree growing wild

APPENDIX B. Vegetation Inventory

Floral species identified in different habitats across the site. Green highlights denote native species.

Scientific name	Common Name	Scientific name	Common Name	Scientific name	Common Name
Improved grassland		Riparian		Rank Grassland	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover	<i>Maytenus boaria</i>	Mayten	<i>Dactylis glomeratus</i>	cocksfoot
<i>Veronica persica</i>	speedwell	<i>Sambucus (nigra?)</i>	elderberry	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Plantago sp.</i>	plantain	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot	<i>Sambucus (nigra?)</i>	elderberry
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	creeping bent	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	false oat grass
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial ryegrass	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	field thistle	<i>Arum italicum</i>	arum
<i>Poa annua</i>	annual bluegrass	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Big thistle
<i>Erodium sp.</i>	heron's bill	<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	field thistle
<i>Taraxacum sp.</i>	dandelion	<i>Urtica perconfusa</i>	stream nettle	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	mallow
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	common mallow	<i>Rumex (broadleaf)</i>	dock	<i>Galium aparine</i>	sticky willy
<i>Ribes sp.</i>	currant	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	hemlock	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial ryegrass
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	velvet grass	<i>Conyza sumatrensis (Erigeron)</i>	Guernsey fleabane	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	clover
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	catsear	<i>Hedra helix</i>	ivy	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	common vetch
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot	<i>Stellaria media</i>	chickweed	<i>Hedra helix</i>	ivy
<i>Geranium sp</i>	cranesbill	<i>Carex sp.</i>	sedge	<i>Betula sp.</i>	Birch
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	hemlock	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree	<i>Ranunculus sp.</i>	buttercup
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	purslane	<i>Sambucus (nigra?)</i>	elderberry	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	meadow buttercup	<i>Taraxacum</i>	dandelion	<i>Vinca major</i>	periwinkle
Mulch/recently planted		<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	red dead nettle	<i>Maytenus boaria</i>	Mayten
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey pine	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	common vetch	<i>Solanum laciniatum</i>	kangaroo apple
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	Harakeke/flax	<i>Solanum chenopoides</i>	nightshade	<i>Pittosporum tenefolium</i>	Kohuhu
<i>Plagianthus regius</i>	ribbonwood	<i>Arum italicum</i>	arum	<i>Pittosporum eugenoides</i>	lemonwood
<i>Pittosporum eugenoides</i>	lemonwood	<i>Vinca major</i>	periwinkle	<i>Geranium molle</i>	cranesbill
<i>Austroderia toetoe</i>	toetoe	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	velvet grass	<i>Veronica persica</i>	speedwell
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree	<i>Phormium tenax</i>	Harakeke/flax	<i>Taraxacum sp</i>	dandelion
		<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial ryegrass	<i>Rumex sp</i>	dock
		<i>Rumex sp.</i>	dock	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	red dead nettle
		<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	common mallow	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Port Orford cedar
				<i>Bamboo (unk. genus)</i>	Bamboo
				<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	gold dead nettle
				<i>Cupressa macrocarpa (?)</i>	Monterey cypress
				<i>Alnus sp.</i>	alder

APPENDIX C. Restoration Recovery Wheel Parameters



The Five-star System Attributes Rating Table. Attribute ratings are used to measure progress along a trajectory of recovery. This 5-star scale represents a gradient from either no (zero) or very low to very high similarity to the reference model and is applicable to any level of recovery where a reference ecosystem is used. As it is a generic framework, users must develop indicators and monitoring metrics specific to the ecosystem and sub-attributes they identify. (Note: The starting point of an attribute can be zero or any star level, and examples in the table accumulate along the spectrum) (adapted from Gann et al. 2019, Standards Reference Group SERA 2021, Young et al. 2022.)

Required citation: Gann GD, McDonald T, Walder B, Young R, Dixon KW (2024) Updated Five-star System attributes rating table for SER's International principles and standards for the practice of ecological restoration; adapted from Gann et al. 2019, Standards Reference Group SERA 2021, Young et al. 2022. Society for Ecological Restoration. Washington, D.C. USA: <https://www.ser.org/page/Standards-Tools>

