



NOTICE OF MEETING

**Notice is hereby given of the Meeting of the
Invercargill City Council
to be held in the Council Chamber,
First Floor, Te Hīnaki Civic Building,
101 Esk Street, Invercargill on
Tuesday 30 April 2024 at 3.00 pm**

Mayor W S Clark
Cr A J Arnold
Cr R I D Bond
Cr P M Boyle
Cr S J Broad
Cr T Campbell
Cr A H Crackett
Cr G M Dermody
Cr P W Kett
Cr D J Ludlow
Cr I R Pottinger
Cr L F Soper
Cr B R Stewart

MICHAEL DAY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

1. Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.
2. Elected members are reminded to update their register of interests as soon as practicable, including amending the register at this meeting if necessary.

3. Public Forum

3.1 Invercargill Central – Mr Brian Dunckley

4. [Minutes of the Bluff Community Board Meeting Held on 18 March 2024](#)

A5278932

To be moved:

That the minutes of the Bluff Community Board meeting held on 18 March 2024 be received.

5. [Minutes of the Meeting of Council Held on 26 March 2024](#)

A5289639

To be moved:

That the minutes of Council held on 26 March 2024 be confirmed.

6. [Minutes of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting Held on 3 April 2024](#)

A5298969

To be moved:

That the minutes of the Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 3 April 2024 be received and recommendations to Council be confirmed.

6. Subsidised Age-Related Public Transport Fares

A5255778

2. The continuation of the subsidised fare for children, youths and adults under 25, or some combination below:
 - a. Retain the subsidised fare levels for passengers for a period of two months whilst staff bring a further report outlining options including a cost neutral option, being:
 - i. 12 years old and under – free

ii. 13-25 years old - half fares

b. Return fare levels to pre-March 2022 levels. These fares will be \$2.20 for a Bee Card user and \$3.00 for cash.

7. Regional Land Transport Mid Term Review Submission

A5279919

2. That Council endorses the Submission to the mid-term RLTP review.

10. Acquisition of Land from His Majesty the King (Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities) – Public Works Act 1981

A5229455

2. In accordance with Section 17 of the Public Works Act 1981, the Invercargill City Council agrees to acquire the land described as Part Lot 1 DP3373 containing 483 m² more or less being all of the balance of the land comprised in Record of Title SL183/1, at nil compensation, for the following purposes:

- a) An access way between Miller Street and Turnbull Thomson Reserve; and
- b) A walkway access between Miller Street and Tweed Street.

3. The Chief Executive be given delegated authority to enter into the Memorandum of Agreement Pursuant to the Public Works Act 1981 annexed as Appendix 1 (A5287597).

7. [Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee Meeting Held on 9 April 2024](#)

A5307630

To be moved:

That the minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 9 April 2024 be received.

8. [Minutes of the Briefing of Council for the Long-term Plan Hearings Held on 11 April 2024](#)

A5316273

To be moved:

That the minutes of the Briefing for Council for the Long-term Plan Hearings held on 11 April 2024 be confirmed.

9. [Minutes of the Meeting of Council for the Long-term Plan Hearings Held on 11 April 2024 and on 12 April 2024](#)

A5310210

To be moved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Council for the Long-term Plan Hearings held on 11 April 2024 and 12 April 2024 be confirmed.

10. [Minutes of the Finance and Projects Committee Meeting Held on 16 April 2024](#)

A5311820

To be moved:

That the minutes of the Finance and Projects Committee meeting held on 16 April 2024 be received

11. [Submission to Environment Southland Long-term Plan](#)

A5310249

11.1 [Appendix 1 - Environment Southland LTP Consultation Document](#)

A5311494

11.2 [Appendix 2 - Environment Southland Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal](#)

A5311486

12. [Ngāi Tahu – Offer of Support](#)

A5313458

12.1 [Appendix 1 – Ngāi Tahu Offer Letter 28 March 2024](#)

A5313759

13. [Esk Street West Update](#)

A5326323

13.1 [Appendix 1 – Concept Plans – Esk Street West](#)

A5326665

14. [Local Government New Zealand Membership Renewal](#)

A5329058

14.1 [Appendix 1 - LGNZ Priorities](#)

A5329476

15. [Council Representation at LGNZ AGM and LGNZ Conference 2024](#)

A5304015

15.1 [Appendix 1 – Remit application Form](#)

A5328460

16. [Elected and Appointed Members' Attendance Register – January 2024 - March 2024](#)
A53255959

16.1 [Appendix 1 - Attendance Register of Elected and Appointed Members](#)
A5328335

17. **Public Excluded Session**

Moved, seconded that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting; namely,

- (a) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Bluff Community Board held on 18 March 2024
- (b) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of Council held on 26 March 2024
- (c) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Infrastructure Committee held on 3 April 2024
- (d) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Community Wellbeing Committee held on 9 April 2024
- (e) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Finance and Projects Committee held on 16 April 2024
- (f) Invercargill Central Limited Refencing - Update
- (g) Great South and SpaceOps NZ 2024/2025 Statement of Intent
- (h) Invercargill City Holdings Limited Group Changes
- (i) Shareholder Approval Sale of Southern Generation Limited Partnership
- (j) Code of Conduct Process

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
(a) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Bluff Community Board held on 18 March 2024	Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7
(b) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of	Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on,	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of

Council held on 26 March 2024	without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7
(c) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Infrastructure Committee held on 3 April 2024	Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7
(d) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Community Wellbeing Committee held on 9 April 2024	Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7
(e) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Finance and Projects Committee held on 16 April 2024	Section 7(2)(h) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section
	Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	
(f) Invercargill Central Limited Refencing - Update	Section 7(2)(h) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section

		Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	
(g)	Great South and SpaceOps NZ 2024/2025 Statement of Intent	Section 7(2)(a) Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section
		Section 7(2)(h) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	
		Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	
(h)	Invercargill City Holdings Limited Group Changes	Section 7(2)(h) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section
		Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| (i) Shareholder Approval Sale of Southern Generation Limited Partnership | Section 7(2)(h)
Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities | Section 48(1)(a)
That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section |
| | Section 7(2)(i)
Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) | |
| (j) Code of Conduct Process | Section 7(2)(a)
Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons | Section 48(1)(a)
That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section |
| | Section 7(2)(g)
Maintain legal professional privilege | |

**MINUTES OF BLUFF COMMUNITY BOARD, HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS
AT 18 GORE STREET BLUFF ON MONDAY 18 MARCH 2024 AT 7.00 PM**

Present: Mr R Fife (Chair)
Ms T Stockwell
Mr J Sutherland
Ms T Topi
Cr G M Dermody
Mrs P Coote – Advisory member

In Attendance: Cr B Stewart
Cr S Broad
Mr D Rodgers – Strategic Assets Manager
Mr M Keil – Manager Infrastructure Operations
Mr M Morris – Manager – Governance and Legal
Ms H Guise – Property Portfolio Manager
Ms A Duncan - Manager Planning and Building Services – via zoom
Mr A Gillespie – Senior Engineer Operations – via zoom
Mr J Shaw – Group Manager – Consenting and Environment – via zoom
Ms J Jack – Programme Coordinator
Ms C Rain – Manager – Parks and Recreation
Mr G Stuart – Fulton Hogan
Mr L Beer – Bluff Promotions
Mr J Reid – Southern Network Operations Manager - NZTA
Ms L Zwies – Contract Manager - SouthRoads
Mrs N Allan – Manager Bluff Service Centre
Mrs D Fife – Assistant Manager Bluff Service Centre

1. Apologies

Mr S Graham

Moved Ms Topi, seconded Mr Sutherland and **RESOLVED** that the apology be accepted.

2. Declaration of Interest

Nil.

**3. Minutes of the Bluff Community Board Meeting held on Monday
12 February 2024**

A5195336

Moved Cr Dermody, seconded Mrs Coote and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Bluff Community Board meeting held on Monday 12 February 2024 be confirmed.

4. Verbal Update from NZTA

Mr Justin Reid - NZTA and Ms Lauren Zwies from SouthRoads provided a verbal update.

Mr Keil introduced Mr Reid and Ms Zwies to the Community Board, Mr Fife thanked them for attending the meeting.

Gateway and Bluff Sign

It was noted that more trucks were using the area as a layby, it was confirmed that this was not a designated stopping area for trucks. It had become a busy area with tourists stopping for the sign; the relocation of a local business to the area, and also walkers wanting to access the walkway. Mr Reid noted that vegetation clearing had been done and would like to know what the Community Board's expectations were for the area. Ms Topi enquired about lights on the Bluff sign. Ms Topi also thought it would be a good idea to have a meeting with all interested parties in the area – Doc, Port Maintenance, NZTA and the Community Board.

Stirling Point - No Parking Lines

Mr Reid informed the Community Board in 2008 3 waters work had been undertaken, and after that had been finished the no parking lines were not reinstated. The delegation now sat with the Invercargill City Council, for them to be reinstated it needed to be gazetted and public consultation held. Mr Gillespie showed the Board via zoom, where the no parking lines were previously.

Speed Reduction Entering Bluff

Due the change in government, speed reductions had been on hold, it was hoped that consultation would begin in April. Mr Rodgers would keep the Community Board fully informed about speed changes.

Hedge adjacent to Council Chambers

Mr Reid noted that NZTA had no objection to the trimming or removal of the hedge if the Community Board would like to employ someone to undertake that work. If it was removed, he noted that what replaced it needed to align with NZTA rules and regulations. Mr Gillespie recommended a resolution of tidying up the hedge and then coming to an agreement going forward.

Cycle Trail Update

40 kms through town from RSA cenotaph to Stirling Point would be part of the speed reduction, it was noted that people needed to be educated that it was a shared road with signage on the road.

It was asked about the potholes on the side of the road from Argyle Beach to Stirling Point, Mr Reid replied that the government had set new rules regarding potholes and they now came under routine maintenance, and should be dealt with when reported. It was requested that Invercargill City Council to follow up with NZTA.

Mr Reid gave an update on road renewals, renewals could be chip seal, asphalt and rebuilding the road. 32% of the budget over the next three years would be spent from Elles Road to Stirling point, which included the lifting up at Ocean Beach and then the next three years after that 50% of the budget would be spent from Elles Road to Stirling Point.

It was noted that the Community Board would like a workshop with NZTA to follow up on the questions raised, the best time for this to be held would be in the middle of winter, Ms McCoy to liaise with NZTA.

Cr Dermody queried vegetation on the sea side – Marine Parade, Ward Parade and Stirling Point, and who owned the land, Mr Keil would provide a map to the Board to confirm ownership.

Moved Ms Topi, seconded Ms Stockwell that the Bluff Community Board:

1. Receives "Verbal Updated from NZTA".
2. Resolve that the no parking lines that were originally on the plan be reinstated at Stirling Point.
3. Resolve to request staff work on tidying up the hedge adjacent to the Town Hall and to work on an agreement for ongoing maintenance of the hedge.
4. Resolve to request Invercargill City Council staff to follow up with NZTA on the cycle trail in Bluff.
5. Resolved to request staff to arrange a workshop with NZTA to discuss the issues raised at this meeting as well as others, with a preferred workshop date to be in mid-winter.

The motion, now put, was **RESOLVED**.

5. Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Overview

A5241458

Ms Anne Duncan and Mr Jonathan Shaw spoke to the report.

Moved Ms Topi, seconded Cr Dermody that the Bluff Community Board:

1. Receives the report "Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Overview".

Ms Duncan noted that there were 11 dangerous buildings in the district and about half of them were located in Bluff, they did not have formal notifications, but were taking a positive approach and working with the owners.

Mrs Coote queried the Building Act and should notices be served a building was unsafe. Ms Duncan replied if the building was immediately dangerous, a notice would be served, and noted that buildings that were not occupied would have less of a priority.

Cr Dermody suggested that the Community Board formalise a list of buildings that they would like to be inspected.

Ms Topi asked how do we get to a point to check the building before the building falls down? It was noted that an RFS should be lodged, and it was further noted that because a building was not notified, it did not mean that nothing was being done with that building.

If a building needed to be demolished and the owner did not comply, then the Invercargill City Council would arrange demolition and invoice the owner.

The motion now put, was **RESOLVED**.

6. Bluff Action Sheet

A5220379

Mr Allan Gillespie, Mr Greg Stuart, Mr Matt Keil, Ms Caroline Rain and Mr Doug Rodgers presented the report.

Moved Mr Sutherland, seconded Cr Dermody that the Bluff Community Board:

1. Receives the report "Bluff Action Sheet".

Speed signs had been erected at both schools.

The glass panel at Stirling Point had been replaced.

Ms Topi noted that it was good to be receiving the RFS report.

The Community Board had asked if they could receive a simplified report of the footpath renewals, Mr Rodgers would organise this for the Board.

It was noted that the cycleway was on target to be completed late April and would be delivered under budget.

Mr Fife enquired when the water main renewal would be complete, and if working in conjunction with the contractors completing the cycleway, to ensure the new seal would not have to be dug up.

Ms Topi enquired about the timeframe for the water main renewal, and would like an update brought to the Community Board. She also requested that the Board be notified in advance if anything was happening around Bluff, so when asked by members of the community they were informed.

Cr Dermody enquired about the vegetation trimming around the sign on the land side at Stirling Point, it was noted that investigations were taking place to replace vegetation with stone pitching.

Ms Rain noted that Greenpoint Cemetery now had water and the Bluff Cemetery was in the final stages of getting water.

Mr Fife would like the Memorial tidied before Anzac Day, it was also noted that the community would like a pull off area to park at the Grove and also a granite path leading up to the Grove for safety. Ms Rain would look into this and report back. It was also noted a native tree planting day was being undertaken on 21 March 2024.

A query was raised around who owned the land by the toilets at Stirling Point, as the vegetation was overgrown, Ms Rain would consult maps and report back to the Board.

Ms Topi asked what the next steps in the Land Review were when the LTP finished, it was affirmed there would be full community consultation on individual land.

Ms Topi asked who was responsible for the street lighting at Ron's Place, Mr Rodgers would report back at the next meeting as it was a safety issue.

A question was asked about the timeframe of the CCTV at Stirling Point, Mr Keil noted it was still on time, and would keep the Board informed.

It was noted that the Marine Parade footpath was overgrown again and very slippery, the Board would like to know if it was on a scheduled maintenance plan, Mr Gillespie was not sure if it was or not, but Mr Stuart would put it on a maintenance cycle with a 12-month frequency.

Ms Topi raised losing the left turning lane at Shannon/Blackwater Streets, and made note that the Board only received the plans, halfway through the work being completed. Mr Keil confirmed that the left turning lane was dropping off, based on safety. The Board would like it explained how it was going to work and who it was going to work for, and why was this the best way forward.

Ms Topi queried if there could be underground power cables installed along Gore Street and Marine Parade instead of power poles, to enhance the appearance, and some of the power poles were situated in the middle of the footpaths. Cr Dermody would speak to Power Net about this.

The motion now put, was **RESOLVED.**

7. Report of the Bluff Publicity / Promotions Officer

A5265403

Mr Lindsay Beer presented the report.

Moved Mr Fife, seconded Cr Dermody that that the Bluff Community Board:

1. Receives the "Report of the Bluff Publicity/Promotions Officer".

Summer Sounds Bluff Music Festival 2024

Mr Beer was currently finalising the last payments and donations for Summer Sounds 2024 and would then complete the Project Completion Report.

Mr Beer had some preliminary discussions regarding next year's event and would use the winter months to put plans in place for the 2025 concert.

Bluff Distillery

Mr Beer was unable to attend the opening of the Bluff Distillery on 8 March 2024 but had indicated on his RSVP to the opening that he would like to visit and build some information on the business to include on the Bluff website sometime after the opening.

Promotional Sign

With the withdrawal of one of the tenderers from the process of providing a sign to promote events in Bluff, Mr Beer was now confirming details with the next lowest tenderer. Due to the time lapse while negotiating with the previous tenderer he was confirming the price was still the same and looking at the possibility of some traffic management costs if required. Mr Beer was also looking at funding options to assist with the cost.

Thieves Alley Market

Mr Beer assisted with some publicity for the monthly Thieves Alley Market during March. The market had moved to the Bluff Oyster Festival site to allow for holding a market all year round and also to avoid cancellations due to inclement weather.

Bluff Oyster and Food Festival

A media release was produced and distributed nationally when confirmation that the festival would take place on Saturday 25 May was received.

Street Market

Soon after the festival announcement Mr Beer had an approach from someone keen to organise a street market on festival day, Mr Beer had assisted with certain requirements for this.

It was noted that the Board did not want the Events Calendar included in the agenda.

The motion, now put, was **RESOLVED**.

8. Bluff Boat Ramp Facilities Upgrade – Stage 1 Update

A5240750

Ms Jessica Jack presented the report.

Moved Cr Dermody, seconded Mr Sutherland that that the Bluff Community Board:

1. "Receives Bluff Boat Ramp Facilities Upgrade – Stage 1 Update".

Ms Jack informed the Board that the project would go over budget but the overspend had been reduced by \$200,000. The confirmed overspend would be known once the revised drawings came through from the designers. Funding would be sourced from the Programme Steering Group.

Mr Fife asked about the fish filleting bin, Ms Jack confirmed that this would be in stage 2. Ms Jack was unsure when stage 2 would begin.

Ms Topi asked if there would be lighting in the area, Ms Jack confirmed that there would be no lighting in stage 1 of the project. It was noted that the pontoons however would have reflectors installed. It was noted that would need to meet with the Bluff Maritime Museum Board to discuss car parking options.

The motion now put, was **RESOLVED**.

9. Future Use of Building – 72 Barrow Street, Bluff

A5234796

Ms Heather Guise presented the report.

Moved Mrs Coote, seconded Cr Dermody that that the Bluff Community Board:

1. Receives the report "Future Use of Building – 72 Barrow Street, Bluff".
2. Request Council to consider the Bluff Community Board's preferred direction in relation to future retention and use of the building.

Ms Guise would like the Board's opinion on what they would like done with the building, from the three options listed, Ms Guise confirmed there was no heritage status attached to the building.

Cr Dermody was concerned if sold as is, it could become another derelict building in Bluff. The Board would like a cost to demolish the building and also a market appraisal to determine the value.

The motion now put, was **RESOLVED**.

10. Chairperson's Report - Verbal Update

Mr Raymond Fife gave a verbal update.

Moved Mr Fife, seconded Cr Dermody and **RESOLVED** that that the Bluff Community Board:

1. Receives "Chairperson's Report - Verbal Update"

Mr Fife visited the Bluff Distillery and said it was very interesting, and informed the Board members who had not visited, that they were more than welcome too.

The Long-term Plan engagement event which was to be held at the Bluff Marae was moved to the Anchorage Café due to a tangi being held at the Marae. Mr Fife noted that a good number of people turned up with some very good questions. Mr Fife thanked Council staff for making themselves available.

Mr Fife noted that a workshop would be held later in the year to plan ahead for the next three years.

Mr Fife congratulated everyone that was involved in Schick Neighbourhoodhoops, it was well organised, and had a very good turnout.

Mr Fife was pleased that the Bluff Oyster Festival had been confirmed and noted it was very good for the town and local businesses.

Mr Fife and Ms Topi attended a meeting at the Marae for the presentation of the concept plan for Great South Motupohue Visitor Experience Te Taurapa o Te Waka. The plan was to be presented to Invercargill City Council meeting being held on 19 March 2024 and as yet no funding had been received.

11. Public Excluded Session

Moved Mrs Coote, seconded Ms Stockwell and **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- a. Minutes of Public Excluded Session of the Bluff Community Board Meeting Held on 12 February 2024

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
a. Minutes of Public Excluded Session of the Bluff Community Board Meeting Held on 12 February 2024	Section 7(2)(a) Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 9.03 pm.

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FIRST FLOOR, TE HĪNAKI
CIVIC BUILDING, 101 ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL ON TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2024
AT 3.00 PM**

Present:

Mayor W S Clark
Cr A J Arnold (Via Zoom)
Cr R I D Bond
Cr P M Boyle
Cr S J Broad
Cr T Campbell
Cr A H Crackett
Cr G M Dermody
Cr P W Kett
Cr D J Ludlow
Cr I R Pottinger
Cr B R Stewart

In Attendance:

Rev E Cook – Māngai – Waihōpai
Mrs P Coote – Kaikaunihera Māori – Awarua
Mr M Day – Chief Executive
Ms E Moogan – Group Manager – Infrastructure
Mrs T Hurst – Group Manager – Community Engagement and
Corporate Services
Mr J Shaw – Group Manager - Consenting and Environment
Mr A Cameron – Chief Risk Officer
Mr M Morris – Manager – Governance and Legal
Mr D Rodgers – Manager – Strategic Asset Planning
Ms L Knight – Manager – Strategic Communications
Mr G Caron – Digital and Communications Advisor
Ms M Sievwright – Senior Executive Support

1. Apologies

Cr Soper.

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Boyle and **RESOLVED** that the apology be accepted.

2. Declaration of Interest

Nil.

3. Public Forum

Nil.

4. Major Late Item

4.1 Government Policy Statement on Transport A5258869

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Campbell and **RESOLVED** that the Major Late Item '4.1 Government Policy Statement on Transport' be accepted.

The reason that the item was not in the Agenda	The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed
The item came to hand after the publication of the agenda	A response was required by the Government before the next Council meeting. Matters can be progressed in a timely manner

5. Minutes of the Bluff Community Board Meeting held on Monday 12 February 2024

A5195336

Moved Cr Dermody, seconded Cr Stewart that the Minutes of the Bluff Community Board meeting held on Monday 12 February 2024 be received.

It was important to note the key discussions held with Great South and the high priority they placed on Bluff. The funding request was around the funding for Great South to do this work in Bluff was funded from additional Great South funding and not existing funding.

The motion, now put, was **RESOLVED**.

6. Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 27 February 2024

A5231312

Moved Cr Stewart, seconded Cr Campbell and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council held on Tuesday 27 February 2024 be confirmed.

7. Minutes of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 5 March 2024

A5242201

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Dermody and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Infrastructure Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5 March 2024 be received.

8. Minutes of the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 March 2024

A5242201

Moved Cr Broad, seconded Cr Ludlow and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee meeting held on Monday 11 March 2024 be received.

9. Minutes of the Finance and Projects Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19 March 2024

A5242201

Moved Cr Dermody, seconded Cr Campbell and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Infrastructure Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 March 2024 be received and recommendation to Council be confirmed.

Recommendation to Council

5. 2023/2024 Quarter Two Performance Update

A5235092

6. To approve the forecast changes outlined Schedule of Forecast Changes in the Quarter Two Performance Report.

10. Invercargill Venue and Events Management Limited (IVEM) Dividend and Wind Up

A5271666

Cr Ludlow said this had been a shelf company for the last couple of years and there were funds which should be returned to the shareholder.

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Campbell that Council:

1. Receives the report "Invercargill Venue and Events Management Limited (IVEM) Dividend and Wind Up"
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive, Mr Michael Day to sign resolutions on behalf of Council to do the following:
 - I. Approve a major transaction to distribute the surplus assets of IVEM to its shareholder by way of payment of a dividend of \$272,398.55 on 31 March 2024.
 - II. Sign a resolution of shareholders to remove IVEM from the Companies Register under s 318(1)(d)(i) of the Companies Act 1993 dated 30 April 2024.

In response to a question regarding the funding going to general reserves, it was noted this was a council decision, however if it was to be earmarked for a specific purpose, it should go to the Civic Theatre, Scottish Hall or Rugby Park. It was suggested that an item 3 be added to the recommendations outlining this option.

This was a balance sheet transfer and would not have been anticipated in the budget.

It was suggested this funding could be used for upgrading the accessibility at the Scottish Hall.

With the approval of the mover and seconder, the motion now read:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Campbell and **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. Receives the report "Invercargill Venue and Events Management Limited (IVEM) Dividend and Wind Up".
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive, Mr Michael Day to sign resolutions on behalf of Council to do the following:
 - I. Approve a major transaction to distribute the surplus assets of IVEM to its shareholder by way of payment of a dividend of \$272,398.55 on 31 March 2024.
 - II. Sign a resolution of shareholders to remove IVEM from the Companies Register under s 318(1)(d)(i) of the Companies Act 1993 dated 30 April 2024.
3. That the funding be allocated to disability access to the Scottish Hall.

11. Update on Sister Cities

A5229392

Mr Morris spoke to the report.

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Ludlow that Council:

1. Receives the report "Update on Sister Cities".

It was noted some councillors were expecting more information on the Suqian agreement as the purpose for setting up this relationship was commercial opportunities. The Memorandum of Understand was signed in 2017 and the question was asked what had been delivered since.

It was noted it would be impossible to note how many extra export and tourism was because of a sister city agreement. It was sensible to have a sister city agreement with a country which took 30% of Southland's exports.

It was noted there had been pandemic which had slowed relationships, and it would be mindful to reactive this relationship. Sister City relationships do not always last, however council would need to reach out if councillors wanted the relationship to continue.

One of the things which had resonated with a councillor who had visited Suqian was the significance of having a friendly city relationship for Chinese businesses to form partnerships in New Zealand and aided in getting government support. Invercargill had not hosted a delegation from China since the opening of the Chinese Garden. Suqian were keen on cultural and school exchanges and it was a case of re-establishing these links.

It was noted that sister city relationships were important and suggested that council or delegates from 2017, had been involved with NZBRT which facilitated meetings and economic good and there could be value in approaching NZBRT. It was suggested that ratepayers be asked if they felt this was a good use of their ratepayer money.

It was noted there was a significant risk by opting out of this sister city relationship. Alliance Group reported most of their meat product went to Northern China but the question was, did Council want to continue and foster a relationship, and perhaps invite Suqian to visit and invite Alliance Group to join.

It was suggested that councillors had not read the Memorandum of Understanding and the main reason for raising this issue was political accountability. If a group was being sent overseas, a Memorandum of Understanding was a strong document to sign and there had to be accountability.

It was noted that councillors would like to see more economic benefit. There was no rush to make a decision.

It was suggested another report suggesting how to reactive the relationship be provided to Council, and consultation be held with schools regarding international students.

The motion, now put, was **RESOLVED**.

12. Elections 2025 Update

A5269524

Mr Morris spoke to the report.

Moved Cr Dermody, seconded Ludlow that Council:

1. Receives the report titled "Elections 2025 Update".

In response to a question regarding the restriction on hoardings, it was noted this was managed through a resource consent. A review of this was not likely before the next election. The safety requirements were through the Roding department.

In response to a question regarding Māori wards, it was noted that the provisions had been removed. If Council made a decision to have a Māori ward or not, the community could demand a poll.

The government had decided to not continue with a proposed Bill to abolish the ratepayer elected roll.

It was noted that 34 councils had adopted a Māori ward for the first time. Mana Whenua had given clear feedback they did not wish to have a Māori ward.

The motion, now put, was **RESOLVED**.

13. Major Late Item - Government Policy Statement on Transport

A5258869

Mr Doug Rodgers spoke to the report.

In response to a question regarding the state of the highway to Bluff, and the side of the road where heavy trucks were pushing gravel, it was noted discussion had been held with NZTA and there was an underlying funding challenge.

In response to a question regarding the Stirling Point carpark, the challenge was the topography of the land.

In response to a question regarding the State Highway to Bluff, under the pothole prevention funding, was council able to request the government to look at this as an urgent matter. Staff would look into this.

The question was asked why Council was not part of the Active Modes Infrastructure Group, staff did not have an answer.

In response to a question regarding a decision,

There was 20% heavy traffic from Invercargill to Bluff, it was noted this was an increase from 2022.

The dollar value of export from Bluff had doubled in the last year and this was all being transported via the roads.

Moved Cr Dermody, seconded Cr Boyle and **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. Receives the report "Government Policy Statement on Transport".
2. Approves the submission attached as Appendix 2.
3. Delegates to the Chief Executive the ability to lodge the submission on Council's behalf.

14. Public Excluded Session

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Boyle and **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- a. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Bluff Community Board Meeting held on 12 February 2024
- b. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of Council Meeting held on 27 February 2024
- c. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 5 March 2024
- d. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024
- e. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Finance and Projects Committee Meeting held on 19 March 2024
- f. Shareholder Approval Sale of Southern Generation Limited Partnership

- g. Agreement to Enter into Contract for the Cultural Design within Invercargill Central Limited
- h. Report from Chief Executive Appraisal Committee

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
(a) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Bluff Community Board Meeting held on 12 February 2024	<p>Section 7(2)(a) Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7</p>
(b) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of Council Meeting held on 27 February 2024	<p>Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7</p>
(c) Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 5 March 2024	<p>Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</p>	<p>Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7</p>

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|---|
| | | <p>Section 7(2)(i)
 Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p> | |
| (d) | Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024 | <p>Section 7(2)(i)
 Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p> | <p>Section 48(1)(a)
 That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7</p> |
| (e) | Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Finance and Projects Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024 | <p>Section 7(2)(a)
 Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i)
 Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p> | <p>Section 48(1)(a)
 That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under</p> |
| (f) | Shareholder Approval Sale of Southern Generation Limited Partnership | <p>Section 7(2)(h)
 Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i)
 Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including</p> | <p>Section 48(1)(a)
 That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under</p> |

commercial and industrial negotiations)

- (g) Agreement to Enter into Contract for the Cultural Design within Invercargill Central Limited

Section 7(2)(h)

Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities

Section 48(1)(a)

That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under

Section 7(2)(i)

Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)

- (h) Report from Chief Executive Appraisal Committee

Section 7(2)(a)

Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons

Section 48(1)(a)

That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 5.24 pm.

