

# Waimakariri District Council Community and Recreation Committee

## Agenda

Tuesday 15 July 2025

1.00pm

Council Chambers

215 High Street

Rangiora

**Members:**

Cr Brent Cairns (Chairperson) Cr Robbie Brine

Cr Al Blackie

Cr Niki Mealings

Cr Philip Redmond

Mayor Dan Gordon (ex officio)



WAIMAKARIRI  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 15 JULY 2025 AT 1PM**

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

**BUSINESS**

Page No

**1 APOLOGIES**

**2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 20 May 2025**

*RECOMMENDATION*

*7 – 17*

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 20 May 2025 as a true and accurate record.

**3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)**

**4 DEPUTATIONS**

**4.1 Kaiapoi Food Forest Trust Annual Report 2024/25 - Gordyn Hamblyn**

G Hamblyn will be in attendance to present the Kaiapoi Food Forest Trusts Annual Report 2024/25.

**5 REPORTS**

**5.1 Community Development Strategy 2025-2035 – Tessa Sturley (Community Team Leader)**

*RECOMMENDATION*

*18 – 101*

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250703121101.

*AND*

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee recommends:

**THAT** the Council:

- (b) **Approves** the Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035, to be adopted as the framework for community-led development in the Waimakariri District, over the coming 10-year period.
- (c) **Notes** the many successful community development initiatives developed over the past 20 years that have led to the Waimakariri District being recognised for its effectiveness in developing collaborative responses to community-identified issues and opportunities.
- (d) **Notes** the broad evidence base that has informed the development of this strategy.
- (e) **Notes** the extensive engagement across the social, health, education, community and business sectors to ensure the identification of key priorities to be addressed in this strategy and its subsequent implementation.
- (f) **Notes** that, following on from the community engagement, community consultation has been carried out via Council's 'Let's Talk' function and directly via the various networks facilitated by the Community Team. The aim of this consultation was to gather any feedback that might result in changes to the draft document and/or inform its implementation.
- (g) **Notes** the attached comprehensive response from Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora) and that recommendations for the implementation of the strategy have been noted and applied to the implementation plan.
- (h) **Notes** that, given its strong evidence base and the broad stakeholder involvement in informing and developing the strategy, community consultation responses to draft document were unanimously in support of Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035, for adoption as the framework for community-led development in the Waimakariri District over the coming 10-year period.

5.2 **Applications to the Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy Implementation Fund for Organisations – Dr Bex Dollery (Biodiversity Team Leader)**

*RECOMMENDATION*

102 – 120

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250619111441.
- (b) **Approves** the allocation of \$3,152.50 to the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group.
- (c) **Approves** the allocation of \$525 to Hunter's Stream Catchment Group.
- (d) **Approves** the allocation of \$2,750 to the Kaiapoi East Residents Association.
- (e) **Approves** the allocation of \$2,925 to Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara.
- (f) **Notes** that successful applications will be subject to an accountability agreement between the applicant and the 7Council.



5.3 **Libraries Update to 3 July 2025 – Luke Sole (District Libraries Manager)**

RECOMMENDATION

121 – 129

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No.
- (b) **Notes** the community benefits of the below initiatives, particularly the continuation of in-demand digital support for older residents, the success of July school holiday programmes, and the addition of further support initiatives in partnership with community health providers.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

5.4 **Aquatics July Report – Matthew Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)**

RECOMMENDATION

130 – 139

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250707123200.
- (b) **Notes** that attendance across all types remains consistent with the previous year with just under 273,000 annual visitors.
- (c) **Notes** an overall customer satisfaction result of 94% was achieved in our General Customer Survey completed in June.
- (d) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

5.5 **Youth Action Plan Early Engagement Update – Lexie Mealings (Graduate Policy Analyst), Kim Nutbrown (Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor) and Lauren Tilley (Youth Development Facilitator)**

RECOMMENDATION

140 – 166

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250611105654.
- (b) **Notes** the survey questions used to engage with local young people as part of the early engagement period (TRIM 250618110933).
- (c) **Notes** that work is now underway to analyse the results of the Youth Action Plan early engagement survey, and that this information will be used to develop a draft Youth Action Plan for consultation at a later date.
- (d) **Notes** that the key findings and themes of the early engagement survey will be reported to the Community and Recreation Committee at the September meeting.
- (e) **Circulates** this report to Community Boards for information.

6 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

## **7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

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

## **8 QUESTIONS**

## **9 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Workshop**

- *Greenspace Planning Approach – Grant MacLeod (Greenspace Manager) and Jill Borland (Team Leader Greenspace Strategy and Partnerships)*

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee will be held on Tuesday 26 August 2025 at 1pm.

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2025, AT 1 PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), Mayor D Gordon, Councillors R Brine, A Blackie and N Mealings.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors T Fulton and J Ward.

C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), J Borland (Greenspace Strategy and Partnership Team Leader), L Tilley (Youth Development Facilitator), A Claassens (Community Development Facilitator) and K Rabe (Governance Advisor).

**1 APOLOGIES**

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Mayor Gordon

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives and sustains** an apology for leave of absence from P Redmond.

**CARRIED**

**2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts declared.

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 25 February 2025**

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Brine

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 25 February 2025, as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

**3.2 Matters Arising (From Minutes)**

There were no matters arising.

## 4 **DEPUTATIONS**

### 4.1 **Youth Week – Ruby Wilson and Lauren Tilley (Youth Development Facilitator)**

R Wilson and L Tilley updated the Committee on work being done to support youth in the Waimakariri District, including events to be held during Youth Week (Trim Ref: 250520089626).

Councillor Cairns asked what a 'DIY Spa' was and was advised that it involved making soap, scrubs, etc., to be used at home. The libraries would run these spa workshops.

In discussing the Youth Survey, Councillor Cairns enquired how many young people R Wilson hoped to reach. She replied that she hoped for 1,000 responses to the survey; however, she was hoping for quality responses rather than quantity.

Councillor Cairns questioned what type of events would be targeted at the youth. R Wilson noted that this was one reason for the Youth Survey: to gather information on what sort of events young people would be interested in attending.

Mayor Gordon acknowledged the work and effort that R Wilson had put into youth-related matters over the last few years. He commended her leadership and commitment to fostering leadership in others with her breakfast sessions. He also thanked L Tilley for her assistance with the Youth Survey and wished them well in achieving a positive outcome.

## 5 **REPORTS**

### 5.1 **Welcoming Communities Project Progress, Stocktake Report and Establishing of a Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group – A Claassens (Community Development Facilitator)**

A Claassens provided an update on the development of the Welcoming Communities Project, including the completion of a 'Stock Take' Report, noting that Welcoming Communities was a national programme funded by Immigration New Zealand. The 'Stock Take' Report included data from a public survey of focus groups and meetings from a range of sectors. The findings were then formatted to include the eight elements of the Welcoming Communities Standard for benchmarking. A Welcoming Communities Working Group would be established with representatives from the community and with elected member involvement to implement the objectives and provide community input to the Council, which would represent the newcomers' voice. The report asked for the Council to nominate a representative to the Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group.

In response to Councillor Cairns' query regarding outcomes from other councils' experiences, A Claassens replied that initially nine councils worked together on the pilot programme; however, now 34 councils across New Zealand were participating in the programme. This provided a support network for staff to work with other councils to achieve the best possible outcomes. Each Working Group had its own identity, and there would be tweaks made to the programme to make it a Waimakariri District-specific Group.

Councillor Mealings believed that this was an excellent programme and queried whether the programme had a finite timeline. A Claassens replied that the funding was for three years, which would cover the establishment of the group to ensure it was strong enough to become self-sufficient and sustainable.

Councillor Ward questioned how newcomers were identified. A Claassens advised that contact was made with immigrants through various ways, including English classes, social groups, and citizenship ceremonies. T Sturley noted that the Council did not provide programmes; however, it facilitated connections and supported independent and sustainable services that connected to the right people, which would increase diversity

within the district. In regard to future funding, it would be up to the Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group to identify which projects to prioritise and to source funding.

Councillor Mealings encouraged the support of farm workers and their families, who were often isolated and unsure what services were available.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the report 250508081047, including the attached stocktake report (Trim 250508081046)
- (b) **Notes** that a Council cross-departmental Project Control Group (PCG) has utilised the Stocktake Report to develop the draft plan.
- (c) **Notes** that the expected timeframe for completion of the Welcoming Communities plan is for presentation to the Community and Recreation Committee in August 2025, ahead of public consultation.
- (d) **Approves** the Terms of Reference of the Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group to oversee:
  - (i) Finalising the Welcoming Communities Plan
  - (ii) Implementation of Plan objectives
  - (iii) Provide advice to the Council as community representatives, providing a newcomer voice.
- (e) **Approves** that the Community Team Manager may make minor amendments to the Terms of Reference on the establishment of the Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group.
- (f) **Appoints** the Community Development Portfolio Holder as Council representative on the Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Gordon noted that the Council was fortunate to receive funding for this project and thanked A Claassens for her work. He also thanked her for her proactive approach and the assistance she provided to newcomers at the Citizenship Ceremonies. Mayor Gordon supported the motion and was supportive of further funding being sourced for this programme in the future.

Councillor Mealings agreed with the Mayor's comments and noted that there were 27 countries were represented within the Waimakariri District, and A Claassens was commended for her exceptional work with this programme.

Councillor Cairns stated that A Claassens put her heart and soul into her work and gave the Council an advantage in achieving positive outcomes in the future in settling newcomers into the Waimakariri District.

## 5.2 **Progress Update on Capital Work Renewals Programmes and Sports Ground Growth Programme for Greenspace – J Rae (Senior Advisor Assets and Capital)**

D Roxborough was in attendance and spoke to the report which provided an update on the Greenspace Capital Works Renewal Programmes and the Sports Grounds Growth programmes covered by general allocations in the Council's 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP) and focused on asset renewal and enhancement based on condition, age, and future use of assets within the district.

He informed the Committee that workshops had been held with all the Community Boards, who indicated that they were comfortable with the programme. Only the Woodend-Sefton Community Board requested that further consideration be given to prioritising the renewal of the Waikuku Beach toilets.

He stated that it was envisioned that only 30% of projects would be completed within the 2024/25 financial year; however, it was hoped that all projects would be completed on time by the end of the 2025/26 financial year. C Brown noted that the Greenspace asset management was mostly low risk, and there was significant leeway for renewals to be postponed or delayed.

Councillor Cairns noted that the Woodend-Sefton Community Board had indicated that the Waikuku Beach toilets would need changing facilities included, which would change the project from a possible renewal to a renovation or replacement, and asked how that would impact the budget. C Brown replied that currently there was budget for the renewal of the carpark at Waikuku Beach; however, after the Board had raised concerns regarding the toilet, staff intended to survey the community to ascertain what its priority was, the carpark or the toilets. If the community indicated that the toilets should take priority, the budget for the carpark would be used for the renewal of the toilets. If the budget were insufficient to allow changing facilities, staff would have to approach the Council for further funding. C Brown emphasised that there was insufficient budget to do both the renewal of the carpark and the toilets.

Mayor Gordon queried the state of the toilets, which had been raised during the 2025/26 Annual Plan process. G McLeod replied that the toilets were structurally sound; however, they had accessibility challenges and, with the increase in recreational use of the beach, were probably insufficient. C Brown noted that the toilets were considered functional; however, the public had higher expectations than old cement block facilities.

Mayor Gordon requested that staff prepare an information memo regarding the state of the toilets, the costs to refurbish and replace them, and the options for changing facilities prior to the scheduled discussion with the Woodend-Sefton Community Board regarding this matter.

Councillor Mealings asked if it would be possible to repaint and clean up the toilets and relevel and re-gravel the carpark rather than undertake the full renewals at this time. Then, review the Council's 2017 Public Toilet Strategy prior to rescheduling a full renovation and requested that this option be included in the memo.

Mayor Gordon asked about the proposed tennis court renewals, as the state of the Ohoka tennis court had been raised in the Annual Plan process. G McLeod advised that currently the Council had one tennis court on its maintenance programme; however, a second tennis court in Swannanoa was scheduled to be included in the 2025/26 budget. Staff had been made aware of the Ohoka tennis court, and this would be added to the register in 2026.

G McLeod noted that tennis court surface standards differed; however, it was expected that these should be maintained on a regular basis. He also noted that currently, there was no renewal/maintenance plan for skateparks, which would also need to be considered for the future. The Mayor asked for further information on the condition of the Ohoka tennis court.

In response to a query by Mayor Gordon regarding the status of the Sefton domain, G McLeod replied that the wastewater issue had been resolved, and the toilets were now operational. Staff were working with the Sefton Hall Committee to assist them with the proposed new facility; however, the Committee had a challenge in raising the amount of money required for the rebuild. The sale of the old library was in progress, and the Council had given the Committee a grant to assist with the build. Nevertheless, realistically, it would be years before the Committee would be in the position to start the build, even with innovative building options being considered.

Moved: Councillor Blackie

Seconded: Mayor Gordon

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250305036260.
- (b) **Notes** that staff recently updated the Community Boards on the status and performance of District-wide and community capital projects within their boundaries for the first year of the programme. The Board updates also included information on projects not covered in this report, such as one-time capital projects.
- (c) **Notes** staff have provided regular reports throughout the year to the Audit and Risk Committee. The Audit and Risk report presents these projects as a whole programme, while this report breaks the programmes down into individual projects.
- (d) **Notes** that the General Reserves Landscape budgets that are delegated to the local Community Boards are not considered within this report.
- (e) **Notes** that growth budgets for land development and land purchase have not been included in this report due to the changing nature of how and when the budgets are needed. These budgets need to be flexible to react to growth and ongoing negotiations with developers.
- (f) **Notes** that the whole capital works scheduled outside of programmes are not considered within this report; for example, one-off capital works projects that are not part of a wider Greenspace programme.
- (g) **Circulates** this report to all Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Gordon noted it was good to understand the Greenspace Renewal Programme and encouraged staff to work with the Woodend-Sefton Community Board for it to understand the Council's fiscal constraints. He noted that currently, the new Pegasus Community Centre was a priority for the area. Mayor Gordon anticipated receiving information on a possible compromise on the Waikuku Beach toilet issue. He noted he sympathised with the Sefton Hall Committee, given the amount of work and effort it had invested and would like to be able to offer more assistance if possible. He also noted that the Southbrook Sports Club and Kendal Park also required attention and believed that the Council could not allow its assets to deteriorate over time.

Councillor Cairns concurred and noted it was difficult to prioritise projects. However, the Council could not afford to fund everything at once, especially during this period of challenging economic times.

### 5.3 **Libraries Update to 8 May 2025 – L Sole (District Libraries Manager)**

L Sole presented the report, which provided an update on the services, programmes, and experiences offered by the libraries. He highlighted the national pilot to provide digital skills, which the Central Government funded. He stated that the libraries had upskilled two staff to enable this programme to be initiated. He also commented that the refresh of the Rangiora Library with its new shelving had received positive feedback from patrons.

Councillor Fulton asked if staff were able to assist people, especially the elderly, to verify their identity online, which could be a difficult process and which blocked people from using online services. L Sole advised that currently, they had to follow a set curriculum. However, this could be considered in the future.

Councillor Cairns enquired about the impact when no further funding was available, and L Sole noted that the libraries would be able to continue to offer limited digital assistance if required.

Councillor Mealings asked what had happened to the castle in the children's library. L Sole replied that it had been recycled to the dramatic society, which would be using it in an upcoming production of Rapunzel. The space had since been used for a successful Zumba class, which allowed libraries to use it for other programmes.

Councillor Cairns questioned if the successful Northbrook Wetlands Story Walk initiative could be replicated in other areas. L Sole acknowledged the work done by colleagues in the Greenspace Team, which had assisted in making this project a success. There were plans for future Story Walks, which would depict different stories and authors.

Councillor Cairns also noted the success of the 'Pop-up' library during the Rangiora Library closure and queried whether it was possible for the libraries to consider doing similar Pop-ups in more rural areas, such as Cust, which did not have a library. L Sole agreed that this was being considered.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250214023903.
- (b) **Notes** the community benefits of the below initiatives, particularly the completion of the shelving replacement project and the resulting increases in visitation for events and programmes and book lending this has enabled.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Gordon supported the library's digital assistance and acknowledged the challenges faced by the elderly in accessing banking and other online services. He commended the staff on the Rangiora Library refresh and was impressed with the range and diversity of services offered by libraries. He also stated that he had received feedback from residents that they felt that the library offered a safe and welcoming environment and thanked staff for their dedication and professionalism.

Councillor Mealings observed she loved the work done by the Waimakariri Libraries and commended them on digitally upskilling 200 people. She concurred that the libraries encouraged cultural and social inclusivity, which allowed all people to feel safe and valued.

Councillor Cairns hoped that the libraries would be able to extend their digital programmes to Kaiapoi and Oxford in the future and commended staff for working across departments to achieve a wonderful initiative such as the storyboards.

#### 5.4 **Aquatics May Report – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)**

M Greenwood provided a summary of the Aquatic Facilities and highlighted the requested detailed information on attendance figures, the Aqualand event during ANZAC weekend and that all facilities had received the Poolsafe accreditation.

In response to a query regarding the medical event at the Dudley Aquatic Facility, M Greenwood replied that the gentleman had suffered what appeared to be a mild heart attack. The pool had been closed for a short time, and staff had reacted in the prescribed manner. The man had returned the following day with flowers for the staff, thanking them for their care.



Councillor Cairns asked if the Aqualand event had increased attendance and was told that it was difficult to judge as many of the pool's lane swimmers and swimming clubs had been relocated to the Kaiapoi pool. However, it was a successful event with Aqualand charging entry and the pool making a profit for the weekend. There were plans to repeat the event, and Aqualand was working with pools in Christchurch and Selwyn to offer a similar event.

Councillor Fulton noted that figures for the Oxford pool were high in November and December, dropping off in the new year. He questioned if offering programmes like aqua jogging, etc, would encourage people to use the pool more regularly. M Greenwood agreed, noting the high numbers in November and December were due to schools running swimming lessons; however, to provide programmes such as aqua gym would require a qualified and accredited tutor and other resources, which were currently not available.

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250505077832.
- (b) **Notes** that attendance across all types remains very consistent with the previous year.
- (c) **Notes that** the Waimakariri Aquatic Facilities achieved Poolsafe Accreditation.
- (d) **Notes** that the collaboration with Aqualand was a success, with 722 tickets sold.
- (e) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Cairns commended staff for their actions during the medical emergency and was pleased that staff had followed prescribed processes to achieve a good outcome.

Councillor Mealings thanked staff for their work and congratulated them on achieving the Poolsafe Accreditation and for successfully working in partnership with Aqualand to provide a memorable experience for residents.

## **6 CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

## **7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

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

- Whites Road - Staff used the reduced water levels to recontour the cliff face and create an island for nesting birds.
- Silverstream – Planting trees for the micro-climate initiative and Ohoka Bush work progressing.
- A PhD student had completed a 'Green Mapping' exercise in Rangiora, which graded cities on green spaces and trees – Rangiora was in good shape.
- Biodiversity funding applications had closed, and decisions were to be made shortly.
- Youth Council – Gave a talk on what the Greenspace Unit did and its importance for the Waimakariri District.
- Huria Reserve – Going well
- Pines Beach Food Forest – Establishment and planting day

- Te Kohaka Trust—New staff were starting, and everything was settling down. Recently, the Trust hosted an orienting day that was a success.

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

All seems to be going well. He recently met with the Southbrook Club Committee to discuss reducing construction costs for the new club rooms by considering alternative building methods. There was concern regarding changing facilities for women with the increase in women's sports.

Councillor Mealings suggested that a separate building for changing facilities, with separate unisex cubicles rather than traditional sports changing facilities, could be considered.

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

### • **Business, Promotions and Town Centres**

#### *Pegasus Residents Group Inc monthly meeting.*

- Pegasus Residents Group asked for a Hikurangi information public meeting to be held in Pegasus.
- Matariki event at the school and evening walk with Joseph Hullen giving a talk.
- AGM, on 16 July 2025 and would ask Mike Kwant to talk about the Northern Pegasus Bay bylaw.
- Concern about how hard it was to fill in Enterprise North Canterbury (ENC) funding forms.
- Planned to hold a fundraising golf tournament in October 2025.
- Planning to hold Candidate meetings.

#### *Oxford Promotions*

- Holding Matariki Winter Lights event from 8 to 22 June 2025.
- ENC had attended a recent meeting to see how they could assist with economic development.
- Oxford Promotions had to pay for the Oxford street flags, which needed to be dealt with, i.e a small rate paid for by CBD businesses.

#### *Waioira Links (could be community development)*

- The group continued to hold successful and well-attended monthly get-togethers,
- Held a Pink Ribbon event last weekend, which was a sellout.

#### *Kaiapoi Promotions*

- Looked at holding a 'light up the Christmas tree' event, on the last night prior to the Christmas carnival, with the aim to lift visitor numbers to the town's CBD. It would require the businesses to be open.
- Looked at holding a Women in Business event on 25 July 2025.
- The "connection events," which were held monthly, were struggling to attract enough attendees to make them worthwhile.
- Kai July would be moved to August so it would not conflict with Pie July, which ENC ran.
- AGM to be held on 18 June 2025.

#### *Silverstream Residents*

- Holding regular events in local eateries to try and help with locals supporting local.
- The recent duck race could have had stallholders who would have paid fees to attend a well-run, popular event. However, the organisers turned that

opportunity down to ensure local businesses received the trade as opposed to pop-up vendors.

*Last Wednesday Club in Rangiora*

- Good numbers attended the monthly events, and a recent initiative was to have a small number of businesses bring along their wares and talk about them.
- The Kaiapoi Chemist Warehouse building would be ready in or around September 2025 to be handed over for fit-out, with the potential to be open by Christmas.
- Community Development and Wellbeing

*Food Secure North Canterbury*

- Currently, South Island Bread was made with wheat from local growers. It would seem the current Government was focused on exports/imports, and as a result, the local growers who were supporting the local market would no longer be supported. It would not be long before we would be eating bread made from Australian wheat.
- The Group was trying to build a database of all local growers and producers so they could be called upon in an emergency. Resilience Explorer, which Councillor Mealings had spoken of, may be used to manage the database.
- The Group were looking at supporting the development and funding of more food forests in Waimakariri and Hurunui.

*Silverstream Residents*

- Residents' meal at local Indian restaurant this Wednesday.
- Planted trees in reserves most Tuesdays and Thursdays.

*Kaiapoi Food Forest*

- Last spring, he planted around \$1,500 worth of berry plants and trees. Within a month, every plant had been stolen.
- It was agreed at a recent meeting to start the educational building, with Aroundtoit as the project organiser. They had approached multiple sources for funding, and one philanthropist. They would be relying on local suppliers to do special deals.
- Ronnie Dunbar would receive an award in mid-June in Christchurch for the many hours of voluntary work he did at the Kaiapoi Food Forest.
- Pruned and moved mulch at the Pegasus/Woodend food forest. This small area was producing some good fruit. There was a battle with rabbits to start with; however, it looked like this had been resolved.
- Conducted a pruning workshop at Sefton School, which was well attended, what was interesting was that previously the fruit would be harvested by students to be used at the school or given out. This year was the first time that food was foraged as quickly as it ripened, and not by the school.
- Attended Gabi Alloway's volunteer farewell from Kaiapoi Food Bank. Spoke about the amount of work that she had put into the role and how many people she had helped. Her position had yet to be filled.
- The David Hill Wellbeing Walk was in its sixth year. Although there were not hundreds of people, virtually everyone who attended was from outside the Waimakariri District. The walk always started at the Kaiapoi Food Forest and returned for drinks and light snacks.
- Attended Big Brothers, Big Sisters fundraising breakfast. Organisations were having to come up with ways to fund their organisations, as some funders were struggling to keep up with demand.
- Invited, along with the Mayor, to The Sterling 'Everything Pumpkin' evening meal. The event was hosted by the local garden group, which was in negotiations with the developers to have a garden space in the Sterling.

- Waimakariri Access Group would again be hosting the “Inclusion Sports” event on 4 July at MainPower Stadium.
- Attended the Kaiapoi Garden Club's 'Newcomers Afternoon Tea', which was an organisation that looked after its members, both old and new. Hosting well-attended events and making sure everyone was involved. They had an issue with lighting in the bowling carpark where they hold their monthly meetings. Greenspace was reviewing this issue.
- Pines Kairaki food forest's first planting day was on 18 May 2025, with 25 locals assisting in planting over 160 trees.
- Waiting to hear back from the Greenspace Team regarding permission to start a pocket food forest in the Northbrook Reserve. This would be the next community-led project with locals planting and growing food on Council reserves.
- Disc golf in Kaiapoi Domain may be getting closer as the group that came to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board had secured funding for the nine-hole course.
- Kaiapoi Historical Society would hold its AGM on 25 May 2025. Storage was still a challenge, and it would be nice to sort out getting safe access to the mezzanine.
- English as a second language classes were well attended by Chinese, French, Indonesian, Turkish, Peruvians, Argentinians, Filipinos, and Russians.
- Migrants, at least some, were being offered five-year work visas. Businesses, if they were looking at employing someone from overseas, used to have to prove that no one local was fit for the role. This rule seemed to have been relaxed and now there was anecdotal evidence of families being brought into the country under the guise of working in the business.
- Hope Trust was serving around 110 people each Wednesday evening.
- Growing numbers of people were applying to access their Kiwsaver, as they struggled to make ends meet.
- The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) report that from 1 July 2025, those people on certain benefits who needed to reapply every 12 months would have a change resulting in having to reapply every 26 weeks, which would place additional pressure on MSD staff. They were broadening sanctions on those who failed to attend appointments. In New Zealand, the stats were that one in four people were not eating regularly.
- The Race Unity Poster Competition had 400 entries, up from around 110 last year. There were five Kaiapoi High School winners whose English was their second language.
- Arts Strategy - Staff reported that the implementation of the strategy was progressing well. They spoke about art groups having to think creatively about the limited number of spaces available to hold classes, e.g., art classes on a squash court.
- The Deputy Mayor and Councillor Cairns met with the Menzshed and discussed its move to the Community Hub space. We planned to have follow-up discussions on how things can get moving, literally moving.
- The Croquet Club in Kaiapoi now had a storage building on site, and the lawns were looking good.
- BlueSky events would organise Matariki in Kaiapoi.
- “Letterheads” the international signwriters conference was to be held in Kaiapoi later in the year.
- A girls' soccer tournament was coming to the Waimakariri District with 700 players attending.
- Model sailboat racing would be held at Pegasus Lake in late September/October 2025.
- A national dog show to be held at MainPower Stadium
- Local hospitality business would be hosting a traditional Oktoberfest event in September.

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

- All three art trusts/groups' protocols, contracts and paperwork were being brought up to date.
- Waimakariri Public Arts Trust was busy with Kaiapoi Bridge design. Two local artists had been selected.
- Labels for Council artwork in Council buildings had finally been sourced and would arrive by the end of the month.
- Chamber concerts were going well.

### 8 **MATTER FOR INFORMATION FROM THE KAIAPOI-TUAHIWI COMMUNITY BOARD**

#### 8.1 **Murphy Park – Approval of Preliminary Concept Plan – I Clark (Project Manager)**

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information in Item 8.1.

**CARRIED**

### 9 **QUESTIONS**

Nil.

### 10 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

### **NEXT MEETING**


The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee would be held on Tuesday 15 July 2025 at 1pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2.50PM.

CONFIRMED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR DECISION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** GOV-01- 04 / CMS-09-10-02 / 250703121101**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**DATE OF MEETING:** 15 July 2025**AUTHOR(S):** Tessa Sturley, Community Team Manager**SUBJECT:** Community Development Strategy 2025-2035**ENDORSED BY:**  
(for Reports to Council,  
Committees or Boards)
  
 General Manager

  
 Chief Executive
**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report seeks Community & Recreation Committee approval of the Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 as the framework for community-led development in the Waimakariri District, over the coming 10-year period.
- 1.2. The report also seeks the recommendation of the Community and Recreation Committee that Council approve the adoption of the Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035.
- 1.3. The strategy outlines a comprehensive plan for enhancing community wellbeing in the Waimakariri District. It emphasises the importance of community development as the backbone of strong communities, highlighting the need for collaboration between various stakeholders, including community, business, education, government, and non-government agencies.
- 1.4. The strategy is framed according to four strategic directions, that the Waimakariri District is a place where people are:
  - Safe and Healthy
  - Welcome and Included
  - Informed and Empowered
  - Engaged and Connected
- 1.5. Extensive community stakeholder engagement informed the development of the draft document'
- 1.6. Community consultation, approved at the February meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, has been via Council's 'Let's Talk' function and directly via the various networks facilitated by the Community Team.
- 1.7. Given its strong evidence base and the broad stakeholder involvement in informing and developing the strategy, there have been relatively few responses at this formal consultation phase, with the draft document unanimously received as an acceptable

framework for Community Development in the Waimakariri District over the next 10-year period.

- 1.8. It is worth noting the attached comprehensive response from Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora. Recommendations for the implementation of the strategy have been noted and will be incorporated, as part of the implementation.

Attachments:

- i. Draft Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 (TRIM No 250213023625)
- ii. Health NZ Draft Community Development Strategy Final Technical Advice (TRIM No 250630117630)

## 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250703121101  
*AND*  
**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee recommends:  
**THAT** the Council:
  - (b) **Approves** the Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035, to be adopted as the framework for community-led development in the Waimakariri District, over the coming 10-year period.
  - (c) **Notes** the many successful community development initiatives developed over the past 20 years that have led to the Waimakariri District being recognised for its effectiveness in developing collaborative responses to community-identified issues and opportunities,
  - (d) **Notes** the broad evidence base that has informed the development of this strategy.
  - (e) **Notes** the extensive engagement across the social, health, education, community and business sectors to ensure the identification of key priorities to be addressed in this strategy and its subsequent implementation.
- (a) **Notes** that, following on from the community engagement, community consultation has been carried out via Council's 'Let's Talk' function and directly via the various networks facilitated by the Community Team. The aim of this consultation was to gather any feedback that might result in changes to the draft document and/or inform its implementation.
- (b) **Notes** the attached comprehensive response from Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora) and that recommendations for the implementation of the strategy have been noted and applied to the implementation plan.
- (c) **Notes** that, given its strong evidence base and the broad stakeholder involvement in informing and developing the strategy, community consultation responses to draft document were unanimously in support of Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035, for adoption as the framework for community-led development in the Waimakariri District over the coming 10-year period.

### 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. 'Community Development is defined as any process that enhances the wellbeing of individuals, families, communities and their environment.' *New Zealand Government, 2002*. It applies the collective wisdom and opinion of local stakeholders to local decision making. Broadly, this involves people working together, utilising local skills, knowledge and experience to improve quality of life for residents.
- 3.2. Through its community development function, Council has well established relationships with hundreds of stakeholders including community, business, education, government and non-government agencies. Consequently, District is well known for its collaborative approach, where diverse, but like-minded people come together to address the issues and aspirations of the community. This results in an incredible array of community-led initiatives that exemplify the value of collective wisdom, ability and talent.
- 3.3. The Community Development Strategy is a high-level strategic framework for community development in the district over the next ten years. Its aim is to provide clear direction for the role that the Council plays in addressing identified community priorities. This collaborative, community-led approach is evidenced as being highly effective in addressing the determinants of community wellbeing.
- 3.4. The Waimakariri District Community Development Strategy 2015 – 2025 has been the backbone of an extensive range of initiatives that support the social wellbeing, safety and health of Waimakariri residents. However, with its objectives now achieved and our community having evolved through a number of changes and challenges, since its adoption, that strategy has served its purpose
- 3.5. The attached updated strategy 'Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035', is the result of extensive data analysis and community engagement.
- 3.6. Community engagement included elected members from Council and Community Board, the various community networks facilitated or supported by Council's Community Team, and the general public. Engagement took the form of online and paper surveys on Council's 'Let's Talk' platform, a Community Organisation Survey, a Community Development Forum and focussed discussion with representatives from key local networks, such as Social Services Waimakariri, Youth Council and the Migrant Agency Steering Group.
- 3.7. A broad dataset was utilised as quantitative evidence to guide the development of the strategy. This included:
  - 2023 Census,
  - Social Investment Agency Regional Data Explorer,
  - Canterbury Wellbeing Index,
  - Infometrics
  - Otago University Injury Prevention Research Unit.

Additional evidence from recent internal strategic engagement included disability statistics, from the 2024 Waimakariri Accessibility Strategy Review, data from engagement to inform Ngā toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy 2024 and data gathered through migrant resident, and migrant employers and stakeholder surveys, undertaken in 2022



- 3.8. As well as looking forward, the strategy details how the community development function of Council has responded to the needs of our growing and increasingly diverse community over the past 20 years and the challenges that those years have presented.
- 3.9. Overall, the Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 aims to create a thriving, connected, and resilient community where all residents can participate fully and achieve their aspirations.

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

- 4.1. The Waimakariri Community Development Strategy is one of the Council's key strategies that provide high-level strategic direction to inform the work of the Waimakariri District Council.
- 4.2. Its goals and objectives directly align with each of Council's Community Outcomes, ensuring that that the Waimakariri District is a place:
- Where everyone can have a sense of belonging
  - Where our people are enabled to thrive and give creative expressions to their identity and heritage
  - That values and restores our environment
  - That is supported by a resilient and innovative economy
- 4.3. Evidence from data analysis and community engagement, detailed in 3.6 and 3.7, above identified priority activities for our communities. These included facilitation of:
- Strong, connected social, health and community sectors that support the safety, health and wellbeing of local residents and the priorities that address those.
  - Support for migrants and new residents, so that they can easily integrate into the community and access its services, supports and opportunities
  - Youth development and opportunity; particularly in relation to education, work-readiness and employment.
  - An inclusive, accessible and Age-friendly District.
  - A strong and connected local arts sector, in line with its role in District attraction and economic development.
  - Food security and education, both to ensure a more sustainable local food chain and to address food poverty for vulnerable residents.
  - Community resilience to respond adapt and recover from the impact of climate change and Civil Defence emergencies.
- 4.4. The Strategy frames this work around the Vision of '*Communities that are safe, caring, inclusive and empower all to thrive*' and four related strategic directions (goals), that the Waimakariri is a District where people are:
- Safe and Healthy
  - Welcome and Included
  - Informed and Empowered
  - Engaged and Connected

A set of objectives for each of the strategic directions, align with the community-identified priorities in 4.3, above.

- 4.5. The implementation of the strategy will centre on engaging, connecting, informing and empowering the community, its people, groups, organisations and various sectors to work together effectively to address community-identified issues and opportunities.
- 4.1. Following on from the community engagement, community consultation has been carried out via Council's 'Let's Talk' function and directly via the various networks facilitated by the Community Team. The aim of this consultation was to gather any feedback that might result in changes to the draft document and/or inform its implementation.
- 4.2. A comprehensive and notable response from Health New Zealand (Te Whatu Ora) was in full support of the Strategy. It included some recommendations for its implementation. These centred on:
- ensuring those with 'lived experience' in decision-making around accessibility
  - engaging youth, as the most highly impacted demographic, in any initiatives related to addressing loneliness
  - ensuring that Māori and Pasifika culture are acknowledged.
  - ensuring that local social housing provision is healthy and fit for purpose

Each of these aligns with our standard community-led development practice but have been noted and applied to the implementation plan.

- 4.3. Given its strong evidence base and the broad stakeholder involvement in informing and developing the strategy, there was a relatively low formal response to the 'Let's Talk' draft strategy consultation - nine direct engagements. Feedback given in responses included reference to:
- The value of the extensive and broad evidence that informed the strategy
  - The potential challenges in engaging communities that do not currently have formally established residents' groups. - This has been recognised as an opportunity for community development staff.
  - The importance of ensuring consumer input (lived experience) in working groups that address accessibility and inclusion. – It should be noted that this is standard practice for the Community Team's work.
- 4.4. All responses to the Let's Talk consultation supported Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 as an acceptable framework for community-led development in the Waimakariri District over the coming 10-year period.
- 4.5. With community consultation on the draft document now complete, staff seek Community and Recreation Committee's recommendation the Council approve for the Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 for adoption as the framework for community-led development over the coming 10-year period.
- 4.6. OPTIONS
- 4.6.1. Option 1: *Approve the Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 and recommend that Council approves it as the framework for community-led development in the Waimakariri District, over the coming 10-year period.*

This is the preferred option, given that:

- a) the draft document has been prepared with extensive stakeholder engagement a strong evidence-base, and in alignment with Council's Community Outcomes for the District.
- b) recent community consultation saw the draft document unanimously received as an acceptable framework for Community Development in the Waimakariri District over the next 10-year period.
- c) there is an expectation by the broad range of networks that support this work that, through this strategic approach, Council has acknowledged the issues and opportunities of its residents and commits to its Community Outcomes for a safe, healthy, connected, inclusive and resilient District.