Attributes	Zero stars	One star (★)	Two stars (★★)	Three stars (★★★)	Four stars (★★★★)	Five stars (★★★★★)
Absence of threats	High numbers and degrees of direct degradation drivers present (e.g., overharvesting, erosion, active contamination). Conservation status may not be secured.	Some direct degradation drivers absent and conservation status secured, but others remain high in number and degree.	Direct degradation drivers (including sources of invasive species, absence of appropriate natural disturbance regimes) intermediate in number and degree.	Number of direct degradation drivers low but some may remain intermediate in degree.	Direct degradation drivers, both external and on-site, low in number and degree.	Known threats from direct degradation drivers minimal or effectively absent.
Physical condition	Landforms and most physical and chemical properties of the site's substrates and hydrology (e.g., soil structure, nutrients, pH, salinity, depth to water table) are highly dissimilar to the reference.	Landforms and most physical and chemical properties of the site's substrates and hydrology still highly dissimilar to reference but some showing improved similarity.	Landforms and physical and chemical properties of substrates and hydrology, remain at low similarity levels relative to reference but capable of supporting some biota of reference.	Landforms and physical and chemical properties of substrates and hydrology stabilized within intermediate range of reference and capable of supporting growth and development of many characteristic native biota.	Landforms very similar to the reference, and physical and chemical conditions of substrates and hydrology highly similar to reference and suitable for sustained growth and recruitment of most characteristic native biota.	Landforms very similar to reference, and physical and chemical conditions of substrates and hydrology very highly similar to that of the reference with evidence they can indefinitely sustain all characteristic species and processes.
Species composition	Absence or very low presence of colonizing native species and genes (e.g., <5% of the reference). Extremely high abundance of nonnative invasive or undesirable species (e.g., >80% relative cover).	Some colonizing native species and genes present (e.g., >5% of the reference). Very high levels of nonnative invasive or undesirable species (e.g., <80% relative cover).	A small subset of characteristic native species and genes present (e.g., >25% of the reference) across site. High to intermediate levels of nonnative invasive or undesirable species (e.g., <60% relative cover).	A subset of key native species and genes present (e.g., >50% of the reference) over substantial proportions of the site. Intermediate to low levels of nonnative invasive or undesirable species (e.g., <25% relative cover).	Substantial diversity of characteristic native species and genes present (e.g., >75% of the reference) across the site and representing a wide diversity of functional groups. Low to very low levels of nonnative invasive or undesirable species (e.g., <10% relative cover).	High diversity of characteristic native species and genes present (e.g., >95% of the reference), with high similarity to the reference ecosystem and high potential for colonization of more native species over time. Very low to nil invasive or undesirable species (e.g., <2% relative cover).
Structural diversity	No stratum of the reference present, and spatial patterning and community trophic complexity dissimilar or highly dissimilar to the reference.	At least one stratum of the reference present but spatial patterning and community trophic complexity still largely dissimilar to reference.	Multiple strata of the reference present but some similarity of spatial patterning and trophic complexity relative to reference.	Most strata of the reference present and intermediate similarity of spatial patterning and trophic complexity relative to reference.	All strata of the reference present and substantial similarity of spatial patterning and trophic complexity relative to reference.	All strata present and spatial patterning and trophic complexity high. Further complexity and spatial patterning able to self-organize to highly resemble the reference.
Ecosystem function	Processes and functions (e.g., water and nutrient cycling, habitat provision, natural disturbance regimes) absent or severely diminished compared to the reference.	Processes and functions at a very foundational stage only compared to the reference.	Low numbers and levels of physical and biological processes and functions relative to the reference are present (incl. plant growth, decomposition, soil processes).	Intermediate numbers and levels of physical and biological processes and functions relative to the reference are present.	Substantial levels of physical and biological processes and functions relative to the reference are present.	All functions and processes (including natural disturbance regimes) are present and show evidence of being sustained.

