

Agenda

Oxford-Ohoka Community Board

Wednesday 3 June 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



WAIMAKARIRI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD TO BE HELD AT THE OXFORD TOWN HALL, MAIN STREET, OXFORD, ON WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 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 – 6 May 2026**

7-15

RECOMMENDATION

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 6 May 2026.

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

5. **DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

6. **ADJOURNED BUSINESS**

Nil.

7. REPORTS

7.1. Proposed Roding Capital Works Programme for 2026 / 27 and Indicative Three-year Programme – Kieran Straw (Civil Projects Team Leader) and Joanne McBride (Roding and Transport Manager)

16-28

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260508111821.
- (b) **Endorses** the 2026/27 DRAFT Proposed Roding Capital Works Programme (Trim: 260508111836).
- (c) **Endorses** the indicative Roding Capital Works Programme for the 2027/28, 2028/29 and 2029/30 years.
- (d) **Notes** that any feedback on the programme included with this report will be taken by staff at the Board meeting and incorporated into the final report which is proposed to be taken to the Utilities and Roding Committee in July 2026 for approval.

7.2. Mandeville Cemetery (Bradleys Road) Enhancement Plan – Bex Dollery (Biodiversity Team Leader)

29-63

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260412093988.
- (b) **Approves** the Draft Mandeville Cemetery Enhancement Plan (Trim: 260215026682).
- (c) **Notes** \$21,128 from the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy implementation funds to undertake enhancements.
- (d) **Notes** that the enhancement plan contains the development of lizard habitat. This will not be created until required but is identified as an important area that will deliver biodiversity benefit in the future.
- (e) **Notes** that marked and unmarked graves will be identified using ground penetrating radar (a non-invasive method) and marked using signage and, where appropriate, the use of wildflower plantings.
- (f) **Notes** that further surveys may alter the enhancement plan with the potential of some pine trees removed (due to health and safety reasons) and some adjustment to location of plantings should unmarked graves be discovered in those areas.

7.3. West Eyreton Pit Enhancement Plan – Bex Dollery (Biodiversity Team Leader)

64-82

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260429105559.
- (b) **Approves** the Draft West Eyreton Pit Enhancement Plan (Trim: 240316041296).
- (c) **Notes** that funding of \$13,620 is required for the enhancements as allocated from Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (signage fund, PJ 102472.000.5223, \$5,000/pa; reserve natural values fund, PJ 102465.280.2543, \$15,000/pa) funding with potential for use of the General Landscaping Budget.
- (d) **Notes** that it is likely that community planting days will be permitted during enhancements with community undertaking activities that do not involve direct contact with the soil.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

9. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

9.1. Chairperson's Report for May 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 11 May 2026.

10.2. Rangiora-Ashley Community Board Meeting Minutes 13 May 2026.

10.3. Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board Meeting Minutes 18 May 2026.

10.4. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report 17 March to 21 April 2026 – Report to Council Meeting 5 May 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.

10.5. Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) Budget Reallocation in 2025/26 – Report to Utilities and Rooding Committee Meeting 12 May 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.

10.6. Draft Annual Plan 2026-2027 Special Consultative Procedure – Report to Council Meeting 26 May 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.

10.7. Drainage – Utilities and Rooding Department Staff Submission to the Draft 2026/27 Annual Plan – Report to Council Meeting 26 May 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.

10.8. Water Supply - Utilities and Rooding Department Staff Submission to the Draft 2026/27 Annual Plan – Report to Council Meeting 26 May 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.

10.9. Wastewater – Utilities and Rooding Department Staff Submission to the Draft 2026/27 Annual Plan – Report to Council Meeting 26 May 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.

10.10. Staff Submission to the Annual Plan 2026/27 – Rooding Budgets – Report to Council Meeting 26 May 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.

10.11. Solid Waste– Utilities and Rooding Department Staff Submission to the Draft 2026/27 Annual Plan – Report to Council Meeting 26 May 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.

10.12. Rangiora Airfield Governance Review 2026 – Report to Council Meeting 26 May 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** the information in Items 10.1 to 10.12.

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**

(Trim: 260527124987).

83

11.2. **Pete Merrifield**

(Trim: 260526123866).

84

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. **Stock Movement Bylaw 2026**

<https://letstalk.waimakariri.govt.nz/stock-movement-bylaw-2026>

Consultation closes Friday 12 June 2026.

13. **BOARD FUNDING UPDATE**

13.1. **Board Discretionary Grant**

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

13.2. **General Landscaping Fund**

Balance as at 31 May 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 8 July 2026 at the Oxford Town Hall.

Workshops

- *Speed Limits – Shane Binder (Senior Transportation Engineer) 30mins*
- *Discretionary Grant Funding Criteria Review – Kay Rabe (Governance Advisor) 10mins*
- *Members Forum*

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

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

S Hart (General Manager Strategy Engagement and Economic Development), B Dollery (Biodiversity Team Leader), K Rabe (Governance Advisor) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

There was two members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES

Moved: S Barkle Seconded: M Brown

THAT an apology for absence be received and sustained from R Harpur.

CARRIED

2. PUBLIC FORUM

2.1. Eyre Community Environment Safety Society Inc (ECESS) – Catherine Ballinger

C Ballinger noted that ECESS had made a deputation to the 4 February 2026 Board meeting and after which B Walton had spoken. A question was raised, if in the consent conditions, what provisions had been put in place for emergency evacuation of the area. She noted as far as ECESS understood from the consent conditions that the evacuation plan could be a paper only exercise. The Group had hoped that the consent would request a practical evacuation drill to ensure communications were effective and everything ran according to plan.

S Barkle asked if the Community Liaison Group had met yet. C Ballinger replied that they had a meeting with a facilitator to determine the members to be appointed. There were five members from ECESS on the group.

2.2. Oxford RSA Club – Kyle Scott

K Scott noted that the Club would be applying to the Board's discretionary grant funding to assist with signage to commemorate the Oxford East Railway Station. The foundations and remnants of the Oxford East Railway Station was located behind the Oxford RSA Club. By marketing this important site, the Club hoped to acknowledge the past while enriching the cultural heritage for the future. When the settlers first arrived in Oxford, there was a lot of dense bush and timber was very much in demand in Christchurch. The railway from Rangiora to Oxford was established in 1875 and it became a very important hub for Oxford and the district bringing in goods and passengers. Experience Oxford had talked about a rail trail which would help to bring visitors to Oxford. The Club thought having a heritage railway site with appropriate signage could be one of those 'must do sites' for people to see. The Club were proposing to erect a heritage style sign for the East Oxford Railway Station with an interpretation panel which would include some historic photos and information. They also wanted to erect a small shelter near the site and a location sign from High Street to show the way as it was not visible from the street. The Club estimated the project would cost \$2,500.

3. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

N Mealings and T Fulton declared a conflict on item 7.2, as they would be making a decision on the submission later in the month.

4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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

Moved: T Robson Seconded: P Merrifield

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.

CARRIED

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. **DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

6. **ADJOURNED BUSINESS**

Nil.

7. **REPORTS**

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

B Dollery spoke to the report noting it was seeking approval for the enhancement plan staff had developed for the Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve Walkway. It took in an area which ran along Ohoka Road with a small section of 300m along the Ohoka Stream. The project was under the banner of Arohata te Awa which was a project concerned with increasing recreation in the natural environment, protecting waterways and biodiversity across the district. Staff had conducted surveys to establish what was currently growing in the area and what native plants would be suitable for the area. There were a lot of other parameters such as the stream capacity, so staff were working closely with the Water Services Unit who were doing a study to look at the capacity of the stream.

T Fulton asked if the study would also identify what were the valuable must keep existing plants. B Dollery explained that S Allen would be working closely with the unit in regard to the survey results. In the small section that staff surveyed there was only one plant that was of value.

T Fulton questioned if there were a best imagined profile of the banks and the way the Ohoka Stream went. B Dollery believed that all of those decisions would be made once survey results were known.

W Godfrey enquired about the connectivity of the site to the wider community and why the track was not being connected to the Silverstream Reserve. There was the opportunity to put an underpass at both the Ohoka Stream Bridge end and the Ohoka Road Bridge. B Dollery agreed it would be great to have people go under the bridges at either end. Staff had discussed at depth with Utilities and Roading staff, and they had been assured that it was not possible due to health and safety regulations.

W Godfrey questioned the cost of \$95,000 for a carpark as he believed there was no need for parking when there was adequate parking at Silverstream. B Dollery noted the figure was included as a holding figure and would be costed properly at a later stage.

T Fulton queried if there was any capacity to do natural drainage works in the path of the streams. B Dollery stated that staff had been advised that it was not feasible. It was a shame to not get access under the bridge. However, if there were significant changes to the stream it may offer opportunities later.

P Merrifield asked if there was any aquatic life in the river. B Dollery noted that staff had not done an aquatic survey as part of this plan.

Moved: N Mealings

Seconded: T Fulton

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-Tuahivi Community Board for information.
- (h) **Requests** that prioritisation of funding be given to enabling pedestrian access rather than a carpark, from Ohoka Esplanade Reserve over Ohoka Road near Skewbridge Road and near the Silverstream bridge at Ohoka Road enabling a larger circular walk experience connecting the Ohoka Esplanade to the Silverstream Reserve.

CARRIED

N Mealings commented that she was the Chairperson of the Arohatia te Awa Working Group and she was excited about this project. It was great to get this project to the point it could be brought to the Board for approval. It was a shame that there were some limitations. Looking through the report, it was shocking that the ecology side of things had degraded to the point where there were no invertebrates of note. This exercise was not viewed as a restoration as there was nothing to restore it was a recreation. She agreed it would be great the track was able to navigate under the bridge.

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 – K Rabe (Governance Advisor)**

K Rabe took the report as read.

There were no questions from members.

Moved: T Robson Seconded: M Brown

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.

CARRIED

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

9. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

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

- Oxford A&P Show – The Board had a fantastic set up. The hamper was very successful at drawing people in and engaging in conversation. Whenever someone entered into the hamper, they were given a flyer which had information about what the Community Board did and how they could be contacted. Most feedback from residents was around the Oxford dog park – a much loved and used facility but it became difficult to access during wetter months when the entry became very boggy. There was quite a lot of interest in creating mountain bike tracks in the area. Something for the Board to consider for future projects. Considering this was also an annual plan drop-in session for Oxford, it would have been nice to see more Councillors attend.
- Wards Road Planting Day – Feedback received was that there was a fantastic turn out of locals again. The Swannanoa Fire Brigade came with their water tanker to water the plants. The area was really starting to take hold and looked great. She acknowledged Pat and Nicky Bodgers effort to the local community. They had put countless hours into local planting projects and were still keen to do more.
- Attended ANZAC Services in Ohoka and West Eyreton – Ohoka service was attended by all the students from Ohoka School. This was an exceptional service and extremely well attended. West Eyreton was also very well attended and a lovely ceremony. Local scouts group did a great job helping to clean up after.
- Burnt Hill Storage Dam Meeting – Met with staff to get a rundown on what the Council was responsible for.

- Oxford Future of Health Meeting – Was a phenomenal turnout of residents, particularly older residents. There was a clear message that Oxford Hospital was a resource that was very important to the Oxford residents. Interesting to note that some people had encountered situations where they were in need of respite, but Eldernet and Hospital staff were not aware Oxford had beds available for this purpose. They had to advocate for themselves to get in there. There should be a directory to refer to rather than a staffing turn over problem as one of the panel members suggested. Mayor Dan Gordon suggested a working group be established so that further consultation and feedback could be given. This was welcomed by both residents and the health board. The purpose of the meeting was to seek feedback in regard to health services needed in Oxford now and into the future. She hoped that the location of services was equally evaluated when assessing the information gathered. People could provide feedback to TWPlanning@tewhataora.co.nz.
- Regional Council Update on Public Transport – Deputation from Environment Canterbury in regard to an upcoming feedback programme that was about to be launched across the region. This would only be for the greater Christchurch area so would not include anything West of Two Chain Road. The Regional Council were planning quite an extensive feedback programme particularly targeting residents from the main town centres. She asked whether they would seek specific feedback from residents within our ward in the peri-rural settings. They responded that if there was an event where they could seek engagement in to let them know.

Moved: T Robson Seconded: M Brown

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

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

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. Kaiapoi-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 Roding Committee Meeting 14 April 2026 – Circulates to the Oxford-Ohoka, Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi 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 Roding 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

Moved: S Barkle Seconded: N Mealings

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

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

CARRIED

11. MEMBERS' INFORMATION EXCHANGE

N Mealings

- Oxford Community Networking Forum – Budgeting Services and CAB were very busy. Both were working closely with the Kaiapoi Foodbank. Social Services Waimakariri reported that it was looking into the effects on volunteer/ NGOs from the fuel crisis and how the North Canterbury Minibus Trust could be most effectively utilised. The Oxford Community Trust was very busy across its services. A social work apprentice at the trust was starting a new 'mum's group' to fill the void since the Plunket group finished in Oxford. The fuel crisis was affecting foodbanks and demand had tripled. However, Satisfy Food Rescue Satisfy had produced a video featuring Jo Seagar sharing economical food recipes and cooking skills. They were currently getting large amounts of food donations as people struggle to afford to buy the produce in the stores.
- Seed Savers Workshop at Oxford Library – Helped with a seed saving workshop alongside J Clements and EcoEducate held at the library over the school holidays to teach seed saving techniques and swap treasures. A great initiative and lots of fun.
- Oxford A&P Show – A great day out and lots of good conversations with people on everything from the Board to utilities, rate's structure, security, events and civil defence. Excellent event as always. A Cust resident enquired about graffiti removal and potential security cameras for the Cust Community Centre. An Ohoka resident was keen to see if they could get a recycling bin service on the Western end of Mill Road near the current service boundary.
- Contact by resident – A local agricultural contractor raised concerns with new road markings and signage at Two Chain and Downs Road that they were difficult to navigate with large machinery. Arranged for roading staff to contact them to discuss.
- Wards Road Planting – Fantastic community initiative by Pat and Nicky Bodgers. There was a good turnout by several locals. W Godfrey was an absolute legend as well, helping with one of his staff, machinery and refreshments. We got it all planted and mulched by noon in time for our wonderful Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department to arrive with the fire truck to water in the new plantings. A great example of 'many hands make light work'.
- Mandeville Sports Club and Board Meetings – Health and Safety discussion; Ohoka Tennis Club reconstituted, new Mandeville Park Run officially launched, Memorial Area works now underway, and new speed bump in parking lot had been installed to control speeding past the blind corner of the clubhouse as well as potholes filled. The groundsman role was not yet filled, and MSC concept plan discussed.
- ANZAC Services in Ohoka, Oxford and West Eyreton – This year marked a return to ANZAC Day falling within the school term, so the Ohoka Hall welcomed the entire role of over 245 Ohoka School students and staff along with some of their whanau, who walked down from the school to the hall for a service on Friday 24 April. It was a marvellous ceremony with a full complement of local residents also in attendance. She had the honour of speaking at the Oxford service representing the Mayor, who could not attend. It was a lovely service with a great turnout from the community. Following that, she attended another great service at West Eyreton, which was also well attended and followed by West Eyreton's legendary hospitality. An important day, well-marked and acknowledged by all.

