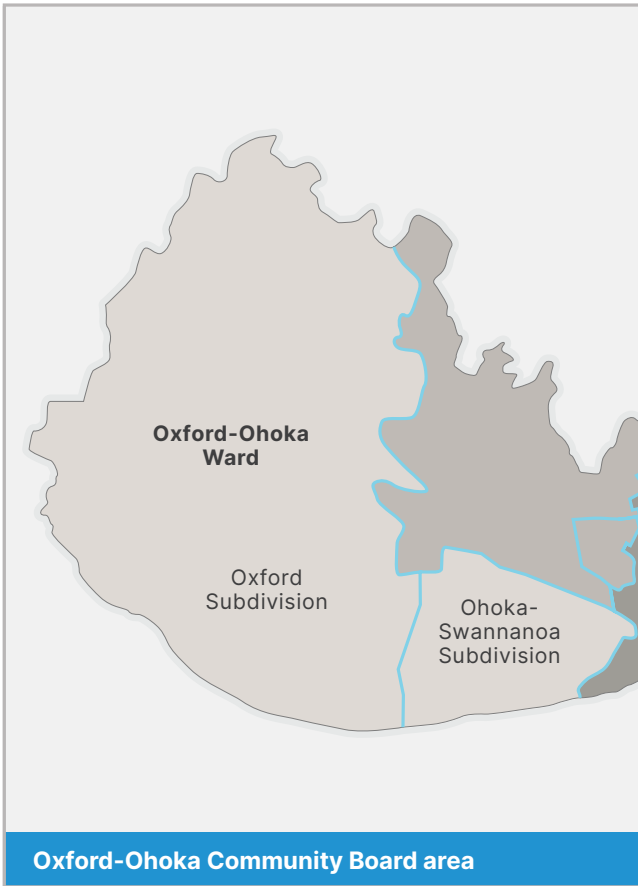




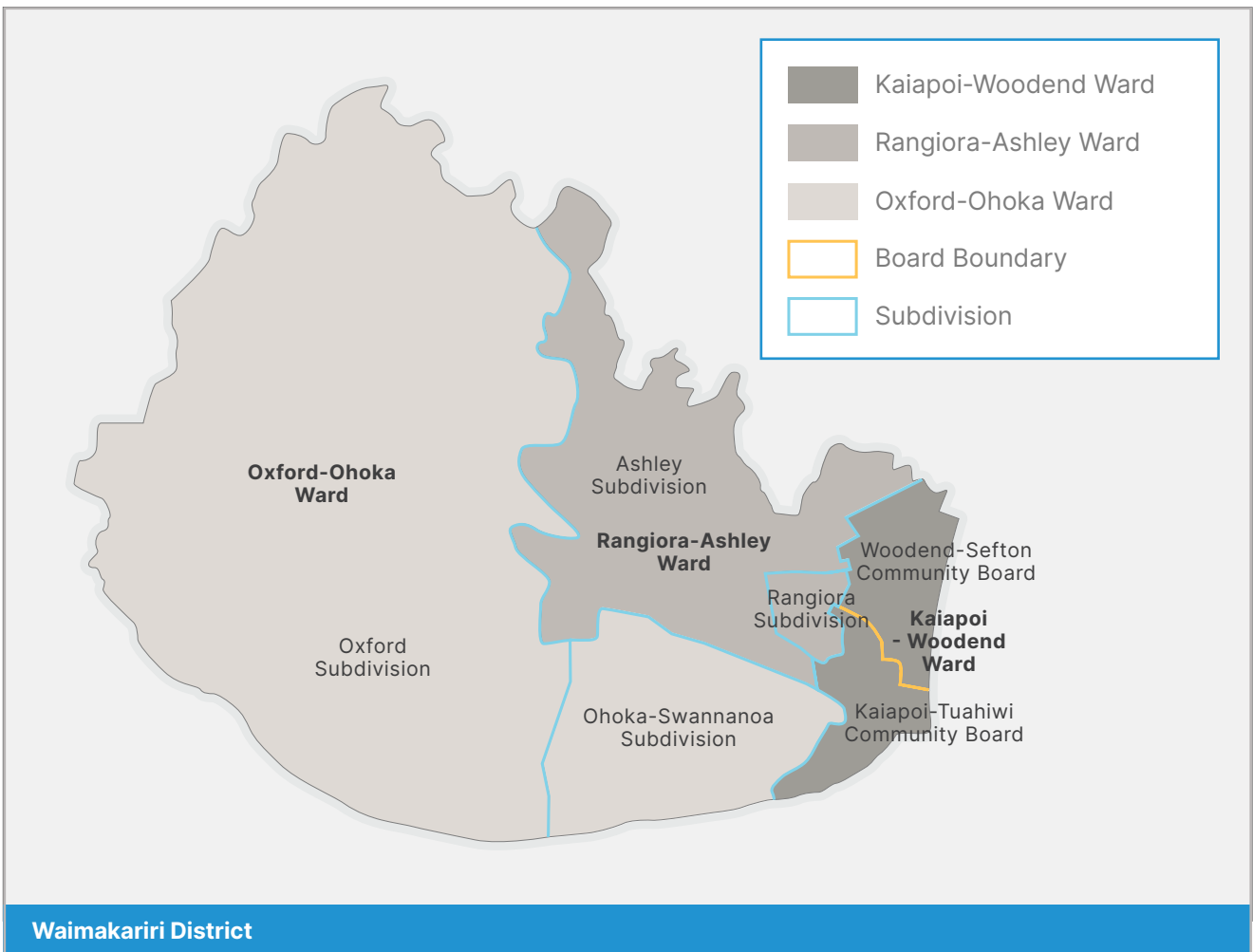
Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Community Plan 2025–2028





Ward	Population
Oxford-Ohoka Ward	14,865
Rangiora-Ashley Ward	29,126
Kaiapoi-Woodend Ward	30,082
Total	74,073
Subdivision	Population
Ohoka-Swannanoa Subdivision	7,952
Oxford	6,913
Total	14,865

* Estimated resident population as at December 2025



Chairperson's Message

Tēnā koutou katoa, to the residents of the Oxford–Ohoka Community

Here we are at the start of a new term! I am extremely proud of the Oxford–Ohoka Community Board and all that we have achieved over the past three years. With most members continuing on, we are well-positioned to build on our progress and remain a strong and effective voice for our community.

A special thank you to Thomas Robson, who has been an outstanding support and a true champion for the ward — it's a pleasure to lead alongside you. I also want to acknowledge Michelle Wilson, who has chosen to step back this term; the compassion and dedication she brought to the Board were invaluable. At the same time, we warmly welcome our new Board member, Wayne Godfrey — we look forward to working with you and the perspective you bring to the team.

Engagement in RMA processes and Environment Court proceedings remain a significant part of the Board's work. The Community Board participated in the Woodstock Quarries appeal regarding the proposed landfill in Oxford. An interim decision is expected early this year, with possible refinements before a final outcome. Our involvement ensured community views and long-term impacts were considered alongside technical evidence.

The proposed Ohoka development also remains unresolved after both the original plan change and a rezoning request under the proposed district plan were declined. The applicant has been directed to proceed via a single pathway and has chosen to continue opposing the proposed district plan, with a hearing scheduled for 2026. The Board has consistently opposed this development and will continue to advocate for residents and the wider community.

Flooding, drainage, and water management continue to be pressing challenges, particularly in the resurgence network from West Eyreton to Mandeville. A clear understanding of these systems is essential for long-term, effective solutions.

The Mandeville Resurgence Project remains a priority and will require ongoing investment. The Board will continue to advocate for research-based solutions, guided by local knowledge, open communication with affected residents, and attention to both major projects and smaller, essential drainage works.

Roading and transport safety remain ongoing priorities. The Board continues to advocate for improvements and welcomes planned upgrades at several intersections along Tram Road.

Community projects and initiatives are steaming ahead with the rail heritage sign installations in West Eyreton, Swannanoa, and Mandeville, and a new information kiosk planned for Oaks Reserve. The new accessibility track at the Ashley Gorge Reserve has been completed and the Wolffs Road Footbridge restoration team are now a registered society and ready to start some fundraising, both projects a success due to local volunteers

The Oxford Dog Exercise Area is now open and already proving to be a well-used facility, with further improvements planned based on feedback. Pump track proposals in Oxford are also progressing, driven by the vision and energy of community-led groups.

The Board is mindful of the financial pressures facing residents and takes a prudent, balanced approach to spending. We are committed to ensuring ratepayer funding is used wisely, supporting essential infrastructure and services while delivering tangible benefits for the community.

We are also committed to promoting a clear understanding of who we are and the role we play. Essentially, we are here for you. We act as a link between the community and Council, helping residents navigate processes, share your views, and ensure your voice is heard.

Through our discretionary and landscaping grants, we support a wide range of community-led projects, groups, clubs, and initiatives that enhance public spaces, encourage involvement, and build local pride. We actively encourage applications and new ideas at any time.

We love hearing from you! We welcome your ideas, feedback, and questions. Email or call us, come along to our monthly meetings (first Wednesday of the month, 6.30pm at venues across the ward), or follow updates on our Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Facebook page.

Your Board is full of energy and ready to tackle the year ahead. I am proud of the expertise, care, and commitment each member brings, and look forward to working together to deliver results that matter to you.

*Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata,
haere whakamua.*

Care for the land, care for the people,
go forward.



Sarah Barkle
Chairperson
Oxford-Ohoka Community Board

(For the Chair's report to Council on the Board's work for 2025 please see Appendix 1).



Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Members

What is a Community Board

Community Boards and the Council are partners in local democracy, but they have different roles, powers, and responsibilities. Their relationship is designed so that local voices influence district-wide decisions without creating two competing governing bodies.

How does the Community Board do this?

The Waimakariri District is divided into three wards with the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board covering predominantly the southern to the south-western area of the Waimakariri District.

The Board works closely with residents and local community groups to understand your priorities and concerns and to seek the best outcomes for communities. The Board proactively engages with the local community, including consulting and sharing information to enable the Board to represent and advocate for your interests on a local level, which is then fed back to the Council.

The Community Board is not the Council, nor is it a Council committee. The Board collaborates with the Council at the local level to achieve community goals. The Board is also responsible for any areas delegated to it by the Council.

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

The Oxford-Ohoka Community Board comprises six elected members and two appointed Councillors of the Waimakariri District Council, for a total of eight members.

The role of the Community Board includes:

- Engaging with residents, community organisations and groups in developing local solutions and keeping you informed by using a variety of means, including a Community Board Facebook page, articles in community newsletters, and being visible and accessible.
- Encouraging community participation in local Board and Council decision-making.
- Advocating to the Council on key issues and priorities for the community area, especially through the Annual and Long Term Plan processes.
- Providing grants to community groups and organisations.
- Granting of leases or licences on reserves.
- Acting as a link for residents to access Council services.
- Maintaining positive working relationships with key Council staff and management.
- Taking an overview of the Council's services and projects affecting the community area, including water supply, sewerage, stormwater drainage, parks, recreational facilities, community activities, as well as roading and traffic management projects.
- Actively participating in Council business, including the annual budget, to ensure equitable spending across the district while being mindful of rates affordability.
- Working collaboratively with other Community Boards to promote an understanding that they do not work in isolation but as a team in conjunction with the Council.

Community Board Objectives 2025–2028

The Oxford-Ohoka Community Board aims to meet the needs of our diverse community through:

- Developing closer links and relationships with key settlements and groups in the Oxford-Ohoka Board area, as well as with significant District-wide organisations.
- Developing strategies for the Board to become an effective, cohesive voice in representing the community viewpoint at meetings and policy hearings.
- Engaging with individuals, groups, other Boards, and the Council to provide the best outcome for the Oxford-Ohoka community and the district as a whole.
- Engaging and interacting with younger generations by seeking their views and feedback on important issues in the Board area.
- Engaging with local schools, community and advisory groups and offering encouragement for their projects and providing assistance where practical.
- Advocating for balanced growth that enhances and protects the character of the communities' recreational, opportunities, liveability and employment.

Board members often take part in the activities of community organisations within the community area.

If you would like to invite a Board member to a meeting or event, please contact the Chairperson (Sarah.Barkle@wmk.govt.nz) or Governance Team on com.board@wmk.govt.nz

- Advocating for the continued protection and enhancement of waterways and wetlands for recreational purposes.
- Actively develop and promote the Community Board as a vehicle for residents to seek assistance and advocacy in accessing Council services and consultation processes.
- Supporting the Council's Local Economic Development Strategy to encourage business growth across the Oxford-Ohoka Board area and the Waimakariri District as a whole.
- Actively maintaining positive working relationships with the Council and Council staff.
- Actively participating in Council business and the annual budget process to ensure equitable spending across the district whilst being mindful of rates affordability.



West Eyreton Hall

What's Happening in Your Area, Now and Looking Forward?

There are a number of projects underway in the Oxford-Ohoka Ward area, this section outlines those projects.



Oxford township

Looking back at 2025—working with and for the community to achieve great outcomes

Advocating on behalf of the community

Recent consenting opposition to support community concerns

Engagement in RMA and Environment Court processes continued to be a significant aspect of the Board's work in 2025. The Community Board participated in the Woodstock Quarries appeal concerning the proposed landfill in Oxford, ensuring community concerns and long-term impacts were considered alongside technical evidence. An interim decision is expected early this year, with potential refinements ahead of a final determination.

The proposed Ohoka development also remains unresolved following the decline of both the original plan change and a subsequent rezoning request under the Proposed District Plan. The applicant was directed to proceed via a single planning pathway and has elected to continue opposing the Proposed District Plan, with a hearing scheduled for 2026. The Board has

consistently opposed this development and will continue to advocate on behalf of residents and the wider community.

Community Board submissions in 2025

The Board works collectively with the Council to achieve community goals. Hence, the Board made detailed submissions on Environment Canterbury and the Council's 2025/26 Annual Plans, copies of which are attached as Appendix 2 and 3 respectively, as well as submitting on the Proposed the Proposed Waimakariri District Plan.

Wards Road planting

Local residents approached the Board requesting support for beautifying the Wards Road area. The Chair and staff met with the residents and worked in partnership with the community to do the initial tidy up of this area. The Board allocated \$3,000 from its Landscape Budget to purchase plants and to cover other costs, while planting and tidying continues to be carried out by the community and local schools. This project will be considered for further funding from the 2025/26 Landscape Budget allocations so that new plantings will be available for the continuation of this work.

Wolffs Bridge restoration

The Wolffs Road suspension bridge is an important local heritage asset, and the Board supports its preservation, however, understands that the Council is unable to fund its restoration.

In April 2025, the Wolffs Road Footbridge Society Inc (WRFSI) was established to restore the heritage listed bridge over the Eyre River at West Eyreton. WRFSI has entered into an agreement with Waimakariri District Council to plan and privately fund the restoration of the council

owned structure. Once restored, the bridge will acknowledge its historic significance and provide a valuable recreational asset for the district.

Community Board submissions in 2025

The Board works collectively with the Council to achieve community goals. Hence, the Board made detailed submissions on Environment Canterbury and the Council's 2025/26 Annual Plans, copies of which are attached as Appendix 2 and 3 respectively, as well as submitting on the Proposed Waimakariri District Plan.

2026 and what projects are ahead

Lees Valley Road resilience

This project has received funding through the Crown Resilience Fund.

Proposed work along Lees Valley Road includes the upgrading of culverts, bank stabilization and replacement of the Bypass Bridge, all aimed at improving resilience for the access road.

Some disruption is likely with road closures to install upsized or new culverts. This will be communicated in advance to residents.

Estimated cost: \$1 million over the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

Tram Road/No 10 Road intersection improvements

The approved safety improvements design includes right turn lanes on Tram Road, with significant works and land purchase likely to be required. This is likely to push the estimate well above the budget. Staff are revising the plans and will come back to the Council with options including a "do minimum", and an option that addresses all deficiencies.

Estimated cost for design (including possible land purchase) \$500,000 during the 2025/26 year with construction scheduled for the 2026/27 financial year.

High risk rural crossroads safety upgrades

This project includes a series of signage, line marking and minor widening works at a number of high-risk rural intersections around the network. A contract for the first tranche of sites has been awarded to On-Grade and is expected to commence in March. A second tranche of sites is also currently being planned.

All roads and intersections will remain open, with traffic managed with appropriate Temporary Traffic Management.

Budget for this work is \$300,000 for the 2025/26 financial year and \$180,000 for the 2026/27 financial year.