APPENDIX D. Community Outcomes Wheel Parameters

<u>STAR RATING</u>					<u>POTENTIAL MEASURE</u>	<u>COMMUNITY OUTCOMES REFERENCE</u>
*	**	***	****	*****		
<u>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</u>						
<i>Involvement attracted</i>						
Stakeholders identified	Stakeholders identified and made aware of project	50% stakeholders feeding into at least one action	All stakeholders feeding into at least one action	All stakeholders feeding into all actions they wish to be involved in	Number of groups involved	Economic 1 Economic 3 Environmental 1
<i>Support maintained</i>						
Support required identified	Support requirements and strategies identified	Support strategies employed (at least 50% of available)	All support strategies employed	Support strategies are sustainable, circular and maintained	Number of groups with support (funding, operational support etc)	Social 4
<i>Capacity increased</i>						
Capacity required outlined	Capacity increased to 50%	Capacity increased to 75%	Capacity sustained	Sustained capacity and succession planning	Number of volunteers per group/site	Economic 2
<u>BENEFITS DISTRIBUTION</u>						
<i>Sustainable land use</i>						
One star eco recovery wheel	Two star eco recovery wheel	Three star eco recovery wheel	Four star eco recovery wheel	Five star eco recovery wheel	Reserve/Site recovery wheel	Environmental 2
<i>Opportunity equalised</i>						
Access restrictions and distribution identified	25% site open access for all	50% of site open access	100% site has open access	Open access for diverse community groups from across the district	Accessible paths	Social 7 Environmental 6
<i>Culture conserved</i>						
Stakeholder culture identified	25% stakeholder culture reflected	50% stakeholder culture reflected	75% stakeholder culture reflected	All stakeholder cultures, art, history are reflected	Amount of intervention	Cultural 1 Cultural 2 Cultural 4
<u>KNOWLEDGE ENRICHMENT</u>						
<i>Knowledge innovated</i>						
Relevant information sources are identified and new information mechanisms selected	Relevant information sources used to inform projects	Relevant information sources implemented (using trial and error)	Relevant information sources are implemented (using trial and error) informing projects with results analysed	Relevant information sources are implemented and disseminated widely	Assess plans, designs, maintenance operations	Social 5 Economic 7
<i>Spaces/places innovated</i>						

Opportunities for a range of uses, including the sharing of knowledge and resource are identified	At least 25% of opportunities for a range of uses are implemented	At least 50% of opportunities for a range of uses are implemented	At least 75% of opportunities for a range of uses are implemented	Opportunities of a place are realised for the sharing of knowledge/resource for all stakeholders and iteratively assessed for new opportunities	Assess ongoing use	Economic 6 Economic 7
TEK reinforced						
TEK is identified	TEK is informing the project	All relevant TEK is informing project	All relevant TEK informing project in a trial and error format, being analysed	All relevant TEK informing project and being disseminated	Assess plans, designs, operations	Social 5
SUSTAINABLE PLACES						
Climate change mitigation/adaptation						
Strategies for climate change adaptation/mitigation identified	Strategies are beginning to be implemented	A number of Strategies are implemented	Strategies are implemented and analysed	Strategies for climate change mitigation/adaptation are implemented, analysed and reported on	Assess plans, designs, maintenance operations	Environmental 3 Environmental 4
Compatible recreation						
Compatible recreation is identified.	Some compatible recreation is enabled	A suite of compatible recreation activities are enabled	A suite of compatible recreation activities are enabled and undertaken	A variety of compatible recreational activities are undertaken, analysed and reported on	User survey	Social 1
Affordable/sustainable infrastructure						
Compatible and sustainable grey and green infrastructure/ resources are identified	A minimal amount of compatible and sustainable grey and green infrastructure is enabled.	At least minimal compatible and sustainable grey and green infrastructure is enabled and maintained.	A moderate amount of grey and green, compatible and sustainable infrastructure is enabled and maintained.	A variety of grey and green infrastructure are sustainably maintained (including aspects such as mahinga kai)	Assess facilities information. User survey	Economic 3 Environment 5
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES						
Circular economies realised						
Circular economies are identified.	Some circular economies are enabled.	Circular economies are enabled.	Circular economies are enabled and monitored.	All waste and pollution is eliminated through sustainable circular economies, monitored and reported on.	Assess plans, policies, operations	Economic 5
Employment innovation and generation						
Innovative avenues for employment are identified	Innovative avenues for employment are generated.	Innovative avenues for employment are generated and implemented.	Innovative avenues for employment are generated, implemented and analysed.	Innovative avenues for employment are generated, implemented, analysed and reported on.	Assess plans, policies, user groups, survey	Cultural 5 Cultural 6 Economic 5
Eco-business secured						
Sustainable and compatible eco-business opportunities identified	Sustainable and compatible eco-business opportunities are identified and endorsed.	Sustainable and compatible eco-business opportunities are implemented.	Sustainable and compatible eco-business opportunities are implemented and analysed.	Sustainable and compatible eco-business opportunities are implemented, analysed and reported on.	Assess, plans, policies, user groups, survey	Economic 1 Economic 2

