

Waimakariri District Council Community and Recreation Committee

Agenda

Tuesday 26 August 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)

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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 26 AUGUST 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 15 July 2025

RECOMMENDATION

8 – 19

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 15 July 2025 as a true and accurate record.

3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)

3.3 Notes of the Workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 15 July 2025

RECOMMENDATION

20 – 21

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the circulated Notes of the Workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 15 July 2025.

4 DEPUTATIONS

4.1 Kaiapoi Food Forest Trust Annual Report 2024/25 – Glenn Foley

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

5 **REPORTS**

5.1 **Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Update August 2025 – Sylvia Docherty (Corporate Planning Team Leader), Mike Kwant (Senior Ranger (Biodiversity) and Lexie Mealings (Graduate Policy Analyst)**

RECOMMENDATION

22 – 66

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250806144978.
- (b) **Approves** the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary Aircraft User Agreement (250409062043)
- (c) **Notes** minor changes to the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw will be reported to the Council for decision on 2 September 2025 including:
 - (i) clarification of the Bylaw area associated with the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary Aircraft User Agreement
 - (ii) reference to the Dog Control Act 1996 in clause 1.1 (legislation the bylaw is made pursuant to)
- (d) **Notes** the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Implementation Plan was adopted by the Council on 6 May 2025.
- (e) **Notes** staff are working with mana whenua and agency partners to ensure that the objectives of the Bylaw are being upheld during the customary fishing and whitebait fishing seasons.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to Community Boards for information.

5.2 **Applications to the Biodiversity Fund Autumn 2025 – Kate Steel (Ecologist – Protected Areas)**

RECOMMENDATION

67 – 78

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250729138411.
- (b) **Approves** the allocation of \$1,500 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Bruce and Fiona Clark for native planting.
- (c) **Approves** the allocation of \$1,530 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Jeremy and Andrea Stevens for native planting.
- (d) **Approves** the allocation of \$1,490 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Tim McMorran for native planting
- (e) **Approves** the allocation of \$2,000 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to James Stephens for weed control
- (f) **Approves** the allocation of \$2,000 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Chris Barber for weed control
- (g) **Approves** the allocation of \$4,787.40 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Pamu for weed control

- (h) **Approves** the allocation of \$6,272 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Nicky Auld for wetland enhancement
- (i) **Approves** the allocation of \$1,315 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to John Wakeman for wetland enhancement
- (j) **Declines** funding from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for Richard and Rachel Lange to undertake earthworks and planting and **Notes** staff will work with Richard and Rachel Lange to undertake an ecology survey and restoration plan.
- (k) **Declines** funding from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for Rachelle Winter to undertake an ecology survey and restoration plan and **Notes** Greenspace Biodiversity Staff will undertake an ecology survey and restoration plan for Rachelle Winter as BAU.
- (l) **Declines** funding from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for Anthony & Julia Holcroft to buy eco-sourced mānuka and **Notes** that we will provide the plants directly to Anthony and Julia from a donation by the Motukarara Department of Conservation Nursery.
- (m) **Declines** funding from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for traps for Michelle and Wayne Flintoft towards predator traps and **Notes** we will fund this through a Lotteries Foundation Grant for this purpose.
- (n) **Declines** funding from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for weed control in the fen and swale areas at Silverstream and **Notes** we will fund this from the Silverstream Reserve maintenance budget.
- (o) **Notes** that this will leave \$39,354 available in the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for allocation in the spring funding round.
- (p) **Notes** that all application forms and supporting information are available on request.

5.3 **Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Contract Update – Tessa Sturley (Community Team Manager)**

RECOMMENDATION

79 – 89

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250814150285.
- (b) **Notes** that the Waimakariri Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) programme has achieved more than double its contracted outcomes for 2024/25, with 34 employment placement outcomes for the original contract of only 14, with those placements in a variety of local sectors.
- (c) **Notes** that staff have worked with people leaders across the Council to secure three additional placements within Council Units or with businesses associated with the Council.
- (d) **Notes** that over the 2024/25 contract year, in addition to contracted placements, the Waimakariri MTFJ coordinator has helped a total of 93 local unemployed youth into some form of work, work experience or work-readiness training.
- (e) **Notes** that in February, with the Waimakariri District's proven track record, we were awarded an additional \$15,000 over the contracted funding, to enable the filling of three additional placements, with the requirement that these be within council teams or council-related business. This target was achieved.

- (f) **Notes** that with the success of the local programme and our district's high number of young people on Ministry of Social Development's Job Seeker list, Waimakariri District Council's MTFJ Programme is in the fortunate position to have kept the contract for the 2025/26 year, with Ministry of Social Development (MSD) signalling that this funding will likely continue through 2026/27, also.
- (g) **Notes** the reprioritisation, with preference given to clients aged over 18 and on the MSD Job Seeker benefit, and a resulting gap in service provision for local young people aged 16 to 17 years and not in education employment or training, (NEETs)
- (h) **Notes** a new requirement that 80% of referrals must now come directly via MSD, with the remaining 20% either NEET youth, or older people facing significant barriers to employment.
- (i) **Notes** more rigid requirements for clients to meet MSD obligations, with an associated increase in administrative requirements for staff.
- (j) **Notes** that staff are working, supported by the mayor, to mitigate the effect of a reduction of service provision for local NEET young people.

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

RECOMMENDATION

90 – 99

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250811147785.
- (b) **Notes** a strong start to the financial year with attendance of 21,500 customers for the month of July 2025. This is up 1,000 (or 4.8%) customers in comparison to July 2024.
- (c) **Notes** the consistent achievement of positive customer satisfaction results averaging 94% in the last 5 years of Aquatics general customer surveys.
- (d) **Notes** that Aquatics staff are working closely with Police and neighbouring councils to ensure the safety of our customers remains a key priority.
- (e) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

5.5 **Libraries Update to August 2025 – Luke Sole (District Libraries Manager)**

RECOMMENDATION

100 – 108

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250703121283
- (b) **Notes** the community benefits of the below initiatives, particularly the increase of 954 individual library memberships and 677 active borrowers in 2024/2025, which reflects growing community demand for library resources, spaces, and services in the District.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their 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

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee will be held on Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 1pm.

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), R Brine (left 1:50pm), N Mealings, P Redmond (left 3:10pm), and Mayor D Gordon (arrived 1:19pm, left 2:34pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor T Fulton.

J Millward (Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), J Borland (Team Leader Greenspace Strategy and Partnerships), B Dollery (Biodiversity Team Leader), L Mealings (Graduate Policy Analyst), L Tilley (Youth Development Facilitator) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

1 APOLOGIES

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** and sustains an apology for absence from Councillor Blackie and Councillor Brine for early departure at 1:50pm.

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 20 May 2025

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

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.

CARRIED

3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)

There were no matters arising.

4 **DEPUTATIONS**

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

G Hamblyn was not present.

5 **REPORTS**

5.1 **Community Development Strategy 2025-2035 – T Sturley (Community Team Manager)**

T Sturley spoke to the report, noting that approval was being sought to recommend to the Council the adoption of the Waimakariri Community Development Strategy 2025-2035 (the Strategy) as a framework for community development across the Waimakariri District. She highlighted that the community stakeholder engagement for developing the strategy was extensive, encompassing 19 networks and various sectors of the community. Community consultation had been via the Council's 'Let's Talk' function and directly via the various networks facilitated by the Community Team. Subsequently, the draft Strategy document had also been made available for community consultation; however, the response rate had been low. Staff received only one comprehensive response from Health New Zealand, which was in favour of the activities outlined in the strategy, along with a few recommendations for implementation.

Councillor Redmond questioned how the proposed removal of the four Local Government wellbeing factors from the Local Government Act 2002 would affect the Strategy. T Sturley did not believe that it would, as the community developed the Strategy in response to community-identified priorities, which had naturally been grouped into goals that aligned with wellbeing phrases.

Councillor Mealings asked, given the strong stakeholder engagement, whether staff would regard the pre-engagement work with stakeholders as an informed part of the strategy development consultation. T Sturley noted that staff had encouraged input throughout their networks and provided paper copies to forums such as Social Services Waimakariri, the Waimakariri Health Advisory Group and other networks they facilitated.

Councillor Mealings enquired whether the Council's community outcomes aligned with the four wellbeing outcomes outlined in the Local Government Act 2002, or if they reflected how the Council structured its community outcomes. T Sturley noted that the intention of the Strategy was to provide a framework for a resilient, connected community, and that it included wellbeing elements. The Strategy focused on ensuring that people were empowered to achieve their full potential, that they were connected, and that they had access to the services, supports, and opportunities that would help them become well-functioning members of the community.

Councillor Fulton asked if there was a hierarchy to the community's well-being and needs. T Sturley noted staff looked at it in line with the social determinants of health and wellbeing. They were interested in whether people had access to education, employment, and housing, and whether poverty was a significant issue. That was the Council's translation of wellbeing.

Councillor Cairns noted that the Government consistently emphasised the importance of councils focusing on core services, which they viewed as roads, pipes, and water. The Council did not sell the services provided by its Community Team. T Sturley thought that the Council could potentially do better selling those services, but the work of community development was to be celebrated because it celebrated the community.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

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 feedback that might lead to changes in 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.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings commended the Community Team for the development of the Strategy. She noted that based on the broad stakeholder involvement in formulating the Strategy and the extensive community consultation, it seemed that the draft Strategy was generally supported. Councillor Mealings, therefore, supported the motion.

Councillor Cairns also supported the motion and thanked the Community Team for the extraordinary work they were doing with community organisations such as the Community Hub and the Men's Shed.

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

B Dollery spoke to the report, noting that approval was being sought for the granting of applications to the Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy Implementation Fund for community organisations. This was the first time the contestable fund had been made available to community groups. A total of \$10,000 was available annually, and applicants were required to complete an application form to demonstrate how their need/project aligned with the criteria. Four applications had been received.

Councillor Fulton noted that some of the applicants had applied to various organisations for funding for the same project. B Dollery advised that staff was aware that organisations applied for other streams from other bodies, such as Environment Canterbury and the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust. Organisations were required to declare other sources of funding as part of their application. The issue with some of these projects was that they were not a 'one-stop shop', so there may be a need to fund maintenance, data gathering, and other related expenses to complete the projects.

Councillor Mealings questioned whether the area the Kaiapoi East Residents Association (KERA) wanted to plant between Moore Street and Feldwick Drive in Kaiapoi was subject to a Memorandum of Understanding for the development of the proposed Aquasports Park. B Dollery noted that a few years ago, the Council collaborated with KERA to establish a 50-metre buffer zone between the residential area and any future development on the adjacent regeneration land.

Councillor Cairns queried whether staff had done due diligence in terms of who KERA was representing and if they were involving local residents who bounded the area being planted. B Dollery confirmed that local residents were involved, noting that she had been in correspondence with two members of KERA regarding planting this year and they have confirmed the planting requirements of the neighbouring property owners. They had also been encouraging the local schools to ascertain if they would be interested in assisting with the planting.

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

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 Council.

CARRIED

Councillor Brine supported the motion and commented that it was a detailed report with good questions.

Councillor Redmond supported the approval of the funding allocations, as accountability procedures were in place to ensure the funds were utilised for their intended purpose. The applicants were all well-established and well-known.

Councillor Mealings was pleased to see the uptake of the Biodiversity Contestable Fund, as the Council's Natural Environment Strategy intended. She believed that the funding would be put to good use and, therefore, supported the motion.

Councillor Fulton noted it would be educational to undertake a field trip to see the fruits of the organisation's labour, particularly on Hunter Stream.

Councillor Cairns supported the motion, commending the work of the applicants and other organisations planting trees in reserves and other urban areas. He hoped that the Biodiversity Contestable Fund would kickstart and support the growth of more forests, thereby putting green in the community.

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

L Sole acknowledged the passing of Neill Price, who was a well-known Justice of the Peace at the Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre. N Price was recognised with a Mayoral Award in 2024 for his many years of community service to Fire and Emergency New Zealand, the Kaiapoi Borough Council, and the Waimakariri District Council. He also served as the president of the Kaiapoi and Canterbury District RSA and received a Queen's Service Medal for his services to the community.

L Sole advised that the July School Holiday Programming had been very popular, with 20,000 visits over the two weeks. There were a few days when attendance records were broken at Kaiapoi. Libraries collaborated with the Canterbury Museum, with over 400 children in attendance. There had also been ongoing increases in attendance at Rangiora Library, which had translated to increases in lending. Libraries reported nationally on all their statistics, and there had been a 6% increase in books checked out at the Rangiora Library.

L Sole noted the partnership with the University of Canterbury and the PACE Internship Programme. Waimakariri Libraries partnered with the University of Canterbury to host student interns. One Intern was working in the local history space, with an archives and archaeology background. The Libraries had adopted several initiatives in the community health space, maintaining a long-standing relationship with Dementia Canterbury, Melanoma New Zealand, and the Cancer Society, among others, who utilised the library spaces. The programmes were mostly at capacity, and staff were exploring other options for bringing them to Oxford and how they could be expanded.

Councillor Fulton questioned the roles and responsibilities of library staff in caring for vulnerable people. L Sole noted there were clear boundaries that limited the care staff could provide. Staff supported their communities to the best of their ability, but they did not have a duty of care like a health provider would. However, there were instances where they reached out for support to the Community Team and their networks, in the hope that community members would take advantage of the available support.

Councillor Mealings noted the discrepancy between the budgeted and actual revenue; the actual amount was \$105,000, versus a budget of \$899,000. She asked what non-rate revenue the Libraries would be forecasting. L Sole explained that the \$899,000 included Development Contributions of \$820,000 for the budgeted addition to the Rangiora Library, and there was also Better of Funding. He thought going forward, those would be separated to make it easier to understand.

Councillor Cairns sought clarity regarding the 'careful consideration' of the use of the Kaiapoi Library. L. Sole noted that it was being strategic about the events and programmes hosted at Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Civic Centre and prioritising those that would resonate with the community. The Libraries had a strategic framework that aligned with the Council's Community Development Strategy outcomes. Programs and initiatives to be hosted at the Civic Centre were weighed to determine what would elicit the best community development outcomes. Informal events still had a learning component to them; often, it was generational, with a grandparent bringing their grandchild, and there were many positive social and economic outcomes.

Councillor Cairns asked if the Libraries were continuing the Digi-Coach initiative. L. Sole noted that, building on the success of the nationwide Digi-Coach pilot, the Libraries would be partnering with TechMate to expand the digital support it offers the community, albeit at slightly reduced hours, but it would be entirely externally funded.

Councillor Cairns queried if the Fossil Fun event would also be hosted in Rangiora and Oxford. L. Sole noted that the event was hosted in partnership with Canterbury Museum as part of the July School Holiday Programming at the Kaiapoi and Rangiora Libraries.

Councillor Cairns inquired if the Suitcase Full of Memories collection used any of the displays from the Rangiora Museum, and L. Sole replied that they did not, because it was a borrowable collection.

Councillor Cairns questioned the success in extending the Kaiapoi Library's hours over the weekend to accommodate the people visiting the Kaiapoi Art Expo and Blackwells event. L. Sole noted that it was deemed successful, as attendance was quite high. There was a demand in the community for libraries to be responsive to local events.

Councillor Fulton asked whether there was a policy for displaying items in the Waimakariri Libraries. L. Sole noted that it would depend on the item and whether it was deemed appropriate and considered important to the community, but the Libraries were not a collection entity. If an item were deemed appropriate, the Council would consider a Loan Agreement.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250703121283.
- (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.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon thanked L. Sole for his words about the passing of N Price. He supported the motion and thanked staff for ensuring libraries were welcoming and safe environments. He received only good comments about the Waimakariri Libraries' collection and how people liked the new layout of the Rangiora Library. The Libraries played a broad role in the community, and he attended a number of concerts in the Chamber Gallery, where several people commented on how wonderful it was. The fact that there were art exhibition spaces in Rangiora and Kaiapoi made Waimakariri Libraries unique. Mayor Gordon appreciated how flexible the staff were to enable those places to be used by the community.

Councillor Cairns agreed that N Price was a special person in the community and would be sadly missed. He noted that the work the staff did at the Libraries was extraordinary. His wife took their grandchildren to the Rangiora Library to hear everything about pirates, and they were enthralled. Staff skills made the Libraries a special space for people to visit, as evidenced by the increase in visitor numbers from 16,000 to 20,000, which was wonderful.

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

M Greenwood took the report as read and highlighted the results of the General Customer Satisfaction Survey completed in June 2025. Aquatics achieved a 99% satisfaction rate for programmes and staff engagement, which spoke volumes about how hard the staff worked to engage with customers and ensure their visit was comfortable. Their overall satisfaction was 94%, down by 1% from the previous survey; however, considering the challenges and ongoing work, it was still a strong result.

Councillor Cairns noted the number of people visiting the Aquatic facilities seemed to be very consistent. He asked if that was an indication that the Council needed to market these facilities more. M Greenwood noted that there were quieter times, and staff worked hard to try to attract people to those quieter periods. The Council ran an early bird special at the Kaiapoi Aquatic facilities for the seniors who came earlier, which was traditionally a quiet time. At the peak times, the Aquatic facilities were largely running at capacity, which aligned with the District's Aquatics Strategy.

Councillor Cairns further enquired whether the Aquatic facilities would cope if more programmes were added. J Millward noted that the Aquatic facilities ran several programmes, and trying to get into the Learn to Swim Programme, for example, was difficult.

Councillor Cairns questioned whether it was time to consider developing another Aquatic facility to facilitate more programmes. M Greenwood noted that this may be the case; however, there were other community needs to consider, such as access to hydrotherapy pools for more senior community members.

Councillor Redmond inquired about the steps staff were taking to address the negative comments in the General Customer Satisfaction Survey regarding lane usage. M Greenwood explained that a number of the comments pertained to incidents between members of the public. Staff would work at reinforcing etiquette during lane swimming and addressing expectations in a shared space. Staff were in the process of upgrading the signage at the Aquatic facilities, and they would provide ongoing education to customers.

Councillor Mealings noted the Aquatic facilities seemed to be well utilised, she asked if there was any excess capacity. M Greenwood stated that there were periods of excess capacity, but the challenge was aligning customers' availability with facility availability. Quite often, when customers reached out to advise that they wanted to swim at a particular time, there were only two lanes available because of the Learn to Swim Programme. He pointed out that the Aquatic facilities were open 15 hours a day, from 6 am to 9 pm. The challenge they encountered was that the peak times were extremely crowded.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

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.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon supported the motion, thanking the staff for their work. He recently raised some feedback from a dissatisfied community member with Aquatic staff, who indicated that she was pleased with how her concerns had been addressed. Councillors have raised the possibility of an additional Aquatic facility; however, developing such facilities was a huge undertaking. The need for additional resources at the existing facilities, such as hydro slides, was regularly raised; however, upon examining the facilities across the Waimakariri District, we were very fortunate. In time, another facility may be needed as the community continues to grow.

Councillor Mealings observed that the Aquatic facilities' visitor numbers were very stable, with facilities usually running close to capacity, yet staff still managed to have a 94% satisfaction ratio. The fact that they managed to get 15% of customers to complete the Customer Satisfaction Survey was quite a feat. She knew the team would continue to strive for increased customer satisfaction.

Councillor Cairns agreed with previous comments. Pre-paid attendance resulted in over 3,000 more visits than last year, indicating that it paid to listen to customers.

5.5 Youth Action Plan Early Engagement Update – L Mealings (Graduate Policy Analyst), K Nutbrown (Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor) and L Tilley (Youth Development Facilitator)

L Mealings spoke to the report, noting the purpose was to provide the Committee with an update on the early engagement process associated with the Waimakariri Youth Action Plan (the Plan).

L Tilley provided the Committee with a refresher on why staff were reviewing the Plan. The main focus of the engagement was to engage with young people where they were, rather than trying to get them to come to the Council. Staff achieved this by launching the early engagement during youth week, as young people would already be attending those events. Additionally, by engaging with schools that agreed to disseminate the information to their entire student population, including Kaiapoi High, Rangiora High, and Oxford Area Schools, as well as several primary schools. Staff presented to a Comcol class and also connected with Lincoln University and Ara. Engaging with schools paid off, as 968 respondents found out through their schools. Initially, to make the survey more inclusive, staff conducted a focus group with the Lighthouse Project. Staff also attended the Rainbow Community meetup and met with the Mahi Matatoa Homeschool Network.

Mealings reported that between 18 May 2025 and 13 July 2025, the early engagement survey received 1,092 responses from individuals aged 12 to 24 years. This accounted for 11.63% of the youth population in the Waimakariri District, with the addition of some of those workshop participants, staff were able to engage with 1,112 young people in the district. At the end of the survey, staff also provided an option for respondents to indicate whether they would like to be kept updated on the progress of the Youth Action Plan. The total number of respondents who chose this option was 237. Staff did not yet have an in-depth understanding of what the respondents had said, instead, staff had provided an overview of how the engagement went and who they had heard from.

Councillor Fulton asked what staff thought of the public opinion that the youth were not the most popular age group. L Tilley believed it was a fair assessment that young people seemed to be loitering around town and were often assumed to be a bit bothersome or up to no good, which was frequently a false assumption. She thought taking the time to value their voices told young people that the Council did care and wanted to make the district a better place for them.

Councillor Redmond noticed that 90% of respondents were in schools and questioned how staff engaged with young people aged 18 to 24 years old. L Tilley noted that staff knew going into this project that this would be the demographic they would struggle to engage. Posters were displayed in areas frequented by the target age group, including stores and local university campuses, as well as on social media. Although it seemed like a small amount, they still received around 75 responses from 18 to 24-year-olds and could therefore still extract data. The number of respondents was in line with what other councils had achieved when trying to engage with that age group.

Responding to Councillor Cairns' question, L. Tilley observed that staff worked with the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group to establish where young people congregated and how they could be reached, while minimising the effort required for young people to contribute. She believed that adopting a similar approach to community engagement would be beneficial.

Councillor Fulton inquired whether this survey would inform the Council on youth employment issues. Mealings, noted as a Generation Z herself, felt well-equipped to process the data and pull out the relevant parts. One of the sections in the survey was on employment, so respondents were asked if they had tried to find a job in the district, how they had found the experience, and the types of jobs they were interested in.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

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.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings commented that staff had done an exceptional job with this engagement. They had well-thought-out questions, they engaged their target market where they were, they had meaningful incentives that supported local businesses, and they managed to capture an important voice that would help inform work for years to come. She believed that this pre-engagement was the most crucial part of drafting the Youth Action Plan.

Councillor Redmond thought the survey was excellent; however, he questioned the definition of youth, acknowledging that the national definition constrained staff, but it seemed that 18 to 24-year-olds were different from 13 to 17-year-olds. He commented that it was a good report, and staff were doing good work.

Mayor Gordon thought that the communications and engagement were superb and believed that this was the second most successful engagement the Council had ever done. He noted that several staff members attended the engagement events he had attended and thanked staff for their commitment. He noted he had pushed for a Youth Action Plan because there was a real gap.

Councillor Cairns agreed with Mayor Gordon that staff had been very adaptable to ensure the success of the engagement. He looked forward to seeing the survey's final findings.

In her right of reply, Councillor Mealings noted that the definition of youth also encompassed the age range of the Youth Council, which made for some interesting conversations. She commended the fact that staff had done such a good job in capturing the views of urban and rural residents, as well as young people of varying abilities and demographics across the district.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

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

Councillor Blackie was not present to provide an update.

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

Councillor Brine was not present to provide an update.

7.3 Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Brent Cairns.

- Kaiapoi Community Hub
 - Sutton Tools had provided the Kaiapoi Menzshed (the Group) with a date that they wish to move to the Kaiapoi Community Hub. The Council's Community Development Team had been doing a wonderful job in assisting the Group with funding applications and any help they could provide to facilitate the relocation. The Group had employed a person to assist with administration, funding applications, and fundraising. The Group had a shortfall of funds, and many members had dipped into their own pockets to top up the funds. During the next school holidays, the Group would be hosting a Teddy Bear Hunt fundraiser, with the assistance of RePurpose Pals. The Group was undertaking multiple community projects, such as installing seating/shelter in the dog park at Gladstone Park.
- Food Security
 - Food Secure North Canterbury (the Group) was holding their quarterly forum at 5pm on 5 August 2025 at the Amberley Bowling Club. The Group was creating a map of local North Canterbury food growers and producers from a food secure perspective, which could be used in a time of emergency and would be the first mapping project of this type nationwide. The Group was also creating a series of simple cooking programs with Jo Seagar, assisting people in using basic ingredients to prepare healthy meals. The Group had secured funding to support the buying of trees for community food forests.

- The list of requests for food forests included the potential food forests in Northbrook Reserve, Pines Kairaki Beach, Oxford, Noaia Education Facility, The ARC women-only housing project food forest, Leithfield, and Pegasus/Woodend.
- Open Farm tours had ceased trading, which facilitated farm tours, and the likes of the Kaiapoi Food Forest had 291 people for a visit because of this business.
- Kaiapoi North School welcomed 14 new entrants yesterday, with the school's roll at over 500. St Patrick's School was just under their maximum number of students, which was regulated by 1970 legislation. They were using every room/building to accommodate the number of students. The principals he spoke to voiced concerns about the Ministry of Education not taking into account the growth in the Waimakariri District.
- Kaiapoi Art Expo and Blackwells Winter Festival had Kaiapoi buzzing over the weekend, and it was splendid to see the Kaiapoi Library open to take advantage of the influx of people in the town centre. The previous week, Waimak United hosted its 14th Women's Tournament, which drew 779 players, along with their families, to the Waimakariri District. Again, this saw the local businesses benefitting.
- Last week, the Enterprise North Canterbury Funding Committee met to consider submissions from Blackwells, Oxman Race, Experience Oxford, Down by the River, and Woodend Beach. The Down by the River Jazz Event would be district-wide from Oxford to Kaiapoi over a number of days, 17 to 19 October 2025, involving many groups and businesses
- The Waimakariri Access Group was advised about a potential bylaw to be considered by the Council in 2026 regarding obstructions on footpaths, i.e. signage and bollards. This would include sign bases that were left over night, whilst the sign was removed, the base remains and becomes a hazard.

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

Councillor Blackie was not present to provide an update.

8 **QUESTIONS**

Nil.

9 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

10 **NEXT MEETING**

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

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:37PM.

Workshop

- *Greenspace Planning Approach – Refer to Trim 250728137713.*

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date

UNCONFIRMED

NOTES OF A WORKSHOP OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2025, COMMENCING AT 2:37PM.

PRESENT

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), R Brine (left 1:50pm), N Mealings, P Redmond (left 3:10pm) and Mayor D Gordon (arrived 1:19pm left 2:34pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor T Fulton.

J Millward (Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), J Borland (Team Leader Greenspace Strategy and Partnerships), and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

1. Greenspace Planning Approach – G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager) and J Borland (team Leader Greenspace Strategy and Partnerships)

- How did elected members fit into this process?
There would be a number of formulas which staff undertook so elected members would be a part of that process in some form. Staff hoped to receive feedback for specific projects and in particular areas. Staff would be feeding that back directly to the Community Boards and the Community and Recreation Committee. In the timeline put together by staff there would be some key deliverables and milestones which would be looked at.
- Development contributions would open up a fair bit of opportunity to new facilities and development contributions was changed to a development levy. Councils could now charge for particularly infrastructure.
- Staff used the term 'joined up with other local authorities'. Could the Council be joined up with other Territorial Authorities, for instance Hurunui District Council. There had been a lot of focus on their cricket oval.
Staff were currently working on the wider places and spaces pulled together for the Territorial Authorities. Staff would talk to Hurunui District Council as it did not have any representation but should do. Staff talked with our neighbors. As far as Canterbury Country Cricket were concerned, they were still interested in what the Council was doing. The Council had some testing with that conversation and were talking with Canterbury Cricket and Canterbury Country Cricket and other authorities around what a regional cricket plan could look like.
- Passive recreational space – the Council had talked about walkways and what Environment Canterbury did along our river margins. Were staff having those conversations to make sure we had those open recreational spaces?
The public did not see a difference walking on Environment Canterbury land where it led into Department of Conservation land or other publicly owned land such as the Councils. Staff were having ongoing conversations. From a staff perspective one of the beauties was that it acknowledged the top three recreational activities in New Zealand; walking, cycling and gardening. Organized sport had a high appeal throughout Waimakariri but if you looked at that demographic and the setup of some of the new neighborhoods there was a real push and focus to make sure we had a purposeful journey of recreation and pathway there.

- Looking at Te Kaha, one of the key promoters of what was being built was rugby. However, they were not going to pay any money to that facility for some years. Looking at the pressure the Council were under to provide all these facilities. How much money did staff think they would be asking for in the next long term plan?

It depended, staff would most likely be asking for more because we had more people that kept moving to the district and to provide even the same level of service that we have now to the people that were here now the Council would have to implement some of the projects already known. Staff talked about hydrotherapy, and more leisure facilities. Those things have been mentioned in Long Term Plans for the last nine years. All of that had to be assessed alongside where we were financially as a district and a country and what people could afford and what the trends of sport and recreation were.

- The Council now had the opportunity to potentially fund through development contributions?

Trends were changing. The issue we had now was with development contributions that had not kept up monetary wise with the new facilities. The Council knew its capital costs to put things in throughout the evaluation had gone up 40% in three years. Development contributions have gone from \$10,000 to \$14,000 which impacted on the price of our property and development. Under the Act the Council could only charge 7.5% of the land value so we were capped at what we could do.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE WORKSHOP CONCLUDED AT 3:18PM.

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** BYL-74 / 250806144978**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 August 2025

AUTHOR(S): Sylvia Docherty, Policy and Corporate Planning Team Leader
 Mike Kwant, Senior Ranger (Biodiversity)
 Lexie Mealings, Graduate Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Update August 2025

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

 General Manager



 Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

1.1.1. Provide an update to the Committee following the adoption of the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2024.

1.1.2. Approve the new Ashley Rakahuri Estuary Aircraft User Agreement

Attachments:

- i. Ashley Rakahuri Estuary Aircraft User Agreement (250409062043)
- ii. Track Changes Version of the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2025 (250724136344)

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250806144978.
- (b) **Approves** the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary Aircraft User Agreement (250409062043)
- (c) **Notes** minor changes to the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw will be reported to the Council for decision on 2 September 2025 including:
 - i. clarification of the Bylaw area associated with the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary Aircraft User Agreement
 - ii. reference to the Dog Control Act 1996 in clause 1.1 (legislation the bylaw is made pursuant to)
- (d) **Notes** the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Implementation Plan was adopted by the Council on 6 May 2025.
- (e) **Notes** staff are working with mana whenua and agency partners to ensure that the objectives of the Bylaw are being upheld during the customary fishing and whitebait fishing seasons.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to Community Boards for information.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The *Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2024* (Bylaw) applies to all of the beaches within the Waimakariri District Council's jurisdiction and its purpose is to control activities on the beaches in order to manage conflicting recreational uses, minimise any environmental impacts arising from this activity, protect and promote public health and safety and minimise the potential for offensive behaviour in public places.

4. **INFORMATION**

Minor amendments to the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw

- 4.1. Following adoption of the 2024 version of the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw (Bylaw) staff have identified two minor issues that can be resolved with minor amendments to the Bylaw.
- 4.1.1. During the development of the Aircraft User Agreement members of the Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club identified that the wording in the Bylaw does not clearly identify that the activity is only restricted in the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary.
- 4.1.2. Currently the Dog Control Act 1996 is identified in the preamble to the Bylaw but is not included in the Bylaw clause that indicates the legislation that enables the Bylaw.

Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Implementation Plan

- 4.2. The first Implementation Plan for the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw was adopted by Council on 5 December 2017 following the first review of the Bylaw. The updated Implementation Plan is reflective of the updates made to the Bylaw, as well as feedback received from the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Advisory Group.
- 4.3. The Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2024 Implementation Plan was adopted by the Council at the meeting on 6 May 2025.
- 4.4. Staff are progressing actions in the 2024 Implementation Plan starting with the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary Aircraft User Agreement, a review of enforcement and signage in the Bylaw area and have recently establish a research project with student from the University of Canterbury.

Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Advisory Group

- 4.5. The Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Advisory Group (Advisory Group) met on 5 June 2025. The Advisory Group received a presentation on research conducted on the topic of *"Factors Affecting Shorebird Nest Success and Behaviour at the Ashley-Rakahuri Saltwater Creek River Estuary"*. The Advisory Group also discussed participation in the delivery of actions in the Implementation Plan with sub-groups established for enforcement and signage.
- 4.6. The next meeting of the Advisory Group is scheduled for 2 October 2025.

Customary Fishing / Whitebait Fishing Seasons

- 4.7. Fishing of whitebait is undertaken in multiple locations within the Bylaw area operating two fishing seasons:
- 4.7.1. Whitebait Fishing Regulations 2021 are managed by the Department of Conservation and include restrictions on dates and time when fishing is permitted. The open season runs annually from 1 September to 30 October, inclusive nationwide.

- 4.7.2. Customary fishers in Waitaha/Canterbury are managed by Papatipu Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, with support from local and central government agencies, including Environment Canterbury (ECan) and the Department of Conservation (DoC). The Waitaha customary season runs from 15 August to 30 November, inclusive.
- 4.8. The activity is managed at the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary / Ashley River mouth with a permit gate system that has been part of the Bylaw since the first 2010 version of the Bylaw.
- 4.9. At Ashworths Beach the activity is supported by the Ashworths Fishermens Association with a representative involved in the Advisory Group.
- 4.10. Kairaki Beach / Waimakariri River mouth is the busiest location for the activity in the Bylaw area which can raise public nuisance and safety concerns. Staff are working with mana whenua and agency partners including ECan who undertake the ranger patrols in the area for the Council. DoC staff led a collaborative meeting on 12 August 2025 in preparation of the upcoming whitebait fishing season to discuss lessons learned from last year and arrangements for the coming season. DoC and Police noted limited resources for incident response but supported proactive activities to monitor the activity across sites in Christchurch and Waimakariri districts.
- 4.11. Staff reported to the Management Team on 4 August 2025 seeking approval to allow permission for exemption for the following conditions:
- 4.11.1. From 15 August to 30 November annually for 2025, 2026 and 2027.
- 4.11.2. Allow freedom camping and braziers only where directly associated with the activities of customary fishing and whitebait fishing at Kairaki Beach / Waimakariri River mouth.
- 4.12. Bylaw clause 19.1 allows permission granting exemption from a provision or provisions of this bylaw to be given by the Council or an authorised officer of the Council who has been delegated this role by the Council.

Ashley Rakahuri Estuary / Ashley River mouth - Advice from National Public Health Service (NPHS) Canterbury

- 4.13. National Public Health Service (NPHS) have advised that the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary / Ashley River mouth has a public health notice in relation to faecal contamination risk. This is based on annual testing undertaken by Environment Canterbury. The sign advises the public not to swim, have contact with the water, collect mahinga kai or gather shellfish in the estuarine area. Staff have prepared an information leaflet that is issued with the permit gate key to increase awareness of the issue in the area.

5. ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Ashley Rakahuri Estuary Aircraft User Agreement

- 5.1. The 2023/2024 review of the Bylaw identified landing of aircraft close to the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary as an activity that could be perceived as negatively impacting the birdlife in the Estuary.
- 5.2. As part of the public consultation on the draft Bylaw staff met with the Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club who later made a submission that included a number of proposals that would allow the activity to continue. The user agreement option was supported by staff as this has proved to be effective with other activities that happen in the Bylaw area including horse training.
- 5.3. The draft User Agreement (attachment i) has been developed in collaboration with a representative of the Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club (Club) and outlines the requirements for flying in the area when landing and taking off from the area of beach identified in Schedule 5 of the Bylaw. It should be noted that the agreement only applies to members of the Club.

- 5.4. The effectiveness of this user agreement will be reviewed annually, or whenever significant changes to the coastal environment necessitate additional reviews.
- 5.5. The Committee can choose to accept this draft User Agreement or provide feedback for staff to further develop the agreement with the Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club. Noting that the intention to establish the User Agreement was reported to the Council on 1 October 2024 when the Bylaw was adopted.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

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

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

6. COMMUNITY VIEWS

6.1. Mana whenua

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

Sections 4.7 to 4.12 in this report are associated with Tangata Tiaki Customary Inaka / whitebait fishing in the Bylaw area. The collaborative mana whenua and multi-agency approach to supporting whitebait fishing recognises the importance of mahinga kai and the challenges in busy areas including Kairaki Beach.

6.2. 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.

There is currently no community representative on the Northern Pegasus Bay Advisory Group for fishing at the Kairaki Beach / Waimakariri river mouth.

The Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Advisory Group was established following the 2015 Bylaw review to recognise the contribution community and agency partners have in working with Council to manage activities on our District's beaches.

6.3. Wider Community

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

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications of the decisions sought by this report. Effective implementation of the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2024 requires coordination of a range of activities, including public awareness, education and enforcement that is recognized in the financial planning.

This budget is included in the Annual Plan 2025/2026 and Long Term Plan 2024/2034 as per the table below:

Budgets	FY25/26	FY26/27	FY27/28	FY28/29	FY29/30	FY30/31	FY31/32	FY32/33	FY33/34
Coastal & Native Conservation Capital Works	\$22,549	\$23,227	\$23,227	\$24,474	\$25,062	\$25,639	\$26,203	\$26,753	\$27,288
Pegasus Bay Bylaw	\$22,730	\$23,413	\$23,413	\$24,670	\$25,263	\$25,844	\$26,412	\$26,967	\$27,507
ECan Ranger Service	\$32,130	\$33,095	\$33,095	\$34,873	\$35,711	\$36,533	\$37,336	\$38,120	\$38,883
Total Budgets	\$77,409	\$79,736	\$81,888	\$84,109	\$86,036	\$88,017	\$89,952	\$91,842	\$93,680

7.2. **Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts**

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

Actions associated with this report that have impacts on sustainability/climate change relate to education, working with others and enforcement to support greater sustainability of the coastal area. Recognising the impact multiple vehicles on the beach has on the coastal foreshore the actions outlined in this report seek to reduce the amount of vehicles and potential for environmental damage.

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.

8. **CONTEXT**

8.1. **Consistency with Policy**

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

8.2. **Authorising Legislation**

The legislation associated with the contents of this report are as follows:

- Local Government Act 2002.
- Treaty of Waitangi
- New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Marine and Coastal Area (Tukutai Moana) Act 2011.
- Wildlife Act 1953.
- Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978.
- Conservation Act 1987.
- Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.
- Land Transport Act 1998.
- Reserves Act 1977.
- Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977.
- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010.
- Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Canterbury Region.
- Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy 2016.
- Waimakariri District Council District Plan.
- WDC Memorandum of Understanding with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga.
- Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan 2013.
- Kemp's Deed

8.3. **Consistency with Community Outcomes**

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

The Bylaw supports the following community outcomes:

Social: Public spaces are diverse, respond to changing demographics and meet local needs for leisure and recreation.

Environmental:

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

8.4. Authorising Delegations

The Community and Recreation Committee has delegated authority to administer bylaws for its activities.

The Council has traditionally been the decision-making body for adopting the Bylaw and any significant changes due to the significance of the coastal area.

Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club User Agreement

Waimakariri District Council



Image taken at Ashworths Beach

Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw

This agreement has been developed as a result of the public consultation process carried out for the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2024 that proposed to extend the prohibited area for aircraft taking off and landing off within the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas to include adjacent beach areas.

Submissions from aircraft enthusiasts highlighted the need to ensure that this recreational activity could still take place on the beach in a suitable location, whilst environmental groups advocated for protective measures for the rare and endangered birdlife which call the Northern Pegasus Bay home.

Information on this activity within the Ashley-Rakahuri Estuary can be found under Schedule 5 of the Bylaw.

The Bylaw can be found at: <https://www.waimakariri.govt.nz/environment/beaches-and-estuary>

Taking off and landing of aircraft in the vicinity of Ashley Rakahuri Estuary will be subject to a User Agreement between the Waimakariri District Council (the Council) and the Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club. This agreement is specific to the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary and does not relate to the rest of the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw area.

The User Agreement is exclusively for Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club members and acknowledges that the Club has no jurisdiction over other aircraft operators.

The effectiveness of this user agreement will be reviewed annually, or whenever significant changes to the coastal environment necessitate additional reviews.

While the next Bylaw review is not due until 2029, the Council is able to carry out an early review of any rules that have not effectively addressed user conflicts or environmental and safety concerns.

Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club (CRAC) recognises that using the area set out at Ashworths Beach for recreational aircraft in close proximity to the Ashley Rakahuri Estuary is a privilege and agrees to:

- Work closely with the Council to ensure compliance with the Bylaw, resolve complaints and monitor progress
- Ensure all CRAC pilots operating in this area are briefed on the requirements of this agreement.
- Ensure all circuits are completed to the east over the sea, with a circuit being defined as the close-in looped flight path flown between take-off and landing.
- Refrain from occupying the airspace up to 500 feet AMSL over Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine area, ensuring that no curved approaches or take offs are made over this region
- Always give way to beach users in their path, staying well clear of pedestrians when operating on the beach

- Be courteous and show due consideration to all other beach users to maintain a safe coastal environment for all, ensuring no pedestrian, property, bird or other animal is endangered in any way when operating aircraft at Ashworth's Beach.
- Ensure all CRAC member aircraft operating in this area display a decal indicating their club membership to council Rangers, verifying permission to operate in this area

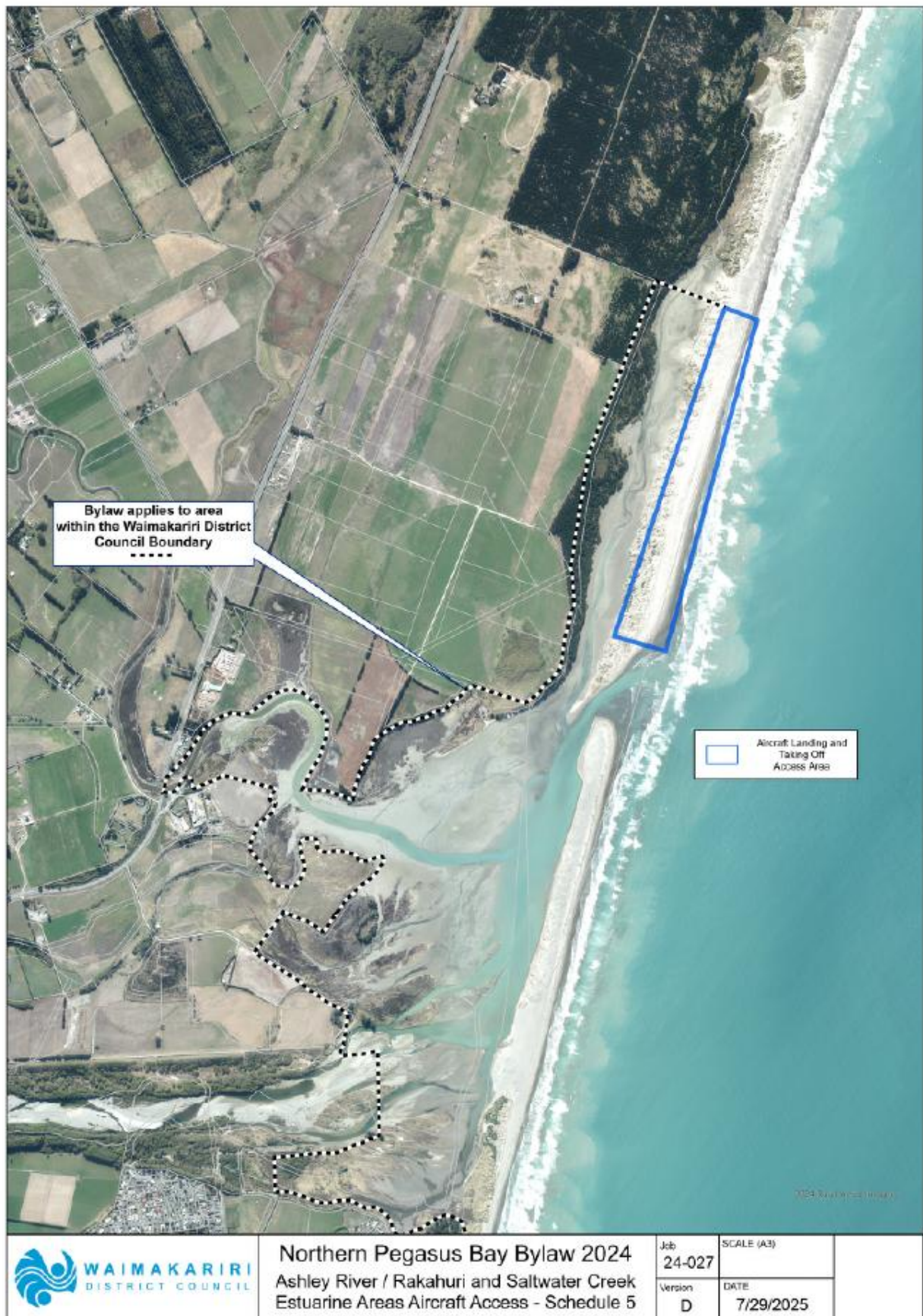


CRAC decal

Remember to 'Fly Neighbourly'

Copies of the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw are available at the Council's service centres and libraries, as well as online at Waimakariri.govt.nz

Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2024 – Schedule 5



WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

NORTHERN PEGASUS BAY BYLAW ~~2024~~2025

Adopted Council meeting held on
~~01 October 2024~~2 September 2025

 Chief Executive

 Governance Manager



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WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL NORTHERN PEGASUS BAY BYLAW 202~~5~~⁴

PREAMBLE

This preamble is intended to explain the bylaw's context and general intention.

A number of agencies own or manage land within or adjacent to the area covered by this bylaw. These are the Waimakariri District Council, Environment Canterbury, the Department of Conservation, Land Information NZ Toitū Te Whenua and Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust.

The proposed bylaw seeks to address the following key issues:

- Health and safety of beach users.
- Conflicts between incompatible recreation activities.
- The impact of offensive behaviour on other beach users' enjoyment or use of the beach.
- Impacts of recreation use on the dune systems and on the wildlife and vegetation of the estuaries and lagoons.
- Disturbance and destruction of foreshore habitats.

Legislative Context and Links to other Documents

The management of the coastal environment is legislated by various Acts. These include, but are not limited to, the Resource Management Act 1991, Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, Marine and Coastal Area (Tukutai Moana) Act 2011, Local Government Act 2002, Land Transport Act 1998, Reserves Act 1977, Conservation Act 1987, Wildlife Act 1953, Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, Dog Control Act 1996, Fire and Emergency NZ Act 2017, Freedom Camping Act 2011 and Whitebait Fishing Regulations 2021.

Additional documents that have been taken into consideration in developing this bylaw include the following:

- Treaty of Waitangi.
- Kemp's Deed.
- Waimakariri District Council Memorandum of Understanding with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga.
- Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan 2013.
- NZ Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (Resource Management Act 1991).
- Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Canterbury Region 2005 (Resource Management Act 1991).
- Waimakariri District Council District Plan ~~2025 and Proposed District Plan~~ (Resource Management Act 1991).
- Waikuku Beach Reserve Management Plan 2010 (Reserves Act 1977).
- 2018 Waimakariri Coastal Natural Character Study
- Environment Canterbury Ashley Rakahuri Management Plan 2023.
- Canterbury (Waitaha) Conservation Management Strategy 2016 (Conservation Act 1987).
- Environment Canterbury Navigation Safety Bylaw 2016 (Local Government Act 1974).
- Estuarine Research Report 38 – impacts of vehicles on juvenile tuatua on Pegasus Bay surf beaches 2010.
- Estuarine Research Report 39 – assessment of intertidal tuatua 2009.

The legislative boundaries map at the end of this section shows the interface between the various rules and policies contained within the Regional Coastal Environment Plan (coastal marine area boundary), the Waimakariri District Council's District Plan (coastal marine area boundary), the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy (conservation areas), the proposed Ashley/Rakahuri Regional Park Management Plan, the Reserves Act 1977 (local purpose reserves) and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (Fenton Reserves and Entitlements).

There are also other Council bylaws that apply to the coastal area. These include the Waimakariri District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2019 and the Alcohol Control Bylaw 2018. Reference has been made in this bylaw to the relevant clauses in bylaws listed, to prevent coastal users having to research other Council bylaws to find out what rules apply.

Significance of Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek Estuarine Areas

The Ashley River/Rakahuri and associated estuarine areas link up with the 550-hectare Tūhaitara Coastal Reserve which stretches 10.5 km from the estuary and contains many protected wetlands. This string of wetlands has important values for some special invertebrate and plant communities and combined creates a large area of significant attraction to birdlife, the majority of which are indigenous and regarded as taonga by local iwi. The estuary, with its large areas of tidal mudflats at the conjunction of the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Pacific Ocean, is recognised as one of the best shorebird feeding sites on the South Island's eastern coastline. It is the largest, least modified estuary in Canterbury with a variety of ecosystems and habitats and observations of up to sixty bird species at any visit are common.

The Ashley River/Rakahuri estuarine area is recognised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a wetland of 'international significance'. The Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Canterbury Region lists the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek Estuary as an area of 'significant natural value with Māori cultural values; wetlands, estuaries, and coastal lagoons; marine mammals and birds; ecosystems, flora and fauna habitats; historic places; and coastal landforms and associated processes' occurring in the area. The Ashley River/Rakahuri Estuary and wider Pegasus Bay wetlands are designated 'Important Bird Areas' by Birdlife International (of which Forest and Bird is the NZ partner) and the threatened native braided river birds breeding on the river are a priority for protection in the Biodiversity Strategy for the Canterbury Region. The Department of Conservation rates the area as being of 'significant conservation value' and is the administering body for five Local Purpose Reserves under the Reserves Act 1977 and two stewardship areas under the Conservation Act 1987 located in the area. One of these stewardship areas, known as the Conservation Area Pacific Ocean Foreshore, is described by the Department as being a 'priority ecosystem'. The Banks Peninsula Marine Mammal Sanctuary runs up the coastline extending four nautical miles out to sea from the mean high water springs mark.

The estuarine wetlands are the feeding, roosting, and breeding grounds of a large number of native birds, including some threatened and critically endangered species such as the black-billed gull (the world's most endangered gull), the black-fronted tern, banded dotterel and wrybill. Wrybill, the only bird in the world with a bill that bends sideways, feed in the estuary and breed upstream in the braided river. The wetlands are an important summer resting and feeding site for a large number of locally resident and migrant wader species. Wrybills, banded dotterels, pied stilts and pied oystercatchers start to pass through in late August with small numbers of other northern hemisphere wading birds arriving in September and staying into April. Godwits also arrive in September to feed and rest after an 11,000 km non-stop trip from Alaska, preparing for their return journey in later March. In winter the Estuary is home to the white heron and very rare black stilt. The area is also an important breeding ground for fish such as flounder and whitebait.

Local conservation-orientated organisations and bird specialists identify a number of activities that could have a negative impact on the important ecological and wildlife values of the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas. The bylaw attempts to reduce the tension between environmental protection and recreational use by prohibiting activities that are able to be carried out elsewhere on the beach and restricting other site-specific activities. Examples of prohibited activities that can be carried out in other less ecologically sensitive coastal areas are horse riding, exercising dogs, land yachting, using model aircraft and drones, and taking off or landing aircraft, including microlights and helicopters.

Aerial activities can be seen as a threat to some birds who stay in the air while these are taking place. This interferes with their normal feeding, resting, nesting and roosting activities and puts chicks at risk of overheating or predation.

Scientific studies show that the presence of dogs causes disturbance and stress to birds causing physical displacement that impacts where the birds feel safe to feed, breed and rest. The 2016 bylaw prohibited dogs from the estuary, apart from permitted gamebird dogs during the gamebird hunting season, in order to offer greater protection to critically endangered or threatened bird species. Consultation for the 2023/24 bylaw review identified a need to extend the prohibited area for dogs in the estuarine area to include the entirety of the spit south of the Ashley River/Rakahuri. This 2024 bylaw has also removed the exemption for gamebird dogs.

The estuary is the only safe training and self-landing area for kite surfing within the district and this is a restricted activity, subject to an agreement between the Council, kite surfing community and bird conservation groups.

The bylaw also recognises the significance of the area as a regional sport fishery and provides limited vehicle access via a permit system for the annual open season set by the Whitebait Fishing Regulations 2021, currently 1 September to 30 October (inclusive).

Protection of Foreshore Habitats

The intertidal coastal area is a very important feeding area for birds. Vehicles disturb birds feeding, resting, and nesting in built-up areas of driftwood. They also disrupt their food sources by killing or stressing species such as tuatua that live in the sand.

A 2010 study of tuatua found that juvenile tuatua were largely found just adjacent to and beneath the high tide line along the beach whilst adult tuatuas were found closer to the low tide line along the beach. Another study in 2010 found a relationship between the number of vehicle passes and tuatua damage with juvenile tuatua being more at risk from crushing than the larger more mature adults. The compactness of wet sand was also found to favour tuatua survival.

The bylaw offers some protection to tuatua by providing vehicle free areas and attempting to reduce the number of vehicles driving on the rest of the beach. Vehicles are also required to be driven below the high tide mark, apart from at the Waimakariri River Mouth where this is unsafe because of changes in levels along the side of the river. While vehicles driving on wet sand will damage adult tuatua, the more vulnerable juvenile tuatua living higher up the beach will be better protected. The impact of horse hooves on tuatua has been found to be similar to that of vehicles and the equestrian free area at Waikuku offers some protection.

Protection of Dune System

The 2018 Waimakariri Coastal Natural Character Study identifies the most significant dunes of the Canterbury coastline are located along the backshore of Pegasus Bay. The dunes provide beach settlements with some protection against coastal hazards, including those exacerbated

by climate change. Damage to the vegetation caused by vehicles and motorbikes accelerates coastal erosion.

Vehicles have been prohibited from the dunes, and motorcycles have been prohibited from the beach altogether to try and address this problem as well as other safety concerns.

Safety Concerns of Beach Users, Conflicts between Different Types of Recreational Activity and Public Nuisance

A Beach User Survey has been conducted in 2019, 2021 and 2023/24. These surveys provide Council staff and the Northern Pegasus Bay Advisory Group with feedback and evidence of what's important to locals and visitors to our beaches as well as highlighting main issues and any conflict occurring along the Northern Pegasus Bay coastline. All three surveys identify unsafe or inappropriate driving of vehicles as the main issue followed by the lack of dog control by some users. Vehicles and motorbikes continue to be a problem, particularly in Waikuku, Pines, Kairaki and Ashworths Beaches. A summary report for each of the surveys is available on the council's website.

The bylaw attempts to resolve identified public health, safety and nuisance issues in a way that is no more than reasonably necessary by:

- Giving priority to the most vulnerable beach users, such as children, bathers and other people on foot.
- Designating zones away from the most popular swimming beach (Waikuku Beach) for activities such as recreational horse riding, horse training, land yachting and driving.
- Prohibiting dogs, vehicles and horse trainers from passing through flagged surf patrol areas and requiring recreational horse riders to take due care and land yacht operators to dismount if passing through on a return trip is unavoidable.
- Reducing the number of vehicles on the beach by prohibiting recreational driving and motorcycles.
- Clearly setting out personal responsibilities around the use of a vehicle on the beach (the same as on a road).
- Requiring beach users to have effective control of their dogs at all times.
- Prohibiting or restricting dogs from areas with high biodiversity value, where there are critically endangered or threatened bird species.
- Requiring the use of the beach for horse training to be in accordance with a user agreement.
- Requiring all beach users to be aware of each other and not impact on another's use or enjoyment of the beach.

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Values

Ngāi Tūāhuriri concepts involving land, water and resources are determined by a very complex system of inter-relations and while free to utilise the resources, Ngāi Tūāhuriri are also restrained by a system of controls.

In an economic sense, the resources of an area determined the welfare of the people. The abundance, or lack of, directly affected the mana (prestige) of every tribal group. Traditionally the acquisition and maintenance of the exclusive right to those resources was central to the core of Māori society. The seasonal collection of these resources and the resulting community effort therefore also formed a very important part of the community's strength.

These seasonal activities were a time for Whanaungatanga – renewing contacts with distant relations, Whakatinana o ngā uara – of reinforcing traditional and cultural values, and Tikanga – of maintaining controls; thus providing a tangible link with the past. Another important example of cultural resource values is that of Manaakitanga – hospitality, towards guests. Tradition dictates that as hosts, Tūāhuriri whānau of this area must prepare the best local foods for manuhiri.

Mahinga kai was specifically recognised and protected in Kemp’s Deed in 1848 and advanced within Te Kerēme, the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. It describes the natural resources gathered by Māori and the places and practices used in doing so. Mahinga kai is an important value and activity that will be acknowledged and provided for within the bylaw process and through ongoing partnership.

The Rakahuri Awa/Ashley River and Northern Pegasus Bay coastal area was a significant area for mahinga kai. Fenton Reserves and Fenton Entitlements were set aside for occupation and access to mahinga kai and some of these are located in or close to the estuary. Fenton Reserve owners and holders of Fenton Entitlements have a legal right to access waterways associated with these reserves and entitlements for mahinga kai purposes. The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 makes provision for Fenton Reserve owners and holders of Fenton Entitlements to have access up to 210 days per year for the above purposes, including the erection of temporary camping shelters. In the preparation of this bylaw these rights have been considered and applied.

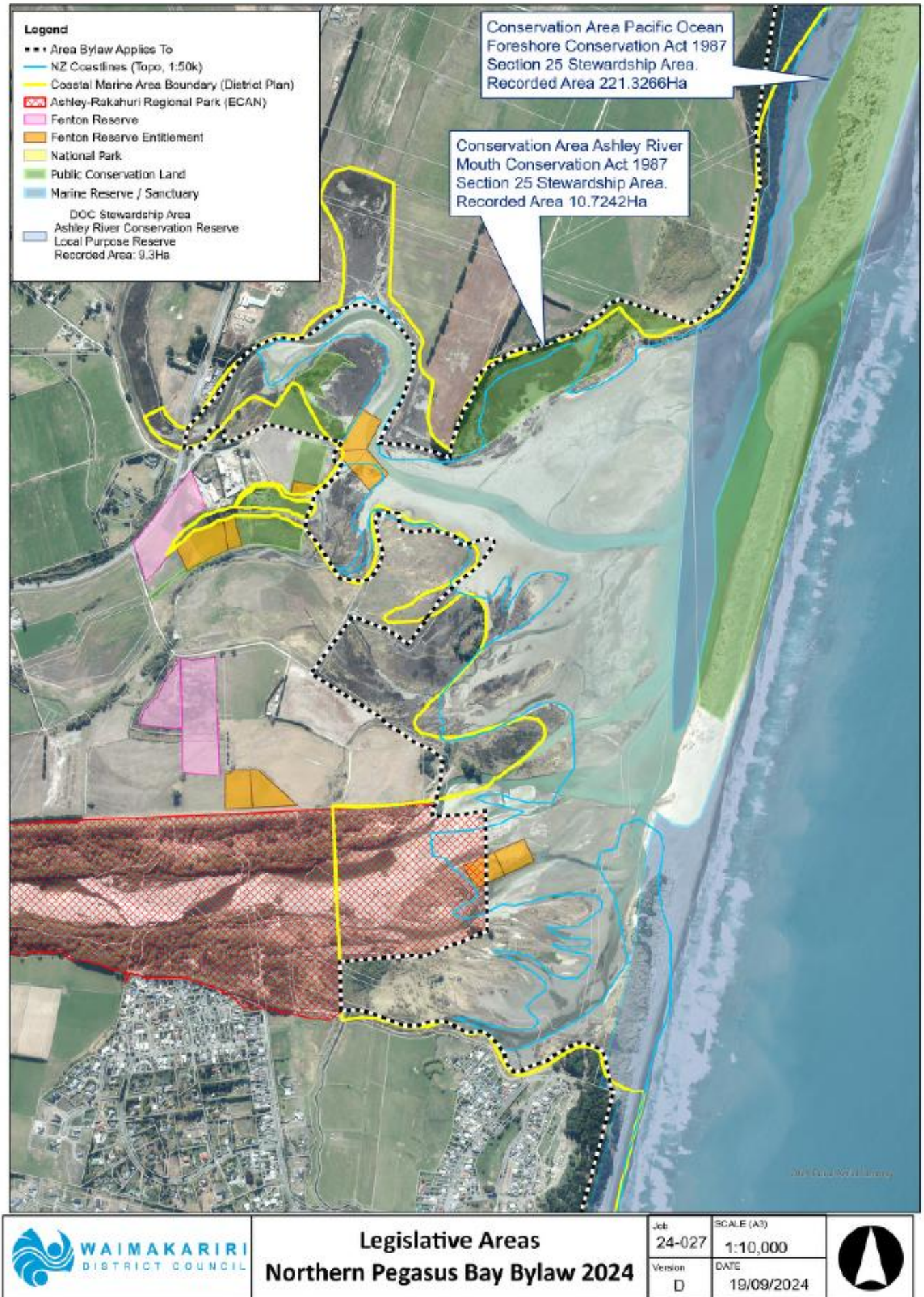
Traditional values and controls regarding water are included in the Tribe’s spiritual beliefs and practices. This recognises and reinforces the absolute importance of water quality and quantity to both mahinga kai and hygiene. Water is held in the highest esteem because the welfare of all life that it contains determines the welfare of the people reliant on those resources.

Traditionally water was the centre of all activity within Māori society. It provided the preferred transport medium, supported fish and shellfish populations and was used in religious ceremonies, including burials, and also for recreational activities. For these reasons and like most other cultures, settlements were centred beside, or in close proximity to major waterways.

This dependence on kai-moana, kai-awa and kai-roto is a subject that has remained constant throughout Ngāi Tūāhuriri history. Over time Ngāi Tūāhuriri accumulated an extensive amount of knowledge about the resources within its’ rohe, particularly water-sourced foods. Harvesting methods reflect a sophisticated understanding of the breeding cycles, migration times and feeding habits of all the important fresh and salt-water species, with different names being used for the same fish at different parts of its life cycle.

Connected to the concept of water guardianship is the matter of tapu. Water was declared tapu for several reasons. The best examples of Wai-Tapu are those waterways that act as burial places. Because of their primary use, food is not taken from these places. One such incident associated with this bylaw area is along the South bank of the Rakahuri, where Te Rauparaha dug up the remains of an elderly Ngai Tūāhuriri woman. Subsequently those Tūāhuriri whānau knowledgeable in this history do not gather kai awa from that particular stream and surrounding area.

The Council acknowledges the sensitivity around the scattering of human ashes within the area covered by this bylaw and the concern Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Runanga has for the impact on cultural values and customs and advises avoiding using mahinga kai areas and associated waterways for this purpose.



1. TITLE

- 1.1. This bylaw is made pursuant to sections 145, 146 (b)(vi) and 153 (3) of the *Local Government Act 2002*, ~~and~~ sections 22AB(1)(b), 22AB(1)(c), 22AB(1)(f) and 22AB(1)(zk) of the *Land Transport Act 1998* and the Dog Control Act 1996.
- 1.2. This bylaw is the Waimakariri District Council *Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2024*.

2. DATE OF COMMENCEMENT

- 2.1. This bylaw replaces the Waimakariri District Council *Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2016* ~~(amended 2023)~~ 2024 and comes into force on ~~031 September~~ November 2024.

3. APPLICATION AND PURPOSE

- 3.1. The purpose of this bylaw is to control activities on the beaches, including the foreshore and adjacent land areas of Northern Pegasus Bay, in order to:
 - a) Protect the natural values of the foreshore and estuary environment while acknowledging community values associated with its use
 - b) Manage recreational uses for the benefit and enjoyment of all users
 - c) Minimise environmental impacts arising from this recreation activity
 - d) Protect, promote and maintain public health and safety
 - e) Protect the public from nuisance
 - f) Minimise the potential for offensive behaviour in public places.
- 3.2. Activities that are prohibited from the whole of the bylaw area include recreational driving, all motorcycles and unregistered and unlicensed vehicles. Freedom camping, fires, fireworks, interfering with wildlife, erecting or interfering with buildings and permanent structures without permission and introducing substances that could harm other people, animals or plants are also prohibited.
- 3.3. Activities that are prohibited from the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas include equestrian and dog-related activities; operating land yachts, drones and model aircraft. Driving vehicles without a permit or exemption is also prohibited in this area.
- 3.4. Vehicles are also generally prohibited from between the Ocean Outfall and the Ashley/Rakahuri River Mouth. Land yachts are prohibited from the area between the beach entrance to the Waikuku Beach Horsefloat Car Park and Access Trail and the District's northern boundary.
- 3.5. Restricted activities (activities that have conditions attached) include:
 - 3.5.1. Driving vehicles
 - a) between the Kairaki Beach Car Park and the Ocean Outfall
 - b) within the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas

- c) from the northern boundary of the district to the north of the Ashley/Rakahuri River Mouth

3.5.2. Horse training

3.5.3. Dog-related activities

3.5.4. Kite surfing in the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine area

3.5.5. Using a land yacht between the Kairaki Beach Car Park and the beach entrance to the Waikuku Beach Horsefloat Car Park and Access Trail.

3.5.6. Landing and taking off of aircraft

- 3.6. This bylaw applies to all of the beach, including the foreshore and adjacent land and water areas of Pegasus Bay between the southern boundary of the Waimakariri District, located at the Waimakariri River Mouth, and the northern boundary with Hurunui District, as described and set out in schedules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Some of this land is under the control of the Waimakariri District Council and some is under the control of Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation, Land Information NZ Toitū Te Whenua and Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust.
- 3.7. This bylaw acknowledges the Hurunui District Council (HDC) Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw noting similar issues and purpose. Clauses in the HDC bylaw are not necessarily the same as this bylaw.

4. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

In this bylaw, unless the context requires otherwise:

Absolutely protected or partially protected wildlife means all wildlife throughout New Zealand and New Zealand fisheries waters except for those specified in Schedules 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Wildlife Act 1953.

Access Route means an unformed track through sand that provides vehicle access, including that from the Ashley/Rakahuri River Mouth Car Park to the Ashley/Rakahuri River Mouth and foreshore, as shown in schedules 1 and 7.

Access Trail means a cleared defined pathway providing access to the beach for horses, as shown in schedule 2.

Aircraft means any vehicle, with or without an engine, that can fly, including microlight and helicopter.

Authorised Officer means any person appointed by the Council to perform duties required under this bylaw, irrespective of the designation given to that person.

Beach means any land in the Waimakariri District adjacent to any seacoast which is part of the foreshore, as defined in this bylaw, or is land contiguous to and used in connection with the foreshore and including dunes, and to which the public has a right of access. For the purposes of this bylaw, the beach therefore includes the foreshore and coastal land on both sides of the level of mean high-water spring. The coastal marine areas diagram included in this section depicts the location of mean high-water spring.

Bed means in relation to the sea, the submarine land areas covered by the sea. The coastal marine areas diagram depicts the location of the bed.

Building means a temporary or permanent movable or immovable structure (including a structure intended for occupation by people, animals, machinery or chattels) as defined in section 8 (1)(a) of the Building Act 2004. This does not include any structure erected by beach users for shade or shelter for less than one day's duration.

Coastal Environment means the environment in which the coast is a significant part or element. It includes the coastal marine area and, the water, plants and animals associated with that area, and the atmosphere above it, and dunes, beaches, areas of coastal vegetation and fauna, areas subject to coastal erosion or flooding, salt marshes, coastal wetlands and estuaries, and coastal landscapes. The coastal marine areas diagram included in this section depicts the location of the coastal environment.

Coastal Marine Area means the foreshore, seabed, and coastal water, and the air space above the water –

- a) of which the seaward boundary is the outer limits of the territorial sea;
- b) of which the landward boundary is the line of mean high-water springs, except that where that line crosses a river, the landward boundary at that point shall be whichever is the lesser of –
- c) one kilometre upstream from the mouth of the river; or
- d) the point upstream that is calculated by multiplying the width of the river mouth by 5.

Council means the Waimakariri District Council, or any Officer authorised to exercise the authority of the Council.

Council/s means the Waimakariri District Council and/or the Environment Canterbury (ECan), or any Officer authorised to exercise the authority of one of these Councils.

Detritus means a build-up of organic matter such as driftwood, shells and seaweed on the foreshore due to wave or tide action.

District means the district within the jurisdiction, and under the control of the Waimakariri District Council.

Enforcement Officer means an officer or other person appointed by the Council/s to enforce the provisions contained in this bylaw and includes:

- a) any person warranted by the Council/s in accordance with section 177 of the Local Government Act 2002 as an enforcement officer.
- b) any ranger appointed by the Council/s under the Reserves Act 1977.
- c) any dog ranger or dog control officer appointed by the Council under the Dog Control Act 1996.
- d) any parking warden appointed by the Council under the Land Transport Act 1988.
- e) any enforcement officer defined as an enforcement officer under the Land Transport Act 1998.

Fenton Entitlement means an entitlement granted in favour of the holder (in this instance, particular people within Ngāi Tahu Whānui and their descendants) to occupy temporarily and exclusively the entitlement land for up to 210 days in any calendar year (excluding days on and from 1 May to 15 August). The entitlement is granted for the

purposes of permitting the holders to have access to the waterway for lawful fishing and gathering of other natural resources on the terms and conditions set out in the Entitlement and allows holders to erect camping shelters or similar temporary dwellings.

Fenton Reserve means a Fenton Reserve established by Judge Fenton in 1868 in accordance with Kemp's Deed to ensure on-going access by the beneficial owners to the associated waterways and their mahinga kai.

Firework means an object containing hazardous substances with explosive properties.

Foreshore means any land covered and uncovered by the flow and ebb of the tide at mean spring tides and, in relation to any such land that forms part of the bed of a river, does not include any area that is not part of the coastal marine area. The coastal marine areas diagram depicts the location of the foreshore.

Freedom Camp means to camp (other than at a camping ground) within 200 metres of a motor vehicle accessible area or the mean low-water springs line of any sea or harbour, or on or within 200 metres of a formed road or a Great Walks Track, using one or more of the following:

- a) a tent or other temporary structure.
- b) a caravan.
- c) a car, campervan, housetruck, or other motor vehicle.

Freedom camping does not include the following activities.

- a) temporary and short-term parking of a motor vehicle.
- b) recreational activities commonly known as day-trip excursions.
- c) resting or sleeping at the roadside in a caravan or motor vehicle to avoid driver fatigue.

Horse training/Horse trainers means an equestrian activity that is carried out in relation to an involvement with the horse racing industry.

Kite Surfing means being propelled over water by means of a kite on a board or similar craft.

Land Yacht means a wind-driven recreation vehicle, usually consisting of three wheels supporting a bare-frame structure, mast and sail. In this context the term also refers to recreation vehicles known as blokarts and sand yachts. Land yachts are used especially on beaches and other sandy areas.

Last High Tide means the last time after a low tide (there is approximately a 12-hour cycle from high tide to high tide) that the tide has been at its fullest so that the sea water reaches its highest level on the foreshore. The last high tide mark is generally able to be identified by a band of wet sand and detritus.

Mean High Water Spring means the highest level to which spring tides reach on average. This level is generally close to being the 'high water mark' where detritus accumulates on the shore annually. The coastal marine areas diagram depicts the location of mean high-water spring.

Mean Low Water Spring means the lowest level to which spring tides retreat on average. The coastal marine areas diagram depicts the location of mean low water spring.

Motorcycle means a motor vehicle, running on 2 wheels, or not more than 3 wheels when fitted with a sidecar, as defined in section 2 (1) of the Land Transport Act 1998 and any amending or replacement legislation. It includes a vehicle with motorcycle controls that is approved as a motorcycle by the Transport Agency but does not include a moped.

Motor Vehicle means a vehicle drawn or propelled by mechanical power, including a trailer, as defined in section 2 (1) of the Land Transport Act 1998 and any amending or replacement legislation. It does not include a mobility device.

Permission shall include a permit or exemption under this bylaw.

Recreational Driving means driving on the beach as an activity in itself and/or primarily for the pleasure of driving.

Recreational Horse Riders means the leading/riding/driving of horses along trails and the foreshore for pleasure/leisure, and for the enjoyment of the natural environment. This includes horse trainers delivering organised equestrian activities that fall outside of the horse racing industry such as riding lessons and treks.

Regional Council means the Environment Canterbury (ECan), or any officer authorised to exercise the authority of the Council.

Shall indicates a mandatory requirement while the use of should indicates a recommendation.

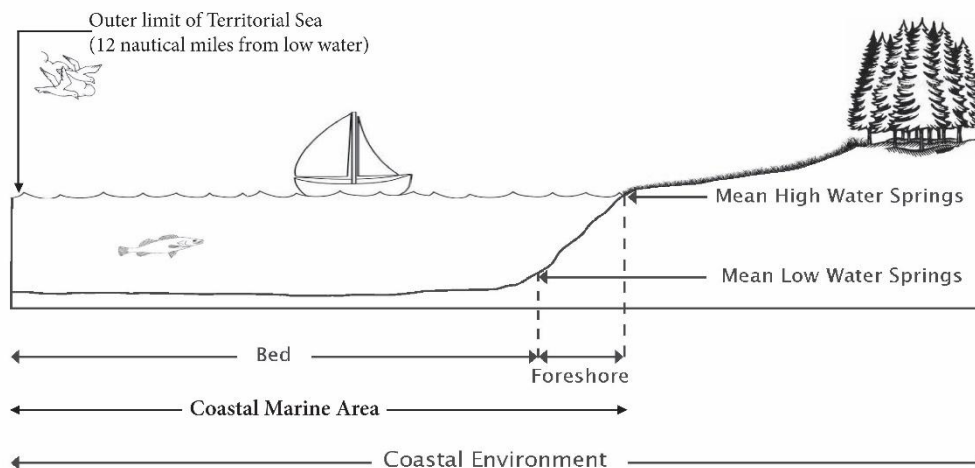
Sign includes a notice, label, inscription, billboard, plaque or placard.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu means Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu established by Section 6 of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996.

Under Control means that the dog is not causing a nuisance or danger and that the person in charge of the dog is able to obtain an immediate and desired response from the dog by use of a leash, voice commands, hand signals, whistles or other effective means.

COASTAL MARINE AREAS DIAGRAM

The following diagram shows where the various marine terms referred to in this bylaw are located within the coastal environment.



Part 1 – Prohibited and restricted activities in beach and adjacent land areas

5. PROHIBITED VEHICLE ACCESS

- 5.1. No person shall drive a motor vehicle to, from or on a beach, including the dunes, if prohibited from doing so by any clause within this bylaw.
- 5.2. No person shall ride a motorcycle on the beach, including the dunes.
- 5.3. No person shall drive a motor vehicle on the beach except in the areas outlined in Section 6 - Restricted Vehicle Access and described and set out in schedules 1 and 7 of this bylaw.
- 5.4. No person shall drive a motor vehicle on the beach for any purpose other than those specified in clauses 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 of this bylaw.
- 5.5. Recreational driving on the beach, as defined in section 4 is prohibited.

6. RESTRICTED VEHICLE ACCESS

- 6.1. Clauses 6 and 7, and the sub-clauses thereto, set out restrictions that apply to driving on any Council beaches that are authorised by this bylaw, notwithstanding the provisions of clauses 5.1 to 5.5.
- 6.2. A person may drive a motor vehicle from the Kairaki Beach Car Park, located at the Waimakariri River Mouth, to the Ocean Outfall, as described and set out in schedule 1. Vehicle access in this area is only for the purposes of boat launching or retrieval, taking machinery and equipment used for legitimate recreational purposes (this may include, but is not limited to jet skis, wind surfing boards and land yachts) to and from the water's edge, fishing, whitebaiting, mahinga kai gathering, or to enable disability access for holders of mobility parking permits.
- 6.3. A person may drive a motor vehicle in the restricted vehicle area, as described and set out in schedule 1, from the Waimakariri District's northern boundary to the north of the Ashley/Rakahuri River Mouth. Vehicle access in this area is only for the purposes of boat launching or retrieval, taking machinery and equipment used for legitimate recreational purposes (this may include, but is not limited to jet skis, wind surfing boards and land yachts) to and from the water's edge, fishing, whitebaiting, mahinga kai gathering, or to enable disability access for holders of mobility parking permits.
- 6.4. A person, upon obtaining a permit, may drive a motor vehicle through the locked gate at the Ashley/Rakahuri River Mouth Car Park and along the access route, as described and set out in schedules 1 and 7, to gain access to the Ashley/Rakahuri River Mouth. Permits may be issued for the purposes of boat launching or retrieval, fishing, whitebaiting and mahinga kai gathering, and are subject to the terms and conditions described and set out in schedule 9 of this bylaw.
- 6.5. A person holding a permit in accordance with clause 6.4 of the bylaw shall remain on the access route marked by the Council, from the Ashley/Rakahuri River Mouth Car Park to the beach and then remain below the last high tide mark, as described and set out in schedules 1 and 7.

- 6.6. The access route marked by the Council from the Ashley/Rakahuri River Mouth Car Park to the River Mouth, as described in schedules 1 and 7, may be physically relocated from time to time by the Council, following receipt of river management engineering and ecological advice. Signage will be used to advise users of any changes to the location of the route.
- 6.7. People driving permitted or exempted motor vehicles shall stay clear of areas of driftwood and other detritus likely to be used for bird habitats in the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas or on beach areas adjacent to the estuary.

7. USE OF VEHICLES - GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 7.1. The *Land Transport Act 1998* defines the beach as a road and therefore all motor vehicles driven on the beach are required to be registered and licensed, and all drivers are required to be licensed, where they are required to be registered and licensed under the Act.
- 7.2. No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a beach other than below the last high tide mark, unless it is unsafe to do otherwise, except when using an access route specified in this bylaw, or when at the Waimakariri River Mouth.
- 7.3. No person shall drive a motor vehicle through a beach area that is flagged for surf lifesaving patrols, except as provided for by approval under clause 17, and subject to the conditions set out in any such approval.
- 7.4. No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a beach area that has been reserved, by the Council from time to time and for periods set by the Council, for events from which vehicular activities are excluded.
- 7.5. No person shall drive a motor vehicle on any beach, adjacent land area or access track at a speed in excess of 30 kilometres per hour or at a speed in excess of 10 kilometres per hour within 50 metres of any other person not in the motor vehicle.
- 7.6. No person shall drive or ride a vehicle on any part of the beach where vehicles are allowed, in a manner, which having regard to all the circumstances of the case, is or might be dangerous to the public or to any person.
- 7.7. All persons operating a motor vehicle on a beach shall give way and show due consideration to all bathers, persons on foot, horses and other animals at all times. Birds and their nests must be avoided.
- 7.8. Any person who obtains a permit, permission or exemption under this bylaw to take a motor vehicle onto any beach shall strictly comply with any terms and conditions included within that permit or permission.

8. PROHIBITED HORSE ACCESS

- 8.1. No person shall drive, ride, lead, let wander or otherwise use any horse or horses within the prohibited area extending from immediately north of the beach entrance to the Waikuku Beach Horse Float Car Park and Access Trail to the north of the Ashley /Rakahuri River Mouth, as described and set out in schedule 2 of this bylaw.

- 8.2. Horse training is prohibited on the beach outside of the permitted northern and Woodend Beach areas, as described and set out in schedule 2 of this bylaw.
- 8.3. Horses are prohibited from accessing the beach via the Pines Beach horse accessway at the end of Reid Memorial Avenue.

9. RESTRICTED HORSE ACCESS

- 9.1. Clauses 9 and 10, and the subclauses thereto, set out the restrictions on horse access that are authorised by this bylaw, notwithstanding the provisions of clauses 8.1 to 8.3.
- 9.2. Recreational horse riders and horse trainers may drive, ride, lead or otherwise use a horse or horses in the restricted horse area, as described and set out in schedule 2, from the Waimakariri District's northern boundary to the north of the Ashley/Rakahuri River Mouth.
- 9.3. Recreational horse riders may drive, ride, lead or otherwise use a horse or horses in the restricted horse area, as described and set out in schedule 2, from Kairaki Beach to the south side of the beach entrance to the Waikuku Beach Horse Float Car Park and Access Trail.
- 9.4. Horse trainers may drive, ride, lead or otherwise use a horse or horses in the restricted horse training area, as described and set out in schedule 2, which runs approximately 3.2 km's (2-mile training run) either side of the beach entrance to the Woodend Beach Horse Float Car Park and Access Trail.
- 9.5. Open access to the beach for recreational horse riders will be provided from the Kairaki Beach Car Park and at Pines Beach, via a horse step over bar located at the eastern end of Reid Memorial Avenue, as described and set out in schedule 2.
- 9.6. Open access to the beach for recreational horse riders and horse trainers will be provided along a trail from the Woodend Beach Horse Float Car Park, via a horse step-over bar, as described and set out in schedule 2. Access via a gate is also available during day light hours at the discretion of Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust. That trail only, and not surrounding land, shall be used for horse access.
- 9.7. A permit shall be required by all people seeking to take a horse through the locked access gate at the Waikuku Beach Horse Float Car Park and then along a trail to the beach, as described and set out in schedule 2. That trail only, and not surrounding land, shall be used for horse access.
- 9.8. Recreational horse riders should not pass through flagged surf lifesaving patrol areas. In the event this is unavoidable on a return trip, riders must take all care to safely pass through the flagged area.
- 9.9. Horse trainers shall not drive, ride, lead or otherwise pass with a horse through a flagged surf lifesaving patrol area.
- 9.10. No person shall drive, ride, lead, let wander or otherwise use any horse or horses, on a beach area that has been reserved by the Council from time to time and for periods set by the Council, for events from which those equine activities are excluded.

10. EQUINE ACTIVITIES – GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 10.1. Any person undertaking an equine-related activity on a beach area shall remain below the last high tide mark, except when on an access trail as described and set out in schedule 2, when moving from the access trail to the last high tide mark, when at the Waimakariri River Mouth, or to avoid a potentially unsafe situation.
- 10.2. Any person undertaking an equine-related activity on a beach area shall give way and show due consideration to pedestrians at all times.
- 10.3. Any person driving a horse and sulky shall stay well clear of pedestrians at all times and ensure their driving does not endanger any person, bird or other animal.
- 10.4. The use of the designated horse training area at Woodend Beach will be in accordance with a user agreement between the Council and Woodend Beach horse training representatives. This agreement is to be reviewed annually prior to the start of each summer season.
- 10.5. Any person in charge of a horse shall remove the faeces passed by their horse/s from the horse float car parks.

11. INTERFERENCE WITH BEACH AREAS AND OTHER BEACH USERS

- 11.1. Without the prior written permission of an authorised officer, no person shall on a beach, or adjacent land area:
 - a) Remove, destroy, damage, displace, deface, or otherwise interfere with any sign, post, fence, barrier, warning device, structure or building erected by the Council, Environment Canterbury, Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust, Department of Conservation, Canterbury Surf Life Saving Association or an approved surf lifesaving club.
 - b) erect, construct, fix or place any sign, post, fence, barrier, warning device, structure or building except when the person is otherwise expressly authorised by the Council, Environment Canterbury, Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust, Department of Conservation, Canterbury Surf Life Saving Association or an approved surf lifesaving club to do so.
 - c) introduce any substance that may cause injury to another person, animal or plant life.
 - d) destroy, injure, disturb or otherwise interfere with or cause distress to any roosting, nesting, resting or feeding birds or remove or destroy any bird nest or the contents of a bird nest.
- 11.2. No person shall intentionally obstruct, disturb, or interfere with any other person's legitimate use or enjoyment of the beach or adjacent land areas.
- 11.3. No person shall, without lawful authority, hunt, kill, dispose of, or have in his or her possession, any part of any absolutely protected or partially protected wildlife or marine wildlife, or rob, disturb, destroy, or have in his or her possession the nest of any such wildlife as per sections 3, 63 and 63A of the Wildlife Act 1953.

12. PROHIBITED FREEDOM CAMPING AREA

No person shall freedom camp within the bylaw area (See glossary for definition).

13. RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED AREAS FOR SPECIFIED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 13.1. The use of a drone or model aircraft within the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas is prohibited, as described and set out in schedule 6.
- 13.2. The landing and taking off of aircraft — including microlights and helicopters — within the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas are permitted ~~Taking off and landing of aircraft, including a microlight or helicopter, shall only occur within~~ the designated restricted area at Ashworths Beach, as described and set out in ~~schedule~~ Schedule 5. These activities must be carried out, and in accordance with a user agreement between the Council and the Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club. This ~~user~~ agreement is subject to annual ~~be reviewed annually, and may be reviewed more frequently if whenever~~ significant changes to the coastal environment ~~necessitate additional reviews warrant it.~~
- 13.3. The Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine area, as described and set out in schedule 6, is a restricted area for kite surfing in accordance with a user agreement between the Council, and the Northern Pegasus Bay kite surfing community. This user agreement is to be reviewed annually prior to the start of the kite surfing season, which runs from November to April, and whenever significant changes to the coastal environment during this period necessitate additional reviews.
- 13.4. Land yachts shall only be operated on the beach in the area between Kairaki Beach and the beach entrance to the Waikuku Beach Horse Float Car Park and Access Trail.
- 13.5. Land yacht operators shall not pass through flagged surf lifesaving patrol areas. In the event this is unavoidable on a return trip, operators must dismount and push their yacht through the flagged area.
- 13.6. Environment Canterbury's Navigation Safety Bylaw 2016 applies to the Ashley River/Rakahuri and estuary area. This bylaw requires powered watercraft to stay within a 5-knot speed limit when on the river or any of its tributaries, downstream of the State Highway 1 Bridge.

14. FIRES

- 14.1. Fires in the open air are prohibited within the bylaw area. Exemptions may be granted with prior written approval from the Waimakariri District Council.

15. FIREWORKS

- 15.1. Setting off any firework, flare or any other explosive material within the bylaw area is prohibited. Exemptions may be granted with prior written approval from the Waimakariri District Council.

16. DOG CONTROL

- 16.1. All dogs on the beach shall be kept under continuous and effective control at all times in accordance with this bylaw and the Dog Control Bylaw 2019.
- 16.2. All dogs are prohibited from the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas, as described and set out in schedule 6, notwithstanding the provisions of clause 16.3.
- 16.3. Holders of Fish and Game Hunting Licenses are restricted to use dogs for the activity of gamebird hunting in a specified area of the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas during gamebird hunting season, as described and set out in schedule 8.
- 16.4. All dogs shall be on a leash on the seaward facing spit adjacent to the estuarine area to the low tide mark north of the Waikuku northern car park and south of the Ashley/Rakahuri River Mouth, as described and set out in schedule 3. In accordance with this Bylaw and the Dog Control Bylaw 2019.
- 16.5. All dogs are prohibited from staying within the areas marked by surf lifesaving patrol flags and from an area extending 50 metres beyond the flags but can pass directly through provided the dog is on a short leash and under effective control, in accordance with this bylaw and the Dog Control Bylaw 2019.
- 16.6. Dogs which are not able to be kept under effective voice control around horses shall be placed on a leash when in the vicinity of a horse.
- 16.7. Any dog found not under continuous and effective control on the beach may be seized and detained by any authorised officer, or a person employed by the Council, and be impounded in accordance with this bylaw and the Dog Control Bylaw 2019.
- 16.8. No person being the owner of, or having the control of, any dog shall permit the dog to foul any part of the beach with droppings, provided that no offence shall be deemed to have been committed against this bylaw and the Dog Control Bylaw 2019 when the person having control of the dog removes the droppings immediately.
- 16.9. The owner or person in charge of any dog on the beach shall carry a suitable receptacle for the removal of any faeces defecated by that dog in accordance with this bylaw and the Dog Control Bylaw 2019.

Part 2 – Other Matters

17. EXEMPTIONS

- 17.1. This bylaw does not apply to any person who commits an act that is done:
 - a) in accordance with a valid and current contract for services with the Council; or
 - b) on a voluntary basis in accordance with a valid and current agreement entered into with the Council; or
 - c) by a member of the emergency services in the course of carrying out his or her duties as a member of the emergency services; or

- d) in accordance with any operative reserve management plan, or pursuant to any resource consent under the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 17.2. This bylaw does not apply to owners of Fenton Reserves and holders of Fenton Entitlements located within the bylaw area when exercising their legal rights to access waterways associated with these reserves and entitlements for mahinga kai purposes.
- 17.3. Notwithstanding any prohibition or restriction on driving a vehicle set out in this bylaw, a person may drive a vehicle on a beach in the following circumstances, providing permission is first obtained from an authorised officer:
- a) by or on behalf of the Council, Environment Canterbury, a government agency, or the Fish and Game Council, or an approved voluntary group, for the provision of enforcement services, for monitoring or ranger services, or for the rescue, protection, or disposal of marine animals or other wildlife or animals; or
 - b) by or on behalf of the Council, Environment Canterbury or a government agency for water quality sampling, flood protection, the control or cleanup of contaminants, or resource investigations or monitoring; or
 - c) by or on behalf of the Council, Environment Canterbury or a government agency, the Canterbury Surf Lifesaving Association or a surf lifesaving club, Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust, an approved 4WD club, or an approved voluntary group, for track maintenance, beach and beach facility maintenance, pest control, or the removal of rubbish or beach cast material; or
 - d) by or on behalf of the Council, Environment Canterbury, a government agency, the New Zealand Police, the New Zealand Fire Service, the New Zealand St. Johns Ambulance Service, the New Zealand Defence Force, the Canterbury Surf Lifesaving Association or a surf lifesaving club, the New Zealand Coastguard or an approved 4WD club, for the undertaking of civil defence, police, medical, temporary military training activities, rescue or firefighting training.

18. PERMISSION UNDER THIS BYLAW

- 18.1. A written permission granting exemption from a provision or provisions of this bylaw may be given on written request to the Council or an authorised officer of the Council who has been delegated this role by the Council.
- 18.2. A permission given under this bylaw may relate to:
- a. an activity or event or a series of activities or events, as the case may be.
 - b. one or more clauses under this bylaw as is appropriate in the circumstances.
- 18.3. Any permission given under this bylaw may be subject to such terms and conditions as the Council or authorised officer giving the permission thinks fit.

18.4. The permission shall set out:

- a. the activity or event or activities or events which is, or are permitted or exempted; and
- b. the duration of the permission or exemption; and
- c. the areas to which the permission or exemption relates; and
- d. any conditions to which the permission or exemption is subject.

18.5. The Council may review and alter or cancel any permission or exemption given under this bylaw and will provide reasonable notice of any alteration or cancellation to the affected party.

18.6. Where this bylaw refers to written permission, that permission may be in electronic form.

19. FEES

19.1. For every application made for a permit, permission or exemption or other authority under this bylaw, the applicant shall pay to the Council such fee as the Council may prescribe in accordance with section 150 of the *Local Government Act 2002*.

19.2. The Council may, from time to time, by resolution that is publicly notified, specify the fees payable in respect of the issue of any permit, permission or exemption under this bylaw. The Council will consult on, and publicly notify its intended fees prior to making a resolution to fix such fees.

20. BREACHES AND PENALTIES

20.1. Every person commits a breach of this bylaw who:

- a) commits, or causes to be committed, any act contrary to this bylaw; or
- b) omits, or knowingly permits to remain undone, any act required by this bylaw; or
- c) refuses or neglects to comply with any direction, permit, permission, exemption, notice or any condition in any such notice whether public or private, given pursuant to this bylaw; or
- d) obstructs or hinders any authorised or enforcement officer of the Council in the performance of any power, or duty conferred upon him or her by this bylaw or fails to comply with the instructions of an authorised or enforcement officer given pursuant to this bylaw; or
- e) fails to give their name and address to an enforcement officer when requested to do so if the officer considers this bylaw has been breached.

20.2. A breach of this bylaw is an offence, and every person is liable on summary conviction to the applicable penalty provided for in the *Local Government Act 2002*

and the *Land Transport Act 1998*, or such other penalty as may be prescribed in any other legislation in force at any applicable time.

- 20.3. In addition to summary conviction, a person may also be liable for an infringement fee as prescribed in the *Land Transport Act 1998*, *Resource Management Act 1991*, *Dog Control Act 1996* or in regulations made under the *Local Government Act 2002*.
- 20.4. The Council may apply to the District Court to grant an injunction restraining a person from committing a breach of this bylaw, notwithstanding that proceedings for any offence constituted by the breach have not been taken.
- 20.5. On being shown a current warrant of appointment by an enforcement officer, any person who is requested to do so shall provide their name and address and the name and address and whereabouts of any person connected in any way with the alleged breach, to the enforcement officer if that officer believes on reasonable grounds that a provision of the bylaw has been or is being breached.
- 20.6. Every person who breaches this bylaw, shall on request by an enforcement officer immediately stop the activity, and leave the beach or adjacent land area, including any prohibited area, if instructed to do so by the enforcement officer and may be prohibited from returning for such period as the enforcement officer deems fit.
- 20.7. Any person failing with all reasonable speed to comply with a request under clause 20.6 commits a further offence against this bylaw.
- 20.8. The Council reserves the right to cancel a vehicle or horse access permit, any user agreement or any written permission or exemption held by a person who is breaching or has breached this bylaw.

21. REVOCATIONS AND SAVINGS

- 21.1. The Waimakariri District Council Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2016 (amended 2023) is hereby revoked.
- 21.2. Any approval, permission or authorisation under the Waimakariri District Council Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2016 (amended 2023) that is in effect at the commencement of this bylaw, continues to have full force and effect for the purposes of this bylaw, as long as it is consistent with any relevant clause in this bylaw.
- 21.3. The revocation of the Waimakariri District Council Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2016 (amended 2023) under clause 21.1 does not prevent any legal proceedings, criminal or civil, being taken to enforce that bylaw and such proceedings shall continue to be dealt with and completed as if the bylaw had not been revoked.

22. REVIEW OF BYLAW

- 22.1. A comprehensive review of this bylaw shall be carried out no later than 2029 as required by the *Local Government Act 2002*.
- 22.2. The Council reserves the right to carry out an early review of any aspect of the bylaw that has not been found to have been effective in addressing identified user conflicts, health and safety concerns, matters of public nuisance and environmental issues.

Part 3 – Schedules

23. SCHEDULE 1: VEHICLE ACCESS MAP

Schedule 1 is a map (see attached) showing approved vehicle access routes and prohibitions and restrictions on vehicle use on Waimakariri District beaches, as specified in clauses 5, 6 and 7 of this bylaw.

24. SCHEDULE 2: HORSE ACCESS MAP

Schedule 2 is a map (see attached) showing designated horse float car parks, horse access trails and permitted areas for recreational riding and horse training on the Waimakariri District's beaches as well as prohibited areas, as specified in clauses 8 and 9 of this bylaw.

25. SCHEDULE 3: DOG ACCESS MAP

Schedule 3 is a map (see attached) showing prohibited and restricted areas for walking dogs on the Waimakariri District's beaches, as specified in clauses 16.2, 16.4 and 16.5 of this bylaw.

26. SCHEDULE 4: LAND YACHT ACCESS MAP

Schedule 4 is a map (see attached) showing permitted and prohibited areas for operating land yachts on the Waimakariri District's beaches, as specified in clauses 13.4 and 13.5 of this bylaw.

27. SCHEDULE 5: AIRCRAFT ACCESS MAP FOR ASHLEY RIVER/ RAKAHURI AND SALTWATER CREEK ESTUARINE AREAS

Schedule 5 is a map (see attached) showing where permitted and prohibited areas for landing and taking off of aircraft on the Waimakariri District's beaches is permitted in the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine area, as specified in clause 13.2 of this bylaw.

28. SCHEDULE 6: RECREATION ACTIVITY MAP FOR ASHLEY RIVER/ RAKAHURI AND SALTWATER CREEK ESTUARINE AREAS

Schedule 6 is a map (see attached) showing the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas where the recreational activities specified in clauses 8.1, 13.1 and 16.2 of the bylaw are prohibited. It also shows the activities that are restricted, as specified in clauses 13.3 and 13.6 of this bylaw.

29. SCHEDULE 7: VEHICLE ACCESS MAP FOR ASHLEY RIVER/RAKAHURI AND SALTWATER CREEK ESTUARINE AREAS

Schedule 7 is a map (see attached) showing where vehicles are prohibited in the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas, the location of the car park, vehicle access gate and access route for permitted vehicles, as specified in clauses 6.4 and 6.5 of this bylaw. Permitted vehicles shall stay clear of areas of driftwood and other detritus likely to be used for bird habitats on the access track, as set out in clause 6.7 of this bylaw. The map also shows the Fenton Reserves and Entitlements located in the general area.

30. SCHEDULE 8: DOG ACCESS FOR GAMEBIRD HUNTING PERMIT HOLDERS MAP FOR ASHLEY RIVER/RAKAHURI AND SALTWATER CREEK ESTUARINE AREAS

Schedule 8 is a map (see attached) showing where holders of Fish and Game Hunting Licences are permitted to use dogs while hunting during gamebird hunting season in the Ashley River/Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek estuarine areas, as set out in clause 16.3 of this bylaw.

31. SCHEDULE 9: ASHLEY/RAKAHURI RIVER MOUTH MOTOR VEHICLE ACCESS PERMIT SYSTEM

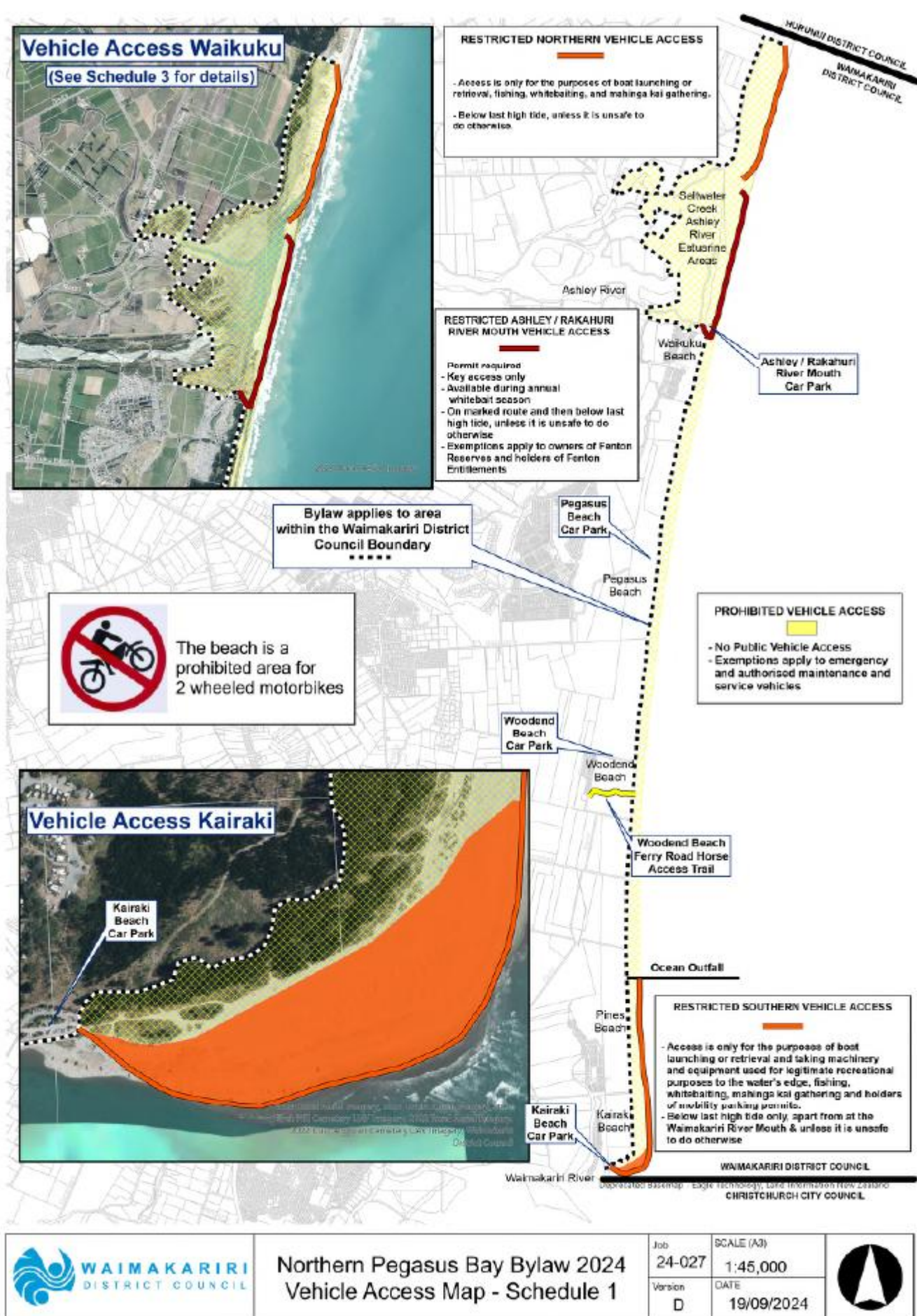
31.1. The schedule below specifies the terms and conditions, as determined by Council resolution from time to time, which apply to the permits required for vehicle use in the restricted areas described and set out in schedules 1 and 7 and is in addition to clauses 6 and 7 of the bylaw.

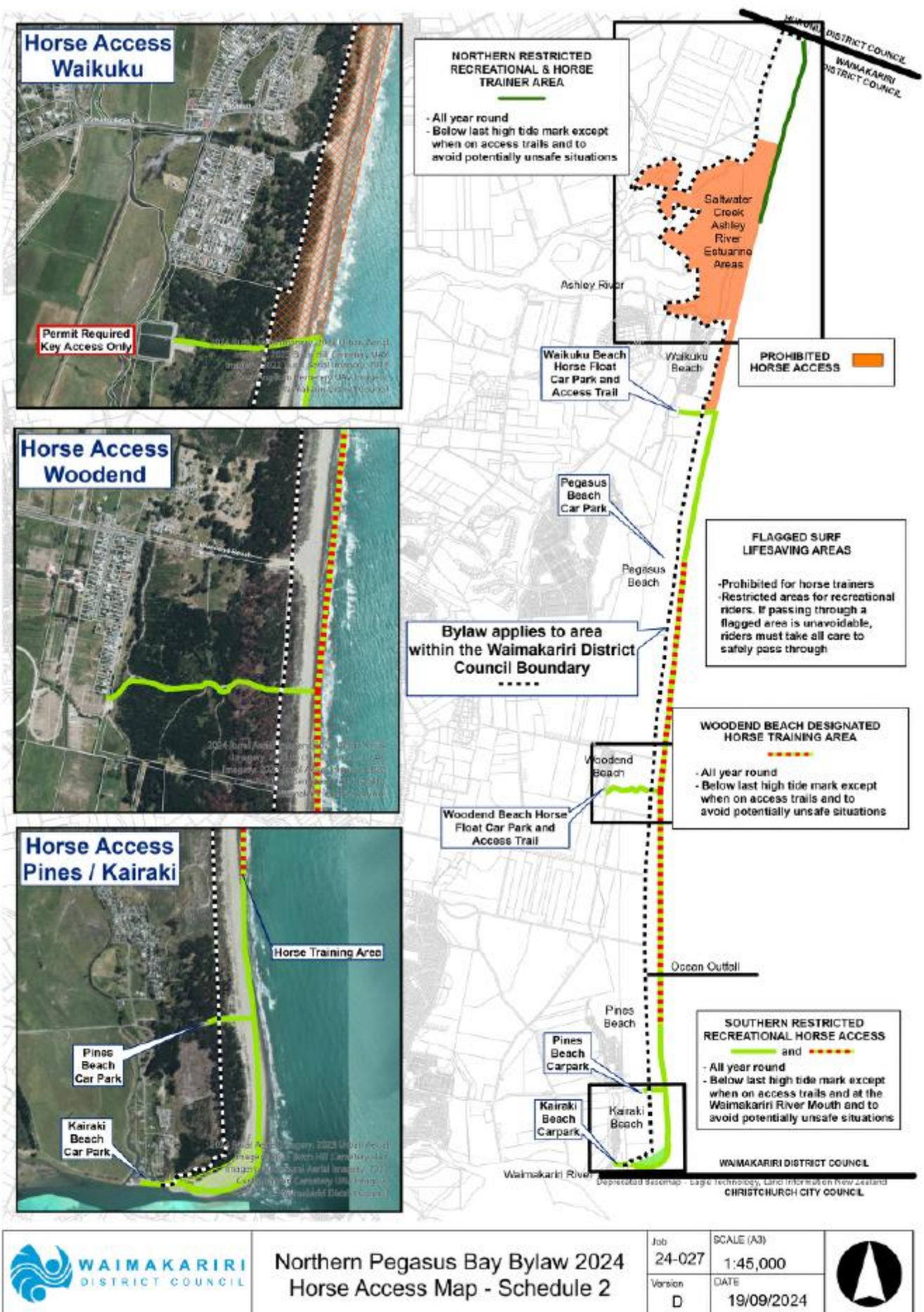
- a) A permit is issued to a person, not a vehicle, and shall be carried by the holder at all times they seek to make use of it.
- b) Permits are not transferable to any other person. They may be immediately revoked, and penalties and/or prosecution may be imposed for breaches of the conditions. They do not supersede any requirements under other legislation including by way of example only, but not limited to, the *Land Transport Act 1998*, *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Wildlife Act 1953* and their amendments and replacements, etc.
- c) A sticker issued to a permit holder shall be displayed on the vehicle in a prominent position to enable it to be easily identified by an enforcement officer.
- d) Applicants shall be required to provide vehicle registration and license details and other vehicle description details, as well as the purpose the permit is being applied for, as part of their permit application for any vehicle that is intended for use on the beach.
- e) Approved permit holders will be issued a key upon payment to the Council of a fee as specified by the Council by resolution from time to time. These permits

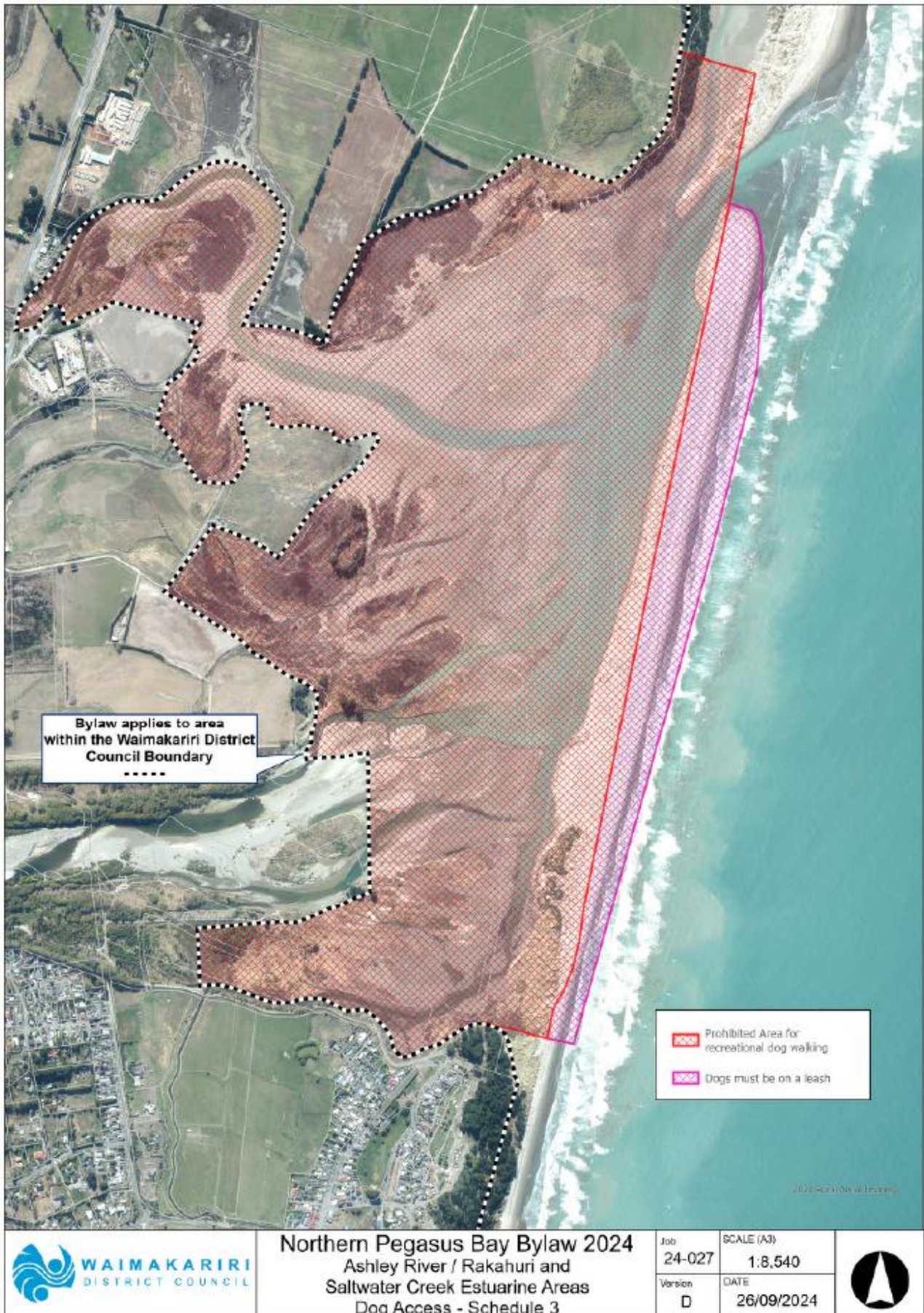
are only available for use during the whitebait season as defined by the Department of Conservation.

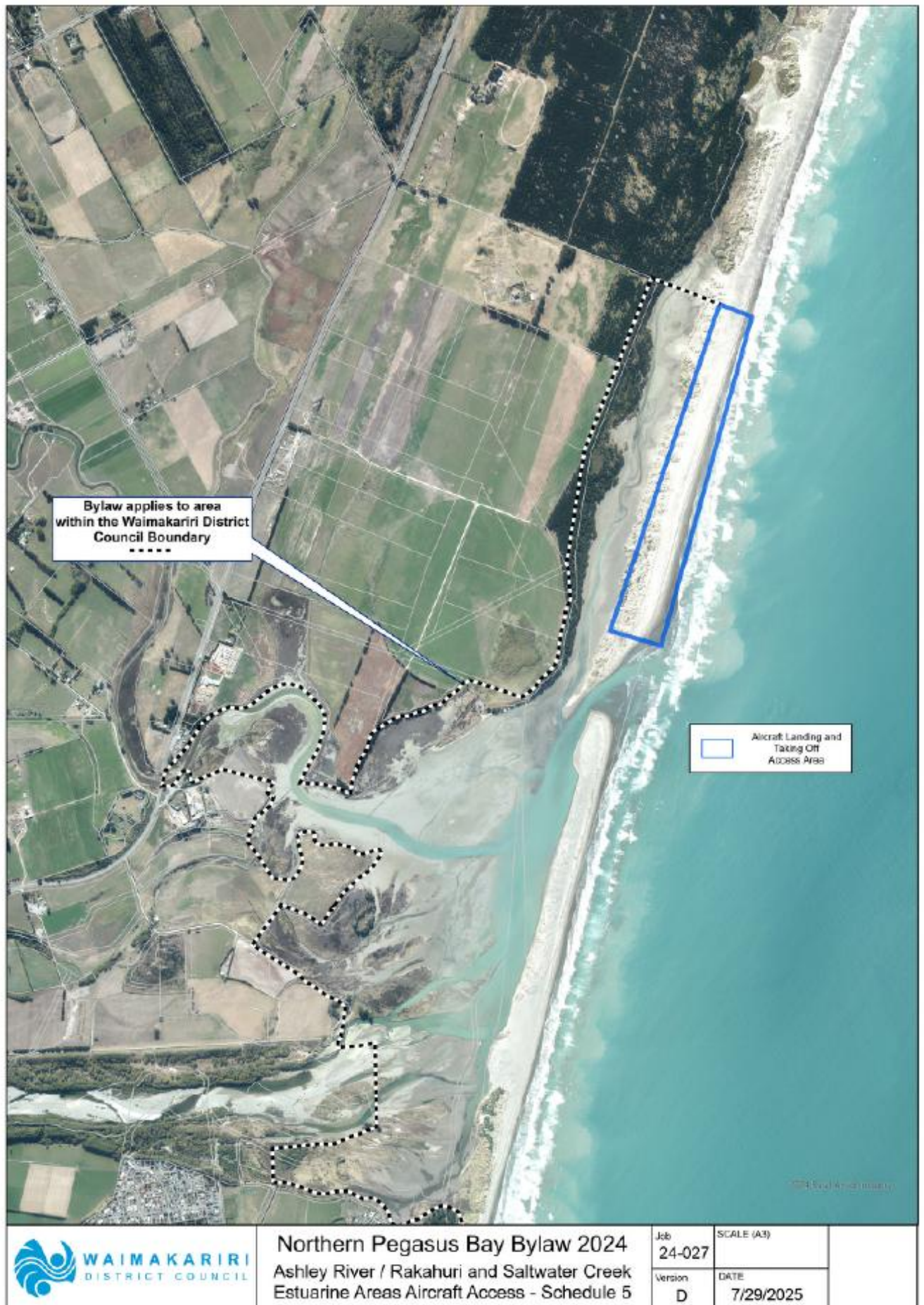
32. AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULES 1 TO 8

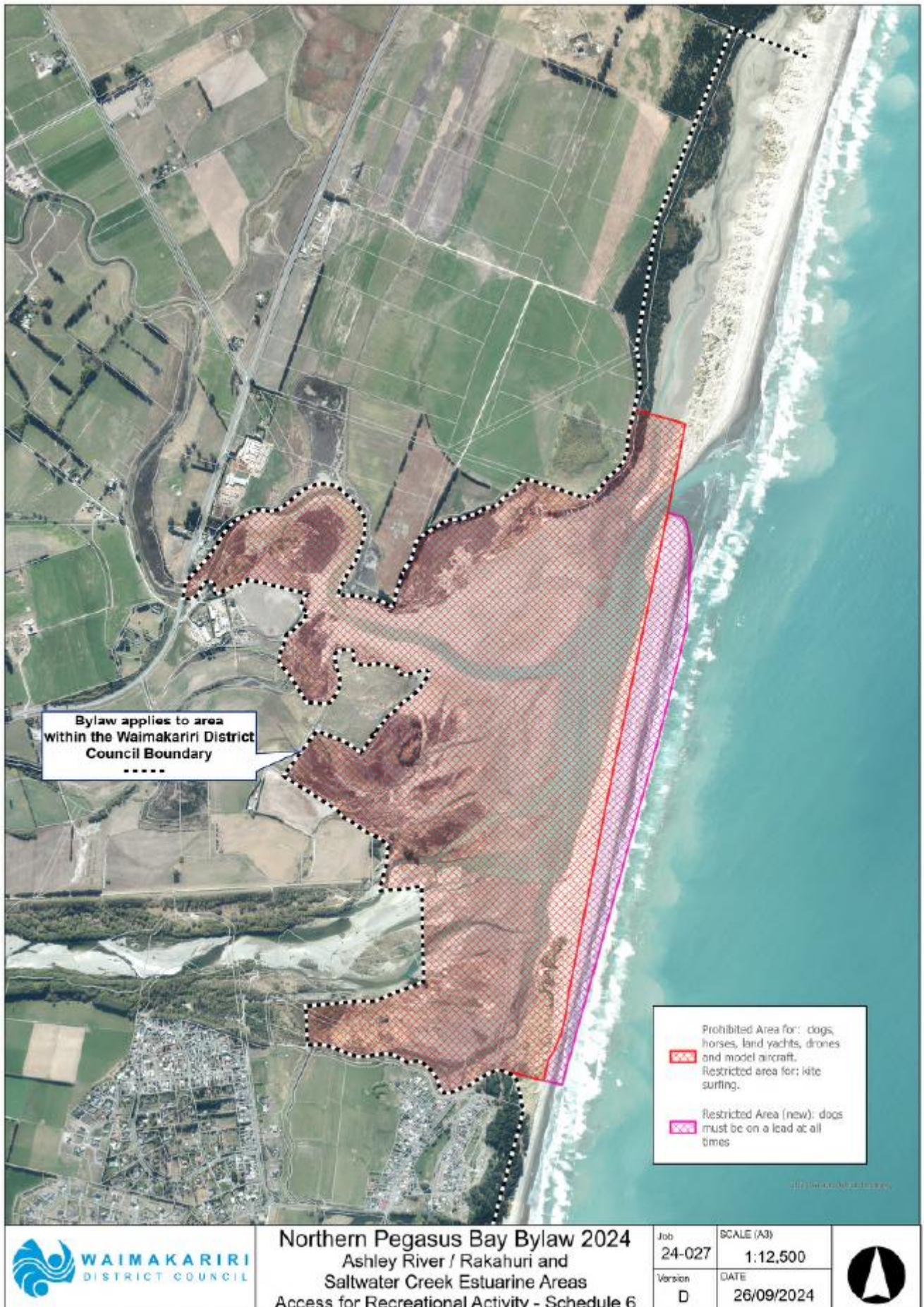
Schedules 1 to 8 may be amended by the Council from time to time as new aerial photography becomes available and/or to indicate physical changes that are occurring to the characteristics or topography of the beaches and estuarine areas included in the bylaw area.

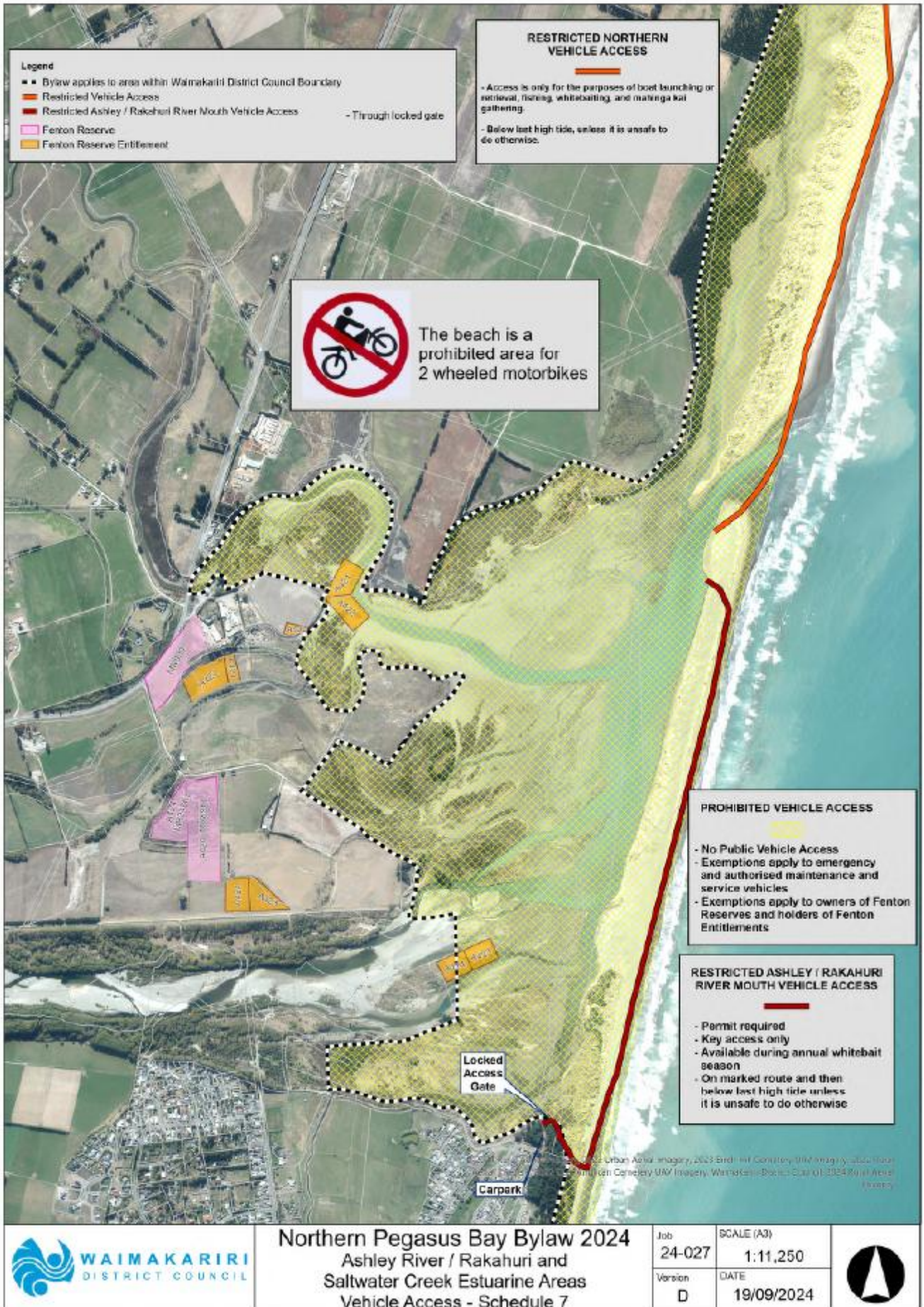


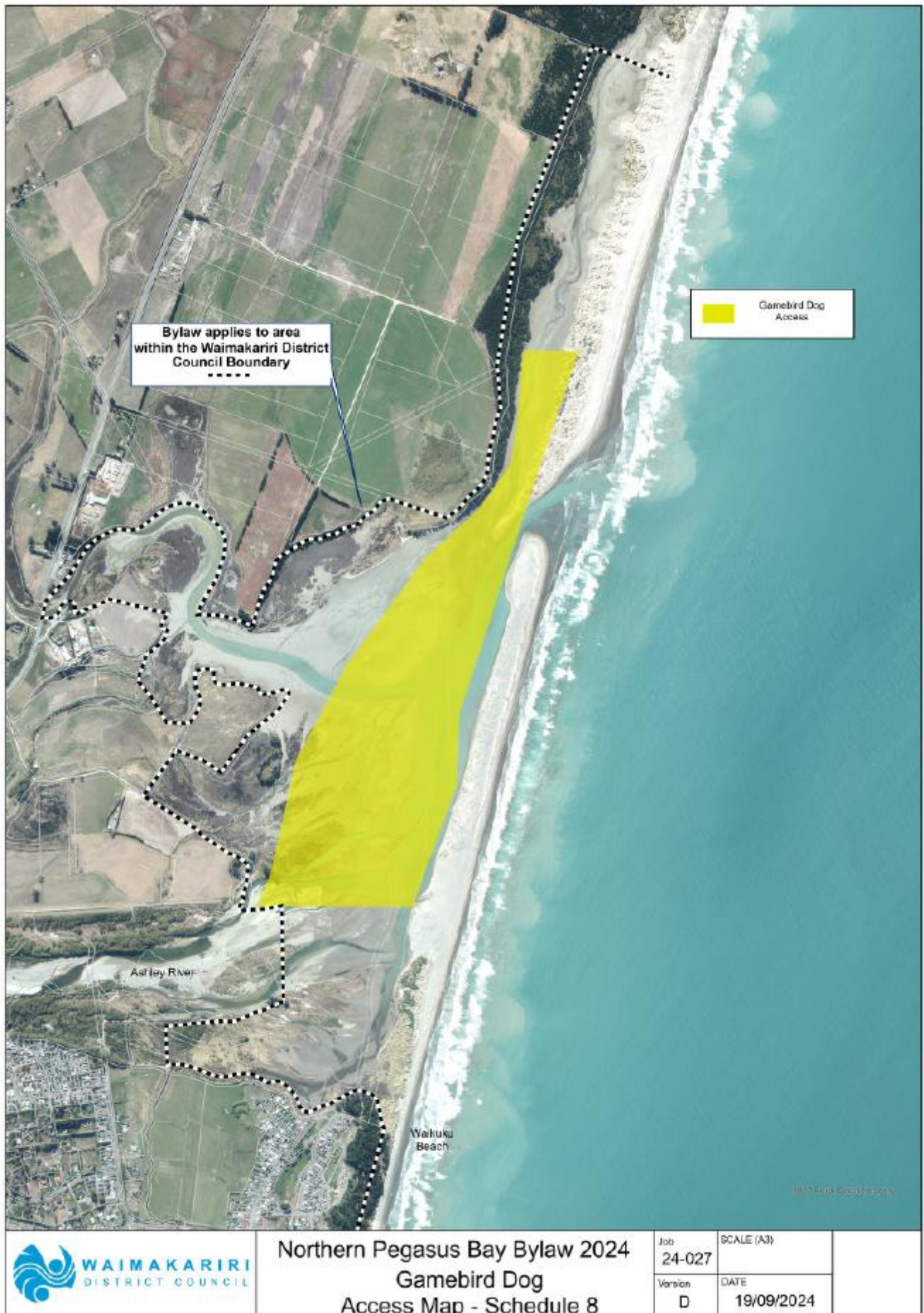


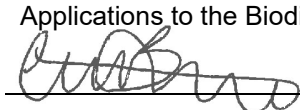










WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR DECISION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** RES-35-01/250729138411**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 August 2025**AUTHOR(S):** Kate Steel (Ecologist – Protected Areas)**SUBJECT:** Applications to the Biodiversity Fund Autumn 2025**ENDORSED 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 from the funding round that closed 30th April 2025.
- 1.2 The Biodiversity Contestable Fund provides support to landowners or groups for projects undertaken to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity in the Waimakariri District. The fund has a current balance of \$60,248.
- 1.3 There were 13 applications to the fund during the autumn 2025 funding round seeking a total of \$36,639 (incl GST). Eight of these applications align with, and fulfil the assessment criteria. The total requested amount for these applications is \$20,894.40 (Table 1).
- 1.4 Five of the applications, whilst aligning with the fund criteria, have been identified as projects which can be provided more appropriately through other mechanisms (Table 1). These are:
 - 1.4.1 Two applications which require ecological assessment and a restoration management plan to inform work prior to being eligible for funding. This work is currently offered by the Biodiversity Team to landowners who have areas of high biodiversity, or a restoration project as directed by the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (WNES) as part of BAU.
 - 1.4.2 One Significant Natural Area (SNA) landowner requiring further plants for infill. The Biodiversity Team was offered a donation of indigenous plants from the Department of Conservation Nursery at Motukarara on the condition that we find places to plant that align with eco-sourcing principles. These plants are suitable for the landowner.
 - 1.4.3 An SNA landowner who requires traps for their ecosystem. A grant from the Lotteries Foundation was provided to the Greenspace team to continue to support community trapping effort in collaboration with Pest Free Waimakariri (PFW). PFW are well placed to offer advice and use the grant to provide traps.
 - 1.4.4 The Silverstream Reserve contains an SNA. The work within the area is provided for within the existing Silverstream Reserve Operational Budget.

Table 1. Applicant information for the autumn 2025 Biodiversity Contestable Fund.

Applicant	Amount	Purpose	Existing site values (incl SNA priority status)	Meets criteria
Recommended Biodiversity Contestable Fund Support				
Bruce & Fiona Clark	\$1,500	Planting bare land		Yes
Jeremy & Andrea Stevens	\$1,530	Planting bare land		Yes
Tim McMorran	\$1,490	Planting bare land		Yes
Chris Barber	\$2,000	Weed control	Regenerating Forest	Yes
Nicky Auld	\$6,272	Planting	High value wetland	Yes
John Wakeman	\$1,315	Plant guards	High value wetland and saltmarsh	Yes
Gordon Williams (Pamu)	\$4,787.40	Weed control	Canterbury Grass Skink habitat	Yes
James Stephenson	\$2,000	Weed control	SNA – mature and regenerating forest	Yes
Provision through Other Mechanisms				
Richard & Rachel Lange	\$12,500	Planting bare land	Wetland and riparian	Yes**
Rachelle Winter	\$2,073	Restoration plan for wetland	Wetland	Yes*
Anthony & Julia Holcroft	\$561.50	Planting	SNA – mature forest	Yes*
Michelle and Wayne Flintoft	A few traps	Trapping	SNA – mature forest	Yes*
Silverstream Volunteers	\$630	Weed control	SNA – threatened wetland plants	Yes*

*These projects meet funding criteria, they are a good fit for other budgets so staff recommend using these to provide funding.

** This project requires a restoration plan. Staff recommend declining funding and assisting the landowners to rescope the project.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250729138411.
- (b) **Approves** the allocation of \$1,500 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Bruce and Fiona Clark for native planting.
- (c) **Approves** the allocation of \$1,530 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Jeremy and Andrea Stevens for native planting.
- (d) **Approves** the allocation of \$1,490 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Tim McMorran for native planting
- (e) **Approves** the allocation of \$2,000 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to James Stephens for weed control

- (f) **Approves** the allocation of \$2,000 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Chris Barber for weed control
- (g) **Approves** the allocation of \$4,787.40 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Pamu for weed control
- (h) **Approves** the allocation of \$6,272 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Nicky Auld for wetland enhancement
- (i) **Approves** the allocation of \$1,315 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to John Wakeman for wetland enhancement
- (j) **Declines** funding from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for Richard and Rachel Lange to undertake earthworks and planting and **Notes** staff will work with Richard and Rachel Lange to undertake an ecology survey and restoration plan.
- (k) **Declines** funding from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for Rachelle Winter to undertake an ecology survey and restoration plan and **Notes** Greenspace Biodiversity Staff will undertake an ecology survey and restoration plan for Rachelle Winter as BAU.
- (l) **Declines** funding from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for Anthony & Julia Holcroft to buy eco-sourced mānuka and **Notes** that we will provide the plants directly to Anthony and Julia from a donation by the Motukarara Department of Conservation Nursery.
- (m) **Declines** funding from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for traps for Michelle and Wayne Flintoft towards predator traps and **Notes** we will fund this through a Lotteries Foundation Grant for this purpose.
- (n) **Declines** funding from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for weed control in the fen and swale areas at Silverstream and **Notes** we will fund this from the Silverstream Reserve maintenance budget.
- (o) **Notes** that this will leave \$39,354 available in the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for allocation in the spring funding round.
- (p) **Notes** that all application forms and supporting information are available on request.

3 **BACKGROUND**

Biodiversity Contestable Fund

- 3.1 The original Heritage, Biodiversity and Ecological Fund was established in 2005, as a contestable fund aimed at supporting the preservation of heritage sites, notable trees, and significant vegetation in the Waimakariri District.
- 3.2 The stand-alone Biodiversity Contestable Fund was established in 2021 as a continuously open fund. In 2023, it was restructured to include two advertised funding rounds per annum and have the capacity to support projects outside Significant Natural Areas to further enhance the biodiversity of the District.

4 **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1 This funding round was open and advertised from 1 March - 30th April 2025. Thirteen applications were received.
- 4.2 Applications to the fund are assessed against the following criteria. These broadly align with ecological significance criteria in both the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement and the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.
 - 4.2.1 **Representativeness:** Does the project/activity support biodiversity, which is representative, typical or characteristic of the area?

- 4.2.2 **Rarity/Distinctness:** Does the project/ activity include species which are rare, listed as threatened or those which are at the distribution limit, of restrictive occurrence or rare ecosystem (see DP for description)?
- 4.2.3 **Connectivity:** Will the project/activity provide or support linkages for species to other important habitats in the area?
- 4.2.4 **Protection:** Is the area protected from future development and degradation (ie. Covenanted, mapped as an SNA)? Is the landowner willing to protect the plantings through a management agreement?
- 4.2.5 **Size:** Does the project site cover an area larger than 0.1ha.
- 4.2.6 **Partnerships and Collaborations:** Does the project involve a collaboration of interested organisations, stakeholders and communities?

- 4.3 A total of thirteen applications were received to the fund in this round. All fulfilled at least one criterion for the fund (Table 2).

Table 2. Assessment against fund criteria

Applicant	Representativeness	Rarity	Connectivity	Protection	Size	Partnerships
Bruce and Fiona Clark		✓	✓		✓	✓
Jeremy and Andrea Stevens		✓	✓		✓	✓
Tim McMorran		✓	✓		✓	✓
Richard and Rachel Lange					✓	
Rachelle Winter	✓		✓			✓
James Stephenson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anthony and Julia Holcroft	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michelle and Wayne Flintoft	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chris Barber	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Nicky Auld	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
John Wakeman	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Gordon Williams (Pamu)	✓	✓			✓	✓
Silverstream Volunteers	✓	✓		✓		✓

- 4.4 Staff also considered whether the applications were more aligned to other funding mechanisms and options or whether the activity aligned with the current work plan undertaken by Greenspace Biodiversity Team staff as directed by the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (WNES).
- 4.5 The WNES directed the action for additional biodiversity capacity (action 1.2.1.2 in the implementation plan) which, as part of the work plan (WNES actions 2.2.2.2, 2.2.2.5,

4.2.3.17), can ensure provision of ecological advice to landowners and SNA custodians. This is offered as “business and usual” to ensure the support of landowners and the longevity of areas with high ecological value.

- 4.6 Other associated options include a grant fund administered by Senior Ranger Biodiversity, Mike Kwant, from the Lotteries Foundation in collaboration with Pest Free Waimakariri. This provides materials for trapping across both private and public land in the Waimakariri District as part of work towards the national programme Predator Free 2050. The allocated amount was \$45,000 with minimal uptake to date to be spent by May 2027.
- 4.7 The Biodiversity Team also administer a fund to continue the enhancement works at Silverstream Reserve. This fund is used for the maintenance of the wetland and dryland areas at Silverstream Reserve (classified as SNAs) with an annual budget of \$35,780.
- 4.8 In addition, the Department of Conservation at Motukarara has recently offered to donate approximately eco-sourced 600 plants (a mixture of mānuka *Leptospermum scoparium*, kānuka *Kunzea ericoides*, and kōhūhū *Pittosporum tenuifolium*) from the Waimakariri District to Council staff on the condition that we arrange to have them planted in locations consistent with eco-sourcing principles.

Autumn 2025 Applications

- 4.9 Below is a summary of applications received for the autumn 2025 funding round and rationale for staff recommendations.

- 4.9.1 There are three applications by landowners **Bruce & Fiona Clark, Jeremy & Andrea Stevens**, and **Tim McMorran** with support from biodiversity consultant Sue McGaw - total of \$4,500 for restoration planting of bare land.

The three properties are strategically located to form part of a larger ecological corridor across the Waimakariri District supporting bird movement and habitat connectivity. All three landowners have started planting and intend to plant a substantial area over time. All three projects include a robust restoration plan with the aim to restore native natural vegetation historically present in the area including species that are rare or locally threatened. Trial plots are planned to monitor survival and ecological interactions.

Each applicant requests modest funding (around \$1,500) and will contribute with money toward plants, combi-guards, and an in-kind contribution through labour. Sites are fenced and weed-controlled, with no planned stock grazing. While the sites are not currently protected, the landowners intend to establish covenants to protect the plantings in the future.

- 4.9.7 **James Stephens** is applying for \$2,000 to continue weed control and enhancement work within SNA051 (Taylors Bush).

The SNA contains a 3,570 m² remnant beech–podocarp forest located at View Hill, Oxford containing a full suite of healthy native vegetation including rimu, pokaka, and rohutu. It provides habitat for native birds such as kererū, bellbird, and fantail. The site has good connectivity as it is adjacent to the QEII-covenanted Taylors Bush and has potential habitat for Canterbury mudfish and Waitaha gecko.

The applicant received \$8,459 in 2023 for fencing, planting, and weed control, and has continued restoration efforts across the property. This application focuses on removing invasive species—bramble, hawthorn, elder, gorse, and broom—from the remaining third of the SNA which will stymie the spread of weeds into the local area. The proposed work includes five days of ranger support (\$1,800) as supplied by the current Waimakariri District Council (WDC) contractor, chemical control

(\$200), and five days of in-kind labour from the landowner. Advice will be sought from the WDC biodiversity ranger, and work is planned for spring 2025 when weeds are actively growing.

The application is well-aligned with the fund's objectives and builds on previous successful restoration work. The site is protected and ecologically significant, and the applicant has demonstrated ongoing commitment to biodiversity enhancement. We recommend providing \$2,000 for targeted weed control effort and donation of approximately 20 eco-sourced mānuka to plant along the bush edge to reduce edge effects and ongoing weed burden.

- 4.9.8 **Chris Barber** of Glentui Downs Ltd, applied for \$5,000/annum for aerial spray of gorse across both the regenerating gullies and a hillside with few natives present. Following a site visit WDC biodiversity staff have worked with Chris to rescope his application.

The site, approximately 3.5 hectares, is unsuitable for intensive grazing and prone to erosion and slips. The project aims to restore the area to native bush, with the long-term goal of encouraging the return of native bird species such as kererū. Natural regeneration is already underway, supported by a strong native seed bank. Work to date includes initial gorse spraying, mulching, and ongoing weed control. The gully is lightly grazed to avoid damaging regenerating native seedlings. No other funding has been applied for.

The previous aerial spray had some impact on the regenerating native vegetation in the gully and possibly contributed to substantial hillside erosion that the landowner is currently trying to mitigate through the planting of poplar poles.

Staff believe a finer scale approach to woody weed control of Darwin's Barberry and Hawthorn in addition to targeted spray or cut and paste of gorse will have a more beneficial outcome. Future management will focus on sustained woody weed control and careful grazing, with potential fencing of vulnerable areas to protect regenerating vegetation.

The landowner has expressed interest in further support and advice from Council staff and is open to exploring additional funding sources. The project aligns well with the fund's objectives, supporting natural regeneration and erosion control in a sensitive landscape. Therefore, staff recommend providing \$2,000 towards employing the biodiversity ranger employed as a contractor by the Biodiversity Team to work with the landowner on targeted weed control in the gully similar.

- 4.9.9 **Gordon Williams, Environment Manager at Pāmu** (Landcorp Farming Ltd) is applying for \$4,787.40 to support weed control at a 2.6 ha site within the Eyrewell Dairy Unit, West Eyreton.

The site contains a significant population of Canterbury Grass Skink and has undergone substantial planting and enhancement to protect and increase skink habitat. However, exotic broom is encroaching from the northern boundary, threatening the integrity of the restoration work. The proposed project aims to remove these broom stands and continue targeted weed control in sensitive areas.

The budget includes \$1,626 for scrub cutter hire and labour, \$2,850 for chemical control of cut stumps, and \$311.40. An additional \$5,000 of in-kind labour will be contributed by the applicant for ongoing hand weeding.

The site has been actively managed for eight years, including fencing, planting, and community engagement through school planting days. It is also part of an initiative involving WDC ecologists and Pest Free Waimakariri to monitor ecological outcomes of such habitats enhancements.

The application is well-aligned with the fund's objectives, targeting a protected and ecologically valuable site with demonstrated long-term commitment. Staff recommend full funding of the \$4,787.40 requested to support this focused weed control effort and maintain the habitat gains achieved to date.

- 4.9.10 **Nicky Auld** has applied for \$6,272 to support native restoration at two wetland sites on the Auld/Wakeman family farm at 230 Lees Road, Kaiapoi.

The property, located behind Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust land, contains multiple wetland and saltmarsh habitats that support native flora and fauna, including bittern and wading birds.

The application proposes infill planting at the Pohio Wetland and initiating Stage 1 of restoration at the Bittern Wetland, both of which are part of a broader, long-term ecological enhancement programme. The proposed work includes planting 700 native riparian and forest margin species at the Pohio Wetland and 1,295 native seedlings at the Bittern Wetland, following fencing and willow control.

The total project cost is \$12,544.27, with \$6,272.14 requested from the fund. This includes plant supply from Riverside Nursery and biodegradable plant guards for both sites.

The landowners have already received \$26,000 in funding from Environment Canterbury for willow control and are supported by the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, who will assist with planning and community planting days.

The landowners have demonstrated strong commitment to ecological restoration, with extensive planting already completed at the Pohio, Waka, and O'Kair Lagoon wetland areas, with fencing and willow control across all wetland sites.

The Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust will continue to provide monitoring and advice to ensure planting success, and the landowners plan to maintain the sites with a mix of their own labour, contractor support, and community involvement.

WDC staff have discussed the project with Environment Canterbury (Ecan) staff to ensure that work funded aligns with investment by Ecan in this wetland. Ecan staff are supportive of the work, provided planting is appropriate, follows the advice provided by Ecan and is noted in a restoration agreement and the landowner is willing to work with staff to protect the wetlands over the long-term through an agreement mechanism.

- 4.9.11 **John Wakeman** has applied for funding to support the next stage of wetland restoration at the Auld/Wakeman family farm, located at 142 Lees Road, Kaiapoi.

The property contains multiple wetland and saltmarsh habitats and sits adjacent to Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust land. The 2025 project focuses on planting 1,200 native seedlings at the O'Kair Lagoon wetland area, enhancing habitat for bittern, wading birds, and other native wildlife.

The planting was carried out during a community planting day on 25 May 2025, coordinated by the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust and supported by the Student Volunteer Army and local environmental groups. The landowners prepare the site by mowing vegetation and have already contributed the native plants. Funding is sought to cover the cost of biodegradable plant guards (\$2,630), with a request for 50% support from the fund (\$1,315).

The landowners have demonstrated strong commitment to restoration, having already fenced and controlled willow across all wetland sites and undertaken extensive planting at Pohio, Waka, and O'Kair Lagoon. They are working to a wetland management plan provided by Ecan and are supported by the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, which will continue to provide advice and monitoring to ensure planting success.

Staff recommend this be funded.

- 4.9.12 **The Silverstream Reserve Volunteers** have applied for \$630 in funding to support the restoration and maintenance of two key wetland habitats within the reserve: a fen and a swale.

These areas support rare and regionally significant native wetland plants and contribute to ecological connectivity in the district. The project aims to enhance biodiversity by managing invasive species, maintaining native vegetation, and protecting sensitive habitats through targeted weeding and mowing. The first year of work includes intensive weeding of the fen (10 hours) and three mowing sessions in the swale, with an estimated cost of \$560–\$630. Ongoing annual maintenance is projected at \$350 per year. Funding will be used to support contractor labour for these tasks, with volunteers assisting post-maintenance.

Staff from the Biodiversity Team have worked with the Silverstream Volunteers and recommend using the existing Silverstream Reserve Operational Maintenance Budget to support the biodiversity ranger contractor to undertake regular maintenance of the fen and swale areas and their plant communities.

- 4.9.2 **Richard and Rachel Lange** are applying for \$12,500 to support native revegetation and habitat restoration on a 1.32 hectare paddock in Sefton.

The project aims to enhance biodiversity by planting native species and expanding a spring-fed pond to create open water in an existing wetland. The site is intended to serve as a corridor for native birdlife between nearby ecological areas. The proposed work is staged and includes planting, pond expansion, and streamside clearance.

The application does not currently have a detailed restoration plan, and the proposed earthworks are likely to require resource consent. These factors indicate that the project scope needs refinement before funding can be considered.

We recommend that no funding for resources be allocated in this round. Instead, staff support from the Biodiversity Team should assist the applicant in developing a restoration plan and rescoping the project to ensure project goals can be realised.

- 4.9.3 **Rachelle Winter** is applying for \$2,073 (excluding GST) to support the ecological restoration of a 0.57 ha low-lying wetland site at 119 Wylies Road, Sefton.

The site features year-round standing water and existing patches of native wetland vegetation. The project aims to enhance native biodiversity and habitat for wildlife, particularly native birdlife, by working with existing vegetation and implementing a restoration plan informed by expert ecological advice.

The application seeks funding for an ecological assessment and management plan by Di Robertson, an experienced ecologist. This initial stage will guide future restoration activities, including species selection, site preparation, and planting. No physical restoration work is proposed at this stage, and the applicant has not applied for other funding. The site is already fenced from stock, and the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust has committed to providing ongoing support and monitoring.

Rather than providing funding for an external ecologist, staff recommend that the Biodiversity Team undertake an ecological assessment and help the landowner prepare a restoration plan that will enable them to apply for funding from a range of sources.

- 4.9.4 **Anthony and Julia Holcroft** are applying for \$561.50 for 100 eco-sourced manuka, chemical for weed control, and 4 hours labour for an experienced gardener.

Anthony and Julia are dedicated long time owners of a QEII covenant containing mixed beech-podocarp forest. They hope to reduce erosion of a stream bank that cuts through one corner of the covenant by undertaking suitable riparian planting. The applicants receive regular monitoring and advice from the QE2 National Trust.

The Biodiversity Team has recently received a donation of eco-sourced manuka from the Department of Conservation nursery at Motukarara that would be appropriate for this property. We recommend donating 100 mānuka to the landowners to support their project which should cover over 50% of total project costs.

- 4.9.5 **Michelle and Wayne Flintoft** are seeking a small number of predator traps and bait stations (approx. 8 traps) to support ongoing pest control efforts on their property at 8 Glentui Bush Road, Glentui (SNA 064).

The application is light on detail so WDC biodiversity staff obtained further information about the values of the site and management assistance required from previous SNA monitoring reports and a site visit with Michelle Flintoft.

The SNA comprises 34 hectares of mixed beech podocarp forest on a steep terrace riser. The site is currently in good health with active management by the landowners and no intentional grazing. The site has a thriving bird population and good connectivity to adjacent Department of Conservation land. No other funding sources have been applied for, and the applicants are open to Council support and advice.

Michelle currently does daily checks along a small trapline with a mixture of possum, stoat, and rat traps that she moves frequently to ensure coverage along the base of the terrace. She would like to extend her trapping network further into the bush and establish some bait stations to better control rats.

WDC currently have some capital funding from a Lotteries grant to support small scale trapping work undertaken through the Pest Free Waimakariri Programme. Staff recommend providing the landowners with a small number of traps (4 x Victor Rat Trap, 2 x Flipping Timmy Possum Trap, and 2 x DOC 200 Stoat Trap) for an estimated cost of \$567.00 and referring her to Pest Free Waimakariri Coordinator, Richard Chambers, for assistance with bait stations.

- 4.10 The options available to the committee are:

4.10.1 **Option A:** Approve funding as per the staff recommendations.

4.10.2 **Option B:** Allocate funding to a different selection of projects or decline funding. If the Committee choose to decline the funding, staff will inform the applicant and close the file. The committee may also choose to provide part of the funding requested.

4.10.3 The Committee has the option to seek further information in respect of aspects of the application relevant to decision making.

- 4.11 The applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application. If successful, the applicants will be required to sign an accountability agreement outlining the expectations for completion of the funded works.

- 4.12 Payment of the allocation is intended to be upon receipt of an invoice for the completed work along with either photographs, or an inspection by a staff member from the Biodiversity Team demonstrating that it has been completed.

Implications for Community Wellbeing

- 4.13 There are implications on community wellbeing by the issues and options that are the subject matter of this report. Enhancing biodiversity contributes to community wellbeing

and supporting landowners to protect and enhance high biodiversity sites contributes to this.

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

5 COMMUNITY VIEWS

5.1 Mana whenua

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

5.2 Groups and Organisations

There are not groups and 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.

6 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 Financial Implications

The Biodiversity Contestable Fund budget is included in the Annual Plan and the Long Term Plan.

There is currently \$60,248 available in the Biodiversity Contestable Fund. Staff recommend funding 8 projects for a total spend of \$20,894.40 leaving \$39,534 available for the spring funding round.

The Pest Free Waimakariri programme has a Lotteries Foundation Grant of \$45,000 with most remaining unspent. As stated in the agreement for the grant, it must be spent by May 2027, providing trapping materials to groups or individuals in the Waimakariri District. Staff propose to use this to buy trapping equipment for the one of the applicants as it aligns with the purpose of the grant funding. This represents a more effective use of Council resources than spending the more flexible Biodiversity Contestable Fund.

Maintenance of the fen and swale areas at Silverstream Reserve will come from the Silverstream Operations Budget which currently has an annual budget of \$35,780. This will continue to prioritise the appropriate maintenance of existing high value native plant populations within the reserve in addition to the tree planting programme in line with the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy. It is important to use internal Council budgets to maintain Significant Natural Areas on Council land to maintain our credibility with landowners who have Significant Natural Areas identified in the District Plan.

In the current funding round staff are recommending a spend of \$8,787.40 on projects to support the maintenance of existing high value biodiversity and \$12,107 on planting.

6.2 Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts

The recommendations in this report do have sustainability and/or climate change impacts as supporting healthy indigenous biodiversity helps bolster the resilience of species and ecosystems to climate change.

Maintaining and increasing the portion of our landscape that is occupied by a range of healthy ecosystems is a vital and effective tool for climate change adaptation and mitigation, and for ensuring that we have an environment and ecosystem services that support a thriving local community and economy into the future.

Natural ecosystems, and the biodiversity they contain, are natural carbon sinks, providing nature-based solutions to climate change. Protecting, managing, and restoring forests offers roughly two-thirds of the total mitigation potential of all nature-based solutions.

Wetlands such as marshes and swamps – cover only 3 per cent of the world's land, but they store twice as much carbon as all the forests. Preserving and restoring wetlands means keeping them wet so the carbon doesn't oxidize and float off into the atmosphere.

The Biodiversity Contestable Fund assists with the vital goal of retaining and managing our remnant native ecosystems. Along with the rates rebate, it provides an important incentive to landowners and signals that the community acknowledges and appreciates the public good that comes from having special places on private land and in the landscape. It also enables us to ensure that landowners have access to the right advice and sufficient funding to help them manage the ecosystems to thrive.

The fund also supports tree planting which directly increases carbon sequestration while also increasing district ecosystem resilience through an increase in indigenous vegetation cover and habitat connectivity.

6.3 Risk Management

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

If incentives are not provided to support land owners to manage Significant Natural Areas and prioritise high biodiversity areas for conservation, this can create political risk and compromise the ability of Council to fulfil its obligation to maintain indigenous biodiversity under the Resource Management Act and take appropriate action toward Climate Change Adaptation.

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

7.1.1 This is not a matter of significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy however is in line with existing biodiversity strategies and plans including;

- Aotearoa Biodiversity Strategy (2020) – “Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management”.
- Waimakariri District Plan (2023) – ECO – P4 “Maintain and enhance indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna that do not meet the significance criteria”.
- Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (2024) – the project fulfils the strategic directions of connecting people and the environment and enhancing the ecological integrity of the environment.

7.2 Authorising Legislation

7.2.1 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (2023) – “Local authorities must promote the resilience of indigenous biodiversity to climate change, including at least by.... maintaining and promoting the enhancement of the connectivity between ecosystems, and between existing and potential habitats, to enable migrations so that species can continue to find viable niches as the climate changes.”

7.2.2 NPSIB (2023) – “Local authorities must consider the value of supporting people and communities in understanding, connecting to, and enjoying indigenous biodiversity.”

7.2.3 NPSBIB (2023) “3.21 Restoration

- (1) Local authorities must include objectives, policies, and methods in their policy statements and plans to promote the restoration of indigenous biodiversity, including through reconstruction of areas.
- (2) The objectives, policies, and methods must prioritise all the following for restoration:
 - (a) SNAs whose ecological integrity is degraded:
 - (b) threatened and rare ecosystems representative of naturally occurring and formerly present ecosystems:
 - (c) areas that provide important connectivity or buffering functions:
 - (d) natural inland wetlands whose ecological integrity is degraded or that no longer retain their indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna:
 - (e) areas of indigenous biodiversity on specified Māori land where restoration is advanced by the Māori landowners:
 - (f) any other priorities specified in regional biodiversity strategies or any national priorities for indigenous biodiversity restoration.
- (3) Local authorities must consider providing incentives for restoration in priority areas referred to in subclause (2), and in particular where those areas are on specified Māori land, in recognition of the opportunity cost of maintaining indigenous biodiversity on that land.
- (4) In relation to activities in areas prioritised for restoration, local authorities must consider:
 - (a) requiring conditions for restoration or enhancement on resource consents that are new or being reviewed; and
 - (b) recommending conditions on any new designations.

7.3 Consistency with Community Outcomes

The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report. The wider project will deliver in three of the four values of the community outcomes (see below).

Relevant Community Outcome Values
<i>Social - A place where everyone can have a sense of belonging..</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our community groups are sustainable and able to get the support they need to succeed. • Our community has equitable access to the essential infrastructure and services required to support community wellbeing.
7.3.1.1.1 Environmental - that values and restores our environment...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People 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. • 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.

7.4 Authorising Delegations

The Community and Recreation Committee has oversight over the Biodiversity Contestable Fund.

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR INFORMATION****FILE NO and TRIM NO:** GOV-01-04 / 250814150285**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 August 2025**AUTHOR(S):** Tessa Sturley – Community Team Manager**SUBJECT:** Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Contract Update**ENDORSED BY:**
(for Reports to Council,
Committees or Boards)

 General Manager


 Chief Executive
1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report details the successes of the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs programme, as it heads into its third year of operation in the Waimakariri District.
- 1.2. The report details some significant changes to the local contract, including new operational requirements, in terms of Ministry of Social Development referral processes, Job Seeker obligations and reporting requirements.
- 1.3. It provides an overview of a central government-led reprioritisation of local and national youth employment needs, particularly related to a significant reduction in support for 16–17-year-old young people not currently in education, employment or training (NEETs)
- 1.4. The report discusses challenges for communities with significant numbers of NEET young people because of reprioritisation away from younger job seekers, and how the national Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs programme is looking to address this gap in service provision.
- 1.5. It also details the local response, and how Waimakariri District Council's staff, supported by the mayor, can mitigate the challenges associated with the new contract's reduction in support for NEETs.

Attachments:

None

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

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250814150285
- (b) **Notes** that the Waimakariri Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs programme has achieved more than double its contracted outcomes for 2024/25, with 34 employment placement outcomes for the original contract of only 14, with those placements in a variety of local sectors.
- (c) **Notes** that staff have worked with people leaders across the Council to secure three additional placements within Council Units or with businesses associated with Council
- (d) **Notes** that over the 2024/25 contract year, in addition to contracted placements, the Waimakariri MTFJ coordinator has helped a total of 93 local unemployed youth into some form of work, work experience or work-readiness training.

- (e) **Notes** that in February, with the Waimakariri District's proven track record, we were awarded an additional \$15,000 over the contracted funding, to enable the filling of three additional placements, with the requirement that these be within council teams or council-related business. This target was achieved.
- (f) **Notes** that with the success of the local programme and our district's high number of young people on Ministry of Social Development's Job Seeker list, Waimakariri District Council's MTFJ Programme is in the fortunate position to have kept the contract for the 2025/26 year, with Ministry of Social Development (MSD) signalling that this funding will likely continue through 2026/27, also.
- (g) **Notes** the reprioritisation, with preference given to clients aged over 18 and on the MSD Job Seeker benefit, and a resulting gap in service provision for local young people aged 16 -17 years and not in education employment or training, (NEETs)
- (h) **Notes** a new requirement that 80% of referrals must now come directly via MSD, with the remaining 20% either NEET youth, or older people facing significant barriers to employment.
- (i) **Notes** more rigid requirements for clients to meet MSD obligations, with an associated increase in administrative requirements for staff
- (j) **Notes** that staff are working, supported by the mayor, to mitigate the effect of a reduction of service provision for local NEET young people.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) was established in 2010 as a partnership between Local Government New Zealand, Ministry of Social Development and local councils. It was, and continues to be, funded by Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and led by Local Government New Zealand.
- 3.2. Six mayors were involved in the original pilot. Its intention was to support smaller communities across the country, who were often disproportionately represented by unemployed young people, not in education employment or training. (NEETs). The aim was for a locally led, collaborative approach to addressing the issue, i.e. local people helping local youth to succeed.
- 3.3. Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs has been an incredible success and in recent years, has been offered to more medium sized TLAs, including the Waimakariri District Council, from January 2024. There are now more than 35 councils across NZ involved in the MTFJ programme.
- 3.4. At the end of its first full contracted year (2023/2024), Waimakariri District was in the strong position to have tripled its contracted outcomes for 12 young people placed in at least 30 hours per week employment, sustained for a minimum of three months. Our MTFJ Facilitator had worked with some 60 youth, developing their work readiness skills and/or getting them into some form of employment. This resulted in confirmation of our continued funding into the 2024/25 year, with 14 contracted outcomes. These were achieved in the first six months of that contract, putting the Waimakariri District in a strong position for funding beyond the end of the 2024/25 financial year.
- 3.5. In February 2025, Lyn Blair stepped into the MTFJ Facilitator role, covering for Elizabeth Trevathan whose 12 months' parental leave began at the end of December.

4. **ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

4.1. **2024/25 MSD has a key partner**

A key aspect of the 2024/2025 MTFJ programme has been the relationship between MTFJ and Work and Income. Staff have maintained a strong working relationship with the Work and Income North Canterbury Team, including

- Linking MTFJ job seekers into MSD work-readiness initiatives, including Virtual Reality Site Safe Training and various youth employment and education seminars onsite at the local Work and Income office
- MTFJ staff support for local MSD 'Connected' (Employment arm) Job Fairs
- Work and Income's wider clients invited to attend free MTFJ workshops including Learner driver licencing, budgeting and financial literacy workshops
- Referring local employers to the MSD work broker when they reach out regarding vacancies that MTFJ cannot fill.
- Involvement as co-partners in the North Canterbury Youth Futures Business Breakfast, featuring economist Brad Olsen and including a workshop on the value and opportunities related to employing young people.
- Involvement as co-partners in the large North Canterbury Youth Futures Career Expo, which attracts over 2,000 young people and their families.
- Inviting our candidates to the 'Connected'/MSD 'Inspiring the Futures' Event
- Utilising MSD support for our clients including Course Participation Assistance, Transition to Work, Flexi-wage, Mana in Mahi, Apprenticeship Boost
- Regular visits and in-office catch ups with case managers and the local MSD work broker.

4.2. **Wider Partnerships and Collaborations**

As well as working with our local Work and Income office, in line with the Kaupapa for the programme, staff have maintained various key strategic relationships with local training organisations and businesses that offer work experience opportunities. These relationships contribute significantly to the success of the local programme. Notably, in the work readiness space, these include:

4.2.1. **COMCOL North Canterbury Community College**

COMCOL hold the Youth Service contract, locally. MTFJ work with ComCols's NEET clients who are about to turn 18 to ensure they are well supported during this key transitional period and don't lose momentum and motivation in their search for work.

4.2.2. **Noaia Charitable Trust**

Noaia are affiliated with Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga and deliver trade training and work readiness programmes with a kaupapa Māori focus.

Collaborations saw MTFJ assisting graduating Noaia students by arranging site visits for potential employers and supporting students with CV writing and job interview practice. Support also included MTFJ assisting with post-programme

employment placement support, which makes it more likely that young employees will make it through their 3-month trial period.

4.2.3. North Canterbury Youth Futures

North Canterbury Youth Futures creates cross-agency, sustainable partnerships between education providers, organisations that support schools, local business and industry, and local and central government agencies including MSD, Ministry of Education, Comcol, Waimakariri and Hurunui District Councils. Its aim is to deliver clear and sustainable pathways for rangatahi from education to employment.

MTFJ Waimakariri is a partner in the organising committee for the successful North Canterbury Youth Futures Expo are delivered successfully in our community. Typically, this is attended by around 2,000 young people and their families. MTFJ sponsors a driving simulator to be onsite to promote driving licences as a key factor in gaining employment. The same arrangement was made to support MTFJ promotion at the Oxford Royal A and P Show in April.

4.2.4. Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust

MTFJ partnered with the Trust to set up volunteering opportunities for three young people who wanted to work in the outdoors, as park rangers, in horticulture, or in plant nurseries.

One of these young people got a work trial through this volunteering because the Team Leader acted as his referee. While, at the time, there was not enough work to make this permanent, staff will resume contact in spring to identify any emerging opportunities.

4.2.5. 'The Networkers'

As part of the North Canterbury employment assistance community, MTFJ is championed by "The Networkers" a group of 160 businesses in the local area that connect on a weekly basis. Our MTFJ Coordinator attends the local meetings to connect with employers and promote the purpose and values of MTFJ.

4.3. **2024/25 Contract Delivery Outcomes**

The local Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Programme has continued to be a success, despite a gap in facilitation, due to parental leave. An impressive 34 employment placement outcomes for the original contract of only 14.

Placements were across a wide spectrum, including:

- Hospitality
- Construction
- Warehousing
- Automotive
- Pest Management
- Manufacturing
- Painting Apprenticeship
- Farming
- Supermarket
- Retail

In addition to contracted placements, the Waimakariri MTFJ coordinator helped a total of 93 local unemployed youth into some form of work or work-readiness training.

4.4. Council-related Outcomes

The successes of the first half of the contract were noted, and in early March Waimakariri District Council was offered \$15,000 in funding for three additional placement outcomes. In line with the programme's increasing focus on Council support and opportunity for young people, these funds were specifically targeted to Council-related employment placements for local young people. This took the required outcomes target for the year to 17. Staff worked hard to maximise this opportunity, as follows:

- 4.4.1. The MTFJ coordinator presented the benefits of the programme, and of employing a young person, to the Waimakariri District Council Unit (Team) Managers' meeting. The presentation also alluded to opportunities for jobs in organisations either contracting to or directly affiliated with Council.

This was well received, with leaders in several Council Teams expressing interest in learning more. There has been a good uptake from the managers and discussions with the HR unit on how this could be achieved.

- 4.4.2. The mayor has encouraged some of his Council-related contacts to support the MTFJ programme by considering opportunities for an MTFJ client within their organisation or operation.

- 4.4.3. As a result of the combined efforts of the mayor and staff, Council-related outcomes for the 2024/25 contract included:

- Securing a 30 hour per week role for a young woman, with a building, odd jobs and graffiti removal business, owned by one of our elected members.
- Linking a job seeker in as a digital literacy educator at Waimakariri District Libraries, in collaboration with Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa. (DIAA)
- Creating a job opportunity for a young job seeker in a paid Governance Team internship
- Finding work in a local contracting company, owned and operated by one of our elected members.
- Linking three young job seekers into Work Experience in a Council affiliated Trust

This is notable, given that other communities either lost funding or suffered significant cuts.

4.5. New Direction for the MTFJ 2025/26 Financial Year Contract

With the success of the local programme and our district, at the time that the contract was set having over 380 young people on MSD's Job Seeker list, Waimakariri District Council's MTFJ Programme is in the fortunate position to have kept the contract for the 2025/26 year, with MSD signalling that this funding will likely continue through 2026/27, also.

Our Council's Funding for the 2025/26 contract has more than doubled, with \$280,000 allocated over the 12-month period for the delivery of 35 contracted outcomes. While, on the surface, this is an incredible coup, there are some notable changes in requirements for delivery of the new contract:

4.5.1. Increased Focus on Reducing Benefit Dependency

Previously, the focus for MTFJ has been on young people, from age 16, who were not in education, employment or training (NEETs). In these cases, there is no requirement for the client to be registered with MSD and, as such, clients could self-refer or be referred by a parent or caregiver.

With the current government's focus on reducing the number of people on benefits, the new contract is predominantly geared toward job seekers who are aged between 18 and 24 years old and registered as an MSD client. The Waimakariri District currently has more than 380 young people in that category, and this has been a factor in our increased funding and the corresponding increase in outcomes for 2025/26 contract delivery

Under the new contract 80% of contracted outcomes need to come via referred clients from MSD, who fit that cohort. The remaining 20% (only seven clients) can be NEETs, or older clients with significant limitations, such as a physical, mental or cognitive disability.

4.5.2. MSD Administrative Requirements

The new contract necessitates a closer operational relationship with officers from our local Work and Income office. A Memorandum of Understanding supports this new way of working. However, staff anticipate the transition to this way of working may be more streamlined than expected, given our long-standing working relationships with the North Canterbury Work and Income Manager, Work Broker and Case Managers.

The new contract does require significantly more reporting back to MSD, including detailing the extent to which clients have continued to engage with the MTFJ programme and meet other MSD obligations. This is in line with the new government requirement that benefits be reduced where clients fail to meet obligations. Additional administrative support has been included in the contract, accordingly, and will be fully resourced by MSD.

4.5.3. Expectation of Increased Council Support

While not quantified, the 2025/26 contract includes an expectation that councils and their associated contractors will be a key employment opportunity for young job seekers.

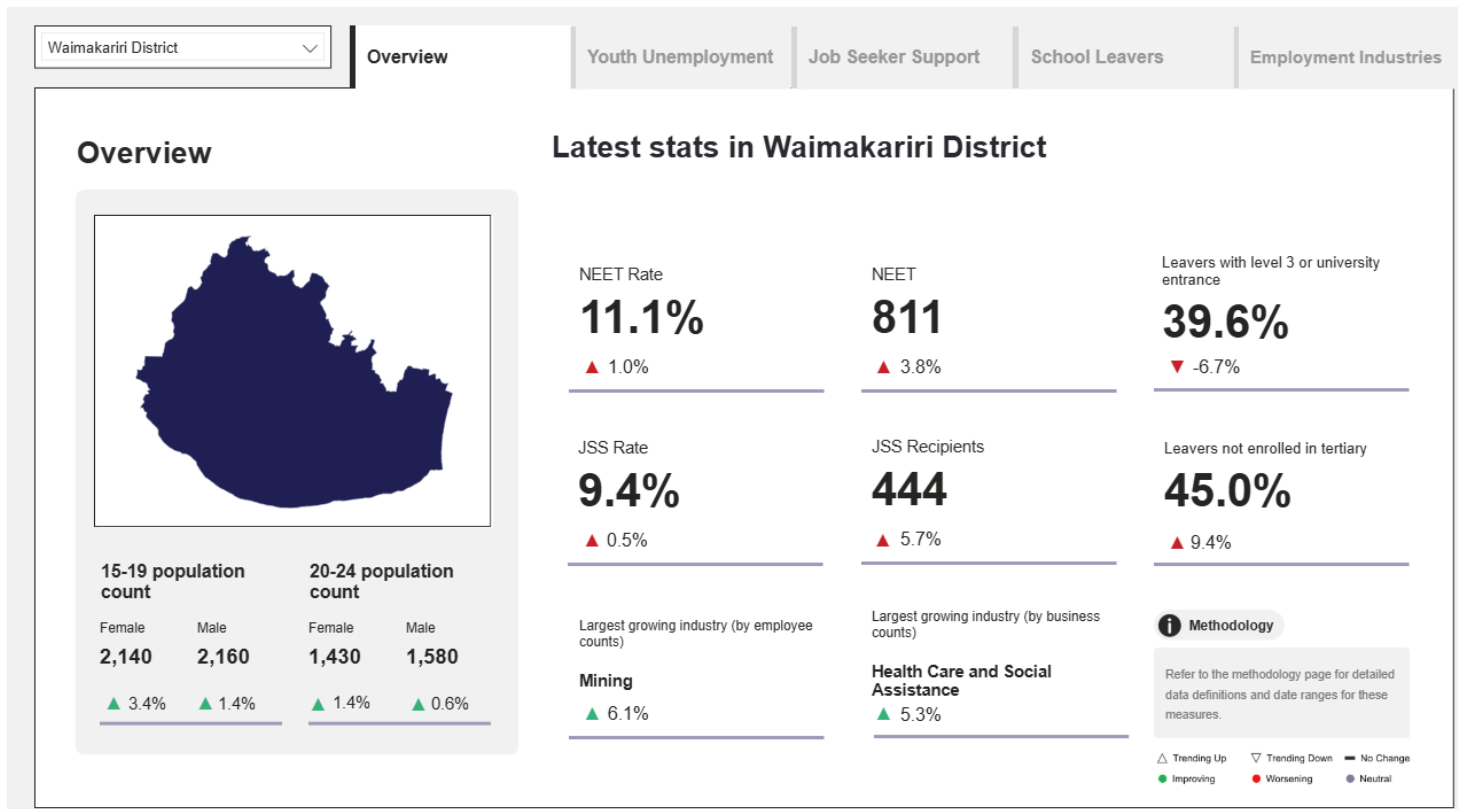
Achievement of the required Council-related placements for 2024/25 has set the scene for local success and has raised the profile of the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs programme across the various council business units and with associated contractors.

Further council-related MTFJ client job placement opportunities are currently being explored with the Water Unit, Aquatics and Council-affiliated contractors, including a range of Roading and Construction contractors, cleaning contractors and Waste Management (via our Solid Waste Team) With some contracts currently under review, we do not expect placements in these until mid- way through the current contract.

4.6. Limitations

As illustrated in Figure 1, below, the number of Waimakariri young people on the MSD Job Seeker benefit has increased significantly, since the issuing of the contract. However, so too has the number of 16 - 17-year-olds not in education, employment, or training (NEETs). This cohort represent 11.1% of all local youth.

In terms of number alone, at 811, the most recent NEET figure for young people in this position is almost double that for youth job seekers aged 18 – 24.



- 4.6.1. The new contract includes very little provision for NEETs and with the current government signalling getting people off benefits as a key priority for the foreseeable future, it is unlikely that MSD will continue to fund employment support for NEETs via the MTFJ programme

Evidence suggests that long-term NEET status in New Zealand is a strong indicator of future unemployment and limited career prospects, including lower remuneration, in the long term.

<https://msd.govt.nz>

For the Waimakariri District, this means that, without intervention, over 800 local young people will likely face long term disadvantage in the employment market, with the result being poor social outcomes for our emerging population.

- 4.6.2. In districts like the Hurunui, Selwyn and Ashburton, where Job Seeker numbers are lower, but NEET percentages are double those for job seekers, the government reprioritisation has meant that their contracts have been significantly reduced, leaving a larger gap in work-readiness support. Hurunui District Council are in the fortunate position of having secured sponsorship for a local programme, directed specifically at NEET young people and this has been a valuable stopgap for their District. However other TLAs have not been as fortunate, with services cut considerably, resulting in widespread dissatisfaction across MTFJ providers.
- 4.6.3. Nationally, supported by Local Government New Zealand, Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs have been proactive in attempting to address funding cuts for NEETs. This has included advocacy with Central Government for continued NEET funding provision, from 2026/27. Additionally, MTFJ announced at its 25-year celebration that it had acquired Charitable Trust status, with the intention of seeking philanthropic avenues to support the sustainability of the NEET programme.

4.7. **Local Response to Supporting Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)**

Given Waimakariri District Council's significantly increased MSD funding for the local programme, staff efforts will focus on the following to ensure best possible outcomes for local youth

- 4.7.1. Continue to work closely with our local work and Income Office to ensure the maintenance of a good number of quality referrals to the programme. This will ensure that contracted outcomes are achieved under the existing contract
- 4.7.2. Work with various local and regional partners to design a weekly 'job club', offering a suite of workshops. The aim is to create a place where MTFJ clients, including NEETs can gather in a safe space and build confidence, social skills and employability skills. The value of a structured, scheduled programme is that it creates a mechanism to get young job seekers used to the routine of being somewhere regularly, and on time.

The programme in the first instance will centre on Learner Licences, so that clients can be fed into driver training: Access to transport is a significant barrier to employment for the majority of our young job seekers. Acquiring a driver's license will be a valuable means to transition MTFJ clients from job seekers to employees. This will pay-off in the 2025/26 contract outcomes.

Additional content will cover a broad range of work-readiness offerings, including:

- Forklift Operation and licensing,
- Site Safe, Health and Safety,
- Job Search and Interview skills,
- Temporary Traffic Management (TTM, Digital Passport),
- Links to a range of specific courses
- Customer Services

Some of these courses are offered via Virtual Reality and staff have access to equipment free of charge, via MSD.

Other offerings will include Strengths Finder and utilisation of the web-based Te Heke Mai personalised coaching, and Tahatū career navigator programmes.

In terms of the local NEET issue, the programme will go a long way to addressing the issue, in that those who are too young to fit the current contract can be upskilled, so that when they reach 18, it is more likely that they will quickly acquire a job, as contracted outcomes.

- 4.7.3. Where any additional advocacy is needed, and/or requested through the nation-wide programme coordination, staff will communicate appropriate responses via the mayor, who heads the local MTFJ programme.

4.8. **Early Intervention – an aside**

- 4.8.1. MTFJ staff and our partners that work with young people report challenges around getting young people to proactively engage. Issues with confidence, anxiety and poor communication skills are all cited as factors that contribute to what is becoming a trend in young job seekers. It is felt that the impact of cell-phone culture, time pressured and financial stressed parents, helicopter parenting or dysfunctional home environments may all be catalysts for such issues.

- 4.8.2. The confidence and skills that help a young person to get and keep a job are developed from childhood, where they learn to take safe risks, help around the home with practical tasks, do volunteer work, make decisions for themselves, etc. In our highly pressured modern society, these opportunities are fewer than they might have been 20 years ago.

The need for parenting education and support has long been recognised as a local issue, beginning with the post-earthquake impact of highly stressed, emotionally absent parents.

In response to this need, community development staff work closely with community partners to:

- Facilitate, promote and in some instances support delivery for a range of parent education offerings, including addressing neurodiversity, anxiety and behavioural issues.
- Work with social service providers, schools and school support providers to ensure that there is adequate local support for struggling parents and that they know where to send parents for support and upskilling.
- Promote local parent support organisations and services online and via the Next Steps website.

- 4.8.3. Another means to address the issue of youth engagement is to ensure that there is adequate funding support to ensure the sustainability of local work readiness providers like ComCol, Noaia, YDOT (Youth Development Opportunities Trust) and R13 Trust, who offer means to develop assertiveness in their young students.

- 4.8.4. There is still work to be done in this area, but it is felt that if young people can grow in confidence, decision making skills and the ability to take safe risks, we can reduce the likelihood of them becoming unemployment statistics.

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 MTFJ programme addresses youth unemployment, with a resulting positive impact on the social and economic wellbeing of the District.

- 4.9. 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. While not a matter for Whiti Ora, the runanga will be aware of the programme through its direct relationship with Noaia.

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. Our social services, youth services, education, work-readiness and business sectors all play a role in the wellbeing and empowerment of young people. Whether directly or indirectly, each play a part in the employment journey for local young people.

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. However, the

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1. **Financial Implications**

There are not financial implications of the decisions sought by this report. All costs associated with the local Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs programme are funded by the Ministry of Social Development

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

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 risks arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

6.2.1. There is a small risk that central government will withdraw its funding from the MTFJ national programme, however this is unlikely, given the significant value that the programme adds to Ministry of Social Development's endeavours to get young people off benefits.

6.2.2. There is also a small risk that central government will completely remove its allowance for the 16-17-year cohort of young people not in education employment or training. This would likely impact priorities for general youth development, given increased pressure on local work-readiness providers.

6.2.2-6.2.3. There is a degree of risk in that, with the new contract predominantly relying on MSD for referrals, MTFJ could be given the hardest to place clients. Should this result in non-delivery of the full number of contracted outcomes, MTFJ Waimakariri may be obligated to return a proportion of the funding. The aim of our heavy emphasis on work-readiness and the high number of local clients available should reduce the likelihood of this happening.

6.4 **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**

Employment Relations Act, 2000

7.3. **Consistency with Community Outcomes**

The Council's community outcomes are relevant to the actions arising from recommendations in this report, as follows:

The objectives of the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs programme align with the Council's Community Outcomes, in that they facilitate activity that ensures that the Waimakariri is a District that is supported by a resilient and innovative economy.

7.4. **Authorising Delegations**

N/A

Tessa Sturley
COMMUNITY TEAM MANAGER

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

FILE NO and TRIM NO: GOV-01-04 / AQU-02-09 / 250811147785

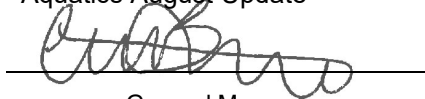
REPORT TO: COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 26 August 2025

AUTHOR(S): Matthew Greenwood, Aquatics Manager

SUBJECT: Aquatics August 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 31 July 2025 and budget results for the year to 30 June 2025.
- 1.3. The report contains a review of customer satisfaction results over the last 5 years and the steps staff are taking to ensure the ongoing safety of patrons following recent adverse customers situations within the facilities.

Attachments:

- i. Nil

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250811147785.
- (b) **Notes** a strong start to the financial year with attendance of 21,500 customers for the month of July 2025. This is up 1,000 (or 4.8%) customers in comparison to July 2024.
- (c) **Notes** the consistent achievement of positive customer satisfaction results averaging 94% in the last 5 years of Aquatics general customer surveys.
- (d) **Notes** that Aquatics staff are working closely with Police and neighbouring councils to ensure the safety of our customers remains a key priority.
- (e) **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. The Aquatic Facilities team work closely with partner organisations, clubs, trusts and interest groups to support water safety programmes, grow and develop swimming and

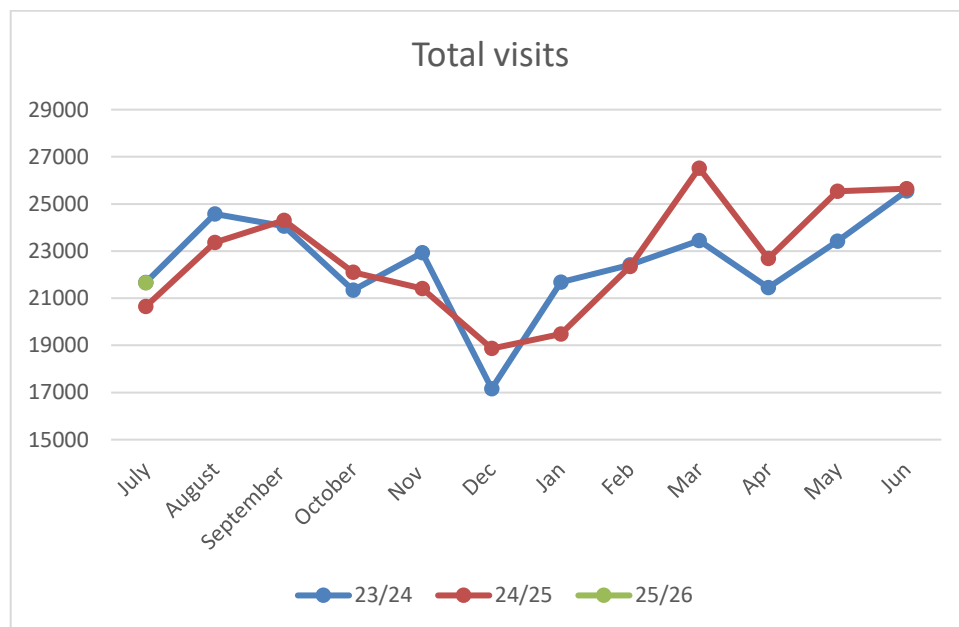
Aquatic exercise initiatives, and works with the Council to ensure our facilities are inclusive places, accessible to all members of the community.

- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. 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. Staff have been working with a contractor to update our asset register ensuring the information captured accurately reflects current equipment condition, lifespan and criticality. This information will be used to inform our capital replacement planning going forward to ensure effective and efficient use of resources, budget and minimise impacts on customers from facilities closures. 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**

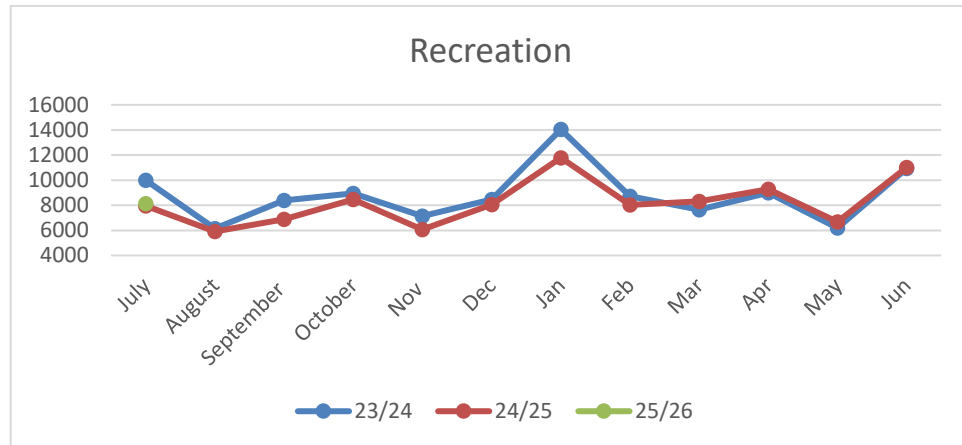
The following tables provide a summary of attendance across the facilities to date as at 31 July 2025.



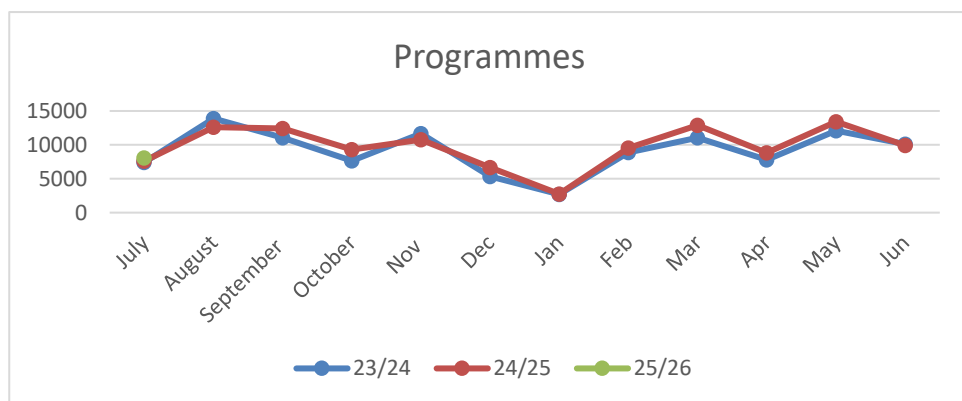
Attendance at the facilities made a relatively consistent start with just over 21,500 visits in July which is consistent with 23/24 year and 1,000 up on last year. This increase was spread across all tracked entry types.

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

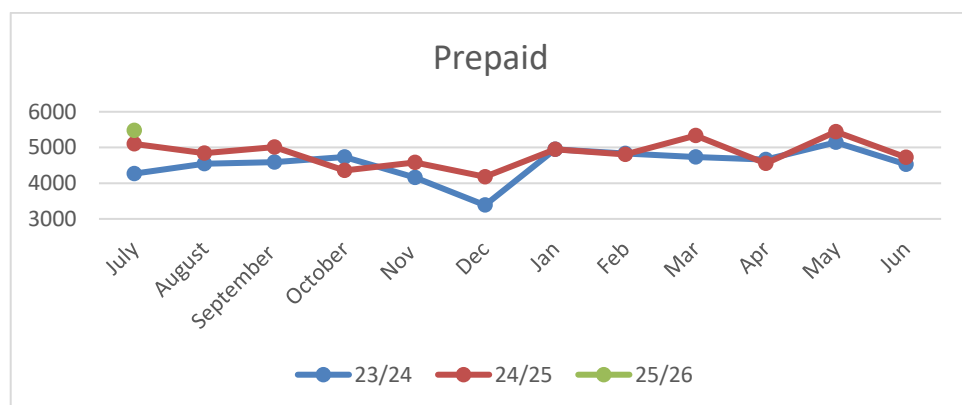


Recreation swimming in July has started off pretty consistent with last years result. Cold weather and a strong flu season can see an impact here with people likely choosing other forms of recreation preferring not to get wet and move around in the cold.



Programmes attendance was up slightly against both previous years. This was helped by strong attendance in the Aquarobics programmes along with high demand for learn to swim programming.

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 has started strong up close to 400 visits on last year. This variance carries the trend over from last month as pre-paid attendance is the most cost efficient method for our regular customers to enjoy the facilities. This is also a good indicator of

consistent attendance going forward as casual customers transition through to prepaid concessions and memberships.

Overall, 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.

At \$4.80 for a child and \$7.60 for an adult, taking the family swimming remains an affordable recreational option for most. Compared to other leisure activities such as going to the movies, swimming offers excellent value for money while promoting physical activity, social interaction, and overall wellbeing. Its accessibility makes it an attractive choice for families seeking cost-effective, family-focused recreation opportunities.

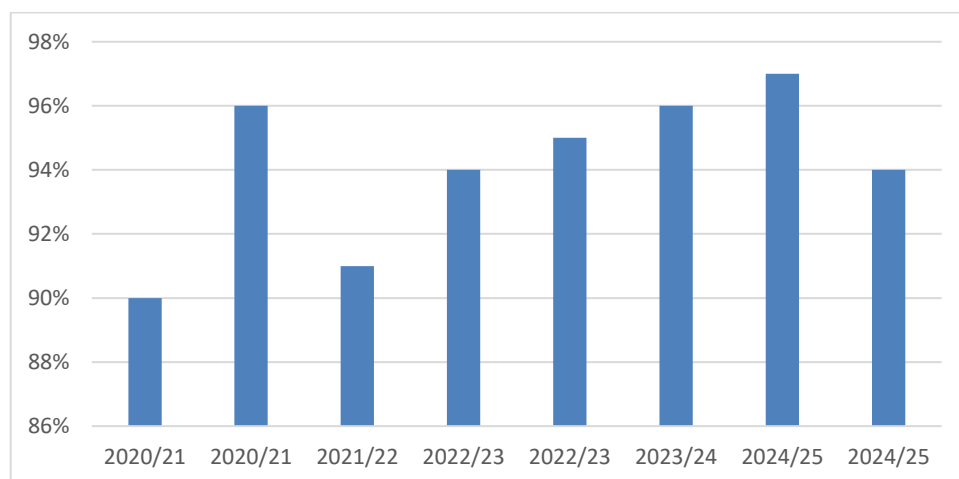
This appeal is further strengthened by current economic conditions. With ongoing cost-of-living pressures and global financial uncertainty continuing to impact discretionary spending, families are increasingly seeking affordable ways to stay active and connected. Swimming stands out as a practical and budget-friendly option that supports both physical health and social engagement.

4.2. Results of the General Customer Satisfaction Survey

Over the past five years, our commitment to delivering exceptional service and experiences has been consistently reflected in our customer satisfaction survey results. With a target of 90% or higher, we are proud to report that we have not only met but regularly exceed this benchmark.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic around head counts & building limits, increased custom and limited space at peak times our results remained strong and unwavering. These results are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, looking to create a safe and enjoyable environment for all to enjoy.

The following is a table plotting our survey results over the past 5 years.



These figures highlight an overall upward trend in satisfaction, culminating in a peak score of 97% in 2024/25. Even in years when we were only able to deliver one survey, our results remained well above target, demonstrating the strength of our customer relationships and the quality service provided.

It is not wholly unexpected that satisfaction will begin to plateau somewhat as facility attendance continues to grow year on year, placing increased pressure on 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.

Through out this time our survey response rate hovers between 200 and 300 completed surveys returned. While we would ideally like to hear from as many of our customers as possible, this currently sits at around 15% of the 1400 customers who hold a membership or concession card with us and who this survey is targeted at.

Over time our process has evolved, moving away from a more laborious paper based system, to online options, initially Survey Monkey and now Councils “Bang the Table” platform. We have some senior customers aren’t as comfortable with online options and staff work with them to capture their feedback and upload it on their behalf.

While overall feedback from facility users remains positive, the open-text responses consistently highlight several recurring themes. These insights are valuable in guiding ongoing improvements and strategic planning.

Temperatures – Customer perceptions of water temperature vary depending on age, activity level, and mobility. At the current setting of 28°C, some users with limited mobility report difficulty staying warm in lap pools, whereas regular lane swimmers may experience increased perspiration and require greater attention to hydration. While the development of a dedicated hydrotherapy pool would better serve rehabilitation and therapeutic needs, the current temperature represents a balanced compromise that supports a broad range of users and activities.

Cleaning – Feedback regarding cleanliness is mixed. Some users commend the overall condition of the facilities, while others note occasional issues such as unpleasant odours or untidiness. These variations often correlate with the timing of visits and the behaviour of other patrons. Staff conduct regular patrols of changing areas to maintain cleanliness and remove lost property, while also responding promptly to any reported concerns to restore standards.

Pricing – The facilities operate under a funding model comprising of a 60% rates contribution and 40% user-generated revenue. This approach aims to keep access affordable for the majority of users while ensuring partial cost recovery. With rising operational costs including electricity, staffing, and chemical supplies, pricing is regularly reviewed to maintain this balance between affordability and sustainability.

Lane space/ facility features – During peak periods, users frequently express concerns about limited lane availability. Suggestions for facility enhancements are common and include requests for upgraded changing areas with increased privacy, a sauna, café, hydrotherapy pool, and hydroslide. These ideas align with the aspirations outlined in the District Aquatics Strategy, which emphasizes both optimizing existing infrastructure and exploring future development opportunities to meet the evolving needs of our growing community.

This achievement is not just a number—it reflects the trust our customers place in us, the effectiveness of our programmes, and the hard work of every team member. As we look ahead, we remain committed to maintaining and building on this success, continuing to listen to our customers, and striving to provide facilities our community wish to return to again and again.

4.3. Incident Response and Inter-Council Collaboration at Aquatic Facilities

Over the past three months, our aquatic facilities have experienced two separate incidents involving inappropriate and concerning customer behaviour. Both incidents required police involvement and have resulted in the individuals being formally trespassed from all council operated aquatic facilities with Police investigations are ongoing.

Due to the sensitive nature of these events and the active police involvement, we are limited in the details we can share publicly however in both instances, members of the public also raised their concerns on local Facebook forums, advising parents to be vigilant about their children’s safety while using our facilities. These posts understandably led to increased public concern. We want to reassure our community that these matters have

been taken seriously and are being managed in line with Councils Health and Safety requirements, with a strong focus on safety and accountability.

In response, we have taken several proactive steps to enhance customer safety and reassure our patrons:

- **Increased staff patrols** through changing areas to ensure visibility and deter inappropriate behaviour.
- **Unattended bags** are promptly removed and held at reception to reduce risks and maintain clear sightlines.
- **Heightened poolside monitoring** with staff now more acutely aware of the potential for concerning customer behaviour and intervening when necessary.

We have also worked closely with neighbouring councils who face similar challenges, sharing information and strategies to support a coordinated regional approach to managing inappropriate behaviour in public aquatic spaces.

Council has recently updated its Conduct and Communications Policy, which complements the Aquatics Adverse Customer Interaction Process. Together, these frameworks provide clear guidance and support for staff in managing difficult customer interactions safely and professionally.

We recognise that incidents of inappropriate behaviour can have a significant impact on our staff as well as customers. We provide team members with training in conflict resolution and child protection, equipping our team with the skills and confidence to respond effectively and safely. Additionally, staff have access to RAISE our Employee Assistance Programme, offering confidential support and counselling services to help manage any personal or professional challenges arising from these situations.

Equally, we have been working closely with a number of officers from both the local and Christchurch branch of the Police who have been professional and supportive throughout.

Our commitment remains firmly focused on providing a safe, welcoming environment for all users of our facilities. We appreciate the continued support of our community and will keep working to ensure we provide safe and enjoyable spaces for our customers.

4.4. **Implications for Community Wellbeing**

The successful operation of the Aquatic facilities is fundamentally tied to the wellbeing of our community and customers. Beyond the obvious physical benefits, our facilities promote the mental, and social wellbeing of residents. As a hub for recreation, education, and connection, the pool provides far-reaching benefits that extend well beyond its walls.

Through Leisure, Lane swimming and Aquarobics programmes we encourage regular physical activity across all age groups, contributing to improved health, strength, and mobility. They also serve as a platform for water safety education, equipping children and adults with essential life-saving skills. Programmes such as learn-to-swim classes and survival skills training are instrumental in reducing drowning risks.

The pool fosters social cohesion by bringing together people from diverse backgrounds. We offer a welcoming environment for families, youth, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Community events, school programmes, and recreational activities hosted at the pool such as the Kane Shield, strengthen local ties and promote a sense of belonging.

By hosting school programmes, holiday lessons, and training courses, the pool supports local education initiatives and employment opportunities, contributing to the local economy and reinforcing the pool's role as a valued community asset.

Ensuring the pool remains accessible is key to its continued impact. Working to ensure we meet community needs, efficient operation and inclusive programming help remove barriers to participation, ensuring that all members of the community can benefit from our facilities.

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

5. **COMMUNITY VIEWS**

5.1. **Mana whenua**

Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri hapū are 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 from our previous result of 97% six months prior yet still ahead of our targeted ≤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 year ended 30 June 2025.

Aquatic Facilities Budget Summary	Full Year Actual \$'000	Full Year Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000
Operational Income	1,775	1,715	60
Rates Funding	4,537	4,571	(34)
Total Income	6,311	6,286	26
Operation Expenses	3,964	4,169	205

Maintenance	343	393	48
Corporate overheads	885	914	29
Internal Interest	344	356	12
Depreciation	1,013	883	(130)
Total Expenditure	6,549	6,713	164
Total Surplus (deficit)	(237)	(428)	190

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 than forecast 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 in June to help address increased demand for programming and further bolster programme numbers with inevitable staff movement.

The underspend in Operational Expenses is primarily attributed to lower electricity costs, resulting from both improved rates and some reduced consumption compared to forecasted levels. The underspend in the Maintenance budget specifically relates to insurance costs, which were lower than anticipated. Insurance expenses are accounted for within the maintenance budget, contributing to the overall variance.

Of the three main income activities, 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.

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, Police, Poolsafe, and other key groups to ensure we provide a safe and enjoyable environment for our customers.

Staff take the safety of our customers as their highest priority with any unusual behaviour addressed or escalated to the proper authorities

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.

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: LIB-04-01/250703121283

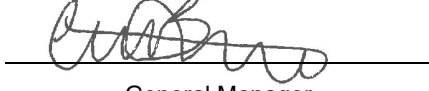
REPORT TO: COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

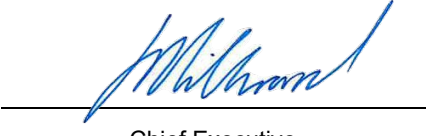
DATE OF MEETING: 26 August 2025

AUTHOR(S): Luke Sole – District Libraries Manager

SUBJECT: Libraries update to August 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 community | hapori by Waimakariri Libraries from July to August 2025.
- 1.2. The report provides a preliminary update on 2024/2025 performance statistics gathered as part of the Public Library New Zealand (PLNZ) National Data Collection initiative. An overview is provided for a number of notable programmes and services, including the launch of literary journal Fuego Volume 3, school outreach initiatives, and the books in homes service which provides resources to residents that are unable to visit libraries in person.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250703121283
- (b) **Notes** the community benefits of the below initiatives, particularly the increase of 954 individual library memberships and 677 active borrowers in 2024/2025, which reflects growing community demand for library resources, spaces, and services in the District.
- (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 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. Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) National Data Collection results**

- 4.1.1. Waimakariri Libraries recently began collating 2024/2025 statistics as part of the Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) National Data Collection initiative.
- 4.1.2. The initiative involves public libraries from across Aotearoa sharing key performance statistics including in-person visitation, lending across physical

(book) and digital collections across age ranges, and event and programme attendance.

4.1.3. A more detailed summary will be provided in the September update report; however, it is apparent that Waimakariri Libraries will be reporting significant results in several key areas including membership, lending, and attendance at events and programmes.

4.1.4. Some notable results include:

- An increase of 954 active library members (total of 18,344). An active library member is a registered member with activity registered against their library card.
- An increase of 677 active borrowers (total of 14,614). An active borrower is a registered member that has borrowed a physical item over the past 24 months.
- An additional 58 individual events and programmes held within the three libraries (total of 1,224). This includes one-off events such as author talks, and external partnerships in addition to regular programmes such as reading groups and curriculum-based digital skills sessions.
- An additional 3,060 in-person visits for events and programmes (total of 23,650 attendees).

4.1.5. The result reflects growing community demand for library services in Waimakariri and the continual evolution of libraries as community hubs in the broadest sense; reflecting libraries as places where our community come together to learn important skills, connect socially, and be entertained and inspired.

4.2. Waimakariri Libraries to launch *Fuego Volume 3* publication on National Poetry Day



Figure 1: Frida Catrina which is featured in *Fuego Volume 3*, by artist Alex Diaz.

- 4.2.1. To celebrate National Poetry Day, Waimakariri Libraries will host the launch of Fuego Volume 3, The World Congress of Poets Literary Journal, on Friday 22 August 5.30-7pm at the Rangiora Library.
- 4.2.2. This volume features established, and emerging writers from New Zealand, poems by primary school students from View Hill School, haiku by children created in a Waimakariri Libraries KidsFest workshop, poetry from China, and a special feature of poetry and art from Mexico, alongside leading poets from around the world.
- 4.2.3. Doc Drumheller (Learning Connections Coordinator Jason Clements), founded the journal with the mission of providing a platform for writers in Waimakariri to showcase their work alongside emerging and established writers from New Zealand and leading international poets.
- 4.2.4. Through partnerships with local schools, Tuahiwi, View Hill, Write On School for Young Writers masterclasses with Waimakariri Schools, and KidsFest workshops, local children aged 6-16 years old have had their work published, featuring writing in Te Reo Māori, poems connected to endangered wildlife, and local history poems that have helped develop schools' cultural narrative.
- 4.2.5. This platform has provided children with the opportunity to see their work in print for the first time, as well as local artists and adult writers from our district, including groups such as the Cancer Society. Their work is collected alongside Poet Laureates, leading academics from prestigious universities, including the Professor Emeritus of the Sorbonne University, the President of the World Congress of Poets, The President of the World Academy of Arts and Culture (UNESCO), the former President of Ecuador, international Cultural Ambassadors, Members of Parliament, and a Nobel Prize Winner.
- 4.2.6. Fuego Volumes 1 and 2 were both launched by Waimakariri Libraries and featured emerging and established writers in Waimakariri and beyond.

4.3. Maths Art Exhibition Te Kāhui ako Kātote



Figure 2: Coordinator Michelle Rigby with students on opening night.

- 4.3.1. This vibrant exhibition showcases creative works from schools across the Kāhui ako Kātote (Waimakariri cluster), where students have transformed mathematical concepts into stunning visual expressions.
- 4.3.2. Over 100 people attended the exhibition launch at the Kaiapoi Library, including the young artists, parents, aunties, uncles, grandparents, teachers, and principals. They were welcomed by Waimakariri Mayor, Dan Gordon, and the exhibition coordinator Michelle Rigby (pictured above) from Tuahiwi School.
- 4.3.3. Te Kāhui ako Kātote maths art exhibition is a collaboration of artwork collected from nine schools in the District, featuring: Te Kura o Tuahiwi, Kaiapoi North, Kaiapoi Borough, Woodend, St.Patricks, Clarkville, Ōuruhia, Te Kura o Manga Kawari - Pegasus Bay, and Kaiapoi High School.
- 4.3.4. As a kāhui (cluster) their Pāngarau (maths) aim is to collaborate, research, and develop practice to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics in classrooms across Te Kāhui ako Kātote. The group want to raise the profile of the maths subject and show that it can be a creative subject.
- 4.3.5. Their work will be on display for a month in the children's area of the Kaiapoi Library and we have noticed since the launch, that families, with the young artists, have been proud to visit the space to see their work.



Figure 3: Poster for exhibition

4.4. **Waimakariri Libraries collaborate with Rangiora High School and Youth Hub Christchurch on tukutuku art panel**

- 4.4.1. On Thursday 7 August, a group of 10 students from Rangiora High School and their Kaiako (teacher) Danna Robson, collaborated with Waimakariri Libraries to create a tukutuku-inspired panel. This creative and cultural initiative is part of a larger 24-piece installation that will adorn the entrance walls of the Christchurch Youth Hub.
- 4.4.2. The poutama design, inspired by traditional Ngāti Porou patterns and approved by Ngāi Tūāhuriri, reflects the deep ties between Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Porou. Both iwi descend from Paikea, the revered Polynesian navigator, through his lineage, including Porourangi of Ngāti Porou and his younger brother, Tahu Pōtiki, ancestor of Ngāi Tahu.

- 4.4.3. Their contribution will become a permanent part of the Youth Hub's visual identity, celebrating rangatahi creativity and connection to te ao Māori.
- 4.4.4. Founded by Dame Susan Nicola Bagshaw DNZM as the first of its kind in New Zealand, Youth Hub Christchurch aims to be the turning point in the lives of young people aged 10-25. Based in the heart of central Christchurch, their goal is to create a communal space focused on growth and wellbeing, providing opportunities for all young people.



Figure 4: Students from Rangiora High School with Rangatahi Engagement Coordinator Rebecca Morland working on the tukutuku panel.

4.5. **Books in homes service reaching retirement homes and socially isolated individuals**

- 4.5.1. Waimakariri Libraries are dedicated to connecting all of our community with our books and services. Library Assistant Jeanette Busch has formed strong relationships with several retirement homes in the District and regularly puts together crates of books, audiobooks, magazines, and DVDs for the residents of Annaliese Haven, Bloomfield Court, and Kaiapoi Lodge.
- 4.5.2. Through working closely with diversional therapists and activity managers in the rest homes, Jeanette curates selections which suit the needs and likes of the residents, which is much appreciated.
- 4.5.3. As an additional offering, shared reading groups are held fortnightly at Annaliese Haven and Bloomfield Court. During these sessions, a librarian trained as reader leader by [The Reading Revolution](#) reads aloud a poem and short story to the participants. Reading aloud gives a different experience of reading for both the

listeners and the reader. It naturally slows the text down and creates a relaxed atmosphere.

- 4.5.4. The group discusses ideas, thoughts and feelings about the readings, which fosters community and strengthens connection.
- 4.5.5. For individuals who are homebound and cannot make it into the library anymore, Waimakariri Libraries also offer a books in homes service. Based on personal preferences, a bag of books, DVDs, audiobooks and magazines is put together by our librarians and delivered to the housebound person by volunteers, mostly a friend or family member of the person.
- 4.5.6. We currently curate selections for 15 housebound customers that would not be otherwise able to access our services.

4.6. **School outreach visits teach critical research and referencing skills**



Figure 5: Students from Ohoka School enjoying the visit with libraries staff.

- 4.6.1. The Learning & Heritage team recently visited Ohoka School to provide an AnyQuestions classroom demonstration for 63 year 5 and 6 students.
- 4.6.2. AnyQuestions is a online reference service for all New Zealand school students via live text-based chat, open from 1pm – 6pm weekdays to help students with their study inquiries. AnyQuestions is supported by the Ministry of Education, managed by the National Library of New Zealand, and staffed by librarians from around New Zealand.
- 4.6.3. Their term inquiry is 'Living Landscapes', and our team guided them to resources that connects with links to the NZ Histories curriculum: Exploring how Māori traditionally grew kai, including the use of rongoā (medicinal plants), and local growing practices passed down through generations.
- 4.6.4. The students enjoyed taking turns at typing the questions into the live text-based chat, and they were surprised to find that the Any Questions operator was a real-life librarian and not a chatbot or AI.

- 4.6.5. As part of their topic, students are learning to care for the land, and their school gardens, by learning how to grow food sustainably by looking at science and traditions.
- 4.6.6. Our team also provided a lesson on how to make seed envelopes, how to save seeds, how to make a planter out of reusable materials, and how to plant seeds. Each student took home an envelope of seeds, a planter with soil and broad beans, and were encouraged to plant seeds at home or in their school garden.
- 4.6.7. The successful visit has led to further ways we can support learning for Ohoka School, including a membership campaign to provide access to our resources and services online.

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.

- 4.7. 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. Waimakariri Libraries provide access to important historical resources, promoting cultural preservation and fostering educational opportunities. Our libraries hold collections relating to Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri, including art, photographs, maps, and books, which are vital for preserving and promoting mātauranga māori (Māori knowledge). Our libraries regularly connect with mana whenua through programmes and events, including Matariki and Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, also known as Māori Language Week.

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 June 2025.

Library

Summary Report June 2025

	Actual	Budget	
Revenue			
Revenue	119,884	88,832	
Rates	5,104,572	5,092,693	➡
Grants	-	170,000	⬇
Development Contributions	8,834	820,317	⬇
	5,233,290	6,171,842	
Operating Expenses			
Maintenance	2,641,365	3,150,170	⬆
Overheads	506,219	834,770	⬆
Internal Interest	1,151,174	1,188,439	➡
Depreciation	14,436	13,491	⬇
	1,101,720	1,029,250	⬇
	5,414,914	6,216,120	⬆
Surplus/ (Deficit)			
	(181,625)	(44,278)	⬇

Revenue is mostly derived from the sale of withdrawn books, the replacement of lost books where this is recovered from members, and consumables relating to printing, 3D printing and craft materials. Libraries operate to a cost recovery model for consumables where possible.

Please note the addition of development contributions of \$820,317 for the planned extension of Trevor Inch Memorial Library (2027/2028). Also included is \$170,000 in grants which are derived from Better off Funding (BoF) for the purposes of contributing to the detailed design for the extension project.

The underspend in operating expenses can be attributed to lower electricity costs compared to forecasted levels. The underspend in maintenance is related to insurance costs which are lower than anticipated.

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.