- Future of Oxford Health Services Public Meeting – This was a hugely well-attended meeting run by Health New Zealand to discuss the future of health services in Oxford. There wasn't a seat left in the house, which reinforced the depth of interest in service provision plans.
- Ohoka Domain Working bee and Advisory Group Meeting – Took part in the working bee for the Ohoka Bush at the domain. Understorey species had been purchased and had nearly all been planted. The Gatekeeper's Lodge, the group were looking at funding options for maintenance needs separate to what they received for the Ohoka Bush. The Committee also discussed signage at the domain for the bush, to which she informed them about the Board plans for wayfinding/interpretive signage as part of the landscaping budget projects.
- Mandeville Sports Club – staff catch up.

T Robson

- Oxford A&P Show – A great day all round, overall positive feedback around the work the Community Board was doing. He thought next time the Board should ensure that there were two people there until 3pm to ensure they were getting maximum engagement.
- Pearson Park Advisory Group Meeting – Met to discuss the upgrade of some of the chairs around the old bowling green. Also discussed some other maintenance issues that needed attention.
- Oxford Community Trust Meeting – Monthly Board meeting.
- Oxford Health Services Meeting – He thought the meeting was very well attended which showed just how important the local health services, and the Oxford Hospital in particular were to the community. The fact that maintenance had been deferred for far too long allowing the building to deteriorate was of concern, but it was also raised that when people request placement at the hospital, they were told that the Hospital was not taking any more patients, despite beds being available. These issues that were raised by the community had led some to believe that there was a deliberate strategy to portray the Hospital as being run down and rarely used, to justify closure, when in fact it was very hard to get in to. Hopefully the decision makers would take the residents' concerns on board when making their decision regarding the future of the Hospital. he would like to thank the team at the Oxford Community Trust for helping to promote the meeting and ensuring a good attendance. The trust had received funding to purchase a new U drive car. They had brought a car and would be doing some media and a launch.

M Brown

- Oxford Promotions – new Committee with some great ideas.
- Waimakariri Health Advisory group – main topics mental health for rural workers and homeless.
- Health New Zealand – Future Oxford Health – future of Oxford Hospital and access to end of life and palliative care.
- Oxford A&P Show – great set up.

T Fulton

- Attended first Burnt Hill Storage Ltd Community liaison meeting – a large Group led by an independent Chairperson. Updates on activity available on Burnt Hill Storage Ltd website www.bhsl.co.nz.
- Attended ANZAC Day Services in Oxford, West Eyreton and Cust. Well run.
- Attended Swannanoa Cricket Club Inauguration of Honours Board.
- Spoke to North Canterbury Museums meeting at Cust on Wolffs Bridge.
- Attended Oxford A&P Show.
- Experience Oxford – a mostly new and enthusiastic Committee was in place.
- Wolffs Road Bridge – Welcomed two new committee members. They also had a new logo and were going to take external advice on a marketing strategy.

W Godfrey

- Ohoka Domain Working Bee.
- Ohoka Domain Board Meeting – There were comments regarding the ongoing challenges of funding for the Gatekeepers Lodge. Needs for maintenance and costs. Funding for Domain but not for the building. Plans were underway to build a tool shed on the Gatekeepers Lodge site for general tools and mower etc.
- Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Annual Plan Submission meeting – The process of the Annual Plan appeared largely already programmed meaning there was limited legitimate value in the submission process. This undermined the integrity of the process. Noted that local Government was in change however and this complicated the current process.
- Wards Road Walkway Planting – 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 the Council formally acknowledged the effort the community put in.
- Mandeville Sports Club all Clubs Meeting – One phone contact from the Bowling Club prior to the meeting regarding the request from Bowls to have their own bar. Detail tabled at the meeting and it was for them to deal with.

P Merrifield

- Greypower meeting – a number of older people were coming across skateboards on the main road through Rangiora, which made them nervous.
- A container for the Oxford Museum had been purchased.

12. CONSULTATION PROJECTS**12.1. 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 30 April 2026: \$2,984.

13.2. General Landscaping Fund

Balance as at 30 April 2026: \$6,000.

The Board noted the funding update.

14. MEDIA ITEMS

- Oxford Health meeting – they were seeking feedback from the community about what services Oxford required, had now and needed in the future. TWPlanning@tewhataora.co.nz.
- Advertisement about the Boards discretionary grant fund.
- Upcoming roadworks in Oxford.

15. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

Nil.

16. URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

Nil.

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Workshops 7:30pm to 7:33pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Members Forum</i>

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:30PM.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date

UNCONFIRMED

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION**

FILE NO and TRIM NO: RDG-08-09-01 / 260508111831

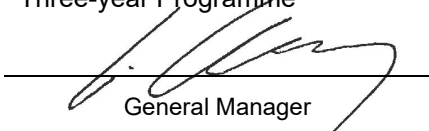
REPORT TO: OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD

DATE OF MEETING: 3 June 2026


AUTHOR(S): Kieran Straw – Civil Projects Team Leader
Joanne McBride – Roading and Transportation Manager

SUBJECT: Proposed Roading Capital Works Programme for 2026 / 27 and Indicative Three-year Programme

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



 General Manager



 Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report seeks endorsement from the Community Board of the proposed 2026/27 Roading Capital Works Programme and notes the indicative three-year programme from 2027/28 to 2029/30.
- 1.2. The Roading Capital Works Programme being considered are the categories where a general allocation is provided for in the Council's Long Term Plan (LTP), where community input is beneficial to achieving the required outcomes.
- 1.3. Renewal programmes are determined following a condition assessment of assets which have reached the end of life and are due for replacement, or where infrastructure is failing to provide an adequate level of service. While part of the prioritisation process considers asset life other factors including co-ordination with other projects, asset owners, road hierarchy, high demand areas (e.g., schools or town centre areas) are also considered.
- 1.4. All major improvement projects which are specifically listed in the Long Term Plan (LTP) are not considered within this report, as these have separate funding allocated and are consulted on through the LTP process.
- 1.5. Minor safety improvements, the new footpath programme and public transport infrastructure are also included in the proposed programme.

Attachments:

- i. Proposed Roading Capital Works Programme 2026/27 (including draft 3-year programme) – Trim No. 260508111836

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260508111821.
- (b) **Endorses** the 2026/27 DRAFT Proposed Roading Capital Works Programme (Trim: 260508111836).
- (c) **Endorses** the inductive Roading Capital Works Programme for the 2027/28, 2028/29 and 2029/30 years.

- (d) **Notes** that any feedback on the programme included with this report will be taken by staff at the Board meeting and incorporated into the final report which is proposed to be taken to the Utilities and Roothing Committee in July 2026 for approval.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Roothing programmes being considered are for those categories where a general allocation only is provided in the Council's Long Term Plan (LTP). These categories have some flexibility and as such community input is beneficial to achieving the required outcomes.
- 3.2 Major Roothing Improvement projects are not included in this report as they are specifically listed in the LTP and consulted on through the LTP.
- 3.3 Categories considered within this programme are:
- Kerb and Channel Renewal
 - Footpath Renewal
 - Minor Safety Improvements
 - New Footpath Programme
 - Public Transport Infrastructure (New bus shelters & seats)
- 3.4 Other general categories such as road rehabilitation, road resealing, unsealed road re-metalling, signs renewal and street light renewal are not included as these programmes are developed purely on technical grounds and for asset condition reasons.
- 3.5 Feedback on the proposed programme will be taken with the report and provided in a report to the Utilities and Roothing Committee in July for decision.
- 3.6 The rooding network is managed as a total network across the whole district and as such projects are prioritised district wide. Also, as the majority of expenditure on the network is subsidised by New Zealand Transport Agency, their requirements must be met to secure co-funding. Asset condition and safety are the key drivers for the programme and the aim is to minimise lifecycle costs.
- 3.7 Projects are identified in terms of the Roothing Activity Management Plan and are being done to ensure the levels of service identified in the LTP are met. Asset renewal projects are identified and programmed based on asset condition to ensure that lifecycle costs, and hence the cost to the community, are minimised.
- 3.8 In developing the programmes, a range of factors are taken into account. Asset condition is the main driver for renewal projects, however other key factors are community feedback, and the coordination of the work with other programmes (such as water main renewal, drainage improvements and Utility Provider undergrounding) especially when deciding which year, a particular project should be done. As asset deterioration is gradual there is some flexibility to bring forward or delay specific projects where required.
- 3.9 Inputs used to develop the programmes are condition rating and inspections, AWM (formerly RAMM) reports, reports from the maintenance contractor, crash records, network safety inspections, reviews of maintenance costs, feedback from the public via service requests etc. All identified deficiencies are entered into a database, reviewed and then prioritised to fit within budget levels and to ensure they address a defined level of service issue.
- 3.10 Utility Providers (external), the Water Services Team, the Waimakariri Water Services Unit and the Greenspaces Teams are consulted to minimise the risk of conflicts with their programmes and to identify where there may be possible synergies in the programmes and work can be coordinated.

3.11 Condition Assessment

To better understand the condition of the kerb and channel and footpath assets a condition rating is carried out every three years on these assets. The most recent rating was completed in 2025.

3.12 Kerb and Channel Replacement

Kerb and channel replacement is primarily focussed on the replacement of old-style dished channels which are in a poor or very poor condition. This is subject to the kerb and channel warranting replacement and meeting NZTA requirements. In many cases the footpath is replaced at the same time as the kerb and channel, however this only occurs where the footpath condition also warrants the renewal. Some old kerb and flat channels are in poor condition, and these will be included in the programme as required.

The kerb and channel replacement are prioritised district-wide, and the condition of the channel must be such that replacing it is the lowest maintenance cost treatment. NZTA has reasonably strict requirements that have to be met in order for the work to qualify for financial assistance, such that the poor condition of the channel is resulting in damage to the carriageway due to water ingress. Replacement for aesthetic reasons only will not be approved by NZTA.

Condition of the existing kerb & channel within the Oxford-Ohoka ward area is generally good, and therefore there is no planned renewals within the proposed programme for the Oxford-Ohoka ward.

3.13 Footpath Renewals

This category is for the resurfacing and reconstruction of footpaths. The programme is determined by the footpath surface condition, and the purpose is to provide safe and comfortable footpaths and to minimise lifecycle costs.

As mentioned above all footpaths were condition rated in 2025. From this rating the worst condition streets were identified and inspected. Following that inspection, staff take into account any community feedback and other programmes (including the previous approved programme), and from there the draft renewal programme is developed.

The footpath renewal programme is coordinated with the kerb and channel programme to ensure the end of the footpath life coincides with the end of the kerb and channel life wherever possible, so replacement can be done at the same time. This offers more options to design a comprehensive street upgrade when the renewal takes place. Where there is a grass berm between the kerb & channel and the path, and the path is in good condition or better, the footpath may be retained.

Condition of the existing footpaths within the Oxford-Ohoka ward area is generally good, and therefore there is no planned renewals within the proposed programme for the Oxford-Ohoka ward.

3.14 Minor Safety Improvements Programme

For the minor safety improvement programme, safety is the main factor considered.

This programme focuses on lower cost, high benefit safety improvements and has some flexibility with the opportunity to carry out a range of safety related improvement works. The proposed programme includes a number of safety issues and concerns that have been raised through various avenues and feedback from the Community Board(s) is an important input in confirming this programme.

There is a number of minor works projects identified within the Oxford-Ohoka ward area included within the proposed programme.

3.15 New Footpath Programme

This programme considers and prioritises new footpaths in urban areas where there currently are none. A programme has been developed, and this was approved by Utilities and Roading Committee in March 2026.

The approved programme includes new footpaths in several streets in Oxford, including the following:

- Harewood Road
- Maitai Place
- Redwood Place
- Knight Street
- Queen Street

3.16 Public Transport Infrastructure

New passenger transport infrastructure primarily focuses on the installation of new seating, and bus shelters at bus stop locations, with the list being developed based on ECan boarding numbers, with higher use stops siting higher in the programme. Some flexibility is exercised where stops are near retirement villages, or where a large number of service requests are received.

The proposed programme does not include any public transport infrastructure for the Oxford-Ohoka ward area, as ECan does not service this area.

4. ISSUES AND OPTIONS

4.1. The draft programme is presented to the Community Board and feedback will be recorded, and consideration will be given as to whether it can be incorporated into the programme, where possible. All feedback will be included within the report to the Utilities and Roading Committee when they consider approval of the programme in July 2026.

4.2. The indicative three-year programme for the following three years is more flexible and is reviewed annually to allow consideration of programme delays, any emerging issues and to provide an opportunity to make changes to this programme.

4.3. The following options are available to the Community Board:

4.3.1. Option One – Endorse the Proposed Programme as Recommended:

Feedback presented from this meeting will be incorporated into a revised programme, which will be presented to Utilities and Roading Committee for approval.

This is the recommended option as it allows the draft programme to be taken to Utilities & Roading Committee and for work to begin on planning / design for projects early in the next financial year.

4.3.2. Option Two – Decline the Recommendation and ask Staff to make further changes:

This is not the recommended option as the programme of works and has been developed from condition rating information, service requests and Community feedback, and as such represents the greatest needs within the district.

Staff have also undertaken steps to confirm that this programme does not clash with other Council programmes, or known service provider works.

4.4. Implications for Community Wellbeing

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

The programmes contribute directly to public transport, walking projects, safety improvements and meeting levels of service, all of which have a positive impact of the Community.

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

5. **COMMUNITY VIEWS**

5.1. **Mana whenua**

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū are likely to be affected by or have an interest in the subject matter of this report.

Staff will liaise with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri in regard to specific projects within the programme as required.

5.2. **Groups and Organisations**

There are groups and organisations likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in the subject matter of this report. Where individual projects are agreed upon, then the appropriate groups and residents will be consulted with.

5.3. **Wider Community**

The wider community is likely to benefit from these safety improvements, improved infrastructure, and installation of shelters. Improved safety reduces the risk of harm to the public. Safety, Public transport and renewal of infrastructure supports the whole community.

Renewal of infrastructure results in meeting required levels of service for the community and reduces the risk of failure which could put the Community at risk. Providing shelter at bus stops increases the appeal of catching the bus and reduces congestion for other road users.

Staff will communicate impacts with directly affected residents as required.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1. **Financial Implications**

There are financial implications of the decisions sought by this report. Programmes are set to meet budget allocations for each category.

This budget is included in the Long Term Plan.

6.2. **Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts**

The recommendations in this report do have sustainability and/or climate change impacts.

Providing good quality assets such as footpaths encourages alternate modes such as walking. Increased Public Transport use has the impact of reducing carbon emissions.

6.3. **Risk Management**

There are risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

There is a risk that the programme may not meet expectations. This is mitigated by ensuring public feedback is taken into consideration when developing the programme.

6.4 **Health and Safety**

There are health and safety risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

Any contractors undertaking condition assessment or physical works contracts will be required to be SiteWise registered and meet minimum score requirements appropriate for the risk of the work being undertaken.

7. **CONTEXT**

7.1. **Consistency with Policy**

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

7.2. **Authorising Legislation**

The Land Transport Act is relevant to this matter.

7.3. **Consistency with Community Outcomes**

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

Social

A place where everyone can have a sense of belonging...

- *Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimizing the risk of social harm to its communities.*
- *Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.*

Environmental

...that values and restores our environment...

- *Our district is resilient and able to quickly respond to and recover from natural disasters and the effects of climate change.*
- *Our 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.*

Economic

...and is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.

- *Infrastructure and services are sustainable, resilient, and affordable.*

7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

The Community Board has delegation to represent and acting as an advocate for the interests of its community.

The Utilities and Roading Committee is responsible for Roading and Transportation activities (including road safety, multimodal transportation and traffic control) and has authority to approve work programmes for works that the Council has budgeted a general level of expenditure for.

Proposed Roding Capital Works Programme for Community Boards - 2025/26 and three indicative years						
			26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
	Side	Town	DRAFT Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme
Kerb and Channel Renewal						
Professional Fees			\$ 85,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
Thorne Pl (Ivory St - end) - with footpath	South	Rangiora	\$ 30,000	-	-	-
White St (Palmer St - opposite Wiltshire Pl) - with footpath	East	Rangiora	\$ 120,000	-	-	-
White St (Johns Rd - Palmer St) - with footpath	East	Rangiora	\$ 40,000	-	-	-
Johns Rd (Green St - Bush St) - with footpath	South	Rangiora	\$ 120,000	-	-	-
Johns Rd (Bush St - King St) - with footpath	South	Rangiora	\$ 60,000	-	-	-
Gray Crescent (Kalmia Pl to Kanuka Pl) - with footpath	North	Kaiapoi	\$ 35,000	-	-	-
Kanuka Pl (Gray Cres to No. 4) - with footpath	West	Kaiapoi	\$ 15,000	-	-	-
Akaroa Street (Ashley Place - No. 76)	East	Kaiapoi	\$ 55,000	-	-	-
Akaroa Street (Ashley Pl - Alpine Ln) - with footpath	West	Kaiapoi	\$ 35,000	-	-	-
Ashley Street (Jennings to Duke)	West	Rangiora	-	\$ 200,000	-	-
Bush St (South Belt - Bush St Reserve)	West	Rangiora	-	\$ 125,000	-	-
Aquila St (East Belt to end) - with footpath	North	Rangiora	-	\$ 30,000	-	-
Kinley St (Seddon St to end) - with footpath	East	Rangiora	-	\$ 130,000	-	-
Earnley Street (Ayres to Church) - with footpath	North	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 40,000	-
Denchs Rd (Southbrook Rd - New Life School)- with footpath	North	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 50,000	-
Kingsbury Ave (Windsor Crt - Regent Ave) - V Channel	South	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 50,000	-
Hills Street (Carew St to No. 15) - with footpath	West	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 40,000	-
Williams Street (Walkway to McIntosh Pl to Blueskies) - with footpath	East	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 55,000	-
Otaki St (Ohoka Rd - Broom St / no. 21) - with footpath	West	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 135,000	-
Otaki St (Ohoka Rd - Broom St / no. 21) - with footpath	East	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 70,000	-
Southbrook Road (No. 66 - Denches) with footpath	East	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 45,000	-
Cridland Street (Tunas to Bridge) - with footpath	North	Kaiapoi	-	-	-	\$ 115,000
Bridge Street (Cridland to No. 3) - with Cridland St & footpath	West	Kaiapoi	-	-	-	\$ 10,000
Cridland Street (Tunas to Bridge) - with footpath	South	Kaiapoi	-	-	-	\$ 110,000
Northbrook Road (Victoria to Newnham Street) - with Footpath & watermain	South	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 75,000
Northbrook Road (Newnham Street to Railway Line) - with Footpath & watermain	South	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 25,000
Ashgrove Street (No. 18 to Seddon St) - with footpath	East	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 140,000
Other Commitments			\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
To be Allocated			\$ 38,243	\$ 38,571	\$ 45,156	\$ 55,156
Value of Work Programmed			\$ 640,000	\$ 620,000	\$ 620,000	\$ 610,000
Total Available Budget (including fees)			\$ 678,243	\$ 658,571	\$ 665,156	\$ 665,156

			26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
	Side	Town	DRAFT Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme
Footpath Renewal			26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
Professional Fees			\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Thorne Pl (Ivory St - end) - with kerb & channel	South	Rangiora	\$ 15,000	-	-	-
White St (Johns to Palmers) - with kerb & channel	East	Rangiora	\$ 20,000	-	-	-
White St (Palmer to opp Wiltshire) - with kerb and channel	East	Rangiora	\$ 40,000	-	-	-
Johns Rd (Green St - Bush St) - with kerb & channel	South	Rangiora	\$ 40,000	-	-	-
Johns Rd (Bush St - King St) - with kerb and channel	South	Rangiora	\$ 30,000	-	-	-
Akaroa Street (Ashley Pl - Alpine) - with kerb & channel	West	Kaiapoi	\$ 30,000	-	-	-
Akaroa Street (Ashley Pl - No. 76) - with kerb & channel	East	Kaiapoi	\$ 30,000	-	-	-
Gray Crescent (Kalmia Place to Kanuka Place)	North	Kaiapoi	\$ 15,000	-	-	-
Kanuka Place (Gray Cres - end) - with K&C	West	Kaiapoi	\$ 12,500	-	-	-
Kanuka Place (Gray Cres - end)	East	Kaiapoi	\$ 12,500	-	-	-
Princess Pl (Smith St - end) - with water renewal	East	Kaiapoi	\$ 45,000	-	-	-
Main North Rd (SH1) (Rangiora Woodend Rd to School)	West	Woodend	\$ 65,000	-	-	-
Fuller St (Peraki St - No. 65)	South	Kaiapoi	-	\$ 75,000	-	-
Grove Pl (walkway)	East	Rangiora	-	\$ 10,000	-	-
Grove Pl (Kingsbury to End)	East	Rangiora	-	\$ 15,000	-	-
Upper Sefton Rd (no. 537- Railway St)	North	Sefton	-	\$ 30,000	-	-
Buckley Rd (No. 11 - No. Highfield Lane)	West	Rangiora	-	\$ 30,000	-	-

			26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
	Side	Town	DRAFT Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme
Tyler St (Durhan to Good)	South	Rangiora	-	\$ 35,000	-	-
Strachan Pl (Bush St to No. 24)	West	Rangiora	-	\$ 40,000	-	-
Aquila St (East Belt to end) - with K&C	North	Rangiora	-	\$ 20,000	-	-
Hewitts Rd (Appleton Pl - No. 27/29)	South	Woodend	-	\$ 25,000	-	-
Hewitts Rd (Woodglenn Dr - Appleton Pl)	South	Woodend	-	\$ 30,000	-	-
Burt St (Albert - Ashley)	Both	Rangiora	-	\$ 20,000	-	-
Blackett Street (Durham St to Good St)	North	Rangiora	-	\$ 30,000	-	-
Douglas Street (Palmer St to end)	West	Rangiora	-	\$ 35,000	-	-
Buckleys Rd (Highfield Lane - No. 63)	West	Rangiora	-	\$ 35,000	-	-
Whitefield Street (Ohoka Rd to end)	West	Kaiapoi	-	\$ 120,000	-	-
Kinley St (Seddon St to end)	East	Rangiora	-	\$ 35,000	-	-
Earnley Street (Ayres St to Church St) - with K&C	North	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 20,000	-
Whitefield Street (Epworth to end)	East	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 15,000	-
Whitefield Street (Epworth to Aldersgate)	East	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 90,000	-
Martyn Street (No. 44 to Charles Street)	East	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 30,000	-
Albert Street (High St to Blackett St)	East	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 35,000	-
Denchs Rd (Southbrook Rd - New Life School) (Opp. Marshall Rd) - with kerb & channel	North	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 25,000	-
Hills Street (Carew St to No. 15) - with K&C	West	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 12,000	-
Williams Street (No. 2 to Blueskies) - with K&C	East	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 10,000	-
Otaki St (Ohoka Rd to Broom St / no. 21) - with kerb & channel	West	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 40,000	-
Otaki St (Ohoka Rd to Broom St / no. 21) - with kerb & channel	East	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 35,000	-
Wallace Place (Good Street to end)	North	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 25,000	-
Wallace Place (Good Street to end)	South	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 25,000	-
Albert St (High to Blackett) - with watermain	East	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 35,000	-
Wesley Street (Aldersgate St to Chapman Pl)	East	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 50,000	-
Wesley Street (Chapman Pl - Cressy Ave)	East	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 40,000	-
Dawson Douglas Place (Eastern cul-de-sac head)	East	Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 10,000	-
Lindon Street (High St to Rata St)	East	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 35,000	-
Southbrook Road (Denches Road to No. 48)	East	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 15,000	-
Southbrook Rd (No. 66 to Denches Road)	East	Rangiora	-	-	\$ 20,000	-
Green St (Johns Rd - No. 22)	East	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 35,000
Cridland Street (Tunas to Bridge) - with kerb & channel	North	Kaiapoi	-	-	-	\$ 50,000
Bridge Street (Cridland to No. 3)	West	Kaiapoi	-	-	-	\$ 5,000
Cridland Street (Tunas to Bridge) - with footpath	South	Kaiapoi	-	-	-	\$ 45,000
Ayres Street (Walkway to Kingsbury)	Full	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 15,000
Queen Street (King St to Percival St)	North	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 40,000
Durham Street (cul-de-sac head)	North	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 5,000
Ohoka Road (Williams St to Stone St)	North	Kaiapoi	-	-	-	\$ 30,000
Ashgrove Street (No. 18 to Seddon St) - with K&C	East	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 40,000
Bush St (South Belt - Bush St Reserve) - with K&C	West	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 55,000
Northbrook Road (Victoria to Newnham)	South	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 30,000
Northbrook Road (Newnham to Railway Line)	South	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 10,000
West Belt (High to Blackett) - with water main	East	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 30,000
Main North Road (SH1) Waikuku	West	Waikuku	-	-	-	\$ 85,000
Main North Road (SH1) Waikuku	East	Waikuku	-	-	-	\$ 65,000

			26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
	Side	Town	DRAFT Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme
Parkhouse Dr (Treffers Ave-End)	West	Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 50,000
To be Allocated			\$ 873	\$ 2,210	\$ 26,482	\$ 3,482
Value of Work Programmed			\$ 395,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 607,000	\$ 630,000
Approved Un-subsidised Annual Budget			\$ 216,298	-	-	-
Carry Over Budget			\$ 115,000			
Approved Subsidised Annual Budget			\$ 179,575	\$ 627,210	\$ 633,482	\$ 633,482
Total Available Budget (including fees)			\$ 395,873	\$ 627,210	\$ 633,482	\$ 633,482
Minor Improvement Projects						
Minor Lighting						
Minor Lighting Pole Spacing Corrections		Various	\$ 35,000	-	-	-
High St Pedestrian Crossing Light Improvements		Rangiora	\$ 30,000	-	-	-
Easterbrook / Fernside Rd	Easterbrook	Fernside	\$ 25,000	-	-	-
Harewood Rd / South Eyre Road		Oxford	-	\$ 25,000	-	-
Revells Rd / Church Bush Rd		Tuahiwi	-	-	\$ 25,000	-
Depot Road / South Eyre Road		Oxford	-	-	-	\$ 25,000
Other Lighting Projects (TBC)			-	-	-	-
Value of Works Programmed			\$ 90,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Intersection Improvements						
Swamp / Hodgsons / Stonyflat (CARRY OVER)		Loburn	\$ 100,000	-	-	-
Easterbrook Rd / Fernside Rd		Fernside	\$ 80,000	-	-	-
Ashley Gorge Road / Glentui Bush		Glentui	\$ 40,000	-	-	-
North Eyre Rd / Logan Road		Mandeville	-	\$ 100,000	-	-
Ashley Road / Summer Hill Road		Cust	-	-	\$ 50,000	-
Birch Hill Road / Bald Hills Road		Glentui	-	-	\$ 50,000	-
Revells Rd / Church Bush Rd		Tuahiwi	-	-	\$ 20,000	-
Toppings Road / Lower Sefton Road		Sefton	-	-	-	\$ 50,000
Amors Road / Upper Sefton Road		Sefton	-	-	-	\$ 50,000
Budget to be Allocated			-	\$ 20,000	-	\$ 7,000
Value of Works Programmed			\$ 220,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 107,000

			26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
	Side	Town	DRAFT Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme
School Safety Project						
Ashley School (Fawcetts Road)		Ashley	\$ 40,000	-	-	-
Pegasus School (Solander Road)		Pegasus	-	\$ 40,000	-	-
Other School Projects (TBC)			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Value of Works Programmed			\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Speed Treatments						
Cosgrove Street Line Marking		Kaiapoi	\$ 5,000	-	-	-
SIDS Signs		Various	\$ 25,000	-	-	-
Oxford Speed Thresholds		Oxford	\$ 60,000	-	-	-
Waikuku Beach Road Traffic Calming at 30km/hr threshold		Waikuku	-	\$ 50,000	-	-
Other Speed Projects TBC			\$ 20,000	-	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Value of Works Programmed			\$ 110,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Minor Works						
King Street / Charles Street		Rangiora	\$ 10,000	-	-	-
Ford Signage		Various	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	-	-
Ashley Street footpath through the Cemetery		Rangiora	\$ 25,000	-	-	-
One Lane Bridge Delineation Programme		Various	-	\$ 30,000	-	-
Blackett St Road Marking Improvements		Rangiora	-	-	\$ 25,000	-
Other Minor Works			-	-	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000
Value of Works Programmed			\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Walking and Cycling Projects						
Ashley Street Pedestrian Refuge Replacement (CARRY OVER)		Rangiora	\$ 20,000	-	-	-
Ashley Street / Wales Street Pedestrian Cut-Down		Rangiora	\$ 5,000	-	-	-
Kaiapoi Roundabout Pedestrian Improvements (Ohoka Rd)		Kaiapoi	\$ 50,000	-	-	-
Ivory St Cycle Lane Safety Improvements - Delineation		Rangiora	\$ 10,000	-	-	-
Mobility Parking Cut Downs		Rangiora	\$ 25,000	-	-	-
Oxford Town Centre TGSi Upgrade		Oxford	\$ 20,000	-	-	-
Ashley Street / Blackett Street TGSi Upgrade		Rangiora	\$ 10,000	-	-	-
Kingsbury Ave Cut-Downs at Good & Golding - Painted median at Golding		Rangiora	\$ 10,000	-	-	-
Southbrook Cycle Lane Safety Improvements - Delineation		Rangiora	-	\$ 20,000	-	-
Pegasus Cycle Lanes (inc roundabouts)		Pegasus	-	\$ 33,000	\$ 52,000	-
Pegasus Footpath Connections		Pegasus	-	\$ 40,000	\$ 20,000	-
Street to Street Walkway Access Barrier Improvements		Various	-	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Kings Ave Waikuku - Path link from Waikuku Beach Intersection to existing path		Waikuku	-	-	\$ 15,000	-
Woodend Road - Pedestrian Refuge between Gibbs & Bowie inc line marking improvements		Woodend	-	-	-	\$ 40,000

			26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
	Side	Town	DRAFT Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme
Value of Works Programmed			\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 94,000	\$ 90,000
Roadside Hazard Removal						
Dixons Rd - (RP 1125)		Loburn	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000	-	-
Carrs Road (RP 6740m)		Loburn	\$ 15,000	-	-	\$ 200,000
Cones Road (RP 1940m)		Ashley	\$ 150,000	-	-	-
Birch Hill Road (RP 840)		Glentui	\$ 15,000	-	\$ 200,000	-
Upper Sefton Road (RP 7699)		Sefton	-	\$ 50,000	-	-
Value of Works Programmed			\$ 230,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
High Risk Intersection treatments						
South Eyre Road / Pestors Road			\$ 20,000	-	-	-
Dixons Rd / Boundary Road			\$ 20,000	-	-	-
South Eyre Burnt Hill			\$ 20,000	-	-	-
No. 10 / McHughs			\$ 20,000	-	-	-
South Eyre Rd / Carlton			\$ 20,000	-	-	-
Tuahwi Rd / Waikoruru Rd / Okaihau Road			\$ 20,000	-	-	-
Oxford Rd - Carleton Rd			\$ 20,000	-	-	-
Oxford Rd - Lilly Rd			\$ 20,000	-	-	-
McJarrows / Powells			\$ 20,000	-	-	-
Upper Sefton Rd - Broad Rd			\$ 20,000	-	-	-
To be allocated			\$ 20,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000
Value of Works Programmed			\$ 220,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000
Value of Work Programmed						
			\$ 1,120,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 769,000	\$ 752,000
Total Carry Over Budget for Minor Safety Programme (estimated)			\$ 413,000	-	-	-
Approved Annual Budget			\$ 775,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 775,000
Total Available Budget for Minor Safety Programme			\$ 1,188,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 775,000

			26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
	Side	Town	DRAFT Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme	Indicative Programme
New Footpaths						
Highfield Lane (Carryover)		Rangiora	\$ 30,000	-	-	-
Denches Road		Rangiora	\$ 45,000	-	-	-
Chinnerys Road (Reserve east entrance – Woodglen Dr) – west side (unsealed)		Woodend	\$ 105,000	-	-	-
Chinnerys Road (No. 49 – Reserve entrance) – south side		Woodend	-	\$ 100,000	-	-
Harewood Road (Burnt Hill to Park Ave)		Oxford	-	-	\$ 85,000	-
Matai Place (Start to end)		Oxford	-	-	\$ 15,000	-
Station Road (Pak n Save to Railway Road)		Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 30,000
Redwood Place (Start to end)		Oxford	-	-	-	\$ 25,000
Knight Street (Start to end)		Oxford	-	-	-	\$ 45,000
Woodfield Place (Start to end)		Woodend	-	-	-	-
Queen Street (High St to Karadean Court)		Oxford	-	-	-	-
Church Street - Past Anglican Church		Rangiora	-	-	-	-
Smith Street (Ranfurlly to Princess)		Kaiapoi	-	-	-	-
To be allocated			-	-	-	-
Value of Work Programmed			\$ 180,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Carry Over (estimated)			\$ 80,000			
Approved Annual Budget			\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Total Available Budget (including fees)			\$ 180,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Bus Shelter Programme						
Professional Fees			\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Bush St near Stratchen - 44794 (Shelter pre-purchased)		Rangiora	\$ 10,000	-	-	-
Bush St (near Watson Pl) - 51306		Rangiora	\$ 26,000	-	-	-
Kingsbury Ave (near Regent Ave) - 44509		Rangiora	\$ 26,000	-	-	-
King St (near Seddon St) - 44623		Rangiora	\$ 26,000	-	-	-
Main North Road (Kaiapoi Lakes) - 15825		Kaiapoi	-	\$ 28,000	-	-
West Belt near Arlington Blvd - 54738		Rangiora	-	\$ 28,000	-	-
Main North Road (near Williams Street) - 42260		Kaiapoi	-	\$ 28,000	-	-
High St near King St (north) - 47320		Rangiora	-	\$ 28,000	-	-
Rangiora Woodend Road near Chinnery Road		Woodend	-	-	\$ 30,000	-
Williams St near Ohoka Rd - east - 15255		Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 30,000	-
Williams St (near Carew St) 15792		Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 30,000	-
Main North Road near Pa Rd 44699		Woodend	-	-	\$ 30,000	-
Main North Rd (near Wrights Rd) - 15217		Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 30,000	-
Main North Rd (near Neeves Rd) - 15887		Kaiapoi	-	-	\$ 30,000	-
Woodend Rd near SH1 - 26087		Woodend	-	-	-	\$ 30,000
Southbrook (Lineside Road) - 44235		Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 30,000
Woodend (Main North Road) - 15077		Woodend	-	-	-	\$ 30,000
Adderly Tce near Sneyd St - 54835		Kaiapoi	-	-	-	\$ 30,000
Fuller Street near Peraki Street - 54803		Kaiapoi	-	-	-	\$ 30,000
Southbrook near Denches Road - 44203		Rangiora	-	-	-	\$ 30,000
To be allocated			-	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Value of Work Programmed			\$ 98,000	\$ 122,000	\$ 192,000	\$ 192,000
Carry Over Budget			-			
Approved Annual Budget (including fees)			\$ 98,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Total Available Budget (including fees)			\$ 98,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION**

FILE NO and TRIM NO: RES-01-12 / 260412093988

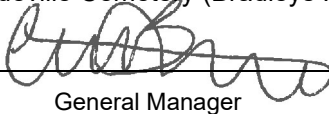
REPORT TO: Oxford Ohoka Community Board

DATE OF MEETING: 3 June 2026

AUTHOR(S): Bex Dollery, Biodiversity Team Leader

SUBJECT: Mandeville Cemetery (Bradleys Road) 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 of the enhancement plan designed for the Mandeville Cemetery (attachment i). The reserve, classed as a Cultural Heritage reserve, is a closed cemetery with very few grave sites and the last recorded burial documented in 1921. It is thought that there may be some unmarked graves in the reserve, and no graves on site are fenced. The area is currently leased on a monthly term for grazing purposes by a local resident who attends to the maintenance of the site and is supportive of the plans.
- 1.2. The community noted the reserve is infrequently used by local families and expressed an interest in having the reserve enhanced for biodiversity and passive recreation whilst highlighting, celebrating and respecting the history of the reserve. Enhancements highlighting heritage and nature connection or nature exploration can be mutually reinforcing because they share values of care, connection, and continuity, provided the enhancements are appropriate.
- 1.3. A suite of surveys was undertaken to inform an enhancement plan and low key enhancements proposed to support the passive use of the area, support rare species and offer space for connection and reflection. The plan includes enhancement plantings along the water race which flows through the site, tree surveys to assess safety and the need for removal of any pines and signage to highlight the historical significance of the site and connect the local community to the natural environment features.
- 1.4. A ground penetrating radar survey is required to ascertain the location of any unmarked graves. The results of this survey may alter the design of the enhancements to accommodate the demarcation of burial sites. Demarcation is proposed via planting of suitable low growing indigenous or exotic wildflowers and signage.
- 1.5. The plan also notes that a low grass and shrub planting area in the southeast portion of the reserve would be beneficial for lizards and invertebrates. However, the project currently has no dedicated project funding and will be funded through the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (funding against actions to increase the ecological value of reserves and produce environmental interpretation through signage). This budget will not extend to the lizard enhancement planting in the next 3-5 years and it is recommended that specific lizard enhancements be considered once funding is available.
- 1.6. The estimated cost of enhancements is \$21,128, excluding the anticipated costs for lizard enhancements of \$56,933. Alternative means will be considered for the funding the lizard enhancements and there may be opportunities for funding through other Council projects.

- 1.7. Lizards in the district are protected from harm and disturbance under the Wildlife Act, 1980. Therefore, if a project has adverse impacts for the species, the Department of Conservation may ask for some form of compensation. This could be the enhancement of lizard habitat elsewhere in the district and could include some animals being translocated to the area. Should such Council projects require an area to enhancement, the Mandeville Cemetery would be a good candidate. Enabling such activity would mean that the reserve is enhanced and maintained using budget from other Council projects as required whilst supporting nature connection and benefiting, local environment and protect and maintain rare native species in our district.

Table 1. Planned enhancements, costs and budgets (detailed financial information in section 7)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1	Ground Penetrating Radar Survey	\$3,000	NES – Reserve enhancement	\$3000 +GST
2	Planting of reserve streamside	\$4,868	NES – Reserve enhancement	\$7,868 + GST
	Mulch	\$2,000	NES – Reserve enhancement	
	Signage	\$1,000	NES - Signage	
3	Planting of boundary, graves and trees	\$2,260	NES – Reserve enhancement	\$5,260 +GST
	Mulch/releasing	\$2,000	NES – Reserve enhancement	
	Signage	\$1,000	NES - Signage	
4	Biodiversity enhancements/releasing	\$3,000	NES – Reserve enhancement	\$3,000
5	Biodiversity enhancements/releasing	\$2,000	NES – Reserve enhancement	\$2,000
		Total		\$21,128

Attachments:

- i. Draft Mandeville Cemetery Enhancement Plan (Trim: 260215026682)

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260412093988.
- (b) **Approves** the Draft Mandeville Cemetery Enhancement Plan (Trim: 260215026682).
- (c) **Notes** \$21,128 from the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy implementation funds to undertake enhancements.
- (d) **Notes** that the enhancement plan contains the development of lizard habitat. This will not be created until required but is identified as an important area that will deliver biodiversity benefit in the future.
- (e) **Notes** that marked and unmarked graves will be identified using ground penetrating radar (a non-invasive method) and marked using signage and, where appropriate, the use of wildflower plantings.
- (f) **Notes** that further surveys may alter the enhancement plan with the potential of some pine trees removed (due to health and safety reasons) and some adjustment to location of plantings should unmarked graves be discovered in those areas.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Mandeville Cemetery is a Greenspace asset, classed as a Cultural Heritage Reserve. It is a known early Anglican burial ground which is now closed and has few known and marked grave sites. The last documented burial in the site was recorded in 1921 and only 4 headstones remain visible on site. However, it is widely believed that further, unmarked grave sites may exist within the cemetery.
- 3.2. Historic records, provided by Sally O'Connell (the Local Histories & Heritage Coordinator with the Waimakariri Libraries team) noted that leasing the area for grazing sheep was established in 1933 under the Eyre County Council following the fencing of the grave sites. The conditions were that the area be maintained for gorse, ensuring the flow of the water race, maintaining fences around the grave sites and allowing entry to the public. Further records noted that in 1939, pine trees had been planted on the reserve.

- 3.3. Digital council records show that the reserve has been leased to local residents for grazing since at least 2013. The current lease is ongoing (renewed on a monthly basis) and the leasee maintains the site. The area has received little resource and the majority of the known grave sites remain unfenced.
- 3.4. In 2024, the local community contacted Greenspace, initiated by the current leasee, to discuss potential enhancements to the area. A meeting on the reserve, including 15 community members, two Councillors and two staff members, found that there was a desire to have native plantings in the reserve to encourage wildlife and acknowledge the graves to highlight the heritage of the area. In addition, it was stated that the area is infrequently used by local families and young people, particularly for nature connection and exploration and there was a desire for this to be expanded in a passive and appropriate manner.

4. **KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1. The area was surveyed by Bex Dollery on several occasions from 2024 – 2025. The survey documented the habitats and features of interest on the site in addition to targeted surveys for fauna undertaken by ecologist Hazel Holmes in 2026. It was found that most of the reserve had low ecological value in its current state but potential for significant enhancement and the heritage aspect was evident due to the presence of the marked graves sites.
- 4.2. There were some features of ecological interest which offered potential for passive recreation and connection opportunities including a water race, a grassed, open area, a stand of pine trees and a walking path connecting to areas outside of the reserve. Recommendations included heritage exploration and enhancements, biodiversity and recreational enhancements that can all achieve the goals outlined by local residents whilst respecting the cultural and natural history.

Heritage Opportunities

- 4.3. The cemetery is a heritage reserve and has 4 marked grave sites. These are documented in records as occurring between the dates of 1883 – 1921. However, it is widely believed that there are a number of unmarked graves. To respect the cemetery status and highlight the historical importance of the area, it is recommended that a ground penetrating radar is used to determine the location of any unmarked graves. Once ascertained, these can be acknowledged using signage and potentially planted with wild flowers, as has been done in Oxford.
- 4.4. The location of any unmarked graves may trigger alteration of the enhancement design, avoiding those areas so they can be acknowledged and marked. Should a large amount of graves be found that require significant alteration to the enhancement plan (in excess of 0.5 ha), it is recommended that the plan be brought back to the community board for further decision and approval.

Biodiversity Enhancements

- 4.5. The water race that flows through the reserve was the only site that contained native species. A survey found common bullies in the water race and it is likely that eels are also present. The banks contained no plantings for sediment control and the substrate was small grade gravel which was covered in fine silt, quite heavily in places. To enhance this area, it is recommended that the banks are planted with native, low stature monocots (such as sedges) which will shade the watercourse to benefit the aquatic species, and capture some of the silt entering from the adjacent land.
- 4.6. The open, grassed area currently contains short exotic grass sward and has little interest for biodiversity but can provide for passive recreation, such as a picnic area. It is recommended that part of this area be planted with low growing shrubs to provide food and shelter for invertebrates, birds and lizards. No lizards were recorded in the reserve (due to this lack of habitat) but it is anticipated that they will be in the surrounding environment. As such, lizard habitat and invertebrate habitat creation (stone piles and wooden discs) are recommended along with signage to inform the local community. This type of enhancement would offer low stature *indigenous vegetation with low visual impact, but offer significant biodiversity net gain, allowing for relaxed nature connection in keeping with the historic role the area has played.

- 4.7. It is recommended that the pine trees on site are subject to a survey to assess the health and safety of these tall specimens. An arborist will inform whether removal is required or when harvest should occur. It is recommended that the area be planted with native noble trees to act as replacement canopy once the pines are removed. This will enable the continuity of character for the area but with indigenous species that can remain in situ and have a life-span of hundreds of years, compared to the decades for pines.

Recreation opportunities

- 4.8. There is a walking track which connects from the back of the reserve, along the water race to Moderna Place and Verona Place. It is recommended that signage be installed for this path. In addition, features already present on site, such as the sunken concrete culvert and topography of the site be maintained to offer interest and nature play opportunities in the reserve for young families.
- 4.9. The interpretative signage for the reserve is recommended to highlight the history of the reserve, connecting back to the local use of the reserve and the environmental conditions of the area. It is also recommended that there are some signs which encourage young families explore and spot indigenous species of flora and fauna in the range of habitat that will be enhanced in the reserve.

Funding

- 4.10. There are no dedicated funds to enhance the reserve. However, this reserve is identified as one that could offer multiple benefits for the natural environment and local community. Therefore, funds are proposed to be allocated through the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy, staged over five years.
- 4.11. There is also an opportunity to receive funds from another Council projects for the enhancement of the reserve for lizards. Lizards are protected from harm and disturbance by the Wildlife Act 1953. Therefore, where projects are undertaken which have an impact on lizards, the Department of Conservation (DOC) requires a compensation before the activity is approved. These projects could be those such as installing a new swale in lizard habitat or creating new sporting facilities. Often the compensation required by DOC entails the enhancement of lizard habitat (either at the project site or offsite) and sometimes the relocation of lizards (should there not be suitable habitat at the project site).
- 4.12. As part of Council projects, there will be funding to manage any risks, including ecological risks. Therefore, should a Council project require an area to enhance or relocate lizards to, the Mandeville Cemetery would be a good location as there are no lizards currently on site and there is wide scope for enhancement due to the area's low ecological value.

5. OPTIONS

- 5.1. The community board has the following options:

- 5.1.1. **Approve the enhancement plan and recommended funding streams.** This is the option recommended by staff as the site has been discussed with local residents, fully surveyed and considered by staff and it offers multiple benefits to the heritage of the site, natural environment and local community. This option allows for future enhancement of the area for lizards should funding become available from other Council projects.
- 5.1.2. **Approve part of the enhancement plan.** This is not recommended by staff. The enhancement plan has been designed to offer interest and benefits across a range of issues including heritage, biodiversity, water quality, nature connection and passive recreation. Only approving part of the plan would result in a lowered level of service.
- 5.1.3. **Decline the enhancement plan and ask for further information.** This option is not recommended by staff. A suite of surveys has been undertaken and information gathered from a range of places including local community. To decline the plan would lead to further delays in delivering benefits to the local residents and wider community, leaving the area in the same condition as is currently (including the lacking of demarcation for grave sites).

- 5.2. The Management Team has reviewed this report and supports the recommendations.

6. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AND COMMUNITY VIEWS

Mana Whenua Engagement

- 6.1. The subject matter and/or recommendations contained within this report may be of interest to mana whenua. As such, Council staff welcome the opportunity to engage with mana whenua on this matter and have provided information to Whitiora Centre Limited, as key advisors to Te Ngai Tūāhuriri Runanga, to determine whether and/or how they wish to be involved. Council staff will include views, advice and/or contributions from mana whenua in appropriate future documentation where available.

Groups, Organisations and the Wider Community

- 6.2. There are groups, organisations, or members of the wider community likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in, the subject matter of this report. The local community have already signalled their interest in the enhancement of the reserve. In addition, biodiversity organisations and conservation volunteers within the district will have an interest in the enhancements proposed.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

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

Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities

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

Relevant Community Outcome Values	Mandeville Cemetery 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 - <i>where our people are enabled to thrive & give creative expression to identity & heritage..</i>	
<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 will highlight the heritage of the reserve. The project aims to include mahinga kai and taonga species. Community members will be invited to be included in the enhancement works.
Environmental - <i>that values and restores our environment...</i>	
<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 has been designed with appropriate ecological input. Enhancements provide for climate change mitigation / adaptation The areas will be open to the public.
Economic - <i>and is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.</i>	
<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.

- 6.5. The Council's Strategic Priorities are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.
- Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural and built environment.
 - Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness.

7. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are financial implications for the decisions sought by this report. It is estimated that the complete enhancement for the reserve will cost \$21,128 over a period of 5 years starting in the 2026/2027 financial year.
- 7.2. Funding is currently provided within the Long Term Plan and the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (WNES). To enable implementation, the strategy set aside funds against certain actions to achieve the strategic pillars of "connecting people and nature" and "sustain and create resilient ecosystems". The funds which are proposed to be used by this project are outlined below.
- 7.3. The project will be funded via the two WNES funding streams which have budget each year. However, the project will be achieved over a 5-year period, therefore, not displacing other potential projects which require assistance.

Budget/Project Name	WNES Signage	WNES Reserve enhancement
PJ/GL Number	102472.000.5223	102465.280.2543
Total Budget	\$5,000 / pa	\$15,000 / pa
Spend to Date	\$0	\$0
Recommended Tender/Quote/Expenditure	\$2,000	\$19,128
Other projected Commitments	Other projects financed with remaining funds	
Remaining Budget		
Further Budget Sought	There may be underspends if community planting days are included.	
Rating Implication	None	None

- 7.4. Each year staff present a report to the Community and Recreation Committee that identifies the progress made on the actions within the WNES implementation plan and outlines the budget spend for the strategy. The forecasted works programme is presented detailing actions and projects which will be undertaken in the following year. However, a number of the actions require ongoing identification throughout the year so they can respond to community demand and ensure highest levels of service.
- 7.5. The lizard habitat enhancements which are signalled in the enhancement plan (attachment i), will not be funded as part of this project. There is the opportunity to gain funding from other Council projects which are required (through legislation and under guidance of the Department of Conservation) to create lizard habitat. This will occur as and when other projects have the need for habitat creation.
- 7.6. Should the Community Board decide that they would like to accelerate the enhancement of the reserve (in a timeframe shorter than the 5-year programme), they may wish to consider the allocation of the general landscaping budget.

Community Resilience and Sustainability

- 7.7. The recommendations in this report do have sustainability and/or climate change impacts.

- 7.8. The enhancement plan will deliver a range of ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and climate regulation from native plantings, water purification using riparian buffers and increasing the supporting service of biodiversity.
- 7.9. The decision sought in this report are consistent with the Council's Natural Environment Strategy Framework. The enhancement of the reserve will fulfil the strategic directions of "connecting people and nature" and "Sustain and create resilient ecosystems". It relates directly to the following actions in the implementation plan:
- 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, rōngoa 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.
 - 4.2.4.9 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.

Risk Management

- 7.10. There are risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. There may be a risk that the funding to create the lizard habitat enhancement area is not realised.. Should this occur, other budgets will be explored and the plan will be altered to reduce the cost via use of volunteers, grants, and an extended delivery time. However, it should be noted that the other enhancements in the reserve represent significant ecological and community focussed gains.

Health and Safety

- 7.11. There are health and safety risks arising from the adoption/ implementation of the recommendations in this report. The tall pine trees may pose a health and safety risk to users of the reserve. The enhancement plan details survey by an arborist and removal where required. All other health and safety concerns will be acknowledged and dealt with through the use of suitability qualified contractors.

8. CONTEXT

Consistency with Policy

- 8.1. This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. However, the report has relevance for:
- 8.1.1. ***Waimakariri Partially Operative District Plan*** (2023) – ECO Chapter which aims to protect, manage and maintain areas of ecological importance.
 - 8.1.2. ***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".
 - 8.1.3. ***Canterbury Regional Policy Statement*** (2011) - Policy 7.3.3 "To promote, and where appropriate require the protection, restoration and improvement of lakes, rivers, wetlands and their riparian zones and associated Ngāi Tahu values"; Policy 9.34 "To promote the enhancement and restoration of Canterbury's ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, in appropriate locations, where this will improve the functioning and long term sustainability of these ecosystems."

- 8.1.4. **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”

Authorising Legislation

- 8.2. Allocations are made under the **Local Government Act 2002**.
- 8.3. **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”.
- 8.4. **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”.

Authorising Delegations

- 8.5. The Oxford Ohoka Community Board has the delegation to approve and accept the recommendations in this report as it pertains to the concept design for the reserve area. The WNES budget is not part of this delegation.
- 8.6. Council has approved budget to implement the actions outlined in the WNES implementation plan. Within each of those action areas staff identify and deliver a number of projects and report this to the Community and Recreation Committee every year. The budgets associated with the actions are generally very small, and relate to Council owned reserves. The budgets identified in this report have an annual allocation of \$15,000 (Reserve enhancement budget) and \$5,000 (Signage budget) and as such staff are responsible for determining what projects are implemented to achieve the approved action.

Recreation and Ecological Enhancement

Mandeville Cemetery Reserve Concept Plan

Prepared by Waimakariri District Council
February 2026



Prepared for: Oxford Ohoka Community Board

Prepared by: Dr. Bex Dollery, Biodiversity Team Leader

Reviewed by: Ken Howat, Parks and Facilities Team Leader
Mike Kwant, Senior Biodiversity Ranger

Approved by: Grant MacLeod, Greenspace Manager

on behalf of Biodiversity Team, Waimakariri District Council

Published: TBC

File / Record Number: RES-35-02 / 260215026682

Version Number	Prepared By	Comments	Date
1	Bex Dollery	Submitted for first review	15 February 2026
2	Bex Dollery	Submitted for second review	31 March 2026
3	Bex Dollery	Final Version	

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1. Introduction

The Mandeville Cemetery Reserve on Bradleys Road is a Greenspace asset, classed as a Cultural Heritage reserve, located in Ohoka. It is a known cemetery which is now closed, with very few burials. There are several headstones still standing but it is thought that there are more, unmarked burial areas. The area is approximately 2 ha and comprises short, rank grassland with scattered mature pine trees and a water race.

In 2024, the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board and local residents approached WDC staff to consider opportunities to enhance the Mandeville Cemetery with regard to ecological features of interest (birdlife, native plantings etc), recreation for local families and children and to highlight the history of area.

1.1. Overview – Ecological Site Context

The Mandeville Cemetery 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, 1987¹). The area is characterised by warm summer and cool winters with relatively low rainfall and strong nor westerly winds in autumn and spring (Macara, 2016²). The soils within the area are mapped with high confidence in Manaaki Whenua's S-Map application³. The southern half of the property is noted to contain mainly Pallic soils, dominated by the Darnley siblings, which are generally shallow and well drained silt. The northern part of the site also contains Pallic soils dominated by the Pahau sibling which is moderately deep and imperfectly drained.

The cemetery is located within a semi-rural area comprising lifestyle blocks with an assortment of shelterbelts, paddocks and associated features (Figure 1). It is noted that the cemetery is currently informally used by a number of residents in the area.



Figure 1. The Mandeville Cemetery Reserve showing the surrounding rural landuse and location of greenspace reserves and linkages.

¹ McEwan, W.M. (1987). Ecological regions and districts of New Zealand. Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand.

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

³ <https://smap.landcareresearch.co.nz/maps-and-tools/app>

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

- Using **indigenous** plants which are **native** to the area with a good chance of **survival**;
- Recognise and honour the location of the graves and the **history** of the area;
- Using plants that promote the continued spread of **indigenous fauna** across the landscape; and
- To create an interesting and inviting play space for families 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 Dr. Bex Dollery.

2.1. Methodology

2.1.1. Desktop Survey

A desktop investigation was undertaken in January 2026 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 significance 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 between November 2025 and January 2026. 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. A full species inventory of plants found on site can be found in Appendix A.

Fauna

The site was assessed for suitable habitat for native species of mammals and invertebrates with any sightings or signs recorded during each site visit. For birds, incidental sightings were recorded, and two five-minute long point bird counts were undertaken at the east and west ends of the site.

The site was assessed for lizards using tracking tunnels, made from a corflute material folded into a triangle and held with zip ties to create an approx. 5cm base. A total of 15 were placed at 20 m intervals around the periphery of the site, or in areas with suitable habitat. Inked cards were placed inside the tunnels along with pear as bait. The tunnels remained in-situ for 1 week (Figure 2). Six gee minnow traps were used in the water race on 4 February 2026 at 25 m apart along the stretch of the waterway, following standard methodology to survey any aquatic species (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Location of gee minnow traps (left) and tracking tunnels for lizards (right).

2.2. Results

The main features on the land were a grazed grassland area (by horses) with planted pines and a water race traversing the western section and flowing along the east boundary. The water race connects to a ponded area (water race pond) approximately 360 m east alongside a walkway vested as Local Purpose Reserve (Access) which links round to Verona Place to the south (Figure 3). A water race pond is also located on site but was dry on each occasion site was visited.

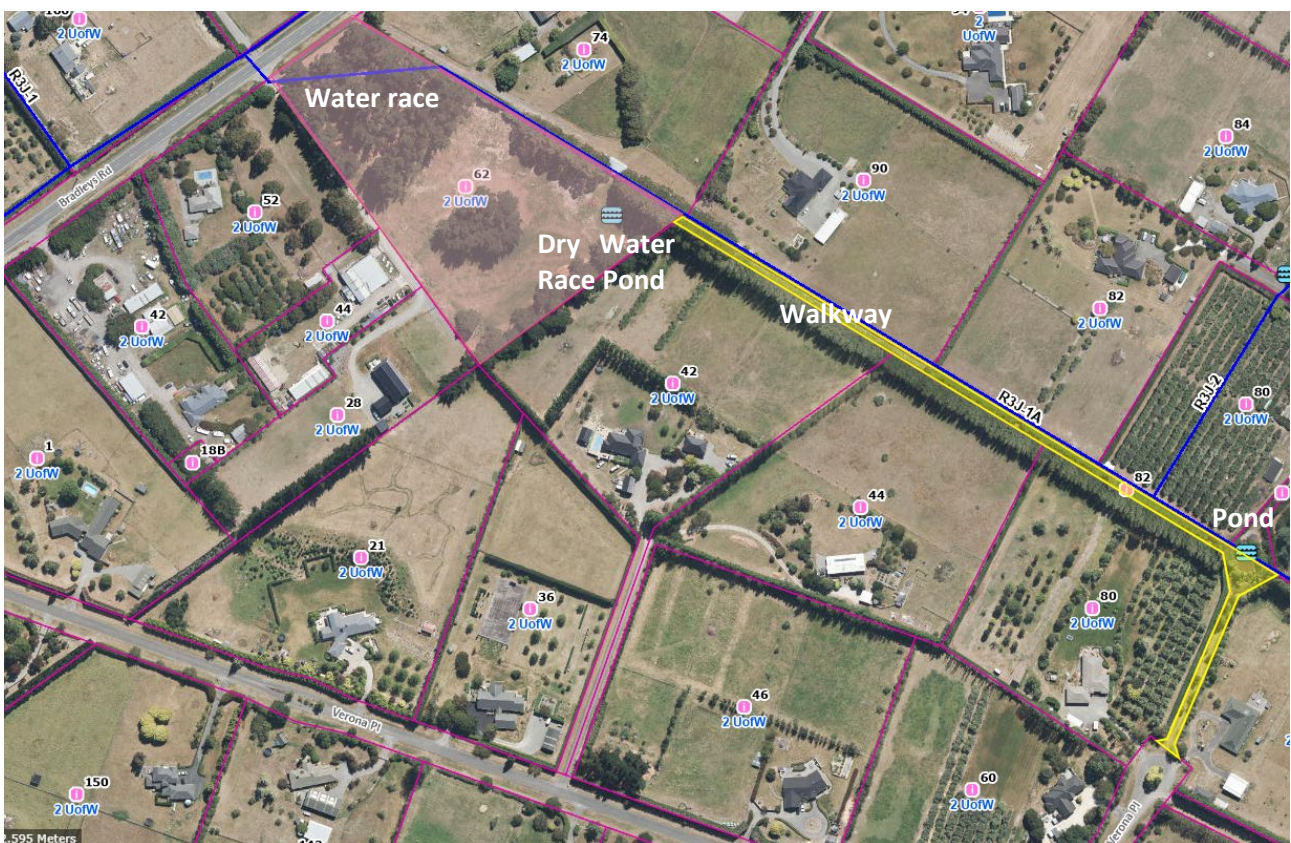


Figure 3. Land surrounding Mandeville cemetery showing pond to the east, walkway and water race.

Vegetation and Habitat

The majority of the site comprises rank grassland which is grazed by horses or suppressed to a short sward by the surrounding pine trees and associated pine litter. Over much of the area, the soil was exposed by the

scarce vegetation, showing the friable silt soils (Figure 4). The species found in this area were common, exotic species associated with rank grasslands (see Appendix B for species list identified on site).

The graves that were marked were found within the grassland areas with visible headstone. Whilst no noticeable ground disturbance was identified, there may still be unmarked graves in the area. Another feature of interest was a mounded area and concrete culvert (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Short sward grassland across the majority of the site (left) and the concrete culvert with marked graves in the background (right).

The water race was the only habitat which contained native plant species on the site. There were some sedges and ferns along the eastern boundary and some aquatic plants within the stream, particularly closer to the culvert. However, this water race is maintained and was found to be overgrown with waterweeds (mainly watercress) in 2024 (Figure 5). There were several crossings over the water race; 2 formal culverts and 2 informal, wooden plank crossings.



Figure 5. Water race in 2024 with an overgrowth of waterweed and a crossing in the distance (left) and another crossing adjacent to an informal, plank crossing further east.

The water race entered the land through a culvert in the northwest of the site and traversed to the eastern boundary. The water race was approximately 1 m wide and fast flowing (approx. 3s/m was recorded during the survey which was undertaken in wet weather conditions). Adjacent to the culvert, the substrate was small grade gravel. Downstream and where the water race was adjacent to the boundary, the substrate was

a fine layer of silt. In many areas the banks were bare of vegetation, causing further sediment to enter the watercourse (Figure 6).



Figure 6. The water race enters the site through a culvert (top left) and has a silt substrate (top right) and generally bare banks, particularly where the race is shaded by pine trees or the shelter belt at the eastern boundary.

The majority of tree on site were radiata pine trees which appeared to be in reasonable health with the exception of a couple of trees that were leaning and potentially at risk of windthrow. There were piles of wood on the site from some tree felling on the adjacent land (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Pine trees in centre of site (left) and wood piles from the removal of trees on adjacent land (right).

Fauna

iNaturalist recorded 3 bird species within 2 km of the site; bronze cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*), redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) and greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*). During on site bird point counts and survey visits, only exotic birds were identified: house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), little owl (*Athene noctua*), 3 pigeons (*Columba livia*), magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) and goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*). It is known that Ohoka bush, approx. km northwest also have bellbird (*Anthornis melanura*), silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*), fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*) and grey warbler (*Gerygone igata*), and pukeko (*Porphyrio melanotus*) and harriers (*Circus approximans*) are frequently seen in the area. The trees on site offer nesting habitat for a range of common birds and the grassland may offer foraging habitat.

No lizards or mammals were recorded within 2 km of the site and no lizards were recorded in the tracking tunnels. However, it is known that Canterbury grass skink (*Oligosoma aff. polychroma* Clade 4) are found in the rank grassland and pasture surrounding the site (information gained from ecological surveys undertaken for consent applications). The rank grass surrounding the site and at the periphery, could offer lizard habitat in conjunction with wood piles as refugia, however, any population present is thought to be small due to the short grassland sward and lack of native vegetation.

Mice were recorded in the tracking tunnels and mammals such as possum, mustelids and rats are known to be throughout the district. A hole in the soil dug by a rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) was also identified during the site visit.

The water race is known to provide habitat for shortfin eel – tuna (*Anguilla australis*) and 14 common bully – toitoi (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*) were found in the gee minnow traps (the majority being found in traps located under the pine trees and not adjacent to the boundary, Figure 8). The water race offers some limited habitat for aquatic invertebrates although none were observed during the surveys.

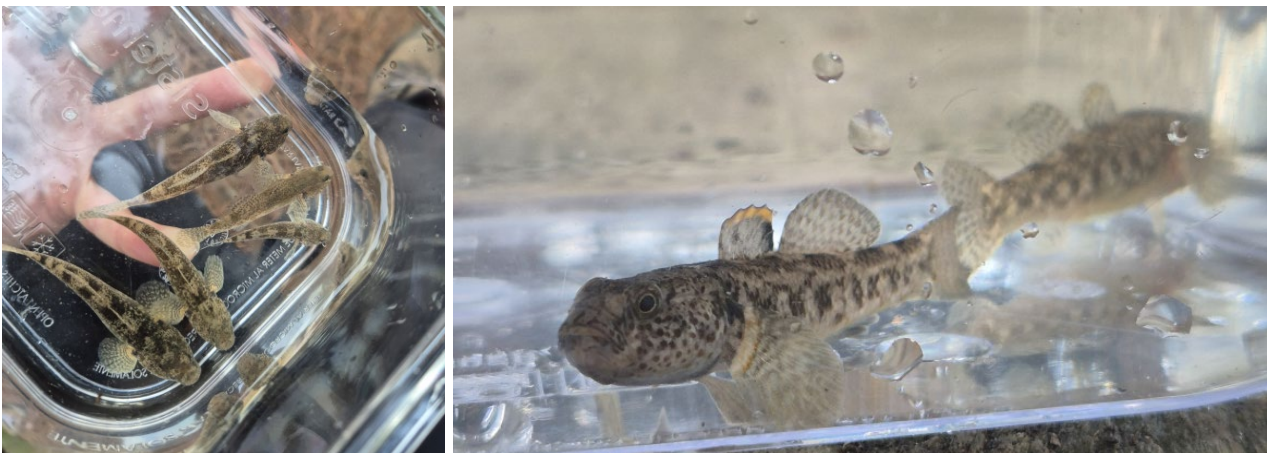


Figure 8. Common bullies found within the water race.

The site offers a range of habitats for invertebrates and New Zealand praying mantis (*Orthodera novaezealandiae*) has been observed in Ohoka Bush along with yellow admirals (*Vanessa itea*). These animals were not identified on site and are unlikely to be found due to the lack of host plants, native vegetation and shrub like plants. In the water race, a smooth-cased caddis fly was identified in the gravel substrate.

2.3. Conclusion and Restoration Wheel

The data gathering exercise found that the site had relatively low ecological values aside from the intrinsic value of the natural environment and the water race. The species recorded on site were mostly exotic or relatively common native species with the exception of the potential habitat for birds and invertebrates and the opportunity to enhance the site further to expand the community of species and create lizard

habitat. Aside from the tangible benefits of enhancement, planting a riparian buffer and introducing native plants and further refugia opportunities could assist in increasing the values of the site and water race and offer ecosystem services such as the cultural benefits of connection to nature and heritage and the supporting services of biodiversity.

2.3.1. Restoration Recovery and Community Outcomes Assessments

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) produced international guidelines for the practice of ecological restoration in 2016⁴. 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 Oceania⁵.

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 restored⁶.

The Mandeville Cemetery 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 9; description of parameters and star-rating can be found in Appendix B).

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 7; description of the parameters and star-rating in Appendix C). Both the restoration recovery wheel and the community outcomes wheel will be updated using data gathered from various sources every 2-5 years to track the trajectory of the site.

⁴ 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.

⁵ McDonald T, Jonson J, Dixon KW (2016b) National standards for the practice of ecological restoration in Australia. *Restoration Ecology* **24**: S6–S32

⁶ 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>

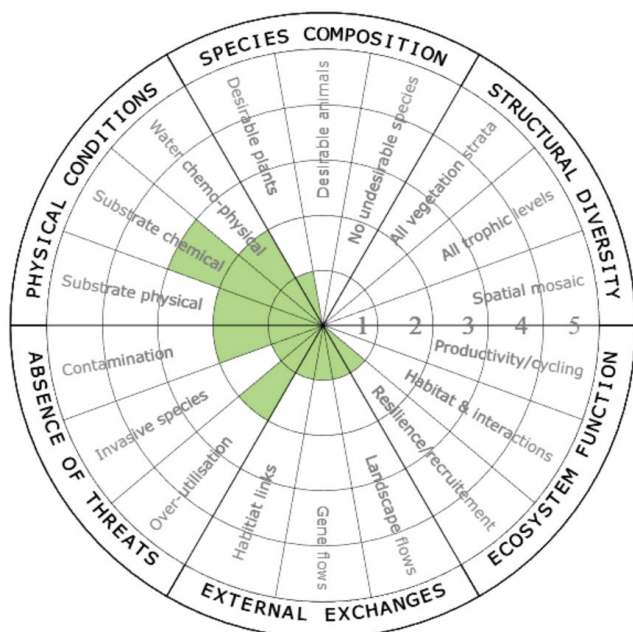
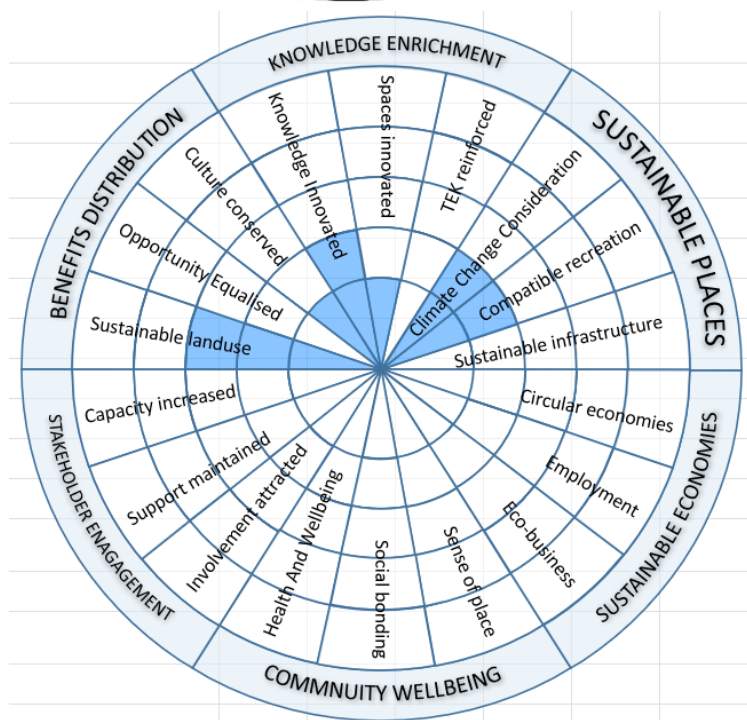


Figure 9. Restoration Recovery Wheel (above) and Community Outcomes Wheel (below) for the Mandeville Cemetery in 2026. Note that the aim is to achieve colour in as much as the wheel as possible denoting the achievement of various parameters (see Appendices B and C for parameter descriptions and star ratings).



3. Concept Plan

The concept plan has been devised to highlight the history of the area, provide ecological interest and enhance the water race running through the site and have some replacement native tree plantings for the pines which will be removed in the future. There is no formal path recommended and just a mown grass path where necessary. This is to promote exploration of the whole reserve. The planting around the water race will provide shade for the water and act as a sediment trap to reduce the load entering the channel and filling the off-site pond to the east of the site. Any planting elsewhere on the site will not be undertaken until a ground penetrating radar survey has been undertaken to locate any unmarked graves. If found, these areas will be marked with flower plantings and mapped.

The pine trees will be assessed for safety reasons and any hazardous trees removed. The remainder will stay on site until they require removal as determined by the WDC Parks and Facilities team. Native trees will be planted under the pines to provide tree cover once the pine trees are removed from the site.

The eastern section of the site will remain open and can have picnic tables. The landform is to be retained and low growing shrubs and native grasses planted. This will provide habitat for invertebrates and lizards and offer a food source for birds (Figure 10).

The planting has been spread over three consecutive years from 2025/6 – 2027/8 and can include the community and volunteers, such as the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust for planting days in the autumn seasons.

3.1. Riparian Planting

The water race traverses the reserve with a length of approx. 95 m. This area will be planted either side with a width of approx. 2 m, but this can be variable and assessed at the time of planting. Where the water race is at the boundary of the site, just the southern edge will be planted. 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 the race to be seen and access for maintenance if required. These plans have been discussed with WDC Water Services team who believe that the planting will enhance the area and not impact on the capacity of the water race.

3.2. Treeland Planting

It is recommended that the southern boundary of the site be planted with native trees and shrubs and extended in the western section which currently contains the pine trees. The area will not be densely planted to maintain the open feel of the area (total area of approx. 6,500 m²).

3.3. Low shrubland planting and ecological enhancements

Finally, the low shrub area will be planted with grasses and shrubs to provide habitat and food sources for invertebrates and lizards (total area of approx. of 9,000 m²). There will be wood and rock piles for lizards and invertebrate motels placed around the site. Environmental interpretation will include information about the history of the site and the species which are now found in the water race and in the terrestrial habitat. This area may need a temporary fence to protect the plants from sheep grazing if the area continues to be leased.

The species and quantities can be seen in Table 1 below with an estimation of the costings for the enhancements in Table 2.



Figure 10. Concept Plan showing the open treeland (green), the water race (blue) and the low shrubland (orange)

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

Common Name	Latin Name	Spacin g (m)	No. of plants	Comments	Ecosystem services
Lizard Habitat					
Grasses	<i>Anemanthle lessoniana/Festuca novae-zealandiae/Poa cita</i>	1.5	700	Plants grouped and scattered throughout area	Shelter, filtration, fibre, cultural
Coprosma	<i>Coprosma brunnea</i>	1.5	535		Shelter, fruit, nectar.
Porcupine shrub	<i>Melicytus alpinus</i>	1.5	535		Shelter, fruit, nectar.
Creeping pohuehue	<i>Muehlenbeckia axillaris</i>	1.5	535		Shelter, filtration, fruit, nectar.
Tauhinu	<i>Ozothamnus leptophylla</i>	1.5	420		Shelter, fruit, nectar.
Kōwhai	<i>Sophora prostrata</i>	1.5	420		Shelter, cultural, nectar.
NZ Broom	<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>	1.5	420		Shelter, nectar.
Total			3,565 (\$14,260)		
Treeland					
Kaikomako	<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	NA	10	Under pines	Nectar/Pollen, Nectar, cultural
Matai	<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	NA	10	Under pines	Erosion control, Shelter, fruit (bird), cultural
Five finger	<i>Pseudopanax arboeus</i>	NA	10	Under pines	Shelter, Nectar (Insect), Fruit (Bird), cultural
Totara	<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	NA	10	Under pines	Shelter, Nectar (Insect), cultural, Fruit
Kowhai	<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	NA	10	Under pines	Shelter, Nectar (Insect, Bird), cultural
Kōhūhū	<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	1.5	20	Boundary planting	Shelter, Fruit, nectar.
Koromiko	<i>Veronica salicifolia</i>	1.5	15	Boundary planting	Shelter, nectar/pollen. Cultural
Mikimiki	<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	1.5	15	Boundary planting	Shelter, nectar, fruit. Cultural
Mapou	<i>Myrsine australis</i>	1.5	20	Boundary planting	Shelter, nectar. Cultural
Total			120 (\$480)		
Riparian Planting (approx. 1,320 m²)					
Purei/ Rautahi	<i>Carex sp., Luzula sp, Juncus sp</i>	1	350	Lining water race, both sides across reserve and one side at boundary	Erosion control, sediment trapping, filtration, grain. Cultural
Harakeke	<i>Phormium tenax</i>	1.5	22	Two plants of each species arranged in a group along length (every 30 m)	Erosion control, filtration, fibre, cultural, nectar.
Koromiko	<i>Veronica salicifolia</i>	1.5	22		Erosion control, shelter, nectar. Cultural
Ti kōuka, cabbage tree	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	1.5	22		Erosion control, filtration, fibre, mahinga kai, rōngoā, nectar, Nectar (Bird, insect), Cultural.
Total			416 (\$1,664)		
Total Plants			4,101		

Table 2. Indicative Costs 2026-2028 (this can be reviewed and amended to match available budget, this cost represents the amount required to meet levels of service for the reserve)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Plants	\$4 x 4101	\$16,404 + GST
Plant guards	\$125/50 x 4101	\$10,253 + GST
Plant installation	\$4 x 3053 (a large part of this may be undertaken by volunteers)	\$16,404
Site preparation	\$3,000	\$3,000
Mulch (where possible)	\$4000 (delivered but not spread)	\$4,000
Releasing	\$8,000	\$8,000
Signage, biodiversity enhancements	\$17,000	\$7,000
Ground Penetrating Radar survey	\$3,000	\$3,000
	Total	\$78,061

3.4. Restoration Planting Methodology

3.4.1. 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 Services team to enable maintenance of the water race when required. There are further opportunities for volunteers to assist with ecological monitoring of the area going forward.

3.4.2. 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.

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APPENDIX A. Vegetation Inventory

Plant species identified in different habitats across the site. Green highlights denote native species, red denotes weed species for removal.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	DAFOR
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover	Grassland	O/LA
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	creeping bent	Grassland	O
<i>Dactylis glomeratus</i>	cocksfoot	Grassland	O
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow	Grassland	O
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial ryegrass	Grassland	O
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	field thistle	Grassland	R
<i>Poa annua</i>	annual bluegrass	Grassland	O
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle	Grassland	R
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup	Stream/Grassland	O
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	mallow	Grassland	R
<i>Taraxacum sp.</i>	dandelion	Grassland	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	dock	Grassland	R
<i>Azolla rubra</i>	Water fern	Stream	R
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress	Stream	R
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Tall flat sedge	Stream	R
<i>Lemna disperma</i>	Duckweed	Stream	R
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock	Stream	R
<i>Erythranthe guttata</i>	Monkey Musk	Stream	R
<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	Water forget-me-not	Stream	R
<i>Juncus sp</i>	Jointed rush	Stream	R
<i>Potamogeton suboblongus</i>	Pondweed	Stream	R
<i>Biden frondosa</i>	Beggars tick	Stream	R
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	Trees/Shrubs	O
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal	Grassland	O
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth hawksbeard	Grassland	O
<i>Galium divaricum</i>	Slender bedstraw	Grassland	O
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Red clover	Grassland	O
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Plantain	Grassland	O
<i>Plantago obtusifolia</i>	Plantain	Grassland	O
<i>Euchiton involucratus</i>	Creeping cudweed	Grassland	R
<i>Euchiton sphaericus</i>	Common Cudweed	Grassland	R
<i>Juncus edgariae</i>	Wiwi	Stream	R
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder	Grassland	R
<i>Carex virigata</i>	Swamp sedge	Stream	R
<i>Carex secta</i>	Sedge	Stream	O/LF
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	Water-speedwell	Stream	R
<i>Hypolepis ambigua</i>	Pig fern	Stream	R
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall barley	Grassland	O
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	Monterey cypress	Trees/Shrubs	R
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge mustard	Grassland	O
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	Grassland	O
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broadleaved dock	Grassland	O
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherds purse	Grassland	O
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sorrel	Grassland	O
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Pine	Trees/Shrubs	F

APPENDIX B. 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 C. 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	Asses 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 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 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.				All waste and pollution is eliminated through sustainable circular economies.	Assess plans, policies, operations	Economic 5
Employment innovation and generation						
Innovative avenues for employment are identified				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 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 to reflect all stakeholders	User survey	Social 6 Cultural 1
<i>Social bonding improved</i>						
Space activation opportunities are identified				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 improved and sustained	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 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.

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WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION**

FILE NO and TRIM NO: RES-01-12 / 260429105559


REPORT TO: Oxford Ohoka Community Board

DATE OF MEETING: 3 June 2026

AUTHOR(S): Bex Dollery, Biodiversity Team Leader

SUBJECT: West Eyreton Pit 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 of the enhancement plan designed for the West Eyreton Pit (attachment i). The reserve is fee simple, being passed from the Eyre County Council to the Waimakariri District Council in 1982. Part of the reserve is now used by the Water Services Unit for Infrastructure, but the majority comprises a historic gravel pit.
- 1.2. In 2024, the community board approached council staff with concerns around safety of the pit in times of inundation. The pit can fill with water and there was concern that residents could fall in with no planting to provide footing and help evacuation. Therefore, there was a desire to plant the area for safety reasons but also to assist with the aesthetic and biodiversity considerations of the wider area.
- 1.3. Surveys were undertaken by the Greenspace Biodiversity team and an enhancement plan has been compiled for the area which includes riparian low stature and flexible planting around the pit and perimeter. This ties into the planting in the adjacent reserve and reflects the historical, indigenous vegetation of the area.
- 1.4. The area is classed as a Hazardous and Industries List site (HAIL) due to the extraction which occurred and subsequent granting for the site to be used for hardfill. Contamination surveys carried out in 2017 and recorded by the Canterbury Regional Council show that the area is likely not contaminated. However, planting activities to occur on the site would be classed as permitted activities due to the amount of limited disturbance. Regardless, precautions during enhancements will still be enacted.
- 1.5. There is no allocated funding for this project and the anticipated cost is \$13,620. Therefore, funding is recommended to be allocated from Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (WNES) funding over a period of three years. This would include interpretative signage to enhance nature connection to the area using the signage funding (action 2.1.4.3, \$5,000 allocated every year) and enhancement works (WNES action 4.2.3.1, \$15,000 every year). There is the opportunity for this to be progressed more quickly should the community board allocate some of the landscape budget to this project.

Attachments:

- i. Draft West Eyreton Pit Enhancement Plan (TRIM: 240316041296)

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Oxford Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260429105559.

- (b) **Approves** the Draft West Eyreton Pit Enhancement Plan (Trim: 240316041296).
- (c) **Notes** that funding of \$13,620 is required for the enhancements as allocated from Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (signage fund, PJ 102472.000.5223, \$5,000/pa; reserve natural values fund, PJ 102465.280.2543, \$15,000/pa) funding with potential for use of the General Landscaping Budget.
- (d) **Notes** that it is likely that community planting days will be permitted during enhancements with community undertaking activities that do not involve direct contact with the soil.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The West Eyreton Pit is a historical, fee simple reserve that was passed to the Waimakariri District Council from the Eyre County Council in the early 1980's. The reserve was previously used as a gravel/shingle extraction area.
- 3.2. The gravel pit area now includes Water Services Unit infrastructure at the boundaries but the majority of the land comprises the depression caused by the historic gravel extraction and a thin walkway around the periphery of the site. For most of the year, the pit is dry but in times of heavy rainfall the area can act as a surrogate detention basin for stormwater.
- 3.3. Part of this area has now been redesignated as the Oaks Reserve, a parcel of land opposite the West Eyreton Hall which has been planted with indigenous flora and provides recreation access and the adjacent land which includes the former gravel pit. The enhancement of the area has been raised by the Oxford Ohoka Community Board in previous LTP years.

4. **KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1. Concern was expressed surrounding the safety of the pit area in high rainfall conditions. The banks of the pit are grassed, which offers no footholds for anyone who may slip into the pit in times of inundation. In addition, the area is not in keeping with the adjacent Oaks reserve which has been planted with indigenous species and acts as a picnic spot and overflow area for users of the West Eyreton Hall.
- 4.2. The Biodiversity Team was offered the opportunity to evaluate the site to see if the concerns of the community board could also be overlaid with ecological enhancements. The team surveyed the area and liaised with the Water Services Unit who were also exploring alternate uses for the area. However, the Water Services Unit surmised that the area had limited functional use at present for their requirements of storm water mitigation and acknowledged the safety concerns and the potential biodiversity enhancements that could occur in the area.
- 4.3. The biodiversity team assessed the area for potential nature-based solutions to the safety concerns, biodiversity enhancements and the practical ability to achieve plantings in the area. Opportunities exist to plant the edges of the ephemeral waterbody (the pit) to provide ecological benefit and address safety concerns. This, and the additional planting recommended at the boundaries of the site, would offer increased indigenous biodiversity habitat in addition to extending the recreational value of the Oaks Reserve planting effort (attachment i).
- 4.4. The site is classed as a HAIL site but testing of the area (as provided by the Regional Council) revealed that contamination is highly unlikely. However, to ensure that there is no risk to the general public, the rules pertaining to NES-CS will be adhered to. This means that planting will be undertaken by suitably qualified practitioners, ensuring the soil disturbance is kept to a minimum, and the soil is stabilised. Community members may be able to join the restoration effort, engaging in activities that do not have contact with the soil, such as the installation of plant guards where required.

- 4.5. Funding for the project is not currently established and the costs for the project are anticipated to be \$13,620. There is the opportunity to utilise funding through the Waimakariri Natural Environment strategy for enhancing and expanding the indigenous vegetation across the district. This funding is also allocated to other projects, therefore the on-ground works would be realised over a period of approx. 3 years, beginning with the planting around the pit to address safety concerns. There is also the opportunity for the community board to offer funding through the general landscape budget to progress the trajectory of enhancement for the area.

5. OPTIONS

- 5.1. The community board has the following options:

- 5.1.1. **Approve the enhancement plan and recommended funding streams.** This is the option recommended by staff as the site has been assessed and designed to offer multiple benefits to the safety elements, natural environment and nature connection for local community.
- 5.1.2. **Approve part of the enhancement plan.** This is not recommended by staff. The enhancement plan has been designed to deliver on the primary objectives and represent a complete package that will deal to the maintenance of the area. To approve part of the plans may alter the trajectory of the project and potentially cause weed issues.
- 5.1.3. **Decline the enhancement plan and ask for further information.** This option is not recommended by staff. The West Eyreton Pit has been an area of concern for a number of years and further surveys and information gathering, unless required for priority reasons, may further delay the installation of plants. This would delay addressing the safety concerns raised by the local community.

- 5.2. The Management Team has reviewed this report and supports the recommendations.

6. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AND COMMUNITY VIEWS

Mana Whenua Engagement

- 6.1. The subject matter and/or recommendations contained within this report may be of interest to mana whenua. As such, Council staff welcome the opportunity to engage with mana whenua on this matter and have provided information to Whitiara Centre Limited, as key advisors to Te Ngai Tūāhuriri Runanga, to determine whether and/or how they wish to be involved. Council staff will include views, advice and/or contributions from mana whenua in appropriate future documentation where available.

Groups, Organisations and the Wider Community

- 6.2. There are groups, organisations, or members of the wider community likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in, the subject matter of this report. The local community may wish to be involved in the planting of the area. Past planting days were attended by local community in the adjacent Oaks Reserve. There are also local biodiversity organisations and conservation volunteers within the district that may have an interest in the enhancements proposed.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

- 6.3. There are implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report. The works proposed by the enhancement plan will directly support safety of residents recreating in the area. Indirectly, the enhancements 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.

Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities

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

Relevant Community Outcome Values	West Eyreton Pit Project
Social - A place where everyone can have a sense of belonging..	
<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 is 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 will use native species, some of which may be mahinga kai and taonga species. Community members will be invited to be included in the enhancement works.
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 has been designed with appropriate ecological input. Enhancements provide for climate change mitigation / adaptation The areas will be open to the public and offer safe. Recreating in times of inundation of the pit.
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"> Acknowledgement of volunteers in the district.

6.5. The Council's Strategic Priorities are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report.

- Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural and built environment.
- Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness.

7. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

Financial Implications

7.1. There are financial implications for the decisions sought by this report. It is estimated that the proposed enhancements for the reserve will cost \$13,620 over a period of 3 years starting in the 2026/2027 financial year.

7.2. Funding is currently provided within the Long-Term Plan (Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy) for projects that enhance the natural value of reserves throughout the district and assist with connecting people to nature.

7.2.1. The following table provides a summary of the estimated funding and costs associated with the recommended option in this report (note that the project will be financed from WNES budgets over a 3 year period):

Budget/Project Name	WNES Signage	WNES Reserve natural values
PJ/GL Number	102472.000.5223	102465.280.2543
Total Budget	\$5,000 / pa	\$15,000 / pa
Spend to Date	\$0	\$0
Recommended Tender/Quote/Expenditure	\$1,000	\$12,620
Other projected Commitments	Other projects financed with remaining funds	
Remaining Budget		
Further Budget Sought	Possible underspends if community planting days are successful.	
Rating Implication	None	None

Community Resilience and Sustainability

- 7.3. The recommendations in this report do have sustainability and/or climate change impacts.
- 7.4. The enhancement plan will deliver a range of ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and climate regulation from native plantings, and increasing the supporting service of biodiversity.
- 7.5. The decision sought in this report are consistent with the Council's Natural Environment Strategy Framework. The enhancement of the reserve will fulfil the strategic directions of "connecting people and nature" and "Sustain and create resilient ecosystems". It relates directly to the following actions in the implementation plan:
- 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, rōngoa 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).
 - 4.2.4.11 Plant Council's undeveloped recreation and ecological linkages where these have the potential to contribute significant natural environment benefits.

Risk Management

- 7.6. There are risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. There may be a risk that the enhancements fail due to the conditions on site: dry, silt soils in summer with wetter, inundated periods. The plants chosen have been selected to deal with this issue and checks will be undertaken several times a year by the ranger. In addition, issues arising from weed growth will be attended to by the use of plant guards where possible and maintenance provided by the ranger.

Health and Safety

- 7.7. There are health and safety risks arising from the adoption/ implementation of the recommendations in this report. The enhancement plan was developed with the safety of local residents around the pit when inundated as a firm priority. Should the planting around the pit be declined or refused, the safety issue will remain.

8. CONTEXT

Consistency with Policy

- 8.1. This matter is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. However, the report has relevance for:

- 8.1.1. **Waimakariri Partially Operative District Plan** (2023) – ECO Chapter which aims to protect, manage and maintain areas of ecological importance.
- 8.1.2. **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”.
- 8.1.3. **Canterbury Regional Policy Statement** (2011) - Policy 7.3.3 “To promote, and where appropriate require the protection, restoration and improvement of lakes, rivers, wetlands and their riparian zones and associated Ngāi Tahu values”; Policy 9.34 “To promote the enhancement and restoration of Canterbury’s ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, in appropriate locations, where this will improve the functioning and long term sustainability of these ecosystems.”
- 8.1.4. **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”.

Authorising Legislation

- 8.2. Allocations are made under the **Local Government Act 2002**.
- 8.3. **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”.

Authorising Delegations

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

West Eyreton Pit Planting Improvements – Restoration Plan

Introduction

West Eyreton Pit is located within West Eyreton, adjacent to Oaks Reserve and opposite the West Eyreton Hall (Figure 1). Extraction was ceased when the water table was reached and the sides of the pit were rounded and the area grassed in 2012 to alleviate any dust issues. Due to this activity and the subsequent allocation of a hardfill landfill status, the site is currently assessed as a Hazardous Activities and Industries list (HAIL) site. The pit periodically retains water particularly following rain events.



Figure 1. Location of West Eyreton Pit (red shaded area), adjacent to Oaks Reserve (yellow shaded area) and showing pump infrastructure (blue shaded areas).

In 2023, members of The Oxford-Ohoka Community Board expressed an interest in undertaking restoration work at the West Eyreton Pit in response to safety concerns about the ephemeral waterbody and to increase biodiversity and supplement the works at the adjacent Oaks Reserve. Greenspace agreed to assist in the creation of a restoration plan for the area. Following this request, there were explorations as to the use of the area by the Water Services Unit which stalled to creation of a n enhancement plan. These explorations are now complete and it has been advised by the Water Services Unit that this area can be enhanced for safety and biodiversity.

The prime objectives for the proposed project include:

- Addressing the **safety concerns** regarding the pit to prevent and mitigate accidents near water when the pit is inundated;
- Ensuring the area is **tidy** and in keeping with rural area and local ecological enhancements;
- Comprising native specimens which are local to the area with a good chance of **survival**;
- Use of plants which enhance biodiversity and provide habitat for **indigenous species**.

Site Details

Walkover Survey

The proposed enhancement works are located along the northern side of North Eyre Road, immediately west of Oaks Reserve. It is an area of approx. 4,600 m², 120 m a.s.l (NZTM -43.353331, 172.380123) and located within the rural area of West Eyreton. The surrounding land use is agricultural with scattered lifestyle blocks and the Eyre River located approx. 1.5 km south.

A walkover survey was undertaken on 8 January 2024 on a warm, dry and windy day. The area was found to comprise rank, exotic grassland which had been recently grazed by sheep, although no animals were on site at the time of survey (Figure 2). There were minimal shrubs and trees present on the site but the area was fringed with overhanging branches from adjacent property trees and a number of oak trees in the western end. The area was bounded by a post and wire fence at the roadside and along the property adjacent west. A mix of corrugated iron and wooden fencing was installed on the eastern and northern perimeters.



Figure 2. View east-west across the site.

The pit was approximately 2 m deep with sloping sides and rushes (*Juncus australis*) in the base, which was dry at the time of survey, indicating the ephemeral status of the waterbody. The pit has been acting as an informal detention basin, receiving rainwater during storm events. The banks varied in width(from 1 – 5 m) and angle, shallowest along the northern edge of the pit adjacent to the private property boundaries, and the slopes were generally around 45° with some banks less steep (Figure 3). In the southwestern section of the reserve was water pump infrastructure within a sealed surfaced, fenced off area (Figure 4).



Figure 3. Slope and height of banks within the pit.

A stock water race was found outside of the fenced boundary along North Eyre Road. Discussions with the WDC drainage team confirms that the longevity of this race remains uncertain and it may be closed to assist with flooding issues in the area (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Stock water race along the roadside of the reserve with the pump infrastructure in view.

In Oaks Reserve there had been some planting of native species in the western section and along the stock water race whilst the majority of the reserve was grassed with planted semi-mature/mature oak trees (*Quercus petraea*) and pines (*Pinus spp.*). Between the pit and Oaks Reserve was a fenced off, shingle area that allows maintenance on the pumping station (Figure 5).

No records of important, rare or protected flora or fauna were found on iNaturalist within or adjacent to the area however, it is likely that this area has not had sufficient surveys to generate records. Due to the habitat type and vegetation in situ, it is anticipated that there may be indigenous birds, particularly common birds such as harriers and grey warbler, lizards and invertebrates using the site as foraging habitat.



Figure 5. Entrance to the fenced pumping station situated between the pit (to the left) and Oaks Reserve (to the right).

Soils and Climate

The planting location lies within the Low Plains ecological district which is described as containing less than 10% indigenous native vegetation cover and therefore, restoration efforts in the district are important and notable (Landcare Research/Manaaki Whenua, 2022¹). The area is characterised by warm summers and cool winters with typically low annual rainfall, frequent frosts and occasional snowfall in winter (McEwan, 1987²). The site is noted to have soils of the Pallic order (Darnley siblings) which comprise mainly shallow, moderately well drained silt. They are likely to be dry in summer and wet in winter (Landcare Research/Manaaki Whenua, 2024³). This was evident during the field visit which found very dry, hard soils which had been weathered by the winds in non-vegetated areas.

¹ Landcare research/Manaaki Whenua (2022). Our Environment: Land Atlas of New Zealand. Accessed June 2023 at: <https://ourevironment.scinfo.org.nz/maps-and-tools/app/>

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

³ Landcare research/Manaaki Whenua (2024). S-Map Online. Accessed June 2023 at: <https://smap.landcareresearch.co.nz/maps-and-tools/app/>

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

Restoration Plan

The West Eyreton Pit is a HAIL site. However, information provided by the Canterbury Regional Council has shown that the area was subject to soil sampling and analysis in 2017. The report concluded that there was no evidence of contamination in the pit with the area having concentrations of heavy metals below the threshold for recreation and commercial/industrial land uses, and were of comparable or lower concentrations than those found naturally occurring in Canterbury soils. Total Petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations were also below laboratory limits for detection.

Regardless, and due to the classification, it is recommended that the National Standard for Assessing and managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health be adhered to. These regulations state that disturbance of soil (such as planting activities) is a permitted activity provided the following conditions are met (Section 8;3):

- a) controls to minimise the exposure of humans to mobilised contaminants must—
 - i. be in place when the activity begins:
 - ii. be effective while the activity is done:
 - iii. be effective until the soil is reinstated to an erosion-resistant state:
- b) the soil must be reinstated to an erosion-resistant state within 1 month after the serving of the purpose for which the activity was done:
- c) the volume of the disturbance of the soil of the piece of land must be no more than 25 m³ per 500 m²:
- d) soil must not be taken away in the course of the activity, except that,—
 - i. for the purpose of laboratory analysis, any amount of soil may be taken away as samples:
 - ii. for all other purposes combined, a maximum of 5 m³ per 500 m² of soil may be taken away per year:
- e) soil taken away in the course of the activity must be disposed of at a facility authorised to receive soil of that kind:
- f) the duration of the activity must be no longer than 2 months:
- g) the integrity of a structure designed to contain contaminated soil or other contaminated materials must not be compromised.

Under this prescription, and due to the site being 4,600 m², a total of 46 m³ soil can be disturbed. The proposed planting plan of native species requires 12.92 m³ soil disturbance (based on each plant disturbing an area of 0.2 m x 0.2 m x 0.2 m using young restoration grade plants), below the threshold for consenting requirements. The soil will still require stabilisation following planting by the use of a coir/wool weed mat. In addition, it is unlikely that community planting days will be permitted due to the potential risk of exposure by untrained people to any contaminants that may be found in the soil.

The pit has been functioning as an informal detention basin, intercepting runoff during heavy rain events. A detention basin is a constructed depression that retains flood/storm water and allows for the settling and filtering of sediments and contaminants. This function is beneficial for the surrounding

area to help mitigate effects from heavy rain events. Therefore, it is recommended that the area be retained as a natural detention basin but planted to address the primary aims of the project including increasing the visual aesthetic of the area, enhancing the biodiversity and addressing the safety concerns by stabilising the banks and offering planting for be used as footings should anyone fall into the pit when it is holding water. This project has been assessed by the WDC Water Services Unit to ensure that the outcomes are suitable for each aim and the surrounding community.

The area is only infrequently inundated with water. For the majority of the year, the pit is only damp in the base and the conditions are exasperated by the drying of the Pallic soils in summer. Therefore, plants will need to tolerate a range of conditions. The base of the pit already includes some wetland species or those indicative of damp ground such as rushes, meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*, *Ranunculus acris*) and some grasses such as creeping fog (*Holcus mollis*). Whilst these are not all native, they provide a good function and are keeping the area vegetated and are surviving the variable and harsh conditions. Therefore, it is recommended that the base remains as it is. However, the area has been grazed by sheep which has functioned as a weed control method. Should this be removed, the rank grasses present in and around the pit are likely to be prevalent when not inundated with water, overtopping the desired plants and potentially causing a fire hazard in times of drought. Other weed control options which may be considered are the use of annual herbicide use for the weeds, increased planting of desired plants to out-compete the weeds or mowing.

The banks and upper slopes of the pit can be planted with species which assist with stabilisation and offer footings to anyone who may enter the pit when it is holding water. Monocot plants which have fibrous roots and can tolerate both dry and wet conditions. A number of plants were trialed in swales (linear depressions constructed to alleviate storm water effects) in Auckland, and it was found that Oi-Oi (*Apodasmia similis*) was beneficial being resilient in a range of conditions and created dense stands requiring less maintenance due to weed control (Mitchell et al., 2011⁴).

The banks of the pit can have plantings of shrubs and trees where the width allows to create a tidy forest walk around the edge of the pit. In some areas where the width is only 1 m wide it is recommended that no planting be undertaken to enable a view of the pit base and water when inundated. In these areas, infilling to extend the path width and ensure the path is not eroded may be considered.

⁴ Mitchell, P., Hohaia, N., & Bird, W. 2011. *Stormwater Swale Planting Improvements*. New Zealand Transport Agency & Auckland Motorways, New Zealand.

To further enhance the lizard and invertebrate communities, rock piles could also be placed around the banks of the pit acting as refugia for animals to shelter from predators such as mice, rats, hedgehogs and mustelids.

Plant Selection

Detailed below are recommendations for each section of the site (Table 1 and Figure 6). The plant list has been compiled taking into consideration the soil conditions, the location of the site, the objectives of the project and preferences and survival prospects of various floral species. It is recommended that the base of the pit be retained as-is, without further planting. However, should planting be desired in this area, plants such as rushes (*Juncus* spp.), sedges (*Carex* spp.), creeping pohuehue (*Muehlenbeckia australis*), biddibid (*Acaena inermis australis*) and shore cotula (*Leptinella dioica*) would be suitable.

The plant costs are based on approx. \$10 per plant. This includes \$4/plant, \$2.5/plant guard (highly recommended for herbivory and moisture retention reasons), and labour to prepare the site prior for planting and to physically install \$5.5/plant (Table 2). It is recommended that the maintenance visits are carried out by our internal rangers who will ensure the work is efficient, successful, and cost effective. This would be an additional cost of \$1K/pa for the establishment period, thought to be 2-5 years. Only two year establishment maintenance costs are included below.

Table 1. Suggested Species List, approximate plant numbers and costs

Common Name	Latin Name	Spacing (m)	No. of plants	Ecosystem services
Upper Bank (1,600 m² providing room for an informal walkway)				
Ti kōuka, cabbage tree	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	1.5 - 2	50	Erosion control, filtration, fibre, Nectar/Pollen (Bird, Lizard, Invertebrate), Fruit (Bird, Lizard), Cultural.
Kānuka	<i>Kunzea serotina</i>	1.5 - 2	50	Reduce soil NOx gases. Erosion control, Filtration, Timber, Fibre, Shelter, Shade, Nectar/Pollen (Bird, Lizard, Invertebrate), Fruit (Bird,Lizard), Cultural
Kōwhai	<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	N/A	5	Erosion control, Filtration, Timber, Shade, Nectar/Pollen (Bird, Lizard, Invertebrate), Fruit (Bird, Lizard), Cultural
Harakeke	<i>Phormium tenax</i>	1.5 - 2	50	Erosion control, filtration, fibre, mahinga kai, rōngoa, nectar.
Mingimingi	<i>Coprosma spp.</i>	1.5 - 2	50	Erosion control, Filtration, Timber, Shade, Nectar/Pollen (Bird, Lizard, Invertebrate), Fruit (Bird, Lizard), Cultural
Total			205	
Upper Pit slopes (at least 2 rows of plants)				
Windgrass	<i>Anemanthele lessoniana</i>	1 -1.5	220	Erosion control, Filtration, Timber, Fibre, Shelter, Shade, Cultural
Sedges	<i>Carex testacae/flagellifera</i>	1 - 1.5	220	Erosion control, Filtration, Timber, Fibre, Shelter, Shade, Cultural
Total			440	
Lower Pit Slopes				
Native sedges	<i>Carex secta/buchannii</i>	1.5 - 2	120	Erosion control, Filtration, Timber, Fibre, Shelter, Shade, Cultural
Native rushes	<i>Apodasmia similis / Juncus plantifolius</i>	1.5 - 2	120	Erosion control, Filtration, Timber, Fibre, Shelter, Shade, Cultural
Total			240	
Total Plants			885	

Table 2. Indicative Costs 2026-2028 (this can be reviewed and amended to match available budget)

Item	Price	Estimated Cost
Plants	\$4 x 885	\$3,540 + GST
Plant guards	\$125/50 x 885	\$2,212.5 + GST
Plant installation	\$4 x 885 (part of this may be undertaken by volunteers)	\$3,540
Site preparation	\$1,500	\$3,540
Environmental Interpretation (signage)	\$1,000	\$1,000
Releasing (for 2 growing seasons)	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total		\$13,620

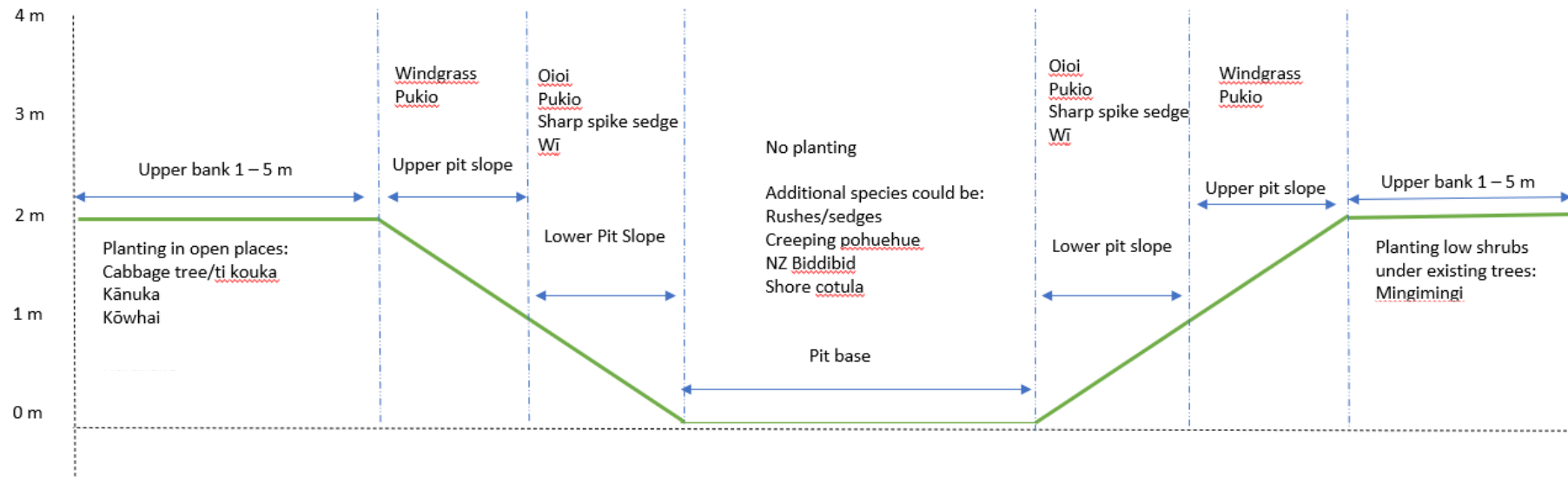


Figure 6. Cross-sectional view of the planting illustrating the indicative location of certain plant species.

Restoration Methodology

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 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, with stumps painted 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 1.5-2m apart for tree (approximately 2500-4000 plants/ha) but slightly less for the smaller grass-like species.
- 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) or early spring 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 measuring approx. 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.2 m should be dug taking precautions not to overly disturb the soil.
 - Retain as much soil around the roots from the pot as possible when removing from container and gently untangle fibrous roots where necessary (not recommended for kānuka

or mānuka). 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, thin 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.

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. For this restoration project, a minimum of two years maintenance will be undertaken by Waimakariri District Council rangers and reviewed following this period. 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. 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 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.

The need for maintenance should lessen as the canopy expands and closes between the plants. 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 by the Waimakariri District Council rangers for the first two years to identify plant survival and report any adjustments to the management scheme where needed.

OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD

MEMBERS INFORMATION EXCHANGE

For the month May 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>11/5/26-LGNZ-Zoom meeting-intro meeting</i>		
<i>May 26-met with Tim at WE Oak Reserve to loom at placement of kiosk and table and also a quick look at the pit</i>	<i>When is the WDC biodiversity staff going to present a report on the pit?</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 May 2026

Member' Name: Pete Merrifield

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>O-OCB meeting</i>		
<i>All Boards</i>	<i>Pegasus Golf course & Head Start update</i>	
<i>Oxford Museum</i>	<i>Container on site</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.*