MINUTES OF INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FIRST FLOOR, TE HĪNAKI CIVIC BUILDING, 101 ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL ON WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL 2024 AT 3.00 PM

Present:

- Mayor W S Clark
- Cr R I D Bond
- Cr P M Boyle
- Cr S J Broad
- Cr T Campbell (Chair)
- Cr A H Crackett
- Cr G M Dermody
- Cr P W Kett
- Cr D J Ludlow
- Cr L F Soper
- Cr B R Stewart
- Rev E Cook – Māngai – Waihōpai
- Mrs P Coote – Kaikaunihera Māori – Awarua

In Attendance:

- Mr M Day – Chief Executive
- Ms E Moogan – Group Manager – Infrastructure
- Mrs P Christie – Group Manager – Finance and Assurance
- Mr J Shaw – Group Manager - Consenting and Environment
- Mr M Morris – Manager – Governance and Legal
- Mr D Rodgers – Manager Strategic Asset Planning
- Ms H Guise – Property Portfolio Manager
- Ms L Knight – Manager – Strategic Communications
- Mr G Caron – Digital and Communications Advisor
- Mrs L Williams – Team leader - Executive Support

1. Apologies

Cr Arnold and Cr Pottinger.

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Soper and **RESOLVED** that the apologies be accepted.

2. Declaration of Interest

Nil.

3. Public Forum

Nil.

4. Minor Late Item

4.1 Activities Report

The reason that the item was not in the Agenda	The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed
The item came to hand after the publication of the agenda	Matters can be progressed in a timely manner

Moved Rev Cook, seconded Cr Stewart and **RESOLVED** that the Minor Late Item 'Activities Report' be accepted.

5. Minutes of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 5 March 2024

A5242201

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Cr Kett and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Infrastructure Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5 March 2024 be confirmed.

6. Subsidised Age-Related Public Transport Fares

A5255778

Mr Doug Rogers presented the report and noted the government subsidy was being removed at the end of April and Council had the ability to keep the subsidies and noted the cost would be around \$95,000.

A query was raised around the split in ages and the cost. Mr Rodgers advised he would come back to the Committee with those figures.

Mr Rodgers took the Committee through the options and noted that one was to retain the fares. Around the country there was a mix of proposals and he would recommend keeping free fares for those aged 12 and under.

A query was asked if council would return to pre-Covid fares. The subsidy currently being covered by the government would now be covered by ratepayers.

It was noted that there was a difficult balance between keeping Council's costs down and providing a service for young people and mothers and children to come to town. It was added that by keeping subsidised fares it would encourage use of public transport.

A further issue was raised around the potential drop in use if there were no fare subsidies.

A query was raised around SuperGold card users and that there would be no change as they get half price fares currently.

It was proposed to have free bus service for under 18 and then half for over 18 and SuperGold card holders. The cost would be \$141,000.

It was noted that council could not sustain a drop in the usage of public transport.

A query was raised around the numbers, \$95,000, it was affirmed it was based on current usage. Mr Rodgers confirmed based on 43,000 trips (not passengers) which could be multiple trips in a day.

A query was raised around future proposals around the service and if the current costs were being built into those options. The proposal was concurrent to this work and confirmed that the funding was gone and the numbers would be good for now.

A query was raised again around the numbers of the cost of the service and if Council was subsidising in addition to the government subsidy. It was advised no, the figure was based on free for under 18 years of age. A further query was raised around the benefit.

Ms Moogan noted that there were approximately 140,000 passenger trips per year.

It was noted that need to also ensure that migrants to our city who also rely on public transport have easy access to the service and if Council could maintain the subsidy for a short time and then review.

The Chair noted council could do that and requested further data be provided.

It was added that a number of larger families could not afford the fares and found it challenging to get children to sports etc by any other means and that needed to look at ensuring good access to public transport.

It was noted that there was also a need to consider people getting on and off the buses and there may be five or six people from a refugee family using the transport and travelling to the inner city to shop and the need to encourage that, also consider taking the pressure off the roads.

There was further discussion about a trial period and gathering data on users and how people were using the service and could feed into the wider strategy.

It was requested that a couple of further options be provided e.g. 12 and under free and then 13-18 years of age half price.

A further request for numbers/data was made before making a decision.

The Chair noted that most members of the Committee were in support of subsidising, and noted that as the government removes subsidies / funding that it then fell to ratepayers to fund, and that it was a flat tax, and need to consider the impact on people. He noted that need to be cautious as this may continue with the government removing funding / subsidies.

A query was raised around the fares pre-Covid. Mr Rodgers noted that would go back to pre-Covid and that was free for under 12 and a flat fare of \$2.20 for Bee Card and \$3.00 for cash.

A query was raised if fares had been increased in the last three years and it was affirmed that they had not. If increased by 10% would that cover the costs of the options presented. Mr Rodgers felt it would be close.

The Chair asked if Council could increase the fares, it was affirmed Council could. It was proposed to set a six month limit on the subsidy to allow more work to be done on possible options and age ranges.

Ms Moogan noted that this could be brought back to councillors as part of Long-term Plan discussions.

Clarification was sought if there were student fares, it was affirmed that those fares no longer existed. It was affirmed the current subsidy was not by student it was by age. It was noted that need to also consider this in the options to be provided.

It was also noted that a number of schools also provide transport and therefore a number of students would not benefit from the subsidy provided.

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Cr Boyle and **RESOLVED** that the Infrastructure Committee:

1. Receives the report "Subsidised Age-Related Public Transport Fares".

Recommends to Council

2. The continuation of the subsidised fare for children, youths and adults under 25, or some combination below:
 - a. Retain the subsidised fare levels for passengers for a period of two months whilst staff bring a further report outlining options including a cost neutral option, being:
 - i. 12 years old and under – free
 - ii. 13-25 years old - half fares
 - b. Return fare levels to pre-March 2022 levels. These fares will be \$2.20 for a Bee Card user and \$3.00 for cash.

7. Regional Land Transport Mid Term Review Submission

A5279919

Mr Doug Rodgers presented the report and noted that the submission was attached to the report and had strengthened the wording around the Bluff Highway to align with Council's GPS submission that had already been lodged.

Moved Cr Stewart, seconded Cr Ludlow and **RESOLVED** that the Infrastructure Committee:

1. Receives the report titled "Regional Land Transport Mid Term Review Submission".

Recommends to Council:

2. That Council endorses the Submission to the mid-term RLTP review.

8. Waka Kotahi NZTA Investment Audit Report

A5232040

Mr Doug Rodgers spoke to the report and noted that this was a regular audit of Council's network and was pleased that the report was more encouraging than the previous report and recognised that where work was needed plans were already underway. He added that it was a pass mark and an improvement on the previous one.

The audit talked about pavement condition which was also a safety issue and making sure on top of that work. It also talked of safety and safety auditing and that was not something that this Council did regularly and that safe systems audit was something that council needed to plan for.

A query was raised around the recommendations in the report, for example having more raised platforms and narrow the roads in some cases to encourage people to go slower and to continue looking at speed limits and whether the current government direction which was more about the economy if that was likely to change, and felt that the recommendations did not really align with that position.

Mr Rodgers noted that that was a fair observation that the focus had changed remarkably in the last few months and confirmed this report had been prepared pre-Christmas and the GPS came out after that and the need to be agile.

A query was raised around expenditure per kilometre being \$15,000 and that this was down on other cities being \$21,000, and if there was a reason why this Council was under. Mr Rodgers had hoped it was quality as opposed to the quantity of spend, and that there was a window to make some small improvements.

A query was raised around during the audit needed data around smooth travel, Mr Rodgers noted it was an element of comfort and also around delay in the network.

A query was raised around safety audits and what they would look like. Mr Rodgers noted that Council had the option not to do them and that the audit acknowledged that none had been done and was not good or bad.

A query was raised around safety issues for vulnerable people. The audit noted that there was work to be done and staff acknowledge that.

A query was raised around Omaui Road in relation to concerns around safety and the audit notes no real issues with unsealed road. Mr Rodgers noted that work needed to be done on unsealed roads.

The Chair noted in the summary that Invercargill City Council was performing better than some peer councils.

Moved Rev Cook, seconded Cr Boyle and **RESOLVED** that the Infrastructure Committee:

1. Receives the report "Waka Kotahi NZTA Investment Audit Report".

9. Temporary Road Closure - Great South, Pōhutukawa Fashion and Flames
A5246836

Mr Doug Rodgers presented the report.

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Bond and **RESOLVED** that the Infrastructure Committee:

1. Receives the report "Temporary Road Closure - Great South, Pōhutukawa Fashion and Flames".
2. Resolves that the proposed event outlined in the report will not impede traffic unreasonably.
3. Approves the temporary road closure for Esk Street between Dee Street and Kelvin Street between the hours of 4.00 pm and 9.30 pm.

10. Acquisition of Land from His Majesty the King (Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities) – Public Works Act 1981
A5229455

Ms Heather Guise presented the report and noted that this was an outstanding matter that was now being finalised, it was simply an administrative matter and no funding was required.

A query was raised 'why', it was affirmed that it was originally part of a housing subdivision and should have occurred at that time, this acquisition enabled Council to do work needed such as maintaining the walkway and access.

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Cr Bond and **RESOLVED** that the Infrastructure Committee:

1. Receives the report "Acquisition of Land from His Majesty the King (Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities) – Public Works Act 1981".

Recommends to Council

2. In accordance with Section 17 of the Public Works Act 1981, the Invercargill City Council agrees to acquire the land described as Part Lot 1 DP3373 containing 483 m² more or less being all of the balance of the land comprised in Record of Title SL183/1, at nil compensation, for the following purposes:
 - a) An access way between Miller Street and Turnbull Thomson Reserve; and
 - b) A walkway access between Miller Street and Tweed Street.
3. The Chief Executive be given delegated authority to enter into the Memorandum of Agreement Pursuant to the Public Works Act 1981 annexed as Appendix 1 (A5287597).

11. Minor Late Item - Activities Report

A5268050

Ms Erin Moogan spoke to the report and noted the information on the algae and that testing had been done and that there were no detectable toxins at either end of the treatment process. Monitoring would continue as long as there was presence of algae in the river and working through updating water safety plans.

A query was raised around advisory notices between Environment Southland and Council and if this had improved. Ms Moogan noted that had looked at this process and that Council would also do monitoring in the future.

A query was raised around tree roots damaging the pavement on McMaster Street. Ms Moogan noted that she had no knowledge and would come back to the Committee.

A query was raised around the progress on Dee Street and what the cost was of having Heritage status if the cost was \$600,000, which seemed to be a huge cost to comply. It was noted that full cost was not only around Heritage costs that there were also additional issues around contamination in the road layer, it was added that there were consent changes.

A query was raised if there was the ability to apply to the Minister for an exemption. Mr Shaw noted that as a regulator Council could not it would come down to the building owner.

The cost of heritage compliance was raised and it was noted that this City was keen to preserve heritage and if Council could be more pragmatic around this issue.

A query was raised around the work done on Queens Drive, Gala and Herbert Streets and that the road had recently been resurfaced and assurance that there would not be any further need for resurfacing. Ms Moogan noted that this was part of the resealing programme for this road and that safety checks had been done and that there had been no suggestion that the road surface had caused the accident that occurred.

A query was raised around the underspend on speed control signs in Tisbury and if had identified other schools that may need some additional work done. Ms Moogan noted that the team were identifying schools to work with and had been efficient with spend and now looking proactively to see if there were other schools that could work with, and noted that it would also depend on contractor availability.

A query was raised around the waitlist for housing and it was noted that this had increased, it was clarified that there had been some increases but the total figures showed sitting between late 1980s and early 1990s and that had not seen a significant change in trend.

Clarification was sought around the burnt-out building on Dee Street and if the building could still be in the same state in five years. Whilst frustrating it was noted that this was a matter that would be raised at the Community Wellbeing Committee and a paper could be brought to that Committee. It was confirmed that it was also a regulatory matter. Ms Moogan noted that a paper was requested from Council that would be a joint paper

between the infrastructure team in relation to roading and the regulatory area around the building.

Moved Mrs Coote seconded Rev Cook and **RESOLVED** that the Infrastructure Committee:

1. Receives the "Activities Report".

12. Public Excluded Session

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Soper and **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- a. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Infrastructure Committee Meeting Held on 5 March 2024

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
a. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Infrastructure Committee Held on 5 March 2024	Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 4.14 pm.

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY WELLBEING COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
FIRST FLOOR, TE HĪNAKI CIVIC BUILDING, 101 ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL ON TUESDAY
9 APRIL 2024 AT 3.00 PM**

Present:

- Cr D J Ludlow (Chair)
- Mayor W S Clark
- Cr R I D Bond
- Cr P M Boyle
- Cr S J Broad
- Cr T Campbell
- Cr A H Crackett
- Cr G M Dermody
- Cr P W Kett
- Cr I R Pottinger
- Cr L F Soper
- Cr B R Stewart
- Rev E Cook – Māngai – Waihōpai
- Mrs P Coote – Kaikaunihera Māori – Awarua

In Attendance:

- Mr M Day – Chief Executive
- Mr R Capil – Group Manager – Community Spaces and Places
- Mrs P Christie – Group Manager – Finance and Assurance
- Mrs G Cavanagh – Manager – Environmental Services
- Ms G Crawford - Engagement and Partnerships Officer
- Miss K Braithwaite – Digital and Communications Advisor
- Ms M Sievwright – Senior Executive Support

1. Apologies

Nil.

2. Declaration of Interest

Nil.

3. Public Forum

Nil.

4. Youth Council 2024 Inaugural Report

A5285623

Liam Calder, Emma Pope and Olivia Little were in attendance to present their report.

In response to a question regarding new members, it was noted there were six returning members and more younger members for 2024.

In response to a question regarding the summer committee, it was noted this had worked well and the new committee would recommend more meetings be held. A new initiative was informal meetings in the library where key learnings could be discussed.

In response to a question regarding themes from the meetings, it was noted there were more new issues from younger members and there was a focus on wellbeing. It was important to get out into the community.

In response to a question regarding STV for choosing a chairperson, it was noted that nominations were held and then voting. It was a great educational experience for new members.

In response to a question regarding public transport, it was noted the youth councillors would take this back to their committee for discussion.

In response to a question regarding the eight main ideas for committees, it was noted this would be discussed at their next meeting.

In response to a question regarding the make-up of the committee, it was noted there were a few youth councillors from Bluff, so there were a range of students from across Invercargill and Bluff.

In response to a question regarding youth crime and lack of entertainment for youth, it was noted there were events coming up for youth to engage in.

Moved Cr Broad, seconded Cr Crackett and **RESOLVED** that the Community Wellbeing Committee:

1. Receives the Report "Youth Council 2024 Inaugural Report".

5. Minutes of the Extraordinary Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Meeting held on Friday 15 December 2023

A5103650

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Cr Stewart and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee meeting held on Friday 15 December 2023 be received.

6. Minutes of the Extraordinary Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Meeting held on Monday 22 January 2024

A5157348

Moved Cr Boyle, seconded Cr Soper and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee meeting held on Monday 22 January 2024 be received.

7. Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Meeting held on Thursday 1 February 2024

A5180180

Moved Cr Boyle, seconded Cr Soper that the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee meeting held on Thursday 1 February 2024 be received.

In response to a question regarding the number of extraordinary meetings, it was noted that these meetings were for various reasons included a held over application and a late application.

The motion, now put, was **RESOLVED**.

8. Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13 February 2024

A5199262

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Mrs Coote and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13 February 2024 be confirmed.

9. Minutes of the Creative Communities Invercargill Funding Scheme Assessment Committee Meeting held on Thursday 22 February 2024

A5227718

Moved Cr Boyle, seconded Cr Ludlow and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Creative Communities Invercargill Funding Scheme Assessment Committee meeting held on Thursday 22 February 2024 be received.

10. Minutes of the District Licensing Committee Meeting held on February and March 2024

A5301079

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Soper and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the District Licensing Committee meeting held on February and March 2024 be received.

11. Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Meeting held on Thursday 21 March 2024

A5285091

Moved Cr Boyle, seconded Cr Soper and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee meeting held on Thursday 21 March 2024 be received.

12. Activities Report

A5228813

In response to a question regarding the process for received barking complaints, it was noted staff phoned the owner and worked with them to resolve the issue. If there were ongoing complaints, a bark log was given to owners to complete over a set period of time and then analysed by staff. As a last resort a notice would be issued, which would place requirements on the owner, or possible removal of the animal.

In response to a question regarding registrations, it was noted this was for new and ongoing registration. Impoundments could be linked to a Request for Service.

In response to a question regarding compliance issues on Esk Street, where DeliverEasy and courier drivers were parking on the footpath, it was noted there was only one officer employed at this point and issues were dealt with as regular patrols. It was suggested that the parking and loading zones on Esk and Dee Street outside the movie theatre be relooked at.

Further discussion was held regarding the parking of Esk Street and a pragmatic solution was required, which included vibrancy for the youth, and the ability for owners to make a living. This would not happen today.

Comment was made that the figures stated in the Parks report were not a true reflection. Council was failing to control lupins in Sandy Point which resulted in animals needing to go to the vet, which then resulted in less using the tracks.

In response to a question regarding Donovan Park, it was noted that potential events and tourism was incorporated in the master plan.

In response to a question regarding the budget on the track network on Bluff, it was noted that the budget was still being worked on would be brought back to this committee.

In response to a question regarding pest control in Queens Park, it was noted that information would need to be brought back to the committee.

In response to a question regarding the replanting in Queens Park, it was noted that those trees had been replaced like for like. It was noted that some of these trees were reshoots from trees previously planted, as well as the new vegetation.

In response to a question regarding planting one native tree per resident in the city, it was noted this was half way through.

In response to a question regarding authorising repatriation, it was noted this was done under the previous Southland Museum and Art Gallery and had taken four years to return items to Egypt.

Moved Cr Stewart, seconded Rev Cook and **RESOLVED** that the Community Wellbeing Committee:

1. Receives the "Activities Report".

13. Public Excluded Session

Moved Cr Crackett, seconded Cr Stewart and **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- a. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Extraordinary Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Meeting held on Friday 15 December 2023
- b. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Extraordinary Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Meeting held on Monday 22 January 2024
- c. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Meeting held on Thursday 1 February 2024
- d. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Creative Communities Invercargill Funding Scheme Assessment Committee Meeting Held on 22 February 2023
- e. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Held on 21 March 2024

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
a. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Extraordinary Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Meeting held on Friday 15 December 2023	Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| b. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Extraordinary Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Meeting held on Monday 22 January 2024 | Section 7(2)(i)
Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) | Section 48(1)(a)
That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7 |
| c. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Meeting held on Thursday 1 February 2024 | Section 7(2)(i)
Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) | Section 48(1)(a)
That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7 |
| d. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Creative Communities Invercargill Funding Scheme Assessment Committee Meeting Held on 22 February 2023 | Section 7(2)(i)
Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) | Section 48(1)(a)
That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7 |
| e. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Community Wellbeing Fund Subcommittee Held on 21 March 2024 | Section 7(2)(i)
Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) | Section 48(1)(a)
That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7 |

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 4.05 pm.

**MINUTES OF THE BRIEFING OF COUNCIL FOR THE LONG-TERM PLAN HEARINGS, HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FIRST FLOOR, TE HĪNAKI CIVIC BUILDING, 101 ESK STREET,
INVERCARGILL ON THURSDAY 11 APRIL 2024 AT 2.00 PM**

Present: Cr T Campbell (Chair)
Cr R I D Bond
Cr P M Boyle
Cr S J Broad
Cr A H Crackett
Cr P W Kett
Cr D J Ludlow
Cr L F Soper
Cr B R Stewart

In Attendance: Rev E Cook – Māngai – Waihōpai
Mrs P Coote – Kaikaunihera Māori – Awarua
Mr M Day – Chief Executive
Mrs P Christie – Group Manager – Finance and Assurance
Mrs T Hurst – Group Manager – Community Engagement and
Corporate Services
Mr R Capil – Group Manager – Community Spaces and Places
Mr M Morris – Manager – Governance and Legal
Mrs R Suter – Manager – Strategy and Policy
Ms A McDowell – Corporate Analyst
Ms M Sievwright – Senior Executive Support

1. Briefing of Long-term Plan

It was noted this briefing was to give the councillors a 'heads up' on where things were placed for the Plan at this stage. Mrs Suter reminded councillors of the process of a hearing. Submitters would have 10 minutes only to keep to time.

Mrs Christie said the economy was not in great space and the country was in a recession so many requests were not possible. While borrowing rates were low for Council, this would not last. Inflation could stay higher and was not sure this would come down. Have more of an understanding of government policy and there was nothing positive at this stage. The ELT were looking at where they could trim things from the budget. It was suggested having a workshop in 30 April to discuss savings options and then work through options for consideration with deliberations deferred to mid-May. Any questions should be emailed through to Mrs Suter so she had enough time to prepare.

Mrs Suter took the meeting through the submission proposed for the Environment Southland Long-term Plan.

In response to a question regarding the rural industry, it was noted this increase was 12%.

There being no further business, the workshop finished at 2.35 pm

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR THE LONG-TERM PLAN HEARINGS, HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FIRST FLOOR, TE HĪNAKI CIVIC BUILDING, 101 ESK STREET,
INVERCARGILL ON THURSDAY 11 APRIL 2024 AT 3.00 PM**

Present: Cr T Campbell (Chair)
Cr R I D Bond
Cr P M Boyle
Cr S J Broad
Cr A H Crackett
Cr P W Kett
Cr D J Ludlow
Cr L F Soper
Cr B R Stewart

In Attendance: Rev E Cook – Māngai – Waihōpai
Mrs P Coote – Kaikaunihera Māori – Awarua
Mr M Day – Chief Executive
Mrs P Christie – Group Manager – Finance and Assurance
Mrs T Hurst – Group Manager – Community Engagement and
Corporate Services
Mr R Capil – Group Manager – Community Spaces and Places
Mr M Morris – Manager – Governance and Legal
Mrs R Suter – Manager – Strategy and Policy
Miss C Manara – Engagement Coordinator
Mr D Titus – Policy Analyst
Mr G Caron – Digital and Communications Advisor
Ms G Englert – Strategic Communications
Ms M Sievwright – Senior Executive Support

1. Apologies

Mayor Clark, Cr Pottinger, Cr Dermody and Cr Arnold.

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Cr Bond and **RESOLVED** that the apologies be accepted.

2. Declaration of Interest

Nil.

3. 2024 – 2034 Long-term Plan Hearings

A5243717

Ms Rhiannon Suter presented the report.

Submission 141 had disagreed with the staff summary of their submission, which was the market appraisal and the method the appraisal was undertaken.

450 submissions had been received with the majority not wishing to be heard and 35 wishing to speak to their submission. All speakers would have 10 minutes to speak and answer questions.

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Cr Ludlow and **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. Receives the report "2024 – 2034 Long-term Plan Hearings".
2. Notes the summary of submissions (A5305574).
3. Receives the submissions to be heard (Agenda tabs 4.1 to 4.47) and notes the hearing timetable (A5291052).
4. Receives the submissions not to be heard (Agenda tabs 5.1 to 5.401).
5. Agrees to receive the following late submissions:
 - a. Submission 127 - Te Rūnaka o Awarua
 - b. Submission 128 - Invercargill Licensing Trust
 - c. Submission 131 - Rodney Tribe
 - d. Submission 170 - Marcus Roy, Southland Mountain Bike Club
 - e. Submission 442 - Unnamed 246
 - f. Submission 450 - Adrienne Henderson.
6. Notes the social media report (A5300266)
7. Agrees to receive the following tabled submissions;
 - a. Submission 451 - Carl Johnstone
 - b. Submissions 452 - William Bruce Clearwater
 - c. Submissions 453 - Sandra Cooper

4. Submissions to be Heard

4.1 Hearing Slot 1 - Submission 156 - Carolyn G Weston (Blind Citizens NZ)

A5300936

Mrs Weston noted that access to the museum had been difficult for blind citizens, and asked that the new museum took this into consideration when being built. She would also like a bus stop near the museum. She noted she was against a bus at the new hotel, coming through Wachner Place which would create another obstacle for blind and deaf citizens. She was concerned about the Southland public transport plan, noting that the blind citizens should be consulted with. She would like the concrete blocks in Tay and Esk Street to be painted to they were more visible for the vision impaired.

In response to a question regarding Surrey Park and Rugby Park audio description options, it was noted she was unaware of any examples of this in sports parks.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

4.2 Hearing Slot 2 - Submission 144 - The Royal Forest and Bird Society of NZ
A5291055

Tom Kay attended via zoom to speak to the submission.

Mr Kay took the meeting through a PowerPoint presentation, making room for rivers and nature-based solutions, detailing the effects of the flooding event from Cyclone Gabrielle. It was noted that more of these events would happen due to mismanagement of wetlands, climate change, striping forests, etc. He noted that rivers and streams should be given more space. He would like Invercargill to reframe the way it thought about and reprioritise nature.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

4.3 Hearing Slot 3 - Submission 122 - Jennifer Ann Campbell (Forest and Bird Member)
A5300699

Mrs Campbell noted there was a war on nature and ratepayers expected greater than that from council. There were many opportunities to action and affirm actions from Forest and Bird submission. Invercargill should aim for zero carbon emissions.

In response to a question regarding not using more land for housing, it was noted that people having Airbnb's and areas where the housing was below standard and needed to be replaced. Residents did not want larger homes and properties and could be exchanged for smaller units which they could more cope with. Revitalising the centre of the city, there were sections which could be used for smaller units.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

4.4 Hearing Slot 4 - Submission 160 - David Hall Jones (Te Kupeka Tiaki Taoka - Southern Regional Collections Trust)
A5301213

Note: Rev Cook declared a conflict for this submission.

Mr Hall Jones noted the Te Kupeka Tiaki Taoka saw a combined museum, tuatara and art gallery facility, and the best way to approach this was to build the art facility at the Tisbury site, as building a place to house the art collection at Tisbury would be the fastest and cheapest way to get built. This would allow regular rotations of artwork to the museum. Seed funding of \$300,000 would assist with applying for grants for the preservation of the Elmwood collection.

In response to a question regarding digital versus physical, it was noted that the elements of the collection were the physical objects of the collection but supplementing this was digital.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

4.5 Hearing Slot 6 - Submission 181 - Joel Holland

A5268831

Master Holland and his mum attended the meeting and suggested a new sign was required at the Eastern entrance to Invercargill which represented the people of Invercargill. He tabled a draft sign.

In response to a question regarding the sign at the east entrance and if some of the other entrances should have a new sign also, it was noted that this could be a good idea.

In response to a question regarding whether the motorbike would continue to be important or if it would date, it was noted he liked the story of Burt Munro.

In response to whether Master Holland's classmates' input had been included in his submission, it was noted they had not.

In response to a question regarding whether a koru could be incorporate in the design, it was noted that yes it could.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

Note: The meeting adjourned at 3.52 pm and resumed at 4.00 pm.

4.6 Hearing Slot 7- Submission 154 - Sue Hill (HWR Property)

A5300891

Ms Hill said the proposal to take away the fee cap would make the looming EQC out of reach for building owners. A lot of progress had been made with earthquake strengthening however this was a huge issue and a rates increase would stop this. Other New Zealand council fees were considerably lower than Invercargill and the process was less cumbersome. She said there were unnecessary requirements and this could be simplified. An increase in fees would cause people to rethink their building requirements.

In response to a question regarding the proposal of 0.5% increase in fees and if that would be a deterrent, it was noted it would prevent multimillion dollar buildings as the costs for consenting was too high.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

4.7 Hearing Slot 8 - Submission 170 - Marcus Roy and Kathryn McLauchlan (Southland Mountain Bike Club)

A5301588

Mr Roy noted that open spaces played a key part in being a vibrant city and enabled the space to spread out and activate. He had the sense that open spaces could be a drawcard for economic stimulus, tourism, event hosting and general associated spending with people coming to open spaces.

Ms McLauchlan thanked the Parks Team for all the amazing work they did in supporting the Southland Mountain Bike Club.

Mr Roy spoke about the increase in funding and attendees for mountain biking in Rotorua which was an example of the potential for Invercargill. There were plans for additional trails and additional funding was being sought. A sealed pump track was planned and more multi use was being suggested so it could be more inclusive and welcoming.