COMMUNITY WELLBEING						
<i>Sense of place secured</i>						
Sense of place identified from a range of stakeholders	Sense of place implemented for a limited amount of stakeholders.	Sense of place implemented for a moderate amount of stakeholders.	Sense of place implemented for a high proportion of stakeholders.	Sense of place implemented to reflect all stakeholders	User survey	Social 6 Cultural 1
<i>Social bonding improved</i>						
Space activation opportunities are identified	Space activations are implemented.	Space activations are sustained and analysed.	Space activations are sustained, analysed, and reported on.	Space activations are sustained, analysed, reported on and improved for different social experiences	Number of visitors during user survey	Cultural 2 Cultural 3
<i>Health and wellbeing improved</i>						
Health and wellbeing of community is identified	Health and wellbeing is improved.	Health and wellbeing improvement is sustained.	Health and wellbeing improvement is sustained and analysed.	Health and wellbeing improvement is sustained, analysed and reported on.	User survey	Social 2

- Cultural 1 - Public spaces express our cultural identities and help to foster an inclusive society.
- Cultural 2 - The distinctive character of our takiwā / district, arts and heritage are preserved and enhanced.
- Cultural 3 - All members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers
- Cultural 4 - Waimakariri's diversity is freely expressed, respected and valued
- Cultural 5 - There is an environment that supports creativity and innovation for all.
- Cultural 6 - Local arts, culture and heritage are able to make a growing contribution to the community and economy.
- Economic 1 - Enterprises are supported and enabled to succeed.
- Economic 2 - There is access to meaningful, rewarding, and safe employment within the district.
- Economic 3 - Our district recognises the value of both paid and unpaid work
- Economic 5 - Our district readily adapts to innovation and emerging technologies that support its transition to a circular economy
- Economic 6 - There are sufficient and appropriate locations where businesses can set up in our District.
- Economic 7 - There are sufficient skills and education opportunities available to support the economy.
- Environmental 1 - People are supported to participate in improving the health and sustainability of our environment
- Environmental 2 - Land use is sustainable; biodiversity is protected and restored
- Environmental 3 - Our district is resilient and able to quickly respond to and recover from natural disasters and the effects of climate change.
- Environmental 4 - Our district transitions towards a reduced carbon and waste district.
- Environment 5 - The natural and built environment in which people live is clean, healthy and safe
- Environmental 6 - Our communities are able to access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.
- Social 1 - Public spaces are diverse, respond to changing demographics and meet local needs for leisure and recreation.
- Social 2 - Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimising the risk of social harm to its communities.
- Social 4 - Our community groups are sustainable and able to get the support they need to succeed
- Social 5 - 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.
- Social 6 - People are able to enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whanau, communities, iwi and workplaces
- Social 7 - Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION**

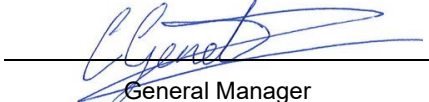

FILE NO and TRIM NO: GOV-26-10-06 / 260414095877

REPORT TO: OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD

DATE OF MEETING: 6 May 2026

FROM: Kay Rabe, Governance Advisor

SUBJECT: Ratification of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board's submissions to the Waimakariri District Council and Environment Canterbury's draft 2026-27 Annual Plans

SIGNED BY:  General Manager  Chief Executive

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to retrospectively ratify the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board's (the Board) submissions to the Waimakariri District Council's (the Council) and Environment Canterbury's (ECan) draft 2026-27 Annual Plans.
- 1.2 The Board held a workshop on 13 April 2026 to discuss its submission. As the submission deadline fell before the next scheduled meeting, the established practice was to circulate the draft submission to Board members for review, incorporate any amendments, and have the Chair sign the final submission on the Board's behalf. If the Board decided to withdraw its submission, staff would do so as requested.

Attachments:

- i. The Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Submission to the Waimakariri District Council draft 2026-27 Annual Plan (Trim Ref: 260414095680).
- ii. The Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Submission to Environment Canterbury's draft 2026-27 Annual Plan (Trim Ref: 260330086773).

2 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 260414095877.
- (b) **Ratifies** its submission to the Waimakariri District Council draft 2026-27 Annual Plan (Trim Ref: 260414095680).
- (c) **Ratifies** its submission to Environment Canterbury's draft 2026-27 Annual Plan (Trim Ref: 260330086773).
- (d) **Notes** that the Board Chairperson and/or Deputy Chairperson will speak at the Waimakariri District Council Submission Hearings to convey the Board's view in person on Thursday, 7 May 2026.

3 **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Board's goal is to actively participate in ECan and the Council's budget processes to ensure equitable spending across the Waimakariri District, whilst being mindful of rates affordability. As part of the Annual Planning process, the Board aims to advocate to ECan and the Council on key issues and priorities for the Oxford-Ohoka area, through their Annual and Long Term Plan Processes.
- 3.2 The submission period for ECan's draft 2026-27 Annual Plan closed on 31 March 2026, and the submission period for the Council's draft 2025-26 Annual Plan closed on 20 April 2026.

4 **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Board's submission on ECan's draft 2026–27 Annual Plan was prepared based on members' views and the Board's previous submissions. It was circulated to members for review and comment.
- 4.2 The finalised submission on ECan's draft 2026–27 Annual Plan was approved by the Chairperson on 30 March 2026 and lodged on 31 March 2026.
- 4.3 The Council's Chief Executive and General Manager Finance and Business Support provided an overview of the Council's draft 2026–27 Annual Plan at the All-Boards Session on 18 February 2026. Subsequently, the Board held a workshop on 13 April 2026 to discuss its submission to the Council's draft 2026–27 Annual Plan.
- 4.4 The finalised submission to the Council's draft 2026–27 Annual Plan was approved by the Deputy Chairperson and lodged on 20 April 2026.
- 4.5 As the submission deadline fell before the next scheduled meeting, the established practice is to circulate the draft submission to Board members for review, incorporate any amendments, and have the Chair sign the final submission on the Board's behalf. If the Board decided to withdraw its submission, staff would do so as requested.
- 4.6 The following options are, therefore, available to the Board:
- 4.6.1 **Option One:** Retrospectively ratify its submissions to the Council's and ECan's draft 2025–26 Annual Plans. This is the recommended option.
- 4.6.2 **Option Two:** Request that specific points within the submissions to the Council's and ECan's draft 2025–26 Annual Plans be withdrawn.
- 4.7 **Implications for Community Wellbeing:**
The issues and options discussed in this report have social, cultural, economic, or environmental implications for community well-being. The Board aims to advocate to ECan and the Council on key issues and priorities to ensure the overall wellbeing of the Oxford-Ohoka Community.
- 4.8 The Management Team have reviewed this report.

5 **COMMUNITY VIEWS**

- 5.1 **Mana Whenua**
Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū is not likely to be affected by or have an interest in the subject matter of this report.
- 5.2 **Groups and Organisations**
No other groups or organisations are likely to be affected by or have an interest in this report's subject matter.

5.3 **Wider Community**

The wider community is likely to be affected by or have an interest in this report's subject matter. Board members based their submissions on feedback from the Oxford-Ohoka community.

6 **IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

6.1 **Financial Implications**

Should the Council decide to implement some of the Board submission points, there may be budget implications for the Council. The Board do not receive funding from sources other than the Council.

6.2 **Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts**

The Board's submissions to the Council and ECan's draft 2025-26 Annual Plans raise various concerns about sustainability and climate change.

6.3 **Risk Management**

There are no risks arising from adopting the recommendations in this report.

6.4 **Health and Safety**

There are no health and safety-related issues from adopting the recommendations in this report.

7 **CONTEXT**

7.1 **Consistency with Policy**

These matters are not matters of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

7.2 **Authorising Legislation**

The Local Government Act (2002) states that the role of a Community Board is to represent and advocate for the interests of its community.

7.3 **Consistency with Community Outcomes**

People are friendly and caring, creating a strong sense of community in our District.

There are wide-ranging opportunities for people of different ages and cultures to participate in community life and recreational activities.

7.4 **Authorising Delegations**

The Board is required to advocate on behalf of the Community to ECan and the Council on key issues and priorities for the community area, especially through the Annual and Long Term planning and budgeting process.

April 2026

To: The Waimakariri District Council

Submission: 2026/27 Draft Annual Plan

From: Oxford-Ohoka Community Board

Contacts: Kay Rabe – Governance Advisor com.board@wmk.govt.nz
Sarah Barkle (Chairperson) sarah.barkle@wmk.govt.nz

The Chairperson respectfully requests to be heard with regard to this submission.

The Oxford-Ohoka Community Board (the Board) would sincerely like to thank the Waimakariri District Council for the opportunity to make a submission to its 2026/27 Draft Annual Plan.

The Board supports the Council's position in response to recent changes in local government legislation.

Introduction

The Board reviewed the Draft Annual Plan 2026/27 consultation document and considered it to be overly high-level, providing limited practical information to enable meaningful community engagement. Many of the matters outlined were already underway or predetermined—such as the Council's response to central government changes and the establishment of the internal water unit—thereby limiting the opportunity for informed feedback. The Board considers that more targeted consultation, including clear questions and options, would have generated more constructive and relevant input.

Overall, the Board is concerned that the consultation process appeared largely perfunctory. Notwithstanding this, the Board found the information explaining what rates fund to be useful.

PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN

1. Changes to Local Government

The Board has no comment on this item and considers it unlikely that the concerns raised by councils will materially influence Central Government's approach.

2. Local Water Done Well

The Board notes that the decision on this matter has been made and therefore does not feel that there is any merit in making further comment.

The Board requests that the Council consider water rating arrangements once the new entity is established, given concerns about the disproportionate costs faced by rural communities owing to the small number of residents connected to the schemes.

3. **Rangiora Eastern Link**

The Board did not support the project when it was proposed in the previous Long Term Plan, as it believed there was insufficient information to determine whether the Eastern Link would effectively reduce congestion through Southbrook.

The Board remains concerned about the significant increase in estimated costs, from \$37.9 million in 2024 to \$65 million, which reinforces its view that inadequate information was provided at that time. While recognising that further delay may lead to additional cost escalation, the Board therefore offers reluctant support for the project, subject to confirmation of funding from the New Zealand Transport Agency and no further substantial increases in cost prior to the project commencing. However, current fuel cost pressures and the risk of supply constraints create uncertainty around the ability to contain costs.

4. **Capital Programme**

The Board is very supportive of the Council's intention to review and reprioritise projects to determine a realistic delivery of the Capital Programme for the next Long Term Plan.

The Board supports efficient, strategic project planning to promote more consistent contractor expenditure. The Board encourages Council to consider a more consistent way of calculating the capital works budget as this would encourage local contractors to scale their businesses to a size compatible with the work. We also suggest that they employ local companies to ensure a consistent standard of workmanship and that they have a clearly signalled pipeline of ongoing work to help encourage local investment and upskilling

5. **Additional**

Service Delivery

The Board encourages the Council to consider surveying the public to assess appetite for targeted reductions in service delivery, particularly given rising fuel costs and ongoing cost-of-living pressures on contractors and residents.

Average Rates figures

The Board considers that presenting a single rates figure at the end of the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan can be misleading for ratepayers. While it represents a district-wide average, this is not always well understood by residents, particularly in areas such as Oxford and Cust where rate increases are often higher. The Board encourages the Council to provide clearer, locality-specific indicative figures when communicating rates, for example outlining separate averages for Kaiapoi, Cust and Oxford, or at the least between urban and rural areas.

Main Street Oxford

The Board acknowledges the road sealing recently completed at the eastern end of Main Street, Oxford, and requests that this work be extended to the remainder of the street. The Board seeks the development of a clear plan to complete sealing from Harewood Road through to Woodside Road.

Tree Planting at Mandeville

The Board requests that the Council consider partnering with the Mandeville Sports Club to reinstate the trees removed from the boundary in 2025 for safety reasons, given their contribution to shelter, privacy, and overall amenity.

The Board thanks the Council for considering this submission and acknowledges the effort made to minimise the proposed rate increase while continuing to deliver essential services.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Robson', written in a cursive style.

Thomas Robson
Deputy Chairperson
Oxford-Ohoka Community Board

TRIM Ref: 260330086773

30 March 2026

Councillor Deon Swiggs
The Chairperson
Environment Canterbury Council
200 Tuam Street
CHRISTCHURCH, 8011

E-mail: mailroom@ecan.govt.nz

Dear Sir

FEEDBACK ON ENVIRONMENTAL CANTERBURY'S DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2026/27

The Oxford-Ohoka Community Board (the Board) thank Environment Canterbury (ECan) for the opportunity to comment on its draft Annual Plan 2026/27 (AP).

Public Transport

- Rural residents remain frustrated at subsidising public transport services they cannot access. The Board therefore requests that only areas with available public transport be charged the public transport levy.
- Oxford has no public transport options and remains isolated as a result. The Board continues to advocate for appropriate services that connect Oxford with Rangiora and/or Christchurch.
- The Oxford Community Trust currently provides essential transport services in the absence of public provision. Should this support cease, Oxford would be left without any viable transport options. The Board urges ECan to introduce small buses on the Oxford–Rangiora route to ensure residents—particularly older people and youth—can access medical services, education, and community activities.

Water

- The Board requests that ECan urgently improve its understanding of the ward's groundwater systems. Robust, detailed knowledge of groundwater flows, aquifer behaviour, land-use impacts, and system connectivity is essential to ensure sustainable management of this critical resource. The Board seeks assurance that ECan has the necessary information to make informed, sustainable consent decisions.

The Board remains concerned about historic over-allocation of water, which should not have occurred. Allocation limits should have been established and enforced in advance, with corrective action taken once over-allocation was identified. Water is fundamental to life and must be treated as a top priority. Global projections indicate that freshwater may be over-allocated by 40% by 2030, underscoring the urgency of stronger protection measures.

ECan has not demonstrated that groundwater is being treated as a priority, despite increasing pressures from land use and climate change. The Board believes that household supply must be prioritised ahead of farming needs, and that consents should not simply be renewed when allocations exceed natural recharge levels.

The Board recommends a coordinated approach with district councils to collect comprehensive, real-world data on groundwater, aquifers, surface water, and drainage systems. Drainage and rising water tables are ongoing issues in the Swannanoa, Mandeville, and Ohoka areas. Better information is required to understand rainfall impacts, the effects of irrigation, and potential climate-related changes. Without this knowledge, future planning will be compromised.

The Board also recommends regular aerial assessments following significant rainfall events to accurately document flow patterns. Additional studies should be undertaken to assess contaminant levels in aquifers to provide residents—particularly those on private wells—with clear, localised information. This work should be carried out jointly with the Waimakariri District Council due to the shared catchment.

Finally, local historical knowledge should be incorporated into this work. Community insights into past drainage patterns, land modifications, diverted waterways, and historical drain depths could provide valuable context and help identify contributing factors to current drainage and flooding issues.

River Maintenance

- The Board seeks assurance that river maintenance is undertaken to a high standard to protect the community and local infrastructure during severe weather events. Following recent tree maintenance along the Ashley and Eyre Rivers, significant quantities of slash were left on the banks and riverbeds, creating potential hazards during flooding. The Board also notes the presence of dead and dying willow trees and stumps within the Ashley Riverbed, which are altering river flow and could cause damage if mobilised during high-flow events.

The Board further recommends the installation of additional water-flow gauges downstream on the Eyre River—ideally just upstream of Swannanoa—to enable accurate monitoring during high-flow periods. Existing gauges at the river head do not reflect downstream topography. This may already be planned, but the Board wishes to reiterate its support for this improvement.

The Board also encourages increased public communication on the financial and environmental impacts of illegal dumping in riverbeds. Providing clear, evidence-based information to ratepayers may help improve public awareness and reduce this activity.

The Board again thanks Councillor Claire McKay for her consistent engagement throughout previous terms and looks forward to strengthening its relationship with ECan. All ECan Councillors are warmly invited to attend Board meetings, held on the first Wednesday of each month. The Board is happy to serve as a resource and a direct communication channel to local residents. Continued attendance will help keep the Board informed of regional developments and support ECan Councillors in understanding the issues affecting the Oxford-Ohoka Ward.

Other Matters

- The Board wishes to raise concerns about the consistency of compliance processes and the continuity of case management, particularly when staffing changes occur. Adequate resourcing and robust internal handover procedures are essential to ensure timely and consistent follow-up of complaints and compliance matters. The Board is aware of ongoing issues relating to the Canterbury Landscape Supplies composting site on Diversion Road, where multiple community complaints have not always been addressed adequately. This has caused frustration for affected

residents and has also been unfair to the site operators, as opportunities for early mitigation may be overlooked when issues are not clearly communicated.

As a Community Board, we are often the first point of contact for residents experiencing issues involving regulatory authorities. Given the predominantly rural nature of our ward, many of these matters fall within the Regional Council's responsibilities. While we understand the distinction between regional and district roles, this is not always clear to ratepayers. In the context of the Annual Plan, the Board encourages Environment Canterbury to strengthen its communication, community engagement, and public-facing responsiveness to improve understanding of local issues.

Recent concerns raised within the community include the Canterbury Landscape Supplies composting plant, the Burnt Hill Storage Pond/Dam, Woodstock Quarries Landfill, and the Ohoka Development. In these matters, both the Board and local residents have observed limited visible engagement from Regional Council elected members at public meetings or within the wider community. This has contributed to a perception of disconnect, further heightened by the decision to forgo verbal public submissions in favour of drop-in sessions. The Board encourages Council to consider how it can better listen to and respond to community voices through more direct and meaningful engagement

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment.

Regards



Sarah Barkle
Chairperson
Oxford-Ohoka Community Board

Contact: Kay Rabe, Governance Advisor com.board@wmk.govt.nz, C/- Waimakariri District Council, Private Bag 1005, Rangiora 7440.

OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD

MEMBERS INFORMATION EXCHANGE

For the month April 2026

Member' Name: Mark Brown

COMMUNITY INTERACTION	ISSUES RAISED	ACTION SUGGESTED
<i>i.e., Events, meetings, e-mails</i>	<i>i.e., Community Feedback and Concerns</i>	<i>i.e., call for report, refer to Council, Service Request</i>
<i>20/4/26-Oxford Promotions</i>	<i>New committee with some great ideas</i>	
<i>21/4/26-Waimakariri Health Advisory Group</i>	<i>Main topics-Mental Health for Rural workers and homeless</i>	
<i>28/4/26-Health NZ -Future Oxford Health</i>	<i>Future of Oxford Hospital and access to end of life and palliative care</i>	
<i>11/4/26-Oxford A&P Show</i>	<i>Great set up</i>	
<i>23/4/26-Facebook and saw the damage myself</i>	<i>Intentional damage to sign posts on Down Road from North Eyre to the ford</i>	<i>Has since been fixed</i>

- * *The purpose of this exchange is to provide a short update to other members in relation to activities/meetings that have been attended or to provide general Board related information.*
- * *Members are urges to submit written information exchange in time for inclusion in the Community Board Agenda for the community's benefit.*

OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD

MEMBERS INFORMATION EXCHANGE

For the month of April

Member' Name: Tim Fulton

COMMUNITY INTERACTION	ISSUES RAISED	ACTION SUGGESTED
<i>i.e, Events, meetings, e-mails</i>	<i>i.e, Community Feedback and Concerns</i>	<i>i.e, Call for report, refer to Council, Service Request</i>
<i>Attended first Burnt Hill Storage Ltd Community Liaison meeting</i>	<i>A large group, to be led by an independent chair</i>	<i>Updates on activity available on Burnt Hill Storage Ltd website www.bhsl.co.nz and through Tim Fulton (or other community or company appointees)</i>
<i>Attended ANZAC services at Oxford, West Eyreton and briefly at Cust</i>	<i>Well run and moving as always</i>	
<i>Attended Swannanoa Cricket Club inauguration of Honours Board</i>		
<i>Spoke to North Canterbury Museums meeting at Cust on Wolffs Bridge</i>		
<i>Attended Oxford A&P Show</i>		
<i>Experience Oxford</i>	<i>A mostly new and enthusiastic committee is in place</i>	
<i>Wolffs Bridge (WRFSI)</i>	<i>Welcomed two new committee members, Cass Reilly and Wayne Youngman. We also have a new logo and are about to take external advice on marketing strategy</i>	

- * *The purpose of this exchange is to provide a short update to other members in relation to activities/meetings that have been attended or to provide general Board related information.*
- * *Members are urged to submit written information exchange in time for inclusion in the Community Board Agenda for the community's benefit.*

OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD

MEMBERS INFORMATION EXCHANGE

For the month of April 2026

Member' Name: Wayne Godfrey

COMMUNITY INTERACTION	ISSUES RAISED	ACTION SUGGESTED
<i>i.e, Events, meetings, e-mails</i>	<i>i.e, Community Feedback and Concerns</i>	<i>i.e, Call for report, refer to Council, Service Request</i>
<i>8th April Oxford Ohoka Community Board Meeting – Ohoka Hall</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>12th April Ohoka Domain Working Bee</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>12th April Ohoka Domain Board Meeting</i>	<p><i>Comments regarding the ongoing challenges of funding for the Gatekeepers House</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Needs for maintenance and costs</i> - <i>Funding for domain but not for the building</i> <p><i>Plans underway to build a tool shed on the Gatekeepers house site for general tools and m owner etc</i></p>	<p><i>Look at funding for the ongoing maintenance off the Gatekeepers house. It's an aged weatherboard building and good progress has been made to renovate it. Particular attention needs to be given to ensuring the outer cladding is weather tight and roofing is in good condition</i></p> <p><i>Is there funding from Ohoka domain Friday Farmers Market revenue that could be tagged for this building maintenance project ?</i></p>
<i>13th April Oxford Ohoka Community Board Submission Meeting</i>	<p><i>The process of the annual plan appears largely already programmed meaning there is limited legitimate value in the submission process. This undermines the integrity of the process. Noted that local Govt is in change however and this complicates the current process.</i></p>	
<i>15th April Wards Rd Walkway Planting</i>	<p><i>No issues but a really great and productive day for the community. While there was one councillor and one community board member it would be good if WDC formally acknowledged the effort the community put in.</i></p>	<p><i>Next time we will ensure there are refreshments and possibly a BBQ as part of the planning.</i></p>

