
WAIMAKARIRI YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL, RANGIORA
7.00pm TUESDAY 30TH JUNE 2026

1. **Opening Karakia** (Dylan LaValley)
2. **PRESENT:** Dylan LaValley (Co-Chair), Cherry Burgess (Waimakariri District Council Community Team Youth Development Facilitator), Orianna Patrick, Caitlin Sands, Sophia Burgess, Risha Prasad, Jennie Son, Matilda Parish, Esha-May McHugh, Grace Lovelock, Sammy Smith, Zack Lappin, Hannah Wells, Niki Mealings (Councillor), Rebecca Taiaroa (WDC Minute Taker).
Attended via Microsoft Teams: Sophia Edwards, Oscar Bai
APOLOGIES: Jason Goldsworthy (Councillor), Simoné Bisschoff (Co-Chair), Dan Gordon (Mayor), Nicole Villanueva. *Running Late:* Niki Mealings (Councillor).
3. **Whakatauki** (Zack Lappin) “Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua” I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past. Meaning: Know yourself. Before you can lead anyone else, you need to know yourself. [*Whakatauki Acknowledgement: Anna Liumahetau Darling, General Manager of People Experience, Sharesies*].
4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 26TH MAY 2026** – with correction to Risha Prasad’s name
Moved: Dylan LaValley **Seconded:** Hannah Wells
5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - Re-purpose Pal Purple bin: Esha-May to drop off, can be done at the Rangiora Service Centre.
 - Simoné did e-mail information about the removal of Free Fees protest. While no one at the table attended the protest, there quite a strong presence at the protest held on the University of Canterbury campus. It will become a contentious issue in the lead up to the elections. Zack did have a brief discussion with the Children’s Commissioner about the removal of fees free.
 - Wai-Youth – invite Nicki to help.
 - Enviro team – trip to Kate valley on Monday.
6. **PROJECT GROUP REPORTS**
7. **Dudley Park – Zack Lappin**
 - Discussion on different options for the space. Awaiting further advisement from Greenspace team. Meeting scheduled for 27th July.

- **Current timeline:** *[Cherry Burgess]* concrete table tennis installation before November 2026.
- *[Dylan LaValley]* Also discussed planting, sloping, and seeding and general landscaping at the park.

8. Enviro – Sophia Burgess

- Veronica Spittal ('VJ') Principal Policy Analyst Climate Change and Sustainability WDC spoke with the Enviro team. VJ is keen to re-ignite the project with youth voice on climate change as this is lacking. It is noted that one of the deliverables in the current long-term plan is to have the youth voice present with respect to climate change. Steps taken to re-ignite the voice:
 - Survey via a Google Form.
 - Sophia Burgess and Grace Lovelock will take some action with schools.
 - VJ is keen to raise the issue in a friendly, non-alarming manner.
 - Video idea: to get student voice at different high schools through an interview. After discussion with Head Students at Rangiora High School, there is quite a lot to work through.
 - *[Cherry Burgess]* Tile will be coming to Hannah Wells for promoting the survey to obtain the wider youth voice in the community. Awaiting banner and QR Code to pass onto Hannah, as this is sitting with Comms for approval.

9. WaiYouth – Sammy Smith

- **Music Event:** Tour of John Knox Church for WaiYouth's Music Event. WaiYouth are busy with organising the event, looking at pricing food, pizzas, candyfloss/popcorn, and decorations. This is a Music Event (not a disco) because there will be a live band (Spirit Boy).
 - **DETAILS:**
 - **Date and time:** Friday, 14th August, 7:00pm to 9:00pm.
 - **Age group:** Strictly 13+ years.
 - **Question:** Did WaiYouth send out a survey? **Answer:** Decided against it, as they knew what they were going to do.

10. Consultations Open – Zack Lappin

- **Conservation Amendment Bill:** Submissions close 2nd July, can go to Forest and Bird website, as they have a comprehensive guide on the proposed changes and how to make a submission. [Save Conservation Land – Amendment Bill | Forest and Bird](#)
- **Head Start Unitary Authorities Local Government Amalgamation:** *[Cherry Burgess]* CEO of the WDC held a staff meeting, and it was evident from his discussion that North Canterbury want and need own identity instead of being subsumed into Christchurch). It is, however, an ongoing discussion. The three options under Head Start:

1. Stay on our own.
2. Amalgamate with Greater Christchurch (not really an option)
3. Amalgamate with Hurunui and/or Kaikōura and/or Selwyn.
 - Submissions close **5th July**
 - **Question:** What about Youth Councils? **Answer:** It will have an impact but just do not know what that will be.
 - *[Zack Lappin]:* Auckland City Councils went through an amalgamation 15 years ago. Noted they have separate smaller Youth Councils and one larger one representing Auckland.
 - Could be good with existing collaborations with Hurunui and Kaikōura. Not sure how it looks in the future.
 - *[Decision made for Youth Council to discuss further in General Business, with a view of the Youth Council making a written submission.]*

11. WYC Member Report

- **Hannah Wells**
 - **2026 General Election:** Hannah has an election poster ready to post to social media (instead of ten reasons, it has eight reasons why to vote, less wordy).
 - *[Cherry Burgess]* Solomon Smith, from the Electoral Commission, who was going to come last month, he will be a guest presenter at the Youth Council meeting in July.
- **Oscar Bai & Hannah Wells**
(Fun-Run)
 - **Question:** What is happening with the fun-run? **Answer:** just checking that Kaiapoi Rugby club have availability on the date we want.
- **Oscar Bai**
(River Clean-Up Sponsorship)
 - **Question:** Updates on sausages from Hellers? **Answer:** Oscar e-mailed and has not heard back from Hellers. Oscar will follow up to Hellers as soon as practical.
 - River Clean-Up is on Sunday 9th August 10am-12noon.
 - Hannah has a group booked to go to the River Clean-up.
 - Risha has followed up with the Leos, likely coming to the River Clean-up.
 - Sophia Burgess has had one person interested.

- **Cherry Burgess**

(Surveys)

- Thank you to those who completed the surveys 'To bus or not to bus' and the Canterbury Youth takeover survey. These are important.

(WaiYouth Poster)

- Poster is currently with Comms team, awaiting their approval.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Head Start Submission**

[Zack Lappin] Overview of making a submission. There are certain levels of engagement Council needs to follow. These are:

1. Information stage.
2. Discussion stage.
3. Full consultation stage (this is the stage we are at with the Head Start Proposal). Once consultation with the public has been completed, then the governance and policy team pull through the data for the Council. Decision is then made by the Council.

- **Voting and Pros and Cons**

Vote tally: What do you think would be better? [And if your first choice weren't possible, what would be your 2nd choice?]

Christchurch	North Canterbury	Waimakariri
First Choice: 1	First choice: 3	First choice: 8
Second Choice: 1	Second Choice: 8	Second choice: 3

Pros and Cons

+ (Positives) Christchurch	+ (Positives) North Canterbury	+ (Positives) Waimakariri
• Access to more funds, populations, and opinions • Central Government • Larger projects • Opportunities – connections to business • Advisory Groups • Knowledge/education/networking • Culture • Wider demographic/Community input – larger population • Raise awareness in the community. • Future that are committed • Resources	• Keeping identity as well as opportunity • Middle ground • Bigger population • More government funding • Less over-shadowing • Keeping local mindset • Not taking on other debt • Connection with different local schools • Meeting new people • Centralised control over water and energy • Smoother merge – familiar • Travel	• Working closely, continuation of that efficiency • If it is not broken, why fix it? • Waimakariri – no consultation needed/easier to represent young people and their views. • Future planning framework already set. • Sense of identity • Smaller community feel – people

	• Larger grouping	connections 100% important. • People know their neighbours. • Protest vote
- (Negatives) Christchurch	- (Negatives) North Canterbury	- (Negatives) Waimakariri
• Lost in the system • Needs not met for the community. • Over-shadowed • Paying for infrastructure/higher rates • Housing for youth • Concern for Youth Council • Sense of small Waimakariri community • Less projects focussed on Waimakariri • Less say in matters, not a priority • Only larger projects • Rural disadvantage • Loss of identity • Overwhelming population – too many opinions • Less accessible • Loss of local Youth Council Members • Long distance range • Smaller projects harder to complete	• Travel/size of district and distance	• Government does not want this; we would be going against them. • Limiting ourselves not merging with other(s). • If stayed alone – is there a need for Youth Council to continue to improve their Waimakariri community? • Stagnation • Changing with the times – project ongoing • More engagement

○ Discussion

[Cr Niki Mealings arrives]

- **Question:** Do we get more funding being a smaller community?
Answer: Yes and no.
- *[Cr. Mealings]:* it is about creating Unitary Authorities. Important considerations such as river management, and where the people are who know how to do these things, it is knowing where the resources are.
- Most people feel more aligned with the North Canterbury (NC) region. There are a lot of synergies already with NC and less so with town. There are indications that the Head Start proposal has not been fully thought through.
 - Noted Waimakariri option is for those who really do not like having this foisted upon them by Government.
- **Question:** What happens to strategic documents (Spatial Planning Act, for example) if we amalgamate with NC? **Answer:** Brand new District Council plans are up to appeals phase, and these plans are written to a national standard criterion. These district plans then 'plug in' to the Regional Plan. It should be a similar process should there be an amalgamation.
- **Question:** If the Youth Council chose the Waimakariri option as a protest vote, is it a wasted vote? **Answer:** No, it is different from voting in an election.

- **To make the submission:** The online form does not give you much room to add additional information. It is worth passing on written submission via e-mail to the policy team (Alistair). **Actions:** Cr Mealings will pass on best contact details to Cherry. Zack and Hannah will work on this submission.
- **Cr Mealings**
 - **Youth Action Plan** has been adopted by Community and Recreation Committee, now only requiring final sign-off from Council.
- **Kate Valley Trip**
 - *[Cr Mealings provided an overview of why the trip to Kate Valley to new Youth Council members, and Cherry Burgess confirmed the last few attendees for the trip]*
 - Cherry will need consent forms for the trip BEFORE Monday (handing it in on Monday is too late).
 - Meet at Car Park/Office of Cherry Burgess' at 9:15am. Long-sleeved top & full-length trousers/pants and fully covered walking shoes required.

ACTIONS:

Oscar Bai – Follow up with Hellers – sausages for the River Clean-up

Cr Mealings – Provide contact details for Youth Council Submission on Head Start proposal.

Esha-May McHugh – Return re-Purpose Pal Purple Bin.

Zack Lappin and Hannah Wells - Submission on Head Start Proposal

Closing Karakia: Dylan LaValley

Meeting closed at 9:00pm.

Next meeting is on Tuesday 25th August 2026 7:00pm

Signed

Date