4.6.2. *Option 2: Not approve the Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035 and, therefore, not recommend that Council approves it as the framework for community-led development in the Waimakariri District, over the coming 10-year period.*

This is not a preferred option.

- a) There is an expectation by the broad range of networks that support this work that, through this strategic approach, Council has acknowledged the issues and opportunities of its residents and commits to its Community Outcomes for a safe, healthy, connected, inclusive and resilient District.
- b) There is a risk of reputational and relationship damage, given that our community stakeholders committed significant time, resource and trust in the development of this document.

### **Implications for Community Wellbeing**

There are implications on community wellbeing related to the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report:

- The application of an evidence-based, community-led approach ensures the development of sound, relevant initiatives that empower residents to play a part in creating a safe, healthy, connected and resilient District
- The collective wisdom, experience and opinion of local residents is applied to local decision making.
- Broad sector collaboration results in better and locally accessible social, health, education and community service provision.
- People are empowered with skills and opportunities to access employment and engage in the life of their community.
- Community groups and volunteer-involving organisations are adequately skilled and resourced to support the needs and deliver quality service to local residents
- Our community will be sufficiently resilient to sustain itself through future natural disasters or crises.

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

## 5. **COMMUNITY VIEWS**

### 5.1. **Mana whenua**

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū may have an interest in the subject matter of this report.

Staff recognised the importance of ensuring that mana whenua were involved as early as possible, so that the strategy could reflect true partnership and the unique cultural heritage of our District. Ngāi Tūāhuriri input was sought at the beginning of the project and as part of the engagement that informed this strategy, both directly and via MKT. Feedback received indicated that, whilst the information was appreciated, the rūnanga was not in a position to engage. However, staff will continue to seek input from Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū, via Whiti Ora, as appropriate, throughout the implementation of the Strategy.

### 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.

Early engagement on the Draft Strategy included a community forum and a survey for community organisations to understand their opportunities, issues and priorities. Various local stakeholders and key networks, particularly Social Services Waimakariri, Waimakariri Health Advisory Group, Violence Free North Canterbury, local iwi, schools and the Age Friendly Steering Group have informed the Draft Strategy. It is therefore appropriate that they be consulted on the Draft Strategy prior to its adoption.

### 5.3. **Wider Community**

The wider community is likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in the subject matter of this report. It is important to seek views as broad as possible Waimakariri communities on the Draft Strategy. This will ensure that the voices and experience of all local residents is reflected in the Draft Strategy before it is reported to Council for adoption.

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

### 6.1. **Financial Implications**

Facilitation for the implementation of 'Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035' has been approved in Council's Long-Term Plan through the operational budget of the Community Team.

This facilitation engages the collective community-led action of appropriate stakeholders from its various networks across the local social, community, health, education, business and faith sectors to address the objectives of the Strategy. Typically, each FTE hour of facilitation engages another 5 FTE hours in community stakeholder input to address community priorities.

Project costs associated with the implementation of the Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035' are acquired from philanthropic and/or central government funders, with support from community development facilitator staff.

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

The recommendations in this report do not have sustainability and/or climate change impacts. However, the Draft Strategy discusses the impact of climate change on the community, particularly on young people, and highlights the need for increased collaboration and support to address these challenges.

Aspects of the implementation of the 'Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035' impacts the sustainability of our community and our environment. Particularly through initiatives that repurpose or reuse assets; through the expansion and development of community gardens and food forests in public spaces; and through activities that encourage and promote recreation-centred wellbeing. By encouraging the use of our greenspaces to support the health, wellbeing and physical nourishment of our community we maximise the use of our local environmental resources.

### 6.3 Risk Management

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

There is an expectation by the broad range of networks that support this work that, through this strategic approach, Council has acknowledged the issues and opportunities of its residents and commits to its Community Outcomes for a safe, healthy, connected, inclusive and resilient District. Should this not be approved there is a risk of reputational damage to Council and damage to long-established partnerships, given that our community stakeholders committed significant time, resource and trust in the development of this document.

### 6.3 Health and Safety

There are health and safety risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, Health and Safety considerations are included in planning for all Community Team facilitated initiatives.

## 7. CONTEXT

### 7.1. Consistency with Policy

This matter is a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

### 7.2. Authorising Legislation

Local Government Act 2002

### 7.3. Consistency with Community Outcomes

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

The objectives of the Community Development Strategy encompass all aspects of the Council's Community Outcomes, with the aim to facilitate activity that ensures that the Waimakariri is a District where people are:

- Safe and healthy; and able to access the determinants of good health and wellbeing
- Welcome and included, as part of our local communities – geographic and 'of interest'
- Informed and empowered to contribute to local decision making and achieve their aspirations
- Engaged and connected into the District's activities.

#### 7.4. Authorising Delegations

Community and Recreation Committee to Council to approve the adoption of the 'Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035' as the framework for community-led development over the coming 10 years.



Tessa Sturley

COMMUNITY TEAM MANAGER



# Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025–2035

Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri



February 2025





# Foreword from the Mayor

**The Waimakariri District Council has always been dedicated to making our District a great place to live.**

Our vision is simple: We want to work together with the community to create a high-quality physical and social environment, safe communities, and a healthy economy.

With our amazing Community Team at the helm, we're using a community-led development approach to truly bring this vision to life.

We've seen firsthand the incredible value of this approach, as local people, organisations, councillors and council staff have come together, combining their skills, knowledge, connections, and resources to build communities that are safe, caring, inclusive, and empower everyone to thrive.

This strategy is all about aligning our efforts with the priorities identified by the community. By putting this strategy into action, we'll be able

to achieve a range of objectives that support the wellbeing of our District, in line with Council's Community Outcomes.

I fully support this important work and can't wait to see the continued positive impact that the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy 2025–2035 will bring.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Dan Gordon in blue ink, positioned below the portrait photo.

**Dan Gordon**  
Mayor

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# Executive Summary

## Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari kē he toa takitini

My success should not be bestowed onto me alone, it was not individual success but the success of a collective

*‘Community Development is defined as any process that enhances the wellbeing of individuals, families, communities and their environment.’*

New Zealand Government, 2002.

It applies the collective wisdom and opinion of local stakeholders to local decision making. Broadly, this involves people working together, utilising local skills, knowledge and experience to improve quality of life for residents.

True community is not just about being geographically close to someone, or part of the same social network online. There are communities of interest, identity or place (e.g. voluntary organisation, an ethnic group or hapu). Community is about feeling connected and responsible for what happens. Humanity is our ultimate community, and everyone plays a crucial role.

Community development is the backbone of strong communities. Councils with strong community development have the people that they serve at the heart of decision making. The positive impact on the wellbeing of the district cannot be understated.

## Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi:

With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive

Through its community development function, Council has well established relationships with hundreds of stakeholders including community,

business, education, government and non-government agencies. Consequently, ours is a District in which like-minded people come together, roll up their sleeves and get things done. For example, a contracting company, a mental health provider and a service club might work together in an unlikely, but successful context. Such collaboration results in an incredible array of community-led initiatives that exemplify the value of collective wisdom, ability and talent.

The Community Development Strategy is a high-level strategic framework for community development in the district over the next ten years. Its aim is to provide clear direction for the role that Waimakariri District Council plays in addressing identified community priorities. This collaborative, community-led approach is evidenced as being highly effective in addressing the determinants of community wellbeing.

This strategy aligns with one of five strategic priorities outlined in the Waimakariri District Council Long Term Plan 2024–2034: “*Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness.*” The value of this priority is stated as follows: “*Waimakariri District is a high growth area with an increasingly diverse population. We want to build a wellbeing centred community where all feel safe and welcome; are accepted and connected.*”

The objectives of the Community Development Strategy encompass all aspects of the Council's Community Outcomes, with the aim to facilitate activity that ensures that the Waimakariri is a District where people are:

- **Safe and healthy;** and able to access the determinants of good health and wellbeing
- **Welcome and included,** as part of our local communities — geographic and ‘of interest’
- **Informed and empowered** to contribute to local decision making and achieve their aspirations
- **Engaged and connected** into the District's activities.

Through the extensive engagement that informed this strategy, the community has identified

a number of priority activities. These include facilitative support for:

- Strong, connected social, health and community sectors that support the safety, health and wellbeing of local residents.
- Support for migrants and new residents, so that they can easily integrate into the community and access its services, supports and opportunities.
- Youth development and opportunity; particularly in relation to education, work-readiness and employment.
- An inclusive, accessible and age-friendly District.
- A strong and connected local arts sector, in line with its role in District attraction and economic development.
- Food security and education, both to ensure a more sustainable local food chain and to address food poverty for vulnerable residents.
- Community resilience to respond adapt and recover from the impact of climate change and Civil Defence emergencies.

Figure 1 below, illustrates how local issues correspond with each of the Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing—a best practice model described on the following page.

**Figure 1: Social Determinants model**



## Best Practice Models

### Safe Community Accreditation

The Waimakariri District has been aligned with the World Health Organisation approved 'International Safe Community' model since 1999, when it was the second community in New Zealand to achieve accreditation. This alignment directly links the Waimakariri District with a nation-wide network of over 20 other communities and ensures that community development aligns with 'best practice', so that it is:

- Evidence based
- Collaboratively delivered to ensure effective and cost-effective use of resources
- Appropriately targeted to meet the needs of the District's most vulnerable residents
- Well evaluated to ensure that it achieves its objectives

### Social Determinants of Community Wellbeing

The Council has established and maintains an in-depth working knowledge of the Waimakariri District and the physical, socio-economic and environmental factors that affect the quality of life of our residents — the determinants of health and wellbeing. These include:

- income and social protection
- education
- unemployment and job insecurity
- working life conditions
- food insecurity
- housing, basic amenities and the environment
- early childhood development
- social inclusion and non-discrimination
- structural conflict
- access to affordable health services of decent quality

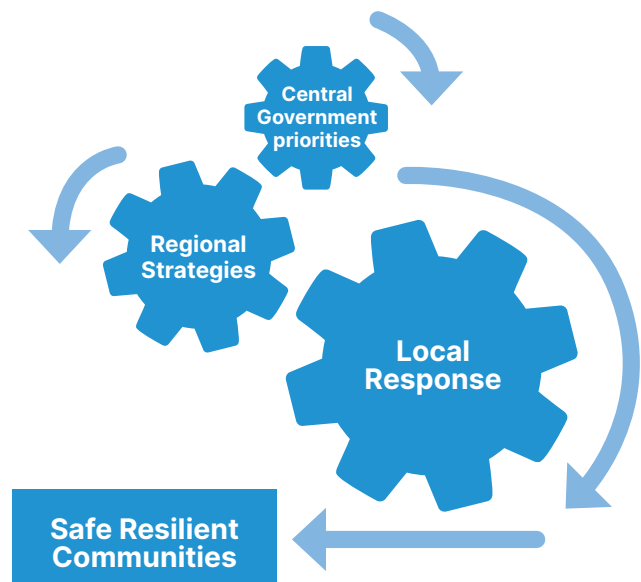
The diagram in Figure 1 on the previous page, outlines the social determinants of health and the challenges that are currently being faced. Having strong community infrastructure can affect positive social determinants for residents with Community Development a key mechanism to achieve this.

## Strategic alignment with Regional and Central Government priorities

The alignment of the Waimakariri response with regional strategies and Central Government priorities ensures that wider research and proven models are applied to planning for local responses.

As illustrated in Figure 2, below, Central Government, regional and local alignment translates into increased reach and return on investment as more stakeholders are brought into community-led, collaborative responses. In a typical community development approach, the number of partner hours generated represent a five-fold return on investment.

**Figure 2**



# Part 1 – Introduction and Background

## 1.1: The Waimakariri District - Te Takiwā o Waimakariri

The Waimakariri District lies to the north of Christchurch on the Canterbury Plains, extending from the Waimakariri River to the south, Pegasus Bay in the east and the Puketeraki Range in the west. It is bounded to the north by Hurunui District.

The District sits within the takiwā (territory) of Ngāi Tūāhuriri, which is one of 18 Ngāi Tahu regional papatipu rūnanga, constituted under the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 to represent mana whenua interests. Descendants of Ngāi Tūāhuriri (along with other Ngāi Tahu whānui) have resided in the area for over 40 generations and, together with others who identify themselves as having NZ Māori ancestry, represent approximately 10% of the District's population.

More than 80% of the population is concentrated in the eastern part of the District in the main urban areas of Rangiora, Kaiapoi, and Woodend/Pegasus/Ravenswood. Oxford is the largest town in the western part of the District. These larger towns are supplemented by smaller rural villages and four beach settlements. The District also has a large number of people living on smaller lots in the rural and rural residential areas, with around 2,400 households living on properties sized between 0.5ha and just under 4ha, and around another 3,300 households living on small holdings sized between 4ha and just under 8ha. Many of these properties have their own sewerage system and some have their own water supply systems.

Most people live within a 30-minute drive from one another and all of these areas are within commuting distance of Christchurch City. Despite rapid population growth, Waimakariri has retained its small town/rural character and the District's close proximity to Christchurch makes it an attractive location for those wanting to live near a city but enjoy the country environment.

## 1.2: Community Development

'Community Development is defined as any process that enhances the wellbeing of individuals, families, communities and their environment.' New Zealand Government, 2002.

Community Development priorities are population-centred, but with a focus on the people in communities. If people are connected, healthy, resilient and empowered to participate fully in all aspects of community, there is reduced burden on the public purse, through lower levels of:

- Crime
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Addiction
- Mental and physical health related issues

Community Development applies the collective wisdom and opinion of local stakeholders to local decision making. Broadly, this involves people working together, utilising local skills, knowledge and experience to improve quality of life for residents.

Whether they be geographic, 'of practice' or 'of interest' communities, community development helps communities to better understand and respond to challenges and opportunities as they happen. It helps stakeholders to define their common needs and aspirations, to undertake planning; and organise themselves to take action to address those needs and achieve their collective goals for their respective communities.

There is significant benefit to this approach, in that:

- It ensures the development of sound and relevant initiatives that empower residents to play a part in creating a safe, healthy, connected and resilient District
- It centres on the creation of communities, where all people can have a sense of belonging and are empowered with skills, opportunities and resources to actively engage in the life of their community.



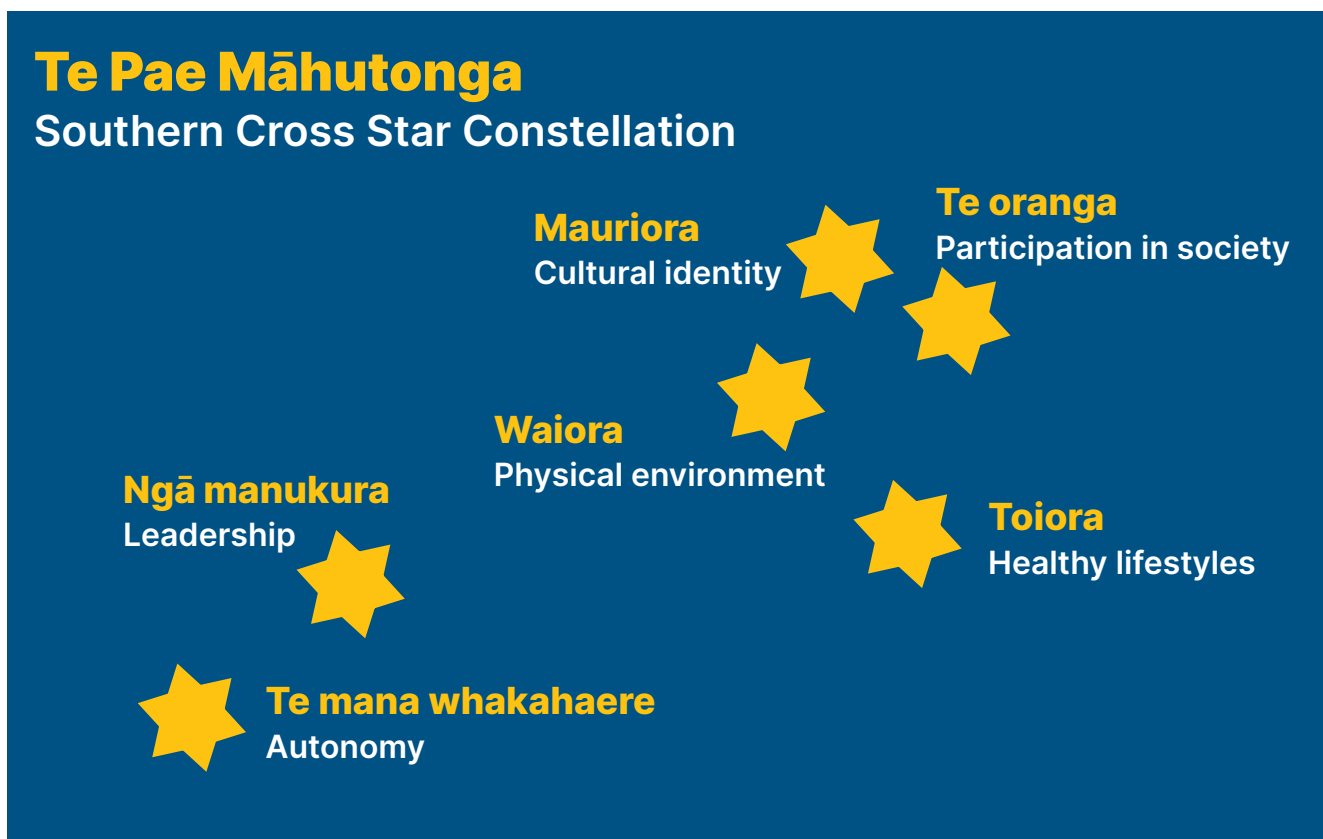
- Broad sector collaboration results in improved and locally accessible social, health, education and community service provision. It also enhances the likelihood that groups and volunteer-involving organisations are adequately skilled and resourced to serve residents.
- Communities are better able to sustain themselves through natural disasters or crises.

### Te Pae Māhutonga Model

Developed by Sir Mason Durie, Te Pae Māhutonga, the Southern Cross model (Figure 3), applies a familiar image to illustrate the elements of strong communities. This model also provides a good illustration of the mechanism and result of successful community development, which centres on:

- **Leadership (Ngā Manukura):** Leadership for the wellbeing of our communities needs to occur at all levels. Communication, collaboration and alliances between all social leaders and groups are important.
- **Autonomy (Te Mana Whakahaere):** Communities should be supported toward increased autonomy and self-determination with respect to their health, safety and wellbeing.
- **Participation in society (Te Oranga):** Community wellbeing is impacted by the extent to which people can participate. This includes equitable access to goods and services, viable income, employment, education, leisure and recreation.
- **Healthy lifestyles (Toiora):** Toiora reflects the impact of personal behaviour and the type of lifestyle we choose to live on our personal wellbeing. Effective community development encourages and enables positive life choices.
- **Environmental protection (Waiora):** Waiora refers to the positive impact of the connection between people and the environment – a foundational aspect of community development.
- **Cultural identity (Mauriora):** Mauriora encompasses people having a secure sense of cultural identity founded in meaningful contact with their language, customs and cultural inheritance, regardless of race.

Figure 3: Source [hpfnz.org.nz/maori-health-promotion/maori-health-models/](http://hpfnz.org.nz/maori-health-promotion/maori-health-models/)





## Evolution of a Strategic Approach to Community Development in the Waimakariri District

The Community Development Strategy is a high-level strategic framework for community development activity in the Waimakariri District over the next ten years. Its aim is to provide clear direction for the role that Waimakariri District Council plays in addressing identified community priorities. In line with best practice, it ensures that responses are evidence-based, collaboratively planned, appropriately targeted, sustainably resourced, and well evaluated.

This strategic approach has proven to be successful, since the first Waimakariri Community Development Strategy was developed, some 18 years ago. At the time the district was rapidly expanding, with a population growth of 40% over the preceding 10-year period. This had increased the demand on local services and community infrastructure. It was recognised that collaboration would be key to ensuring that local service provision was adequate, accessible and sustainable to meet the needs of our growing communities.

This resulted in the establishment of four broad networks to support collaboration on community-related issues:

- Waimakariri Health Advisory Group
- Social Services Waimakariri
- North Canterbury Youth Services Network
- Waimakariri Access Group

These, and other networks developed from this strategic approach, provide real-life context on emerging issues, alongside local data, around



which appropriate issues-based working groups have been established – some for a time, and some still enduring. By 2014, the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquakes had resulted in a changing social landscape. The district had seen an influx of earthquake ‘refugees’ from Christchurch and was starting to see an increase in cultural diversity.

Significant upheaval continued for the residents of our eastern communities, many of whom had lost homes and businesses, while the whole district was still suffering the impact of the temporary or permanent loss of the majority of ‘main street’ businesses and core services like libraries, aquatics centres and even supermarkets across the district.

Community feedback to inform the 2015 strategy identified four key objectives:

- Increase provision of community and/or neighbourhood events to enable people to connect.
- Increase the profile, capacity and capability of community groups to be sustainable.
- Improve the provision of easily accessible community information.
- Enhance and encourage better use of some of our Council spaces and places, until replacement facilities could be built.



Additional resourcing was applied toward supporting community groups and neighbourhoods and two new networks were established to address the needs of our evolving district:

- A Volunteer Coordinators Network was established resulting in:
  - Annual volunteer expos across the District
  - The On Track capability-building workshop series for volunteer and community sector leaders and staff
- A Social Inclusion Initiatives Group (SIIG) was established to affect a strategic approach to better connecting people into the community. This resulted in:
  - Welcome Ambassadors at the evolving Pegasus Town
  - Welcome Bags initiative, which has seen thousands of welcome information packs distributed to new residents. - Hand decorated by locals
  - Neighbourhood and community connection initiatives. E.g. BBQs and coffee groups
- The North Canterbury Youth Futures Steering Group was established to facilitate an intentional and strategic approach to youth education and employment pathways.
- A Migrants and Newcomers Steering Group was established. Its mandate is to engage, connect, inform and empower migrants, through education, events and social connection.
- In 2018, Ministry of Social Development, 'Office for Seniors' funding was acquired for the development of an Age-friendly Plan for the District, adopted by Council in 2019. An Age-friendly Advisory Group was established to drive and oversee its implementation.

By 2019, with the evolving profile of our communities, and the 2015 Strategy's objectives achieved, it was deemed timely to review community priorities and develop an updated strategy that would address these. This was impeded by the Covid pandemic. However, that delay has been important, so that the new strategy reflects the priorities and opportunities that the pandemic and the subsequent economic recession have presented.

### **Current Context**

The Waimakariri District has continued to experience rapid population growth alongside evolving demographic and cultural diversity. Whilst the District has a generally ageing population, flourishing subdivisions and increased recreation and entertainment opportunities have resulted in an influx of younger couples and families looking to settle here.

Growth in the local hospitality, dairying, construction and retirement/aged care sectors has attracted a significant population of locally based workers from a diversity of ethnicities, often bringing family, with barriers that limit their ability to make connections into the community.

The Covid-19 pandemic first reported in New Zealand in February 2020, presented a range of new challenges and associated opportunities for our District. Issues like food poverty, unemployment and mental health, that had previously affected a small sector of our population, impacted a new and much larger cohort of people. Social and community sector engagement to inform Covid recovery planning evidenced a need to prioritise:

- Unemployment and the value of all work
- Access to information about community supports
- Increased prioritisation of mental health and wellbeing
- Community outreach support
- Social and digital isolation

Five unexpected opportunities emerged:

- **Food Security**, including a need for increased collaboration between local foodbanks, support for food rescue and distribution; and increased focus on community gardens and food forests. The aim is to ensure that people are equitably empowered to source and utilise readily available and nutritious food for themselves and their whānau.
- **Arts**: The role that the arts could play in enhancing community wellbeing and in contributing to the recovery and growth of the local economy – particularly with its role in District attraction and where a more strategic approach might make it more likely that local people can make a living from the arts.
- **Community Connection Hub**: Red Zoned land in Kaiapoi would serve as an ideal site for the establishment of a community hub, where local residents could connect over the development of skills that empowered them toward a positive future.
- **Community Outreach**: A mobile community hub vehicle could reach isolated, vulnerable or traumatised groups of people in place with information, engagement and pastoral support
- **Community Information**: A 'Next Steps' Website would serve as a one stop point of information about local supports and services, enabling quick and anonymous access for local service providers, as well as the general public.

### The Impact of Climate Change

The impact of climate change on our communities cannot be underestimated; particularly on our young people, who list anxiety over a lack of action around climate change as a key factor in relation to their mental health. A report published in May 2023, 'Climate Anxiety and Young People — Supporting coping and resilience' cites survey findings that, of 10,000 young people across 10 countries:

- 84% are at least moderately worried about climate change
- 45% indicated their feelings about climate change affected their daily life and functioning
- 75% have negative thoughts about the future

[growwaitaha.co.nz/media/2242/gw-report-climate-anxiety-final-version.pdf](https://growwaitaha.co.nz/media/2242/gw-report-climate-anxiety-final-version.pdf)

While this study did not include NZ, it indicates the widespread opinions of young people that

'existing efforts are failing them and contributing to their negative feelings about the future'.

Youth development facilitation offers a mechanism to plan and deliver initiatives that empower young people to have a voice and play an active part in creating a more positive future. Enabling young people to support and engage in local climate solutions that they can relate to, helps reduce anxiety and build confidence while still validating their concerns (Sheldon-Dean, 2022). In a submission to the Council's 2024-34 Long Term Plan the Waimakariri Youth Council wrote 'We know that youth are focused predominantly on the idea of urgent action to curb current climate change'.

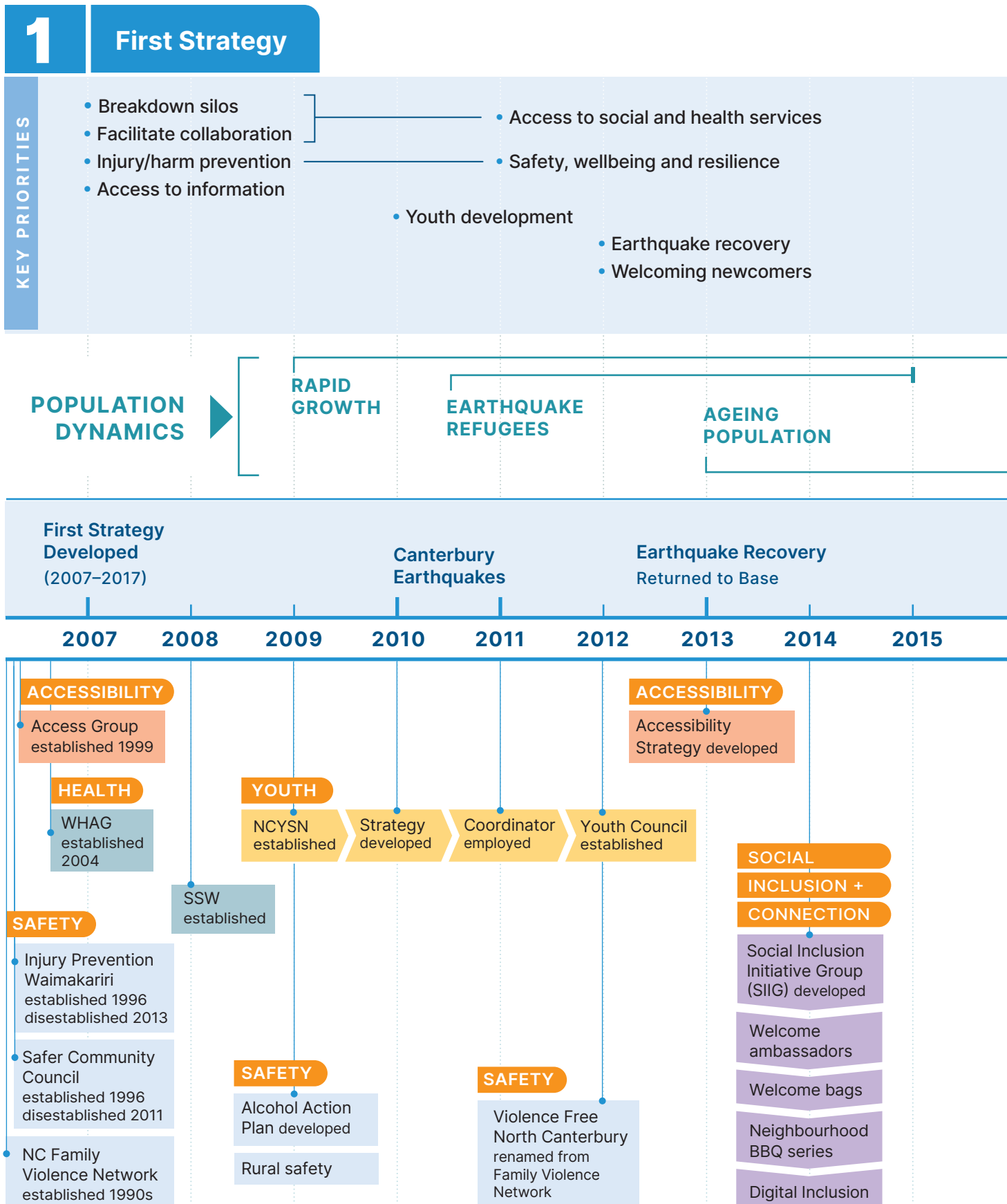
A US study (Derr, 2017) identified that resilience in the face of climate change is fostered by access to nature, family and friends, and supportive networks. This means that facilitation of initiatives that generate positive connections and mental and physical wellbeing will be crucial if we are to mitigate the social consequences for our young people.

More generally, effective community development in relation to climate change, centres on engaging and supporting communities, so that people are informed, prepared and empowered to play their part in building better lives together for themselves and the generations to come. The development of community plans that centre on strong sustainable neighbourhoods, community connection, and personal resilience will be an important aspect of this.

Research carried out after the 2023 Auckland Anniversary Weekend Floods identified that climate-related events can bring to the surface a desire to live in more-connected communities where everyone's needs are met. People recognised that some community members were more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including the aged, the disabled, and those lacking in financial and community support (The Workshop, 2024). This highlights the importance of the ongoing implementation of community development related strategies and plans such as the Accessibility Action Plan and the Age-friendly Plan as well as the need for an equitable and inclusive community response in dealing with the aftermath of any future climate-related emergency.

## The Journey

# Outcomes from a Strategic Approach to Community Development in the Waimak



## 2

## Second Strategy

## KEY PRIORITIES

- Neighbourhood development
  - Cultural inclusion
    - Personal safety and resilience
    - Youth opportunity
    - Older people
  - Covid Recovery
  - Food security
    - Capability building – voluntary sector
    - Unemployment
    - Homelessness
  - Arts

INCREASED  
CULTURAL DIVERSITYMORE YOUNG  
FAMILIESStrategy Review Second  
Strategy Developed  
(2015 - 2025)Mosque  
ShootingsCovid-19  
PandemicStrategy  
Review

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

## MIGRANTS

- Role established
- Plan developed
- Steering Group developed

Global Locals  
of Waimakariri (GLOW)  
Group establishedEnglish Language  
Classes commence

## SAFETY

Alcohol + Drug  
Harm Steering  
Group established

## YOUTH

Strategy  
reviewYouth Futures  
NC establishedMayors Taskforce for Jobs  
(Youth) contract acquired

## COVID RECOVERY

Food Secure  
North Canterbury  
establishedOn Track  
Capability Building  
Series developedKaiapoi  
Community  
HubMobile  
Community  
Hub fundedNext  
Steps  
website

## AGE FRIENDLY

- Plan developed
- Steering + Advisory  
Groups established

## HOMELESSNESS

Housing Response  
Groups establishedSTRATEGIC  
REVIEW 2025

## ARTS

Strategy adopted

Facilitator employed

## SAFETY

Men's Wellbeing and  
suicide prevention series



**Figure 4: Waimakariri District Council Strategies**



### Strategic Context

The Waimakariri Community Development Strategy is one of the Council's key strategies that provide high-level strategic direction to inform the work of the Waimakariri District Council. Its goals and objectives directly align with each of Council's Community Outcomes; that the Waimakariri District is a place:

- Where everyone can have a sense of belonging
- Where our people are enabled to thrive and give creative expressions to their identity and heritage
- That values and restores our environment
- That is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.

Whilst there is an alignment between the Community Development Strategy and Council's other strategies, there is a clear distinction between

the intent of this strategy and those that it aligns with. What sets it apart is that the scope of the Community Development Strategy centres directly on outcomes affecting people. This strategy applies a people-centred evidence base to ensuring that our places, spaces and services are adequate, accessible and engaging, to serve the needs and aspirations of local residents. While some of the outcomes might be similar, (e.g. vibrant town centres), the focus for the goals and objectives of this strategy is on the wellbeing, resilience, inclusion, connection and empowerment of the people of the Waimakariri District.

This strategy overarches a number of action plans that constitute the work of Council toward achieving the strategic vision, that, "Communities that are safe, caring, inclusive and empower all to thrive," as detailed in Figure 5.

**Figure 5: Community Development related plans and strategies**



## How was the strategy developed?

The development of the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy 2025–2035 has been informed by extensive evidence via a range of data sources and extensive community engagement.

Prior to the strategic review, working with Social Services Waimakariri, the Council's Community Team developed two key pieces of evidence to inform the Covid response - a Social and Community Sector Survey, and a Covid-19 Social Recovery Planning Forum. Both directly informed planning for social recovery in the Waimakariri District, alongside the evidence base that informs the broader work of the Community Team and the networks that it facilitates. Along with a migrant survey undertaken in 2021, the results

of those surveys were considerations in planning for the engagement to inform the development of this Strategy.

In the latter part of 2023, to increase the understanding of the community's priorities and views about issues and opportunities for the District, the Council reached out to key community partners, and specifically engaged with:

- Elected members of Waimakariri District Council
- Kaiapoi–Tuahiwi Community Board
- Rangiora–Ashley Community Board
- Woodend–Sefton Community Board
- Oxford–Ohoka Community Board
- Waimakariri Youth Council
- Age Friendly Advisory Group
- Waimakariri Access Group
- Social Services Waimakariri
- Waimakariri Health Advisory Group
- North Canterbury Youth Services Network
- Waimakariri Migrants Agency Steering Group

A community forum held in November 2023 and two surveys for residents and community organisations in early 2024 provided an understanding of the challenges and opportunities currently facing our District. More information on community feedback is available in Appendix 1.



## What matters most

Here is an overview of what you told us matters most for community development over the next five years:

<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of living</li> <li>• Low household income</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child poverty</li> <li>• Housing affordability</li> </ul>
<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to GP and health services</li> <li>• Mental health needs</li> <li>• Addiction/dependency</li> <li>• Youth-specific health issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older adult-specific health issues</li> <li>• Lack of targeted health services for older adults</li> <li>• Food insecurity</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEET (not in employment, education or training) 15–24-year-olds</li> </ul>
<b>Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of unemployment on wellbeing</li> <li>• Limited opportunities for youth sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment opportunities do not match the rate of growth in the district</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordability - income after rent/ mortgage costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing less affordable</li> <li>• Lack of social housing</li> </ul>
<b>Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime</li> <li>• Family violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road safety</li> <li>• Not feeling safe</li> </ul>
<b>Natural and Built Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical access to places and spaces</li> <li>• Public transport</li> <li>• Accessibility needs</li> <li>• Challenges of climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased urban development making it easier to find our spaces and places</li> <li>• Adopt a more global approach</li> <li>• Look after and beautify your own space</li> </ul>
<b>Social Capital</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of community</li> <li>• Contact with family and friends</li> <li>• Loneliness and isolation</li> <li>• Anti-social/loss of connection due to technology and social media</li> <li>• Lack of diversity</li> <li>• Discrimination</li> <li>• Pastoral support/show we care</li> <li>• Volunteering</li> <li>• Too busy to get involved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community response to events (shocks/stresses)</li> <li>• Establish community gardens and food forests</li> <li>• Access to recreational opportunities</li> <li>• Children connect through sports clubs</li> <li>• Lack of resources for teenagers/ young adults</li> <li>• More casual sports/events to reflect changing demographics</li> </ul>
<b>Wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to services and information</li> <li>• Family dynamics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stress – life is too busy</li> </ul>
<b>Civic Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People feel they are not heard by Council</li> <li>• Council and community collaboration on projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better engagement between Council and not-for-profit groups</li> <li>• Improved connections between Elected Members and their communities</li> </ul>

**We need more men in particular to volunteer to become mentors. Volunteer numbers, in general, are lower than they have been in the past.**

**Agencies focusing on a 'rules' based approach rather than a 'needs' based approach.**

**Technology and the pandemic have changed the traditional social platform - people don't want to be approached by strangers and they want choices. The community listens to the heartbeat of its members and responds to it with initiatives.**



## Current Situation

Evidence to support the development of this Strategy has come from a range of sources and is available in Appendix 2. Analysis of available data has identified the following key indicators:

**District population** – The Waimakariri District population has grown by almost a third in the last decade and on average we continue to get older however, focus should also be given to an increase in the number of young families in the District.

**Education and employment** – A significant drop in school attendance since Covid-19 from 74% in 2015 to 56.5% in September 2024. Around 10% of 15-24 years old are not in education, employment or training (NEET) despite relatively overall low employment figures.

**Crime** – despite low statistics for general crime, family violence statistics are disproportionately high across Canterbury, but with a downward trend in recent years emphasising the impact of a focus on prevention.

**Housing** – A significant increase in the number of housing register applicants in the last ten years and disproportionality low rental affordability compared to Canterbury and New Zealand.

**Food security** – Stakeholder engagement and data gathered from local food banks shows significantly higher demand over the past five years and a trend towards working families also needing additional food support to make ends meet. Budgeting services report increased demand for financial mentoring and support.

**Transport** – The Youth Voice Canterbury Takeover Survey highlighted access to transport as one of the top five significant issues for local young people. Mayors Taskforce for Jobs data identifies that lack of transport is the most significant barrier to employment for young people. The issue was also highlighted in the public engagement survey that informed priorities for this strategy.

**Inclusion** – Loneliness statistics indicate younger age groups both 0 to 24 years and 25 to 34 years are disproportionality affected by loneliness compared to older age groups. Additionally, Māori and other non-European ethnic groups were rated significantly higher in loneliness statistics. Whilst the Canterbury Wellbeing Index 2020 identified 85.4% of participants rating their quality of life

as good or extremely good, only 67% of local residents that participated in the Waimakariri District Council Community Survey 2019 said it's easy to get to know people in the district.

**Accessibility** – The Draft Inclusive Waimakariri Accessibility Plan 2025 highlights that Waimakariri District has a slightly higher proportion impacted by disability than the rest of New Zealand (25% of local population). Approximately 40% of respondents to the 2024 Community Survey did not think there is enough information available about the district.

**Safety** – Injury-related data points to disproportional high incidents of injury related to rural environments. Over exertion and falls data shows disproportional representation from older adults.

**Wellbeing** – The Canterbury Wellbeing Index highlights young people (18-24 years) as experiencing disproportionately high levels of stress and lower emotional wellbeing than others. Furthermore, young people are evidenced to the lowest personal resilience scores across the age groups.

Additionally, feedback from services engaged in a formative survey for the strategy reported, financial and emotional pressure on children and parents: E.g. from Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Programme response:

*“Children are often presenting with multiple complex needs. It's not just a matter of them not having a father figure or maternal figure, it's that and they have a diagnosis, and the family are struggling financially and things aren't going well at school and the child is struggling socially and doesn't have friends etc.”*

Access to health services (particularly General Practice) has been a recurring theme in consultations and via our networks.

**Recreation** – Engagement to inform the Waimakariri Arts Strategy highlighted there was significant local appetite to increase the profile and accessibility of local arts, support increased capability for the local arts sector and ensure that places and spaces for recreation are fit for purpose. The need for increased provision of accessible recreational opportunities for young people has been raised in engagement for Youth Strategy 2018, and while additional provision has been made available, this theme was echoed in community engagement that informed the development of this strategy.

**Health, Social and Community Sectors** - General themes that came through the formative survey engaging local services highlighted shortages

in service capacity, inadequate funding and attracting and retaining volunteers as key issues.

## Wider Strategic Context



# Part 2 – The Strategy

## Vision

**Communities that are safe, caring, inclusive and empower all to thrive**

### Strategic Directions (Goals)

The following four key focus areas have been identified for the strategy. Each relates to aspects of social wellbeing, with the intent that Waimakariri District is a place where people are:

1	Safe and Healthy
2	Welcome and Included
3	Informed and Empowered
4	Engaged and Connected

Each aspect is intertwined. The achievement of the objectives of one, generate increased likelihood of the achievement of the others. For example, safe, healthy people are more open to social inclusion, more likely to receive and be empowered by information and are more likely to be engaged and connected into the life of the District.





## Strategic Direction 1

## Safe and Healthy

### Context

Community Development facilitates a well-supported, connected and sustainable social and health sector. This ensures that all local people can access the determinants of health and wellbeing: income, employment, education and housing. These equip people to make lifestyle choices that reduce the risk of their being impacted by physical and mental health issues, addiction, relationship violence, crime and unemployment.

### Strategic Actions

- 1.1 Facilitate collaborative responses to address the determinants of health and wellbeing.
- 1.2 Facilitate collaboration for a strong local Health and Social Service Sector.
- 1.3 Facilitate a collaborative response to addressing key issues affecting the personal safety of local residents.
- 1.4 Facilitate effective welfare responses to local crisis.

### Relevant Council Community Outcomes 2024

- Council commits to promoting health and wellbeing and minimising the risk of social harm to its communities.
- Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.
- People are able to enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whanau, communities, iwi and workplaces.
- The natural and built environment in which people live is clean, healthy and safe.
- There is access to meaningful, rewarding, and safe employment within the district.

### Success Measures (benchmarked at 2025)

**Table 1: Strategic Direction 1 Success Measures**

Measure	Frequency	Source
Food Bank demand statistics	Annually	Food Bank providers
Crime against person		New Zealand Police
Alcohol Harm ED admissions		Canterbury Public Health
Injury statistics		Canterbury Public Health
Mental Health statistics		**TBC**
Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)		Infometrics
Rental Affordability		Infometrics
Housing Register Applicants		
Health and social care providers		Social Services Waimakariri

## Strategic Direction 2

## Welcome and Included

### Context

Communities that make everyone feel welcome and included are likely to enjoy increased social cohesion, with better social outcomes and a stronger local economy. In an inclusive environment, everyone can access and participate in the economic, civic, cultural and social life of the community. This creates a District that is vibrant, connected and attractive to visitors and prospective residents and investors.

### Strategic Actions

- 2.1 Facilitate collaboration for a 'Welcoming Community'.
- 2.2 Facilitate local initiatives that address unconscious bias.
- 2.3 Facilitate the activities of collaborations that remove barriers to community participation.

### Relevant Council Community Outcomes

- Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.
- Public spaces express our cultural identities and help to foster an inclusive society.
- Waimakariri's diversity is freely expressed, respected and valued.
- Our communities can access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.
- People are able to enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whānau, communities, iwi and workplaces.

### Success Measures (benchmarked at 2025)

**Table 2: Strategic Direction 2 Success Measures**

Measure	Frequency	Source
What's great about living in the Waimakariri District?	Every three years	Waimakariri District Council Community Survey
What's not so great?		
Do you feel part of your community?		
How happy are you with your level of involvement in your community?		
Level of happiness - What makes you feel that way?		
What could the community do better or differently to make people feel welcome?		
How well do you know your neighbours?		
What might help people get to know their neighbours?		
What things might limit the ability for people in particular age groups and abilities to enjoy our spaces and places?		
Access to the internet	Every five years	Stats NZ Census
No motor vehicle		

## Strategic Direction 3

## Informed and Empowered

### Context

Informed and empowered people have increased control over their lives. They have better access to the determinants of health and wellbeing. This makes them more likely to engage in local decision making, contributing to the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the whole community. This benefits everyone.

### Strategic Actions

- 3.1 Support community groups and organisations to be well resourced and sustainable.
- 3.2 Ensure a community voice in local, regional and national decision making.
- 3.3 Encourage, facilitate and support local skill development and skill sharing initiatives.
- 3.4 Facilitate the provision of up to date, easily accessible local information.

### Relevant Council Community Outcomes

- Our community groups are sustainable and able to get the support they need to succeed.
- Our community has access to the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society and to exercise choice about how to live their lives.
- Our district recognises the value of both paid and unpaid work.

### Success Measures (benchmarked at 2025)

**Table 3: Strategic Direction 3 Success Measures**

Measure	Frequency	Source
Community Funding approved (total monetary value and number of initiatives)	Annually	Strategy and Business Unit
Public usage of Council website and interaction with Council social media channels		Communications and Engagement
Number of submissions received and demographics for Council consultations		
Number of public deputations at Council meetings		Governance

## Strategic Direction 4

## Engaged and Connected

### Context

Socially connected people are happier and healthier. They are more engaged with the needs and aspirations of those around them and better able to find solutions to the problems that they and their community are facing. They are also better equipped to take advantage of emerging opportunities and apply a creative lens to enhancing their physical and social environment. This impacts positively on the local economy, in terms of District attraction, employment and local spending.

### Strategic Actions

- 4.1 Facilitate a strategic approach to local Arts.
- 4.2 Facilitate the provision of local activities that engage and connect people.
- 4.3 Facilitate the development of geographic community-based plans

### Relevant Council Community Outcomes

- There is an environment that supports creativity and innovation for all.
- All members of our community can engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers.
- Local arts, culture and heritage can make a growing contribution to the community and economy.
- Public spaces are diverse, respond to changing demographics and meet local needs for leisure and recreation.
- Our communities can access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.
- People can enjoy meaningful relationships with others in their families, whanau, communities, iwi and workplaces.

### Success Measures (benchmarked at 2025)

**Table 4: Strategic Direction 4 Success Measures**

Measure	Frequency	Source
New question required related to recreation	Every three years	Waimakariri District Council Community Survey
New question required related to volunteering		
District libraries participation levels	Annually	District Libraries
District aquatics participation levels		District Aquatics
Audience numbers/participation levels for arts-centred activities	Every three years	Community Team
Number and membership of creative networks		
Community Plans developed and reviewed in a timely fashion	Annually	Strategy and Business Unit Community Team
Involvement in leisure and recreation activities	Every five years	Stats NZ Census

# Part 3 – Implementation

## Partnerships and Process

### Partnerships

The Council does not do this work alone. Waimakariri District Council maintains an extensive network of relationships, with hundreds of local, regional and national representatives from across the community, NGO and central government sectors, alongside enduring partnerships with local iwi, business and education.

Broad, cross sector collaboration is the standard way of working in the Waimakariri District, which is recognised regionally and even nationally as an exemplar of collaborative action - coining a post-earthquake phrase: “The Waimakariri Way.”

Key to this has been the establishment of a range of networks that come together to inform and collaboratively develop priority community development activities.

As detailed in Appendix 1, 12 key networks frame the breadth of local initiatives that are a result of the implementation of the Waimakariri District Community Development Strategy:

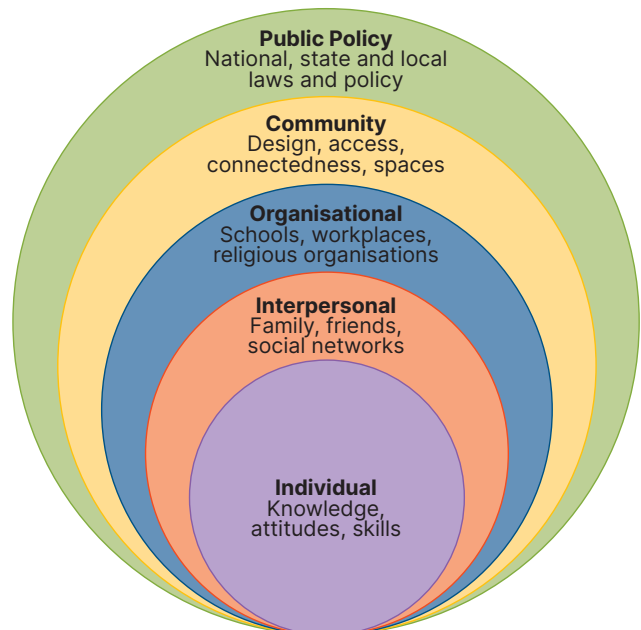
- Social Services Waimakariri
- Waimakariri Health Advisory Group
- Waimakariri Access Group
- Youth Futures North Canterbury
- North Canterbury Youth Services Network
- Violence Free North Canterbury
- Wailife Suicide Prevention Steering Group
- Waimakariri Migrant Agency Steering Group
- Waimakariri Alcohol and Drug Harm Steering Group
- Food Secure North Canterbury
- Welcoming Waimakariri
- Waimakariri Age Friendly Advisory Group

These are supported by a range of community-led working groups that centre on specific initiatives developed as part of implementation plan for the strategy.

### Process: Implementation Principles

Implementation of the Community Development Strategy is guided by four key principles for ‘Best Practice’ community development.

1. **A solid base of information:** An evidence-based, community-led approach is applied to the planning and delivery of initiatives that address key priorities for the most affected demographic groups in the Waimakariri District. Priorities are identified by combining local and national data from a range of sources with qualitative evidence from key local and regional stakeholders.
2. **Broad Spectrum:** The socio-ecological model serves as an excellent reference framework to ensure a broad scope is applied to influencing the development of strong, connected, resilient communities.



*researchgate.net/figure/Socio-ecological-Model-Adapted-from-US-Department-of-Health-and-Human-Services-Office\_fig2\_363867644*

In line with this model, best practice for community development suggests that, in developing projects, programmes,



interventions and other initiatives, practitioners should consider how they can affect impact at each of the various levels of the socio-ecological framework:

- educating the individual, to ensure they are socially supported and connected.
- ensuring that the institutions and organisations in which they operate are effective and sustainable.
- ensuring that the places and spaces in the community in which they live are attractive and accessible.
- ensuring that local policies and legislation encourage and support their safety, wellbeing and resilience.

**3. Collaborative and Community-led:** Broad sector involvement is important to ensure that responses are appropriately targeted, relevant, effective and sustainable. Council's Community Survey will be a crucial element in the assurance that the voice of local residents, groups and organisations is captured and included in implementation planning

**4. Well evaluated:** Evaluation is important. Right through the community development process to measure the quality, immediate impact and longer-term success outcomes related to programmes, interventions and broader scope initiatives.

## Strategic Outcomes: Indicators of Success

Longer term outcomes, or success measures from the implementation of the Community Development Strategy will be measured against population-based benchmarks, from the local, regional and national data that has informed the strategy.

These relate to:

- Food Security
- Relationship Violence
- Alcohol Harm
- Housing Security
- Employment
- Loneliness
- Satisfaction with life
- Engagement in volunteering and recreation
- Access to information

It is important to know that, whilst the impact of community development is not the only contributor to results against benchmarks there is considerable evidence of a correlation between, for instance, a period of focus on a particular issue as a community development priority and a reduction in incidence or an increase in reporting directly following the period over which related initiatives were undertaken.



## High-level Implementation Plan

Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy			
What will we do?	What key communities will it impact?	What Council Group/ Unit/Team will lead this work?	Key stakeholder networks and/or partners
<b>Action 1.1 Facilitate collaborative responses to address the determinants of health and wellbeing</b>			
<b>1.1.1:</b> Address gaps in local healthy, affordable and fit for purpose housing provision	Older People Youth Homeless	Property Team Community Team Strategy and Business Team	North Canterbury Housing Response Working Group Social Services Waimakariri Council Property Working Group
<b>1.1.2:</b> Facilitate health and wellbeing promotion	All	Community Team District Aquatics District Libraries Greenspace Team	WaiLife Suicide Prevention Steering Group Social Services Waimakariri Waimakariri Health Advisory Group
<b>1.1.3:</b> Facilitate initiatives that remove barriers to education, training and employment.	All	Community Team District Libraries	Mayors Taskforce for Jobs North Canterbury Youth Futures Citizens Advice Bureau Noia and Comcol
<b>1.1.4:</b> Facilitate increased local transport provision	All residents	Community Team Riding Team Strategy and Business Team District Planning Unit	Social Services Waimakariri Age-friendly Steering Group Waimakariri Access Group Waimakariri Health Advisory Group Environment Canterbury Christchurch City Council
<b>1.1.5:</b> Facilitate local provision of parenting support	Parents of local tamariki and rangatahi	Community Team	Social Services Waimakariri Wellbeing North Canterbury Community Trust North Canterbury Youth Services Network
<b>1.1.6:</b> Encourage and support local food security initiatives	All	Community Team Greenspace Team	Food Secure North Canterbury Steering Group North Canterbury Food and Budgeting Network
<b>Action 1.2: Facilitate collaboration for a strong local Health and Social Service Sector</b>			
<b>1.2.1:</b> Support local health service provision	All	Community Team	Waimakariri Health Advisory Group Elected members Local MP
<b>1.2.2:</b> Support local social service provision	All	Community Team	Social Services Waimakariri Elected members Local MP
<b>Action 1.3: Facilitate a collaborative response to addressing key issues affecting the personal safety of local residents.</b>			
<b>1.3.1:</b> Facilitate collaborative responses to Relationship Violence/Family Harm	All	Community Team	Violence Free North Canterbury

## Strategic Direction 1: Safe and Healthy

What will we do?	What key communities will it impact?	What Council Group/ Unit/Team will lead this work?	Key stakeholder networks and/or partners
<b>1.3.2:</b> Facilitate collaborative responses to Alcohol and Drug Harm	All, but predominantly youth and men	Community Team Environmental Services Unit	North Canterbury Alcohol and Drug Harm Steering Group Social Services Waimakariri
<b>1.3.3:</b> Facilitate collaborative responses to suicide prevention and the building of community resilience.	All, but predominantly youth and men	Community Team Health Safety and Wellbeing Team	WaiLife Suicide Prevention Steering Group
<b>1.3.4:</b> Facilitate collaborative responses to addressing injury in rural contexts.	All	Community Team District Aquatics Environmental Services Unit Civil Defence District Libraries	Rural Safety Working Group
<b>Action 1.4: Facilitate effective welfare responses to local crisis.</b>			
<b>1.4.1:</b> Fill the Civil Defence Welfare function.	All		Civil Defence Volunteer Corps Waimakariri Civil Defence Local Welfare Committee
<b>1.4.2:</b> Facilitation of wider welfare response and recovery for Civil Defence Emergency and other local crises.	All	Community Team	Social Services Waimakariri Waimakariri Health Advisory Group Waimakariri Civil Defence Local Welfare Committee





## Strategic Direction 2: Welcome and Included

What will we do?	What key communities will it impact?	What Council Group/ Unit/Team will lead this work?	Key stakeholder networks and/or partners.
<b>Action 2.1 Facilitate collaboration for a more 'Welcoming Community'</b>			
<b>2.1.1:</b> Develop and facilitate the implementation of a Welcoming Communities Plan	Migrants and Newcomers	Community Team Strategy and Business Team Communications and Engagement Team Greenspace team District Libraries	Waimakariri Welcoming Communities Steering Group
<b>2.1.2:</b> Facilitate increased support and inclusion for local migrant communities	Ethnic Migrants	Community Team District Libraries	Waimakariri Migrants Steering Group Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW)
<b>2.1.3:</b> Support the aspirations of local residents groups	Residents	Community Team	Residents Groups North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support Community Boards Developers
<b>2.1.4:</b> Support the facilitation of increased neighbourhood connection	Residents	Community Team Civil Defence	North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support
<b>Action 2.2 Facilitate local initiatives that address unconscious bias and racism</b>			
<b>2.2.1:</b> Tell the Stories of local people, that highlight the diversity and commonality of experience of diverse demographics.	All	Community Team District Libraries Communications and Engagement Team	InCommon Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW)
<b>2.2.2:</b> Promote national inclusion-centred campaigns, like Sign Language week, Te Wiki o Māori, Pacific language weeks and other initiatives that celebrate language and culture	Māori Ethnic Migrants People impacted by physical and cognitive impairment	District Libraries Community Team Communications and Engagement Team	Waimakariri Access Group Deaf Aotearoa Māori Language Commission

## Strategic Direction 2: Welcome and Included

What will we do?	What key communities will it impact?	What Council Group/ Unit/Team will lead this work?	Key stakeholder networks and/or partners.
<b>Action 2.3 Facilitate the activities of collaborations that remove barriers to community participation</b>			
<b>2.3.1:</b> Waimakariri Access Group	People impacted by physical and cognitive impairment	Community Team	People with disabilities, Ministry for the Disabled, all local agencies, groups and organisations that support those with physical and cognitive impairment.
<b>2.3.2:</b> Age-friendly Advisory Group	Older people	Community Team	All local agencies, groups and organisations that support older people
<b>2.3.3:</b> Migrant Agency Steering Group	Ethnic Migrants	Community Team	All local agencies, groups and organisations that support local migrants
<b>2.3.4:</b> North Canterbury Youth Services Network	Youth	Community Team	All local agencies, groups and organisations that support local youth



Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered			
What will we do?	What key communities will it impact?	What Council Group/ Unit/Team will lead this work?	Key stakeholder networks and/or partners.
<b>Action 3.1 Support community groups and organisations to be well resourced and sustainable</b>			
<b>3.1.1:</b> Facilitate local delivery of Capability Building workshops	Local volunteer involving organisations	Community Team	Community Law Chamber of Commerce Enterprise North Canterbury Philanthropic and government funders
<b>3.1.2:</b> Provide direct funding acquisition and governance support, as requested	Local volunteer involving organisations	Community Team	Philanthropic and government funders
<b>3.1.3:</b> Promote and encourage volunteering to increase capacity in the local volunteer involving sector	Local volunteer involving organisations	Community Team Greenspace Team	Volunteer Canterbury Local volunteer involving organisations
<b>Action 3.2 Ensure a community voice in local, regional and national decision making</b>			
<b>3.2.1:</b> Encourage and undertake regular stakeholder engagement in relation to key priorities/trends and emerging issues	All	Community Team Communications and Engagement Team	All
<b>3.2.2:</b> Facilitate Youth Council increasing youth representation in local, regional and national consultations	Youth	Community Team	Waimakariri Youth Council North Canterbury Youth Services Network
<b>3.2.3:</b> Promote and encourage participation in Annual Plan and other Council community consultations	All	Communications and Engagement Team Strategy and Business Team Community Team	All Community Team contacts
<b>3.2.4:</b> Facilitate advocacy at local, regional and central governance level in relation to key issues	All	Community Team Governance	Social Services Waimakariri Waimakariri Health Advisory Group North Canterbury Youth Services Network Waimakariri Access Group
<b>Action 3.3 Encourage, facilitate and support local skill development and skill sharing initiatives</b>			
<b>3.3.1:</b> Support the growth and development of the Kaiapoi Community Hub and its activities	All Kaiapoi and surrounding residents	Community Team	Greenspace Team District Libraries Local education providers Social Services Waimakariri Food Secure North Canterbury
<b>3.3.2:</b> Continue to promote and support the Waimakariri Bike Project	All	Community Team	Bike Project Steering Group North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust

<b>Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered</b>			
<b>What will we do?</b>	<b>What key communities will it impact?</b>	<b>What Council Group/ Unit/Team will lead this work?</b>	<b>Key stakeholder networks and/or partners.</b>
<b>3.3.3:</b> Continue to promote and support the activities of TimeBank Waimakariri and Food Secure North Canterbury	All	Community Team District Libraries Greenspace Team	Food Secure North Canterbury Waimakariri Timebank Steering Group
<b>3.3.4:</b> Encourage and promote accessible recreation	People impacted by physical and cognitive impairment	Community Team Greenspace Team District Aquatics	Greenspace Team North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust Waimakariri Access Group Waimakariri Youth Council
<b>Action 3.4 Facilitate the provision of up to date, easily accessible local information</b>			
<b>3.4.1:</b> Support the promotion, maintenance and sustainability of the Next Steps website.	All residents and community support and service providers	Community Team	Social Services Waimakariri Waimakariri Health Advisory Group North Canterbury Youth Services Network Waimakariri Access Group All Together Hurunui
<b>3.4.2:</b> Ensure adequate and appropriate promotion of community issues, opportunities and activities on Council website pages and social media content	All	Community Team Communications and Engagement Team District Libraries Greenspace Team	Council's Communications Team Social Services Waimakariri All local community and social sector
<b>3.4.3:</b> Facilitate wider mechanisms for people to access Council information.	Ethnic Migrants People with physical and cognitive impairments.	Community Team Communications and Engagement Team District Libraries	Waimakariri Access Group Age-friendly Steering Group Waimakariri Migrants Steering Group Blind Low Vision NZ Deaf Aotearoa Citizens Advice Bureau District libraries Grey Power Ara Hagley Community College ACE programme
<b>3.4.4:</b> Continue to disseminate community information via the preparation of paper-based and online newsletters and resources	All	Community Team Communications and Engagement District Libraries Greenspace Team	All local community and social sector.

<b>Strategic Direction 4: Engaged and Connected</b>			
<b>What will we do?</b>	<b>What key communities will it impact?</b>	<b>What Council Group/ Unit/Team will lead this work?</b>	<b>Key stakeholder networks and/or partners.</b>
<b>Action 4.1 Facilitate a strategic approach to local Arts'</b>			
<b>4.1.1:</b> Facilitate the implementation of Ngā Toi o Waimakariri - Arts Strategy Implementation	All	Community Team Greenspace team District Libraries	
<b>Action 4.2 Facilitate the provision of local activities that engage and connect people</b>			
<b>4.2.1:</b> Facilitate the planning and delivery of activities that increase youth participation and connection	Local youth	Community Team District Libraries Greenspace Team District Aquatics	Waimakariri Youth Council WaiYouth North Canterbury Youth Services Network
<b>4.2.2:</b> Continue to encourage and support the planning and delivery of multicultural activities	Migrants and Newcomers	Community Team District Libraries	Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW) Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri Christchurch Multicultural Council
<b>4.2.3:</b> Continue to offer a range of accessible activities via local libraries and aquatics centres.	All	District Libraries District Aquatics	LIANZA Swimming NZ Water Safety NZ
<b>4.2.4:</b> Facilitate activities that engage local people with local places and spaces	All	Greenspace Community Team	TBC
<b>4.2.5:</b> Continue to promote and support community-led events across the district	All	Community Team Communications and Engagement Team District Libraries District Aquatics Greenspace	Visit Waimakariri Rangiora Promotions Kaiapoi Promotions Oxford Promotions Developers North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support
<b>Action 4.3 Facilitate the development of geographic community-based plans</b>			
<b>4.3.1:</b> Develop community plans with geographic communities across the District	All	Strategy and Business Team Community Team Greenspace Communications and Engagement Team	Residents groups Developers Local business Sports and recreation groups



## Monitoring and Reporting

Successful implementation of the Community Development Strategy 2025 – 2035 will require a commitment to monitoring and reporting its implementation. This will ensure that the strategy's objectives are met and consistently reviewed to stay aligned with community priorities, three key aspects are essential:

- Planning
- Performance monitoring and review
- Reporting back to the community

### 1. Annual Implementation Plan

Annual implementation plans will be developed that detail specific actions and associated performance measures.

### 2. Performance monitoring and review

This will take the form of:

- i. Project Evaluation: A range of evaluation methods will be applied to measuring the success of individual projects, including:
  - Surveys that measure satisfaction, new learnings, behaviour change, and increase in skills and knowledge.
  - Stakeholder data (e.g. on increased membership of an organisation, increased acquisition of funding, increased referrals to a programme, etc)
- ii. Impact evaluation, relating to the immediate impact of a programme of initiative.  
This is aligned with the Results Based Accountability model:
  - What did we do?
  - How well did we do it?
  - Is anyone better off?
- iii. Process evaluation to ensure that programmes are adapted and updated to meet the needs of our growing communities.
- iv. Outcome evaluation on the success measures for each of the four strategic directions.

### 3. Reporting

This will take the form of a 'Community Development Strategy Year in Review Report' detailing results against the measures for the preceding year's implementation plan and progress against success measures for the four strategic directions.

Alongside this, regular reports to Council's Community and Recreation Committee will keep local decision makers abreast of progress and any emerging issues and opportunities related to the Strategy objectives.

# Appendix 1 – Community Feedback



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



### Executive Summary

The Waimakariri District Council's Community Development Strategy 2015–2025 is being refreshed to address current challenges such as social recovery from Covid-19, climate change, inclusive communities, and housing. This report captures the community feedback on current issues and opportunities to help inform the development of the new Strategy.

#### Community Feedback Sources:

1. **Community Forum (30 November 2023):**  
Engaged a wide range of stakeholders to identify key issues and opportunities.
2. **Community Survey (Public):** An online survey conducted from 20 December 2023 to 22 March 2024, receiving 52 responses.
3. **Community Organisations Survey:** A targeted online survey with 17 responses from community organisations currently connected with the Council's Community Team.

#### Key Themes from Feedback:

##### 1. Positive Aspects:

- **Natural Environment:** Appreciation for rivers, beaches, and green spaces.
- **Community Feel:** Strong sense of community and friendly atmosphere.
- **Location and Amenities:** Proximity to Christchurch and good local amenities.
- **Recreational Opportunities:** Access to outdoor activities and facilities.

##### 2. Areas for Improvement:

- **Traffic and Infrastructure:** Concerns about congestion and need for better infrastructure.
- **Community Facilities:** Need for more facilities, especially in growing areas.

- **Health and Social Services:** Gaps in services and difficulty accessing them.
- **Communication and Information:** Desire for better communication about community events and services.

##### 3. Community Organisation Feedback:

- **Strengths:** Strong collaborations, high volunteer commitment.
- **Challenges:** Funding and financial stability, volunteer recruitment and retention, infrastructure needs.
- **Key Issues:** Food security, mental health, accessibility and inclusion.

##### 4. Emerging Issues:

- **Food Security and Climate Change:** Impact on food availability.
- **Aging Population and Health Services:** Strain on medical services and infrastructure.
- **Youth Engagement and Support:** Need for more activities and support for young families.

**Conclusion:** The feedback reflects a community that values its natural environment and sense of community but sees room for improvement in infrastructure, services, and engagement. There is a desire for better communication, more community-led initiatives, and improvements in infrastructure and services. The insights gathered will inform the development of the next Community Development Strategy, ensuring it addresses the current and emerging needs of the Waimakariri District.

### Introduction

The Waimakariri District Council's Community Development Strategy 2015–2025 was developed in collaboration with various working parties, projects and steering groups to provide a clear

framework for the role that the Council plays in supporting the community to address identified local priorities for community wellbeing, safety, connection, inclusion and resilience.

The Council partners with over 300 community, business, education, government and non-government stakeholders to support a community-led approach for the four goals of the Strategy:

- **Engage:** Engage key stakeholders to enhance community development, youth development and community safety
- **Connect:** Facilitate connection across the community; between residents, groups and organisations
- **Inform:** Cultivate a more informed community
- **Empower:** Empower the community to identify and achieve its aspirations

The Strategy is currently being refreshed with a range of current challenges to consider including social recovery from Covid-19, impact of climate change, inclusive communities and housing, alongside key issues and opportunities that affect the wellbeing of local residents.

The project team looked at different ways to engage with the wider community and gather feedback across a range of topics. This feedback along with extensive research gathered locally and nationally will be used to inform the development of the next Community Development Strategy.

### **Community Feedback Sources**

1. Community Forum event 30 November 2023
2. Community Survey (public)
3. Community Organisations Survey (targeted)

### **Community Forum event 30 November 2023**

The Community Team facilitated an event held at MainPower Stadium on 30 November 2023. Participants were a wide range of community stakeholders across the District including Elected Members (Council and Community Board), local community groups and local businesses.

During the session the participants took part in the following exercises:

1. What great looks like (each table was given two or more demographic groups to consider)
2. Identify key words to help develop the new Strategy's vision statement.
3. Identify key issues/challenges facing the District
4. Identify key opportunities to address these issues

### **What you told us (issues and opportunities)**

- People not sure where to get help/information
- Food Insecurity
- Wrap around Social and Community Services
- Showing people we are/Pastoral Support
- Creating conversations - getting people talking
- Retention of skilled workers
- Public transport does not meet the community needs
- Poverty - housing - cost of living
- Mental health /mental health service
- Antisocial/connection loss -Technology & media influence – social media
- Family Violence
- Addiction/dependency also Vaping
- Loneliness
- Welcoming Communities
- Lack of Medical services GP and Emergency
- Access to Recreational opportunities
- Literacy
- Discrimination - disability demographic
- (Physical) Access to places and spaces
- Discrimination - Gender diverse demographic
- The District is friendly and welcomes people
- Lack of targeted services for the older population
- Lack of funding for clubs
- Lack of activities for the teenage/young adult population
- Lack of diversity
- Challenges of climate change
- Increased crime/rural crime

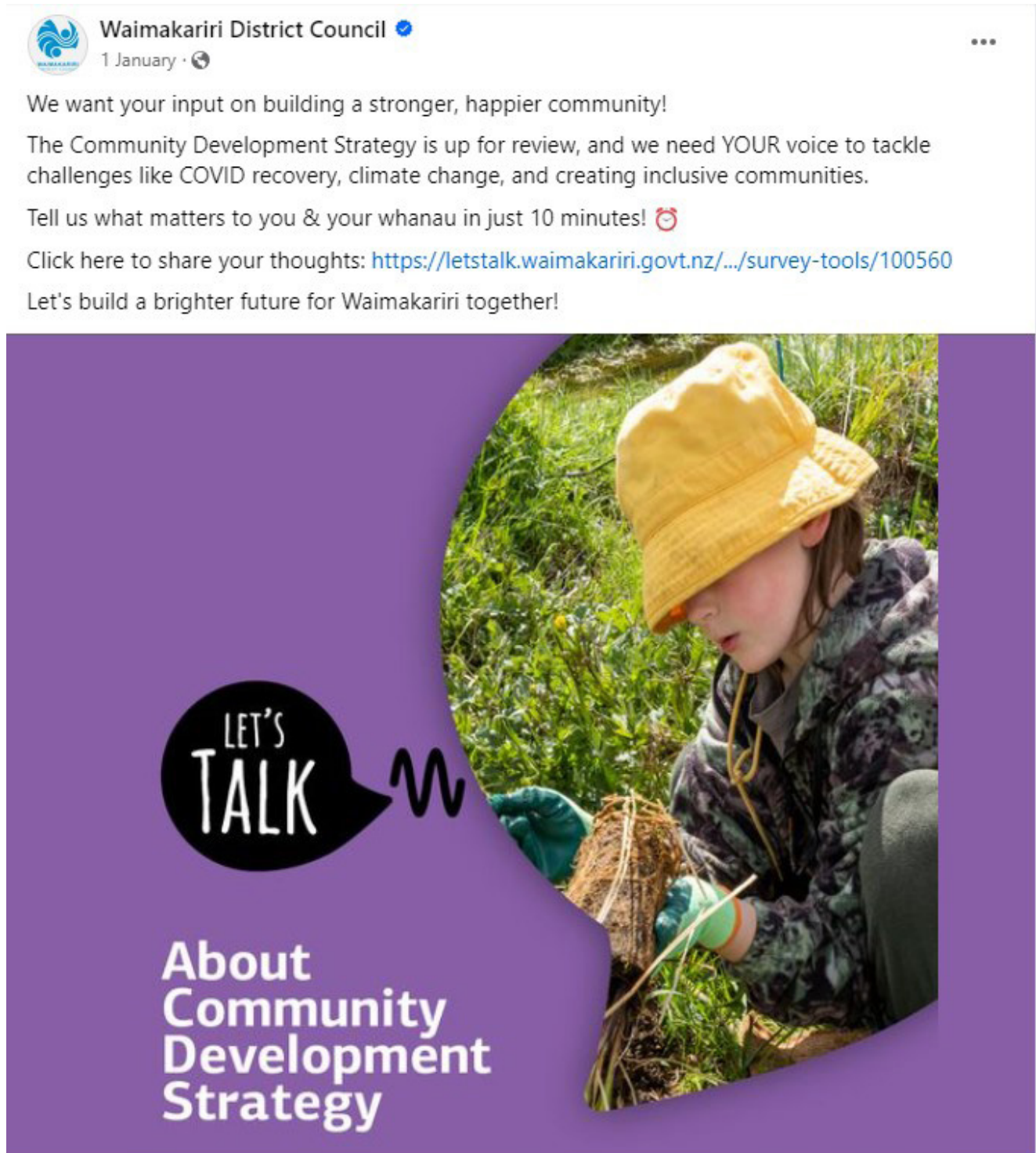
# Community Survey (public)

Published 20 December 2023 and closed 22 March 2024.

This survey was promoted through the Waimakariri District Council website and the Council social media channels.

52 survey responses were received.

Figure 6: Social media post 1 January 2024



## Survey questions

1	What's great about living in the Waimakariri District?
2	What's not so great?
3	Do you feel part of your community?
4	How happy are you with your level of involvement in your community?
5	What makes you feel that way?
6	What could the community do better or differently to make people feel welcome?
7	How well do you know your neighbours?
8	What might help people get to know their neighbours?
9	What things might limit the ability for people in particular age groups and abilities to enjoy our spaces and places?
10	What ideas do you have for getting people involved in enhancing our spaces and places?
11	How easy is it to access Waimakariri health services?
12	How easy is it to access Waimakariri social services?
13	Are there any health or social services gaps?
14	Is there enough information about what's available in the District?
15	How easy is it to find information about the District?
16	What do you thinking is missing or could be done better regarding information about the District?
17	How do you prefer to access or receive community information?



## Key themes:

### Positive Aspects of Living in the Waimakariri District

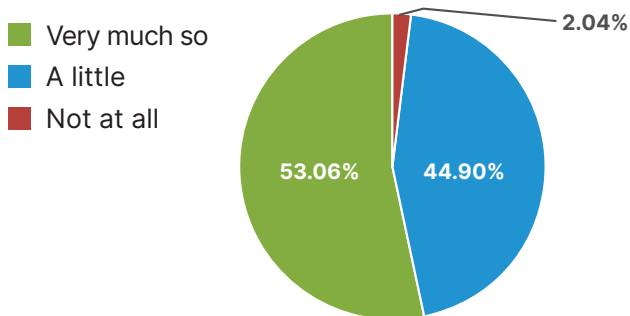
**A. Natural Environment:** Many respondents appreciate the natural beauty, including rivers, beaches, and green spaces.

- "The great outdoors" (Anonymous User:1476522080)
- "Lovely town centres, good choice of restaurants, cafés and shops, and excellent access to outdoor activities." (Anonymous User:1476617141)
- "Rivers, green spaces, recreational areas and facilities such as swimming pools. Rural feel and not too crowded but has all you need." (Anonymous User:1477522681)

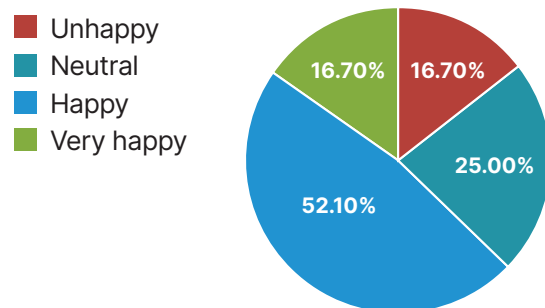
**B. Community Feel:** There is a strong sense of community, with friendly and welcoming people.

### Waimakariri District Council Community Survey 2024

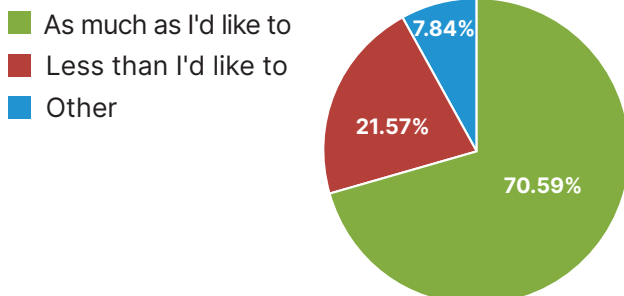
**Figure 7: Q3. Do you feel part of your community?**



**Figure 8: Q4. How happy are you with your level of involvement in your community?**



**Figure 9: Q7. How well do you know your neighbours?**



- "Still a somewhat tight community" (Anonymous User:1491424045)
- "Friendly and welcoming people, relaxed atmosphere." (Anonymous User:1491443971)
- "The people, the facilities, great to have a combination of housing and wide-open spaces" (Anonymous User:1499216041)
- "I volunteer with NCNC and find them an amazing community group. I met lots of parents through Playcentre who provided me with my 'village' of support." (Participant: kiwi72)
- "I'm very involved and happy to help out when needed. Our community is positive and engaged with each other." (Anonymous User:1499172792)

**C. Location and amenities:** Proximity to Christchurch and good local amenities are valued.

- "Central to CHCH and being country at the same time" (Anonymous User:1492024945)
- "Close to Christchurch but not in it, close to the beach and mountains, great shopping and facilities." (Anonymous User:1499207226)

**D. Recreational Opportunities:** Access to outdoor activities and recreational facilities is a highlight.

## Areas for Improvement

**A. Traffic and Infrastructure:** Concerns about traffic congestion, particularly around key areas like Woodend and Pegasus, and the need for better infrastructure.

- "Traffic between Woodend and Pegasus, lack of local taxis because bus service doesn't run at night" (Anonymous User:1491667026)
- "Traffic congestion" (Anonymous User:1492024945)
- "The roads are a bit crap and the Waimak bridge is utterly horrid!!!" (Anonymous User:1499299055)

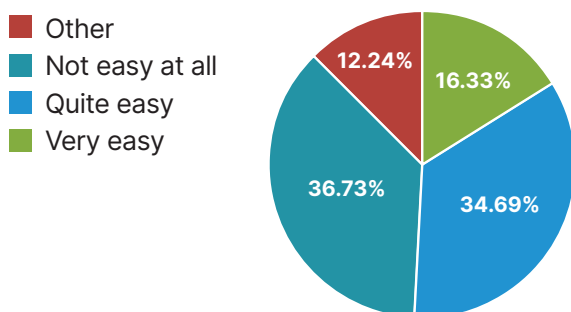
**B. Community Facilities:** A need for more community facilities, especially in growing areas like Woodend-Pegasus, including youth centres and disability-friendly playgrounds.

- "We need more of a youth focus - a council backed youth centre where youth can have access to activities (e.g. baking, cooking, playing pool, playing an instrument, board games, etc.)." (Anonymous User:1476617141)
- "Lack of facilities in the Woodend-Pegasus area and general lack of acknowledgement of the size of the population in this area" (Anonymous User:1477522681)
- "No areas (playgrounds) for children of disabilities" (Anonymous User:1491424045)

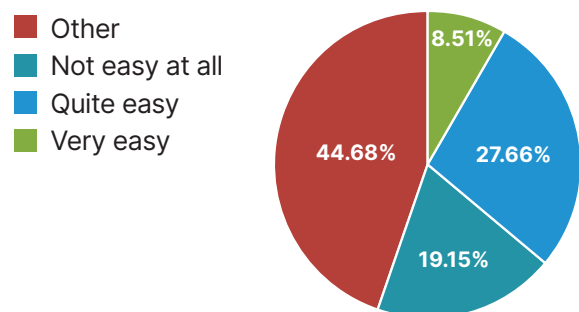
**C. Health and Social Services:** Gaps in health and social services, with some respondents finding it difficult to access these services.

### Waimakariri District Council Community Survey 2024

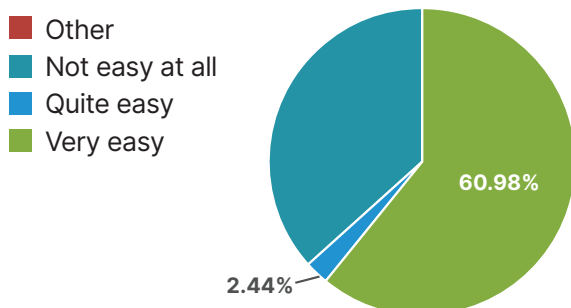
**Figure 10: Q11. How easy is it to access Waimakariri health services?**



**Figure 11: Q12. How easy is it to access Waimakariri social services?**



**Figure 12: Q13. Are there any health or social service gaps?**

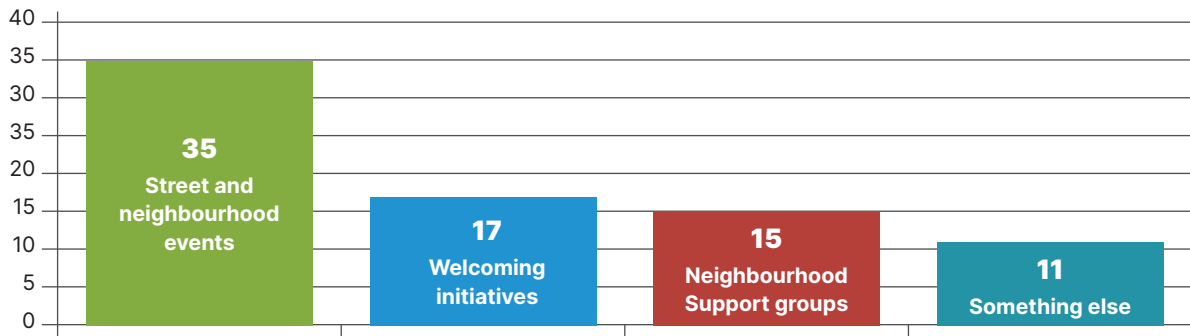


- "I think we can all agree that the afterhours medical centre is long overdue." (Anonymous User:1476617141)
- "Long waiting times for doctors and far from emergency medical services" (Anonymous User:1500213948)

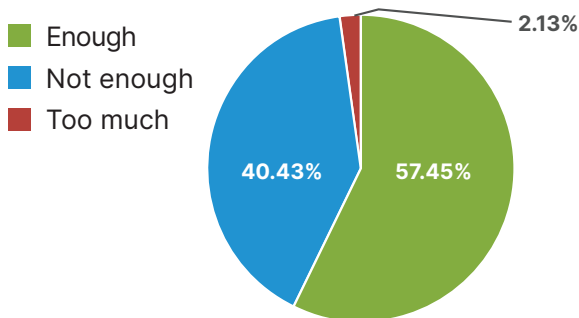
**D. Communication and Information:** A desire for better communication about community events and services, with suggestions for more use of apps and less reliance on social media.

## Waimakariri District Council Community Survey 2024

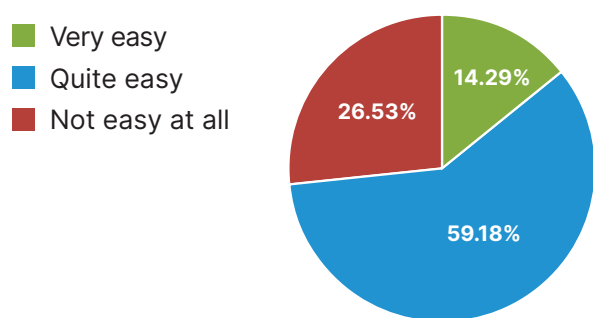
**Figure 13: Q8. What might help people get to know their neighbours? (select all that apply)**



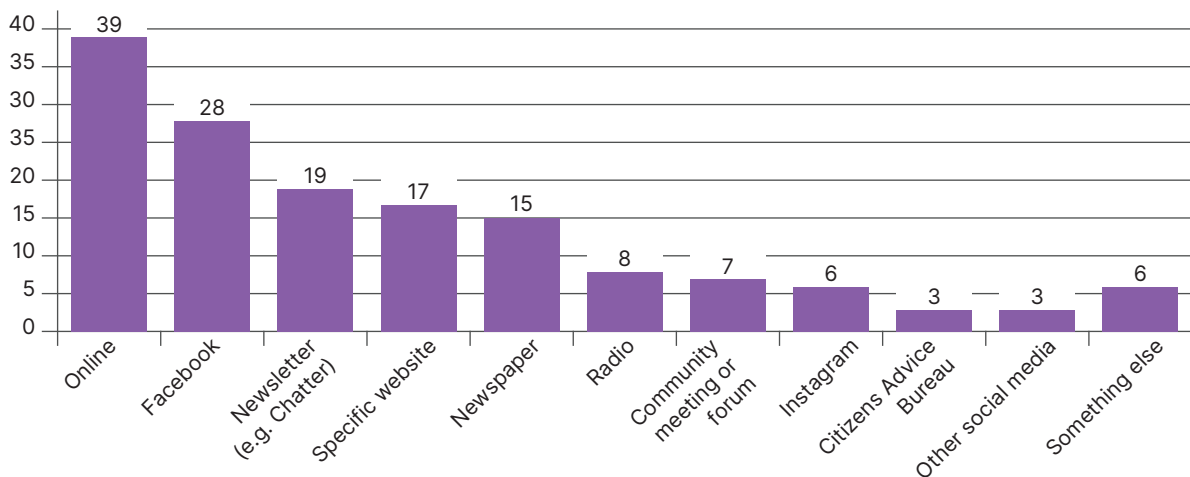
**Figure 14: Q14. Is there enough information about what's available in the District?**



**Figure 15: Q15. How easy is it to find information about the District?**



**Figure 16: Q17. How do you prefer to access or receive community information? (select all that apply)**



- "The council (not the community) could develop an app for the district that could be used for advertising events, activities, concerts, and general developments within the district." (Anonymous User:1476617141)
- "More signage letting people know what's coming up, I seem to find out about things after they have happened" (Anonymous User:1498462586)
- "Greater transparency about spending, meeting agenda papers should be put out before meetings." (Anonymous User:1499646454)
- "Targeted communication. Mail outs to advise of important info - i.e. rubbish changes. I didn't know anything was changing until after it happened and only because I happened across a national communication." (Anonymous User:1514319051)



## Community Involvement and Engagement

**A. Events and Activities:** More community events and activities to help people feel connected and involved.

- "More community events and activities to help people feel connected and involved." (Anonymous User:1498487408)
- "Fun days with things to draw people in e.g. music, BBQ, and do some mahi while they are there." (Anonymous User:1499175482)
- "Let the community be the instigators of events and relax the council's role in being so inhibited with rules and regulations." (Anonymous User:1491557472)

**B. Neighbourhood Connections:** Initiatives to help people get to know their neighbours better, such as street events and welcoming initiatives.

- "Street parties to actively engage neighbourhood support." (Anonymous User:1499174755)
- "Welcome packs with information on local activities and services." (Anonymous User:1506875200)

**C. Support for Vulnerable Groups:** Better support for elderly and disabled residents, including improved accessibility and targeted events.

- "Better support for elderly and disabled residents, including improved accessibility and targeted events." (Anonymous User:1498487408)
- "Lack of ramps and special toilet facilities (e.g. ceiling mounted hoists) for those in wheelchairs" (Anonymous User:1499207226)

**E. Participation in Council:** provide opportunities to raise and discuss community issues.

- "The council officials could offer times maybe once a month or something when appointments could be made to discuss ideas or issues without feeling it a nuisance." (Participant: Sharron)

These themes reflect a community that values its natural environment and sense of community but sees room for improvement in infrastructure, services, and engagement. Overall, while there is appreciation for the community engagement and support for local initiatives, there are also concerns about transparency, decision-making, and the impact of regulations. Residents express a desire for better communication, more community-led initiatives, and improvements in infrastructure and services.

# Community Organisation Survey

Published 20 December 2023, closed 22 March 2024

The community organisation survey was emailed to targeted stakeholders by the Community Team.

17 survey responses were received.

## Survey questions

- 1 What collaborations is your organisation part of?
- 2 What is going well for your organisation?
- 3 What are the key issues affecting your organisation and its workers/volunteers?
- 4 What do you think would help to address these issues?
- 5 What are the key issues for the people that you are supporting or engaging within your work?
- 6 What do you see as the most significant contributing factors with respect to each of those issues?
- 7 What do you think would help?
- 8 What are some emerging issues you see on the horizon for our communities?

## Priorities:

Community organisations prioritised the following needs:

1. Funding and financial stability
2. Volunteer recruitment and retention
3. Food security
4. Mental health and well-being
5. Collaboration and community engagement

## Key themes

### Positive Aspects and Strengths

#### 1. Collaboration and Community Engagement:

- Many organisations highlighted strong collaborations with local businesses, schools, and other community groups. For example, Satisfy Food Rescue collaborates with 16 supermarkets, local businesses, and schools to rescue food and support those in need.
- The Salvation Army and other organisations emphasised the importance of community collaboration and the willingness of volunteers to support their initiatives.

#### 2. Volunteer Commitment:

- High volunteer retention rates and the dedication of volunteers were frequently mentioned as strengths. Satisfy Food Rescue, for instance, has 54% of its volunteers with them for 4–5 years or more.
- Organisations like the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Riverside Community Church praised their volunteers for their commitment and the positive impact they have on the community.

## Challenges and Issues

### 1. Funding and Financial Stability:

- A common challenge across many organisations is securing sustainable funding. This includes difficulties in obtaining funding for operational costs and wages, as highlighted by Satisfy Food Rescue and the Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Churches and other community organisations face restrictions in accessing certain funding opportunities, which limits their ability to support community work.

### 2. Volunteer Recruitment and Retention:

- While volunteer commitment is a strength, recruiting new volunteers remains a challenge for some organisations, such as the North Canterbury Mini Bus Trust and Tri Rugby.
- Volunteer burnout and the pressure to fundraise were also noted as issues affecting volunteer retention.

### 3. Infrastructure and Space:

- Several organisations, including Satisfy Food Rescue and North Canterbury Mini Bus Trust, mentioned the need for larger and safer facilities to accommodate their growing operations and ensure health and safety.

## Key Issues for the People Supported

### 1. Food Security:

- The cost-of-living crisis and the increasing demand for food bank services were significant concerns. Organisations like Satisfy Food Rescue and the Salvation Army emphasised the growing need for food security support.

### 2. Mental Health and Wellbeing:

- Mental health issues, including stress, depression, and social isolation, were frequently mentioned as key issues affecting the community. The P2P Kaiapoi and North Canterbury Futures Group highlighted the importance of addressing mental health across all age groups.

### 3. Accessibility and Inclusion:

- The need for better support and inclusion for people with disabilities was noted by organisations like the North Canterbury Mini Bus Trust and those involved in wheelchair basketball.
- The importance of making disability and inclusion a normal part of everyday actions and planning was emphasised.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

### **1. Increased Funding and Support:**

- Many organisations called for more reliable funding streams to support their operations and expand their services. This includes funding for wages, operational costs, and infrastructure improvements.
- Specific suggestions included centralising WDC funding application support and providing more opportunities for churches to access funding.

### **2. Enhanced Collaboration and Communication:**

- Organisations suggested more regular planning meetings and better communication with local councils and other stakeholders. For example, Keep Rangiora Beautiful recommended more collaboration with the WDC Greenspace team.
- The importance of policy-level accountability and strategic planning for issues like FASD (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) was highlighted.

### **3. Community Education and Awareness:**

- Increasing community awareness and understanding of issues like FASD and food security was seen as crucial. Providing educational opportunities and presentations to local councils and community groups was suggested.

## **Emerging Issues**

### **1. Food Security and Climate Change:**

- The impact of global warming and changing weather patterns on food security was noted as an emerging issue. Organizations like Satisfy Food Rescue emphasised the need to address these challenges to ensure food availability.

### **2. Aging Population and Health Services:**

- The growing and aging population and the strain on medical services and infrastructure were identified as emerging issues. Organisations called for better support and services for the elderly and those with health concerns.

### **3. Youth Engagement and Support:**

- The need for more youth activities, support for young families, and addressing issues like youth mental health and employment opportunities were highlighted as important areas for future focus.

These themes reflect the strengths, challenges, and areas for improvement identified by community organisations in the Waimakariri District.

**Table 5: Analysis of Community Feedback**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Issue/Opportunity</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>2025 Strategy Goal Alignment</b>
Income	Cost of Living/Income - Individual income - Available household income after housing costs - Low household income - Child poverty	Community Forum Community Survey Community Org Survey	1 Safe and Healthy
Health	Mental health - Youth - Mental health service access	Community Forum Community Survey	
Health	Addiction/dependency - Youth - Smoking and vaping	Community Forum Community Org Survey	
Health	Health issues - health-related issues for older adults e.g. dementia/memory loss - Returning to normal life following a significant health issue (e.g. stroke)	Community Org Survey	
Health	Health provision - lack of medical services for GP and Emergency	Community Forum Community Survey	
Safety	Crime/rural crime - increased crime - thefts/vandalism	Community Survey Community Org Survey	
Safety	Not feeling safe	Community Survey	
Subjective Wellbeing	Stress - life is too busy	Community Org Survey	
Housing	Housing - Housing general - 1 - Lack of social housing 1	Community Org Survey	
Safety	Family Violence	Community Forum	
Safety	Road Safety	Community Survey	
Environment	Challenges of climate change	Community Survey	
Safety	Beaches not patrolled	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Family dynamics	Community Org Survey	
Environment	Increased urban development/housing (both positive and negative)	Community Survey	1 Safe and Healthy 2 Welcome and Included
Health	Food Insecurity - Not enough food for everyone - Not enough food variety (e.g. fresh produce and frozen vegetables)	Community Forum Community Org Survey	1 Safe and Healthy 3 Informed and Empowered

Theme	Issue/Opportunity	Source	2025 Strategy Goal Alignment
Environment	(Physical) Access to places and spaces	Community Forum Community Survey	2 Welcome and Included
Environment	Public transport does not meet the community needs - availability of mobility supports	Community Forum Community Survey Community Org Survey	
Social Capital	Loneliness - isolation - loss of independence	Community Forum Community Survey Community Org Survey	
Social Capital	The District is friendly and welcomes people	Community Survey	
Social Capital	My life is too busy to get involved in the community	Community Survey Community Org Survey	
Social Capital	Lack of diversity	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Discrimination - Be more open	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Showing people we are/Pastoral Support	Community Forum	
Social Capital	Creating conversations - getting people talking	Community Forum	
Social Capital	Welcoming Communities	Community Forum	
Social Capital	Discrimination - disability demographic	Community Forum	
Social Capital	Discrimination - gender diverse demographic	Community Forum	
Social Capital	Great neighbours and a lovely community	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Community support when something happens e.g. Loburn fire	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Community connected through the workplace	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Current community events don't work well with the needs of young families	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Discrimination - digital exclusion - remember not everyone has the internet and smart phones	Community Survey Community Org Survey	2 Welcome and Included 3 Informed and Empowered

Theme	Issue/Opportunity	Source	2025 Strategy Goal Alignment
Social Capital	People not sure where to get help/information	Community Forum Community Survey Community Org Survey	3 Informed and Empowered
	Wrap around Social and Community Services	Community Forum	
Employment	Retention of skilled workers	Community Forum	
Employment	Employment - impact of unemployment - limited employment opportunities for the youth sector	Community Org Survey	
Social Capital	Anti-social/loss of connection due to technology and social media	Community Forum	
Education	Literacy	Community Forum	
Social Capital	Lack of funding for clubs	Community Survey	
Civic Engagement	People feel afraid to ask (Council) to do anything	Community Survey	
Civic Engagement	People feel they are not heard by the Council - nothing happens	Community Survey	
Civic Engagement	Better engagement between council and non-profit groups	Community Survey	
Social Capital	More support for start-up community groups	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Community instigate events and initiatives	Community Survey	
Civic Engagement	Council and community collaboration initiatives/projects	Community Survey	
Civic Engagement	Improved connections between Elected Members and their communities	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Work with iwi to run workshops recognising cultural and ecological significance of the district	Community Survey	
Employment	Employment opportunities in the district does not match the level of development/housing	Community Survey	
Environment	Make it easier for people to find our spaces and places	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Establish community gardens and food forests	Community Survey	
Environment	Adapt to a more global approach	Community Survey	
Environment	Look after and beautify your own space	Community Survey	



Theme	Issue/Opportunity	Source	2025 Strategy Goal Alignment
Social Capital	Resources for teenage/young adult population - lack of activities - lack of support networks - disengagement from their communities	Community Survey Community Org Survey	4 Entertained and Inspired
Social Capital	Access to Recreational opportunities	Community Forum	
Health	Lack of targeted services for the older population	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Connection through sports clubs for children	Community Survey	
Social Capital	More casual sports/events to reflect changing demographics	Community Survey	
Social Capital	People want choices	Community Survey	
Social Capital	Encourage connections in town centres/shops/libraries	Community Survey	
	No change - everything is good	Community Survey	

## Appendix 2 – Community Profile

This Community Profile is developed with national, regional and district data on the following themes:

- District population
- Education and employment
- Crime
- Housing
- Food security
- Transport
- Inclusion
- Accessibility
- Safety
- Wellbeing
- Recreation

### District population

The Waimakariri population has more than doubled since 1996 and the proportion of older adults (65 years and older) has almost doubled in the same period that can be attributed to the increase in median age.

**Table 6: District population (source: Census, Stats NZ)**

Waimakariri District	2023	2018	2013	2006	2001	1996
Under 15 years	17.7%	19.2%	20.4%	22.7%	23.6%	22.7%
15–64 years	60.9%	61.9%	62.9%	63.4%	64.2%	65.6%
65 years and older	21.4%	18.9%	16.8%	13.9%	12.2%	11.7%
Total population	66,246	59,502	49,989	42,834	36,900	32,349
Median age	44.7	43.6	42.9	39	37	35

Four Community Boards represent communities across the district with the highest proportion of our population represented by the Rangiora–Ashley Community Board (41%) followed by in the Kaiapoi–Woodend Ward (25%), Oxford–Ohoka (18.6%) and Woodend–Sefton (15.32%).

**Table 7: District population by Community Board area (source: Census, StatsNZ)**

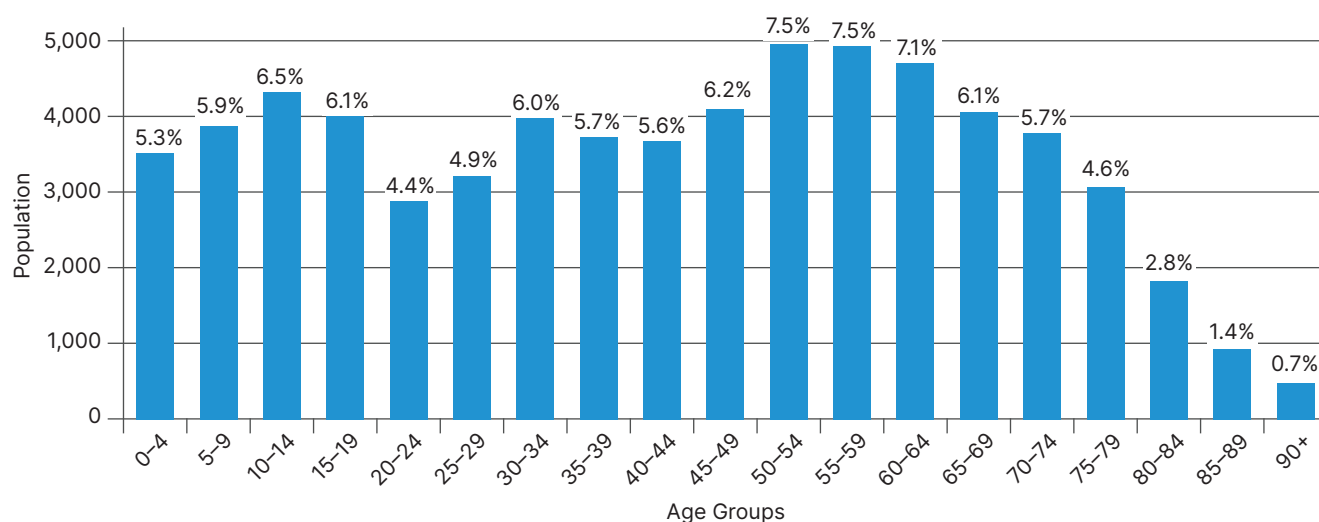
Community Board	2023 Census Population	Percentage of district population	2023 Census Median Age
Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi	16,353	24.69%	42.0
Oxford-Ohoka	12,324	18.60%	44.8
Rangiora-Ashley	27,417	41.39%	47.0
Woodend-Sefton	10,152	15.32%	37.0
Waimakariri District	66,246	N/A	44.7

**Table 8: population comparison with regional and national (source: Census, Stats NZ)**

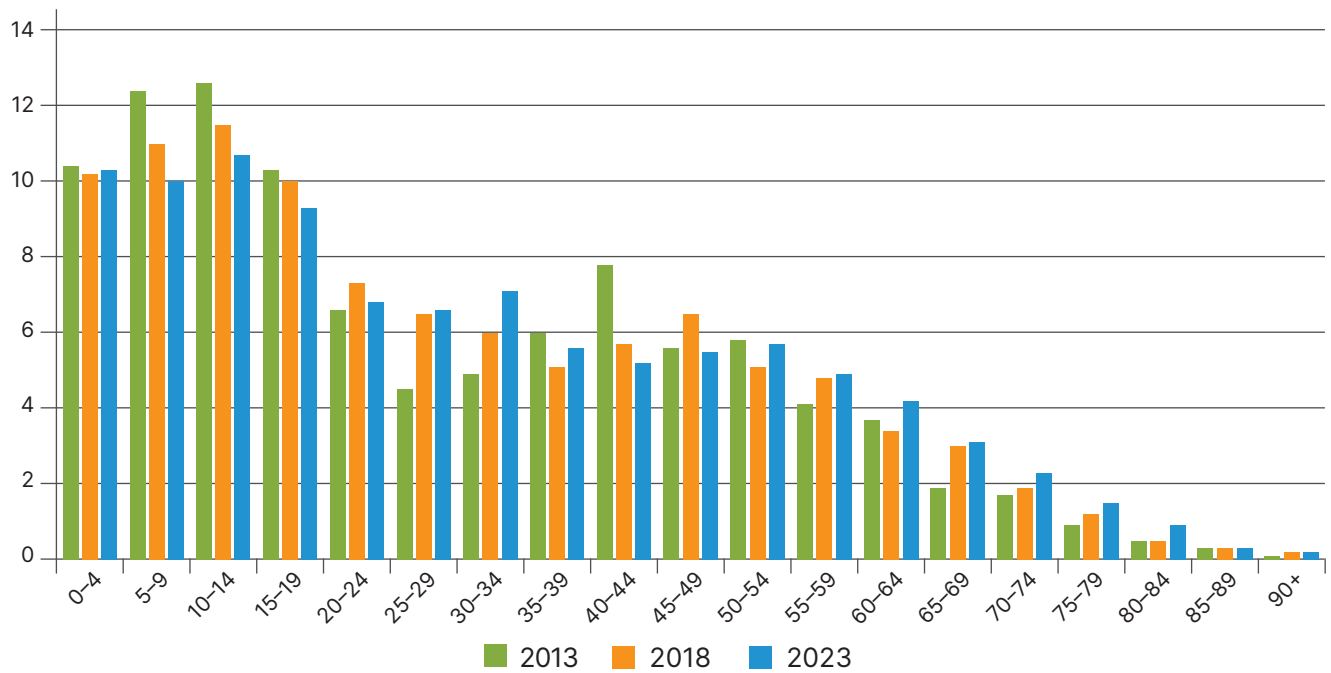
Indicator	Waimakariri District	Canterbury Region	New Zealand
Median age (years)	44.7	39.1	38.1
Aged over 65 years (% of total)	21.4%	17.4%	16.6%
Female gender	50.8%	50.1%	50.3%
Residence elsewhere in NZ five years ago	43.6%	46.7%	45.2%
Born overseas	18.2%	24.7%	28.8%
Māori ethnicity	9.9%	10.6%	17.8%
Speak te reo	1.8%	2.1%	4.3%
No religion	57.9%	55.1%	51.6%
Married	52.0%	45.3%	44.8%
In a partnership	63.1%	56.6%	54.7%
Children (average per female)	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%
Couple with child(ren)	40.0%	40.8%	42.0%

**Table 9: Median age (years) for the census usually resident population count (source: Census, Stats NZ)**

Territorial authority area	Median age (years) for the census usually resident population count		
	2013	2018	2023
Waimakariri district	42.9	43.6	44.7
Canterbury region	39.9	38.7	39.1
Total New Zealand	38.0	37.4	38.1

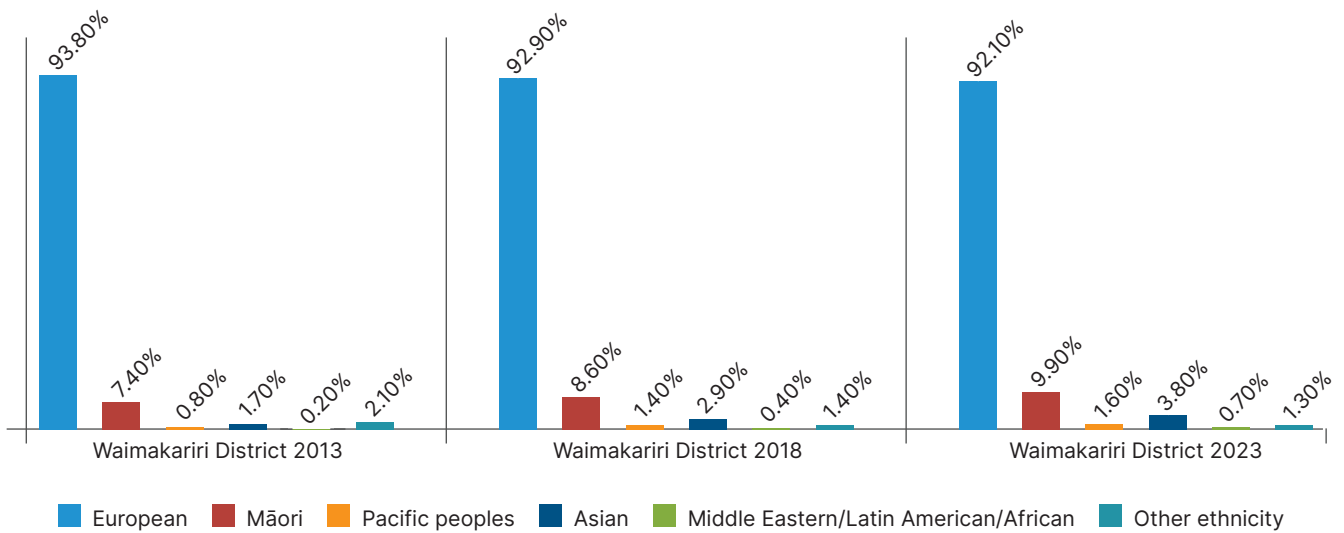
**Figure 17: Population distribution by 5-year age group in Waimakariri in 2023 (source: Census, Stats NZ)**

**Figure 18: Percentage of population distribution by 5-year age groups in Waimakariri for 2013, 2018 and 2023 (source: Census, StatsNZ)**



The Census 2023 identified the highest percentage of the district population consists of Europeans (92.1%), followed by Māori (9.9%), Asian (3.8%), Pacific peoples (1.6%) and Middle Eastern/Latin American /African (0.7%). The diversity of the population in Waimakariri is relatively low compared to national statistics in 2023.

**Figure 19: Percentage of population distribution by ethnic group (source: Census, StatsNZ)**



## Education and employment

**Education** - The annual average school attendance rate in Waimakariri District was 56.5% in the year to September 2024, up from 53.4% in the previous 12 months. For the same period this was higher than in New Zealand (55.0%) and was lower than in Canterbury Region (58.5%). Over the last ten years the annual average school attendance rate in Waimakariri District reached a peak of 74.0% in December 2015.

**NEET (not in employment, education or training) rate** - The annual average NEET rate in Waimakariri District was 9.8% in the year to September 2024, up from 9.2% in the previous 12 months. For the same period this was lower than in Canterbury Region (11.1%) and New Zealand (12.5%). Over the last ten years the annual average NEET rate in Waimakariri District reached a peak of 11.4% in March 2019.

**Unemployment** - The annual average unemployment rate in Waimakariri District was 3.3% in the year to September 2024, up from 2.6% in the previous 12 months.

For the same period this was lower than in Canterbury Region (4.3%) and New Zealand (4.4%). Over the last ten years the annual average unemployment rate in Waimakariri District reached a peak of 3.3% in September 2024.

**Table 10: Key indicators of education and employment**

Indicator	Source	Waimakariri District	Canterbury Region	New Zealand
School attendance (annual average to September 2024)	Infometrics Quarterly Economic Monitoring Report	56.5%	58.5%	55%
NEET rate % of people aged 15–24 not in employment, education or training, annual average rate to September 2024		9.8%	11.1%	12.5%
Unemployment (annual average up to September 2024)		3.3%	4.3%	4.4%
No qualification	Stats NZ Census 2023	17.6%	15.9%	15.7%
Highest qualification Level 1–3 cert.		36.6%	33.9%	32.8%
Highest qualification Bachelor degree/level 7		10.8%	14.6%	15.5%
Full-time study		18.3%	20.3%	20.9%
Unemployed		1.8%	2.3%	3.0%
Self-employed		17.9%	15.3%	16.2%
40 hours or more worked per week		61.2%	62.4%	64.4%
Work at home		18.2%	15.6%	17.7%
Unpaid household work		88.6%	86.8%	85.9%

## Economic

**Table 11: key economic indicators**

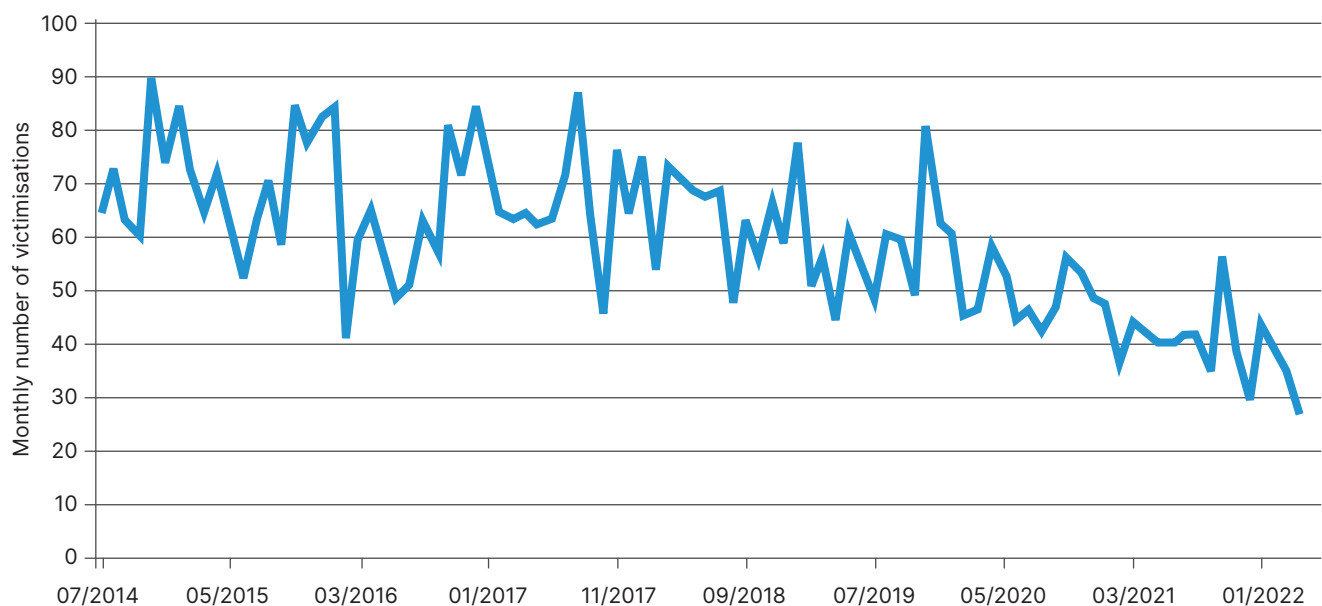
Indicator	Source	Waimakariri District	Canterbury Region	New Zealand
Median personal income (NZD)	Stats NZ Census 2023	\$40,200	\$41,400	\$41,500
Median family income (NZD)		\$106,300	\$107,900	\$108,600
Median household income (NZD)		\$91,200	\$91,700	\$97,000
Wages major income source		58.1%	62.3%	60.7%

## Crime

The crime rate in Waimakariri District was 108 (per 10,000 residents) in the year to September 2024, down from 112 in the previous 12 months. In the same period this was lower than in Canterbury Region (179) and New Zealand (224). Over the last ten years the annual average crime rate in Waimakariri District reached a peak of 217 in June 2015.

**Family violence** – figure 20 identifies the number of victimisations where the relationship of the offender to the victim is a family member (including ex-partner) for the greater Christchurch area between 2014 and 2022. The number of victimisations has fluctuated and ranged between 27 (April 2022) and 89 (November 2014) per month over the period shown. The figure also shows that the number of victimisations for acts of family violence is somewhat higher during the summer months. This is likely to be related to both social and physical environmental factors (related to temperature and changes to patterns of routine activities). It is worth noting the generally downward trend.

**Figure 20. Number of victimisations where the relationship of the offender to the victim is a family member (including ex-partner), monthly, greater Christchurch, 2014-20**



**Table 12: Key crime indicator**

Indicator	Waimakariri District	Canterbury Region	New Zealand
Crime rate (annual average up to September 2024)	108 per 10,000 residents	179 per 10,000 residents	224 per 10,000 residents

## Housing

In the 2023 Census 25,401 households were recorded for Waimakariri District of which 4,074 are renting. Waimakariri District has the highest level of home ownership in New Zealand.

**Housing register applicants** – The number of applicants on the housing register in Waimakariri District decreased by 4.0% in the year to September 2024, compared to a year earlier. This compares with decreases of 1.5% in New Zealand and 3.0% in Canterbury Region. An average of 97 applicants were on the housing register in Waimakariri District in the 12 months ending September 2024. This compares with the ten-year annual average of 59.

**Rental affordability (rents as % of household income)** – Renting in Waimakariri District (25.3%) was less affordable than in New Zealand (22.1%) and Canterbury Region (22.5%) in the year to September 2024, based on the ratio of mean rents to mean household incomes. Rental affordability in Waimakariri District deteriorated on average between September 2023 and September 2024. Rental affordability

has deteriorated in Canterbury Region and New Zealand over the same period. During the last ten years, renting in the Waimakariri District was most affordable in September 2018, when the index reached a low of 20.8%.

**Residential rents** - The average residential rent in Waimakariri District was up 4.4% in the year to September 2024, compared to a year earlier. Growth was lower than in New Zealand (5.7%) and Canterbury Region (7.1%). The average residential rent in Waimakariri District was \$548 in the year to September 2024. This compares to \$572 in New Zealand and \$510 in Canterbury Region. Annual growth of residential rents in Waimakariri District peaked at 11.5% in the year to September 2022.

**Table 13: Key housing indicators**

Indicator	Source	Waimakariri District	Canterbury Region	New Zealand
Housing register applicants (Annual average % change September 2023 to September 2024)	Infometrics Quarterly	4% decrease	3% decrease	1.5% decrease
Rental affordability (Rent as % of household income in the year to September 2024)	Economic Monitoring Report	25.3%	22.1%	22.5%
Average residential rents in September 2024		\$548 p/w	\$510 p/w	\$572 p/w
Own or partly own home	Stats NZ Census 2023	82.2%	69.6%	66.0%
Rent \$800pw or over		0.6%	2.1%	6.4%
Crowded households		2.3%	3.8%	6.2%
Family households		75.6%	69.8%	71.6%
One usual resident		21.7%	24.4%	22.7%
Separate house		88.3%	79.9%	78.5%
Average number of bedrooms		3.2	3.1	3.1
Heating by heat pump		77.0%	81.2%	66.8%
Unoccupied private dwellings		5.8%	9.4%	10.9%
No basic amenities		0.2%	0.4%	0.4%
Damp dwellings		10.0%	13.8%	18.1%
Mouldy dwellings		5.6%	8.3%	14.0%

## Transport

**Table 14: Key transport indicators**

Indicator	Source	Waimakariri District	Canterbury Region	New Zealand
No motor vehicle	Stats NZ Census 2023	2.9%	5.5%	6.3%
Public transport to work (workplace)		0.6%	2.8%	5.2%

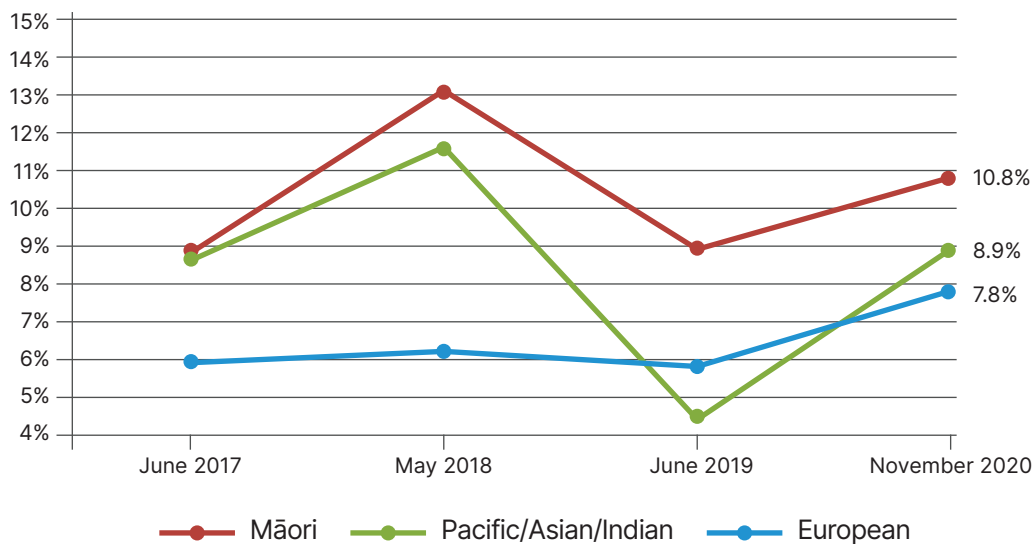
## Inclusion

**Loneliness/isolation** – figures 21 and 22 are taken from the Canterbury Wellbeing Index from 2017 to 2020. Figure 21 shows a lower proportion of European respondents reported being socially isolated compared with Māori and Pacific/Asian/Indian respondents, however the differences are not statistically significant (except for Māori respondents compared with European respondents, in 2018). Note that these comparisons do not take into account possible confounders such as income or age.

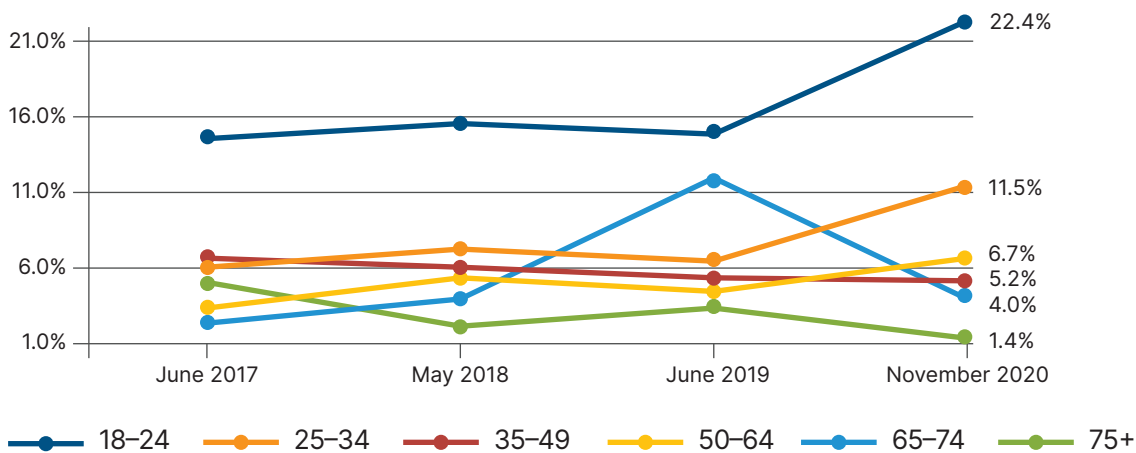


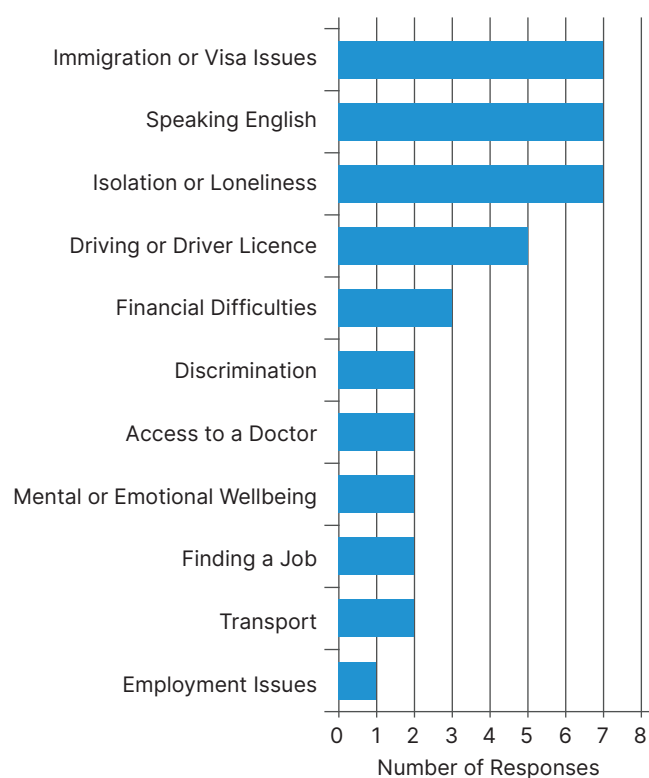
Figure 22 shows a clear pattern of higher levels of social isolation for young people. For respondents in the 18 to 24 years group, in particular, the self-reported level of social isolation has averaged approximately 10 percentage points above the other age groups between 2017 and 2019 (18-24 years 14.9%, compared with approximately 5% for the middle age groups, in 2019). The difference between the 18 to 24 years age group and all other age groups increased further from 2019 to 2022, and the difference is statistically significant at all five time-points. The proportion of respondents reporting feeling lonely or isolated in the 25 to 34 years age group also increased notably between 2019 and 2022.

**Figure 21. Proportion of those aged 18 years and over reporting feeling lonely or isolated always, or most of the time, in Greater Christchurch, by ethnicity, 2017 - 2020**



**Figure 22. Proportion of those aged 18 years and over reporting feeling lonely and isolated always or most of the time, in Greater Christchurch, by age group, 2017 - 2020**



**Figure 23: Most common challenges experienced by migrant employees or clients**

## Accessibility

**Table 15: Key indicators of accessibility**

Indicator	Source	Waimakariri District	Canterbury Region	New Zealand
Disabled	Stats NZ Census 2023	7.2%	7.2%	7.5%
Difficulty hearing		16.7%	14.4%	14.2%
Difficulty seeing		19.4%	18.7%	19.3%
Difficulty walking		15.3%	13.6%	14.4%
Difficulty communicating		4.9%	5.7%	5.9%
Access to a cell phone / mobile phone		95.8%	94.3%	93.5%
Access to a telephone		36.8%	31.5%	31.0%
Access to the internet		90.9%	90.6%	90.5%

## Safety

2014 to 2018 public hospital injury discharges, All injury, all intents, both genders, all age groups, Waimakariri District and New Zealand

**Table 16: Key indicators of safety (source: Otago University Injury Prevention Research)**

External Cause	Waimakariri District		New Zealand	
	Number of discharges	Rate/100,000 people	Number of discharges	Rate/100,000 people
Machinery	68	23.6	3,358	14.3
Natural/Environment	134	46.4	7,210	30.7
Occupant in MVTC	195	67.6	13,427	57.2
Motorcyclist in MVTC	68	23.6	4,611	19.6
Other Land Transport	213	73.8	8,418	35.9
Overexertion	221	76.6	12,554	53.5

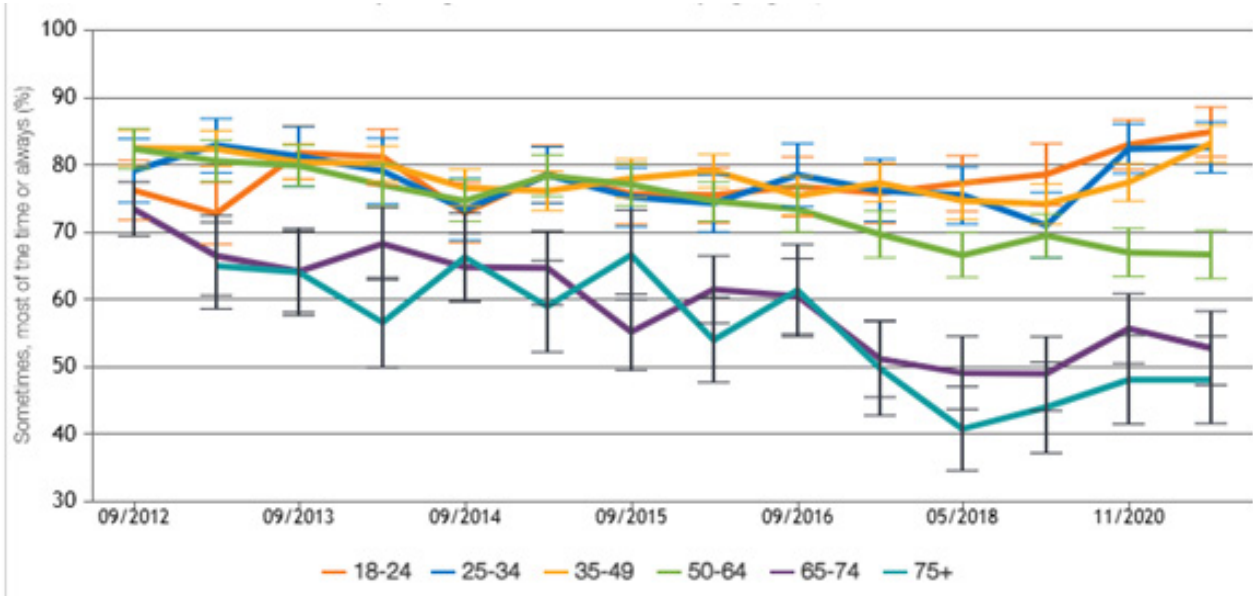
**Table 17: 2014 to 2018 public hospital injury discharges, overexertion, all intents, both genders, all age groups, all New Zealand (source: Otago University Injury Prevention Research)**

Age Group	Number of Discharges	Rate/100,000 people
0-4	93	6.1
5-9	150	9.4
10-14	628	42.0
15-19	747	47.3
20-24	863	50.0
25-29	912	54.2
30-34	823	54.6
35-39	797	56.5
40-44	892	59.0
45-49	880	55.3
50-54	896	56.7
55-59	802	54.2
60-64	743	57.6
65-69	709	61.8
70-74	675	77.4
75-79	644	101.4
80-84	595	139.8
85+	705	170.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,554</b>	<b>53.5</b>

## Wellbeing

The Canterbury Wellbeing Index identified the proportion of respondents reporting stress sometimes, most of the time, or always, by age group as shown in the figure below. It shows a clear pattern of less frequent self-reported stress for respondents aged 65 to 74 years, and 75 years and over, compared with the younger age groups. For these two age groups, the proportion reporting stress at least sometimes has averaged approximately 10 to 30 percentage points lower than for the younger age groups, for the period from 2013 to 2022. These differences are statistically significant at almost all time-points in the series.

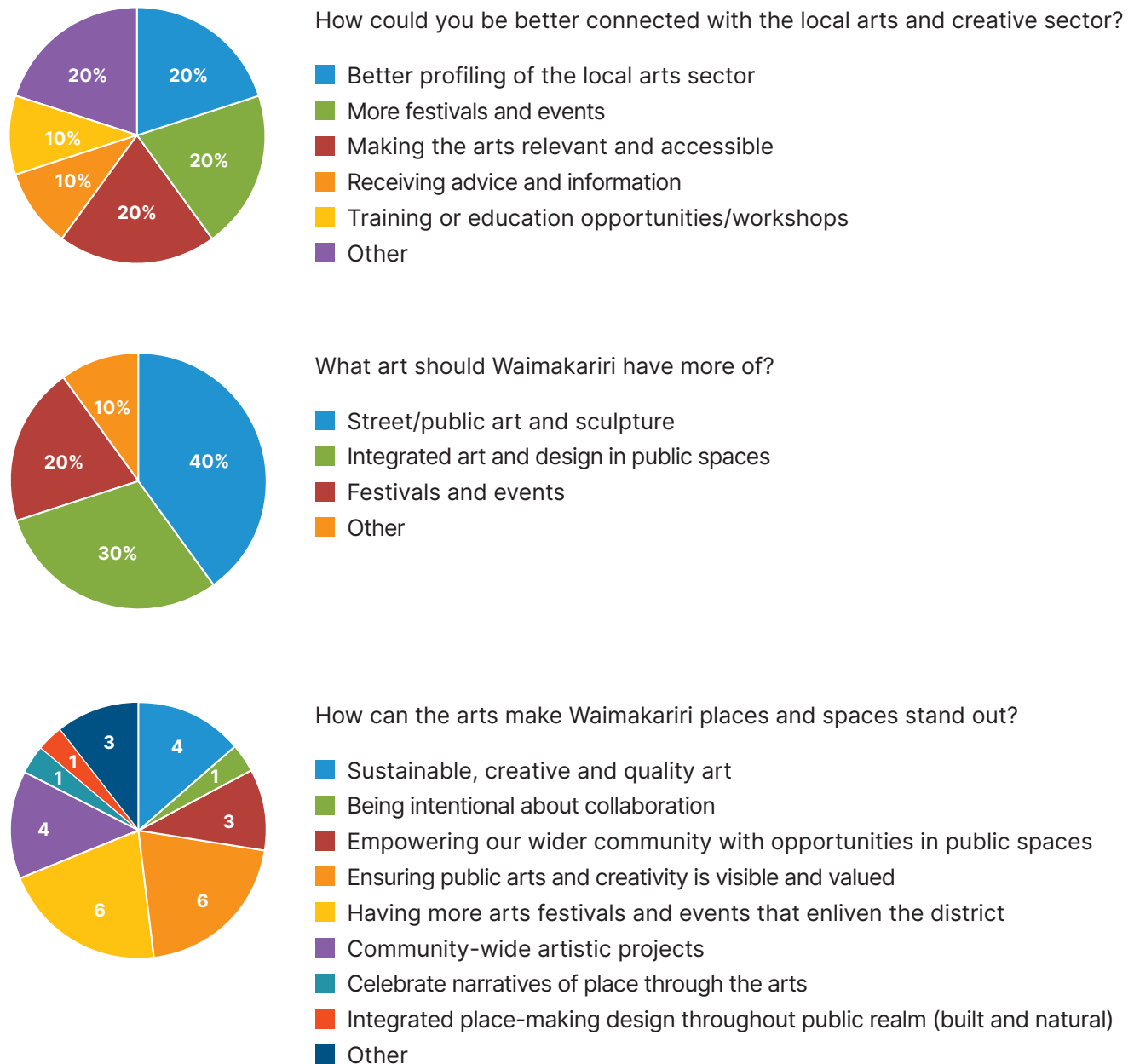
**Figure 24: Proportion of those aged 18 years and over reporting stress sometimes, most of the time or always, in greater Christchurch, by age group, 2012 – 2022 (Canterbury Wellbeing Index)**



## Recreation

**Arts** - Significant formative evaluation was undertaken in 2022/2023 to inform the need for a strategic approach to supporting and empowering the local arts sector. This resulted in development of Ngā toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy.

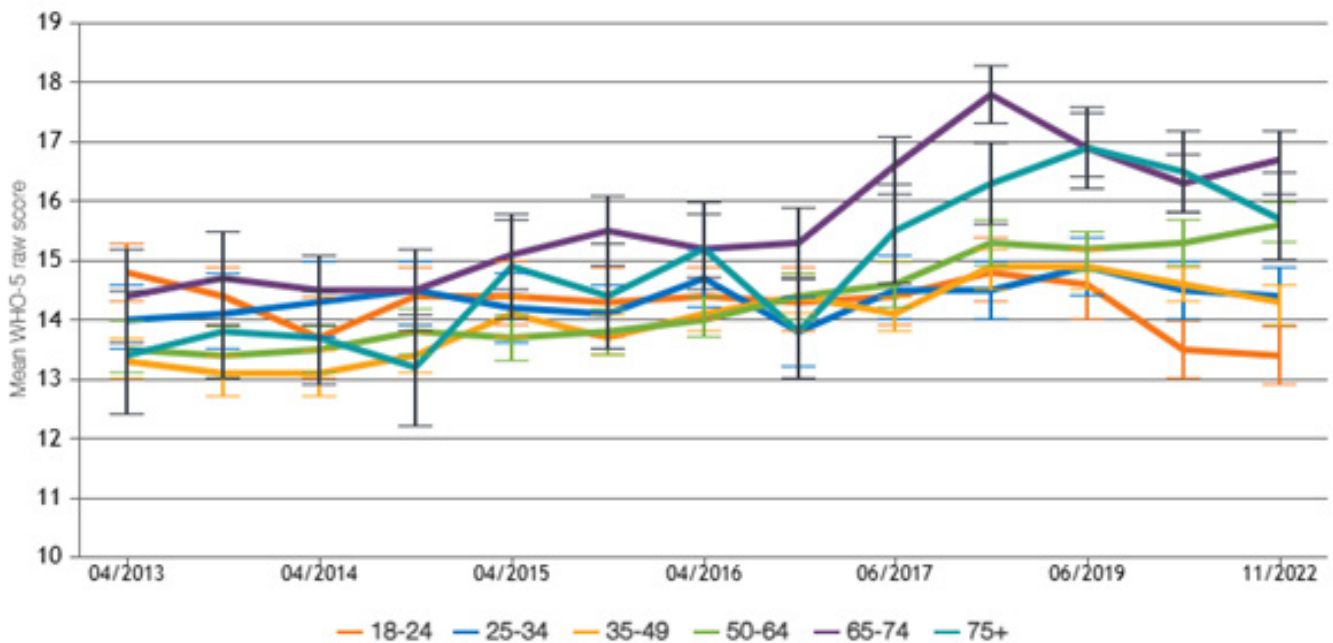
**Figure 25: Survey responses that informed the Ngā toi o Waimakariri – Waimakariri Arts Strategy**



## Inclusion

The figure below outlines the WHO-5 Wellbeing Index mean scores for the age groups 18 to 24 years, 25 to 34 years, 35 to 49 years, and 50 to 64 years, over the period 2013 to 2022 for Greater Christchurch. For the 65 to 74 years, and 75 and over age group, a different pattern is seen. Both of these older age groups have had higher mean WHO-5 scores than all other age groups since 2017. For respondents aged 65 to 74 years, the difference in mean WHO-5 scores is statistically significant (compared with the three youngest age groups) for all years since 2017, and for those aged 75+ years, since 2018.

**Figure 26: WHO-5 Wellbeing Index mean raw score, in greater Christchurch, by age group, 2013 – 2022 (Canterbury Wellbeing Index)**



## Appendix 3 – Key Waimakariri Community-led Networks

Network	Purpose	Membership/ Representation/Partners	Role and responsibilities
<b>Violence Free North Canterbury</b>	<p>"To work towards eradicating relational violence in the North Canterbury region"</p> <p>"To influence positive social change within the community about family violence issues; and to empower the community to send the message that family violence is unacceptable."</p>	Oranga Tamariki, Police, Work and Income, Community Probation Services, AVIVA, Barnardos, Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust, Oxford Community Trust, Presbyterian Support Services, Victim Support, Social Services Waimakariri, SHE (Support Empower Heal), Te Whare Hauora (previously Ōtautahi Women's Refuge), Stopping Violence Services, START Sexual Abuse Services, local lawyers, Waimakariri District Council, Hurunui District Council and ASB Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide a forum for those working in family violence and sexual violence related roles to keep each other informed and provide support for each other.</li> <li>• To be a forum for family violence and sexual violence issues to be discussed, with shared solutions and approaches being supported and encouraged</li> <li>• To raise public awareness and understanding of family violence and sexual violence issues, and to seek support within the community.</li> <li>• To foster local professional development opportunities.</li> <li>• To advocate on behalf of the community and agencies on family violence and sexual violence issues</li> </ul>
<b>Social Services Waimakariri (SSW)</b>	"To ensure that the social sector is well connected, so that people can access the services they need for their wellbeing."	Representatives from agencies and groups in the local and regional social service sector and associated community groups and organisations, and Waimakariri District Council Community Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the capability of the SSW Advisory Group and Governance Team</li> <li>• Respond to emerging social trends that impact on social outcomes for the community</li> <li>• Enable and strengthen SSW's collaboration with social service groups and networks</li> <li>• Promote and enhance the role of SSW as an entity that facilitates participation, engagement and leadership for our member stakeholders</li> </ul>



Network	Purpose	Membership/ Representation/Partners	Role and responsibilities
<b>Waimakariri Migrant Agency Steering Group</b>	<p>"All cultures are respected, and everyone has a sense of belonging"</p> <p>"People see themselves reflected and represented in the community and are not invisible."</p>	Citizens Advice Bureau North Canterbury, Salvation Army Driver Programme, Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Ethnic Communities, Oxford Community Trust, Ministry of Social Development, Hope Community Trust, Local schools, District Libraries, English Language Tutors, Global Locals of Waimakariri, Bahai Community	<p>To ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrants and support agencies are engaged and lead or assist with initiatives</li> <li>• Migrants are empowered to lead and achieve their aspirations</li> <li>• Migrants and Newcomers are connected within their communities</li> <li>• People are informed about issues and opportunities that affect Migrants; and have a better understanding of other cultures</li> </ul>
<b>Waimakariri Access Group</b>	".... a voluntary organisation that works collaboratively with the District Council on how to improve access and facilities for all people, including those with impairments, in the community"	Barrier Free NZ, CCS Disability Action, People First, Blind Low Vision NZ, WDC Policy, Rousing, Community and Building Unit staff, WDC Elected Members, Disability Advocates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify factors in the social and physical environments in the District which restrict people from carrying out normal activities.</li> <li>• A point of contact for people with concerns about mobility and/or access in public places in the district.</li> <li>• Increase public awareness of the difficulties people with physical disabilities experience in undertaking normal/community activities.</li> <li>• Develop sound and harmonious relationships with community leaders and local government in the District in order to improve the quality of life for all people.</li> <li>• Support and provide training initiatives to increase awareness and knowledge of impairments.</li> <li>• Work towards removing attitudinal barriers in the community</li> <li>• Support the Waimakariri District Council with the implementation of their Disability Strategy</li> </ul>

Network	Purpose	Membership/ Representation/Partners	Role and responsibilities
<b>Waimakariri Suicide Prevention Steering Group</b>	"To encourage and facilitate community wellbeing and empowerment to reduce the incidence of suicide in the Waimakariri District."	Police, He Waka Tapu, Oxford Community Trust, Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust, North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust, Barnardos, High School guidance teams, Rangiora Youth Community Trust, Local counsellors, Oxford Football Club, North Canterbury Rural Support Trust, Pegasus Health, Yellow Brick Road, Presbyterian Support, ComCare Trust, Noaia Charitable Trust	<p>A Prevention' approach to addressing suicide, including:</p> <p>General awareness-raising around risk factors and indicators of risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellbeing education</li> <li>• Community and service provider education seminars (AEIOU, QPR, etc.)</li> <li>• The development of resources offering advice about how to support and get support for at-risk people</li> <li>• Initiatives that reduce the means or prompt intervention. E.g. in relation to firearms and paracetamol accessibility</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Futures North Canterbury</b>	To create a sustainable partnership between education providers, employers, local and central government agencies that deliver clear and sustainable pathways from education to employment.	Ministry of Social Development, All local high schools, Enterprise North Canterbury, Ministry of Education, North Canterbury Community College (Comcol) MainPower Trust, Hurunui District Council, Mayors Taskforce for Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate the NCYF Career Expo, where young people can get exposed to local career paths and connect with over 60 local employers</li> <li>• Improved connections between education providers, local and central government agencies and industry</li> <li>• Education and business working together to grow the knowledge basis and provide the opportunities to future employment</li> <li>• Improved visibility throughout the community of services being delivered across the education and employment interface</li> <li>• Create pathways for ALL youth into education, training and/or employment – enabling more young people to access relevant models of delivery</li> <li>• Improved careers advice and support with earlier intervention for students to ensure more informed and confident decision making upon transitioning into further tertiary training and/or employment</li> <li>• Youth voice and engagement is sought.</li> </ul>

Network	Purpose	Membership/ Representation/Partners	Role and responsibilities
<b>Food Secure North Canterbury</b>	A collaborative district-wide project aiming to do just that, by bringing together people, knowledge, and resources, to feed and empower North Canterbury.	Satisfy Food Rescue, Kaiapoi Food Forest, Social Services Waimakariri, Oxford Community Trust, Oxford Lions, Waitaha Primary Health, The Salvation Army, Hope Community Trust, Together Hurunui, Connect Hurunui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase food access</li> <li>• Education and skill sharing</li> <li>• Raise awareness and involve/engage communities</li> <li>• Capacity and capability through collaboration</li> <li>• Policy and planning</li> </ul>
<b>North Canterbury Youth Services Network</b>	“... a body of ‘like-minded people’ committed to working alongside young people to help them develop and reach their full potential.”	This group comprises over 150 key stakeholders and service providers for youth, across the region. Key membership includes North Canterbury Community College (Comcol), Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust, Oxford Community Trust, Church Youth Leaders, 24/7 Youth Workers, Corrections, Police, Oranga Tamariki, R13 Trust, Community Law, Ministries of Youth and Social Development, Noaia Charitable Trust, ECan, Youth Development Opportunities Trust (YDOT), Youthtown, Hurunui District Council, Homeschool network lead, local high schools, collaborative Trust, Stepping Stones, Motivation NZ and Adventure Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on issues, outcomes and actions – where to from here?</li> <li>• Training or development opportunities</li> <li>• Meet for Coffee and networking – Round table - opportunity to share work practice, frustrations, and successes.</li> <li>• Sharing issues which are raised within other youth related groups you are engaged with to create a greater picture for our youth in North Canterbury.</li> <li>• Shared Kai and a chance to chat.</li> </ul>
<b>Waimakariri Alcohol and Drug Harm Steering Group</b>	Committed to promoting Safe and Responsible use of alcohol in our communities.	Waitaha Primary Health, Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust, WDC Environmental Services Unit, Corrections and local High Schools.	The group meet six-monthly to review any relevant information and available data. Should any areas of concern be identified, they would then investigate options for addressing those; including undertaking local projects where appropriate.

Network	Purpose	Membership/ Representation/Partners	Role and responsibilities
<b>Waimakariri Health Advisory Group</b>	<p>"Provide advice to the Council on health issues"</p> <p>and</p> <p>"Be a forum for health issues to be discussed, with shared solutions and approaches being supported and encouraged"</p>	CDHB, Waitaha, Pegasus Health, Community Midwifery, Public Health Nurse, Presbyterian Support, local GP, Motus Physiotherapy, accessibility advocate, Supporting Families with Mental Illness Māori Health Service representative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as an information conduit for emerging health and wellbeing issues</li> <li>• Advocate for health needs in the Waimakariri District</li> <li>• Provide community feedback for consideration in Health Promotion plans</li> </ul>
<b>Waimakariri Age Friendly Advisory Group</b>	To be an advocate for Age-friendly services, facilities, activities; and to provide advice to Council on issues affecting local older people	Presbyterian Support, Age Concern, Citizens Advice North Canterbury, Ministry of Social Development, Waimakariri Access Group, University of the Third Age (U3A)	Planning, monitoring, supporting and endorsing advocacy and accountability for the betterment of older persons and the local services that support them
<b>Welcoming Waimakariri</b>	Advisory and implementation of the Waimakariri Welcoming Communities Plan	Under establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-design of the Waimakariri Welcoming Plan</li> <li>• Advising Council on issues and opportunities affecting newcomers to the District.</li> <li>• Implementing the Actions in the Plan</li> </ul>



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19 June 2025

Draft Community Development Strategy 2025-2035  
Waimakariri District Council  
215 High St  
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**RANGIORA 7440**

Tēnā koutou

## Draft Community Development Strategy 2025-2035 -Whakawhānake Hapori o Waimakariri

1. This technical advice on the Draft Community Development Strategy 2025-2035 has been compiled by the National Public Health Service (NPHS) Te Waipounamu Region, Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora. NPHS Te Waipounamu services the South Island including the Waimakariri district.
2. NPHS recognises its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities of Aotearoa New Zealand under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 and the Health Act 1956.
3. Pae Ora requires the health sector, as one of its roles, to protect and promote healthy communities and health equity across different population groups by working together with multiple sectors to address the determinants of health.
4. NPHS is focused on the achievement of equitable health outcomes. We use the New Zealand Ministry of Health's definition of equity:

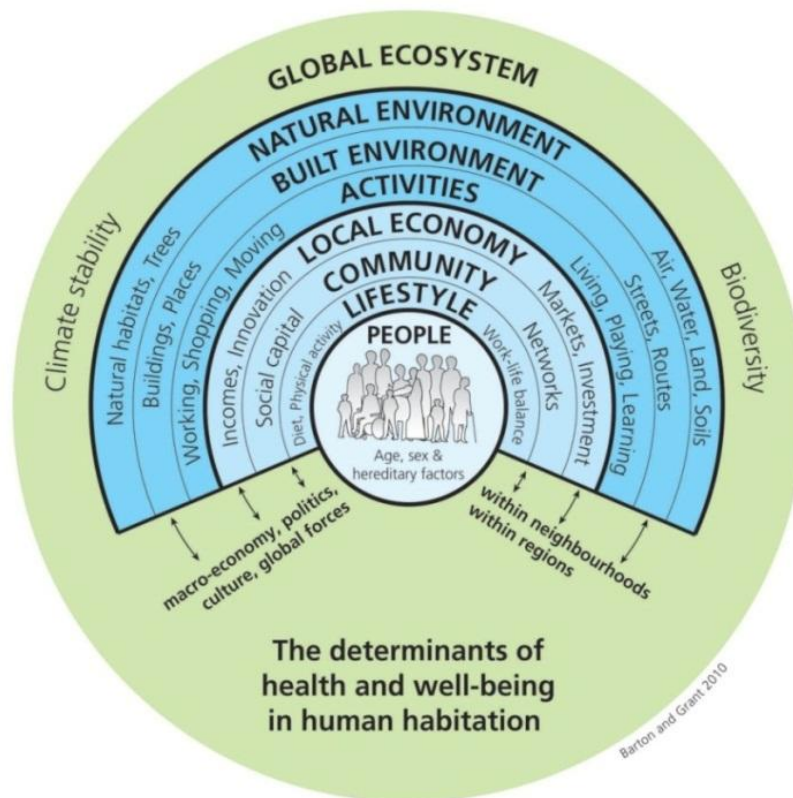
*In Aotearoa New Zealand people have differences in health that are not only avoidable, but unfair and unjust. Equity recognises different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes.<sup>1</sup>*

### General Comments

5. Health and wellbeing are influenced by a wide range of factors beyond the health sector. These factors are often referred to as the 'social determinants of health', and can be described as the environmental, economic, and social conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age.<sup>2</sup> The diagram on the following page shows how the various influences on health are complex and interlinked.

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Health. Achieving equity [internet]. Wellington: Ministry of Health [Updated 2024 March 6; cited 2024 April 17]. Available from: <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/whats-happening/about-us/who-we-are/achieving-equity/>

<sup>2</sup> Barton, H. & Grant, M. (2006). A health map for the local human habitat. *The Journal of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health*, 126(6), 252-253. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1466424006070466>



6. The future health of our population is not just reliant on hospitals, but on a responsive environment where all sectors work collaboratively to address the determinants of health.
7. The Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035, is an opportunity for Waimakariri District Council to influence these determinants of health by prioritising actions that support health and wellbeing. Initiatives to improve health and wellbeing outcomes must involve organisations and groups beyond the health sector, such as local government, if they are to have a reasonable impact.<sup>3</sup>
8. NPHS Te Waipounamu is pleased to see public health impacts being considered throughout the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy, 2025 – 2035, with emphasis being placed on promoting health & wellbeing, acknowledging the broader determinants of health, and recognising a whole of community approach.

## Specific Comments

9. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports the commitment of the Community Development Strategy to achieving its Community Outcomes as developed from the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034.
10. We commend the Councils weaving of the social determinants of health throughout this strategy and have some additional recommendations to further strengthen this.
11. NPHS Te Waipounamu commends the Council for highlighting the impacts of climate change in this strategy. This is important because climate change can impact health and

<sup>3</sup> Public Health Advisory Committee. 2004. The Health of People and Communities. A Way Forward: Public Policy and the Economic Determinants of Health. Public Health Advisory Committee: Wellington.



wellbeing outcomes directly, through exposure to climate hazards causing injuries and mortalities; and indirectly through greater risk of food and water borne diseases, food insecurity, community displacement, lack of access or loss of critical infrastructure, loss of employment, financial insecurity; all of which have social and economic consequences.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, as the Council has included in their research, young people are facing the greatest effects of climate anxiety.

### **Strategic Direction 1: Safe & Healthy**

12. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports Strategic Direction 1 with some recommendations.

#### **Action 1.1.1: Address gaps in local housing provision**

13. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports the council's inclusion of housing as a critical determinant of health.
14. The strategy states it will "Address gaps in local housing provision", specifically to address poor quality housing and unaffordable housing, especially rental housing that is less affordable than the rest of Canterbury and Aotearoa.
15. Unaffordable housing leads to material stress and deprivation, which impacts all the other health determinants mentioned in this strategy. For instance, with less income left after housing costs, food security is less attainable, more children are in poverty, and restricted transport can lead to more social isolation and less engagement in wider community<sup>5</sup>. Housing unaffordability also means people are more likely to end up living in poor quality homes and/or overcrowding.
16. Poor quality homes that are cold, damp, and mouldy are associated with respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Overcrowded housing increases the risk of infectious disease transmission, and houses in disrepair increase the risk of injury.<sup>6</sup> A New Zealand study found that cold homes accounted for 1,834 hospital nights, and dampness and mold accounted for 36 and 649 hospital nights, respectively, during 2010 to 2017.<sup>7</sup> We spend considerable amounts of time in our homes; young children and older people in Aotearoa New Zealand spend close to 90% of their time at home<sup>8</sup>. To support health and wellbeing, it is critical that home environments are safe and healthy.
17. We commend the Council's established partnerships with local community groups to address gaps in local housing provision. Through these community connections, this

<sup>4</sup> Cissé, G., R. McLeman, H. Adams, P. Aldunce, K. Bowen, D. Campbell-Lendrum, S. Clayton, K.L. Ebi, J. Hess, C. Huang, Q. Liu, G. McGregor, J. Semenza, and M.C. Tirado (2022). Health, Wellbeing, and the Changing Structure of Communities. In: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 1041–1170, doi:10.1017/9781009325844.009.

<sup>5</sup> Howden-Chapman, P., Crane, J., Keall, et al. 2024. He Kāinga Oranga: reflections on 25 years of measuring the improved health, wellbeing and sustainability of healthier housing. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 54(3), 290-315. URL: [www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/03036758.2023.2170427](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/03036758.2023.2170427)

<sup>6</sup> Manatu Hauora. 2023. Insights of Note: Better homes, towns and cities required to improve public health outcomes in Aotearoa New Zealand.

<sup>7</sup> Riggs L, Keall M, Howden-Chapman P, et al. 2021. Environmental burden of disease from unsafe and substandard housing, New Zealand, 2010–2017. *Bulletin of the WHO* 99(4): 259-270. URL: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8085632/>

council may remain in touch with the 'on the ground' housing need and develop ways to address the need that works for those impacted.

18. NPHS Te Waipounamu recommends the Council identifies, with more specificity, the typology of housing that would support the current and projected community demographics. For instance, with an older population, there may be demand for smaller 1–2-bedroom homes in the district, which will often be more affordable to rent/own for elderly couples or singles than 3–4-bedroom family homes.
19. NPHS Te Waipounamu recommends the Council explicitly outlines the required standard of housing for its identified communities in need and what mechanisms are available to increase affordable and healthy housing in the district.

#### **Action 1.1.4: Facilitate increased local transport provision**

20. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports the action to 'facilitate increased local transport provision' for all communities.
21. Encouraging walking and cycling has the additional benefit of increasing physical activity and reducing negative health impacts. New Zealand research shows that people who walk or cycle to their main activity (e.g., school or work) have a 76% higher odds of meeting NZ physical activity guidelines.<sup>8</sup>
22. Public transport provides accessibility to work, education, health services, as well as key business areas. Access to public transport is important for people who do not have access to other transport modes, such as disabled people, older people, youth and low-income earners. Therefore, it will help achieve the goal of greater social connection as outlined in Strategic Direction 4. Increasing the use of these alternative transport modes also reduces carbon emissions and improves air quality.

#### **Action 1.3.1: Facilitate collaborative responses to Relationship Violence/Family Harm**

23. Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora is a primary partner in Te Puna Aonui's Te Aorerekura 25-year Action Plan committed to eliminating family violence and sexual violence in New Zealand. Family Violence is a significant public health issue, and it is estimated to be costing New Zealand's public agencies \$7 billion a year.<sup>9</sup> Family violence not only contributes to acute poor health but has been associated with long-term chronic health conditions and poor mental health.<sup>10</sup> There are also significant effects on whānau and wider communities.
24. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports the Councils commitment to addressing family violence through a whole-community approach. We commend the Council for acknowledging its role in reducing incidences of relationship violence/family harm for its communities.

#### **Action 1.3.2: Facilitate collaborative responses to Alcohol and Drug Harm**

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<sup>8</sup> Shaw, C., Keall, M., & Guiney, H. (2017). What modes of transport are associated with higher levels of physical activity? Cross-sectional study of New Zealand adults. *International Journal of Transport & Health*, 7, 125-133.

<sup>9</sup> <https://tepunaonui.govt.nz/assets/Resources/Data-and-Insights/Te-Puna-Aonui-Understanding-the-current-state-of-family-violence-multi-agency-responses-2024.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Mellor BM, Hashemi L, Selak V, Gulliver PJ, McIntosh TK, Fanslow JL. Association Between Women's Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Self-reported Health Outcomes in New Zealand. *JAMA Network Open*. 2023;6(3):e231311. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.1311

25. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports the Council's action toward reducing alcohol and drug harm. Alcohol, which is consumed by 76% of the population over the age of 15 years <sup>11</sup>, is Aotearoa New Zealand's most harmful drug.<sup>12</sup> Alcohol use is widespread and is a leading cause of health loss and disability <sup>13</sup>, is linked to more than 200 disease and injury conditions <sup>14</sup>, is harmful to young people, children <sup>15</sup> and unborn babies <sup>16</sup>, drives the unequal burden of harm and disproportionately impacts men <sup>17</sup> and Māori. <sup>18</sup>
26. As Māori are disproportionately affected by alcohol harm, we recommend collaboration with Māori stakeholders and partners when seeking to address this harm, such as local Iwi and/or kauapapa Māori organisations.

**Action 1.4: Facilitate effective welfare responses to local crisis.**

27. We support actions to improve welfare response as people who are prepared for local hazards are less vulnerable during natural hazards and climate events. It is important to prepare for a wide range of possible hazards, such as heatwaves and droughts. Preparing for climate change is an opportunity to build community resilience, social connection and social cohesion, and protect against the worst health and wellbeing outcomes from climate change.
28. We recommend this council works proactively with Tangata Whaikaha in crisis response, as this community is more vulnerable to mobility issues that can mean they are literally left behind. This is especially relevant for Tangata Whaikaha who are not living in suitable housing and cannot necessarily leave their home without assistance.

**Strategic Direction 2: Welcome & Included**

29. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports Strategic Direction 2 with a few broader recommendations to strengthen the approach.

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<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Health. 2024. Annual Data Explorer 2023/24: New Zealand Health Survey. URL:

<https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2023-24-annual-data-explorer/>

<sup>12</sup> Crossin R, Cleland L, Wilkins C, Rychert M, Adamson S, Potiki T, et al. 2023. The New Zealand drug harms ranking study: A multi-criteria decision analysis. J Psychopharmacol Oxf Engl; 37(9):891. URL:

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10481626/>

<sup>13</sup> Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). 2024. Global Burden of Disease 2021: Findings from the GBD 2021 Study. Seattle, WA: IHME. URL: <https://www.healthdata.org/research-analysis/library/global-burden-disease-2021-findings-gbd-2021-study>

<sup>14</sup> GBD. 2018. Alcohol use and burden for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016. Lancet Lond Engl;392(10152):1015. URL:

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6148333/>

<sup>15</sup> Ball J, Zhang J, Kim AHM, Crossin R. 2024. Less drinking, less harm: declines in adolescent alcohol use are accompanied by declines in self-reported alcohol harm. Kōtuitui N Z J Soc Sci Online. URL:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1177083X.2023.2227248>

<sup>16</sup> Sellman D, Connor J. 2009. In utero brain damage from alcohol: a preventable tragedy. N Z Med J;122(1306).

<sup>17</sup> Chambers DT, Mizdrak DA, Jones DAC, Davies A, Sherk DA. 2024. Estimated alcohol-attributable health burden in Aotearoa New Zealand. Wellington, New Zealand: Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora.

<sup>18</sup> Connor J, Kydd R, Shield K, Rehm J. 2025. The burden of disease and injury attributable to alcohol in New Zealanders under 80 years of age: marked disparities by ethnicity and sex. N Z Med J;128(1409). URL:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25721958/>

30. The visibility and acknowledgement of Māori cultural history and mātāuranga (Māori ways of knowing) is important for the health and wellbeing of Māori and reflect critical obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.<sup>19</sup>
31. Language and culture are critical determinants of health. For Māori and Pasifika in particular, language, identity and wellbeing are connected; and te reo Māori is a taonga (treasure) that carries knowledge, values and beliefs.<sup>12</sup>
32. Therefore, NPHS Te Waipounamu recommends an addition to Strategic Direction 2 that acknowledges commitment to Māori and Pasifika language, culture and identities being celebrated and empowered.

### ***Strategic Direction 3: Informed and Empowered***

33. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports the expansive nature of strategic direction 3.

#### ***Action 3.2: Ensure a community voice in local, regional and national decision making***

34. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports Action 3.2 as civic engagement has been attributed to greater well-being, and resilience in times of adversity.<sup>20</sup>

### ***Strategic Direction 4: Engaged and Connected***

35. NPHS Te Waipounamu broadly supports Strategic Direction 4.
36. Loneliness and social isolation are associated with a range of negative health outcomes, including high blood pressure, heart disease, a weakened immune system, anxiety, depression, and cognitive decline.<sup>21</sup>
37. Evidence shows that young people, disabled individuals, and many older people are experiencing greater levels of social isolation than other populations.<sup>22</sup> Therefore, when planning interventions to increase social connectedness, the Council should take into consideration how people with differing levels of mobility can use public spaces and transport networks when accessing opportunities for social connection.
38. We recommend the Council ensures interventions to increase social connectedness are done in an accessible manner, appropriate for the communities most at risk and includes those groups in their decision making on such matters.

## **Summary of recommendations**

39. NPHS Te Waipounamu recommends this council:

<sup>19</sup>Reweti, A., Ware, F., & Moriarty, H. (2023). A tangata whenua (people of the land) approach to conceptualising Māori health and wellbeing. *Global Health Promotion*, 30(2), 11-18. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17579759221130948>

<sup>20</sup> Hayhurst, J. G., Hunter, J. A., & Ruffman, T. (2019). Encouraging flourishing following tragedy: The role of civic engagement in well-being and resilience. *New Zealand Journal of Psychology*, 48(1).

<sup>21</sup> Hawkey, L. C., & Cacioppo, J. T. (2010). Loneliness matters: A theoretical and empirical review of consequences and mechanisms. *Annals of behavioral medicine*, 40(2), 218-227.

<sup>22</sup> Te Mana Ora (2023). Loneliness and isolation across the life course. Christchurch: Te Whatu Ora Waitaha, Te Mana Ora, National Public Health Service

- identifies the specific typology of housing that would best support this community, including home sizes, home performance, and accessibility for people with disabilities.
- NPHS Te Waipounamu recommends the Council explicitly outlines the standard of housing for its identified communities in need and what mechanisms are available to this council to increase the adequate housing for the community including affordable healthy homes.
- We recommend this council works proactively and closely with Tangata Whaikaha for crisis response, as individuals with disability are more likely to need assistance evacuating and otherwise responding to a crisis.
- add to Strategic Direction 2:
  - 1) a commitment to supporting Māori and Pasifika language, culture, and identities.
- We recommend the Council ensure interventions to increase social connectedness are done thorough and accessible consultation/involvement with those communities most at risk.

40. NPHS Te Waipounamu does not wish to be heard with respect to this technical advice.

Ngā mihi



**Vince Barry**

Regional Director  
National Public Health Service  
Te Waipounamu Region



**Anna Stevenson**

Public Health Physician  
National Public Health Service  
Te Waipounamu

#### Contact details

Sarah Eynon

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**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR DECISION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** RES-35-01 / 250619111441**REPORT TO:** Community and Recreation Committee**DATE OF MEETING:** 15 July 2025**AUTHOR(S):** Bex Dollery, Biodiversity Team Leader**SUBJECT:** Applications to the Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy Implementation Fund for organisations**ENDORSED BY:**  
(for Reports to Council,  
Committees or Boards)  
General Manager  
Chief Executive**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is for the Community and Recreation Committee to consider applications to the Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy Implementation Fund for community organisations. This fund sits alongside the Biodiversity Contestable Fund provided for significant natural areas listed in the District Plan but has a separate budget stream.
- 1.2. This contestable fund for organisations was provided for through the adoption of the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (action 2.1.3.7) in 2024 in response to community organisations expressing the challenges they face with access to funding. It aims to support the implementation of the strategy through providing financial contribution to community groups for operational or capital projects.
- 1.3. A total of \$10,000 is available annually and applicants are required to complete an application form to show how their need/project fits the criteria
- 1.4. In this first year of the fund, there have been three applications. Another application from the Hunter's Stream Catchment group was sent to the fund for significant natural areas but has been included in this fund due to it being more aligned to the criteria.
- 1.5. In total, the four applications amount to funding of \$9,352.50 (GST inclusive): Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group \$3,152.50 for predator work; Hunter's Stream Catchment Group \$525 for eDNA sampling; Kaiapoi East Residents Association \$2,750 for planting; Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara \$2,925 for planting and operations.
- 1.6. All applications align with the aim of the fund and fulfil the criteria.

**Attachments:**

- i. RES-35-01 / 250515085671: Biodiversity Contestable Fund Community Application Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group April 2025
- ii. RES-35-01 / 250409062273: Jackie Freeman \_ Hunters Stream - April WDC Biodiversity Contestable Funding Application
- iii. RES-35-01 / 250515085872: Biodiversity Contestable Fund Community KERA Application April 2025
- iv. RES-35-01 / 250619111433: Biodiversity Contestable Fund Community Application- Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara June 2025

## 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250619111441.
- (b) **Approves** the allocation of \$3,152.50 to the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group;
- (c) **Approves** the allocation of \$525 to Hunter's Stream Catchment Group;
- (d) **Approves** the allocation of \$2,750 to the Kaiapoi East Residents Association;
- (e) **Approves** the allocation of \$2,925 to Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara.
- (f) **Notes** that successful applications will be subject to an accountability agreement between the applicant and Council.

## 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The aim of the Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy Implementation fund was provided for through the 2024 Long-Term Plan process. Action 2.1.3.7 states that \$10,000 will be provided annually to:

*“Provide a Waimakariri District community groups contestable fund to support the implementation of Natural Environment Strategy objectives and actions”.*

- 3.2. The fund is contestable and requires applicants to fill out an application form outlining how the project/operational funding will qualify under the criteria. Criteria include:
- 3.2.1. The community organisation must be a legal entity, such as an incorporated society or charitable trust.
  - 3.2.2. The organisational vision and proposed projects must align with the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy and be specifically linked to actions outlined in the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy Implementation Plan.
  - 3.2.3. Where capital funding is sought, projects must align with actions set out in the Implementation Plan.
  - 3.2.4. Where operational funding is sought, the community organisation must be able to provide community engagement support and education/advice to Waimakariri District landowners for indigenous biodiversity projects.
- 3.3. The current funding round represents the first time the fund has been opened and as such there have been four applications which are outlined below.

### ***The Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group (ARRG)***

- 3.4. ARRG are an incorporated society and community group formed in 1999 from local residents concerned for the unique and rare bird communities found within the Ashley-Rakahuri River renowned as an Important Bird Breeding area internationally. The group is very active and contributes to advocacy, research and action supporting the survival of species in the area.
- 3.5. Through extensive monitoring undertaken by the group, it is evident that there are a number of pressures on communities of threatened birds. To alleviate this, ARRG undertake an impressive trapping regime. To further support the work, the group require 10 Tawhiti smart cage traps which the volunteers will install, bait and monitor. In total, these traps will cost \$3,152.50 (attachment i).



### ***The Hunter's Stream Catchment Group***

- 3.6. Jacqui Freeman contacted Council in 2022 to discuss restoration plans on her property which incorporates part of the Hunter's Stream. This stream has been the topic of focus for the establishment of a catchment group for a number of years with many neighbouring property owners interested. The group is now beginning to become established with the assistance of a few key organisations and individuals such as the Landcare Trust, Saltwater Creek Catchment Group, the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust and Claire McKay, Environment Canterbury Councillor. However, the catchment group is not currently a legal entity.
- 3.7. The current funding application requests \$525 to undertake eDNA sampling which will inform the group of the species in and around the stream (attachment ii). This baseline data will then steer the groups direction and management of the stream.

### ***The Kaiapoi East Residents Association (KERA)***

- 3.8. Kaiapoi East Residents Association (an incorporated society and known as KERA) is a group of local Kaiapoi residents who are passionate about their local parks and community wellbeing. The group approached the Greenspace Department for ecological advice in 2023 following agreement from the Council that the group could create a pocket forest in an area to the south of Feldwick Drive, Kaiapoi.
- 3.9. The group is now undertaking the works in the designated area as outlined in the ecological restoration plan to enhance the area and create a recreational pocket forest for local residents to continue to enjoy. They require 500 indigenous plants and guards. The amount applied for is a total of \$2,750 with the volunteers from the group and other local residents undertaking the planting (attachment iii).

### ***Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara***

- 3.10. Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust is a registered charity and collaboration between Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Waimakariri District Council. The aim is to restore the coastal environment and manage the natural values within the 700 ha Tūhaitara Coastal Park. The trust works with local community, volunteers and schools to enhance and maintain this area of local, regional and national importance.
- 3.11. The Trust is continuing planting in the area, including around the significant Taranaki Stream and require 350 plants and guards and some budget for site preparation, planting and maintenance. The application requests \$2,925 for materials and labour (attachment iv).

## **4. ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1. The options available to the Committee are to either decline or approve funding for each of the four applications. If the Committee choose to decline the funding, staff will inform the applicants, advise on other funding streams and close the application file. The Committee may also choose to provide part of the funding requested by each applicant and have the option to seek further information in respect of aspects of the application relevant to decision making.
- 4.2. Staff within the Biodiversity Team, Greenspace Unit have reviewed the applications in accordance with the criteria outlined on the application form. For each application, there has been prior insight, reporting or recommendations from suitably qualified ecologists for the actions in the application.

- 4.3. Staff recommend funding all applicants the full amount requested. Each organisation, with the exception of the Hunter's Stream catchment group, is requesting funds to buy resources which will then be deployed, with labour provided in-kind, by volunteers. We have confidence that the projects these resources facilitate will be a success due to the enthusiasm and dedication of the organisations and their past and current work.
- 4.4. The Hunter's Stream catchment group does not currently have a legal status which is one of the criteria for the fund. The group is just forming and being advised by a number of experienced and respected organisations (as noted in 3.6 above) and the eDNA work which is requested to be funded will form part of the foundation for the constitution for the group to apply for legal status. Without legal status, the group is limited to the funding streams which are available for this work. Therefore, It is the staff recommendation that the \$525 requested for eDNA sampling is provided to enable to group to further progress the creation of the catchment group and the works and knowledge in this area.
- 4.5. Furthermore, the eDNA sampling would benefit the wider community and Council. The results will be made available to the Council's Biodiversity Team who can also use the data to inform of any protected, rare or threatened species noted in the area and use to inform Council process and potentially direct restoration and enhancement opportunities in the area.
- 4.6. The applicants will be advised of their application outcome. If successful, the applicants will be required to sign an accountability agreement outlining the expectations for completion of the funded works. Payment of the allocation is intended to be upon receipt of an invoice for the work along and either photographs, or an inspection by a Biodiversity Team member of staff demonstrating that it has been completed will be required.

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

- 4.7. There are implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report.
- 4.8. The work that the nature focussed volunteer organisations undertake are critical for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the natural values in the District. This work is beneficial for the ecological communities within the project areas but also for the local residential communities as the range of ecosystem services provided by the natural environment is enhanced and there are increased opportunities for connection to nature, shown to be a key driver of physical and mental wellbeing.
- 4.9. Additionally, the volunteers who are involved in the organisations have a substantial amount of local knowledge and gain benefit in being empowered and facilitated to carry out their work in the District.
- 4.10. The Management Team has reviewed this report and support the recommendations.

## **5. COMMUNITY VIEWS**

### **5.1. Mana whenua**

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū may have an interest in the subject matter of this report, particularly where projects are trying to enhance biodiversity values which are aligned to Te Ao Māori.

### **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, such as biodiversity organisations within the District who are seeking operational funding.

### 5.3. **Wider Community**

The wider community is likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in the subject matter of this report.

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

### 6.1. **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications of the decisions sought by this report. The budget is existing as allocated in the Long Term Plan 2024-34. This report is regarding allocation of the budget to community groups.

There is a budget of \$10,000 available for this round of funding and the four current applications amount to a total of \$9,352.50 (GST inclusive) to be allocated this year.

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

The recommendations in this report have positive impacts for sustainability and/or climate change impacts through the protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity, the planting of indigenous vegetation for carbon capture and the advancement of knowledge and further direction and actions for rare, threatened or pest species in the District.

### 6.3 **Risk Management**

There is a minor risk that should funding be allocated to the groups that the work may not be completed. However, there will be a signed accountability agreement and oversight by members of the Biodiversity Team. In addition, all applicants are known to Council and staff and have a good proven track record for completing works to a high standard.

The eDNA sampling works may be undertaken but lead to the Hunter's Stream catchment group not forming into a legal entity. This first step of data gathering is required to assess the trajectory of the group and the results will be valuable to the wider ecological community. Therefore, the risk does not require mitigation as there will be ecological knowledge gain for community and Council regardless of the group's decision.

### 6.3 **Health and Safety**

There are not health and safety risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report. All Health and Safety considerations will be the responsibility of the organisations applying.

## 7. **CONTEXT**

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

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

- 7.1.1. Waimakariri District Plan (2023) – ECO – P4 “Maintain and enhance indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna that do not meet the significance criteria”.
- 7.1.2. Aotearoa Biodiversity Strategy (2020) – Goal 8.4 - Landowners, businesses, resource users/owners and industry are supported and, where appropriate, incentivised to contribute to protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity as standard practice
- 7.1.3. Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy (2009) – Goal 5 - Encourage, celebrate and support action by landowners and communities to protect, maintain and restore biodiversity.

## 7.2. **Authorising Legislation**

7.2.1. Allocations are made under the Local Government Act 2002.

7.2.2. National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (2023) – “recognising people and communities, including landowners, as stewards of indigenous biodiversity; and protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity as necessary to achieve the overall maintenance of indigenous biodiversity.

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

The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report. The project will deliver results in the environmental value of the community outcomes, such as:

7.3.1. Our community groups are sustainable and able to get the support they need to succeed

7.3.2. Our district recognises the value of both paid and unpaid work

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

7.3.4. Land use is sustainable; biodiversity is protected and restored.

7.3.5. Our communities are able to access and enjoy natural areas and public spaces.

## 7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

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

## GREENSPACE

# Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy Implementation Application Form

To provide organisational support to community organisations working to protect, maintain, enhance and restore indigenous biodiversity and ecological functioning in the Waimakariri District, as outlined in actions listed in the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy – Implementation Plan.

Please read the information sheet before completing this form.

## Details of applicant

Name of applicant organisation: Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group Inc

Name of contact person for this application: Sue Mardon

Role of contact person (e.g. trustee, employee): Chairperson

## Contact details

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Website (if applicable): www.arrg.org.nz

Charities service number (if a charitable trust): \_\_\_\_\_

What type of legal entity is your community organisation (e.g. incorporated society, charitable trust):

Incorporated Society

Section 1 – Tell us about the vision and purpose of your community organisation:

NOTE: Attach supplementary documents if desired.

For over 20 years our organisation's vision is

- to protect the habitat of native birds in the bed of the Ashley Rakahuri River, North Canterbury, New Zealand and in the vicinity of the river;
- to promote the protection of that habitat amongst the wider public;
- and to recognise recreational users and essential river control works.

Section 2 – How does the organisation's vision and/or proposed projects align with the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy?

- The WNES includes collaboration with organizations to protect natural ecosystems including indigenous fauna; partner in pest control programmes.

ARRG works to protect the river nesting area for nationally endangered Black Fronted Terns, threatened species such as Wrybill, Black Billed Gull, and declining numbers of Banded Dotterel. Threats to successfully fledging chicks include rats and feral cats that last season wiped out whole colonies of nests. Targeted trapping is required to eliminate these pests.

Section 3 – Detail the aims of your organisation/project and describe how they relate to precise actions stated in the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy – Implementation Plan.

1. To protect the habitat of native birds in the Ashley Rakahuri River. Our project is to eliminate known predators.

WNES IP - Natural ecosystems are a significant feature of the Waimakariri District.

Strategic Direction 1: Prioritise Nature - actions to enhance ecological protection

2. To promote the protection of that habitat amongst the wider public. Our trapping is part of Predator Free 2050 and have support of Pest Free Waimakariri.

Section 4 – How does your organisation coordinate an overarching vision and discussion opportunities for indigenous biodiversity in the Waimakariri District community?

We have an active Facebook page where photos of happenings on the river are shared & commented on by followers. Our website has fuller reports of river activity that attracts interested people, new members, and attendees at our quarterly meetings. We have organised public meetings e.g. at Waikuku to discuss the importance of protecting biodiversity at the estuary & promote the Nth Pegasus Bay Bylaw.

For several years we have been involved in the annual WDC led Volunteer Expos in Rangora, Kaiapoi, Woodend. We have attended Waimak Council meetings, Community Boards, emailed & met politicians, met the mayor especially promoting the need for a Cat Bylaw in the District, and to discuss the problems caused by Crate Day.

Section 5 – How is your organisation able to provide community engagement, education and advice to local landowners in the Waimakariri District?

Through FB, website, public meetings on issues, through articles in Nth Canterbury News by empathetic reporter. Liaise with ECan & gravel extraction companies. Visit local schools to educate the next generation of endangered birds & issue each child a bookmark outlining what they can do to help. We have 72 entries in our Young Writers Competition on the estuary birds. Local people and school children assist on weed-pulling days on the river to create clear nesting sites. Locals assist us with our annual bird survey. Local rural contractors' do tractor work on the river for weed control. Gained public support to block-off river access during nesting. Building a viewing platform at Waikuku Estuary for public use and public days for talks by bird enthusiasts.

Section 6 – Is your community organisation GST registered? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, what is your GST number? \_\_\_\_\_

Section 7 – How is the requested funding proposed to be spent?

Purchase of 10 x Tawhiti smart cage traps @ \$315.25 = \$3,152.50

for trapping feral cats, Norway rats on the riverbed, as recommended by Cam Speedy, Wildlife Management; and Richard Chambers, Pest Free Waimakariri to eliminate main threat to birds, eggs & fledglings.

Section 8 – Has your organisation applied for any other funds to support this work/project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, what fund? Not for Tawhiti Traps. 1 year funding Rata Fndtn & ECan Waitaha Fund - wages for river work

Amount applied for: \$50,000

Amount granted: \$30,000

Do you consent to a Council employee contacting you to investigate whether any other sources of funding may be available for your work? ☒ Yes ☐ No

## Acknowledgement

I confirm that:

1. I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the community organisation.
2. The community organisation is prepared to sign a funding agreement with the Council, if successful with the funding application.
3. The answers on this form are true and correct.
4. The funding will be spent by the applicant as declared in this application form.
5. If successful with this application, the community organisation, as the legal entity, will be responsible for how funding is spent.
6. I will inform the Council in writing if I receive funding from other sources for organisational support before I am informed of the decision of this application.
7. I have read and understood the Information Sheet for 'Biodiversity Contestable Fund – WNES Implementation'.

**PLEASE NOTE** - A signature is not required if you submit this form electronically. By entering your name in the box below you are giving your authority for this application to proceed.

Signature: 

Name (please print): 

Date: 5 May 2025

### Applications must be emailed to [biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz) or posted to:

Waimakariri Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Community Organisations  
Ecologist  
Waimakariri District Council  
Private Bag 1005  
Rangiora 7440

### For more information:

Contact [biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz) or phone 0800 965 468 and ask for the Council's Ecologist.



## GREENSPACE

# Biodiversity Contestable Fund Application Form

To provide financial assistance towards work protecting, maintaining, restoring, or recreating significant indigenous biodiversity in the Waimakariri District.

Please read 'Information Sheet for Biodiversity Contestable Fund Application' before completing this form.

## Details of applicant

Name of applicant: Jackie and Grant Freeman

Name of contact person for this application (if different to applicant):

Address of applicant:

## Contact details

Mobile:

Phone (home):

Phone (work):

Email:

## Land details

Name and contact details of landowner (if different to applicant):

Mobile:

Phone (home):

Phone (work):

Email:

Site Reference:

Size of vegetation site: Property is 4.13 ha in total

Have you received funding from the Contestable Fund in the past and if so what was it used for? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Aim of project (brief):

To restore the stream and embankment to a natural ecosystem, while incorporating the community, schools and land owners. To inspire other landholders who border the stream to continue this project on their own properties, so in the future Hunters Stream is fully planted, from its source until it flows into the Cust River.  
Freshwater investigations - invertebrate sampling and eDNA sampling to obtain current knowledge on ecological values of the Freemans reach of Hunters Stream.

Date project to be started: 2025 Two independent quotes attached? ☐

Expected duration and staging of project, including expected costs of each stage:

1 day site visit by freshwater ecologist to gather samples - Total cost: In kind volunteer donation  
2-3 weeks turnaround to process samples - Total cost \$525

If you are granted funds, how and when will they be spent?

Invertebrate sample processing- \$225  
eDNA syringe and analysis kit - \$300

Have you applied to any other fund for this project? (e.g. Environment Canterbury funding) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If so:

1. What fund? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How much was applied for? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How much has been granted? \_\_\_\_\_

**Description**

Provide an overall description of the site and project, keeping in mind the purpose and outcome of the fund (as set out below):

Obtaining current knowledge on the ecological values of the Hunters Stream will help guide and encourage landowners who want to restore their portion of the Hunters Stream through riparian planting and other restoration activities, in turn improving the biodiversity of the waterways and terrestrial habitats.

No comprehensive eDNA testing has been done on the Hunters Stream to date and this information will be valuable to landowners in the area as they work towards forming a catchment group and continue restoration efforts at their property.

**Work to date**

Describe any work that has been carried out to date toward the project (e.g. restoration, fencing, pest control etc):

The landowners have received funding from the Waimakariri Water Zone 2023-2024 Action Fund for native plants, guards, mats, stakes and fencing.  
Over 2,000 native plants have been planted at the site and are being successfully maintained by the landowners through a neighbouring contractor.

**Future management**

Describe the future management, protection and maintenance of the project site, if you are successful in securing this fund:

The Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust will provide ongoing advice and support to the landowners and regularly monitor the planting sites to ensure the best success rate.

The data from the eDNA sampling will be shared with neighbouring landowners and provide a baseline comparison for future freshwater monitoring.

Do you consent to a Council employee contacting you to investigate whether any other sources of funding may be available for your work? ☒ Yes ☐ No

I confirm that:

1. I am authorised to sign this application as the applicant or on behalf of the applicant, and I am prepared to sign an accountability agreement.
2. The answers given on this form are true and correct.
3. The funds will be spent by the applicant in the manner declared in this application.
4. If the applicant is a group, I will be personally responsible for how the funds are spent.
5. I will inform the Waimakariri District Council in writing if I receive a funding grant from any other source before I am informed of a decision on this application.
6. I have read and agree with the 'Information Sheet for Biodiversity Contestable Fund Application'.

**PLEASE NOTE** - A signature is not required if you submit this form electronically. By entering your name in the box below you are giving your authority for this application to proceed.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print):  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 01/04/2025 \_\_\_\_\_

### Applications must be posted or delivered to:

**The Waimakariri Biodiversity Contestable Fund**

215 High Street, Rangiora 7400

### For more information

Phone 0800 965 468, or email [office@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:office@wmk.govt.nz)

## GREENSPACE

# Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy Implementation Application Form

To provide organisational support to community organisations working to protect, maintain, enhance and restore indigenous biodiversity and ecological functioning in the Waimakariri District, as outlined in actions listed in the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy – Implementation Plan.

Please read the information sheet before completing this form.

## Details of applicant

Name of applicant organisation: KAIAPOI EAST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED (KERA)

Name of contact person for this application: [REDACTED]

Role of contact person (e.g. trustee, employee): Funding member

## Contact details

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Website (if applicable): <https://kerakaiapoi.co.nz/ker/>

Charities service number (if a charitable trust): 50029461

What type of legal entity is your community organisation (e.g. incorporated society, charitable trust):

incorporated society

Section 1 – Tell us about the vision and purpose of your community organisation:

NOTE: Attach supplementary documents if desired.

The primary object of the KERA is to preserve the character and to foster the sustainable and eco-friendly improvement of Kaiapoi East. The initial vision is to use native plants to establish pockets forests supporting the re-establishment of native wildlife in the Kaiapoi East Red Zone.

Section 2 – How does the organisation's vision and/or proposed projects align with the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy?

The area is frequently used by the local community for recreational purposes and there have been discussions around the suitable use for the land. At a Council meeting on 19 April 2021, it was agreed that the group could plant up a 20 m strip adjacent to the existing buildings in order to create a pocket forest and enhance the biodiversity of the area (Council report: 210414059998 and meeting minutes: 210427066471; Figure 1).

Section 3 – Detail the aims of your organisation/project and describe how they relate to precise actions stated in the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy – Implementation Plan.

1. A restoration plan, including a planting scheme, comprising native specimens which are local to the area with a good chance of survival;
2. Establishment of plants without the use of herbicides;
3. Maintenance of non-invasive and problematic exotic species which can be retained as specimen features to honour those who lived on the land prior to the earthquake;
4. The creation of a peaceful restoration area which is safe for the whole community and has community involvement.
5. Plants that will encourage safe gathering of mahinga kai;

Section 4 – How does your organisation coordinate an overarching vision and discussion opportunities for indigenous biodiversity in the Waimakariri District community?

Productive use of vacant land:

- \*The pocket forest project transforms empty, derelict land in the red zone into a vibrant, productive green space.
- \*By beautifying and restoring this linkage, the community is able to make productive use of land that would otherwise sit vacant and neglected.
- \*This prevents the area from becoming overgrown and helps enhance the local environment and landscape.

Section 5 – How is your organisation able to provide community engagement, education and advice to local landowners in the Waimakariri District?

Community engagement and wellbeing:

- \*Maintaining and working on the pocket forest has brought the Kaiapoi East community together.
  - \*Residents participate in planting native species, weeding, and other stewardship activities.
  - \*This fosters a strong sense of community pride, ownership, and connection to the land.
  - \*The pocket forest provides opportunities for community members to come together, get active, and improve their physical and mental wellbeing.
- Educational opportunities: KERA is in discussion with the local high school

Section 6 – Is your community organisation GST registered? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, what is your GST number? \_\_\_\_\_

Section 7 – How is the requested funding proposed to be spent?

Every dollar received will be spent on native plants from local nurseries.

Our local community residents and school students will volunteer to plant the native plants under the direction of the Waimakariri District Council.

500 plants plus plant guards

Section 8 – Has your organisation applied for any other funds to support this work/project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, what fund? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount applied for: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount granted: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you consent to a Council employee contacting you to investigate whether any other sources of funding may be available for your work? ☒ Yes ☐ No

### Acknowledgement

I confirm that:

1. I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the community organisation.
2. The community organisation is prepared to sign a funding agreement with the Council, if successful with the funding application.
3. The answers on this form are true and correct.
4. The funding will be spent by the applicant as declared in this application form.
5. If successful with this application, the community organisation, as the legal entity, will be responsible for how funding is spent.
6. I will inform the Council in writing if I receive funding from other sources for organisational support before I am informed of the decision of this application.
7. I have read and understood the Information Sheet for 'Biodiversity Contestable Fund – WNES Implementation'.

**PLEASE NOTE** - A signature is not required if you submit this form electronically. By entering your name in the box below you are giving your authority for this application to proceed.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 07/05/2025

### Applications must be emailed to [biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz) or posted to:

Waimakariri Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Community Organisations  
Ecologist  
Waimakariri District Council  
Private Bag 1005  
Rangiora 7440

### For more information:

Contact [biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz) or phone 0800 965 468 and ask for the Council's Ecologist.



## GREENSPACE

# Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy Implementation Application Form

To provide organisational support to community organisations working to protect, maintain, enhance and restore indigenous biodiversity and ecological functioning in the Waimakariri District, as outlined in actions listed in the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy – Implementation Plan.

Please read the information sheet before completing this form.

## Details of applicant

Name of applicant organisation: Te Kohaka O Tuhaitara Trust

Name of contact person for this application: [REDACTED]

Role of contact person (e.g. trustee, employee): Employee

## Contact details

Phone: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: 1 Woodend Beach, Woodend Beach, 7691

Website (if applicable): <https://www.tuhaitarapark.org.nz/>

Charities service number (if a charitable trust): CC44619

What type of legal entity is your community organisation (e.g. incorporated society, charitable trust):

incorporated society & charitable trust

Section 1 – Tell us about the vision and purpose of your community organisation:

NOTE: Attach supplementary documents if desired.

Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the ecological restoration and long-term protection of Tūhaitara Coastal Park. The park is of significant cultural importance to Ngāi Tūāhuriri, a hapū of Ngāi Tahu, and our work supports the restoration of natural values, including the protection of culturally important sites and the re-establishment of mahinga kai. Our vision is to restore the park's diverse ecosystems—spanning Te Kohanga Wetland, Tūtaepatu Lagoon, and The Pines Wetland—through the reintroduction of native plant species, the return of indigenous wildlife, and the restoration of ecosystem function and balance. We are committed to involving the local community in meaningful, hands-on conservation, fostering a strong sense of connection and kaitiakitanga.



Section 2 – How does the organisation's vision and/or proposed projects align with the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy?

Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust's vision aligns with the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy, focusing on indigenous biodiversity restoration, ecological resilience, and community participation. Our tree planting project at Tūhaitara Coastal Park enhances a wide range of native ecosystems, from wetlands to coastal dunes, supporting landscape-scale conservation outcomes across the district. We work closely with Ngāi Tūāhuriri, recognising the cultural significance of the park and the role of mana whenua as kaitiaki. This reflects the Strategy's emphasis on Māori leadership and the application of mātauranga Māori to deepen our understanding of natural systems. Our long-term restoration projects prioritise nature, connect people to the environment, and sustain resilient ecosystems, fostering ecological stewardship.

Section 3 – Detail the aims of your organisation/project and describe how they relate to precise actions stated in the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy – Implementation Plan.

Our project focuses on planting native trees to restore coastal environments and creating habitat for threatened indigenous flora and fauna. Through these restoration efforts, we aim to support biodiversity and ecological resilience in the Waimakariri District. The project aligns with the Waimakariri Implementation Plan. Specifically, we aim to prioritise nature by restoring native habitats and improving ecological integrity, connect nature and people through community involvement in the planting process and raising awareness of local environmental issues. It also improves knowledge by monitoring restoration progress and incorporating mātauranga Māori while sustaining and creating resilient ecosystems through long-term, sustainable projects that support biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Section 4 – How does your organisation coordinate an overarching vision and discussion opportunities for indigenous biodiversity in the Waimakariri District community?

Our organisation coordinates an overarching vision for indigenous biodiversity in the Waimakariri District through close collaboration with local iwi, stakeholders, the Waimakariri District Council, and the community. We actively engage with Ngāi Tūāhuriri and other groups, ensuring Māori leadership and mātauranga Māori are integrated into our projects. We also create discussion opportunities by hosting community events, workshops, and volunteer activities, where people can participate in hands-on restoration projects and share their knowledge and ideas. This encourages a shared understanding of local biodiversity issues and fosters collaboration among all community members. Through these efforts, we support ongoing dialogue, raise awareness, and strengthen collective responsibility.

Section 5 – How is your organisation able to provide community engagement, education and advice to local landowners in the Waimakariri District?

Our organisation focuses on the restoration and enhancement of the local coastal environment, with a strong emphasis on education and research into coastal ecosystem issues. We offer workshops, site visits, and field days, where we provide advice on biodiversity restoration and sustainable land management practices. We also offer cultural tours to highlight the cultural significance of the land, fostering a deeper understanding of its importance and strengthening connections between the community and the environment. In addition, we engage school groups through a long-standing education programme, where students volunteer to plant trees and learn about restoring significant habitats. By collaborating with the public, we ensure that our educational efforts align with community needs.

Section 6 – Is your community organisation GST registered? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what is your GST number? 083-721-324

Section 7 – How is the requested funding proposed to be spent?

This project will support native ecosystem restoration at Tūhaitara Coastal Park through the planting of eco-sourced native tree species. The site surrounds one of our significant streams, the Taranaki Stream.

The funding will be used to:

- purchase ~350 native plants (\$1,925)
- to help part-cover wages for existing employee (\$1,000)

\*\*Under the guidance of our staff, this project includes committed volunteers who will ensure its success.

Section 8 – Has your organisation applied for any other funds to support this work/project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what fund? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount applied for: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount granted: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you consent to a Council employee contacting you to investigate whether any other sources of funding may be available for your work? ☒ Yes ☐ No

### Acknowledgement

I confirm that:

1. I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the community organisation.
2. The community organisation is prepared to sign a funding agreement with the Council, if successful with the funding application.
3. The answers on this form are true and correct.
4. The funding will be spent by the applicant as declared in this application form.
5. If successful with this application, the community organisation, as the legal entity, will be responsible for how funding is spent.
6. I will inform the Council in writing if I receive funding from other sources for organisational support before I am informed of the decision of this application.
7. I have read and understood the Information Sheet for 'Biodiversity Contestable Fund – WNES Implementation'.

**PLEASE NOTE** - A signature is not required if you submit this form electronically. By entering your name in the box below you are giving your authority for this application to proceed.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/05/2025

### Applications must be emailed to [biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz) or posted to:

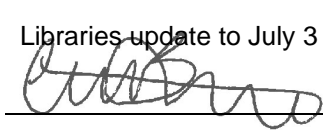
Waimakariri Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Community Organisations  
Ecologist  
Waimakariri District Council  
Private Bag 1005  
Rangiora 7440

### For more information:

Contact [biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz](mailto:biodiversity@wmk.govt.nz) or phone 0800 965 468 and ask for the Council's Ecologist.

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

**FILE NO and TRIM NO:** LIB-04-01/  
**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
**DATE OF MEETING:** 15 July 2025  
**AUTHOR(S):** Luke Sole – District Libraries Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Libraries update to July 3 2025  
**ENDORSED BY:**  
 (for Reports to Council,  
 Committees or Boards)

  
 General Manager

  
 Chief Executive

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report provides an update on services, programmes and experiences offered to our hāpori (community) by Waimakariri Libraries from 8 May to July 3, 2025.
- 1.2. The report references recent partnerships including externally-funded support from TechMate, providing digital support for seniors, and upcoming collaboration with Canterbury of University's PACE internship programme. A preliminary update is provided on the success of July school holiday initiatives which have resulted in high visitation and engagement across a range of educational activities for children.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee

- (a) **Receives** Report No.
- (b) **Notes** the community benefits of the below initiatives, particularly the continuation of in-demand digital support for older residents, the success of July school holiday programmes, and the addition of further support initiatives in partnership with community health providers.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

**3. BACKGROUND**

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



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

##### 4.1. **Popular Digi-Coach initiative to continue with funding support from TechMate**



- 4.1.1. Building on the success of the nationwide Digi-Coach pilot, Waimakariri Libraries are excited to partner with TechMate to expand the digital support we offer our hāpori (community).
- 4.1.2. TechMate is a Christchurch-based community organisation that connects volunteers with local institutions. For over 20 years, their mission has been to promote digital inclusion and empower people to confidently navigate the digital world. Supported by local organisations and sponsors, TechMate brings extensive experience working with libraries and community centres across Christchurch.
- 4.1.3. Starting after the July school holidays, two TechMate volunteers will be available every Thursday from 11am to 1pm at Rangiora Library to provide digital support. This service complements our existing Device Advice drop-in sessions, extending total digital support hours to three hours per week in Rangiora.
- 4.1.4. In addition to drop-in support, Waimakariri Libraries also offer:
  - Ad-hoc help for quick tasks like downloading the library app or accessing the digital catalogue.
  - 1-on-1 30-minute sessions for more complex digital needs
  - Small group classes each term, covering topics from smartphone basics to creating photobooks
- 4.1.5. Together, these services aim to boost digital literacy and make digital tools more accessible and useful for everyone in our community.
- 4.1.6. Seniors are grateful to have initiatives like the Digi-Coach programme where they deal with humans who understand their struggles and take the time to help in a patient and calm manner. Those aged 65 and older make up over 20 per cent of the Waimakariri District's population which is why Waimakariri Libraries continues to prioritise digital equity, making sure no one is left behind.
- 4.1.7. Waimakariri Libraries were invited to participate in the nationwide Digi-Coach Pilot Programme which ran between March and June 2025. Developed by Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa (DIAA) and funded by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), the 13-week programme placed suitable local jobseekers into paid employment to provide digital support in libraries and other community spaces. During the course of the pilot programme, the Digi-Coaches responded to around 350 queries, supporting our community with a range of enquiries ranging from setting up email accounts to navigating government websites.



*Figure 1: Digi-Coaches Quintin Hood and Josh Switalla (right) at Trevor Inch Memorial Library during the pilot programme.*

4.1.8. Waimakariri Libraries have a long-established relationship with DIAA to deliver Stepping Up, a range of digital skills classes, and Skinny Jump, an affordable internet service designed to connect households without broadband. Demand for these services and other digital support offerings at Waimakariri Libraries is increasing. Stepping Up classes are often fully booked, and we have waitlists in case a spot becomes available.

#### 4.2. **July School holiday programming hugely popular across the three libraries**



*Figure 2: Children enjoying a fun session with magician and entertainer, Melanie Poppins.*

- 4.2.1. At the time of completing this report, Waimakariri Libraries are busy with our popular KidsFest programme. For KidsFest 2025, Waimakariri Libraries are hosting 28 events across the two weeks and three locations, with events led by the libraries team and partnerships with external organisations including Canterbury Museum and popular children's entertainer Melanie Poppins.
- 4.2.2. The Fossil Fun event led by Canterbury Museum staff was attended by over 400 children in two sessions on the 2 July 2025. The first three days of the school holidays have been close to the strongest attendance on record, with Rangiora welcoming over 1,000 people per-day and Kaiapoi having their busiest day in several years with almost 800 individual visits. A comprehensive overview will follow in the next C&R committee update report.



Figure 3: Feldy Armitage, 5 years old, with a replica Baryonx tooth as part of the Fossil Fun event.

#### 4.3. **Waimakariri Libraries partnering with Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury PACE Internship Programme on key projects**

- 4.3.1. Waimakariri Libraries are partnering with Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury in hosting student interns from the PACE programme. Starting in mid-July, two 3rd-year students from UC will be supporting the libraries' initiatives in the cultural as well as the local history and heritage space. Supervised by senior staff members, the interns will gain insight into libraries as a workplace, contribute to meaningful projects, and develop crucial work-readiness skills to prepare them for entering the workforce after graduation. Students are taking a PACE paper alongside their internship and are rewarded in credits towards their degree for their participation in PACE, making it an attractive collaboration for all parties involved.



4.3.2. The Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) programme allows students to apply what they are studying within an authentic workplace environment to boost their employability, all whilst earning credits towards their degree programme.

4.3.3. Benefits of the PACE programme include:

- Enhancing employability
- Building workplace confidence
- Developing professional and personal employability skills and competencies
- Establishing professional networks and industry knowledge
- Utilising real-world work experiences to enhance your learning and improve academic outcomes.

4.3.4. Waimakariri District Council has utilised PACE interns in the past in a range of roles within the organisation including human resources and organisational development.

#### 4.4. **Community health providers delivering from Waimakariri Libraries**

4.4.1. Waimakariri Libraries have been working with external organisations to provide further opportunities for our community to access health services and support within library spaces. Recently, these connections have resulted in new or additional offerings with the following providers:

- Nurse Maude – support for families navigating palliative care.
- Cancer Society – drop-in sessions for those with cancer or supporting loved ones.
- Resonate Health – free, no-obligation hearing checks.
- Auahi Kore (Smokefree New Zealand) – smoking cessation assistance.
- Dementia Canterbury – support and reading groups.
- Melanoma New Zealand – free skin checks and advice.

4.4.2. The purpose of these programmes is to promote healthy lifestyles and support and community providers to address issues such as poor health outcomes for those in our community with limited financial means to access health services, or those who may be socially isolated.

4.4.3. Public libraries in New Zealand are increasingly recognised as vital community partners in promoting health and well-being. By collaborating with health organisations, many public libraries are playing a critical role in addressing health challenges, improving health outcomes, and fostering healthier communities.



Figure 4: Flier for free hearing checks with Resonate Health.

#### 4.5. New collections to inspire and engage the community

- 4.5.1. In early February 2025, the Page Surfers Book Club was formed by Assistant Librarians Amy Hallmark and Ben Eldridge. Page Surfers is a book club group targeted towards tamariki (children), with the goal of developing social engagement and empowering young readers. This book club meets once a month and holds ten participants. A standard Page Surfers session could see tamariki engage in character brainstorm, design alternate book covers or draft a book review. In the beginning of May, we launched our first Page Surfer Pack, an offering very similar in design to our Book Club in a Bag. These packs contain ten books, a plot summary, a quiz, a book review activity, and general literacy questions around the book. We now have four in circulation. One young Page Surfer fed back that she wanted to read more because her big sibling reads a lot; after attending our programme for a few months she has started her own book club.
- 4.5.2. Waimakariri Libraries recently expanded two bespoke collections: the Board Games and the Suitcase Full of Memories. Both collections were previously housed in Rangiora Library exclusively as they became known to our hapori (community). The board game collection offers an opportunity for families and friends to engage in a selection of games and has become an incredible success with items rarely staying on shelf for long. This collection was sourced through local vendor Iron Knight Gaming.
- 4.5.3. The Suitcase Full of Memories is a collection developed as part of Waimakariri Libraries commitment to being dementia friendly accredited. This collection was developed to support conversation between families or caregivers and those who are living with dementia. Both collections have new additions that have been identified and sourced for the Kaiapoi and Oxford communities. Now both collections are represented district wide.



Figure 5: Librarian Amy Hallmark with the Page Surfers book club packs for children.

### **Implications for Community Wellbeing**

There are various initiatives that promote positive community wellbeing outcomes in the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report. Notably, the initiatives delivered by the libraries team and/or external partners are developed to promote community wellbeing, foster community connection, and provide opportunities for lifelong learning.

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

## **5. COMMUNITY VIEWS**

### **5.1. Mana whenua**

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

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

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

### **5.3. Wider Community**

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

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

### 6.1. **Financial Implications**

The below summary report is dated to May 2025.

Library Summary Report May 2025			
	Actual	Budget	
<b>Revenue</b>			
Revenue	105,228	899,290	↓
Rates	4,267,590	4,243,910	⇒
	4,372,818	5,143,200	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Maintenance	2,177,644	2,625,160	↑
Overheads	418,325	695,660	↑
Internal Interest	951,221	990,360	⇒
Depreciation	12,030	11,240	↓
	917,935	857,710	↓
	4,477,155	5,180,130	↑
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	(104,337)	(36,930)	↓

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

The recommendations in this report do have sustainability and/or climate change implications. Libraries promote sustainability by providing wide-ranging collections and resources that are borrowed extensively, including digital resources that carry a reduced carbon footprint. In addition, public libraries are providers of information and play a role in teaching environmental literacy by educating communities to learn about climate issues. The availability of emergent technologies and equipment such as sewing machines in a library setting reduce the need for community members to purchase their own technology and enable the community to repair and repurpose their own items.

### 6.3. **Risk Management**

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

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

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

## **7. CONTEXT**

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

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


### **7.2. Authorising Legislation**

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

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

### **7.4. Authorising Delegations**

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

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR INFORMATION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** GOV-01-04 / AQU-02-09 / 250707123200**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**DATE OF MEETING:** 15 July 2025**AUTHOR(S):** Matthew Greenwood, Aquatics Manager**SUBJECT:** Aquatics July Update**ENDORSED BY:**  
(for Reports to Council,  
Committees or Boards)
  
 General Manager

  
 Chief Executive
**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Community and Recreation Committee with a summary of the Aquatic Facilities year to date progress, as measured against the unit's most significant Key Performance Indicators.
- 1.2. The report contains a break down of customer attendance data to 30 June 2025 and budget results for the year to 31 May 2025.
- 1.3. It details the result of our recent General Customer Survey completed in June.

Attachments:

- i. Nil

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

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250707123200.
- (b) **Notes** that attendance across all types remains consistent with the previous year with just under 273,000 annual visitors.
- (c) **Notes** an overall customer satisfaction result of 94% was achieved in our General Customer Survey completed in June.
- (d) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

**3. BACKGROUND**

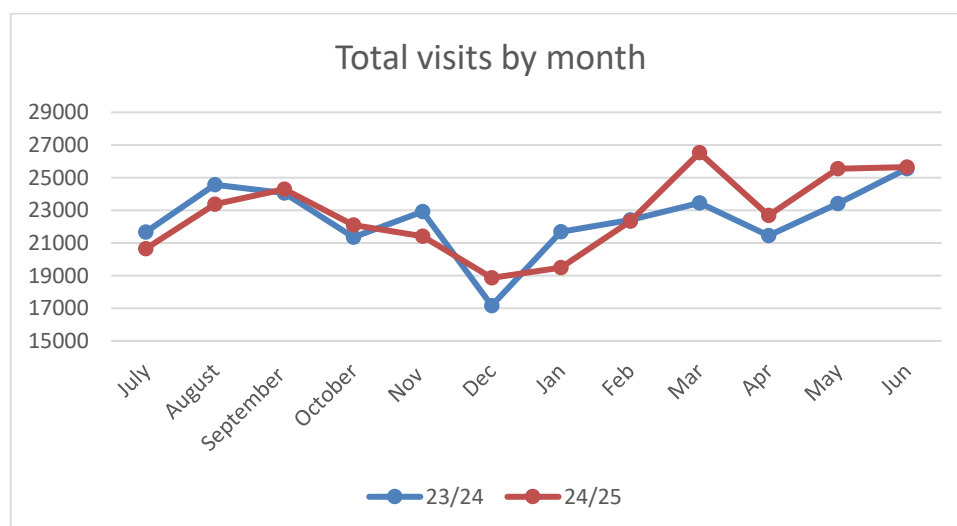
- 3.1. The Waimakariri District Council's Aquatic Facilities team deliver best practice aquatic programmes and enjoyable recreation opportunities for the ongoing wellbeing of our community and visitors. We do so from four sites: two indoor, year-round facilities and two seasonal summer pools, which operate over the summer period.
- 3.2. Oxford summer pool operates from late November to mid March each year to take advantage of the warmer, more calm weather in that part of the district. Oxford residents are spoilt for choice with a number of amazing outdoor recreational opportunities available locally. As an outdoor facility, weather can play a large part in the overall success of the season.

- 3.3. The Aquatic Facilities team work closely with partner organisations, clubs, trusts and interest groups to support water safety programmes, grow and develop swimming and Aquatic exercise initiatives, and works with the Council to ensure our facilities are inclusive places, accessible to all members of the community.
- 3.4. Aquatics staff run an internal customer survey every six months as an opportunity to check in with our customers and to ensure programmes and services align with community needs. There are a number of ways for customers to provide us with direct feedback; email, our facebook pages, councils' website enquiry, service requests and our in house survey QR code. While these are all utilised to a different degree, running a survey "event" is a good opportunity to gather feedback both on what we do well but also where we can do better.
- 3.5. Poolsafe accreditation represents an industry best practice standard for operating a public aquatic facility. Waimakariri District Council have been part of the Poolsafe scheme since its inception. Assessment criteria include staff training, robust policy and process, effective supervision, emergency procedures and safe water quality and treatment standards.
- 3.6. With the facilities open 15 hours per day, 7 days a week we work hard to plan and schedule maintenance activities to minimise disruption to our customers. A number of tasks can be completed during normal activity through scheduling and space management however programmed maintenance closures are generally completed on a three year cycle. During these closures detailed maintenance is completed on key systems such as circulating pumps, HVAC, and heating systems which would otherwise prevent the facility from operating.

## 4. **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

### 4.1. **Aquatic customer attendance**

The following tables provide a summary of attendance across the facilities to date as at 30 June 2025.

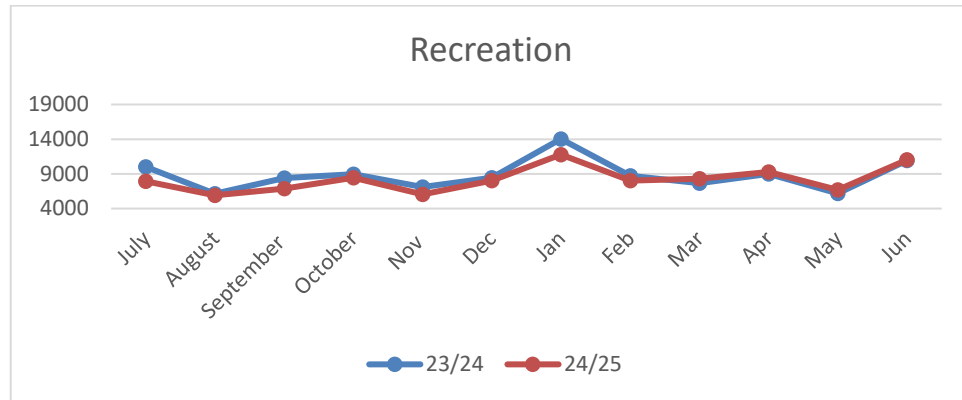


Despite some variance, attendance in 24/25 remained relatively consistent but finished strong with just over 3000 total visits overall, compared to the same period in 23/24. Across all three facilities and activity types this saw an annual total of 272,914 customers.

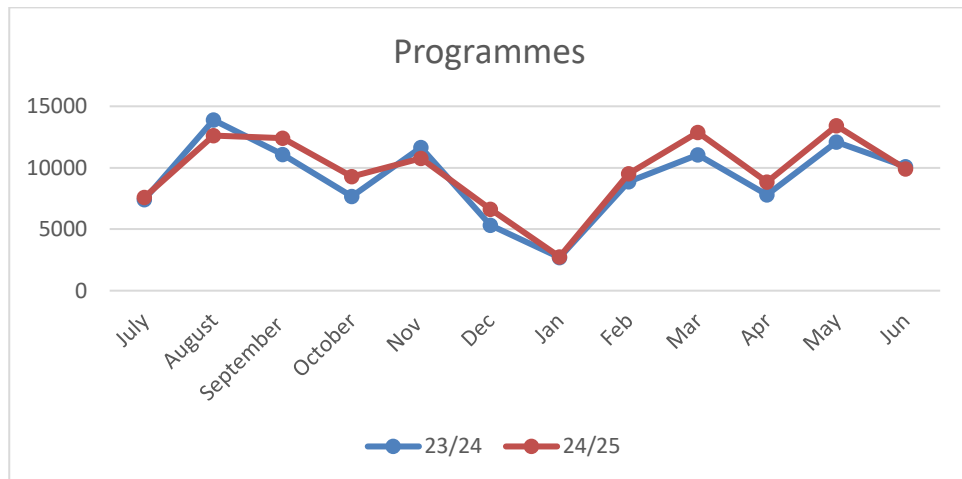
The following tables break down the three core activities Recreation (Casual swims, Leisure and Lane swimming) Programmes (Learn to Swim, Schools and Aquarobics) and Prepaid entries (Concession and Memberships) across the 3 facilities.



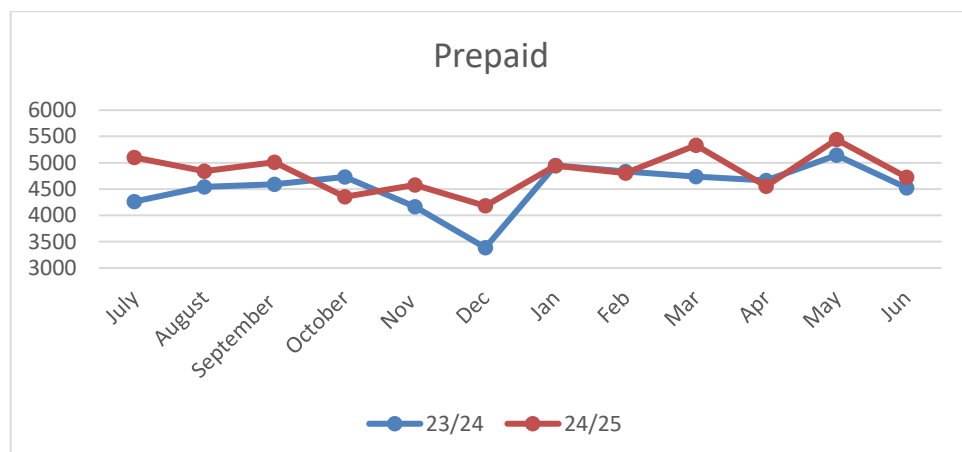
### Activity totals and summary



Recreation swimming recovered from March, with numbers slightly down against the previous year for first half of this year. We have been further refining our advertising and promotion strategies with a number of activities to draw customers in and ideally keep them coming as regulars.



Programmes attendance was up slightly from February for the remainder of the year however otherwise relatively consistent. A large degree of variance in this table comes from the schools programme, with Learn to Swim and Aquarobics numbers staying fairly consistent. The schools programme attendance can vary as we work in with the attending schools who are balancing swimming within their curriculum and other school activities. Additionally, the dips in October, Dec/January and April coincide with the school holidays with the main learn to swim programme being term based



Pre-paid attendance via concession or membership cards, varied sporadically throughout the year, ultimately ending up just over 3000 more visits than last year. Pre-paid attendance rates stay fairly consistent with attendance peaks around the school holiday periods when customers have a little more time on their hands.

It is also important to note the economic impacts both currently in play and across the last few years, with a surprisingly strong economy initially, post covid outbreak, through to the current economic situation, cost of living pressures and ongoing global financial uncertainty impacting on discretionary spending.

#### 4.2. Results of the General Customer Satisfaction Survey

Staff run an in-house Survey every six months as an opportunity to gather feedback, engage with our customers and ensure that the operation aligns with customer expectations.

With the help of Communications and Engagement staff, a survey is created on Bang the Table and then a web link to this survey is circulated to our customers. We advertise the survey within the facilities, through our weekly bullet points, emails and social media. As some of our customers struggle with technology, we also offer paper copies which are then uploaded into the survey by our customer services team.

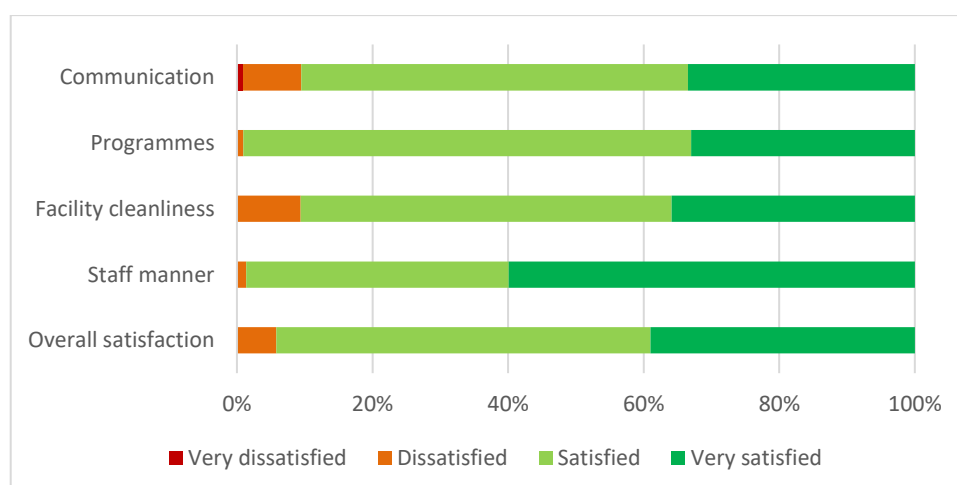
Overall response rates hover between 200 and 300 returned and this survey round saw a total of 223 surveys returned over the two week period. While we would ideally like to hear from as many of our customers as possible, this is around 15% of the 1400 customers which the survey was sent out to and is consistent with previous surveys.

The survey asks a number of general questions about their demographic and how often they visit and key questions around their satisfaction of core areas of the operation. There are also two text box opportunities to provide general comments and specific feedback.

The table below shows the results of the following key questions

How do you rate your experience regarding;

- Customer communication, emails, phone calls and our website?
- Quality and range of programmes?
- Quality and cleanliness of the facilities?
- Helpfulness and assistance of staff?
- And Overall Satisfaction?



Both Programmes and Staff engagement came back very strong as reflected in general comments with a strong response from our Aquarobics customers who love the classes and customers who appreciate the friendliness, attitude and attentiveness of staff, scoring 99% satisfaction respectively.

When considering the quality of the facility and its cleanliness there was a more mixed response. This reflects that we are currently working through a number of superficial maintenance works and that we had just informed customers that the replacement shower heating unit at Dudley had been delayed in transport.

In the feedback relating to Communication, customers noted issues with our phone system and concerns about the timeliness of some communication. As a customer-centric service, effective communication and engagement are essential. We remain committed to developing new systems and processes that enable timely outreach and remove any barriers to customer interaction.

As outlined in Issue 4.1, facility attendance continues to grow year on year, placing increasing pressure on services, available spaces, facilities, and programme capacity. The District Aquatics Strategy highlights the importance of not only making effective use of our existing facilities, but also actively exploring opportunities for development to meet the evolving needs of our growing community.

Finally, the Overall satisfaction result came back at 94% which is an outstanding result. It is down by 1% on the last survey 6 months back, however considering the challenges and ongoing work, it is still a strong result.

Of the general comments, the overall sentiment was positive

- Positive: ~54%
- Neutral: ~35%
- Negative: ~11%

Key areas of feedback are as follows

**Lane Usage & Swimming Access** - This theme focused on lane availability, overcrowding, and etiquette during lane swimming.

Examples:

- *“Free up some lane space at peak times for the public that pay for memberships so we can actually use the pool.”*
- *“Lane swimming becoming quite congested in the morning. And if you want to swim after 11am not enough lanes now there are so many schools using facilities.”*
- *“Manage slow people in the fast lanes and better enforcement of keeping to the left when lane swimming.”*

**Facility Maintenance & Amenities** - This cluster includes feedback on the condition of the facilities, requests for upgrades, and general maintenance issues.

Examples:

- *“The shower temperatures are inconsistent.”*
- *“The complex is well supported but in need of maintenance.”*
- *“There are not enough mats in changing rooms”*

**Staff & Aqua Classes** - This theme highlights staff performance, appreciation for instructors, and feedback on aqua fitness classes.

Examples:

- *“M is an exceptional instructor. She puts her heart and soul into every lesson.”*
- *“B is a great customer service person. M is the best Aqua instructor.”*
- *“The staff at Kaiapoi are great, friendly, approachable and careful.”*
- *“Lifeguards are attentive and friendly. Great with my kids too”*

**General Experience & Pool Usage** - This includes overall impressions, suggestions for new features, and comments on how the pool is used.

Examples:

- *“Build another pool for people who would like to enjoy swim with family and friends that doesn’t get shut off for sport and classes.”*
- *“A sauna would be lovely.”*
- *“I am unable to move as fast as I used to and would love a hydrotherapy pool.”*
- *“Cafe would be nice to relax in after a swim.”*
- *“More private cubicles in the changing areas would be ideal”*

Several comments received align closely with the issues and options outlined in our District Aquatics Strategy. As both customer attendance and the district’s population continue to grow, there is increasing demand and pressure on our existing aquatic spaces.

Throughout the feedback, concerns were raised about the limited availability of pool space and the absence of key features—such as hydrotherapy facilities. There was also interest in exploring new approaches to how changing spaces are designed and used.

While it remains essential to use our current facilities efficiently and effectively, we must also plan ahead for the development of new sites and the upgrade of current facilities to ensure we meet the growing demand for additional services across our expanding district.

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

## 5. **COMMUNITY VIEWS**

### 5.1. **Mana whenua**

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

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

There are a number of groups and organisations who are affected by, or to have a vested interest in the ongoing operation of the districts Aquatic Facilities. Aquatics staff continue to work closely with key community partners and wider industry organisations, including North Canterbury Swim Club, Water Skills for Life, Waimakariri Access Group, Recreation Aotearoa, Swimming NZ and the North Canterbury Sports and Recreation Trust, to name a few.

### 5.3. Wider Community

As detailed in 4.2, in our most recent General Customer Satisfaction survey run June 2025, Aquatics achieved an overall customer satisfaction rating of 94%. This is down slightly from our previous result of 95% six months prior yet still ahead of our targeted  $\leq 90\%$ . The next survey is scheduled to run in Dec 2025.

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

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

## 6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

### 6.1. Financial Implications

The following table summarises the Aquatic Facilities operational financial position in the 2024/25 year as at 31 May 2025.

<b>Aquatic Facilities Budget Summary</b>	<b>YTD Actual \$'000</b>	<b>YTD Budget \$'000</b>	<b>Variance \$'000</b>
Operational Income	1,601	1,557	43
Rates Funding	4,173	4,190	(17)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,774</b>	<b>4,748</b>	<b>26</b>
Operation Expenses	3,600	3,821	221
Maintenance	315	361	46
Corporate overheads	824	838	14
Internal Interest	315	326	11
Depreciation	930	809	(120)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>5,983</b>	<b>6,155</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>Total Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>(209)</b>	<b>(408)</b>	<b>198</b>

Overall income remains up on budget due to programme efficiencies. With the higher demand for lessons we are better positioned to fill out class numbers which has seen a stronger income result.

Learn to swim and to a lesser degree Aquarobics programmes continues to attract greater numbers, with Learn to Swim largely operating at capacity. A number of new staff came onboard at the start of the year and again in June to help address increased demand for programming and bolster numbers with inevitable staff movement.

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

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

There are no significant financial implications of the information within this report.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 6.3 **Risk Management**

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

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

Fluctuating attendance affects the revenue split between ticket sales and rates revenue. Staff will continue to monitor revenue and expenses closely, reporting regularly, identifying new initiatives such as visiting attractions and partnering with Big Swim, refine the business model to identify efficiencies and meet the community demand for low cost, safe and enjoyable recreation opportunities.

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

## 6.3 **Health and Safety**

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

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

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

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

## **7. CONTEXT**

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

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

### **7.2. Authorising Legislation**

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

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

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

Public spaces are diverse, respond to changing demographics and meet local needs for leisure and recreation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our district transitions towards a reduced carbon and waste district.

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



Infrastructure and services are sustainable, resilient, and affordable.

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

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

**7.4. Authorising Delegations**

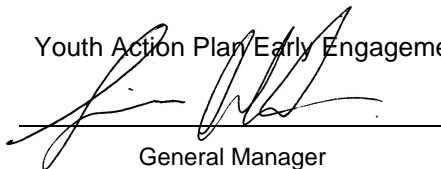
This committee has delegated authority for the governance of the Aquatic Facilities.

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR INFORMATION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** CMS-03-11 / 250611105654**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**DATE OF MEETING:** 15 July 2025

**AUTHOR(S):** Lexie Mealings – Graduate Policy Analyst  
 Lauren Tilley – Youth Development Facilitator  
 Kim Nutbrown – Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor

**SUBJECT:** Youth Action Plan/Early Engagement update

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

  
 General Manager

  
 Chief Executive
**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Community and Recreation Committee with an update on the progress of the Youth Action Plan project, and the recently completed early engagement period.
- 1.2. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, staff informed the Community and Recreation Committee of plans to develop a Waimakariri Youth Action Plan and requested approval to establish a Youth Action Plan Advisory Group. This Advisory Group assisted staff in codesigning the early engagement process, which is the main focus of this report.
- 1.3. The purpose of this early engagement was to ask our young people about their needs and aspirations, issues they've been experiencing in the District, and the things that mattered most to them. Early engagement was identified as the most important aspect of this project as these results will directly inform the development of the draft Youth Action Plan.
- 1.4. Staff involved with the Youth Action Plan project actively engaged with a range of local young people over an eight-week period. This started on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May and concluded on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2025.
- 1.5. The Youth Action Plan project is overseen by a project control group (PCG), comprised of the Community Development and Wellbeing portfolio holder, General Manager of Community and Recreation, Community Team Manager, Policy and Corporate Planning Team Leader, Youth Development Facilitator and Graduate Policy Analyst.
- 1.6. As per 2023 Census data, 12-24-year-olds account for 14.42% of the total population in the Waimakariri District. These voices are incredibly important, and when engaged with effectively, the outcome can help provide strong direction for youth-related projects. At the time this report was written, 11.28 percent of the youth population in Waimakariri was engaged through this project.
- 1.7. It is widely recognised that youth are difficult to engage with, particularly when it comes to matters that they may not understand or see the relevance of. This means that in order to obtain their views, creative engagement methods need to be prioritised with an emphasis placed on the why their voice matters, and what the outcome of their input will be.
- 1.8. The main methods used by staff to collect this information were a survey run on the Council's 'Let's Talk platform', flexible in-person engagement events, advisory group meetings, workshops, and conversations.

- 1.9. An initial review of the level and quality of the responses received indicate that youth have provided both qualitative and quantitative feedback that will support the development of a draft Youth Action Plan.
- 1.10. Staff will provide a verbal update on the final number of responses received from local youth when presenting this report.

Attachments:

- i. Youth Action Plan Early Engagement Survey Questions (TRIM 250618110933)
- ii. Details of Youth Action Plan Early Engagement Methods and Opportunities (TRIM 250702120208)
- iii. Report for Community and Recreation Committee 25 February 2025 (TRIM 250117006774[v1])

## 2. **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250611105654.
- (b) **Notes** the survey questions used to engage with local young people as part of the early engagement period (TRIM 250618110933).
- (c) **Notes** that work is now underway to analyse the results of the Youth Action Plan early engagement survey, and that this information will be used to develop a draft Youth Action Plan for consultation at a later date.
- (d) **Notes** that the key findings and themes of the early engagement survey will be reported to the Community and Recreation Committee at the September meeting.
- (e) **Circulates** this report to Community Boards for information.

## 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The Youth Action Plan project builds on the Council's Youth Strategy. The first iteration of the Youth Strategy was adopted by Council in 2010. This strategy was reviewed in 2018 and refreshed as a result of this review.
- 3.2. In line with the definition provided by the Ministry for Youth Development, 'Youth' is defined as young people between the ages of 12-24-years-old.
- 3.3. Since the 2018 review, it has been recognised that our young people have experienced significant social and demographic change. This led to Council staff reviewing the Strategy earlier than expected.
- 3.4. These social changes include, but are not limited to, the impact of a global pandemic, overrepresentation of Waimakariri youth in local mental health statistics, changing education and employment environments, the continuing emergence of technological advancements, climate change and an aging population focus.

In terms of demographic changes, the Youth Strategy 2018 was modelled on Census data from 2013 which showed that the Waimakariri youth population at that time was 7923 12-to-24-year-olds. Between 2013 and 2018, there was a 14.95% increase in the district's youth population. There was another 4.9% increase between 2018 and 2023 amounting to a total of 9555 youth (14.42% of district population) in the district as of 2023 Census data, demonstrating a clear need for this work to be updated.

- 3.5. The current review process, which commenced in October 2024, has highlighted the need for a change in approach to better address the societal and demographic changes our rangatahi have experienced since 2018. These changes were outlined in detail in the report to the Community and Recreation Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.

- 3.6. The Youth Action Plan will receive its strategic direction from the recently refreshed Community Development Strategy, ensuring alignment and consistency. It is hoped that the Youth Action Plan will more effectively support local youth by setting out targeted objectives and projects that address their shifting needs and priorities over a three-year period.
- 3.7. The first milestone for this project was the establishment of a Youth Action Plan Advisory Group. This group has been instrumental in co-designing the early engagement process alongside staff in order to ensure the engagement with local young people could be as effective as possible. This group will receive the analysis of the early engagement and work with staff on the development of a draft Youth Action Plan.
- 3.8. The Youth Action Plan Advisory Group is comprised of local young people, as well as members of organisations who support youth in the District. This includes representatives from:
  - Kaiapoi High School
  - Rangiora New Life School
  - Comcol North Canterbury
  - Noaia Charitable Trust
  - Mahi Matatoa Home Educators Trust
  - Waimakariri Youth Council
  - Waimakariri Access Group
  - Community Wellbeing North Canterbury
  - Sport Canterbury
- 3.9. It was decided that a survey, run in conjunction with in-person events and social media engagement would be the most effective way to undertake this process, which occurred between the 18<sup>th</sup> of May and the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2025.

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

- 4.1. As outlined in the previous report to the Community and Recreation Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, staff recognised the challenges of engaging with the full range of youth in the District. This was due to 'youth' including all 12- to 24-year-olds, and there being marked developmental differences between these age groups. To address this, staff embarked on a flexible early engagement process that allowed them to quickly change tact where necessary.

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2025, 1078 local 12 to 24-year-olds were engaged with through the Youth Action Plan early engagement survey. In addition to this, approximately 20 young people were engaged with through in-person workshops to enable accessible participation where required.

An initial review of the level and quality of the responses received indicate that youth have provided both qualitative and quantitative feedback that will support the development of a draft Youth Action Plan.

The different engagement opportunities carried out during this time were as follows.

## 4.2. Engagement opportunities/methods

Staff utilised a range of different methods in order to effectively engage with local young people. Attachment ii (TRIM 250702120208) of this report provides detail on the individual methods used and opportunities taken that contributed to the success of this engagement.

The following portion of this report provides insight into the early engagement survey, as well as the role the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group had in assisting this process.

### 4.2.1. Youth Action Plan survey

Staff circulated an early engagement survey from the 18<sup>th</sup> of May till the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, in order to collect feedback from local 12-24-year-olds. The results of this survey will be the main method used to inform the development of the draft Youth Action Plan.

The survey covered ten different topics decided on in conjunction with the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group; these were:

- Sport and Physical Activity
- Hobbies and Recreational Activity
- Wellbeing
- Mental Health
- Natural Environment
- Physical Health
- Culture
- Employment
- Transport
- Public Spaces

The specific questions asked through this survey can be viewed in Attachment iii (TRIM 250618110933) of this report.

### 4.2.2. Youth Action Plan Advisory Group meetings

Staff ensured that the Advisory Group was kept up to date with the progress of the early engagement survey and methods for engaging with youth by having two monthly meetings during the eight-week timeframe. This allowed the Advisory Group to provide feedback and suggestions to aid this process, enabling the codesigned engagement approach to be as successful as possible.

#### 4.3. Next Steps

Jul/Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov/Dec 2025	Jan/Feb 2026
Analysis of early engagement survey results	Begin drafting Youth Action Plan	Finalise draft Youth Action Plan	Request approval to consult of draft Youth Action Plan	Prepare for consultation once school holidays have ended

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

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

By providing local youth with an opportunity to have their voices heard on the matters which affect them, Council is providing an opportunity for communities to be aware of and accommodate the unique needs of our rangatahi.

Using a comprehensive and empowering pre-engagement process will help to ensure the diverse needs of youth are identified and promote youth connections with community and local government.

One of the aims of this work is to continue to develop the District in a way that enables youth to thrive. This includes having a sense of belonging and access to the things that matter to them. This will help to encourage youth to view this district as a home they want to remain in long-term.

4.4. 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 presented to the Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga Inc. and Waimakariri District Council joint representatives meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2024, and interest was expressed in this project at the time. Opportunities for involvement will be provided as the project proceeds. Staff welcome input from mana whenua at any stage of this project, and as they see appropriate.

#### 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.

A number of groups and organisations have been identified as key stakeholders to the project, and many of these have played an active part in promoting the early engagement process. Staff intend on circulating the results of the early engagement survey to stakeholders in order to 'close the loop' on engagement and explore options for collaboration on the Youth Action Plan.

#### 5.3. **Wider Community**

The wider community, and particularly the family members of young people, are likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in the subject matter of this report.

Once developed, the draft Youth Action Plan will be subject to general public consultation, where members of the wider community will be invited to provide their feedback, alongside local rangatahi.

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

### 6.1. **Financial Implications**

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

The Youth Action Plan project is being delivered as a collaboration between the Community Team and Strategy and Business Unit.

Staff resource is factored into the annual work programmes of both the Community Team and Strategy and Business Unit as an operational expense.

There is a modest operational budget within the Community Team's Youth Development budget, as approved in the Long Term Plan, to cover costs associated with the review of the Youth Strategy and the development of a Youth Action Plan.

The Community Team continues to seek external funding to support the implementation of community-related strategies.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts**

The recommendations in this report do not have sustainability and/or climate change impacts.

### 6.3 **Risk Management**

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

### 6.3 **Health and Safety**

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

## 7. **CONTEXT**

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

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

### 7.2. **Authorising Legislation**

Local Government Act 2002

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

The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report. In particular, the following are most applicable to this report and the content it deals with:

#### 7.3.1. **Social:** A place where everyone can have a sense of belonging.

- The social community outcomes are all relevant to this report and the actions that are likely to arise from its approval.

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

- Public spaces express our cultural identities and help to foster an inclusive society.
- Members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers.
- Waimakariri's diversity is freely expressed, respected and valued.

#### 7.3.3. **Environmental:** A place that values and restores our environment.



- 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 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.

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

- There is access to meaningful, rewarding and safe employment within the district.
- Our district recognises the value of both paid and unpaid work.

#### 7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

The Community and Recreation Committee has delegated authority on the development of the Youth Action Plan.

The Council will make the final decision on the Youth Action Plan.

## Youth Action Plan Early Engagement Survey Questions

### General (compulsory section)

- Age
  - 12-13
  - 14-17
  - 18-20
  - 21-24
- Ethnic group (your family/cultural background)
  - Māori
  - New Zealand European
  - Pasifika
  - Asian
  - Middle Eastern/Latin American/African
  - Other
- Gender
  - Female
  - Male
  - Non-binary
  - I'd prefer not to say
  - Other
- Where do you live?
  - Ashley Gorge
  - Ashley
  - Clarkville
  - Cust
  - Eyreton
  - Eyrewell
  - Fernside
  - Kaiapoi
  - Loburn
  - Mandeville
  - Ohoka
  - Okuku
  - Oxford
  - Pegasus
  - Pegasus Bay
  - Rangiora
  - Ravenswood

- Sefton
- Southbrook
- Starvation Hill
- Swannanoa
- Tuahiwi
- Waikuku
- West Eyreton
- Woodend
- Rural/not listed
- How did you find out about this survey?
  - Facebook
  - Instagram
  - Tiktok (pending approval)
  - Youtube
  - LinkedIn
  - School
  - At an event
  - From a friend
  - From a parent
  - Other

## Survey Sections

### Sport and Physical Activity

Definition: **Sports and physical activity** refer to fun ways to move your body and stay fit and active.

- How important are sports and physical activity to you?
  - Very important
  - Somewhat important
  - Not important
- What types of physical activities do you enjoy?
  - Team sports (e.g. rugby, netball, hockey, etc)
  - Individual sports (e.g. golf, karate, skateboarding, etc)
  - Gym workouts
  - Running
  - Walking
  - Cycling
  - Yoga or Pilates
  - Other (please specify)
  - None

- How would you rate the level of sport opportunities in Waimakariri?
  - I am satisfied
  - I am somewhat satisfied
  - I am not satisfied
- Is there anything that stops you from participating in sports and physical activities? If yes, please explain:
  - Lack of time
  - Lack of facilities/equipment
  - Lack of interest
  - Lack of parent/guardian support
  - Timing of the activity doesn't suit me
  - Cost
  - Health
  - All of the above
  - Other (please specify)
- Are there any additional sport and physical activity opportunities would you like to see in the district for young people?
  - Open question

Feel like adding anything more to your answers?

### **Hobbies & Recreational Activities**

Definition: **Hobbies & Recreational Activities** refer to fun things you do in your free time to relax and enjoy yourself.

- In your spare time, what do you like to do for fun?
  - Hang out with friends
  - Spend time with family
  - Creative arts (e.g. dance, music, crafts, etc)
  - Online gaming
  - Social media
  - Reading & writing
  - Sport and physical activity
  - Outdoor activity (Equestrian, hunting, four-wheel driving, etc)
  - Shopping
  - Other (please specify)

- What do you like about the hobbies and recreational activities you do?
  - Socialising with others
  - Mental health benefits
  - Physical health benefits
  - Relaxation
  - Learning new skills
  - Fun and enjoyment
  - Other (please specify)
- How do you usually find out about new hobbies and recreational activities to do?
  - Friends and family
  - Social media
  - School
  - Community programmes
  - Other (please specify)
- Are you able to do the hobbies and recreational activities you enjoy in Waimakariri?
  - Yes
  - Sometimes
  - No

Feel like adding anything more to your answers?

- Open question

## Wellbeing

Definition: **Wellbeing** refers to feeling good in your body and mind. It includes being healthy, happy, and having good relationships with others.

- Do you feel accepted and included by your peers?
  - Yes
  - Sometimes
  - No
  - Prefer not to say
- How do you normally catch up with your friends?
  - At school
  - At work
  - Through sport
  - Online
  - With family
  - Other (please specify)

- Do you think addiction affects young people in our community? If so, in what ways?
  - Social Media
  - Alcohol
  - Drug use
  - Gambling
  - Other (please specify)
- What kind of support or resources do you think would help young people dealing with addiction?

Feel like adding anything more to your answers?

### **Mental health**

Definition: **Mental health** refers to feeling good in your mind. It includes managing stress, having positive thoughts, and feeling happy and calm.

- How important is mental health to you?
  - Very important
  - Somewhat important
  - Not important
- Is mental health something you think young people in Waimakariri struggle with?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Prefer not to say
- Do you know how to get help?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
- Is there anything that stops you from using mental health services in Waimakariri? (e.g. visiting a therapist)
  - Long wait times
  - Lack of awareness
  - Cost of services
  - Lack of support
  - All of the above
  - I haven't needed to access any, so I don't know

Feel like adding anything more to your answers?

## Natural Environment

Definition: **Natural environment** refers to areas in our district such as rivers, mountains, oceans and forests.

- How important is the natural environment to you?
  - Very important
  - Somewhat important
  - Not important
- Do environmental issues worry you?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
- How important do you think it is for our community to protect our environment?
  - Very important
  - Somewhat important
  - Not important
- Have you ever participated in activities to help our environment in Waimakariri?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Maybe
- Would you be interested in attending future activities to help our environment (eg. Tree planting, river clean ups etc.)
  - Yes
  - No
  - Maybe

Feel like adding anything more to your answers?

## Physical Health

Definition: **Physical health** refers to how your body feels and functions. It includes eating healthy foods, exercising regularly, getting enough sleep, and avoiding harmful habits.

- How important is health to you?
  - Very important
  - Somewhat important
  - Not important



- Have you been to see your doctor in the last 6 months?
  - Yes
  - No
- Do you know how to access health services in Waimakariri? (e.g. Physio, doctor, dentist, etc)
  - Yes
  - No
- Do you feel young people in your community with disabilities receive enough support?
  - Yes
  - No
  - I don't know
- Is there anything that stops you accessing health services in Waimakariri? (e.g. Physio, doctor, dentist, etc). If yes, please explain:
  - Long wait times
  - Cost of services
  - Lack of support
  - Not enough services
  - All of the above
  - Other (please specify)

Feel like adding anything more to your answers?

## Culture

Definition: **Culture** refers to how different groups of people choose to live. It includes their beliefs, traditions, language, food, music, and activities that make them unique.

- How important is your culture to who you are?
  - Very important
  - Somewhat important
  - Not important
- Does your community help you feel accepted and supported in being yourself?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
- Is it important to you to live in a community that includes multiple cultures?
  - Very important
  - Somewhat important
  - Not important

- Could Waimakariri District celebrate and promote cultural diversity more?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure

Feel like adding anything more to your answers?

## Employment

Definition: **Employment** refers to a job where you work and get paid. It includes doing tasks or services for a company or person, either part time or full time.

- Have you tried to find a job in Waimakariri?
  - Yes
  - No
- What challenges have you faced when searching for a job?
  - Lack of experience
  - Lack of available jobs
  - Competition from other candidates
  - Lack of transport options
  - Lack of interest in available jobs
  - Other (please specify)
- What industry do you wish was more present in Waimakariri to find work in?
  - Service industries (e.g. retail, hospitality, beauty services, etc)
  - Creative industries (e.g. photographer, artist, designer, etc)
  - Primary industries (e.g. farming, fishing, forestry, etc)
  - Construction and infrastructure (e.g. trades, architect, heavy machinery, etc)
  - Manufacturing and technology (e.g. engineering, welding, cybersecurity, etc)
  - Social and community services (e.g. social work, nursing, psychologist, etc)
  - Other (please specify)
- Have you had a good or bad experience you would like to share with us?
  - Open question

Feel like adding anything more to your answers?

## Transport

Definition: **Transport** refers to ways of getting from one place to another. It includes things like cars, buses, bikes, and walking.

- What types of transport do you use?
  - Walking
  - Cycling
  - Car
  - Bus
  - Electric scooter
  - Other
- How often do you use public transport?
  - Daily
  - Weekly
  - Monthly
  - Not often
  - I don't like using public transport
  - There is no public transport where I live
- How satisfied are you with public transportation in your community?
  - Satisfied
  - Somewhat satisfied
  - Not satisfied (please specify)
- Do you feel safe using public transport or walking/cycling in Waimakariri?
  - Very safe
  - Somewhat safe
  - Unsafe
- If you don't already use it, what would get you onto public transport?
  - Better travel routes where I live
  - Better connections between places I want to go
  - Increased frequency
  - Cheaper fares
  - Safer travel
  - Other

Feel like adding anything more to your answers?

## Public Spaces

Definition: **Public places** refer to places everyone can use and enjoy. They include parks, playgrounds, streets, and libraries.

- How important are public spaces in Waimakariri to you?
  - Very important
  - Somewhat important
  - Not important
- What types of spaces and places do you enjoy spending time at in Waimakariri?
  - Parks and outdoor spaces
  - Beaches
  - Libraries
  - Town centres
  - Pools
  - Community centres
  - Other (please specify)
- What things are important for young people in public spaces?
  - Bathrooms
  - Places to hang out
  - Playgrounds
  - Sports facilities
  - Wi-Fi
  - Plants & trees
  - Other (please specify)
- How safe do you feel using public spaces in Waimakariri?
  - Very safe
  - Somewhat safe
  - Unsafe
  - Other
- Do you have any favourite places, or places you avoid in the district that you would like to share with us?
  - Open question

Feel like adding anything more to your answers?

**Final section**

- Do you have anything else to add? This is a great place to let us know about any important issues we might have missed or to give suggestions for how to make the district better for young people.
- Keen on a prize or want to stay in the loop? You can contact me on my email to:
  - Let me know I won a prize
  - Keep me updated with survey results and the Youth Action Plan
  - I don't want to be contacted

## **Details of Engagement Opportunities and Methods used for Youth Action Plan Early Engagement**

### **1. Youth Week events**

Staff shifted the original starting date for the survey to be in line with the beginning of Youth Week in order to elevate the project profile over this time period. Events were attended by staff during Youth Week to promote the survey, and ensure local young people were aware of the Youth Action Plan project, why it was important, and how they could have their say.

### **2. Meetings with school principals and teachers**

Staff offered to have one-on-one meetings with Waimakariri school principals and teachers, in-person or online, in order to have open discussions about the Youth Action Plan project and how their students could have their voices heard. Staff were able to engage with a number of schools through having a flexible approach and building these relationships further. This engagement method is noted as one of the most successful, as it allowed the survey to be easily promulgated through these schools.

### **3. Engaging with the Puketeraki Kāhui Ako**

On the 1st of May 2025, staff attended a meeting with the Puketeraki Kāhui Ako governance team to discuss the project and the upcoming early engagement period. The Puketeraki Kāhui Ako group is a community of learning which represents over 6000 students from early childhood education through to high school. The meeting with the governance group was successful and provided a mandate for staff to engage with the schools who were members of the Kāhui Ako group. Staff were then invited to host a workshop at the Kāhui Ako's 'Week 6 Connect Event' on the 3rd of June, where the Youth Action Plan project and survey were discussed. The survey was then sent out to all primary and secondary schools within the Puketeraki Kāhui Ako through their email channel. This engagement method is also noted as one of the most successful for the same reason as the above engagement method.

### **4. Presenting a workshop to GROW students at Comcol North Canterbury**

On the 5th of May 2025, staff ran a session with GROW students at Comcol North Canterbury. The GROW programme is for 15- to 24-year-olds and aims to provide support outside of a traditional education setting to assist them to get started with further education or employment. Staff discussed the Youth Action Plan project with these students, explained why it was important to have their voices heard, and provided an opportunity for them to fill in the survey at the end of the session.

### **5. Aligning with a Rangiora High School Social Studies class project**

In May 2025, staff were approached by a social studies teacher at Rangiora High School whose class of year 13 students were working on a social action/policy change achievement standard. From there, conversations were had to determine whether the Youth Action Plan project and survey could be useful for their studies. Staff are now working with teachers at the school to deliver relevant information to the students and set up a time for a hearings panel to take place at Council, in which students present their ideas to a panel of elected members and policy staff. These ideas have been aligned with the topics being engaged on for the Youth Action Plan.

## **6. Visiting Oxford Area School to talk Youth Action Plan & civics education**

On the 16th of August 2025, staff from the Council's Community Development, Strategy and Business and Communications and Engagement Teams ran a workshop with year 13 students at Oxford Area School. This focussed on the Youth Action Plan, the pre-engagement survey, and civics education within the context of local body elections, including the importance of registering to vote.

## **7. Attending Rainbow Community meet ups**

Staff were invited to attend Rainbow Community meet ups at the Kaiapoi and Rangiora Library's over June and July. This allowed staff to outline the project to those who attended the sessions and provide support with answering the survey.

## **8. Facilitating a workshop with Mahi Mātātoa Home Educators group**

On the 13th of June 2025, staff were invited along to run a workshop with students involved with the Mahi Mātātoa Home Educators group. This was a great way to collect qualitative responses to the survey themes, which provided a deeper understanding of the common issues experienced by those in the home-schooling community in Waimakariri District.

## **9. Attending the Pegasus Park Run**

Staff set up a stall at the Pegasus Park Run on the 21st of June 2025 to promote survey participation, particularly among the 18–24-year-old age group. This was the most elusive group to reach during the early engagement, so flexibility in approach was essential.

## **10. Attending the North Canterbury Inclusive Sports Festival**

Staff attended the North Canterbury Inclusive Sports Festival on the 4th of July 2025 to promote the Youth Action Plan project and early engagement survey to participants on the day. This was suggested by a member of the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group who felt this would be a good opportunity to ensure a range of voices were reflected in the survey.

## **11. Facilitating a workshop with the Rangiora High School Lighthouse Programme**

In order to ensure that the early engagement survey material was as accessible as possible, staff facilitated a workshop for students who require learning support participating in the Rangiora High School Lighthouse Programme. Staff assisted students to engage with the Youth Action Plan project and early engagement process in a way that was best suited to their needs.

## **12. Social media engagement**

Staff worked alongside the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group to identify suitable social media platforms for Youth Action Plan promotion, as well as to discuss the ways in which youth want to interact with Council. This influenced the content that would be shared over the course of the early engagement period across Council and Youth Council pages.

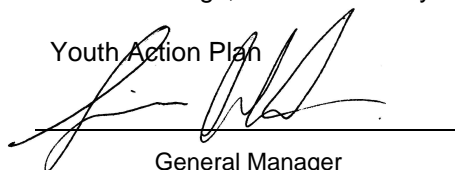


### **13. QR code advertisement posters**

QR code posters were put up in areas frequented by youth to promote the early engagement survey. This was used as a passive engagement method to generate interest in the project. Staff worked with members of the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group to determine which locations would be of most value to have a poster up. These locations ranged from Council-owned facilities to private business and were placed right across the District.

### **14. Attending the Ohoka Farmers' Market**

At the time that this report was written, staff were planning to attend the Ohoka Farmers' Market during the July school holidays. Contact had been made with the event organiser, and staff were awaiting confirmation on attendance. The intention behind attending this event was to capture responses from those in the 18-24-year-old group. If required, staff can provide a verbal update on this engagement method when presenting this report.

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL****REPORT FOR DECISION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** CMS-03-11 / 250117006774**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**DATE OF MEETING:** 25 February 2025**AUTHOR(S):** Lexie Mealings, Graduate Policy Analyst**SUBJECT:** Youth Action 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 inform the Community and Recreation Committee on the development of a Youth Action Plan for the Waimakariri District, and to seek approval to form a Youth Action Plan Advisory Group for this project.
- 1.2. Staff have determined that the Youth Strategy 2018 needs to be updated to reflect social and community changes impacting the youth sector, and that a Youth Action Plan is the most appropriate way to proceed.
- 1.3. 'Youth' is defined as young people between the ages of 12-24-years-old.
- 1.4. To effectively engage with youth and ensure their voices are heard as subject matter experts on this project, it has been identified that forming an advisory group consisting primarily of youth is crucial for the successful development of a draft action plan.
- 1.5. It is proposed that this group will include representatives from the four main high schools in the District, as well as relevant community groups and organisations. This inclusion aims to ensure that a wide range of voices are heard, reflecting the diverse youth demographic in the Waimakariri District
- 1.6. This report recommends that the Committee approves the establishment of an Advisory Group for the Youth Action Plan and approves the corresponding Terms of Reference for this group.

**Attachments:**

- i. Youth Action Plan Advisory Group Terms of Reference (TRIM No. 241031189238)

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

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250117006774
- (b) **Notes** that work is currently underway by staff to review the Youth Strategy 2018 and develop a Youth Action Plan for the District.
- (c) **Approves** staff to proceed with the establishment of a Youth Action Plan Advisory Group.

- (d) **Approves** the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group Terms of Reference (TRIM No. 241031189238)
- (e) **Circulates** this report to Community Boards.

### 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The first iteration of the Waimakariri District Council Youth Strategy was adopted by Council in 2010. This strategy was reviewed in 2018 and was refreshed as a result of this review.
- 3.2. Since 2018 when the last review took place, it has been recognised that our young people have experienced a great amount of social and demographic changes, and that the Council's Youth Strategy should consider and reflect these changes.
- 3.3. These social changes include, but are not limited to, the impact of a global pandemic, overrepresentation of Waimakariri youth in local mental health statistics, changing education and employment environments, the continuing emergence of technological advancements, climate change and an aging population focus.

In terms of demographic changes, the Youth Strategy 2018 was modelled on Census data from 2013 which showed that the Waimakariri youth population at that time was 7923 12-to-24-year-olds. Between 2013 and 2018, there was a 14.95% increase in the district's youth population. There was another 4.9% increase between 2018 and 2023 amounting to a total of 9555 youth (14.42% of district population) in the district as of 2023 Census data, demonstrating a clear need for this work to be updated.

Early indications from the Youth Strategy review have shown that the Council may better assist youth in Waimakariri through an Action Plan which clearly sets out the topics our rangatahi care most about, as well as objectives and projects that should be delivered in order to meet their changing needs.

- 3.4. The Youth Action Plan is envisioned to have clear measures of success to ensure that it is delivered efficiently by Council and its community partners over a three-year period and will receive its strategic direction from the Community Development Strategy 2025, which is available in draft and is expected to be adopted later this year.
- 3.5. The current Youth Strategy was developed in partnership with the Waimakariri Youth Council (WYC), who serve as a valuable link to the youth community within Waimakariri. Staff involved with this project would like to ensure that the WYC continues to be involved with this project and updated on progress, whilst widening the scope of targeted engagement to include youth and organisations supporting youth from across the District.
- 3.6. In order to ensure this full range of voices are being heard in the review of the Youth Strategy and the development of the Youth Action Plan, it is recommended that an Advisory Group comprised primarily of youth themselves be established.

The functions of the Advisory Group will be to maintain an overview of progress on the project, assist staff in the engagement process, provide feedback on early engagement analysis, and ensure the vision and objectives of the Youth Action Plan are reflective of what our rangatahi genuinely need.

The Advisory Group will have monthly meetings from March to November 2025 initially, and this will be revised in November depending on what stage of development the Action Plan is at.

- 3.7. Key milestones:

March 2025	June/July 2025	Sep/Oct 2025	Nov/Dec 2025	Jan/Feb 2026

Advisory Group to be established (TBC)	Early engagement to inform draft Youth Action Plan (process under development)	Draft Youth Action Plan to be created	Approval to Consult on draft Youth Action Plan	Consultation on draft Youth Action Plan
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#### 4. **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

##### 4.1. **Issues**

- 4.1.1. Due to significant social and demographic changes affecting our rangatahi over the past six years, the Council's Youth Strategy 2018 is being reviewed. Consequently, this review has commenced earlier than usual for a strategy.
- 4.1.2. Staff recognise that engaging with the full range of youth in the District may be challenging due to 'youth' including all 12- to 24-year-olds, and there being stark developmental differences between the age groups that this demographic is comprised of. Because of this, it is proposed that an Advisory Group comprised primarily of youth themselves from a range of different backgrounds would be the best way to ensure that staff are connected in with local youth and can undertake a well-informed engagement process as a result of this.

##### 4.2. **Options**

###### 4.2.1. Option 1:

- 4.2.1.1. The Committee declines the establishment of a Youth Action Plan Advisory Group. In this scenario, it would be important to note that functions of the group will include assisting staff in best practice to engage with youth effectively, which will be incredibly important in order to hear from a wide range of the youth demographic, rather than just those who are already connected into Council. Without the Advisory Group, staff run the risk of producing an Action Plan that is informed by a low level of responses and does not take into account a diverse range of views from local rangatahi. For these reasons, this is not the preferred option.

###### 4.2.2. Option 2:

- 4.2.2.1. The Committee declines the provided draft Terms of Reference for the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group. The terms of reference and the proposed schools, organisations, and groups to be represented on it have been developed alongside staff in the Community Team who specialise in youth development. The proposed list for representation on the group was collated based on specialist knowledge of youth related matters within Waimakariri, as well as the need to ensure there are representatives on the group from all sectors of the youth demographic in the district. There has been particular focus on making sure the group is primarily formed of youth themselves as they are the subject matter experts. For these reasons, this is not the preferred option.

###### 4.2.3. Option 3:

- 4.2.3.1. The Committee approves the establishment of a Youth Action Plan Advisory Group (Advisory Group) and the associated Terms of Reference. The formation of this Advisory Group would allow staff to gain valuable insight into the views of Waimakariri youth and ensure that their voices are heard right throughout the development process of this Action Plan. The draft Terms of Reference would assist in mitigating any

potential risks associated with not adhering to the guiding frameworks outlined in this document, as well as the need for a diverse range of membership on the group to assist in the formulation of the Action Plan. For these reasons, this is the preferred option.

### **Implications for Community Wellbeing**

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

- By providing local youth with an opportunity to have their voices heard on the matters which affect them, Council is contributing to a future where our communities are better suited to the unique needs of our rangatahi.
- By empowering young people through mechanisms such as an Advisory Group with diverse representation and a thorough engagement process, it is hoped they feel more connected to their communities.
- One of the aims of this work is to continue to develop the District so that youth feel they have access to everything they need, have a sense of belonging and are able to thrive. This impacts community wellbeing as it ensures that youth view this district as a home they want to remain in long-term.
- In order to develop an inclusive community culture, it is important that we minimise the barriers which impact on the ability for young people to fully participate in all aspects of life in the Waimakariri District. The recommended options arising from this report seek to enhance this.
- The Advisory Group discussed as the main topic of this report seeks to provide a platform for broad sector collaboration with the aspiration of contributing to a better connected and supported community.

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

## **5. COMMUNITY VIEWS**

### **5.1. Mana whenua**

Mana whenua are likely to have an interest in the contents of this report.

Staff presented to the Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga Inc. and Waimakariri District Council joint representatives meeting on 4/12/24 and interest was expressed in this project. Opportunities for involvement will be provided as the project proceeds. We would welcome input from mana whenua at any stage of this project, and as they see appropriate.

### **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.

These groups and organisations have been identified as key stakeholders to the project. Additionally, these groups and organisations have been taken into account when drafting the membership for the Advisory Group to ensure their collective voices are heard on this matter.

### **5.3. Wider Community**

The wider community is not likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in the subject matter of this report.

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

### 6.1. **Financial Implications**

There are not financial implications of the decisions sought by this report. The Youth Action Plan will be delivered from existing staff resources.

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

The recommendations in this report do not have sustainability and/or climate change impacts.

### 6.3 **Risk Management**

There are not risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

### 6.3 **Health and Safety**

There are not health and safety risks arising from the adoption/implementation of the recommendations in this report.

## 7. **CONTEXT**

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

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

### 7.2. **Authorising Legislation**

Local Government Act 2002

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

The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report. In particular, the following are most applicable to this report and the content it deals with:

#### 7.3.1. **Social:** A place where everyone can have a sense of belonging.

- The considerations under the social community outcomes are all relevant to this report and the actions that will arise from its approval.

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

- Public spaces express our cultural identities and help to foster an inclusive society.
- Members of our community are able to engage in arts, culture and heritage events and activities as participants, consumers, creators or providers.
- Waimakariri's diversity is freely expressed, respected and valued.

#### 7.3.3. **Environmental:** A place that values and restores our environment.

- 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 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.

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

- There is access to meaningful, rewarding and safe employment within the district.
- Our district recognises the value of both paid and unpaid work.

7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

The Community and Recreation Committee has delegated authority on the development of the Youth Action Plan.

The Council will make the final decision on the Youth Action Plan.