General road maintenance

- Council's Road Maintenance contractors continues to maintain and renew urban streets and footpaths and rural roads, as well as associated resealing and resurfacing, culverts, bridge maintenance, signs, road marking, vegetation and other road elements through a prioritised programme based on age and condition.
- Network faults are identified through inspections by both Council and Contractor staff and can be reported by members of the public using the Snap Send Solve phone app or reporting via email or phone.
Budget: \$13 million per annum.
- Street Light Maintenance
Council's Street Light Maintenance contractor maintains and renews street lighting through a prioritised programme based on age and condition. Faults are identified through inspections and service requests.
Budget \$870,000 per annum.

How Snap, Send, Solve works

(me.snapsendsolve.com/snap)

1. While at the site of the issue, tap 'Start' to file a report
2. Snap a photo
3. Choose an 'Incident Type'
4. Include your details
5. Tap 'Send' while you are on-site to get the correct GPS location
6. Council receives an email with your report and a service request is generated.

Burnett Street capacity upgrades

This project builds on the first stage of works completed in Church Street Reserve in 2024, which upgraded the local drainage system to address known issues and identified the need for further improvements upstream. The proposed works focus on reducing overland flow

and flooding downstream of the Oxford A&P Showgrounds by installing a pipe through the existing drainage easement to Burnett Street, constructing a bund within the Showgrounds to retain flows from larger storm events, and redirecting any overflow from the catchment into Pearson Park. Construction is planned for the 2026/27 financial year.

(Estimated cost: \$700,000 and estimated completion March 2027)

Mandeville Resurgence Channel Project – Stage 1

Further discussions with key stakeholders recognised that while Stage One was not a preferred option overall, there are several properties that are significantly affected by ongoing flooding. To address these, it is proposed to progress targeted upgrades (removing channel pinch points) as an initial “Stage 1A,” to be undertaken in early 2026 ahead of winter. In parallel, work will continue to further develop the scope and scale of Stage Two, establishing a long-term strategy to be consulted on as part of the 2027–2037 Long Term Plan, including a proposed funding approach.

(Estimated cost for Stage 1A: \$700,000 and estimated completion June 2026)

Bay Road drainage upgrades

The planned development within the Oxford township prompted Council to review the existing drainage layout and its integration with the surrounding network. This assessment identified potential concerns with the current configuration, particularly the inclusion of right-angle bends within the main drainage channel, which may hinder flow efficiency and future maintenance. To mitigate these issues and enhance long-term network performance, Council staff have proposed intercepting upstream flows and realigning the local drain to connect with the existing downstream drainage channel. Construction is planned for the 2026/27 financial year.

(Estimated cost: \$300,000 and estimated completion February 2027)

General landscaping projects for consideration in 2024/25

Mandeville legacy area

(Allocation from the 2024/25 financial year)

The Mandeville Sports Club is proposing to establish a legacy area recognising the contribution of Ron Dalley, Gordon Fulton and Bob Ralls in establishing the Mandeville Reserve and pavilion.

The proposal is to establish an area between the playground and the pavilion with three bench seats and planting. Staff are currently working with the Mandeville Sports Club Board on the overall concept plan for Mandeville Domain.

Mandeville cemetery enhancement

Tidy up of the cemetery area on the reserve with fencing off the grave sites and establishing areas of native planting. A reserve Concept Plan has been completed outlining the enhancement of the area for biodiversity and highlighting the history/cultural elements. If the concept plan is approved, the total costing for the project will be \$90K to be carried out over three years. The budget source has yet to be determined.



Railway siding signage

Replica railway signs are being installed at former station stops along the old inland railway network between Kaiapoi and Waimakariri Gorge.

Working with Oxford Men’s Shed for voluntary input, the Board are using annual landscape grants to install the remaining stops, adding a sense of place, community connection and historic value to our rural communities. Look out for a whistle stop near you.

Signs have been installed at Mandeville North and Swannanoa, funded by the Board’s General

Landscaping Budget. Installation of two more signs will be presented to the Board for funding during the March 2026 meeting.

Following on from the West Eyreton railway siding project the Community Board may want to consider further locations for railway siding signage.

West Eyreton gravel pit

The Board is interested in turning this area into a wetland with plantings to encourage biodiversity and have asked staff to work with them to achieve this objective. This project may need to be considered through the Long Term Plan process.

2025/26 Allocations

Allocations for the 2026/27 Landscape Budget were made at the March 2026 meeting and include:

- A picnic table at the West Eyreton Oaks Reserve.
- A plaque at Oxford Cemetery recognizing the unmarked graves.
- Way-finder signage at Ohoka Domain.
- Plants for Wards Road walkway community planting.
- Tree works at West Eyreton Community Centre.
- Railway siding signs at Ohoka and East Oxford.

The Board has also requested staff to investigate options for dog agility equipment for the Oxford Dog Park.



Ohoka Gate Keeper's Lodge



Oak Reserve – West Eyreton



Oxford Dog Park

Community Engagement

Supporting community groups

Anyone is welcome to attend the Board meetings. Public forums are held at the start of each meeting from 6.30pm to 6.55pm. This is a defined period of time which the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board has set aside for the purpose of public input. These public forums are designed to enable members of the public to bring any matter, which they deem of significance to the community, to the attention of the Community Board.

Members of the public, groups and organisations can also bring matters to the attention of the Community Board by bringing a deputation to a Board meeting. Deputations can be arranged by contacting the Governance Team and to be approved by the Chairperson.

The Board had several groups or individuals who came to speak at its public forum or as a deputation to the Board during the previous year on numerous subjects.

Group / Individuals	Subject	Outcome
PUBLIC FORUMS		
T Gardiner	Shelter belt shading in winter on Tram Road	Board noted that the Council sends reminders to all landowners in autumn to trim shelter belts to mitigate ice buildup. However, the Council cannot force landowners to comply.
Shirley Boys High School Students	Concern regarding safety at Tram Road intersections	Council will be working to improve safety at all intersections along Tram Road during the next few years.
I Shrimpton	Concerns of flooding of the water race near Weatherfield Lane	Concern noted and Chairperson to raise at the next water race meeting.
V and T Parrott	Concern regarding landowners not maintaining drains adding to flooding issues during weather events.	Noted
L and J King	Mandeville Resurgence Project status	Information provided
M Tyree	Concern regarding the Proposed District Plan and the inability to subdivide his property.	Noted
L Easton	Drainage concerns near Clearview Lane	Noted
L Rietveld	Mandeville Domain shelter belt replacement	Noted
A Lowe	Thanked the Board for support and work done on Ohoka Plan Change proposal.	Noted
J Stagg – NZ Police	Update on community cameras and other police matters	Noted and Board thanked him for his work within the community.
DEPUTATIONS		
Councillor MacKay	Environment Canterbury's Annual Plan	Board developed a submission on behalf of its residents.
Mark Brown	Oxford Health Centre	Update
Councillor MacKay	Environment Canterbury Update	Noted
B Cairns	Oxford Food Forest	Noted
D Mc Pherson	Pearson Park stage	Update

Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Members

Member and contact details	Other responsibilities
 <p>Sarah Barkle Chair (from May 2024) Mobile: 027 257 5886 Email: sarah.barkle@wmk.govt.nz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ohoka Residents Association • Water Race Advisory Group • Ohoka Rural Drainage Advisory Group.
 <p>Thomas Robson Deputy Chair (from May 2024) Mobile: 022 100 4744 Email: thomas.robson@wmk.govt.nz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Gorge Reserve Advisory Group • Pearson Park Advisory Group • Oxford Dark Sky Group.
 <p>Mark Brown Mobile: 029 777 0131 Email: mark.brown@wmk.govt.nz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waimakariri Health Advisory Group • Experience Oxford Committee (Oxford Promotions Action Committee) • Oxford Rural Drainage Advisory Group.
 <p>Wayne Godfrey Mobile: 027 232 6791 Email: wayne.godfrey@wmk.govt.nz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ohoka Domain Advisory Group • Mandeville Sports Centre.
 <p>Ray Harpur Mobile: 027 327 1357 Email: ray.harpur@wmk.govt.nz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waimakariri Access Group.
 <p>Pete Merrifield Mobile: 021 435 118 Email: pete.merrifield@wmk.govt.nz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxford Historical Records Society Inc Committee • Grey Power North Canterbury Group • Pearson Park Advisory Group.

If you are a resident or part of a local community group who wishes to raise any concerns or issues, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Community Board for advice and help.

Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Ward Councillors

Member and contact details	Other responsibilities
 <p>Cr Tim Fulton Mobile: 021 0871 6027 Email: tim.fulton@wmk.govt.nz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landmark Committee • Experience Oxford Group • Promotions Association Review Working Group • Southbrook Sports Club • Facilities and Consents Fee Waiver Subcommittee • Canterbury Regional Council – Waimakariri/Eyre/Cust River Rating Committee • Canterbury Regional Council – Ashley River Rating Committee • Hurunui District Council – Ashley Rural Water Scheme Management Committee • Oxford Rural Drainage Advisory Group • Waimakariri Water Race Advisory Group.
 <p>Cr Niki Mealings Deputy Mayor (Shared role) (from 1 May 2027 to October 2028) Mobile: 027 293 4937 Email: niki.mealings@wmk.govt.nz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Christchurch Partnership • Whakawhanake Kainga Committee, Urban Growth Partnership for Greater Christchurch • Canterbury Waste joint Committee • Canterbury Regional Landfill Joint Committee • Recovered Materials Foundation – TerraNova (Trustee) • Climate Change Action Planning Reference Group • Biodiversity Champions Group • Christchurch City Council Coastal Hazards Working Group • Waimakariri Youth Council • Property Asset Working Group • Mandeville Sports Club Committee • Ohoka Rural Drainage Advisory Group • Solid and Hazardous Waste Working Party • Ohoka-Mandeville Rural Drainage Advisory Group • Arohatia Te Awa Working Group • Natural Environment Strategy Project Control Group.

Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Discretionary Grant

The Council's 2024/34 Long Term Plan included the following budget provision for the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board to approve grants to community groups during the next three years:

2025/26 Financial year	2026/27 Financial year	2027/28 Financial year	2028/29 Financial year
\$ 6,470	\$6,610	\$6,770	\$6,920

The Board supports a wide range of community activities. Applications will only be accepted from community-based project groups, not-for-profit organisations, registered charities or incorporated societies. No application from an individual which benefits only one person will be accepted. The Board considers grant applications every month. However, applications must be received at least four weeks before Board meeting dates to be processed on time. The application form is available on the Council's website at waimakariri.govt.nz/council/funding-and-grants/board-grants-and-funding.

Oxford-Ohoka Community Board criteria for funding applications

Applications will only be accepted from non-profit community-based organisations, registered charities or incorporated societies.

- Applications from Funding Committees and/or similar community-based groups associated with schools will be considered only if a significant community benefit has been shown and proof is provided that the Ministry of Education does not fund the activity. However, schools themselves are not considered non-profit community-based organisations.
- Grants are generally limited to \$750 with a maximum of \$1,000 in any financial year (July to June). However, a group may apply twice a year, provided the applications are for different projects. The Board will consider granting more than \$750 only in exceptional circumstances and will provide detailed reasons for exceeding the current limit.
- Grant funding will not be allocated for events/projects that have already occurred, i.e. retrospectively.
- The grant funding is limited to projects primarily within the Board area or benefiting the residents of the ward.
- The application should clearly state the purpose for which the funds will be used. It should be noted that the board will not fund ongoing or annual operating expenditure associated with the administration or running of the applicant's club organisation or club.
- Organisations predominantly funded by the Central Government must provide supporting evidence that the requested grant will not be spent on projects that the Central Government should/do fund.
- Applicants should submit relevant financial information to prove they can deliver the project. Financial information should include a balance sheet/profit and loss and, at least, a bank statement to enable the Board to make an informed decision.
- Applicants must declare any other funding sources for the proposed project for which funding is being sought, especially Council community grants, other Community Boards grants, and Enterprise North Canterbury funding.
- If the group does not provide the information to enable the grant to be paid within three months of approval of the grant being notified, the application will be regarded as closed, and funds will be released for reallocation by the Board.

- If funds are not spent on the specific project applied for within six months of the date of the event/project, the recipient will be required to return the funding to the Council.

Application forms can be picked up at any of the Council's Service Centres.

Alternatively an application form can be printed, downloaded or completed online from the Council's website: waimakariri.govt.nz/council/funding-and-grants/board-grants-and-funding

Process by Governance Team

Once the application has been received, the Governance Team will assess it, write a report, and present it to the next Community Board meeting for a decision.

The Governance Team will notify you following the meeting of the Board's decision.

The completed application should be posted to:

The completed application should be posted to:

Governance Team

Waimakariri District Council,
Private Bag 1005, Rangiora 7440

or emailed to: com.board@wmk.govt.nz

or dropped into your local Council Service Centre (see back page for details).



Ashley Gorge Reserve

Discretionary Fund Grant allocations from 1 July 2025 to 31 June 2026

Group	Project	Amount
Ohoka Rugby Club	Towards new playing uniforms	\$500
Oxford Dark Sky	Towards the purchase of Dark Sky Measure	\$381
Ohoka Netball Club	Towards new uniforms	\$500
West Eyreton Friends of the School Committee	Toward High-Visibility safety vests for students	\$500
North Canterbury Kennel Association	Towards paint for club rooms	\$500
Noaia Charitable Trust	Towards the equipment and promotion of the Community Market	\$600
Oxford Dark Sky	Towards Dark Sky Accreditation – Phase 2	\$440
Swannanoa Home and School Inc	Towards the purchase of sports balls	\$350
Waimakariri Training Club Inc	Towards the purchase and installation of a water heater	\$500



North Canterbury Inclusive Sports

Landscaping Projects

Each financial year (July to June), the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board is allocated funds to be used for projects which enhance and beautify the community, such as landscaping, public seating and signage.

Community Boards often identify community landscaping enhancement projects for which this budget can be utilised. Equally, local community members often suggest minor landscaping improvements, such as additional seating, paving or signage.

The Council's 2024/34 Long Term Plan included the following budget provision for the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board's Landscaping projects during the next three years. Note that budgets are estimated, and any underspend will be used to mitigate any overspend on other projects:

2025/26 Financial year	2026/27 Financial year	2027/28 Financial year	2028/29 Financial year
\$14,300	\$14,640	\$14,980	\$15,310

If you have a suggestion for beautifying your community that you would like the Board to consider, please contact either the Board Chairperson (sarah.barkle@wmk.govt.nz) or the Governance Adviser (com.board@wmk.govt.nz).

The following are projects currently being progressed from the Board's General Landscape Budget:

Account description	Status	Budget	Remaining
Oxford-Ohoka Community Board current projects			
The Oaks Reserve Development	In progress	\$4,710	
Information Kiosk at Ashley Gorge Reserve	In progress	\$5,000	
Legacy area at Mandeville Sports Club	Allocated	\$5,000	
Installing Historical Railway signage	Completed	\$3,000	
Installation of shelter, seating and signage at Oxford Dog Park	In progress	\$6,000	
Native planting area at Oxford Cemetery	Under review	\$5,000	
Native planting in the Wards Road area	Completed	\$3,000	

The Board has \$14,330 available for allocation in the 2025/26 financial year. Allocations will be formalised in March 2026 and the following projects will be considered:

- Continuation of railway signage – areas considered are Waverley, Wetheral, School Road, East Oxford, West Oxford, View Hill and Bexley
- West Eyreton Community Centre – removal of shelter belt and replace with native plantings
- Ohoka Domain – wayfinder signage
- Oxford Cemetery – commemorative plaque for unmarked graves

- Welcome to Oxford sign – at Waimakariri Gorge Bridge.



Native planting along stream

Where and When are Meetings Held?

Meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm at different venues within the Community Board area.

Meeting agendas are available at Council Service Centres or on the Council website two working days before a meeting:

waimakariri.govt.nz/your-council/meetings

How do you raise a concern or issue?

Do not hesitate to contact a member of the Community Board for advice and help (see pages 10-11 for contact information). You are always welcome to contact members to discuss Council and community-related matters.

The Community is encouraged to raise concerns and speak to the Board at meetings.

If you would like to avail yourself of this opportunity, please contact the Chairperson (sarah.barkle@wmk.govt.nz) or the Governance Adviser (com.board@wmk.govt.nz) at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

As part of the consultation process, individuals or groups can make submissions on projects and plans. These are notified on the Council's website under 'Have a Say' and in the Northern Outlook and The North Canterbury News. There may also be public meetings and/or information sessions that you can attend.

The Governance Team can be contacted for assistance with:

- Arranging deputations and workshops
- Accessing and administering Board funding
- Access to Community Board documentation
- Assisting with submissions to the Council's Long Term Plan (LTP), Annual Plan and any other community-based issues
- Assists as liaison between the community and the Board as well as between the Board and Council departments.

The 2026 meetings are scheduled for:

Date	Location
4 February	West Eyreton
4 March	Mandeville Sports Club
8 April	Ohoka Community Hall
6 May	Oxford Town Hall
3 June	Mandeville Sports Club
8 July	Oxford Town Hall
5 August	Mandeville Sports Club
2 September	Ohoka Community Hall
7 October	West Eyreton
4 November	Oxford Town Hall
2 December	Oxford Town Hall

Governance Team contact details

- 📞 0800 965 468
- ✉ com.board@wmk.govt.nz
- 📍 215 High Street, Private Bag 1005, Rangiora 7440

Council Facilities and Contact Details



Service Centres

waimakariri.govt.nz

Oxford Service Centre

34 Main Street, Oxford

☎ 03 311 9005

✉ oxford@wmk.govt.nz

Opening hours

Monday to Friday: 9am–5pm

Saturday: 10am–12 noon

(Limited services on Saturday)

Rangiora Service Centre

215 High Street, Rangiora

☎ 0800 965 468

✉ office@wmk.govt.nz

Opening hours

Monday to Friday: 8.30am–5pm

Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre

176 Williams Street, Kaiapoi

☎ 03 375 5009

✉ kaiapoi@wmk.govt.nz

Opening hours

Monday to Friday: 9am–5pm



Libraries

waimakaririlibraries.com

Oxford Library

34 Main Street, Oxford

☎ 0800 965 542

✉ library@wmk.govt.nz

Opening hours

Monday to Friday: 9am–5pm

Saturday: 10am–12 noon

Rangiora Library

Trevor Inch Memorial Library

141 Percival Street, Rangiora

☎ 0800 965 542

✉ library@wmk.govt.nz

Opening hours

Monday to Thursday: 9am–5pm

Friday: 9am–7pm

Saturday: 10am–2pm Sunday: 1pm–4pm

Kaiapoi Library

176 Williams Street, Kaiapoi

☎ 0800 965 542

✉ library@wmk.govt.nz

Opening hours

Monday to Wednesday and Friday: 9am–5pm

Thursday: 9am–7pm

Saturday: 10am–2pm

Sunday: 1pm–4pm

Aquatic Centres

waimakariri.govt.nz/aquatic-facility

Oxford Community Aquatic Centre

9 Burnett Street, Oxford

☎ 03 311 8921

Opening hours

Summer only from late November
Monday to Friday: 8.30am–6.30pm
Saturday and Sunday: 10am–7pm
Public Holidays: 10am–7pm
Christmas Day: Closed

Dudley Park Aquatic Centre

47 Church Street, Rangiora

☎ 03 311 8905

Opening hours

Monday to Friday: 6am–9pm
Saturday and Sunday: 7.30am–7pm
Public Holidays: 10am–7pm
Christmas Day: Closed

Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre

9 Cass Street, Kaiapoi

☎ 03 375 5041

Opening hours

Monday to Friday: 6am–3.30pm and 6pm–9pm
Saturday and Sunday: 7.30am–7pm
Public Holidays: 10am–7pm
Christmas Day: Closed



Oxford Pool

Transfer Stations

Oxford Transfer Station

46 High Street, Oxford

Opening hours

Friday: 12.30–4.30pm
Sunday: 12 noon–4.30pm
Public Holidays: Closed

Southbrook Resource Recovery Park

284 Flaxton Road, Rangiora

☎ 03 313 5499

Resale Store: 03 313 5798

Opening hours

Monday to Sunday: 8.30am–4.30pm
Public Holidays: Closed

Community Facilities

Oxford Town Hall

30 Main Street, Oxford

Ohoka Domain Pavilion

493C Mill Road

Oxford Jaycee Hall

56 Main Street, Oxford

Pearson Park Pavilion

56 Main Street, Oxford

View Hill Domain Pavilion

Cnr Woodstock and Harmans Gorge Roads,
View Hill

For bookings go to:

waimakariri.govt.nz/leisure-and-recreation/facilities/wdc-halls-and-meeting-venues



Ohoka Domain with Gate Keepers Lodge

Request a Service

The following service requests can be lodged online with the Council. The location of the request is required.

Please contact Council directly on 0800 965 468 regarding urgent requests such as excessive noise, flooding or public toilet issues.

Online Service requests:

- Cemeteries
- Dog complaints
- Drains
- Footpaths
- Litter/rubbish
- Parks
- Public water supplies
- Roads and streets
- Rubbish/recycling collections
- Sewer
- Signs
- Trees
- Vandalism/graffiti
- Water races

Go to waimakariri.govt.nz/services/online-services

Snap Send Solve

You can report an issue instantly from your mobile if you spot something like a damaged footpath, litter or pothole.

Report an issue via waimakariri.govt.nz/snapsendsolve.com



The Council has a number of other facilities and venues which can be found on the websites as provided below:

Halls and Meeting Venues:

waimakariri.govt.nz/leisure-and-recreation/facilities/halls-and-meeting-venues

Sports Grounds:

waimakariri.govt.nz/leisure-and-recreation/facilities/sports-grounds

If you are new to the District you may like to visit our website which provides information on a number of Council services:

waimakariri.govt.nz/community/new-to-the-District



Oxford Library

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

FILE NO and TRIM NO: GOV-26-10-06 / 250904167536

REPORT TO: COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 2 December 2025

AUTHOR(S): Sarah Barkle – Chairperson Oxford-Ohoka Community Board

SUBJECT: Chairperson’s Report for the period of 1 January 2025 to 30 September 2025

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

1 SUMMARY

This report aims to inform the Council of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board's (the Board) activities for the period 1 January 2025 to 30 September 2025 in accordance with the Board's Terms of Reference.

2 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 250904167536.
- (b) **Circulates** a copy of this report to all the Community Boards.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 It is customary for Community Board Chairpersons to report their Board's progress and achievements to the Council. The report for the previous year, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024 was presented to the Council at its meeting on 7 February 2025.
- 3.2 The Board comprises eight members; six elected Board members and two appointed Ward Councillors. All members took their oath of office at the Board's inaugural meeting on 27 October 2022.
- 3.3 Following the 2022 Local Body Elections, the Board developed a three-year Community Board Plan. This Plan outlined the Board's objectives, key achievements, and work programme, which is reviewed annually. Actions detailed in this report align directly with the performance expectations set out in the Community Board Plan.

4. ISSUES AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 Between 1 January and 30 September 2025, eight ordinary Board meetings were held, as no meeting was held in January 2025. Ordinary meetings were held on the first Wednesday after the Council meeting at various venues in the Ward, such as the Ohoka Community Hall, West Eyreton Community Hall, Mandeville Sports Club and the Oxford Town Hall. Attendance records show that three members attended all Board meetings, while other members tendered apologies for several meetings.

4.2 On 31 October 2019, the Board resolved to hold public forums as part of its scheduled meetings, and this continued into the 2022-2025 term. As a result, public forum sessions occurred at two meetings during the period under review, where the public raised the following issues:

Meeting	Presenter	Organisations Represented	Issue
April 2025	Tony Gardiner	Local Truck Driver	Concern regarding shading by shelter belts, especially along Tram Road.
August 2025	K Arona & J Cockburn	Shirley Boys' High Students	Concern regarding intersection safety along Tram Road.
August 2025	AJ Lowe	Ohoka Residents Association	Thanked the Board for their involvement in opposing the Carter Group's proposed Ohoka Development (Plan Change 31).
August 2025	I Shrimpton	Weatherfield Lane resident	Concern regarding the periodic flooding of the stock race outside his property.
August 2025	L and J King	Redfern Lane resident	Requesting a status report on the Mandeville Resurgence programme.
August 2025	M Tyree	Resident	Concerns about the Proposed District Plan process.
August 2025	L Eason	Clear View Lane resident	Concern regarding uncompleted drainage works in the area.
August 2025	L Reidie	Resident	Concern regarding light spillage and lack of irrigation for new plantings of the replacement Mandeville Domain Shelterbelt.

4.3 The Board also attended numerous workshops and briefings which considered a range of matters, including:

- Annual Plan discussions for both Environment Canterbury and Waimakariri District Council
- Woodstock Quarries Submission discussions
- Recreation Capital Works Programme
- Environment Canterbury updates
- Parking issues in Oxford
- Mandeville Resurgence Channel updates
- Landscape Budget allocations
- Mahi Mātātoa Trust update
- Natural Environment Strategy
- Three Waters update
- Waimakariri District Plan
- School Speed Zone Planning
- Community Board Submission Policy
- Election Protocols

4.4 The Board made three submissions during the period under review in relation to:

- Waimakariri District Council 2024-34 Draft Long Term Plan
- Environment Canterbury's Draft Long Term Plan 2024-34
- The Government's Woodend Bypass toll proposal.

The Board also worked extensively on:

- Opposition to Woodstock Quarry application.
- Continued opposition to the proposed Ohoka Development (became a party to the Proposed District Plan appeal).

- 4.5 The Board heard deputations on the following issues:
- Updates from Environment Canterbury's Councillor C McKay, who attended three meetings during the year.
 - Oxford Health Centre update
 - Oxford Food Forest
 - Wolffs Bridge update
 - Pearson Park stage roof project.
- 4.6 There were several significant issues the Board considered, which included:
- The Woodstock Quarry application
 - Flooding issues
 - The Mandeville Resurgence Project
 - A storage container for the Oxford Art Gallery
 - West Eyreton Scouts storage shed
 - Mandeville Domain entrance shelterbelt replacement plan
 - Parking restrictions throughout the Oxford-Ohoka Ward
 - EV charger and transformer installations at Pearson Park
 - Pearson Park Pump Track Consultation
 - Kowhai Street Reserve Lighting
 - Road naming for new roads in the Oxford-Ohoka Ward
 - Roading and Recreation Capital Works Programme
 - School Variable Speed Limits
 - ANZAC Day Services
 - Allocations of Board funding and landscape budget
 - Various Discretionary Grant funding applications
 - Changes to Board representation appointments.
- 4.7 Board members attended several public meetings and drop-in Sessions, which included:
- Mandeville Resurgence public meetings
 - Environment Canterbury and Waimakariri District Council Annual plans
 - Proposed District Plan
 - Community Hub openings and meetings
 - A8 and Tsunami presentations
 - Oxford A & P Show
 - Swannanoa School Fair
 - Oxford Networking Group
 - Oxford Gym Opening
 - Oxford Dog Park Opening
 - Community Service Awards
 - Wolffs Bridge
 - Proposed Community Police changes.
- 4.8 The Board approved a range of grants to community organisations.
- In summary, the Board approved nine applications during the period from 1 January to 30 September 2025, with two applications being declined. A total of \$4,481 was allocated during this period. The Board has also noticed an increase in discretionary grant applications, both in terms of the number of groups applying and the increased amounts being requested. (The financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June.)

Year	Amount Allocated	Approved	Declined	Balance Remaining	Balance Outcomes
2024/25	\$2,102 (as at 1 January 2025)	\$2,100	One	\$2* (as at 30 June 2025)	Funds were carried forward to the 2025/26 financial year.
2025/26	\$6,755 (As at 1 July 2025)	\$2,381	One	\$4,884 (as at 30 September 2025)	Balance to be spent before July 2025

* \$150 was not uplifted by the Group, and \$133 was returned as unspent from the Group; therefore, the funds were included with the \$2 remaining in the budget and carried forward into the next financial year.

4.9 The Board received an allocation of \$14,330 from the Council for its 2025 Landscape Budget; however, the budget has been left for the new Board to allocate to projects. Therefore, the current balance available for allocation is \$14,330, with the following projects making up some of the projects from previous financial years:

- Ashley Gorge Track – completed.
- Ashley Gorge info kiosk - currently being built, and the Board funding will be passed on once it receives an invoice.
- Ohoka Stream walkway seat – completed.
- West Eyreton historic signage – structure has been built and is awaiting the Engagement and Communication Team to provide design for the information panel.
- The Oaks Reserve development – on hold.
- Flag tracks for Oxford flags – completed.

Some of the projects considered for the 2024/25 budget were:

- Mandeville Reserve Legacy Area recognising the contribution of Ron Dalley, Gordin Fulton and Bob Ralls. Awaiting a design from the Mandeville Sports Club.
- Mandeville Cemetery (Bradleys Road cemetery tidy up) – on hold until clarity on the proposed Carter residential development process has been completed.
- Oxford Dog Park seating and shelter – currently in discussions with Oxford Lions regarding them funding half the project as well as building the shelter.
- Oxford Menz Shed has built railway siding signage. The next step is to get the sign writing done and the signs installed. This should be completed by the end of 2025.
- Wards Road Planting – gorse has been removed and the area sprayed. Planting is expected to take place by October 2025.

4.10 The Board's performance expectations link directly to the Council's Community Outcomes. The four key performance expectations are:

- (1) Develop and promote the Community Board as a vehicle for local residents to seek assistance and advocacy in accessing council services and consultation processes.
- (2) Develop closer links and relationships with key settlements and groups in the Oxford Ward, as well as with significant district-wide organisations.
- (3) Develop strategies for the Board to become a compelling, cohesive voice in representing the community viewpoint at meetings and policy hearings.
- (4) To actively participate in council business and the annual budget process to ensure equitable spending across the district whilst being mindful of rates affordability.

4.11 By reviewing the 27 reports referred to the Board and decisions for the period of 1 January to 30 September 2025, against the above-listed community outcomes, we believe the following table fairly represents the performance outcomes:

Performance Expectations	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Number of Reports (27)	22	26	17	18

4.12 Chairperson's Comments

- 4.12.1 This year, the Board has continued to serve as a strong and effective voice for its community. My fellow board members have remained dedicated and supportive of each other, consistently working toward positive outcomes for the Ward. The support and respect we receive from Mayor Gordon and our Councillors is genuinely appreciated and reflects the value and effort Community Boards bring to the district. We are also fortunate to work alongside high-calibre council staff—an invaluable resource that consistently supports the Board's efforts. These strong relationships are a real win for the community.\
- 4.12.2 The pace of work has remained high in 2025. We have continued to manage our usual responsibilities while also staying actively involved in Environment Court proceedings on behalf of our community.
- 4.12.3 One major issue before the Court is the Woodstock Quarries landfill application. The Community Board has remained involved to ensure our community has a voice in the process. While Environment Court proceedings often focus heavily on expert evidence, sometimes to the exclusion of community perspectives, we believe we can contribute meaningfully as representatives of current and future ratepayers. It is our role to ensure community concerns are heard and considered.
- 4.12.4 The proposed Ohoka Development by the Carter Group has now progressed, which allows the Board to continue the community opposition. The Carter Group had appealed to the Environment Court after an earlier application for a Plan Change under the former District Plan was declined by commissioners. A separate rezoning request under the proposed District Plan was also declined. They then had three possible paths:
- (a) Continue with their appeal to the Environment Court regarding the original plan change.
 - (b) Drop that Appeal and instead appeal the zoning decision under the proposed district plan (deadline: August 22).
 - (c) Await the outcome of their application to have the project fast-tracked under central government legislation.
- 4.12.5 The Environment Court had instructed the Carter Group to choose one avenue and not pursue all three. The Carter Group decided to proceed with the appeal against the zoning decision under the district plan. The Community Board then became a party to the Appeal to ensure the community remains represented, with a hearing scheduled in November 2025.
- 4.12.6 On a more positive note, we have made significant progress in preserving our local rail history. This heritage project is already underway. The first stage includes installing a West Eyreton rail-inspired placename sign on the northern side of North Eyre Road, near West Eyreton Hall. Next, an information kiosk will be installed in the Oaks Reserve, across from the hall, to share the history of the rail line that once ran through West Eyreton. It is hoped that this initiative will expand to include other significant locations in the future.
- 4.12.7 A related and equally inspiring initiative is the restoration of the historic Wolffs Road Bridge. After learning of the bridge's deterioration, the Board considered several options: complete dismantling, partial dismantling with towers left as legacy structures, or complete restoration. Public consultation revealed strong support for full restoration; however, budget constraints made this unfeasible for the Council alone. Thanks to Councillor Tim Fulton's leadership, a new incorporated society, the Wolffs Road Footbridge Group, has been formed to lead this restoration effort. Though still in its early stages, it promises to be a community-driven project complete of local pride and participation.

- 4.12.8 The Ashley Gorge Reserve is a fantastic asset to both Oxford and the wider district. This stunning natural space is cared for by a dedicated team of volunteers who work tirelessly to preserve its beauty and uphold its high standards. A highlight this year was the opening of an accessibility track — an exciting development that further enhances the reserve’s inclusivity and broadens its appeal. The Community Board deeply appreciates the vision, dedication, and ongoing efforts of this volunteer group, whose work continues to enrich the area for all to enjoy.
- 4.12.9 On 12 April 2025, we celebrated the long-awaited opening of the Oxford Dog Exercise Area. This facility is already proving to be a valuable community asset. As people begin using the area, we expect further improvements over time, based on feedback and need.
- 4.12.10 Flood management — particularly in Mandeville — remains an ongoing challenge. Some larger projects have overshadowed more minor but critical works. This has now been recognised and will hopefully be addressed in the coming year. It is also clear that a more thorough understanding of the existing drainage systems and complex resurgence flows is needed to reduce flooding most effectively and efficiently. This will be a crucial issue for the next Board to champion. We need to continue to drive this forward.
- 4.12.11 Meanwhile, the Oxford pump track proposals are gaining momentum. Two passionate community groups have recognised this need and are driving efforts to bring this initiative to life. One proposal is about to go out for public consultation, and we look forward to the next steps once feedback is gathered. Oxford has a reputation for finding solutions and meeting needs, with this being a great example of that.
- 4.12.12 Rooding also continues to be a priority issue in our Ward and frequently features in our submissions to Council. We are pleased to see safety improvements scheduled for several intersections along Tram Road.
- 4.12.13 Another inspiring project came from a local couple who have already successfully planted areas of the Dawson Road drainage ponds. They proposed a beautification and planting project for the walkway between Wards Road and Tram Road. The Board has supported this idea and approved funding through the Landscaping Budget. We hope the project will involve contributions from the wider community, including students from Te Koromiko Swannanoa School, local residents and potentially sports clubs, to create a valuable shared space. We look forward to seeing this project take off soon.
- 4.12.14 In addition to these larger projects, we have also seen success in resolving smaller drainage and rooding issues, maximising the use of discretionary funding, and enhancing local landscaping initiatives. The Board continues to advocate for logical, efficient systems. We are acutely aware of the financial pressures our residents face and have taken a prudent approach to spending. We have worked hard to strike a balance between fiscal responsibility and maintaining essential infrastructure and services. It’s important to tighten the purse strings, however, not so much that we fall behind in ways that are difficult to recover from in the future.
- 4.12.15 I want to express my sincere thanks to the current Board. Your dedication and contributions this year have been outstanding; each of you has brought significant value to the table. We have all worked together to achieve positive outcomes for our community; you should all be proud of your efforts. I wish the incoming Board all the very best for the next term ahead.

4.13 **Implications for Community Wellbeing**

There are no implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report, however, the report does highlight projects and initiatives that enhance community amenity and wellbeing.

4.14 The Management Team has reviewed this report.

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 no groups or organisations likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in, the subject matter of this report.

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. However, the Board strives to build and maintain good relationships within the community and with Board members; therefore, they regularly attend community meetings and events and take every opportunity to gather feedback.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 Financial Implications

The decisions sought by this report have no financial implications, as the servicing of Community Boards is met within the Council's existing Governance Budgets.

6.2 Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts

The recommendations in this report do not have sustainability and/or climate change impacts.

6.1 Risk Management

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

6.4 Health and Safety

There are no health and safety issues 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 Schedule 7 clause 19 - A Local Authority must hold the meetings that are necessary for the good government of its region or district.

7.3 Consistency with Community Outcomes

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

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

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

7.4 Authorising Delegations

Delegation to Community Boards, Part 3, S-DM 1041, Issue 10, as at 25 October 2019.

TRIM Ref: 250401056041

3 April 20254

Councillor Craig Pauling
The Chairperson
Environmental Canterbury Council
200 Tuam Street
CHRISTCHURCH, 8011

E-mail: mailroom@ecan.govt.nz

Dear Sir

SUBMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL CANTERBURY'S DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2025/26

The Oxford-Ohoka Community Board (the Board) respectfully **requests to be heard** regarding this submission.

The Oxford-Ohoka Community Board (the Board) thank Environmental Canterbury (ECan) for the opportunity to comment on its draft Annual Plan 2025/26 (AP).

Public Transport

- Rural community members continue to be frustrated by subsidising public transport they cannot use and that there is no foresight of services being supplied in the future. Due to this, on behalf of our ratepayers, the Board requests that only areas with access to public transport pay the public transport levy in their rates.
- Oxford is isolated in terms of public transport. We will continue to advocate for this community and stress that they need to be considered. Some form of public service that connects to Rangiora and/or Christchurch is needed.
- Currently the Oxford Community Trust is filling the gap left by the lack of public transport with the help of some partnering organisations. If the Trust were no longer able to provide the much needed and utilised service for people to travel to Rangiora that Oxford township would be totally isolated. The Board wishes to advocate that ECan provide small busses to cover the route between Oxford and Rangiora, in the first instance, which allows elderly people to access doctors and other medical services and the youth to get to school, sports and events.

Water

- The Board would request that ECan urgently implement a better understand of our ward's unique groundwater systems. We need to have a much more robust and intimate knowledge of water systems, the connectivity and impacts of land use, groundwater flows, and aquifers if essential water sources are maintained. The Board needs to be assured that ECan understands these unique systems so that they can make sustainable decisions when issuing consents. The Board is aware that over-allocation of water resources has occurred, which should never have happened as allocation rates should have been quantified before allocation and/or when over-allocation was identified. Then changes should be implemented to rectify it. Water is an essential of life and should be of utmost priority. By 2030, it is reported that fresh water will be over-allocated by 40% worldwide. We simply cannot survive without water, so why are we not doing more to protect it?

ECan has not indicated that groundwater is a priority, and the Board is concerned that this valuable asset is being neglected due to intense land use and climate change implications. The amount of water being extracted from our aquifers must first prioritise household supply and then farming needs after. It is no good just renewing takes when the amount that is allocated is in excess of what is being generated.

A combined effort with district councils should be implemented to collect valuable and real-life data on all our water systems - groundwater/aquifers, surface water and drainage. Drainage, resurgence flows, and increased water tables are particular issues in the Swannanoa/Mandeville/Ohoka areas. What knowledge do we have of these, what levels of rain impact them, has irrigation had an effect, and what are we to expect with climate change? If we cannot answer these questions with certainty, how will we plan for the future?

The Board would also like to see aerial documentation taken as soon as possible after high rain events to gather a more accurate record of typical flows and paths. This may be a project that could be partnered with district councils. Alongside this, studies of contaminant levels in aquifers should be conducted to gather more localised information about groundwater flows and well contamination so that residents with wells better understand what is happening in their area. This would also be a combined project with the Waimakariri District Council due to the overlap.

Alongside the abovementioned, there should also be a collection of information from the locals about ground modifications that have occurred over the years. Some drainage issues may be solved by looking at where water used to flow, what modifications have been made to the land (e.g. flattening out paddocks, diverting natural drainage flows, etc.), and how deep swales and drains used to be to cope with such flows compared to what they are now. Historical and local knowledge can be of significant use in determining some drainage and flooding issues.

River Maintenance

- The Board would like assurance that river maintenance will be carried out to a high standard to ensure the community's and infrastructure's safety during heavy weather events. It was noted that after tree maintenance on the Ashley and Eyre Rivers banks was completed, the 'slash' (trees and branches removed) was left on the banks and riverbeds, which could be dangerous during flooding. There are also many dead and dying Willow trees and stumps in the middle of the Ashley Riverbed that are diverting the river path. If dislodged, these stumps and branches could cause damage to local infrastructure.

Water flow gauges should also be installed further downstream in the Eyre River so that river flows are monitored during high flows and data collection can be carried out. A suggested point would be slightly upstream of Swannanoa. The current gauges are located at the head of the river, which is significantly different from the topography downstream. This may be in the pipeline, but just in case we will still mention it here.

More publicity should be given to the cost and environmental impact associated with people dumping rubbish in riverbeds, and realistic data should be provided to ratepayers. This may assist in educating and informing the public about the extent of the problem.

- The Board would like to once again thank Councillor Claire McKay for her continued engagement with the Board during this term, and it hopes that its closer relationship with ECan continues. This invitation to attend our board meetings is extended to all ECan Councillors. We are more than happy for you to use us as a resource and way to communicate more directly with the local residents of our ward. The Board typically meet on the first Wednesday of every month. With this

open communication, the Board can be kept updated on what has been happening on a regional level, and ECan Councillors may better understand what is happening in the Oxford Ohoka Ward.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment.

Regards



Sarah Barkle
Chairperson
Oxford-Ohoka Community Board

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

TRIM Ref: 250401056127

17 April 2025

Mayor D Gordon
Waimakariri District Council
215 High Street
RANGIORA 7400

E-mail: records@wmk.govt.nz

Dear Sir

SUBMISSION TO THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL'S DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2025/26

The Chairperson wishes to be heard regarding this submission.

The Oxford-Ohoka Community Board (the Board) thanks the Council for the opportunity to submit to the 2025/26 Annual Plan (the Plan).

Key issues for Consultation

(a) *Three Waters Reform – Local Water Done Well*

The Board is supportive of the preferred option and agrees that the most cost-effective way of providing water services is through an internal business unit offering shared management and technical assistance with Hurunui and Kaikoura councils or their organisations. The Board also notes that by retaining the business internally, relationships and synergies between the different departments would be maintained which results in efficiencies and best practices which could be passed on to other councils.

(b) *Transport Funding*

The Board supports the proposal for Bennetts / Tram Road / Oxford Road receiving an upgrade.

The Board would request that the Two Chain Road/Tram Road intersection safety improvements be replaced by No 10 Road / Tram Road intersection. The Board believes that this intersection is more dangerous and in need of urgent attention to mitigate safety concerns. The Board would encourage the Council to invest in driver education in driving on rural roads and intersections. The Board noted that many city-based people are relocating to rural areas and may not be used to traveling on rural roads and judging gaps in traffic given the increased speeds compared to town travel.

The Board also queries what work is to be carried out at Ashley Gorge Road and German Road intersection. The Board was under the impression that a variable speed sign was to be installed.

(c) *Outside Factors Driving Cost Increases*

The Board understands the pressures put on current budgets given the increase in insurance, material and other outside influences and sees no way to mitigate that which is the price of doing

business in the current financial climate. The Board supports the Council in their management of these factors to the best of its ability, however requests that Council continue to review depreciation costs to ensure that budgets do not fall to far behind.

(d) Rating Policy

While the Board prefers the current rating system which gives residents options in paying rates it understands the Council's reasoning in the current financial situation. The Board supports the proposed Remission Policy as an effective and efficient process.

(e) Development Contributions

The Board believes that the Council should consider the way it rates for three waters across the Waimakariri District. Traditionally, all schemes have been rated separately. However, the district is now only served by two Council schemes, the Eastern District Scheme and the Oxford Scheme. Over recent years, all other schemes have been amalgamated into the Eastern District Scheme, and as a result, the other smaller schemes have enjoyed the benefits of the larger rating base and economies of scale. All residents should have equal rights to affordable three waters.

The Board understands that the primary driver for the treatment upgrade in Oxford is to achieve consent compliance, the need to meet higher environmental standards, and achieve consent renewal. The Council has faced a similar challenge in recent years with water supplies where UV upgrades have been carried out and this has been rated on a consistent basis across the district even though the schemes are all physically separated.

The Oxford Wastewater scheme is now an outlier in the district's rating of water and wastewater. The Board, therefore, urges the Council to explore the option of a standard Waimakariri District Wastewater rate across the Oxford and Eastern District Schemes.

Board Priorities for Consideration (IN NO SPECIFIC ORDER)

(f) Rooding

Main Street Oxford

The Board also wish to bring to the Council's attention the surface condition of Main Street in Oxford. The road surface has been damaged due to the number of heavy vehicles using the road daily. Therefore, the Board urges the Council to reconsider making budgetary provisions for the resealing of Main Street. The Board urges Council to make budgetary provisions for the resealing of Main Street, particularly from the 50km town entry sign to the Police station and from the Challenge garage through to the West Oxford Pub.

The Board also requests that for speed thresholds similar to the ones that have been installed in Cust to be installed at the entrance to and from the township to try and slow traffic down.

The Board notes that the entry to the town near the Cemetery, that the shingle area has become increasingly pot holed and looks untidy and unsafe. The community requests that the Council tidy this area up so as to give a good impression as people enter the town.

Rural Roads

The Board requests that a higher level of maintenance be carried out on rural shingle roads. The Board again implores the Council to institute a 40km/h speed limit on Main Street, Oxford, as per the numerous residents' requests over the years.

(g) Footpaths

Numerous streets in Oxford have no footpath or, in some cases, only one side of the road. The Board, therefore, requests the installation of footpaths on at least one side of the road in all the residential streets in Oxford. Several streets are still not connected by footpaths – Harewood Road from Burnt Hill Road to Park Avenue, Matai Place, Redwood Place, Knights Street, and Cheapside Street, among others. It is suggested that a condition assessment is to be undertaken on the foot path on Park Avenue and Main Street (particularly between Park Avenue and Rata Street on both sides of the road) as this foot path is in poor condition with multiple trip hazards.

The Board would also like to request rural schools become better connected to their surrounding communities, particularly in peri-rural areas. We need to have the infrastructure to ensure we are future proofing our rural communities. To allow this to happen we need to invest in multiuse paths to allow students the ability to get to school via other mods other than a car.

(h) Future-proofing Oxford's infrastructure

The Board wishes to see more innovative future-proofing of Oxford's infrastructure and waste systems. An example would be looking into technologies that can use waste to generate power. Kate Valley and the Oxford waste systems would be good examples to investigate and consider.

(i) Flooding

The Board notes that there are a number of stormwater issues which result in flooding during wet weather. These include, but are not limited to, the corner of Rata and Tui Street, sections of High Street, Weka Street and Main Street. The Board would like assurance that these matters are being included in budgets with work scheduled.

Mandeville is also an area of concern for our board. We believe the stage 1 plan needs to happen to offer some relief to the residents impacted. Alongside this downstream impacts must be mitigated by maintaining flow and fixing any pinch points. There are also some other properties west of the proposed area that need some remediation work as well.

Stage 2 should be progressed but firstly by researching the drainage patterns in the greater Swannanoa/West Eyreton area so that we have a sound understanding of the subsurface flows and general hydrology before any suggested works are put forward.

(i) Property Management

The Board wishes to suggest that the Council be more diligent in utilising its property portfolio. A list of all properties should be collated with a description, what income it currently generates, and the potential market valuation for income. Any way to generate revenue would benefit ratepayers, and the Board is aware of properties that have been vacant for long periods that could have been rented. The Board feels this is an opportunity for additional revenue and would make the best use of these assets. Some properties noted are the section on the corner of McHugh's Road,

Two Chain Road and Tram Road, Pontz Road and Oxford Road corner and Tram/Woodfield Road. Most of these areas are not maintained and are an eyesore.

(j) Miscellaneous issues

- The Board does not support the purchase of land for a second cricket oval. This is not considered a priority as there are other good cricket ovals throughout the district.
- The Board supports the current landfill operation at Kate Valley. We believe that its current business model has both the councils and communities' best interest in mind. It has the capacity to hold waste for many years to come. Due to the unique geomorphology of the area it makes it a suitable place for such a facility. It also means that the waste is contained in one location rather than ad hock around the district. The Board believes such waste should not be managed by private entities. Ultimately such facilities become a financial burden to ratepayers and a potential environmental hazard. This is not a legacy that we want to leave in our district. We would support the Council in opposing such applications.
- The Board believes that the Airfield should be self-funding and an increase in rental and landing costs is in order to achieve this goal.

(k) General comment

Overall, the Board supports infrastructural development and keeping up with Council's core business. Any extras or perceived 'nice to haves' - like the cricket oval - should be seriously considered as to whether they are something that the Council needs to be investing in right now. Let's do the essentials well and integrate extra projects as funds afford.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment.

Regards



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