In response to a question regarding how many people were represented in the Club from the Bluff Community, it was noted there were 450 members but only 15% who rode mountain bikes. There was no breakdown on representation. This was something the Club were looking to change.

In response to a question regarding ecological enhancements and how this was funding, it was noted that the mountain bike trails followed corridors and planting was undertaken alongside those tracks, working alongside the Environmental Trust.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

4.8 Hearing Slot 9 - Submission 157 – David Rose (Federated Framers of NZ)

A5300947

Mr Rose said the transparency of rate setting, there was no understanding of UAGC and the general rate and the Revenue and Finance Policy should include more exact rates. He did not understand why the differential had been tweaked and suggested this be relooked at.

In response to a question regarding the UAGC and if this was accepted as a blunt instrument for them, it was around the equity of the service and lower capital paid less anyway. This was the fairest way to do things.

In response to a question regarding the general rating differential around the rest of the country, it was noted that not all rates are on that basis and some were on capital value, while others had a different system.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

Note: The meeting adjourned at 4.32 pm and would resume on Friday 12 April 2024 at 9.00 am.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR THE LONG-TERM PLAN HEARINGS, HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FIRST FLOOR, TE HĪNAKI CIVIC BUILDING, 101 ESK STREET,
INVERCARGILL ON FRIDAY 12 APRIL 2024 AT 9.00 AM**

Present:

- Cr T Campbell (Chair)
- Cr R I D Bond
- Cr P M Boyle
- Cr S J Broad
- Cr A H Crackett
- Cr P W Kett
- Cr D J Ludlow
- Cr L F Soper
- Cr B R Stewart
- Cr G Dermody joined via Zoom 12.15pm

In Attendance:

- Mrs P Coote – Kaikaunihera Māori – Awarua
- Mr M Day – Chief Executive
- Mrs P Christie – Group Manager – Finance and Assurance
- Mrs T Hurst – Group Manager – Community Engagement and Corporate Services
- Mr R Capil – Group Manager – Community Spaces and Places
- Mr M Morris – Manager – Governance and Legal
- Ms R Suter – Manager – Strategy and Policy
- Miss C Manara – Engagement Coordinator
- Mr D Titus – Policy Analyst
- Mr G Caron – Digital and Communications Advisor
- Ms K Braithwaite - Acting Team Leader - Communications
- Ms G Bragg – Marketing and Media Advisor
- Mrs L Williams – Team Leader - Executive Support
- Ms M Sievwright – Senior Executive Support

5. Apologies

Mayor Clark, Cr Pottinger, Cr Dermody, Cr Arnold and Rev Cook

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Cr Ludlow and **RESOLVED** that the apologies be accepted.

6. Submissions to be Heard

6.1 Hearing Slot 10 - Submission 115 - Christine Smith A5300670

Ms Smith spoke to her submission and noted that the change in fees at Coopers Creek to market rates was done during Covid lockdown with no consultation and the fee had increased by 200% over the past three years. She noted that Coopers Creek residents receive no services such as sewerage and they pay for their own services. She added no dollar amount was on the fee, and that the fee should be calculated the same way

other rates were. She then talked of climate change and noted that data showed flooding impacts on the area and proposed dredging and removal of the sand barriers which impact up river. She showed the Committee a photograph and read the text, and noted that silting changed the depth of water. She noted that the harbour had been damaged by the influx of rabbits and the denuding of Sandy Point. She talked of strategic planting and creating sand dunes for protection. Finally, she endorsed the written submission of Ms Nikki Broad.

Ms Smith was asked if she would submit to Environment Southland around dredging, she responded that she would.

In response to a question if she was a resident of Coopers Creek, she confirmed that she was a licence holder and that her son lived there.

In response to a question if she had submitted to the Sandy Point Masterplan on this topic, she confirmed she had.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.2 Hearing Slot 11 - Submission 142 - Becs Amundsen (Connected Murihiku)

A5298053

Ms Amundsen spoke to her submission and noted that Council were the contract holders for the project and thanked Council for their support. She talked of special projects and services and the need for them at this time when needed the most. She gave an overview of the project and noted there was a need for governance training and information for Boards and around volunteers and the difficulty in getting volunteers. Providing support to people to apply for funding.

In response to a question around volunteering and if working with Volunteer South, she confirmed that she had been talking with them and other organisations.

A question was asked what specifically would she like Council to do, Ms Amundsen noted that she was grateful for the support being received now and would like additional funding to be able to continue the project post government funding ending.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

Note: Mrs Coote and Cr Broad declared an interest as Committee members of the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee.

6.3 Hearing Slot 12 - Submission 126 - Lisa Benson

A5300715

Ms Benson and colleagues spoke/sang to their submission around Arts and Culture and noted that it was more than just bricks and mortar. Visible and connected career paths, need creativity. Be a city that shines with arts and culture. A city that dreams. Dare to dream. Leave a legacy of beauty. Cherish the arts in every act.

In response to a question how was the best way to connect with them as individuals, would this be through the Art Society. Ms Benson noted that in Queenstown there was a facility/venue and that would be a way to connect and also creating a directory though Arts Murihiku.

In response to a query around if space was just needed or a fancy building, it was noted at a minimum maintain what have running out of finding and outgrowing what currently have.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.4 Hearing Slot 13 - Submission 65 - Hannah Marlo Lawson

A5293503

Ms Lawson took the Committee through her presentation and wanted to talk about urban play and noted time for a change as some of the city's playgrounds were becoming outdated. She talked of destination playgrounds. She noted that in Timaru the project was volunteer driven and came in at a cost of approximately \$3 million. She noted that her main point was that our kids deserve to have these facilities, educational as well as fun and play. She noted could replace the current playground in Queens Park or towards Gala Street, could have food caravans and night markets. Also noted the need to be inclusive and commented some of our parks were not accessible. Also noted that need to be free so made it possible for many sectors of the community to enjoy.

In response to a question around the budget currently in the LTP currently that it should be spent in a targeted way, Ms Lawson confirmed that that was her proposal, and believed that it would bring people to the city.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.5 Hearing Slot 14 - Submission 118 - Michelle Findlater (Salford School)

A5300707

Ms Findlater introduced Mr Dallas Peters and Ms Sarah Gibbs. Ms Findlater took the Committee through a presentation and noted safety concerns around the footpath at Salford School. The footpath was used by not only Salford School, but Ruru School and people walking on the track. Proposed realignment and increased parking, and noted should be funded by Council.

In response to a question if the proposed realignment would send the message that that was the area to park and stop people parking on the footpath. It was noted that yes and that not sealed currently and people parking wherever they could.

It was asked if had approached the Ministry, it was confirmed that had been told a Council issue not a Ministry one. Mr Peters noted that children walk in between buses and not safe for the students and felt that this area may not have been looked at. Ms Gibbs noted that no visibility for the children and that there was a need for them to walk some distance to walk back round to the path and added that children could not scooter as not level. She added that children felt unsafe and anxious getting to school.

It was asked if the school had contacted the Police about some of the issues. Ms Gibbs noted that they had and that she stood outside to monitor and move vehicles on, she noted that the Police had attended but that people behave when the Police attend, and that it was a wider community issue not just an issue for the school.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.6 Hearing Slot 15 - Submission 130 - Lizzy Curry

A5250312

Note: Did not attend.

6.7 Hearing Slot 16 - Submission 114 - Kathleen Eleanor Obers (CCS Disability Action)

A5300668

Mrs Obers spoke to her submission and noted that elderly housing was a priority for the city and people looking to rent to avoid the need for maintenance and also utilise universal design. Emissions reduction and noted that working towards that within current budgets and rather than spend more money now. Keep green spaces and utilise spaces for play. Talked of recycling and utilising things we have like jars rather than throwing out. Proposed that Council revisit Wachner Place and noted that the mobility providers used to drop people at the back of the clock in a safe area for people to get out of vans. She talked of a big chess set that used to be in the city and could revisit that. Pleased that Council doing three waters work and replacing pipes. Need to manage debt.

A query was raised around the preservation of green spaces and not using for housing and that the population was growing and did she favour intensification rather than sprawl, Mrs Obers noted sprawl and there was land available in Clifton and the area around the Marae.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.8 Hearing Slot 17 - Submission 124 - Laura Pope (National Public Health Service)

A5300711

Ms Pope took the Committee through a presentation and noted it was their role to protect all New Zealanders and provide healthy outcomes. She noted NPHS was largely supportive of the Long-term Plan. Housing, Climate Change and smoke/vape free were the main areas that would like to focus on. NPHS supports option one for housing, use universal design and improve elderly housing, accessibility warm and dry. NPHS supports climate change option one, climate change was predicted to impact wellbeing. Recommend smoke/vape free CBD and the need for more promotion and signage and have signs available for Council to use. Also noted to keep Esk Street pedestrian only, cultural wellbeing initiatives and infrastructure improvement.

A query around how can to police smoke/vape free. It was noted that it was a policy and so difficult but could create awareness through promotion and signage.

In response to a question around smoke/vape free and if the government had dropped the ball and if they were two separate addictions. Ms Pope noted that it was difficult and believed that people saw them as different but the industry's work in very similar ways and vaping perceived as low risk.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.9 Hearing Slot 18 - Submission 128 - Chris Ramsay (ILT)

A5301327

Mr Ramsay spoke to his submission and noted that territorial authorities had the ability to reduce fees and believed that the ILT ticked the three criteria. He added that the ILT had been easy to do business with and in the past ten years had no issues that would inhibit the ability to reduce fees.

In response to a question around the dollar terms, Mr Ramsay noted that in the tens of thousands. Further if there was a tool available to reduce risk profile, Mr Ramsay noted that would be happy to have a conversation.

Mr Ramsay was asked what his views were around bylaws being introduced, he noted that provided certainty.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.10 Hearing Slot 19 - Submission 127 - Dean Whaanga - Te Runaka O Awarua

A5301321

Mr Whaanga, Mr Bragg and Ms Young (GS) took the Committee through their presentation. Ms Young noted the Bluff Motopuhe Masterplan and acknowledged the work Council had done around implementation. A key objective was about bringing people together – locals and visitors. Come together as a community and acknowledging the past. Council support was needed for this significant project and would require a combination of funding sources and estimated total cost of \$18.4 million and requested support over the next five years both in kind and financial.

A question was asked what the cost of the Te Taurapa o Te Waka (the building itself) would be in isolation, it was noted that the project was broken into stages and the cost for stage one was around \$6.9 million.

A query was asked if Ngai Tahu would be contributing to this, it was confirmed that they would be approached for funding and support in kind.

A question was asked if the breakdown in costings could be provided, it was confirmed that was provided in the supplementary information.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

Note: Mrs Coote declared a conflict.

6.11 Hearing Slot 20 - Submission 92 - Courtney Ellison (South Alive)

A5300399

Ms Ellison introduced the Chair of South Alive and took the Committee through her submission and confirmed supportive of the pump track. Requested more work/review be done around Elizabeth Park as it was prominent in the area, she noted the need for public toilets. She added there was a need to have some funding available if undertaking a review e.g. toilets. She noted the feeling in the community around equity of funding and service across the city, an example was beautification and plantings.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

Note: The hearing adjourned at 10.45 am and reconvened at 11.08 am.

6.12 Hearing Slot 21 - Submission 446 - Ian Beker

A5302284

Mr Beker spoke about the process of glass recycling and sorting, and suggested residents should have a separate bin for glass recycling.

In response to a question regarding separate bins, it was noted if there was a separate glass bin, this would get glass out of recycling.

In response to a question regarding having a glass bank, it was noted that there were bottle banks which encouraged mice and vandalism. It did not work. It would be a different story if there was a return on the bottles.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.13 Hearing Slot 22 - Submission 80 – Active Southland

A5296767

Vanessa Hughes and Kieran were in attendance to speak to this submission.

Supporting southlanders to be more physically active. Acknowledge Invercargill Activities Communities Fund which supported Active Southland. The key focus was building a better relationship with council to improve community outcomes. Would like to see council endorse staff and Active Southland work on a partnership agreement and built on what was already in place.

In response to a question regarding destination playgrounds, it was noted that there were varying opinions on this as there were benefits of both. Destination playgrounds could be exclusive.

In response to a question regarding whether Invercargill was big enough for more than one destination playgrounds, it was noted that consideration would need to be given to this on who the playground was being designed for.

In response to a question regarding a universal bushwalk, it was noted discussion was around a walk in Donovan Park and Queens Park. A review of most likely locations would need to be considered.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.14 Hearing Slot 23 - Submission 3 - Colin Thoms

A5270434

Mr Thoms took the meeting through his PowerPoint presentation, which included an image of a recycling bin, which was made from recycled plastic and used for roadside collection. Glass could be recycled indefinitely as long as it was not contaminated.

In response to a question regarding the timing of recycling, it was noted that glass was collected every two weeks.

In response to a question regarding bags or bins, it was noted that the option of recycling in bags could be chosen.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.15 Hearing Slot 25 - Submission 112 - Alison Broad (Southland Art Foundation)

A5300664

Mrs Broad introduced Ann Maree Hamilton and Lyndal Ludlow, and she congratulated council on the storage facility and the tuatarium. The purpose of an art collection was to be seen, and not stored away. A purpose-built art gallery needed to be a sustainable, standalone statement for touring collections and for the Invercargill collection itself. Invercargill had some outstanding sports facilities and it was time for an outstanding arts facility. Important to have an excellent acoustic space so this could include many different art forms.

In response to a question regarding the former bank building, it was noted that repurposing old buildings for an art galleries it was constraining on what was possible. Suggest doing something that was going to achieve the purpose of the building rather than how to use a building.

In response to a question regarding where a future art gallery could be situated, it was noted that they were more concerned about what and not where, although near the new museum could be ideal.

In response to a question regarding an interim gallery which a new one was being built, it was noted that an interim would be great as there were many children growing up in the city with no access to art.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.16 Hearing Slot 26 - Submission 190 - Mishra Himani

A5284532

Ms Himani took the meeting through their PowerPoint presentation, seeking provision for an event hall for the migrant community, as many of the current venues were not suitable for the requirements migrants had.

In response to a question regarding the Dacre Community Hall, it was noted that they were not aware of this hall.

In response to a question regarding SIT Hansen Hall, Waikiwi Hall and Scottish Hall, it was noted that a permanent, dedicated space was requested. Indoor and outdoor flow was required.

In response to a question regarding connecting with Arts Murihiku for various spaces, it was noted that they had spoken to them in the past.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.17 Hearing Slot 24 - Submission 150 - Dot Wilson and Neill Rumble (via Zoom)

A5300866

Mrs Wilson spoke from a disability perspective. A disability lens was not a health lens. Her concern was how building consents received sign off and if disabilities were considered. Was there any disability training given for bus drivers and other organisations?

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.18 Hearing Slot 27 - Submission 119 - Noel J Peterson

A5300703

Mr Peterson spoke about elderly housing and instead of building more housing they could live with others. Need to start exploring the possibility of an electronic bus. More areas for low mow areas and perhaps no mow areas could be considered. Urban recycling centres should be considered so people could take their glass there instead of roadside recycling. Opportunity to start glass manufacturing industry. Provide more social support for disadvantaged, particularly the homeless. Promote clean and green permaculture and stop spraying herbicides. Security cameras in the village at Stirling Point and the lookout, live screen the Bluff Community Board meetings, more public toilets. Investigate a train and bus link between Bluff and Invercargill. More sustainable funding for arts.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.19 Hearing Slot 28 - Submission 129 - Bob Simpson

A5243515

Mr Simpson tabled a copy of his support notes, which outlined his proposal to create a recreational centre for activities in and around Queens Park. If the museum was saved there would be less material going to landfill. He also tabled a proposal for the existing H&J Smith building.

In response to a question regarding costs, it was noted that cost estimates to demolish the existing pyramid would be less than keeping it, or cost neutral. There were views that the exiting building could be reused.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.20 Hearing Slot 29 - Submission 449 - Youth Council (Video Submission)

A5305351

Olivia Little and Ella Rohan in attendance to speak to the submission.

Youth council representatives would like a safe swimming zone and pontoon in Bluff which would be a safe option to get Bluff children swimming, and suggested a smaller and simpler supporting document to go with the Long-term Plan.

In response to a question regarding the size of the Long-term Plan and if the Youth Council could be included, it was noted that this was a good idea which would give experience.

In response to a question regarding the public bus route, it was noted that not many youth councillors used this service now as it was.

In response to a question regarding swimming in Bluff and where a pontoon could be located, it was noted that somewhere near the bridge would be best. Just seeking support for this at the moment.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.21 Hearing Slot 30 - Submission 105 - Marion Miller (Anderson Park Charitable Trust)

A5300650

Craig McAlister and Tony Forde were in attendance to speak. The submission was asking for funding to make Anderson House more accessible to the public. The House was subject to access for the disabled and the toilet facilities required updating. Also looking at funding for a part time coordinator. Access was not available to the Wharepuni on the site so there was not way to know if issues such as borer had been resolved.

In response to a question regarding expanding the building due to the heritage status, it was noted that while the house looked large from the outside, inside it was very small.

In response to a question regarding the kitchen, it was noted that it was very basic and most things would need to be brought in.

In response to a question regarding a fundraising strategy, it was noted there was good engagement through Council and the Trust were happy to take on minor maintenance issues and relied on Council for the bigger issues.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.22 Hearing Slot 31 - Submission 83 - Liam Calder

A5296773

Mr Calder noted that glass recycling was a crucial aspect of recycling and presented an opportunity enhance environmentally sustainable efforts, promote community engagement and contribute to a cleaner healthy future for all. Engagement with youth on their city and their issues was important. This could include a pocket-sized Long Term Plan or relating the Long Term Plan to how it was relevant to the youth.

In response to a question regarding the best way to engage with youth, Mr Calder said he would speak with the Youth Council regarding this.

In response to a question regarding where engagement centres could be, it was noted that this was something the engagement team could look at.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

Note: The hearing adjourned at 1.09 pm and reconvened at 2.00 pm.

6.23 Hearing Slot 32 - Submission 166 - L O'Callaghan

A5301221

Ms O'Callaghan spoke to her submission and talked about recycling and green waste and noted that whilst not submitting on glass recycling felt that should not, it was not a priority and not economically viable. She felt that there was a need for green waste and should be a priority. She noted that there were 36,000 tonnes of green waste each year and was being put in red bins and need a green waste bin. Secondly, she spoke about Donovan Park and noted providing restricted access to a large area in Donovan and people were not aware of what was in that area and so could not consult. She talked about what North Invercargill had, Elizabeth Park was a large area in South Invercargill and that Donovan Park needed investment to address restricted use as outdated and noted that many people lived adjacent to that park. Have the right park in the right place. The sale of the reserve land and potential housing would diminish the experience of park users. She noted the usage of Queens Park had changed and utilised by many people including newcomers to the city. Recreation and recreation facilities were key given the economic climate now being faced. She closed by stating that Council needed to honour the reserve status of Donovan Park. With respect to art funding, she noted there was a downgrade in funding and felt inadequate and that could be a precursor to removing it and said the \$14 million needed to remain. Also noted that housing should be Central Government's responsibility and the burden should not be placed on the elderly and homeowners.

In response to a question if she had taken part in the Donovan Masterplan consultation, she advised that she had.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

Note: Cr Crackett re-joined the meeting 2.06 pm – heard part submission.

6.24 Hearing Slot 33 - Submission 192 - Gavin Booth

A5284808

Mr Booth spoke to his submission and noted that Oreti Beach was a jewel in the crown and visited regularly. Oreti Beach ticked all the Long-term Plan boxes, the beach was part of our identity and provided social and economic benefits and a strong link to the city. He noted that it was classed as roading and needed to be a safe place for people to enjoy. He was concerned around reckless driving at the beach; dumping of stolen and burnt-out cars, rubbish and out of control dogs. He noted the group had met with Councillors and staff and Council was being proactive and thanked them for that, the group would like to see Council work with all stakeholders and that effective signage be put in place including speed and also a siren at the start of the beach for fire safety. Would also like to see the MOU refreshed and community consultation over the summer at the beach, along with an increase in ranger presence.

In response to a query if there had been any communication with neighbourhood watch, Mr Booth confirmed that had talked with community patrol.

A question was raised around the siren, Mr Booth noted that there had been two fires in the sand dunes at night and could threaten residents' safety and homes and a siren would provide a warning to residents.

It was asked if the concrete blocks had been a deterrent, it was confirmed they had been.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.25 Hearing Slot 34 - Submission 94 - Mary O'Brien (CCS Disability Action)

A5300403

Note: Did not attend.

6.26 Hearing Slot 35 - Submission 147 - Kieran Wall (Active Southland)

A5298071

Note: Heard in the morning session.

6.27 Hearing Slot 36 - Submission 145 - Healthy Families

A5298079

Mr Wall and Ms Findlay spoke to their submission and noted that Healthy Families was across 11 sites in the country and wanted to talk about play and supported a vibrant city centre and play was one aspect of that that could enhance. Noted that about to launch a report on food security, action based and talked about things the community could do e.g. working with parks team around edibles in our gardens and parks. Ms Findlay noted that there was not a lot of edible planting in South Invercargill, where it was needed. Mr Wall noted the need for an equitable spread across the city. Enabling communities to take ownership and do things for themselves. Wellbeing was connected to green spaces and need to ensure access for everybody across the city.

In response to a question around other areas working on food security, it was noted had looked at South Auckland and noted that had been doing a lot of work around food hubs and that would benefit Southland growers to be able to sell produce at markets and look at avenues for excess produce.

A query was raised about community gardens using space that may have been used for other things and that in Invercargill a number of homes have back yards. Ms Findlay noted that the size of backyards were getting smaller as land was being subdivided and have multiple dwellings on them and so the area to grow vegetables had decreased and further that there was a lack of understanding around how to grow and use vegetables.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.28 Hearing Slot 37 - Submission 131 - Rodney Tribe

A5301379

Mr Tribe spoke to his submission and talked around the fees for dog control and that there was no rationale to increase it and the operational costs were budgeted to be less than last year. Water charges, Council looking at a fee to cover full delivery cost and depreciation and proposed that everyone should be the same. He noted that looking at water used last year, that commercial would fund about 30.5% and could not see a rationale to fully fund depreciation. With respect to elderly housing felt should look at options, community housing providers and other funding rather than putting on ratepayers. He felt the options left some options out, and put it on ratepayers that would have to slow progress. He raised concern that put something into the Long-term Plan and then have ten years and other options could sit on the table and do nothing. Recycling in favour of bottle banks and having other bins if have an option of what use and would like to understand where savings were coming from other uncontaminated recycling and how that would offset.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.29 Hearing Slot 38 - Submission 75 - William Eric Blakie

A5296763

Mr Blakie spoke to his submission and noted that he wanted to talk about alternative transport as streets were for people not just cars. Being flat made Invercargill the perfect

place for cycles and e-cycles and could now come with covers to protect against the weather. He noted they were cost effective and with climate change being a concern these would be ideal. He requested that space be provided for cyclists.

A question was asked if the e-bike plugged into normal power point, he confirmed that it did.

When asked if he had produced the vehicle himself, he confirmed he had.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.30 Hearing Slot 39 - Submission 107 - David John Kennedy (Invercargill Public Art Gallery Inc)

A5300658

Mr Kennedy spoke to his submission and acknowledged that there was a plan to build an Art Gallery in the city. Concern that wished to continue to operate and see that they provide value and their role was important and in a limited space have held many exhibitions. If no longer a presence until a new gallery was built then children would not have the opportunity to have access to the arts and a gallery, he noted that in the past Invercargill children had to travel to Dunedin to have access to arts. Working with the Art Society to have a large exhibition and would continue to work with the wider arts community, he requested support of the team to ensure a high standard of exhibitions even if a small space.

A question was raised around utilising the old Bank building, Mr Kennedy noted had looked at it and could see opportunities if in the future could expand and have a link to it. The exhibition space was smaller than He Waka Tuia and the cost may be prohibitive. He added that were open to ideas so long as fit for purpose.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.31 Hearing Slot 40 - Submission 443 - Phillip MacMillan

A5302292

Mr MacMillan spoke to his presentation and noted that the position Council was in had been inherited from previous councils. Supported the initiatives around housing, enhancing housing and availability, crucial to consider the financial implications and need to explore other financial options rather than just loans, and agreed about the need for green spaces and housing should not impact those. Supported environmental initiatives. He added that he supported the action already being undertaken around climate change. He noted that bottle banks provided a cost-effective option for recycling rather than kerbside. He noted that the financial strategy headed towards creating more debt and needed careful consideration. He noted concern around the increasing cost of living and proposed a deferral of the Business Enhancement Programme, it was a significant impact on rates and by deferring could alleviate some costs to ratepayers. He addressed the financial strategy and talked about tax revenue; job creation; tourism and investment growth. He noted Council should explore alternatives rather than rates increases and putting financial strain on residents.

In response around a question around inflation increases and how Council could address those increasing costs that sat within the community. He noted that rearranging the timeframes for projects could assist with alleviating these increases and costs on the community.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.32 Hearing Slot 41 - Submission 164 - Chris Henderson

A5301215

Ms Henderson spoke to her submission and noted that she had a great affection for the city and whilst no longer paying rates had lived and worked in the city. She noted that in the past you paid a deposit and got the deposit back when you returned your bottle and so a circular economy. Should also look at the manufacturers of packaging, look at what can be composted, recycled and proposed that Local Government New Zealand engage with the manufacturer's association. She noted that some glass could be used in concrete and asphalt. She noted that demolition material being 'dumped'. Work with other councils and have a single building. She noted Napier and the attraction of deco architecture and Oamaru with steampunk and that Invercargill had a large number of examples of heritage architecture in a small place and would be the envy of many others. She noted a recent article in the Listener magazine around earthquake ratings and heritage buildings, she talked about the many possibilities for empty buildings.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.33 Hearing Slot 42 - Submission 152 - Darelle Jenkins (HNZ)

A5300873

Ms Jenkins spoke to her submission and noted that her focus was on alcohol licensing fees and charges and felt there was an ability by working with the other councils to increase efficiency and decrease resourcing across the three councils. Would propose working with councils around streamlining processes. Risk category rating and noted members operated above minimum requirements and therefore took up little time. The removal of this category would impact their members and implored Council to review their decision.

A question was asked how much this could be for members, it was noted could be up to \$300.

A query was raised around reducing hours and could this reduce the risk rating, it was noted that may not be good for their business and so not viable.

It was queried if the Invercargill's DLC operating was running at a negative reserve currently was it fair if the average ratepayer underwrote that loss. Ms Jenkins noted that was a decision for Council and she was coming from the aspect of their members and there had been a practice in place for a number of years and to show that it was a benefit for Council to have their members retain their membership as they use less resources of Council.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

Note: The hearing adjourned at 3.45 pm and reconvened at 4.10 pm.

6.34 Hearing Slot 43 - Submission 6 - Steve

A5257214

Note: Did not attend.

6.35 Hearing Slot 48 - Submission 165 - Becs Amundsen (Arts Murihiku)

A5300965

Ms Amundsen, Ms Newell and Ms Ruddenklau spoke to their submission and noted that had undertaken around 80 activities over the last 12 to 14 months, a large variety of events and across all ages. Had been able to do this given they had a paid staff member due to having funding from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage and this funding was coming to an end. Ms Amundsen noted that keen to be part of the process around scoping a new gallery. Council's strategy had some great outcomes and used the document when applying for funding and had received around \$500,000.

A query was raised around the financial contribution requested and if that included the building and staff, Ms Amundsen noted that the main cost was staffing but would utilise the funding how Council suggested.

If partly funded was there a plan in place to cover the rest, Ms Amundsen noted that they did and had made some assumptions. She noted that the \$500,000 had meant they could do a lot and with the loss of that may not be able to do as much as they had been doing.

Clarity was sought if only received \$30,000 - \$50,000 would have to deliver something very different. Ms Amundsen noted would look at what could continue with.

A query was raised if had applied to the other councils for funding, it was noted that did plan to do a submission to those councils.

A query was raised if with the funding that had been received would the Trust be able to carry over some of the things done, it was noted yes to a degree and hopeful that people would come to and utilise the space currently leased from Council.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

Note: This submission was moved to an earlier time due to a submitter not attending.

6.36 Hearing Slot 44 - Submission 141 - Kerry Hapuku (Coopers Creek)

A5300829

Ms Hapuka and Mr McMurdo spoke to their submission and noted that the tabled information was in addition to their submission and noted that many had only signed an

original licence to occupy and not yearly. She noted that an MoU had been written by a Council employee and they had confirmed that was written and also the then Chief Executive confirmed that it existed and she noted that all but two residents had copies.

The Chair noted that Ms Hapuka was reading a lengthy document and that the document tabled would be taken into the records and suggested that she summarised.

Ms Hapuka continued to read her tabled document.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.37 Hearing Slot 45 - Submission 153 - Kath and Brian McDonagh

A5300883

Mr and Mrs McDonagh spoke to their submission and noted that the fees had increased significantly and that they did not own the land that their home was built on. There were no services provided to the residents of Coopers Creek. Mrs McDonagh implored councillors to operate with transparency and fairness.

Mr McDonagh noted that the fee based on owning the land and did not, the value of a house would decrease if not on freehold land and took the Committee through a comparison of rates with Oki Street who had street lighting and did not understand why paying so much when comparing to someone else. He left Council with questions - Why did Coopers Creek have to be valued yearly as opposed to three yearly as other ratepayers and why had Parks and Reserves moved from increasing rates by the same percentage as other ratepayers.

In response to a question around the size of the section, Mrs McDonagh noted that it was approximately 800 sqm and had confirmed that they had been there since 2006.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.38 Hearing Slot 46 - Submission 445 - Richard Rongen

A5302286

Mr Rongen spoke to his submission and acknowledged the work done by previous submitters and agreed with everything said but noted the increase was a 200% increase and the length of time that these issues had been raised had been 30 years and no conclusion reached and requested that the working group continue and that all increases should be suspended and put back. He noted that the original group had been put together to deal with LGOIMA issues and the involvement of the Ombudsman and then a 50-year Plan, then an LTP and nothing had been signalled to residents it had just been done. He added that during 2020 it was difficult to communicate during Covid as many residents did not have internet and cellphone reception was difficult. He noted the changes in Chief Executives at Council in a very short timeframe. He noted that he paid rates on two properties, one in town and at Coopers Creek and that if the increases continued, he would have to rent out his town property. He spoke about security of tenure and that what was being done was unjust. His original reason for purchasing at Coopers Creek was to have a place for his mokopuna to have a place where they felt they belong. He noted that nothing had been signalled with them during this process

and asked how ongoing engagement would be undertaken by staff. He noted that all they asked for was to be treated fairly and this had taken a toll on the residents many who were older.

The Chair thanked the submitter for taking time to present to Council.

6.39 Hearing Slot 47 - Submission 161 - Amber Timpany
A5301205

Note: Did not attend.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 4.48 pm.

**MINUTES OF FINANCE AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
FIRST FLOOR, TE HĪNAKI CIVIC BUILDING, 101 ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL ON TUESDAY
16 APRIL 2024 AT 3.00 PM**

Present: Cr G M Dermody (Chair)
Mayor W S Clark
Cr A J Arnold (Zoom)
Cr R I D Bond
Cr T Campbell
Cr D J Ludlow
Cr I R Pottinger
Cr L F Soper
Cr B R Stewart

In Attendance: Mrs P Coote – Kaikaunihera Māori – Awarua
Mr M Day – Chief Executive
Ms E Moogan – Group Manager – Infrastructure
Mrs P Christie – Group Manager – Finance and Assurance
Mrs T Hurst – Group Manager – Community Engagement and Corporate Services
Mr R Capil – Group Manager – Community Spaces and Places
Mr A Cameron – Chief Risk Officer
Mr L Butcher – Director Project Management Office
Mr S Gibbs – Capital Delivery Manager
Mr M Morris – Manager – Governance and Legal
Mr G Caron – Digital and Communications Advisor
Mrs L Williams – Team Leader - Executive Support

1. Apologies

Nil.

2. Declaration of Interest

Nil.

3. Public Forum

Nil.

4. Minutes of the Finance and Projects Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19 March 2024

A5280435

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Stewart that the Minutes of the Finance and Projects Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 March 2024 be confirmed.

A query was raised around the updated forecast and if an updated position was to be received. Mrs Christie noted it was being worked on currently and would be brought to the next meeting.

The motion now put was **RESOLVED.**

5. Financial Update – March 2024

A5280435

Mrs Christie presented the report and noted that net debt was tracking in line with budget and interest rates are high and staying at that level which was of concern.

A query was raised around the \$63 million in cash and how much was income received in advance. Mrs Christie noted some would be but could not advise the exact amount at this time, but noted it should be dropping down as only one rates period remained for the year.

A further query was raised around term and tenure of loan funds and Mrs Christie noted some still sitting and would roll over to higher rates. Looking to use floating interest loans in the future but may put hedges in place.

It was noted that the hedging policy enabled Council to take advantage of interest rates.

A query was raised around loan advances to ICL and what the rates were, it was confirmed that this loan is at the 90-day bank bill rate plus a margin of .28%

A query was raised around the amount with Environment Southland Clean Air scheme and whether we were still offering loans. It was confirmed that we were no longer issuing new loans and there are a handful of loans outstanding.

Cr Campbell noted that in the sensitive expenditure report it showed airfares for him to attend the Zone 5 and 6 meeting and it should be corrected to show that he did not attend Zone 5 and 6 but the Mayor did.

A query was raised around the impact of insurance; inflation and interest rates and if there would be a discussion around those. Mrs Christie noted that these would be one of the subjects of the workshop on the 30 April 2024 and staff would bring options to that session for consideration of Councillors to offset the impact of these, and believed would not trigger the requirement for further public consultation.

A question was asked if councillors came back with proposals around reduction of service if consultation would be required. It was confirmed that if impacted levels of service public consultation may be required.

Mrs Christie noted that LTP would be adopted on the 30 June 2024 and Audit NZ would need to complete the audit prior to that in May, so there was a short timeframe, if required to consult.

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Mayor Clark and **RESOLVED** that the Finance and Projects Committee:

1. Receives the report "Financial Update – March 2024".
2. Notes the current net debt and treasury position.
3. Notes that it has reviewed the sensitive expenditure listing provided.

6. Strategic Capital Projects Report

A5294551

Mr Butcher took the Committee through the dashboard. He noted work continued on Branxholme and that would be completed in the next six to seven weeks which would allow a section of the pipeline to become operational. He noted that had been a realignment through a Parks area and some small savings had been achieved.

It was noted the project had been relatively smooth with a number of works on roads. Mr Butcher noted that comms had gone out to the public and property owners at each step of the project.

Rugby Park work was commencing and the work was mainly strengthening in 2024 and keeping an eye on the 2025 programme. Would look to close the stadium for an extended period of time due to replacing the roof. Working with stakeholders around this.

A query was asked if talking to stakeholders wider than just Rugby, it was confirmed predominantly Rugby at this stage and then would speak to a wider range of stakeholders once had more information.

A query was asked what the spend was for the stages. Mr Butcher noted this would be around \$1 million for this stage and that 2025 would be higher.

A query was raised if the profile of the roof would be changed. Mr Butcher confirmed that would be.

With Te Hīnaki, Civic Building looking at options for the decant of the building and what that looked like, had done some repairs to the roof and minor repairs to keep the building working.

A query was asked when this would come back to the Committee, Mr Butcher confirmed that he hoped to come back to the next Finance and Projects meeting.

It was asked if decant meant moving everyone out and if the building was that bad. Mr Butcher noted a controlled decant would be better than an un-controlled one where staff were forced to move.

Concern was raised that if talking about evacuating this building, that councillors would like to see the issues. Mr Butcher was asked if the paper would highlight these issues. Mr Butcher noted that the building required a lot of work and that could not be done whilst occupied and this was known in 2021.

Following a request for councillors to see the issues, Mr Butcher noted that would take on board a tour for councillors through the building.

A query was raised if the costs to decant were budgeted. Mr Butcher noted that had not been until had a solution had been found and now had options. It was noted there was a relocation cost in the budgets.

Ms Moogan noted that there was budget from the previous LTP for the building work and that did not have all the information before the LTP and had therefore left the \$16 million in the budget.

It was noted would be worthwhile to look at a leased space.

It was noted that putting money into this building when may move seemed to be a waste of money. Could there be a partial fitout and strengthening of the old H&J site and spending money there before deciding what doing with the CAB. Ms Moogan noted that the budget of \$1 million per year was agreed to "keep the lights on".

A question was asked around decanting and would it be the whole building or floor by floor. Mr Butcher confirmed that it was not an option to do floor by floor and would likely be the whole building, due to things like heating systems and would mean not heating in areas, he added if doing this building would be the most efficient way to do it.

Project 1225, working through design and construct with Naylor Love and have had first review. The second stage had been delivered looking at things like timelines and visuals. Mr Butcher noted had gained some space in the experience area in the new building through some design changes. He added would be working on price and that would be confirmed in July.

A query was raised if anticipated any unexpected changes to arise. Mr Butcher noted that did not expect any significant changes.

A further query was asked around having space to move to the west, Mr Butcher noted that that had not changed.

It was noted that during the recent submissions a submitter raised the ceiling and penetrations through the concrete and if that had been planned out, Mr Butcher noted that was good practice to do so, looking at water; fire and acoustics.

Tuatara building due to be handed over to Parks later this month and was looking good and on track and budget. It was noted that the building looked very impressive.

A query was raised around thefts from zoos and if there was enough security in place. Mr Butcher noted that it was at three layered approach.

A query was raised when the Tuatara might be returned. Mr Capil confirmed that it would be in June and that there would be an opening.

Bluff boat ramp, there had been work done around rocks and drilling required and created a small overspend. The pontoons were due on the water in May and work would commence on the east jetty.

A query was raised if there were still plans for a filleting table and it was confirmed there was.

Housing innovation, had handed over the first four units and now looking to work on Miller Street, have completed demolition pre checks. Miller Street would have six units.

A query was raised that it was noted that came in under budget and would that be true for the next six units, it was confirmed that should do as have the design from the other units and should be much more sustainable.

A query was raised how many units planning to build, it was noted that had plans for another two or three sites, looking at how many units per site.

Mr Butcher noted that had received a good response to the tender stage for the CCTV project and various options were provided and had shortlisted two tenderers. He added that would be working through the costings over the next two weeks. The suppliers had suggested that materials would be 12 weeks away with a similar install period. Some cameras would be operational in July, could not confirm when all 23 cameras would be live.

A query was raised around budget of \$1 million and figures quoted of \$2.5 million and also some stating \$1 million to \$5 million. Mr Butcher noted that stage one was \$1 million and stage two would be \$2.5 million, the \$5 million on GETS included maintenance and service agreements.

A query was raised around issues being uncovered and that they would be normal issues that would be expected to arise and what the spend to date of \$111,000 covered. It was confirmed that would have looked at the network, project costs; design and legal costs all made up the spend.

A further query was raised around the issues that had now been raised, it was noted that some poles did not have 24 hour power and data issues and contractors had stated that the work was greater than had been expected.

It was noted that the costs were in line with the costs presented in the October paper and that on track for \$1 million.

A query was raised if had changed any sites, it was affirmed that had not but that seven sites had been identified as possibly being difficult. It was asked if there were plans for a camera at Dunns Road, Mr Butcher noted he did not believe that was in stage one.

A query was raised around the tender response and if with the challenges being presented if there could be increased costs and change to the timeline. Mr Butcher noted that the contractor resourcing would drive the timeline and that would struggle to have the poles "livened" and would need to bring back opex costs to Council.

A query was raised around the supplier chosen and was there confidence that other cities and towns using that solution, it was affirmed that were confident.

A query was raised around costs versus data and data and server and that the cost was large. Mr Butcher noted that need to investigate and different cameras have differing data capture, cloud storage was getting cheaper and need to ensure future proof.

It was noted a complex programme and data security was also key.

A further query was raised around virtual versus hardware and the approved budget was \$1 million and only \$888,000 left and the costs of ongoing maintenance. It was noted that Christchurch City Council used hardware for data, and concern raised that this project was not what had been agreed. Ms Moogan noted that previous work had been done around the \$1 million budget but that did not include ongoing maintenance, when the Project Management Office took on the project it was flagged that some opex costs had not been included in the original budget.

It was asked if there would be a request for more budget. Mr Butcher noted that would look to see what the ten-year view would be and come back to the Committee. It was noted that there was a broader piece of work being done in Council on ICT project and cyber security, and that the cloud would be the better longer-term solution.

A query was raised if there had been any assumption in the LTP around ongoing costs. Mrs Hurst noted that had assumed there would be some and that there would be a need to look at the long term as Council also had other cameras in the network. It was noted that what was in the plan was predicted to be enough.

In response to a question, if had talked with other councils, Mr Butcher noted that he had talked to other councils and looked at what they had done.

Moved Cr Soper, seconded Cr Stewarts and **RESOLVED** that the Finance and Projects Committee:

1. Receives the report "Strategic Capital Projects Report".
2. Receives the "ICC PMO Programme Dashboard".
3. Notes the current status of the projects, including project risk assessment.

7. Public Excluded Session

Moved Cr Stewart, seconded Cr Bond and **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- a. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Finance and Projects Committee Meeting Held on 19 March 2024
- b. Invercargill Central Limited Monitoring Report

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minutes of the Public Excluded Session of the Finance and Projects Committee Held on 19 March 2024 	<p>Section 7(2)(a) Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Invercargill Central Limited Monitoring Report 	<p>Section 7(2)(h) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i) Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>Section 48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7</p>

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 4.54 pm.

SUBMISSION TO ENVIRONMENT SOUTHLAND LONG-TERM PLAN

To: Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday 30 April 2024

From: Rhiannon Suter, Manager – Strategy, Policy and Engagement

Approved: Patricia Christie - Group Manager - Finance and Assurance

Approved Date: Wednesday 24 April 2024

Open Agenda: Yes

Purpose and Summary

This report provides Council the opportunity to consider a submission to Environment Southland's (ES) Long-term Plan.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Receives the report "Submission to Environment Southland Long-term Plan".
2. Notes the forecast financial impact on Council as a result of the Environment Southland Long-term Plan, from \$183,834 to \$402,051, a \$ 218,217 (119%) increase.
3. Notes the forecast *direct* financial impact on Invercargill District ratepayers - Residential (+30%), Rural Industry (+12%), Commercial (+50%), Utilities (+142%) and Large Industry (+112%) and recognises that there will be a further indirect impact above this in order to fund the ICC contribution, an estimated additional 0.3% average increase on our rates as part of the Invercargill City Council Long-term Plan.
4. **Agrees/ Disagrees** to provide a submission to the Environment Southland Long-term Plan.
5. Discuss and agrees the key points for the submission, noting the options outlined in the report below **(delete/ amend as appropriate)**:
 - a. Support for focus on flood protection planning with request for clearer outline of prioritisation and scheduling for work in the Invercargill District as the major population and employment hub for the region, recognising the importance of a catchment led approach.
 - b. Welcome the inclusion of upgrades to the Waihōpai Dam, as one of three capital projects included, and request delivery of the remaining Waihōpai Floodbank project designed to work with the Stead Street Stopbank and pump station improvements, in an early year of the Long-term Plan.
 - c. Support for a simplified rating system, with request for Council to make use of differentials or other mechanisms to rebalance the current forecast outcome of

- the change in funding approach from land to capital value in order to create more balanced increases across different ratepayer categories.
- d. Request for ES to further consider the impact on Invercargill District residential ratepayers who in direct rates to ES and indirect (through paying their portion of the increased ICC rates bill from ES) will experience an average 32.64% rates increase to enable ES activities.
 - e. Support for a three year graduated shift from land to capital value of one third, two thirds and full shift. This will enable a graduated response for ratepayers to plan for a response to this change.
 - f. In addition to the issues outlined above, request, as was done in our 2021 submission, to end the Clean Air Loans Scheme, due to the availability of commercial loans. Council administers this system on behalf of Environment Southland which is creating overheads with no clear outcome benefits.
6. **Agrees/ disagrees** to request to be heard.

Background

Environment Southland (the Southland Regional Council) are consulting on their Long-term Plan and have engaged with Council to indicate a significant planned increase to rates, along with a change in the way they propose rating. Both of these changes together will result in an increase in the City Council's rates bill and in turn the amount the District ratepayers will need to pay both directly to Environment Southland (ES) via their Regional Council rates and indirectly through funding the City Council's contribution.

Possible points for the submission are outlined below, which are due on 6 May 2024.

Issues

Budget increases

Environment Southland (ES) is planning budget increases both to cover the rising cost of doing business and to introduce more flood protection work.

The most significant areas of flood protection work are investing in data, building expertise, capacity in the team, and planning for a capital works programme. There are three capital projects included in the Plan. One of these is in the Invercargill District – Improvements to the Waihōpai Dam. This work will improve the spillover so that in the event of the overtopping of the dam that this water can then return to the Waihōpai.

This work aligns with the focus Invercargill City Council has had on requesting additional data and knowledge from the Regional Council in order to inform our strategic asset planning. It is not yet known what work will take place in areas specifically to protect residents, industry and infrastructure in the Invercargill District.

Forecast increases for the different types of ratepayers of budget increases are:

- Residential (+25%)
- Rural Industry (+22%)
- Commercial (+30%)
- Utilities (+45%) and:
- Large Industry (+40%).

Forecast Invercargill City Council rates increase to ES for budget increases is 41%.

Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate – Revenue and Financing Policy Change

Environment Southland are proposing creating one infrastructure rate based on capital value replacing 140 targeted rates.

Moving from a land value to a capital value rate will shift more of the cost from rural industry onto other types of ratepayers. For example, rural industry within the Invercargill District will see a combined decrease of \$37,348 as a result of this policy change, or an average saving of \$97.26 (10% saving) per ratepayer, noting there are 384 ratepayers in this category. Residential ratepayers will receive a combined increase from this policy change of \$389,190 or average \$16.45 increase per ratepayer (5% increase). Commercial, utilities and large industry ratepayers increases will be more significant – 20%, 97% and 72% respectively.

The combined impact of these two changes (budget increase and policy change) is:

- Residential (+30%)
- Rural Industry (+12%)
- Commercial (+50%)
- Utilities (+142%); and
- Large Industry (+112%)

The total forecast Invercargill City Council rates increase to ES for increases is +119%.

Rates impact for Invercargill City Council and District

Invercargill City Council rates to ES are forecast to increase from \$183,834 to \$402,051, a \$218,217 (119%) increase as a result of the proposed changes.

The majority of this increase is driven by the change to the forecast utilities rates increase.

Invercargill City Council owns:

- 56 commercial properties with a combined forecast rates bill of \$78,595, an increase of 68%.
- 49 residential properties with a combined forecast rates bill of \$17,173, an increase of 41%.
- 5 rural industry properties with a combined forecast rates bill of \$4,009, an increase of 36%. (The property valuation changes for some Council owned properties has meant that the increases for property Council owns differs from the average).
- 4 utilities properties with a combined forecast rates bill of \$302,273, an increase of 148%.

The forecast impact on Invercargill District ratepayers of this increased cost is approximately 0.3% Invercargill District rates increase. The summary below estimates how this will be split across our ratepayer categories.

Combined Forecast District Ratepayer Increases as a Result of Environment Southland Proposed Rate Increases.

Environment Southland uses slightly different land use grouping to Invercargill and the numbers below use a best matching approach.

Residential ratepayers within the District will see a total average increase of 30%, of which 25% relates to budget increase and 5% to policy change. In addition, residential ratepayers will see an average increase in their Invercargill District rates to cover the increased Council rates to ES of a further 0.22%. This would increase the average Invercargill residential rates increase to 8.43%. The total direct and indirect rates increase to ES for residential properties would be 32.64%. The lifestyle property increase would be 0.39% increasing the average Invercargill Lifestyle property increase to 11.92%. The total direct and indirect rates increase to ES for lifestyle properties would be 32.64%

Rural industry ratepayers within the District will see a total average increase of 12%, of which 22% relates to budget increase and -10% to policy change. In addition, rural industry (farming/agriculture) ratepayers will see an average increase in their Invercargill District rates to cover the increased Council rates to ES of 0.41%. This would increase the average Farming/Agriculture rates increase to 5.8%. The total direct and indirect rates increase to ES for rural industry ratepayers would be 12.64%.

Commercial ratepayers within the District will see a total average increase of 50%, of which 30% relates to budget increase and 20% to policy change. In addition, commercial ratepayers will see an average increase in their Invercargill District rates to cover the increased Council rates to ES of 0.24%. This would increase the average Commercial/Industrial rates increase to 13.24%. The total direct and indirect rates increase to ES for commercial ratepayers would be 53.34%.

Utilities ratepayers within the District will see a total average increase of 142%, of which 45% relates to budget increase and 97% to policy change. In addition, utilities ratepayers will see an average increase in their Invercargill District rates to cover the increased Council rates to ES of 0.39%. The total direct and indirect rates increase to ES for utilities properties would be 113.16%.

Large industry ratepayers within the District will see a total average increase of 112%, of which 40% relates to budget increase and 72% to policy change. In addition, large industry ratepayers will see an average increase in their Invercargill District rates to cover the increased Council rates to ES of 0.44%. The total direct and indirect rates increase to ES for large industry properties would be 113.16%.

Possible points for the submission

- A simplified rating system is welcomed. Dependent on the views of Council on the balance in costs between rural industry and other ratepayer types, this simplification may not have resulted in an outcome which Council views as favourable. Their proposal results in a significant reweighting of the burden from rural industry to other categories of ratepayers with no clear commensurate reweighting of benefits of service provision.
- The increase in funding for flood protection planning is in line with previous Council requests. Council may wish to understand more where the future investment of capital improvements will be prioritised within the catchment approach to ensure the needs of City residents, infrastructure and industry receive the protection needed.
- The remaining Waihōpai Floodbank project designed to work with the Stead Street Stopbank and pump station improvements which have been delivered by ICC and ES respectively, is known to be a high priority for Council. Council could request this work be prioritised and budgeted for in an early year of the Long-term Plan.
- Invercargill City Council owns commercial, residential, rural industry and utilities properties. The largest impact on our forecast rates increase is utilities. The cost of

meeting the ES rates is met through the Invercargill District general rate meaning that the larger portion of this cost will be met by residential ratepayers.

- Council could propose a review of the extent to which the balance of costs is distributed across ratepayer categories, utilising differentials to rebalance the impact. An additional approach could be three year graduated shift from land to capital value of one third, two thirds and full shift. This will enable a graduated response for ratepayers to plan for a response to this change.
- In addition to the issues outlined above, it is requested again, as was done in our 2021 submission, to end the Clean Air Loans Scheme, as a result of the availability of commercial loans. Council administers this system on behalf of ES which is creating overheads with no clear outcome benefits.

Next Steps

Following feedback from Council, the submission will be made to Environment Southland.

Given that Council will be deliberating on its Long-term Plan ahead of Environment Southland it is assumed that the estimated \$219,000 increase in ICC rates will be funded by general rates in 2024/25 and corrections will be made to the targeted water rates for the 2025/26 Annual Plan.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Environment Southland LTP Consultation Document (A5311494).

Attachment 2 - Environment Southland Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal (A5311486).

A5311494

Investing in **Southland** Whakangao ki Murihiku

2024-2034 Long-term Plan Consultation Document



A5311494

The **makaurangi graphic** – fingerprint (a universal symbol of identity) acknowledges tangata whenua and weaves together designs representing the four pou (pillars) of the Council’s Long-term Plan consultation – cultural, environmental, economic and social.

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Cover image: Waihōpai River

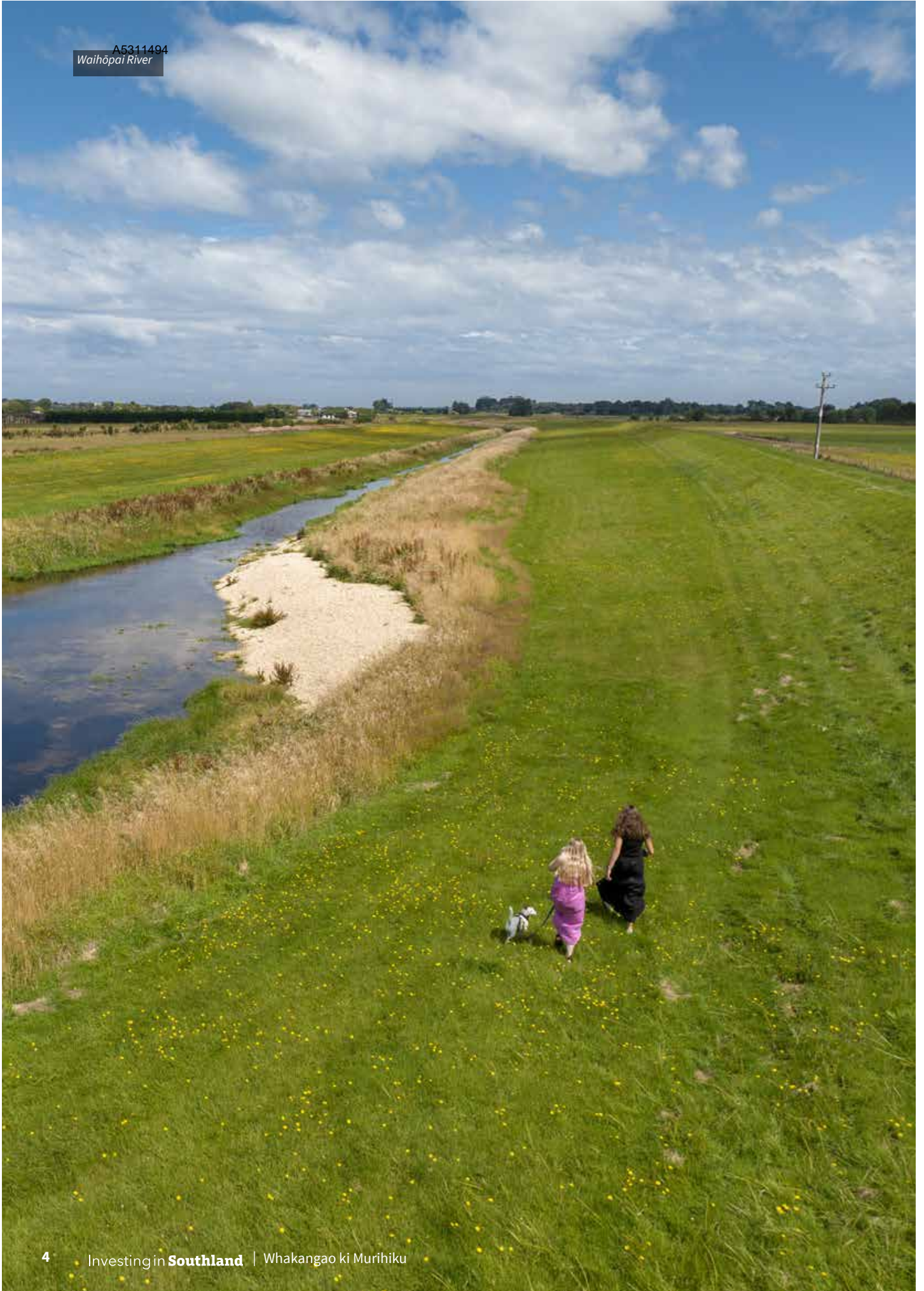
A5311494

Ka haea te ata
Ka hāpara te ata
Ka korokī te manu
Ka wairori te ngutu Ko te ata nui
Ka horahia
Ka tangi te umere a ngā tamariki
He awatea

The daybreak comes forth
The birds sing
Welcoming the great day
Spread before us
Joy unfolds
Behold a new day

Source: Te Tangi a Taurira, 2008

A5311494
Waihōpai River



A5311494



Our consultation document

This consultation document presents the Council's significant matters relating to our levels of services and budget and asks for your views on what we are proposing.

The feedback you provide will assist councillors with their decision making for the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan, which sets out our work programmes and budgets for the next ten years, with emphasis on the first three years.

The Council is proposing ongoing and greater investment in flood protection for Southland to improve community resilience. We are facing challenges with a changing climate and an ageing flood infrastructure. We want to build our capability, improve our infrastructure, increase flood modelling, and investigate other ways to reduce flood risk.

During the last Long-term Plan period we raised debt to match Government co-funding for the climate resilience projects (shovel ready) undertaken. The Government funding was very beneficial for projects in Matakura, Wyndham, Gore, Waiau, and Invercargill but now requires us to meet the financing costs of this debt.

Inflation is also something we have to build into our budget. Other than inflation, interest, and our proposed investment in flood protection, we are not planning any further changes to our work programme, which we can deliver within existing budgets. For the first year of our Long-term Plan we are proposing zero growth in all of our other work programmes and 2% growth in the following years.

To support ongoing investment in flood infrastructure the Council has undertaken a funding review and is proposing changes to its Revenue and Financing Policy, which is currently being consulted on separately. Full details are available in the Statement of Proposal on our website www.es.govt.nz.

The proposed changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy would change the way we rate. The rates information in this consultation document for the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan has been calculated using the proposed new rate allocations in the Statement of Proposal and the increase in budget to cover inflation, interest, and investment in flood protection infrastructure.

Together, the proposed increase in flood infrastructure protection investment, inflation, and interest on completed capital projects contribute to the overall rates increases outlined on page 23. In addition, we are proposing a change to how we rate, starting in 2024/25, to provide a more equitable approach across the region. There is further explanation on pages 18-21, which shows that the rates increase for the 2024-25 year would result in, on average, one third of rate payers paying up to \$1 more per week; another third paying between \$1 and \$2 more per week, and overall, 80% of ratepayers would get a reduction in rates or be paying less than \$3 more per week. The tables on pages 20 & 21 can help people determine the impact on their properties and a rates calculator is available online at www.es.govt.nz.

The key matter for the Long-term Plan consultation is increased and ongoing investment in Southland's flood protection infrastructure network.

Within this document is information about other separate opportunities to provide feedback on including the Revenue and Financing Policy, the Council's shareholding in South Port NZ Ltd, the Climate Change Strategy, the representation review, the fees and charges schedule, and various other policies. See the Other feedback section on page 25 for details.

Supporting documentation relating to all matters open for consultation is available on our website www.es.govt.nz.

A5311494



Our responsibilities and work programmes

As a regional council, Environment Southland has a broad range of responsibilities. These include the sustainable management of Southland's natural resources – air, freshwater, land, and the coast; plus, regional transport, biosecurity and biodiversity, marine, flood protection, hazard and climate response.

Planning for the impacts of a changing climate is an important consideration we apply across our work programmes, not only our flood protection infrastructure. The impacts of this will affect all areas of our work and people's lives and our aim is to build community resilience for Southland – environmentally, socially, culturally, and economically.

In the coming years we will be prioritising the management of flood risk through a range of work programmes from catchment operations and river management to our hazard planning, hydrology programme, flood warning and emergency management.

Achieving outcomes for freshwater remains an important priority, where we will continue working with landowners on catchment integration programmes, implementing the Southland Water and Land Plan, Plan Change Tuatahi, and farm environmental management plans.

In the year ahead we will begin gathering data for the next Regional Pest Management Plan. Our biodiversity programme, which aims to protect Southland's native species and ecosystems, will continue to provide advice, support and grants to landowners and the community.

Scientific monitoring is an essential programme that supports our water and land and coastal marine programmes, particularly with work on the coastal plan review in the coming years. Consents and compliance are also core activities.

A5311494



From the chairman

The proposals for this Long-term Plan come after much consideration about how we can improve community resilience for Southland, and in a way that is affordable.

Our climate is changing and we are witnessing the devastating effects of floods and fires in other parts of New Zealand. Floods remain Southland's most likely natural hazard with our four big river systems. The Council wants to position Southland as well as we can to weather, and recover quickly from, the inevitable floods that will come our way.

While flood protection is our top priority, we have also given attention to our other work programmes. With careful business planning the organisation has been able to clearly prioritise projects, which is critical for keeping our budget in check.

Investment in flood protection mitigation and allowing for inflation are where there will be increased costs. All other programmes will continue within the current budget, plus inflation.

Councillors are keen to listen to people's views on what we are proposing and I encourage you to take the time to read through the information and let us know what you think.

Nicol Horrell
Chairman
Environment Southland

A5311494
Wyndham flood protection upgrade, March 2023



Investing in flood protection infrastructure

Proposed Approach



Due to the challenges of Southland's ageing flood protection network and a changing climate resulting in more severe and enduring weather events we are proposing increased and ongoing investment in the region's flood protection infrastructure and river management to increase community resilience.

Preferred Option



Increase operating expenditure by \$2.3m per annum to be funded by a proposed new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate (see Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal – www.es.govt.nz).

This proposal would result in an average rates increase of \$22 a year for a Southland property valued at \$450k; \$239 for a property valued at \$5m.

A5311494



Southland has four main river systems – Mataura, Ōreti, Aparima, Waiau – and flooding is our most likely natural hazard.

Environment Southland is responsible for flood risk mitigation and our regional network of flood protection infrastructure.

The network comprises 500+ kilometres of stop banks across the region, drainage networks, spillways, dams, tidal gates and pump stations. It is designed to engineering specifications to substantially reduce the impact of flooding on people, property and critical infrastructure such as roads, utilities, telecommunications and the airport. As a result, it plays an important part in protecting people’s livelihoods and the region’s economy, which has a GDP of \$7.3 billion.

In 2020, we were successful in gaining significant Government funding support for flood protection shovel ready projects (climate resilience) worth \$18.7 million. This meant we could complete flood damage remediation on the Waiau River and upgrades at Mataura. Other upgrades are underway at Gore, Wyndham and in Invercargill on the Waihōpai River and at Stead Street (pump house). A co-funding arrangement with central government funding meant this work is being done sooner than it would have been.

Our work programme currently provides for more capital works in Winton, Lumsden and Waihōpai over the next three years to a value of \$14m. Refer to the Infrastructure Strategy on our website for more detail (www.es.govt.nz).

What’s the issue



Southland’s flood protection infrastructure has served us well in recent decades, but it is ageing (30+ years old) and this, coupled with more enduring and severe weather due to a changing climate, is putting it under pressure. Over time, these challenges may reduce the infrastructure’s level of protection and investment is needed to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

We live differently to the way we did 30+ years ago. We rely on our critical infrastructure, such as roads, utilities and telecommunications, to do business and for our daily lives. Our flood protection infrastructure reduces the impact of flooding on these assets, protecting our livelihoods and regional economy, as well as Southlanders and their properties.

It is critical that we have ongoing investment and plan for the future so that Southland can build its resilience and continue to thrive now and for generations to come.

A5311494



This is important for all of us, not only people who live near rivers. It's time to acknowledge that we all benefit – socially and economically.

How all Southlanders benefit from flood protection

Southland's flood defences have been repeatedly tested over recent decades and they have stood up well.

However, our flood protection infrastructure network is older now (30+ years) and it is coming under increasing pressure due to more enduring and severe weather.

We want to invest in flood protection mitigations in an ongoing way to support Southland's social and economic resilience for now and the future.

In the past, the prevailing belief was that those nearest the rivers were the ones who benefitted from flood protection infrastructure, because it protected their properties.

Most of our flood protection infrastructure was built and upgraded after the 1984 floods; 40 years ago. We live differently to the way we did back then when everything was more localised. Now, we have a strong reliance on critical infrastructure, such as roads, utilities, telecommunications and the airport to do business and for our daily lives.



Critical infrastructure

Critical infrastructure, sometimes referred to as lifelines, includes all those key assets and services that are essential to the way we live. These include energy, communications, water and transportation.

Most businesses and communities cannot be well sustained without critical infrastructure. Electricity, telecommunications, drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems are all essential.

Our roading network is key to our economy. It brings goods in to fill our supermarket shelves and shifts products, with milk tankers on our roads daily, stock and product movements. We need our roads to get freight from and to our port and airport, and to support the tourism sector.

Our roads allow us to fulfil our responsibilities and interests, professionally and personally, and to come together as families and as a community. They give quick passage for emergency services and for us to get to hospitals and to travel.

Southland's flood protection infrastructure reduces the impact of flooding on these assets, protecting our livelihoods and regional economy, as well as Southlanders and properties.

Flood protection infrastructure substantially reduces the impact of flooding on our critical infrastructure, properties and people. This is important for all of us, not only people who live near rivers and it's time to acknowledge that we all benefit – socially and economically.



A5311494

What we are proposing

The proposal to invest in ongoing flood protection is outlined below. This is our preferred option with the alternative option being the status quo.

Investing in river management and flood protection infrastructure improvements.

This proposal is for our immediate flood protection and river management needs, including gravel management, while we plan and position ourselves for the transition to alternative ways of managing floodplains over the medium and longer-term.

It is not viable to keep building higher and higher stop banks. One alternative is nature-based initiatives such as wetlands for water retention, native plantings and restoring old channels. This is something we have already started to explore.

Our proposal is for ongoing and greater investment in flood protection mitigation due to the challenges we face with our ageing infrastructure and the changing climate.

We are proposing to increase our investment in flood mitigation by an annual \$2.3m in operational expenditure. For a Southland property valued at \$450k this would be approximately 40 cents a week or \$22 per year.

Catchment Liaison Committees

The proposals for flood protection have been discussed with Catchment Liaison Committee chairs, as councillors worked through the implications and options.

Catchment Liaison Committees (CLCs) were originally established by the Council in 1979 to advise and assist Environment Southland in the development of annual maintenance works programmes and budgets for each river community, regarding special river and land drainage management issues.

Following a review in 2020, their scope was extended to include advice on emerging issues including biodiversity, water quality and quantity, ecological health and soil health to complement river works, flood and river erosion control services. This more integrated perspective aligns well to the Council's integrated catchment management approach, which recognises that all these aspects are inter-related.

Discussions have been ongoing with the CLC chairs about taking a more whole-of-catchment approach, given that it is now recognised that flood protection has benefits for everyone and not only those closest to the rivers.

A5311494

We are proposing two key areas of investment.

- ▶ First, we want to improve our data collection and analysis and use new technology such as LiDAR computerised modelling to better understand Southland's river systems and how our infrastructure is faring. This would improve our knowledge and ability to determine appropriate mitigations. It would also put us in a much better position to take advantage of new technologies and methodologies for flood mitigation.
- ▶ We also want to build expertise and capacity in our catchment team to support increased resilience for our flood infrastructure. Currently, we deal with the most pressing maintenance issues first and we would like to increase our focus so that even deferred, lower priority matters are dealt with. Increased capacity is also necessary to give us the ability to deliver on the proposed capital works programme for new infrastructure proposed from year 4 of the Long-term Plan.

In addition we are planning a capital works programme across the network throughout the Long-term Plan period. This could involve replacement of some infrastructure and the creation of new infrastructure. This type of planning would also put us in a good position to take advantage of any government infrastructure funding that could become available.

Current capital works projects will result in an approximate increase of 30 cents per week, or \$15 per year, for a Southland property valued at \$450k.

Our 30-year infrastructure strategy sets out how we will manage our flood protection infrastructure and flood plains. Our approach to the infrastructure strategy aligns to the draft climate change strategy created by Southland's four councils (see page 27), particularly the principle of whakarāneinei anticipation: adopting a data-driven approach in developing proactive action plans, prioritising long-term thinking and reinvestment in our environmental capital.

**Investment
for Southland's
social and
economic
resilience
for now and
the future**

**Improved
monitoring &
data collection**



**Build
expertise &
capacity**



**Planning a
capital works
programme**





Slow the Flow

The Council is currently engaged in a two-year Murihiku Slow the Flow Project aimed at identifying ways to better protect high flood risk areas.

The project was granted \$370k from the Ministry for the Environment's Nature-based Solutions to Climate Adaptation Fund, in 2023.

This will help us understand the feasibility of nature-based climate adaptation solutions, to reduce the impact on high flood risk areas.

This project is a collective initiative with Te Ao Mārama and the other Southland councils.

Available on our website
www.es.govt.nz

- ▶ The infrastructure strategy and asset management plans for flood infrastructure.
- ▶ Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal on Rates (being consulted on separately as required by the Local Government Act). Also see page 25.

Implications

The aim of these investments is to improve the community's resilience to the impacts of increasingly intense flood events as a result of more frequent, severe and enduring weather events. This is to help protect people from the full impacts of flooding and to reduce damage so communities have the ability to recover more quickly. It is to maintain the level of protection, and where affordable, to improve or increase it.

The Council, alongside the regional sector, is lobbying the Government for more investment in flood protection. What we are proposing will put us in the best possible position to take advantage of Government funding opportunities. If we are unable to secure government funding we would relook at our plans.

The Council has also undertaken a funding review, which would change the way we rate and repay debt on flood infrastructure. This is currently being consulted on separately (see Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal – www.es.govt.nz)

If we don't make these investments and maintain the status quo our ability to manage our flood protection infrastructure will not be as effective as it could be. As a result, the infrastructure's ability to endure the increasing severity of weather events may decline over time, increasing the risk of flooding.

Reduced investment would also limit our ability to develop our flood resilience knowledge (through modelling and other activities) and in turn affect our planning for the future. We would continue with our maintenance programme where we address the most pressing matters, and defer others, and we would not have the funding for more capital investment.

A5311494

Recent climate resilience projects (shovel ready)

In 2020 the Government announced funding for flood protection projects in Southland as part of its Covid-19 economic recovery package. Some of these climate resilience projects have been completed, and others will be finished by mid-2024.

The climate resilience projects include remediation following flood damage for the Waiau River, replacement of the Stead Street pump station to protect Invercargill airport and stop bank upgrades for Gore, Maitai, Wyndham and Invercargill on the Waihopai River.

The Government funding contribution was \$13.9m. The total cost of the work was expected to be \$18.7m, with the Government covering 75% of the cost and the Council contributing 25% or \$4.8m, in a co-funding arrangement.

During the time these projects were underway New Zealand experienced big increases in inflation and labour supply constraints in construction and this has impacted our projects. We also incurred extra costs when new legislation required us to upgrade our pumps for the airport area, to fish-friendly pumps.

These increases mean the Council's contribution to the upgrades now sits at about 50%. While this is more than the 25% originally expected, it represents a strategic investment in the resilience for Southland. This is particularly true for the airport area, from which all Southlanders benefit with the movement of goods in and out of the region and for personal and business travel requirements.

Because the Government's shovel ready funding was unexpected, we used reserves of \$700k for the 2020-21 year for our share, the balance was funded from borrowing, for which we are now paying interest.

In the 2021-2031 Long-term Plan consultation document we said we intended to borrow the money to complete the projects, which we did. We explained that this gave us the opportunity to spread repayments over time to minimise the impact on annual rates requirements and that we would review how we fund repayments. This now forms part of the Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal consultation currently underway (see page 25), where we propose to fund the local share of flood infrastructure investment, including the climate resilience projects, from borrowing. Interest and debt repayment would be funded through the new Flood Protection Infrastructure rate.

Flood warning and river level information

Our river level information is one of the most visited parts of our website, with many landowners routinely using it to help manage their properties and stock during times of increased rainfall and high river flows.

We also have a flood warning system that we can activate on our website. It has two trigger points. A 'high river' watch triggered by our hydrologists once flows on a main river reach a certain level. If flows go beyond that and reach the second trigger point, our hydrologists activate a 'flood warning'.

We let people know via our Facebook page and through the Antenno app and people can check our website at any time.

Every high flow event is different and depending on circumstances, we may also ask radio stations to broadcast a public notice.

Serious situations that could lead to evacuations and/or action following a state of emergency being declared are managed by Emergency Management Southland (EMS). Environment Southland liaises closely with EMS during high river flows.

Call 03 211 5010 or visit www.es.govt.nz (environmental data)

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The budget and your rates

The Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2002, to have a balanced budget. That means we need to raise enough income in any year to pay for our day-to-day work. We also need to take a financially prudent approach to borrowing and paying back any debt. Our proposed budget for the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan meets these requirements.

We receive our income from a range of sources including investment income, South Port dividends (from our majority shareholding) rental income from leasehold land, fees and charges, levies and contributions and rates.

Like individuals, businesses, and other organisations, we have been dealing with inflationary pressures and these are predicted to continue. The inflation figures for the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan will be adjusted as the Plan is being developed (to the end of June). Our assumption is that inflation is likely to be above 4% through until 2027.



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For the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan we propose to:

- ▶ Build inflation into our budget.
- ▶ Increase investment in our flood protection infrastructure programme – this investment is the biggest percentage of our proposed rate increase with an operational investment of \$2.3m per annum.
- ▶ Adjust the Uniform Annual General Charge down from \$143 per year to \$120 per year.
- ▶ Maintain other work programmes with zero budget increase, apart from inflation, for the first year of the Long-term Plan. In the second and third years we are proposing 2% growth in work programmes.
- ▶ Use Government co-funding (currently not secured) and debt to pay for future capital flood protection projects. The debt would be paid using the new flood infrastructure rate, which over time would achieve intergenerational equity.

To support the proposed investment in flood protection infrastructure, the Council has undertaken a funding review and is proposing changes to its Revenue and Financing Policy. This is currently being consulted on separately, with full details available in the Statement of Proposal on our website. Also, see page 25.

The proposed changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy would change the way we rate flood protection infrastructure. The rates information in this consultation document for the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan is calculated using the proposed new rate allocations in the Statement of Proposal.

Available on our website www.es.govt.nz

- ▶ Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal on Rates (being consulted on separately as required by the Local Government Act). Also see page 25.

Government Funding Assumptions

Over the last three years, there has been significant extra investment in flood management infrastructure both nationally and regionally though central government's climate resilience funding (Covid-19) shovel ready projects.

The regional sector of local government has put together a business case highlighting the need for continued co-investment by central and local government in flood management infrastructure to improve New Zealand-wide community resilience against extreme weather events. As the risk of flooding increases due to more intense and frequent severe weather events there is a risk of the insurance sector withdrawing or retreating.

Environment Southland therefore believes it is prudent to include provision for ongoing co-investment in flood management capital works projects from year 4 of this Long-term Plan. This government funding is not confirmed however it is included to show what is required to achieve the preferred outcome and Environment Southland's contribution towards this.

Should central government funding not be available, Environment Southland would need to reassess how to proceed with its provisional capital works programme ahead of its 2027-2037 Long-term Plan noting the constraints around debt funding that currently exist.

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What does it mean for me?

The proposed rate increases are averages and the actual increase will be dependent on factors related to your individual property. Every property is different and there will be variations. Rate increases would be proportional to the capital value of the property.

We use the latest valuations from Quotable Value to determine individual property values. We anticipate

increasing values, based on information from Quotable Value, and use an equalisation process to even out any large changes.

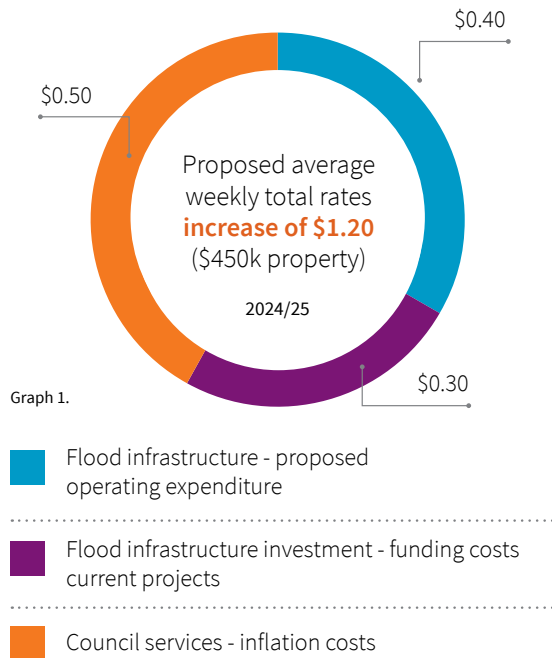
For more detailed information there is a schedule on our website (www.es.govt.nz) and a rates calculator that can give you specific information about your property.

Your rates - a guide

- ▶ This information is based on our proposals to invest in flood protection infrastructure and represents proposed changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy, which would change the way we rate. Go to our website for the Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal (being consulted on separately).
- ▶ The rates information in this consultation document for the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan has been calculated using the proposed new rate allocations in the Statement of Proposal and the increase in budget to cover inflation, interest, and enable investment in flood protection infrastructure.

Proposed average weekly total rates increase of \$1.20 for a \$450k property.

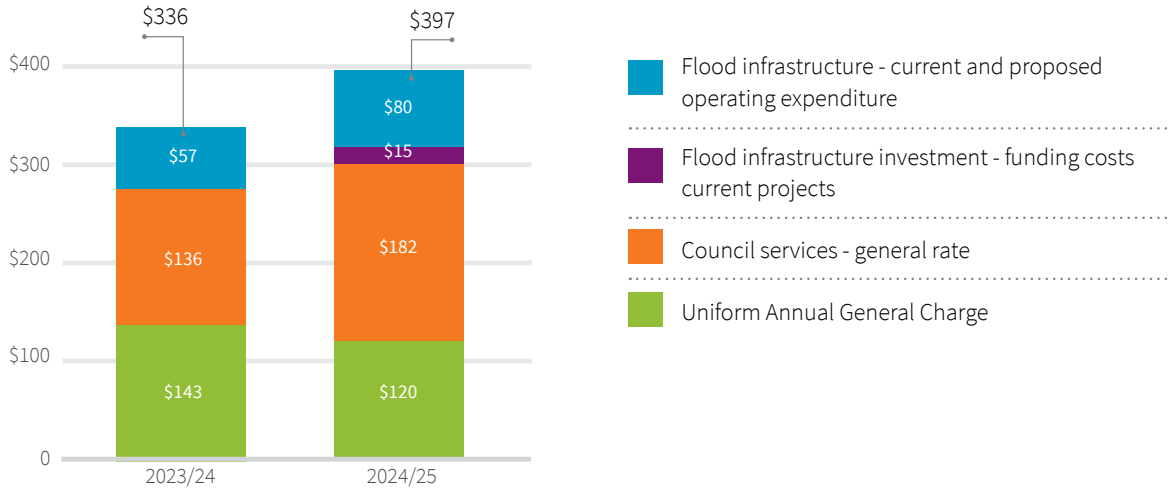
A Southland property valued at \$450K would have a proposed rate increase of \$1.20 per week for 2024/25. Of that, 50 cents per week would fund our normal operating activities (inclusive of inflation), 30 cents per week to pay for interest and depreciation on our current flood infrastructure projects, and 40 cents per week for our proposed increase in Flood Protection Infrastructure operating expenditure (See graph 1).



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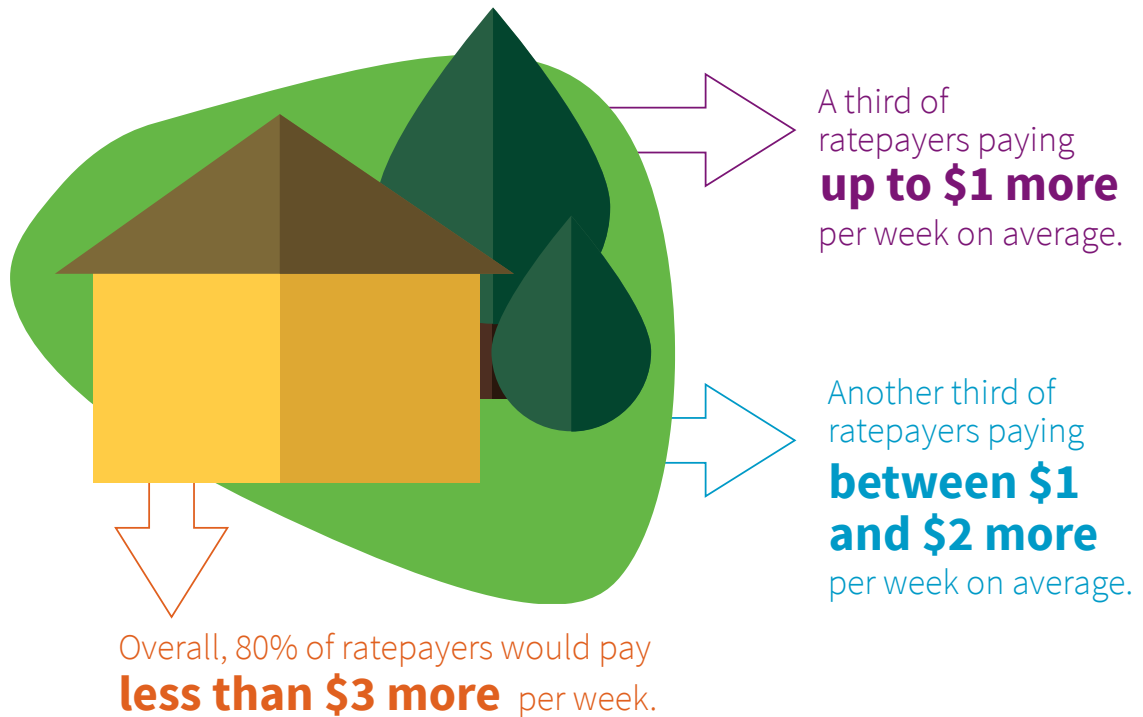
Proposed average annual total rates increase for a Southland property valued at \$450k.

The annual rate increase for the same property would be \$61, with the total rates contribution breakdown shown in graph 2. For a visual representation of the potential impact on Southland properties across a range of values see tables 1-4 on pages 20-21.



Graph 2.

When looking at the impact of the proposals for all ratepayers (including residential, rural and commercial), this will result in:



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All properties in Southland

Average \$ increase in rates for 2024/25 year	\$ per week	Properties in this category
<52	<1	17,445
52-152	1 - 3	23,386
152-252	3 - 5	5,309
252-352	5 - 7	2,102
352-452	7 - 9	860
452-552	9 - 10	522
>552	10+	1,762
		51,386

Table 1. Average increase in total rates for all Southland property and the number of properties within each rate increase range.

Use our online rates calculator to see how the proposed changes affect you at www.es.govt.nz

The following tables indicate the proposed total rate increase for Southland residential, rural and commercial properties across a range of values (including both proposed Revenue and Financing Policy changes and proposed increase in investment in flood protection infrastructure).

Residential properties

Capital \$ value of property	Average \$ increase in rates for 2024/25 year	\$ per week	Properties in this category
<300,000	17	0.3	9,123
300,000-449,999	65	1.3	16,177
450,000-599,999	95	1.8	8,007
600,000-749,999	136	2.6	4,241
750,000-900,000	193	3.7	2,323
>900,000	360	6.9	2,665
			42,536

Table 2. Average increase in total rates for Southland residential property across a range of values and the number of properties within each value range.

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Rural properties

Capital \$ value of property	Average \$ increase in rates for 2024/25 year	\$ per week	Properties in this category
<2,000,000	66	1.3	2,714
2,000,000-3,999,999	226	4.4	1,230
4,000,000-5,999,999	321	6.2	729
6,000,000-7,999,999	521	10.0	403
8,000,000-10,000,000	551	10.6	250
>10,000,000	1,302	25.0	281
			5,607

Table 3. Average increase in total rates for Southland rural property across a range of values and the number of properties within each value range.

Commercial properties

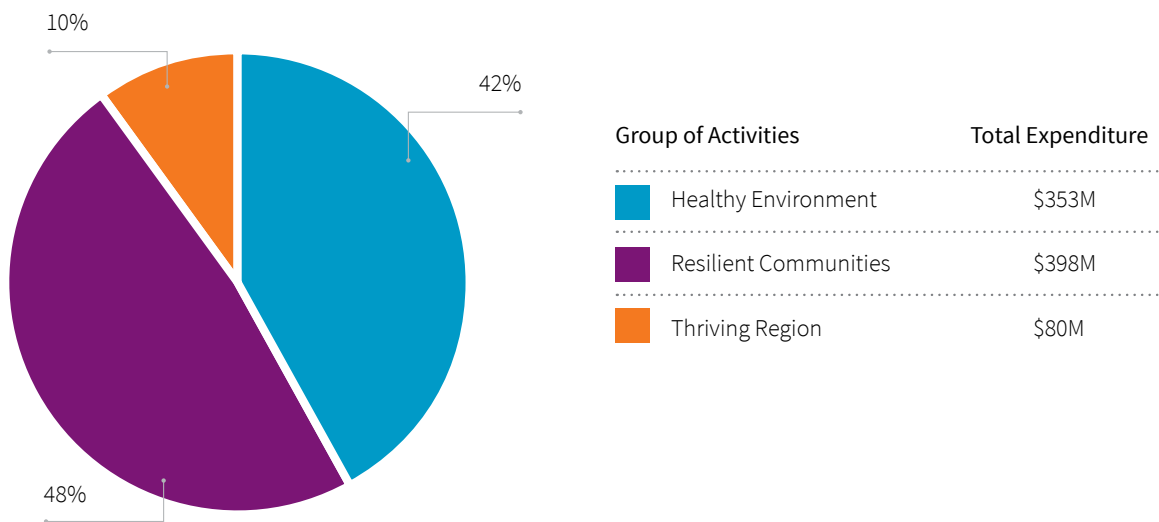
Capital value of property	Average \$ increase in rates for 2024/25 year	Properties in this category
<1,000,000	23	2,612
1,000,000-1,999,999	219	337
2,000,000-2,999,999	445	114
3,000,000-3,999,999	759	51
4,000,000-5,000,000	1,020	26
>5,000,000	11,975	103
		3,243

Table 4. Average increase in total rates for Southland commercial property across a range of values and the number of properties within each value range.

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10-year budget at a glance

10 Year Budget and Total Expenditure (Millions)



Groups of activities and total expenditure

All of Environment Southland’s work programmes and activities are represented across three groups of activities. The proposed budget reflects a strong emphasis on resilient communities, which is a key priority for the Council and the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan.

Our three groups of activities are outlined below.

Healthy environment – to protect enhance and restore Southland’s natural environment, indigenous biodiversity and its capacity to provide for current and future generations.

Safe and resilient communities – to enable communities to provide for their health, safety and social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

Thriving region – to enable democratic decision making and promote practices that allow communities and our natural environment to flourish.

Environment Southland undertakes the following high-level activities within these groups of activities:

- ▶ Regulation and Planning
- ▶ Science, Research and Monitoring
- ▶ Community Engagement and Education
- ▶ Partnerships
- ▶ Operations
- ▶ Governance and Strategy

Available on our website
www.es.govt.nz

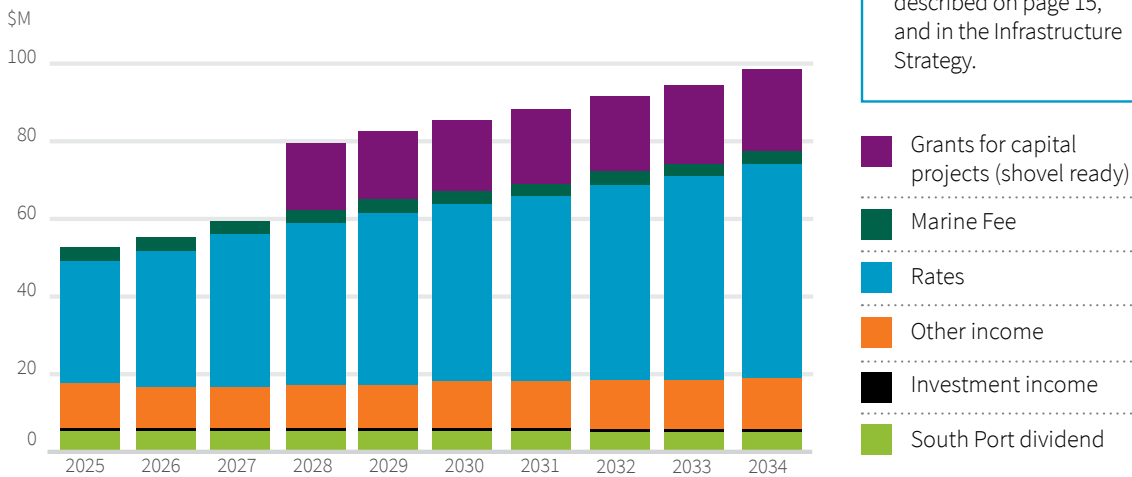
- ▶ [A detailed breakdown of our work programme](#)

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How do the dollars stack up

Funding sources

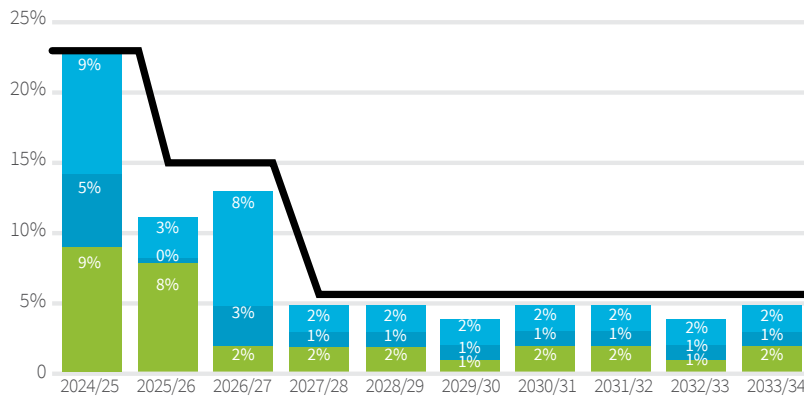
The following graph shows how we are proposing to fund our work over the next ten years from various funding sources.



Note that this includes the reliance on Government co-funding for this work (Capital Grants – Shovel Ready) to proceed as described on page 15, and in the Infrastructure Strategy.

Graph 3. Funding sources for Environment Southland's work programme over the next ten years.

Proposed Average Rates Increases 2024 - 2034



Graph 4. Proposed total rate percentage increases annually for the ten year 2024-34 LTP period.

Note 1: Flood infrastructure includes interest costs for the debt interest on climate resilience (shovel ready) projects.

Note 2: Proposed average increases are within the quantified limit (maximum) outlined in the Financial Strategy

- Flood infrastructure - current and proposed operating expenditure
- Flood infrastructure investment - funding costs current and future projects
- Council services - general rate
- Quantified limit on rates increases

Rates are forecast to increase annually over the next 10 years as shown in graph 4.

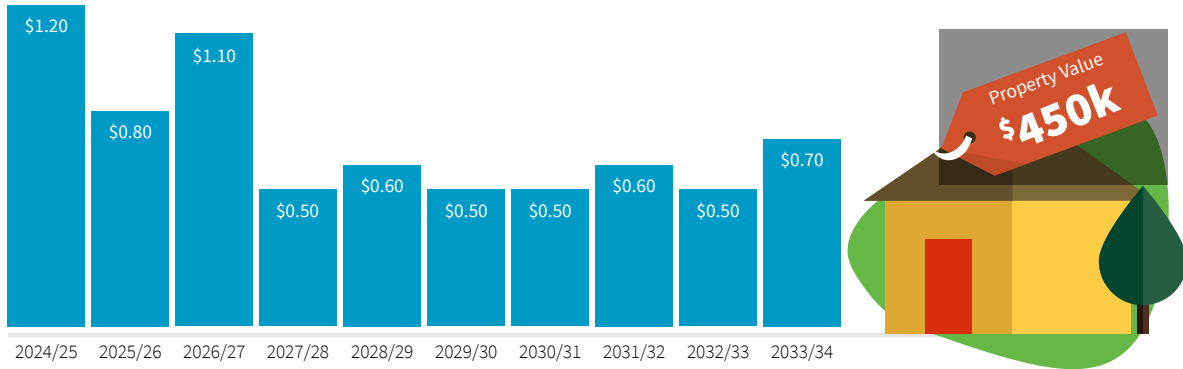
The general rate (green) reflects the impact of inflation and limited growth in year one and two. Inflation is forecast to reduce from 2027/28 onwards.

The flood infrastructure rate (blue) reflects the requirement of investment in our flood protection infrastructure. This has been further split into the cost of funding our current projects, and the cost of funding the proposed activities. The smaller increases from year 4 onwards are inclusive of, and dependent on, Government co-funding as described on page 15 and in the Infrastructure Strategy.

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Proposed average weekly total rates for a \$450k property

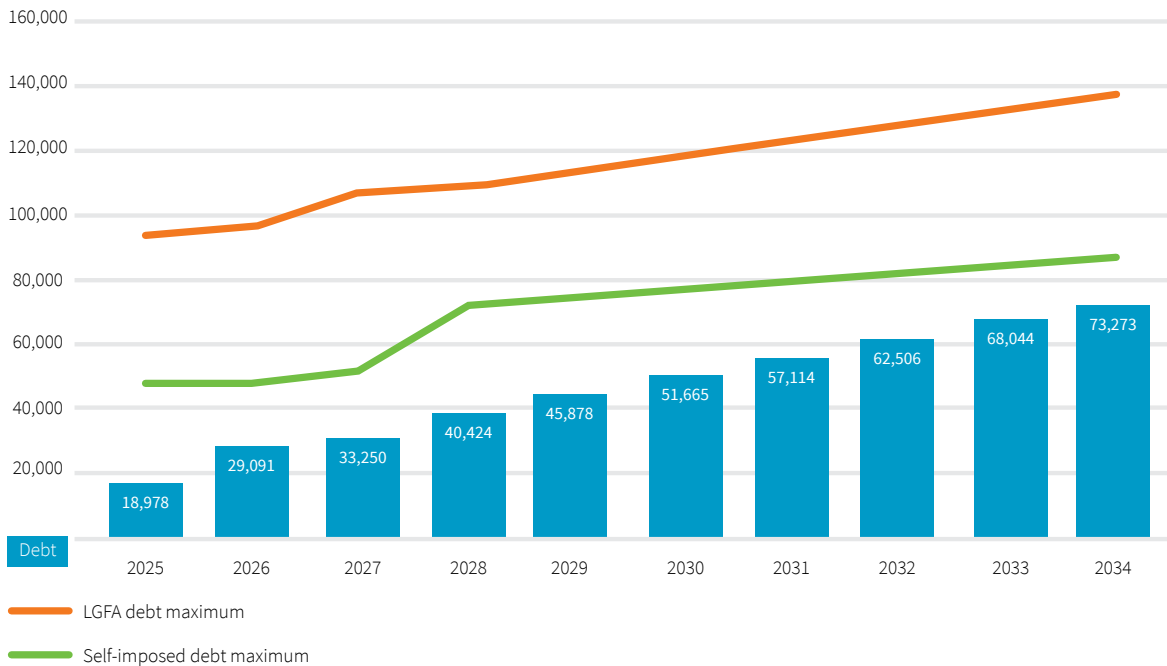
To provide an indication of the change in rates over the next ten years based on property value see graph 5. This references the proposed average weekly rates increase for a Southland property valued at \$450k.



Graph 5. Proposed average weekly increase annually for the 2024-2034 ten year period for a Southland property valued at \$450k.

As previously indicated in the budget and your rates section we are proposing to use Government co-funding (currently not secured) and debt to pay for current and future capital flood protection projects. The projected borrowing is within the borrowing limits as per the financial strategy.

Forecast Debt 2024-34 (\$'000's)



Graph 6. Forecasted debt over the 2024-2034 ten year period.



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Milford Sound / Piopiotahi



Other Feedback

Feedback is being sought on the following topics, alongside the matters raised for the Long-term Plan.

► Revenue and Financing Policy – changing how we rate

The Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal is presented at a time when we are seeing the impacts of more severe weather conditions. Flooding is Southland’s most common natural hazard and the devastating consequences of the recent floods in the North Island show how people and critical infrastructure can be affected well beyond the immediate river catchment area.

It is becoming clear that to build Southland’s resilience as a community we need to look at the value our services have across the region and acknowledge that for most services, everyone benefits, whether that’s socially, environmentally, culturally and/or economically.

Therefore, the Council undertook a review of funding and our Revenue and Financing Policy and thoroughly debated how we could more equitably share the costs across the region. As a result, we are consulting on a proposed change to our rating system where everyone shares in the cost of the services that benefits all.

As required by the Local Government Act, we are consulting on the Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal, separately, but at the same time as our Long-term Plan consultation document. Submissions on both consultations will be considered and heard together.

The Revenue and Financing Policy changes are about how we share the rates. The Policy is not about budgets. Changes to our budgets are discussed in the main section of this 2024-2034 Long-term Plan consultation document (see pages 5-24).

The Revenue and Financing Policy proposals are to:

- create one Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate based on capital value for all ratepayers to replace 140 targeted rates to pay for improved flood mitigation, including and repayment of debt for new flood infrastructure; and
- move the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability rating basis from land value to capital value.

These proposals would provide for a better allocation of the cost of:

- maintaining and improving our investment in infrastructure to maintain a fit-for-purpose flood protection network; and
- implementing the Regional Pest Management Plan and Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan.

See the **Revenue and Financing Policy Statement of Proposal** on our website www.es.govt.nz.

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► Shareholding in South Port NZ Ltd

South Port is New Zealand's southernmost commercial deep-water port and operates on a year-round, 24-hour basis. Based in Bluff, it is a critical regional asset, which handles over 3.4 million tonnes of cargo annually and is listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange.

As part of the 1989 disbanding of the Harbour Board and local government reorganisation, Environment Southland inherited a controlling shareholding in South Port. We currently have a 66% shareholding, worth approximately \$125m and receive regular dividends, which contribute to funding our services, and therefore reducing the rates requirements.

Our Investment Policy requires us to regularly review all investments, which includes South Port, to ensure they are continuing to provide a good return for ratepayers. We have completed a review of the investment in South Port from both strategic and financial perspectives.

The review concluded that a majority or controlling shareholding in South Port was still important for us and the region to maintain. The current shareholding level of 66% provides this, however, so would a shareholding at 51%. The review reinforced the value of investment diversification and the potential risk to the Council of having such a large concentration of our investment portfolio in a single asset.

The Council is seeking the ability to be able to reduce its shareholding in South Port to a level no less than 51%, which would still provide us with a majority stake, while also allowing for increased investment income and returns.

Any decision to sell down shares would be guided by prevailing market conditions, professional advisors and ultimately the ability to achieve an appropriate financial outcome on behalf of ratepayers. Where the Council does not believe it would be able to achieve this value, the current shareholding would be maintained.

We view our investment in South Port as an intergenerational asset and as such, any proceeds from a sell down of shares would be invested in accordance with our Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives and, additionally, would also be treated as a strategic asset. This means public consultation would be required to spend it on anything other than an investment asset, protecting the proceeds for both current and future generations.

Investment income, including dividends from South Port are a material part of the Council's income and a smaller shareholding would reduce the dividend income received from South Port. However, this would be offset by additional income streams generated from the investment of any sale proceeds.

This proposal would reduce the Council's overall investment risk, as both the future value of our assets and our income would come from a wider variety of assets. This aligns with our Statement of Investment

Policy and Objectives, which targets growing greater financial resilience from a wider, more diversified investment portfolio.

The Council would look to investigate this proposal during the first three years of the Long-term Plan. The Council would like to get your views on this proposal.

Note, no decision has been made to sell down any shares at this time. What is being proposed is to retain a majority shareholding in South Port, put Council in a better position to evaluate its diversification, only act if Council can secure better outcomes, and protect any proceeds by naming them as a strategic asset as is the current shareholding in South Port.

► Financial strategy – improving Council's financial resilience

The Council is seeking to enhance its financial resilience and proposes doing this by increasing its financial reserves.

We live in a region that is prone to flooding and is in close proximity to the Alpine Fault. Disruption to our normal day-to-day activities could occur at any time and we also need to ensure we can weather any volatility in the financial world.

The Council has updated our financial strategy to focus on building greater financial resilience and stability. In the updated policy we explain how we earn money and how we are looking to boost financial resilience by increasing our savings in a modest way.

Instead of relying heavily on our savings to fund specific activities, we pay for everyday expenses with everyday income. We will also make some previously earmarked reserve funds more flexible, which will allow us to use them for general financial needs. In our last Long-term Plan, with Covid on the horizon, we chose to fund everyday costs through debt if needed. While we can still do that, it's no longer our preferred option, we need to rebuild financial resilience. This financial strategy assumes that we pay all our everyday expenses from everyday income and that we borrow only to fund intergenerational assets.

Debt funding of long-term infrastructure such as flood protection infrastructure ensures that there is intergenerational equity and that the burden of funding doesn't all fall on current ratepayers. Our funding requirements for future infrastructure needs remain indicative as we are hopeful that the governments focus on regional infrastructure will see funding come our way. That is why it is important that we build our capability over the next three years, not only to deal with current maintenance issues but to be ready to respond to opportunities for investment beyond which we are planning.

The capital expenditure programme is proposed to be ramped up significantly, as outlined in the Infrastructure

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Strategy, over the course of the 10 years covered by the 2024-34 Long-term Plan. Our indicative budget has included an assumption that this will primarily be funded from years 4 to 10 by Central Government Grants (75%) and the balance by way of debt funding. As a result, debt increases over the course of the 10 years (no current debt; \$15m in year 1 to \$75m in year 10). The proposed level of debt is within the 87.5% of total income self-imposed limit.

Should central government funding not be available, Environment Southland would need to reassess how to proceed with its provisional capital works programme ahead of its 2027-2037 Long-term Plan noting the constraints around debt funding that currently exist.

You can read the full **Financial strategy** on our website www.es.govt.nz.

► Climate change strategy

Environment Southland is working with the other three Southland councils (Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council) and Te Ao Mārama Inc to develop a regional climate change strategy.

The purpose of the strategy is to support a regional approach, to respond to the effects of a changing climate. This includes the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the changes across the region.

Following the strategy being finalised; a framework for action, including individual council plans, will be developed.

Each of the four Southland councils has endorsed the proposed climate change strategy and they are seeking feedback through public consultation from 29 February – 6 May 2024.

Read the proposed **Regional Climate Change Strategy** and provide your feedback online at www.es.govt.nz.

► Targeted rabbit control rate

Currently there is a rabbit control rate set according to location on all rating units greater than or equal to four hectares contained in the Southland region south of the Mimiha Stream and east of the Mataura River. This rate funds rabbit control by Southern Pest Eradication Society under contract.

When this was initially set up about two years ago, the Council said it would be reviewed when developing the Long-term Plan and, as part of that, it is now open for feedback.

We are particularly interested in whether the ratepayers are comfortable with the targeted rate and satisfied with the service being delivered. We would also like to know whether the affected ratepayers have any other views or suggestions regarding the rate, the service or alternative options.

See our website www.es.govt.nz for more information.

► Infrastructure Strategy

Investing in flood protection infrastructure is a key focus of the Council's 2024-2034 Long-term Plan. Due to the challenges of Southland's ageing flood protection network and a changing climate with more severe and enduring weather events, we are proposing increased and ongoing investment in the region's flood protection infrastructure and river management to increase or improve community resilience.

Our 30-year Infrastructure Strategy sets out how we will manage our flood protection infrastructure and flood plains. There are immediate flood protection and river management needs to be addressed, including appropriate replacement of existing infrastructure and gravel management, while we plan and position ourselves for the transition to alternative ways of managing floodplains over the medium and longer-term.

It is not viable to keep building higher and higher stop banks. One alternative is nature-based initiatives such as wetlands for water retention, native plantings and restoring old channels. This is something we have already started to explore.

If we don't make these investments and maintain the status quo our ability to manage our flood protection infrastructure will not be as effective as it could be. As a result, the infrastructure's ability to endure the increasing severity of weather events may decline over time, increasing the risk of flooding.

Reduced investment would also limit our ability to develop our flood resilience knowledge (through modelling and other activities) and in turn affect our planning for the future. We would continue with our maintenance programme where we address the most pressing matters, and defer others, and we would not have the funding for more capital investment.

Environment Southland therefore believes it is prudent to include provision for ongoing co-investment in flood management capital works projects from year 4 of this Long-term Plan. This government funding is not confirmed however it is included to show what is required to achieve the preferred outcome and Environment Southland's contribution towards this.

Should central government funding not be available, Environment Southland would need to reassess how to proceed with its provisional capital works programme ahead of its 2027-2037 Long-term Plan noting the constraints around debt funding that currently exist. This is likely to result in a much longer-term capital works programme with the risk of underperformance of the current network and associated increased flooding risk, alongside increased maintenance requirements.

To see the **Infrastructure Strategy** visit our website www.es.govt.nz.

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► Fees and charges

Our practice is to review our Fees and Charges Policy every year. This normally coincides with the development of a new Long-term Plan or Annual Plan. We review the Fees and Charges Policy to make sure they're fair, cover actual costs, and distribute expenses fairly among those who benefit.

There are several proposed changes in the draft Fees and Charges Policy, including:

- Staff charge-out rates and services are proposed to increase to cover inflation
- A new fixed fee for surrendering consents is proposed to cover administrative costs
- An increase to the Science Research and Management charges within the following consent types is proposed to account for increased time and cost of the science programmes needed to support our water resource:
 - A proposed increase to the science charges within the discharge to water consents and discharge to land consents
 - A proposed increase to the science charges within significant groundwater takes
- Proposed changes for some resource management fees for services associated with monitoring whitebait consents
- Increases to some fixed fees, which have not been reviewed for a number of years, to ensure they cover costs of monitoring. The proposed increases of these fees take into account increases in service delivery such as third party contract costs.

To see the **Fees and Charges schedule** and proposed changes visit our website www.es.govt.nz.

► Significance and Engagement Policy

Understanding the needs and desires of communities plays a crucial role in the decisions Environment Southland makes.

Our relationships and engagement with our community, other councils, tangata whenua and government agencies are critical to the effectiveness of our activities. Partnership and collaborative arrangements provide unique opportunities to exchange knowledge, compare data, get a range of views, cooperate on design and share resources.

The Significance and Engagement Policy lists the Council's strategic assets and provides a community engagement guide. Changes to strategic assets need to be consulted on.

Our shareholding in South Port NZ Ltd is listed in the policy as a strategic asset, as is our flood protection

infrastructure and the Emergency Management Southland premises.

Should the Council sell some South Port Shares (see page 26) and invest the proceeds into a strategic investment fund, that fund would also become a strategic asset.

The **Significance and Engagement Policy** is available on our website www.es.govt.nz.

► Representation review

To ensure we have fair and effective representation for our community we're reviewing the Council's representation arrangements, ahead of the 2025 local government elections.

There is more information on our website and right now we are looking for some early feedback, ahead of public consultation.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires us to undertake a review at least once every six years and sets out prescribed requirements and processes.

The representation review will determine the:

- total number of councillors (elected members)
- number of councillors per constituency (a constituency is a specified area people vote for representation)
- boundaries and names of constituencies.

Council is required to consider the following as part of the review:

- Fair representation – where each elected member represent roughly the same number of people.
- Effective representation – the number of councillors in relation to things like the size and geography of the south and the diversity of our people.
- Communities of interest – looking at boundaries for representation, which consider:
 - A sense of belonging to an area that is distinct from other places
 - An ability for the community to provide services
 - An ability to represent the interests of the community
 - Territorial authority and/or territorial authority ward boundaries.

Any feedback provided during this period will be presented to Councillors to assist with the development of their initial proposal.

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Other feedback

Do you have feedback on the other matters raised or anything else?

- Revenue and Financing Policy
- Shareholding in South Port NZ Ltd
- Financial Strategy
- Climate change strategy
- Targeted rabbit control rate
- Fees and charges
- Infrastructure Strategy
- Significance and Engagement Policy
- Representation Review

Please use additional paper if required.

When councillors hear submissions on this consultation document, do you want to present your views in person? Do you require any support to do so? Please note that all submissions are considered equally, whether or not you choose to present yours in person.

Yes No

Please note: Upon request, we are legally required to make all written or electronic submissions available to the public, including the name and address of submitters, subject to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. If you consider there are compelling reasons why your contact details and/or submission should be kept confidential, please contact the Council at the address below to make your request known.

Contact details

Name: _____

Organisation (if representing): _____

Organisation role: _____

Postal address: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____

We can receive your feedback in a number of ways:



Mail
 Freepost Authority No. 247418
 Environment Southland
 Private Bag 90116
 Invercargill 9840



Delivery
 Environment Southland
 Cnr North Rd & Price St
 Invercargill



Online
www.es.govt.nz



Email
consultation@es.govt.nz

Please contact us on 03 211 5115 if you want to submit in a different way e.g. verbally



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Independent auditor's report

Deloitte.

TO THE READER:

Independent auditor's report on Environment Southland's consultation document for its proposed 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.

I am the Auditor-General's appointed auditor for Environment Southland (the Council). The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires the Council to prepare a consultation document when developing its long-term plan. Section 93C of the Act sets out the content requirements of the consultation document and requires an audit report on the consultation document. I have done the work for this report using the staff and resources of Deloitte. We completed our report on 27 March 2024.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the basis for qualified opinion section of our report:

- the consultation document provides an effective basis for public participation in the Council's decisions about the proposed content of its 2024-2034 long-term plan, because it:
- fairly represents the matters proposed for inclusion in the long-term plan; and
- identifies and explains the main issues and choices facing the Council and region, and the consequences of those choices; and
- the information and assumptions underlying the information in the consultation document are reasonable.

Basis of qualified opinion – Assumption related to the funding of capital expenditure to fund improvements to flood infrastructure

As outlined on pages 26 and 27, the Council proposes a significant increase in its capital expenditure programme. The Council plans to spend approximately \$180 million on improvements to the level of service of flood protection infrastructure and assumes that the Government will fund 75% of the improvement cost from years 4 to 10 of the long-term plan. We consider this assumption unreasonable because the Government funding has not been confirmed.

If the Government does not provide funding or provides less funding, the Council will need to reassess how to proceed. Until such time as the Council reassesses any alternative proposals, we are unable to quantify the effects on the information and assumptions underlying the information in the consultation document.

We carried out our work in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised) Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information. In meeting the requirements of this standard, we took into account particular elements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards and the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400 The Examination of Prospective Financial Information that were consistent with those requirements.

We assessed the evidence the Council has to support the information and disclosures in the consultation document. To select appropriate procedures, we assessed the risk

of material misstatement and the Council's systems and processes applying to the preparation of the consultation document.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the publication of the consultation document.

Responsibilities of the Council and auditor

The Council is responsible for:

- meeting all legal requirements relating to its procedures, decisions, consultation, disclosures, and other actions associated with preparing and publishing the consultation document and long-term plan, whether in printed or electronic form;
- having systems and processes in place to provide the supporting information and analysis the Council needs to be able to prepare a consultation document and long-term plan that meet the purposes set out in the Act; and
- ensuring that any forecast financial information being presented has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

We are responsible for reporting on the consultation document, as required by section 93C of the Act. We do not express an opinion on the merits of any policy content of the consultation document.

Independence and quality management

We have complied with the Auditor-General's:

- independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand) (PES 1) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 1 is founded on the fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour; and
- quality management requirements, which incorporate the requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 3 Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements (PES 3) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 3 requires our firm to design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Other than our work in carrying out all legally required external audits, we have no relationship with or interests in the Council.



Anthony Smith,
Deloitte Limited,
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Christchurch, New Zealand
27 March 2024

A5311494

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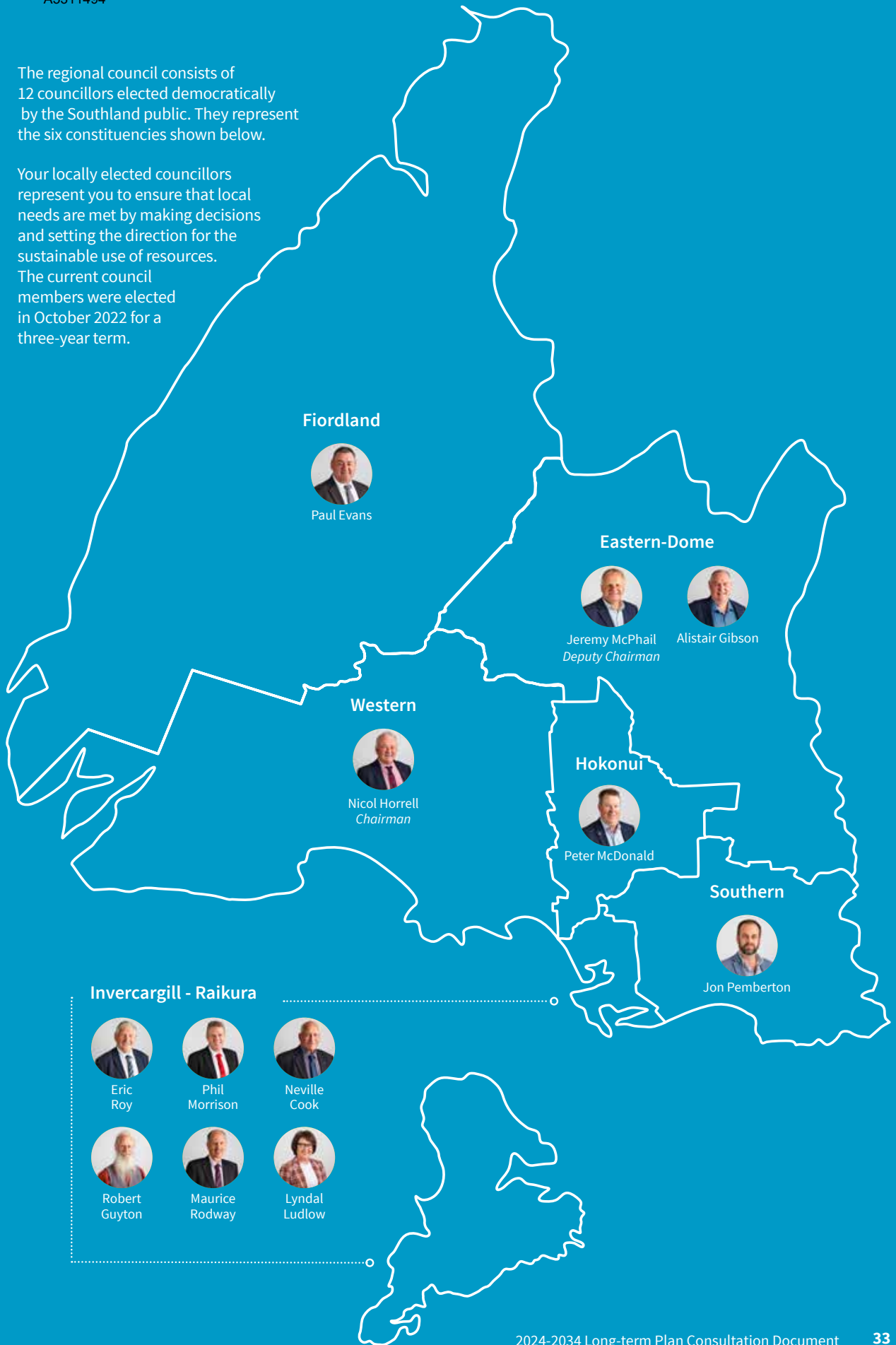
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The regional council consists of 12 councillors elected democratically by the Southland public. They represent the six constituencies shown below.

Your locally elected councillors represent you to ensure that local needs are met by making decisions and setting the direction for the sustainable use of resources. The current council members were elected in October 2022 for a three-year term.



A5311494



Environment Southland Revenue and Financing Policy update and rating review 2024 Statement of Proposal

Including the following substantive funding changes:

- 1. Creating a new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate based on capital value to replace 140 Catchment rates.**
- 2. Moving the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates (land value) into the General Rate (capital value).**
- 3. All new flood protection infrastructure will be funded by borrowing with repayments paid for by all ratepayers across the region.**

WHY DO WE NEED A REVIEW

We have a massive land area, 3.1million hectares, 3,613 kms of coast, produce 4th highest GDP per capita, yet have only 36,500 unique ratepayers to fund the service of Council across the region.

Unlike other regional councils who have clearly different sub regions, Murihiku Southland is one region, crisscrossed by 4 large rivers.

Our 2024-2034 LTP focusses our activities into 3 groups healthy environment, resilient communities, thriving region. Our funding choices need reviewing to support the outcomes.

Much of our current funding is based on different longstanding considerations when how we managed was rurally based. Little consideration to the benefits and risks to the whole economy.

Recent years have seen a move to an integrated catchment management approach reflecting a mountains to the sea (ki uta ki tai) philosophy. Biosecurity and catchment integration are key components of integrated catchment management, alongside the other activities of council. All Southland ratepayers benefit from this type of approach, a healthy environment benefits all.

The integrated approach works best where the activities of council can work seamlessly together.

Funding for “Future focussed Climate Resilience solutions” requires the replacement of the current rating system with a simpler more broad-based system. Currently there is no rating basis to fund new infrastructure, this needs a “new rate” regardless of any change to maintenance rates.

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Disclaimer: This Statement of Proposal provides an indication of the proposed rating changes from July 2024. It is not your actual rates account. The rates invoice you receive from July 2024 will be based on the yet to be finalised Long-term Plan budgets and the Council's final decisions after this consultation. The amounts shown are based on the proposed 2024/2025 rates as discussed in the separate Long-term Plan Consultation Document. All rate amounts shown are inclusive of GST.

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL

We are proposing to amend the Revenue and Financing Policy to create a new region-wide Flood Infrastructure Rate to fund both capital and operational expenses associated with this activity; to change the basis for rating for our biosecurity and land sustainability activities from land value to capital value; and to fund flood infrastructure capital from borrowing and apply financing and debt reduction across the region to achieve intergenerational and region-wide equity benefit.

More information on our future flood protection investment requirements can be found in the Long-term Plan Consultation Document and supporting information, in particular the Council's Infrastructure Strategy.

The proposals provide for a better allocation of the costs of maintaining and improving our investment in protecting everyone in the region from the full impacts of flooding at a time when New Zealand is experiencing more severe and enduring weather events.

Maintaining our critical infrastructure (e.g. wastewater, roads, emergency services) is closely linked to our flood protection activity. Last year this was seen in parts of the North Island where the consequences spread well beyond the immediate river catchments to the wider region.

The proposed changes reallocate the budgeted costs to all ratepayers. Who pays and how much they pay would change, with some paying less and others paying more. These effects would be as a result of both creating a region-wide rate and the proposed move to capital value as the basis for rating.

We would not collect any more money from the proposed rate system changes. However, our need to invest more in flood protection and to account for high inflation would lead to higher rates, whether this rating system changes or not. More information on the inflationary budget increases can be found in the Council's Long-term Plan Consultation document and supporting information.

These proposed changes recognise our current catchment rating approach (nearly 40 years old) is no longer fit for purpose. All the community benefits from flood protection infrastructure and all our community need to contribute to ensure equity in our rating system, and to ensure our infrastructure is affordable both to maintain and to invest in. Future generations who would also benefit, would meet these costs as well. What is proposed aligns with the Council's priority to maintain a socially and economically resilient region that is spared the full impacts of flooding and can recover quickly from them.

There are two substantive changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy that would change rates and one substantive policy change on the use of borrowing:

1. Creating a single new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate to replace 140 catchment rates.
2. Moving the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates to the General Rate.
3. Paying for Flood Protection Infrastructure from borrowing with debt repayments paid for by all regional ratepayers as part of the Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate.

These changes would provide greater resilience to protect us all from adverse weather events, spread the costs more equitably and provide the financial resources to maintain and invest in flood protection infrastructure.

The draft Revenue and Financing Policy and draft Funding Needs Analysis are part of this Statement of Proposal. These documents cover the detailed requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and Biosecurity Act 1993 for our funding activities.

1. **Creating one new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate to replace 140 catchment rates**

We propose to introduce a new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate that would replace 140 existing rates to provide for greater investment in infrastructure and river management at a time when we are facing a changing climate. The rate would be a capital value rate for all ratepayers.

Planning for the impacts of a changing climate is an important lens we are applying across our work programmes and particularly with our flood protection infrastructure. These impacts will affect our livelihoods and regional economy, so our aim is to help build community resilience for Southland – environmentally, socially, culturally and economically.

This proposal supports our plans for integrated catchment planning, recognising that all things are connected in the natural world and need to be managed that way, leading to better operational and capital investment.

The current catchment rating system has its roots in the formation of the Catchment Liaison Committees established in 1979. We have 140 different catchment rates spread across 17 schemes under eight Catchment Liaison Committees. Not all properties are currently in a river catchment rating scheme.

The current Catchment Liaison Committees have boundaries based on decades-old direct flood analysis and perceived direct benefit assumptions. This methodology does not provide for up-stream solutions or downstream consequences. The proposed new rate would provide for greater flexibility of investment and be inclusive with all the region funding the investment.

The current flood management funding processes are narrowly focused and overly complex and are no longer fit for purpose.

2. **Moving the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates to the General Rate**

We propose to move the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates to the General Rate. In doing so the costs of these activities would be collected based on capital value.

Currently all ratepayers pay both the Biosecurity Rate and the Land Sustainability Rate. These rates are calculated based on land value.

Our land sustainability work supports landowners and managers to have healthy soils and waterways, riparian plantings and good land management practices, including for waste/effluent, farm plans, grazing and more. The impacts of this work contribute to a healthy environment.

Our biosecurity work focuses on preventing new pests (plants and animals) and diseases from arriving and ensuring there are measures to control or eradicate those already impact our economy and pests can negatively affect flora, native species, stock, pasture, the wider environment and, in turn, our economy. It includes implementation of the Southland Regional Pest Management Plan and the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan.

Over time what we do and how we do it has changed, caused by changing government requirements, community preferences and priorities or technology.

We will continue to work managing biosecurity in conjunction with the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Department of Conservation and we will continue to support land sustainability.

Because our activities have a greater focus on protecting the economy of the region as a whole, moving to the capital value General Rate would be a more equitable allocation of cost across the region. A capital value rating basis allows our rating system to better reflect where the benefit lies. High value properties will pay more and lesser valued properties will pay a little less.

The change supports simplifying the rates process and provides Council with more flexibility to respond where it matters.

3. **Flood protection infrastructure will be funded by borrowing with repayments paid for by all ratepayers across the region**

We are proposing in the Long-term Plan Consultation document to invest more to maintain and improve our flood protection infrastructure.

The Revenue and Financing Policy provides for our preferred funding tools for capital infrastructure costs. This includes the grants and subsidies and borrowing. Grants and subsidies (primarily from government) is a preferred funding source. The Council is lobbying to receive some funding from the Government, as we did for the Covid-19 economic recovery climate resilience projects (shovel ready) in 2020. The portion of investment not funded from grants and subsidies would be funded locally. We propose the local share is funded from borrowing.

This policy will be applied to recent climate resilience (shovel ready) projects and future projects. Interest costs and debt repayments would be considered by Council when budgets are prepared and funded through the proposed new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate.

OVERALL REASON FOR THE PROPOSAL

Every three years as part of the Long-term planning requirements, we review our activities and budgets and how we fund these. We are part way through that process.

In preparing all the Long-term planning information, we identified the need to make significant changes to the way we invest in flood protection. You are being asked your views on this in the Long-term Plan Consultation document.

This proposal addresses possible changes to how we share the rates contribution to funding the cost of activities. The outcome of this consultation will be incorporated in a revised Revenue and Financing Policy, which will be attached to the Long-term Plan 2024-34, in June 2024.

The law asks that Council decide what is the appropriate share of the rates allocation. This is a complex balance that involves considering a range of factors, including community outcomes, benefits received, the effects of individuals or groups' actions or inactions, transparency and community wellbeing.

Fundamentally, rates are a tax and not an exchange of money for a service. We are required to look at what all sectors pay and allocate an appropriate share of costs that recognise all the factors we are required to consider under the legislation.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

In the overview section of the Statement of Proposal we have discussed Council's preferred option.

As well as our preferred option we considered other options including various mixes of catchment funding and regional rate funding with land value and capital value options. The options and variations on these options are summarised within this document for your consideration. In addition to these, not changing the rating system is an option.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

This Statement of Proposal includes supporting information that provides further information to assist with understanding the proposal and the other options considered.

The supporting information is listed at the end of this Statement. The supporting information can be read and downloaded from our website www.es.govt.nz or requested from the Council's office.

OTHER CHANGES TO THE REVENUE AND FINANCE POLICY

There are no other substantive policy changes proposed.

The Revenue and Financing Policy looks a little different from the previous versions as we have made some administrative changes to better communicate the Policy. For example; we have renamed our activities to better align with our budget structure and make it more easily understood. This does not change what we do or how we fund our activities.

A change in the law requires the Revenue and Financing Policy to recognise the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993, which is recognised in the policy.

OTHER REVIEWS

This consultation is focused on the Revenue and Financing Policy and rates.

The Long-term Plan 2024-34 Consultation document should be read in conjunction with this document, policies and supporting information. They are closely linked.

ABOUT THE NUMBERS

Disclaimer: The rates numbers in this statement are GST inclusive. It does not represent your actual rates account. The rates invoice you receive from July 2024 will be based on the yet-to-be finalised 2024-2034 Long-term Plan budgets.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Look it up

These proposals impact the rates on each property differently, some would increase, and some would decrease.

To see how this could impact you and find out more visit our consultation website.

We will be posting every ratepayer a letter telling you how your rates would be affected by this proposal.

Tell us what you think

If your rates are proposed to go down it's just as important for you to tell us whether you agree with this or not, as it is for those whose rates go up.

You have until 5 pm 6 May 2024 to tell us.

If you wish to speak to the full Council, you can complete a submission form and you will be invited to speak at a hearing in May 2024.

Talk to us

We are giving everyone the opportunity to come and meet us at community meetings and informal sessions.

Have a korero with us, use our computer to see how the proposed changes could impact you, ask questions or tell us what you think about our proposed changes.

THE PROPOSAL

OVERALL IMPACTS

We are proposing significant changes to how we share our rates across the region and how we plan to fund Flood Protection Infrastructure investment.

To assist in deciding what is appropriate we must consider the statutory framework when making funding choices. We have considered:¹

1. Creating a new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate set on capital value to replace 140 Catchment rates.
2. Moving the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates (land value) into the General Rate (capital value).
3. All new Flood Protection Infrastructure will be funded by debt with repayments paid for by all ratepayers across the region.

We are proposing to make two significant changes (1 and 2 above) that would affect who and how much everyone pays.

Overall impacts of all changes sector

This section shows the overall impact of the two proposed rating changes. The creation of a Flood Protection Infrastructure rate and moving the basis for rating for Biosecurity and Land Sustainability rates from land value to capital value.

Council considered many models before determining its preference for these proposed rating options. As part of the modelling, we looked at different scenarios for the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC). Under the policies 101(3)(b) considerations, Council has applied its discretion to modify the amount of the UAGC to reflect a change in benefit and to achieve better community outcomes or wellbeing. This is not a policy change but the application of the policy which would normally occur in the adoption of the Funding Impact Statement. Therefore, for the purpose of modelling, the UAGC has been reduced from \$143 per rating unit in 2024/25 to \$95 per rating unit in the modelling.

To clearly show the impact of the redistribution of the rates, the overall movement in rates we are using is the 2024/25 financial year rates for the comparison.

This comparison shows the redistribution of who pays with no change in the overall amount funded.

¹ The consideration of the statutory framework is included in the Supporting Information: Funding Needs Analysis

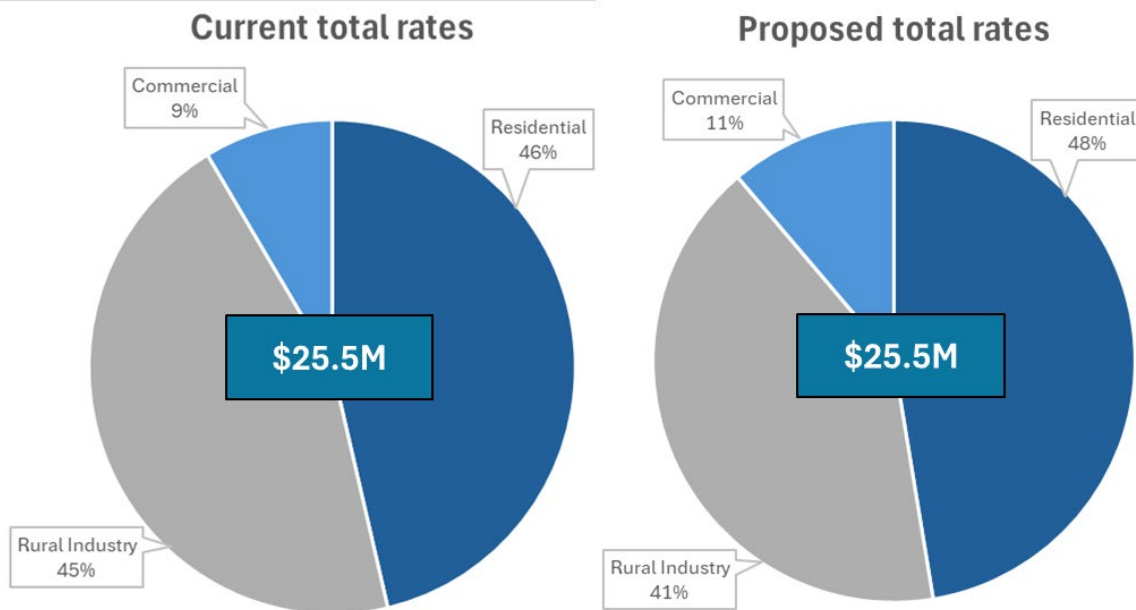


Figure 1: Overall movement of rates between rating categories showing the distribution of the 2023/24 rates as a result of this proposal.

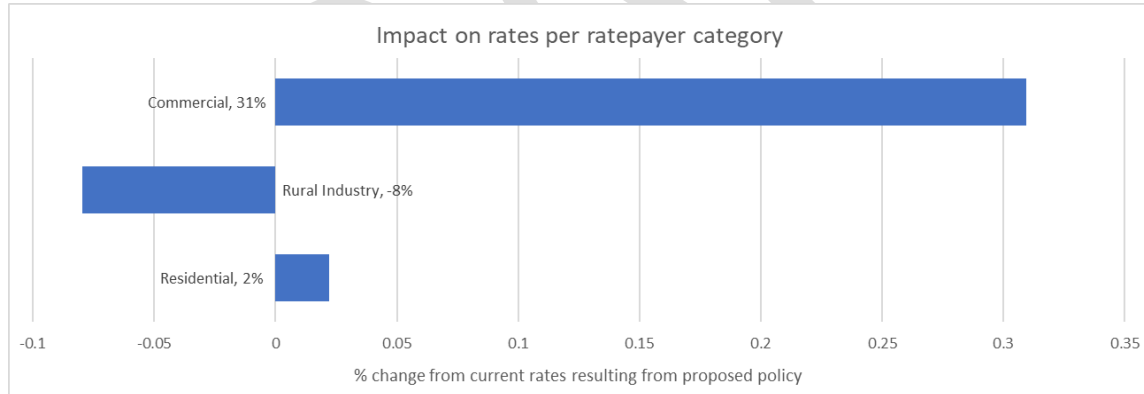


Figure 2: Overall changes to rates collected from residential, rural and commercial, relative to rates currently paid by each

Figure 1 shows the overall impact of implementing all three proposals. In both pie charts the total amount of rates collected remains the same.

These changes will change the share of the rating each of us currently pays. Remember the pie stays the same size (\$25.5M) it is just shared differently.

Overall, the proposed changes to how we allocate the rates will reduce the share paid by the rural sector and increase the share paid by the residential and commercial sectors.

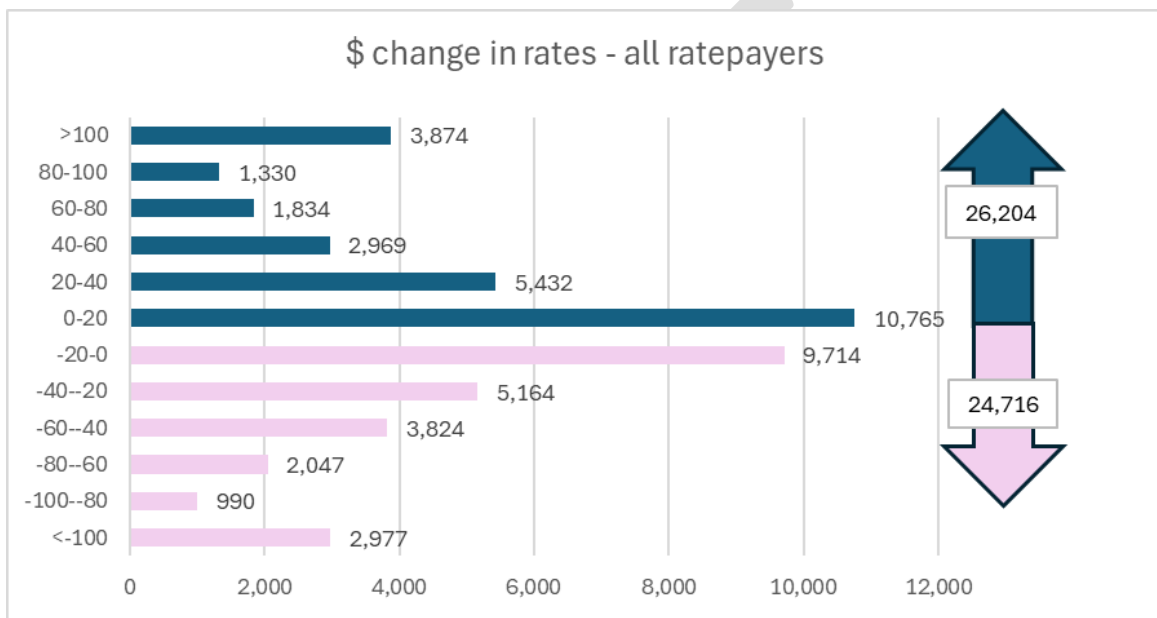
Figure 2 shows the overall impact of the proposed change on each of the three ratepayer categories. As a group of ratepayers, commercial ratepayers will pay 31% more in total rates, rural will pay 8% less, residential 2%.

We do not rate by the categories shown, we are using these categories to illustrate the impact the proposed rate changes would have on the different properties.

The location of a property and the ratio of land value and capital value will alter the potential changes in rates owing.

Further details on what that means for average ratepayers in each category are shown below.

Average change in rates for all ratepayers

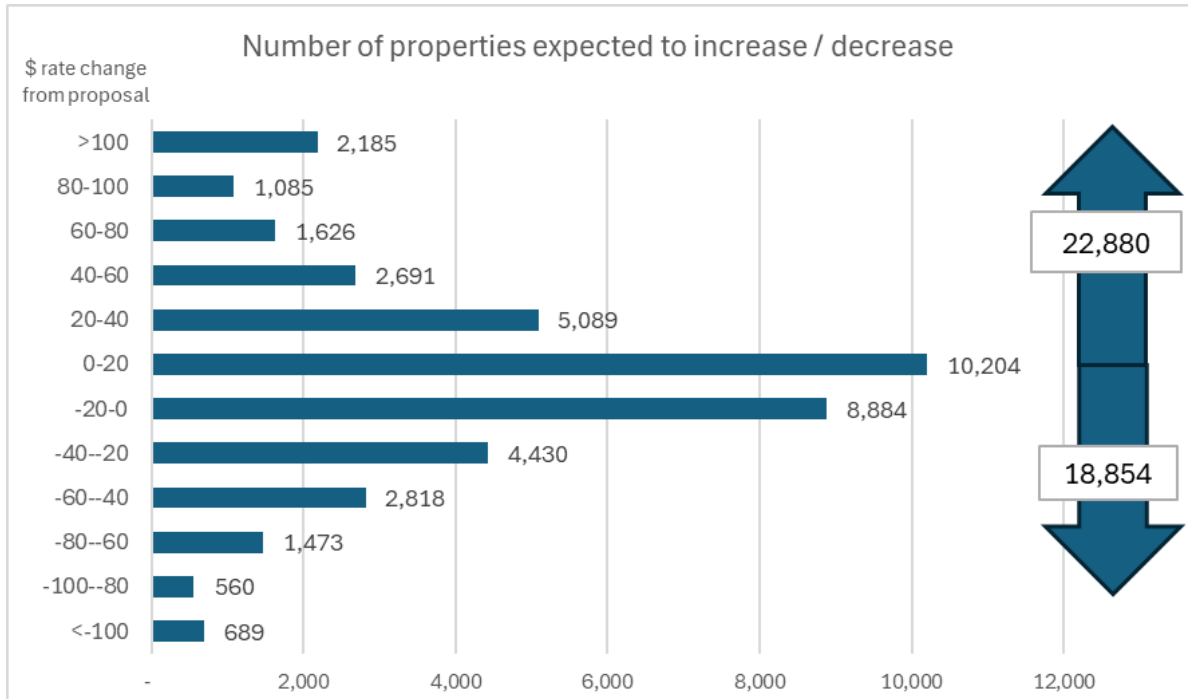


Overall, rates would decrease because of the proposed policy change for 24,716 of the total 50,929 ratepayers. Rate decreases would be mostly in the \$0 - \$40 range.

Rates would increase for 26,204 ratepayers, mostly in the \$0 - \$40 range.

Actual changes per property will depend on location, land and capital value.

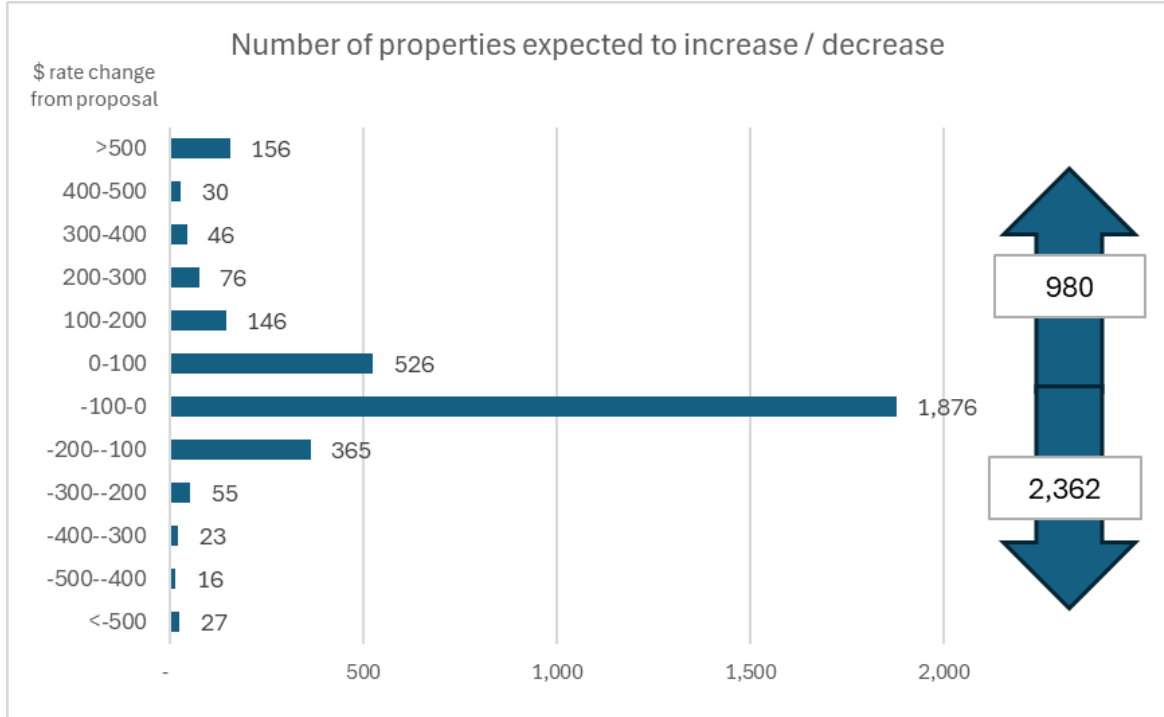
Residential ratepayers



Residential ratepayers will pay a larger share of total rates, moving from 46% of total rates to 48% of total rates. The impact on residential ratepayers will vary dependent on location and the value of the property. The increased share is spread over 41,734 ratepayers.

Rates will decrease for 18,854 residential ratepayers under the proposal, most by \$0 - \$40 per annum. Rates will increase for 22,880 ratepayers, mostly by \$0 - \$40 per annum. The average increase will be \$7 or 13 cents per week..

Commercial ratepayers

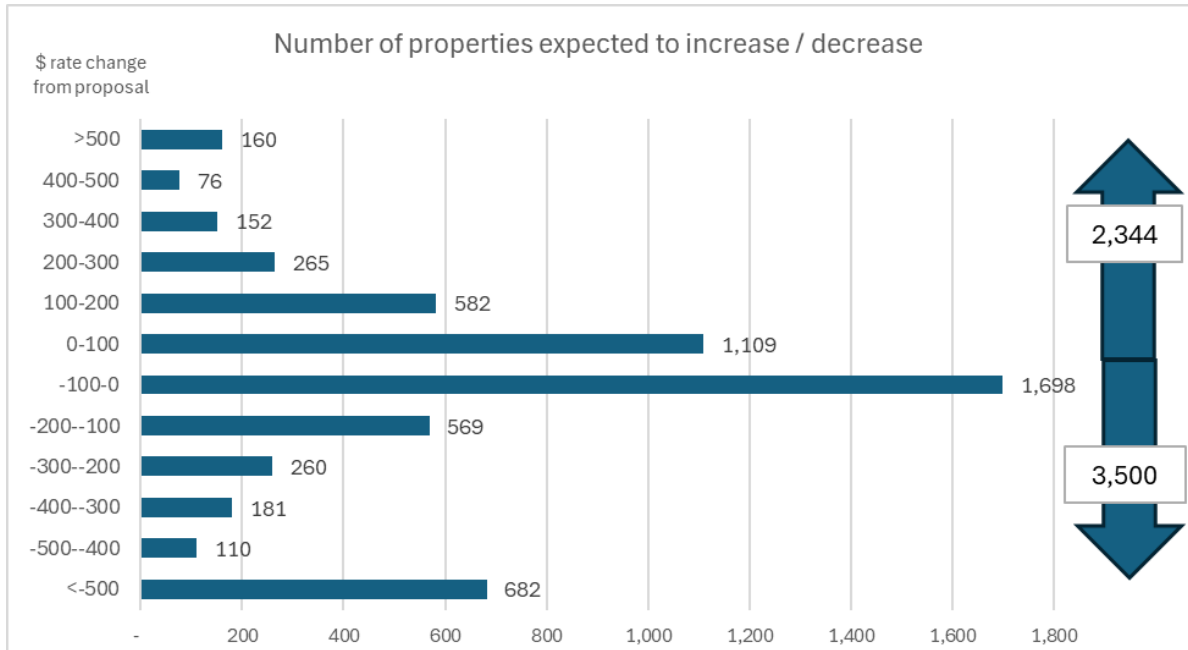


Commercial ratepayers will pay a larger share of the total rates, moving from 9% to 11% of total rates received by council. The impact on commercial ratepayers will vary quite considerably dependent on location and the capital value of the property relative to the land value. Rates will decrease for 2,362 ratepayers, mostly by \$0 - \$100 per annum. Rates will increase for 980 ratepayers, mostly by \$0 - \$100 per annum.

While 68% of commercial ratepayers will have a decrease in rates resulting from the proposed policy change, the average will increase by \$231.

Rates will increase by more than \$500 per annum for 156 ratepayers.

Rural ratepayers



Rural ratepayers will pay a lesser share of the total rates, moving from 45% to 41% of total rates received by council. The impact on rural ratepayers will vary quite considerably dependent on location and the land value of the property. Rates will decrease for 3,500 ratepayers, mostly by \$0 - \$200 per annum though 682 ratepayers will see decreases greater than \$500 per annum.

Rates will increase for 2,344 ratepayers, mostly by \$0 - \$200 per annum. Rate increases over \$500 are forecast for 160 rural properties. The average change will be a decrease of \$186.

The Detail

PROPOSED OPTIONS

We are proposing significant changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy. There are three parts to the proposal:

1. Creating a new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate to replace 140 Catchment rates.
2. Moving the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates (land value) into the General Rate (capital value).
3. All new Flood Protection Infrastructure will be funded by borrowing with repayments paid for by all ratepayers across the region, with interest and debt repayments funded in the proposed new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate.

The following sections describe the three changes in detail and outline the advantages and disadvantages of each proposed change.

1. Creating a new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate to replace 140 Catchment rates (capital value).

We propose to introduce a new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate which would replace 140 existing rates and would provide for better management of our rivers and minimise the impacts and better prepare them for the consequences of adverse weather events of the whole region.

This proposal would place the funding equitability across the region to remove funding obstacles, inadvertently a consequence of the current catchment rating system, and allow everyone in the region to invest in flood protection infrastructure to manage the risks we all face in the event of adverse weather.

Reason for choosing to create a new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate to replace 140 Catchment rates.

The current catchment rating system has its roots in the formation of the Catchment Liaison Committees established in 1979. We have 140 different catchment rates spread across 17 schemes under eight Catchment Liaison Committees. Not all properties are in a river catchment.

In the past, the prevailing belief was that those nearest the rivers were the ones who benefitted from flood protection infrastructure, because it protected their properties. The current Catchment Liaison Committees have boundaries based on decades old direct flood analysis and perceived direct benefit assumptions. This methodology does not provide for up-stream solutions or downstream consequences. The proposed new rate would provide for greater flexibility of investment and inclusion of all the region to funding this investment.

The current flood management funding processes are overly complex and are no longer fit for purpose.

How all Southlanders benefit from flood protection

Southland's flood defences have been repeatedly tested over recent decades and they have stood up well.

However, our flood protection infrastructure network is older now (30+ years) and it is coming under increasing pressure due to more enduring and severe weather.

Most of our flood protection infrastructure was built and upgraded after the 1984 floods; 40 years ago. We live differently to the way we did back then when everything was more localised. Now, we have a strong reliance on critical infrastructure, such as roads, utilities, telecommunications and the airport to do business and for our daily lives.

Planning for the impacts of a changing climate is an important lens we are increasingly applying across our work programmes and particularly with our flood protection infrastructure. The impacts will affect all areas of our work and people's lives and our aim is to help build community resilience for Southland – environmentally, socially, culturally and economically.

Critical infrastructure

Critical infrastructure, sometimes referred to as critical services includes all those key assets and services that are essential to the way we live. These include energy, communications, water and transportation.

Most businesses and communities cannot be well sustained without critical infrastructure. Electricity, telecommunications, drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems are all essential.

Our roading network is key to our economy. It brings goods in to fill our supermarket shelves and shifts products, with milk tankers on our roads daily, stock and product movements. We need our roads to get freight from and to our port and airport, and to support the tourism sector.

Our roads allow us to fulfil our responsibilities and interests, professionally and personally, and to come together as families and as a community. They give quick passage for emergency services and for us to get to hospitals and to travel.

Southland's flood protection infrastructure reduces the impact of flooding on these assets, protecting our livelihoods and regional economy, as well as Southlanders and properties.

Flood protection infrastructure substantially reduces the impact of flooding on our critical infrastructure, properties and people. This is important for all of us, not only people who live near rivers and it's time to acknowledge that we all benefit – socially and economically.

Changing the rates

We are proposing critical changes to how we rate for Flood Protection Infrastructure so that investment can be made more efficiently, effectively and equitably.

This is achieved by ensuring everyone is contributing to the Flood Protection Infrastructure rates (currently not the case).

We are also proposing these new rates will be collected on the capital value of properties. This is our preferred approach after evaluating the different options for rating.

Land value is an alternative option for the new rate. This is not preferred as it does not align with the benefit of the region's \$7 billion economy.

Figures 3 and 4

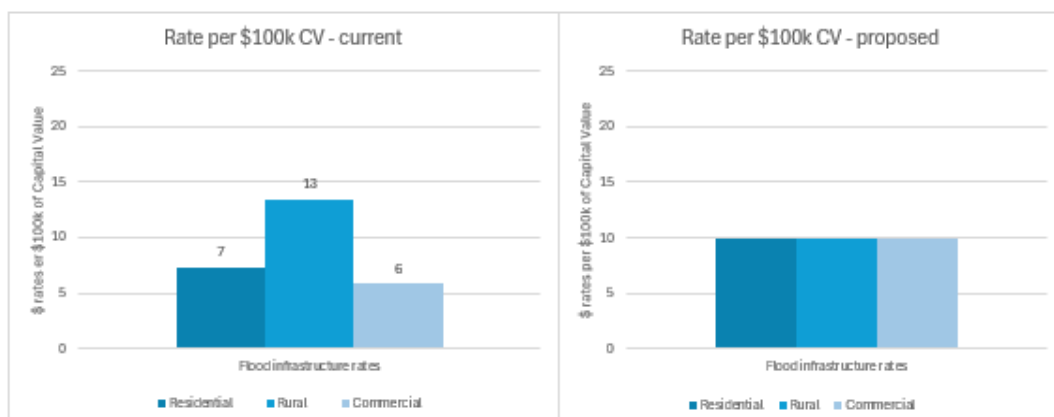


Figure 3 and 4 shows how the capital value rate leads to a more equitable distribution of the rates for the proposed rates changes for Flood Protection Infrastructure.

As the New Flood Protection Infrastructure rate replaces the current 140 catchment rates we will cease collecting these rates. Funds held in reserves for these areas will still be applied to this area. Catchment Liaison Committees will still continue and will work closely with our team on asset management planning to ensure the best outcomes for their communities are achieved. More information about the increased investment in Flood Protection Infrastructure is available in the Long-term Plan Consultation document on Council's website.

Advantages of creating a new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate to replace 140 Catchment rates. (capital value)

- The proposed new rates would be paid by every ratepayer recognising the risks and benefits the whole region faces in the event of adverse weather.
- Whole of region rating increases the rating base for flood protection and enables investment outside of a targeted catchment area.
- The rate supports the Long-term Plan Flood Protection Infrastructure investment proposal, providing a funding tool for investment decisions.
- The proposed capital value rate results in a more equitable distribution of the rates due to the protection of higher value assets and lifelines to these.
- The rate is significantly simpler to understand and administer.

Disadvantages of creating a new Flood Protection Infrastructure Rate to replace 140 Catchment rates. (capital value).

- Catchment Committees and rating are long established and have been successful in protecting rural land and supporting the rural economy. We are proposing a big change as our view on risk and consequence has evolved with society. Changing a successful model carries risk. We will work closely with Catchment Liaison Committees to manage the risks associated with change.

- Communities not directly affected by water inundation may fail to see the benefit of paying towards flood infrastructure maintenance and investment.

Also see the Other Options Considered section of this Statement of Proposal.

2. Moving the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates (land value) into the General Rate (capital value).

We propose to move from land value rating to capital value rating. This means the current targeted rates become part of the General Rate.

This does not change what we do, or our budgets. It just changes who pays.

Reason for moving the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates (land value) into the General Rate (capital value).

The current rating of these activities is in two region wide targeted rates based on land value. These rates established 30 years ago are built on the assumption the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability is largely a rural matter where the programmes related to “production” increases like rabbit culling and preventative erosion on hill country.

Our land sustainability work supports landowners and managers to have healthy soils and waterways, riparian plantings and good land management practices, including for waste/effluent, farm plans, grazing and more. The impacts of this work contribute to a healthy environment.

Our biosecurity work focuses on preventing new pests (plants and animals) and diseases from arriving and ensuring there are measures to control or eradicate those already impact our economy and pests can negatively affect flora, native species, stock, pasture, the wider environment and, in turn, our economy. It includes implementation of the Southland Regional Pest Management Plan and the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan.

Over time what we do and how we do it has changed, caused by changing government requirements, community preferences and priorities or technology. For both activities our programmes have evolved and are much more regionally focused, policy driven for biosecurity and education driven for land sustainability.

All ratepayers benefit from a healthy environment and economically we are all connected. No longer are the largest landowners the main beneficiaries.

While the Regional Pest Management Plan states that targeted rates create action from targeted ratepayers, that hasn't turned out to be the case. General rates with direct fees change behaviour. Targeted rating has not changed behaviour.

Our indicators are that in the event of failure to manage our biosecurity and promote sustainable land use will have consequences for the whole region. For example, unsustainable land practices could lead to adverse water quality impacts downstream to towns and businesses. Outbreaks of plant or animal pests or diseases could lead to our regional exports being rejected or quarantined. Undesirable outcomes from these examples would flow into our \$7b economy. Targeted rating has not changed behaviour or reduced risk for the region.

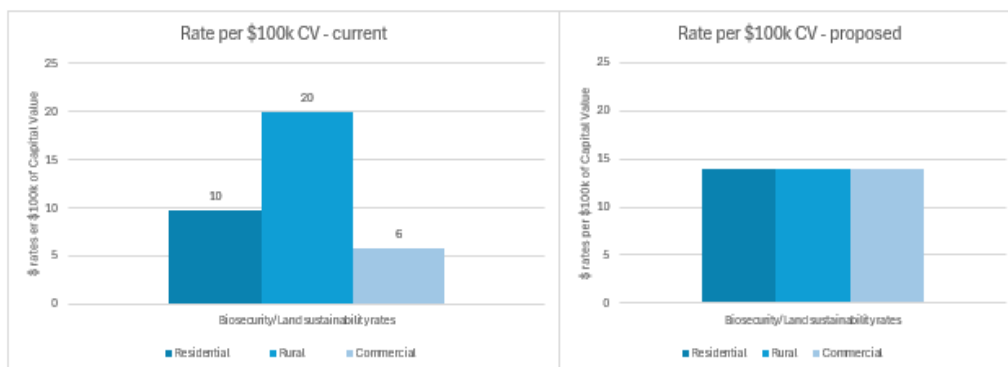
Southland has a small, narrow-based economy focused on its primary sectors, particularly agriculture, its related manufacturing sectors and tourism. The economy is almost completely reliant on the use of natural resources, either directly or indirectly. A general rate and capital

value rating better allocated the share of the rates to those that carry that benefit the most for a healthy environment and economic prosperity.

Moving to the capital value General Rate would be a more equitable allocation of cost across the region. Our activities have a greater focus on protecting the economy of the region as a whole. A capital value rating basis allows our rating system to better reflect where the benefit lies. High value properties will pay more and lesser valued properties will pay a little less.

The change supports simplifying the rates process and provides Council with more flexibility to respond where it matters.

Figures 5 and 6



Figures 5 and 6 show how the proposed change to capital value rate for Biosecurity and Land Sustainability leads to a more equitable distribution of rates for these activities.

Advantages of moving the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates (land value) into the General Rate (capital value)

- A regional capital value rate supports the Regional Pest Management Plan and Pathway Plan.
- The proposal produces a more equitable allocation of the rate with those with the most to gain contributing more.
- What we do does not change.
- The rate is significantly simpler to understand and administer.

Disadvantages of moving the Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates (land value) into the General Rate (capital value)

- Possible perceptions that removing the current targeted rate reduces accountability. We don't measure success by how we collect rates but by what we do. We monitor what we do and collect data that measure the success of these programmes.

Also see the Other Options Considered section of this Statement of Proposal.

3. All new Flood Protection Infrastructure will be funded by borrowing with repayments paid for by all ratepayers across the region.

We are proposing greater clarity on how we intend to fund flood infrastructure. The funding tool was already available to us, but we wanted to be sure that the community are clear on our plans.

We will fund the local share of Flood Protection Infrastructure from borrowing, where there are future benefits (intergenerational equity).

In 2020 the government supported an \$18.7m Flood Protection Infrastructure investment by funding 75% of the project costs. The remaining 25% (\$4.8 m) was funded locally. The Long-term Plan Consultation document highlights the assumption that future capital projects will be being funded this same way.

By funding the costs from borrowing, Council's debt will grow. There are limits to how much we can borrow, including consideration of the impact debt has for future generations. Interest costs on debt and debt repayment would be funded from the Flood Protection Infrastructure rate.

More information about the increased investment in Flood Protection Infrastructure and the impacts this has on debt and rates is available in the Long-term Plan Consultation document on Council's website.

Reason for all new Flood Protection Infrastructure being funded by borrowing with repayments paid for by all ratepayers across the region

Our preferred option is to borrow to fund our investment in Flood Protection Infrastructure is to from debt.

By doing this we can continue investing and equity in who pays by spreading the cost over time (intergenerational equity).

The alternative options (see below) do not allow for timely investment and put the community significantly at risk if the investment is stopped or delayed.

Advantages of all new Flood Protection Infrastructure being funded by borrowing with repayments paid for by all ratepayers across the region.

- The proposal to borrow allows us to continue investing in Flood Protection Infrastructure.
- Investment will reduce the risks arising from adverse weather events.
- Council historically has had little debt and as such has debt capacity to invest.
- Current and future generations share in the costs and benefits.
- Rates are less than if Council had to fund the initial investment from rates only.

Disadvantages of all new Flood Protection Infrastructure being funded by borrowing with repayments paid for by all ratepayers across the region.

- Borrowing can be considered easy money and therefore investment decisions would not be subject to the same scrutiny than raising the funds first.
- Debt results in interest costs which are outside of Council's control.
- Future generations may perceive they are left with a debt burden.

Other Options Considered Rather than Borrowing

Other options would be:

- To fund the annual investment from rates. This is not reasonably practical as the increase in rates would be unaffordable, and the law requires us to consider sharing costs over time when the benefit extends to future generations.
- To fund the investment in advance by collecting funds each year in rates and placing it in a reserve fund until such time as sufficient funds are available to undertake investment. This is not reasonably practical as investment would not happen in a timely manner.

Not taking advantage now of the benefits that increased investment in this infrastructure will have comes at a cost to the community.

How much to invest on Flood Protection Infrastructure is a matter for the Long-term Plan. More information on this can be found in the Long-term Plan Consultation Document.

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OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

As well as our preferred option we considered other options. This included different funding methods and different allocations between rating types.

The following represent the themes considered. Some of these themes have multiple versions modelled.

The matters below are reasonably practical alternatives to the proposed options in this Statement of Proposal.

Other Options for Flood Protection Infrastructure

We considered the catchment-based rating system (the 140 rates) its merits and weaknesses. For a number of years, many of those involved in catchment management as professionals and ratepayers have called for a review.

Many meetings have been had with those involved with catchment management.

We believe that it is generally agreed the current funding is not a reasonably practicable option for our future investment in Flood Protection Infrastructure.

The reasonable practicable options Council considered were degrees of catchment funding and regional rate funding with land value and capital value options. Many versions of these were modelled.

Council also considered whether there should be a targeted rate or the whole of region capital value rate could be absorbed into the general rate. For transparency reasons and given the significance of the investment and risk that a targeted rate would provide better transparency.

There may be other options that could be considered, and Council is open to considering all reasonably practicable options.

Advantages of Other Options for Flood Protection Infrastructure

- Leaving some funding in the catchments continues a legacy of catchment committees having a funding leverage.

Disadvantages of Other Option for Flood Protection Infrastructure

- Funding retained by catchments may reduce funding for more critical investment.
- Not all ratepayers are within current Catchment boundaries. Catchment boundaries would need to be reviewed and changed. Reviewing and reallocating catchment boundaries would have the potential to delay change beyond this LTP process.
- Not having a 100% region wide rate could prevent council from developing a fully regional approach to investment in flood infrastructure. Smaller communities may not be able to fund the investment they need.

Other Options for Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates

Another option for Biosecurity and Land Sustainability rates was to move either one or the other to capital value, rather than both at the same time. These options were modelled and compared to the overall impact of the rates changes proposed.

Overall, the proposal to change either but not both, did show a benefit to rates allocation sufficient to delay the change for both.

Advantages of Other Options Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates

- Some ratepayers would benefit from the delay in moving both to capital value

Disadvantages of Other Option Biosecurity and Land Sustainability Rates

- Making the change over several years would make the process complex and difficult to achieve a balanced outcome.

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Supporting Information

The Statement of Proposal for the Revenue and Financial Policy and rating review 2024 includes additional information that would assist in the understanding of the matters in the proposal. These are not attached but are easily accessed from our website.

[Draft Revenue and Finance Policy](#)

[Draft Funding Needs Analysis](#)

[Workshop Presentations and notes](#)

[Links to Research](#)

[Engagement summaries](#)

[Rates calculator](#)

DRAFT

NGĀI TAHU – OFFER OF SUPPORT

To:	Council
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 30 April 2024
From:	Andrew Strahan – 3 Waters Transition Manager
Approved:	Michael Day - Chief Executive
Approved Date:	Tuesday 23 April 2024
Open Agenda:	Yes
Public Excluded Agenda:	No

Purpose and Summary

In the context of the Government's 'Local Water Done Well' approach to water services delivery, Ngāi Tahu has extended an offer of support to South Island Local Authorities to participate in discussions as to how the organisations might work together. A copy of the offer is provided as Appendix 1.

This paper outlines the offer and provides an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages to Council in considering whether to accept or decline the offer.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Receives the report titled "Ngāi Tahu – Offer of Support".
2. Enter discussions with Ngāi Tahu and the other participating Councils to identify potential opportunities to work together.

Background

With the election of a new Government, on 14 December 2023 the Minister of Local Government announced a new direction for water services delivery and the intention to repeal the previous Government's Water Services Legislation.

On 13 February 2024, the Minister introduced the Water Services Acts Repeal Bill (the Bill). The Bill was enacted on 16 February 2024.

The Bill repealed the establishment of the Water Service Entities and requires Councils to provide for water services in their 2024-2034 Long-term Plans. The Minister has also advised that

further legislation will be introduced to implement the Government's Local Water Done Well Policy. This will be progressed in a two-stage approach.

1. The first Bill, establishing the framework and transitional arrangements for a new water services system, will be passed by the middle of 2024. The framework proposes establishing foundational information disclosure requirements as a first step to economic regulation and enabling Council's to shift the delivery of water services to newly established council-controlled organisations, should they choose to do so.
2. A second Bill providing for the long-term replacement regime will be introduced in December 2024, and is expected to be passed by mid 2025. It will provide a range of structural and financing tools, including a new class of financially independent council-controlled organisations. A legislation plan, provided by DIA that shows the key components of two bills.

Key features of the revised approach is the ability of councils to work together to deliver the three waters function more efficiently and demonstrate financial sustainability.

At the 2021/2022 March 2024 Zone 5 and 6 LGNZ conference, the Chair of Ngāi Tahu extended an invitation to the South Island Local Authorities to enter into discussions to working cooperatively.

Ngāi Tahu have offered to provide administrative, technical and political support to this 'coalition of willing councils'. The aim being to enable greater information and knowledge sharing, exploration of solutions to local/regional infrastructure challenges with the economy of a cooperative's scale and support effective engagement with Government through the coalition approach.

Through the discussions a more detailed view of these and other potential opportunities is expected to be defined.

Issues and Options

Analysis

The offer to Council is to engage in discussions with Ngāi Tahu and the other South Island Local Authorities to identify opportunities in working together and understand the support that Ngāi Tahu is able to provide.

The potential benefits are provided in the assessment of options below. Given the downsides are limited to staff time and participating in these discussions and does not require Council to accept or enter into formal agreements or arrangements, the recommendation is to accept the offer to engage.

In addition, Council have several significant infrastructure projects underway that have complex consenting approvals to secure. These include:

- Bluff Wastewater Plant.
- Clifton Wastewater Plant.
- Proposed new Water Treatment Plant at Awarua.

The offer of support presents an opportunity to enhance the working relationship with Ngāi Tahu and assist Council in raising the profile of these projects and the benefits they provide for the residents and ratepayers of Invercargill city.

Significance

The proposed decision is determined to be not significant in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy for the following reasons:

- The matter is not of a nature or significance that requires consultation (LGA 2002, s82(4)(c)).
- The decision does not affect a strategic asset. As the decision is to only enter early discussions, any subsequent agreement that involves a financial interest or affects a strategic asset will be subject to subsequent assessment and approval.

Options

Option 1 – Accept the offer of support and enter discussions with Ngāi Tahu and other LGA's

Pros:

- Strengthened relationships with Ngāi Tahu and Rūnanga.
- Provide the option to participate in solutions if they are of interest.
- No obligation to participate if solutions are not of interest.
- Insight to how other LGA's are approaching 'Local Water Done Well'.
- Aligns with Councils Memorandum of Understanding with the Ngāi Tahu Whānui.
- Potential access to resources and expertise.
- The group has the potential to exert influence over policy makers.
- Consultation with the community, Iwi and Rūnanga and affected stakeholders is expected to be required once a future direction for water service provision is defined.
- Council gains cultural perspective and knowledge.

Cons:

- Staff time required to participate and report on outcomes.
- Uncertain value of outcomes.

Option 2 – Decline the offer of support.

Pros:

- Savings of Council staff time required to participate.

Cons:

- Unable to gain knowledge of, or participate, in solutions if they are of interest or value
- Potential financial impacts if financial contributions are made available.
- Potential reputation risk to Council in rebuffing early conversations to collaborate with Ngāi Tahu.
- Perception that Council does not work effectively with Iwi and other Councils, impacting future ability to collaborate with these groups and deliver 'Local Water Done Well'.
- Consultation with Ngāi Tahu Rūnanga and Murihuku Rūnanga is expected to be required once a future direction is established.

Community Views

Given the early stages of the offer, the level of significance is not considered sufficient to warrant consulting on this matter with the community.

Staff consider that, the community would expect Council to work collaboratively with Ngāi Tahu and the other participating Councils.

Implications and Risks

Strategic Consistency

Two of the current strategic challenges in Council's current Long-term Plan are related to this work:

- Changing community requirements for water outcomes.
- The need to maintain core infrastructure and invest for the future, while maintaining financial prudence and balancing the community's ability to pay.

Engaging with Ngāi Tahu may assist Council in defining solutions to address these challenges.

Financial Implications

The time required for staff to participate in discussions is expected to be minimal. No other direct costs are expected.

Council would risk not being party to the discussions or receiving the benefits of any eventual agreement which has the potential for knowledge, resourcing and/or financial contribution.

Legal Implications

There are a number of Acts that create obligations for Council to include Māori in decision-making and to take into account Māori interests and views as well as the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).

Some of these include:

- Section 4 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), which recognises the importance of the Treaty of Waitangi and the Crown's obligation to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to Local Government.
- Section 14 LGA sets out a number of principles for local authorities in performing our roles; included in this is for the local authority to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to the decision-making process.^[1]
- Section 6 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) provides for the importance of the relationship of Māori to the whenua and the importance of Māori culture and traditions in relation to their ancestral lands to be considered by those exercising power under the RMA.^[2] The RMA also provides for the creation of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements. These arrangements are to provide for means for iwi authorities and local authorities to discuss, agree and record ways in what Takata Whenua may, via the iwi authority, participate in resource management and the RMA decision making process^[3].

The LGA requires local authorities not only to have processes in place to consult with Māori but to actively provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes. The Act

^[1] Section 14(1)(d) LGA

^[2] This provision is likely to be at least maintained and more likely enhanced in the new legislation to replace the RMA.

^[3] Section 58M RMA, and Subpart 2, Part 5 RMA. I understand there is not currently such an arrangement in Invercargill City Council.

provides scope and flexibility for a local authority to decide how best to provide those opportunities for Māori to contribute to its decision-making processes.

Council is party to a Charter of Understanding with Te Ao Mārama Inc representing the four local rūnanga. The Charter establishes and provides for a clear understanding of the basis and on-going conduct of the relationship between the signatory Councils and the tangata whenua, in the context of both the RMA and the LGA. The purpose of the Charter is to develop the relationship of the mutual benefit between the local authorities within the Murihiku rohe and the mana whenua of the Murihiku and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. The Charter is endorsed by [Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and provides for their inclusion in consultation where appropriate.](#)

Climate Change

No Climate Change Implications have been identified.

Risk

No risks have been identified with accepting the offer to engage.

A potential reputation risk has been identified if the request were not accepted. Per Council's Risk Management Framework:

- It is considered that the consequence would be of a moderate nature. That is, some impact on public confidence, reflected by local media and community interest in the Council's performance.
- Council is risk averse to risks of this nature.

Next Steps

On the basis that the recommendation is accepted:

- Council Chief Executive respond to Ngāi Tahu confirming acceptance to the offer of support and with relevant Council staff, engage in discussion with Ngāi Tahu and the other participating local authorities.
- That a report on the outcomes of these discussions be reported back to Council.

Attachments

Appendix 1 – Ngāi Tahu Offer Letter 28 March 2024 (A5313759).



Te Rūnanga o **NGĀI TAHU**

28 March 2024

Tēnā koe,

Thank you for the invitation to speak at the Zone 5 and 6 LGNZ conference last week.

It was clear from questions and our kōrero afterwards that Ngāi Tahu and Te Waipounamu councils share the same aspirations for our communities; ensuring equitable access across all communities to safe, affordable, sustainable water services and infrastructure resilient to the challenges of climate change and extreme weather events.

The scale of the challenge required to meet the new Government's expectations around water quality, infrastructure investment and financial sustainability without burdening the current and future generations of taxpayers, is significant. Ngāi Tahu is particularly concerned for how we ensure that those councils with large geographic districts and low population bases are not left behind.

My invitation, as extended last week, is that we work together to meet these challenges. Building on the constructive working relationships we already have, and the experience of the past three years we are again proposing to help coordinate a cooperative approach to water services delivery (the "coalition of the willing" I spoke of last week).

I hope that your council will be part of discussions as to how we might work together to progress this important kaupapa. Can I ask your office to contact Gabrielle Huria, Te Kura Taka Pini Chief Executive (gabrielle.huria@ngaitahu.iwi.nz), to confirm your interest, and we will be in touch again to discuss next steps.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Tipa'.

Justin Tipa
Kaiwhakahaere

ESK STREET WEST UPDATE

To:	Council
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 30 April 2024
From:	Russell Pearson – Chief Engineer Infrastructure
Approved:	Michael Day - Chief Executive
Approved Date:	Tuesday 23 April 2024
Open Agenda:	Yes
Public Excluded Agenda:	No

Purpose and Summary

This report updates Council on the ongoing work on the Esk Street West project. Staff have been working with the Distinction Hotel and they have prepared a concept plan for the access from Dee Street and for Esk Street. The Governance Group has meet and reviewed the plans.

The main consideration during this phase has been to establish that moving the clock forward towards Dee Street is appropriate.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Receives the report "Esk Street West Update".
2. Receives and endorses the Esk Street West Concept Plan, noting that further design plans will be considered by the Governance Group.
3. Notes that the clock is planned to be retained and moved east towards Dee Street which will highlight it as a stronger feature within Wachner Place.
4. Notes the Project Budget allowance for Council's contribution is planned to be \$4 million.

Background

Council consulted on changes to Wachner Place and Esk Street West which would allow coach travel through Wachner Place. Distinction Hotels is the developer of the Hotel and carpark in lower Esk Street and have been working with Council staff on concept plans for the area.

The Esk Street West Project Governance Group (Mayor Clark, Councillors Campbell and Dermody, Chief Executive, Group Manager - Infrastructure and Distinction Hotel Team (Owner – Geoff Thompson and Project Management team)), have continued to meet to oversee the

combined project. Concept plans were reviewed and discussed at the Project Governance Group meeting on 9 April 2024.

The concept plans are the first stage in developing a solution which can be built. They are intended to draw out the key issues where further consideration and design can be applied and resolved. They typically lack the fine detail needed for construction and are the initial stage of the approval process.

The concept plans have highlighted that the best solution is to retain the clock in Wachner Place but move it further to the east of its current location. This is seen to provide the best outcome. The current clock mechanism is in need of a major overhaul and this process would be part of the relocation process which would ensure that the clock operation is ongoing. If it were to stay in the current location, the mechanism would still need removed for this work to occur and relocating it is possibly a better approach and outcome. Input from the original team who rebuilt the clock is being sought. The move is predominantly a new supporting structure (which will ensure it meets the current building code) this would allow it to be re-clad in a suitable design to support both Wachner Place and the City Centre. This is seen as an opportunity to strengthen the purpose of the clock and its connection to the wider area.

The developer has also offered to coordinate and undertake the construction works with the majority of cost being met, thereby limiting Council's contribution (and risks) to the project. The timing of completion of the streetscape works and opening of the hotel would rest with the developer which lessens the time constraints on Council resources and allows maximum flexibility for the developer to coordinate both the hotel, carpark and street reinstatement activities.

Further design and discussion is required with key stake holders both internally and externally to reach the next stage of Preliminary Design. This stage is where the detailing of the surface finishes and features are confirmed before construction plans are completed.

Issues and Options

Analysis

The concept work has extended the understanding of the traffic movement particularly around the clock. The access from Dee Street is a process being worked through with Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency. