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## WAIMAKARIRI YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL, RANGIORA**  
**7.00pm TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**

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### 1. Opening Karakia

2. **PRESENT:** Zack Lappin (Co-Chair), Simoné Bisschoff (Co-Chair), Lauren Tilley (WDC Youth Development Facilitator), Dan Gordon (Mayor), Niki Mealings (Councillor), Jason Goldsworthy (Councillor), Hannah Wells, Dylan LaValley, Matilda Parish, Lexie Mealings (WDC Graduate Policy Analyst), Veronica Spittal (WDC Principal Policy Analyst, Climate Change & Sustainability).

**APOLOGIES:** Aidan Haverkort, Charlotte Nihoniho, Esha-May McHugh, Oscar Bai, Thalia Rae. Fiona Xu, Renée Eleftheriou Running late: Jason Goldsworthy.

3. **Whakatauki** - values inherently we show towards others (lead by Zack Lappin). Will speak later about the Aspiring Leaders Forum.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025

**Moved:** Zack Lappin    **Seconded:** Hannah Wells

### 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- North Canterbury Youth Futures Expo feedback
- Venue found for the talent show
- Local Government Elections Event: Q&A event did not eventuate due to requirements under local government rules.
- Applications for model EU still open
- No interest in Environment Group (as people happy with groups they are currently serving in)
- Planting at Silverstream feedback

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### 6. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION - COUNCILLORS

#### a) **Dan Gordon – Mayor**

- Full council today, not a lot on the agenda. Muscle Car Madness (MCM) main discussion as such events with the new rules require resource consent. It will cost a lot for MCM to obtain a resource consent, council agreed today to assist MCM with the costs of a resource consent because it is an event that attracts a lot of interest to the district. Participants come to the district from throughout New Zealand and Internationally.

- Jason Goldsworthy and Dan Gordon took part in the Raine & Horne Big Splash recently. Raising funds for Rachel's House Trust "....is a Non-profit organisation that is committed to the holistic support of new parents." [[RACHEL'S HOUSE TRUST](#)] Under \$20K raised (*fundraising goal was \$15,000*).
- Local Body Elections coming up. As such, there are two council meetings before the end of the council's year, transitions thereafter depending on the results.

**b) Niki Mealings – Councillor**

- **District Plan:** Appeal period to the district plan 14<sup>th</sup> July – 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Only 21 appeals, of which 2/3 were repeats on re-zonings. Couple of appeals are 'watch this space' as they are substantial and needs to be worked through. Most of the district plan (much of the plan is not under appeal) is operative. Planning Staff need to satisfy the old plan as well as the new one, which brings a level of complexity for the planning staff.
- **Council and Year 13 Civics Class:** Councillors went to a Year 13 Civics Class where the primary topics under discussion were mental health, housing, transport and recreation. The first meeting with Councillors and the Civics Class took place in Council Chambers on 30<sup>th</sup> July. The last meeting was yesterday (1<sup>st</sup> September) and was held in class rather than at Council Chambers. The first meeting the students perhaps found it daunting, yet the latest meeting the students were perhaps a lot more confident, because the meeting took place in a familiar environment. Noted that Youth Council members are more confident in more formal meeting settings and observed that this is because of continual practice to hone the skills required.
- **Joint Council Partnership:** old rolling stock of trains have been purchased by a company, to be used for events (existing tracks do not go where people need to go for general commute, and only one set of tracks, so events trains operate when freight trains do not need the tracks). Platforms – new ones needed in Christchurch, but Selwyn and WDC already have platforms. Mass Rapid Transit set-up.
- **Woodend Bypass:** NZTA is planning to place a toll on the proposed Woodend Bypass, north and south of Pineacres, which will create an extra burden on families with additional costs and nullify any gains in safety the proposed bypass provides. Submissions are now open, please make a submission as the proposed tolling will create a rat run through Williams Street in Kaiapoi and through Tuahiwi, as people try to avoid paying the toll. Key items to note:
  - NZTA withdrew its funding for safety implementation once Woodend Bypass approved. At that time, the district was not informed of the intent to toll the bypass. Still need safety upgrades because people won't be willing to pay the tolls, therefore reinforcing the current problems with congestion and safety in Williams Street and Tuahiwi.
  - [*Dan Gordon speaking to this point*] WDC has decided to vote against it, working with Mana Whenua, and schools, Youth Council

to consider their involvement. If we knew the toll was the plan of the government, then we wouldn't have agreed to it. Youth Council can do a separate submission, WDC staff can help with the submission.

- *[Nikki Mealing speaking to this point]* Of the proposed toll charge, \$1.25 at each toll point only .29c will go towards the cost of the road, the rest goes towards administration of the tolling.
- [Tolling of the Woodend Bypass | Waimakariri District Council](#) to make a submission [Tolling consultation | NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi](#)

**ACTION:** Youth Council to make a submission to NZTA on the proposed tolling of the Woodend Bypass.

- **New extended services & hours medical facility:** *[Dan Gordon spoke to this]* Sod turning event took place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025 for the new extended hours and urgent care facility. The facility is a partnership between South Link Health and the Waimakariri District Council. The budget is \$7million to build of which Waimakariri District Council agreed to a principal and interest repayment loan (*effectively the council receives its capital back, with interest*) of \$3.5 million. GP Practice and Urgent Care 10pm to 8am 7 days a week. Can transfer to Christchurch Hospital (via St Johns) if required. Offer Radiology and MRI facilities. Pharmacy as well. Two GP practices will move to it and this will bring capacity for another 15,000 patients (relieving wait lists on existing practices). However, in the case of urgent need, you will be seen, there is no requirement to be registered with the practice at the new facility. The new facility happened because WDC stepped in. Site scrape occurring this week. ETA for build: end of 2026.

[Sod Turned On North Canterbury Extended Hours Medical Centre | Waimakariri District Council](#)

- **Conservation Documentary screening** *[Dan Gordon spoke to this]* – Trans waste work at Kate Valley is in the Documentary, 'Think Like a Forest'. Dan Gordon has seen the documentary and is proud of all the work council are carrying out in conservation in the district. The food forest and Silverstream tree planting are two examples that come to mind. Council planning underway to address Climate Change, and the Waimakariri District Council is a lot more advanced than other councils in the country.

**c) Jason Goldsworthy – Councillor**

- **Environmental Services team:** spike in reporting to the team, partly due to the release of the District Plan. WOF and Registrations infringements: 122 registration warnings given out.
- **Canterbury Museum:** Canterbury Museum currently closed. Large hole down below the foundation of the original museum 10 metres. Keeping the historical facades, storage of the museum will be underneath the museum (hence the 10 metres below). Tiny robots (like the vacuum-cleaners) clearing out the hole, and

next is the foundation laying. The new build connects the old museum building with the Robert McDougall Art Gallery. The 10 metre underground storage will also go under the gallery. [Digging deep for the new Museum | Canterbury Museum](#)

## **7. VERONICA SPITTAL (WDC PRINCIPAL POLICY ANALYST, CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY) & LEXIE MEALINGS (WDC GRADUATE POLICY ANALYST) – WORKSHOP**

### **Future Voices: A Waimakariri Youth Council Climate resilience Project**

The Youth Council made a great submission on Climate Change to Council. Veronica thought a booklet might be a good way to represent the Youth Council's point of view and present to the new council. This would go alongside the high-level Climate Change strategy that is currently in preparation by the Climate Change and Sustainability team.

- Climate change is an intergenerational matter
  - Important for younger people to have a voice
  - Is there support for a booklet? General support from the floor, but Veronica will send out a questionnaire for those who are absent so they can have input
  - After the workshop and input from those absent, a draft booklet will be put together, then the Youth Council can provide feedback before publishing and its provision to new council.
  - Climate change has neg. connotation (hence why using Climate Resilience). Loss of cultural identity (iwi pushed out into marginal areas, that are prone to climate change).
  - We are a signatory to the International Convention on the rights of the child, ergo children should be able to participate in matters to do with Climate Change
- **WORKSHOP QUESTIONS**

*[Youth Council workshop participants to place their answers on sticky notes to the following questions:]*

- **I love Waimakariri because.....**
  - What activities do you like to do?
  - What is it about the district that matters the most to you?
- **When I think about Climate Change I feel.....**
- **How do you think your family will be impacted by climate change?**
- **How do you think the Waimakariri District will be impacted by climate change?**
- **How does the Waimakariri Youth Council currently contribute to climate action?**
- **The climate action I want the Waimakariri District Council to commit to is.....**

- **The climate action I want the Waimakariri District community to commit to is.....**
- **The climate action I want to personally commit to is.....**

*[YC members were then to place a red sticker on those things that they think needs to happen in 1-5 years, and a green sticker that needs to happen in 6+ years. The last question is not a part of the priority rating.]*

- Veronica will send a word document to Lauren with the questions from the workshop (*see above*), and if tonight's participant have any other thoughts to add, this can be done on the same document. Once all info gathered up and sent, Lexie and VJ will send to Graphic Designers, then back to YC for final sign off.
- Look & Feel slide provided.
- Didn't create the problem of climate change but we have inherited it. However, there is still joy in the world, even though we have climate change.
- As a result of the partnership with all the councils in the canterbury region for Climate Action, the WDC is responsible for the blue/green corridors, and climate risk tool for assessment.

## **PROJECT GROUP REPORTS**

### **8. Dudley Park - Zack**

- Not much work since last meeting.

### **9. Enviro - Lauren**

- Not much work since last meeting.
- River clean-up on September 28<sup>th</sup> partner organisations onboard. 10am to 1pm

### **10. WaiYouth - Lauren**

- No updates.

### **11. Local Government Elections Event - Zack**

- Because the Youth Council sits under the auspices of Community Groups (part of Council), the advice received was: best to wait until after the 2026 elections before engaging with elected officials, otherwise it can appear to be partisan.
- *[Nikki Mealings spoke to this]* Youth Council members can attend meet the candidates events and ask your questions (as an individual).

### **12. WYC Member Report – Simoné**

- Model EU sign ups still open until 8<sup>th</sup> September. Look up UN Youth Website, has good information. [UN Youth NZ | Inspiring Global Citizens](#)

### **North Canterbury Youth Futures Expo – Lauren**

- Thank-you to those that came, 1205 who came. Good event. Notebooks for the new members handed out to new YC members. Stickers also handed out with the notebooks.

### **The Aspiring Leaders forum in Wellington – Zack**

*[Zack handed out the programme and lanyard handed out for YC members to view].*

- First day – spent at Parliament, having discussion with MPS on the final sitting day of the week, and then finished having dinner in the dining hall. Keynote speaker while eating. Following day another Keynote speaker and a sports day. Zack spoke about the launch of the Bocca Courts. Kumutoto Area River – restoration work – did six months’ worth of work in 4 hours. 170 future leaders of the Aspiring Leaders forum went.
- Saturday evening – Barn Dance. A lot happened in the forum, and Zack is part-way through preparing the report. Sat in the debating chamber and did hear local Councillor support the work on the water reforms. Chris Bishop made an announcement on defence spending. More likely for Humanitarian purposes rather than war, and replacing jets PM uses. Most MPs down-to-earth and willing to chat. Arena Williams MP for Manurewa, when to the Labour Caucus room and good discussion about what it takes to be a good leader in the community. Later caught up with local MP Matt Doocey.
- Need to be vulnerable to be a good leader, telling our stories.
  - Come to YC a bit earlier, to hear ‘our stories’/why we are here, let Zack know if interested, and he can schedule in time to do this.

## **13. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- **Community Service Awards**
  - Invitations sent out, Youth Council members all OK with event & what’s required.
  - Simoné and Zack interviewed the first recipient of the Community Service Awards.

### **ACTIONS:**

- **LAUREN**
  - Disseminate word document from Veronica Spittal from Climate Action workshop to YC members.
  - Facilitate YC submission to NZTA on the proposed toll charges on the Woodend Bypass
- **ALL**
  - Let Zack know if you are interested in meeting earlier before YC meetings re: Vulnerable Leadership model.

- RSVP to Community Service Awards event.
- Sign up to model EU.
- *Those who were absent from meeting:* contribute to the questions from the Climate Action workshop.

### **Closing Karakia**

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Meeting closed at **8:35pm.**

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**Next meeting is on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, at 7:00pm**

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Signed

Date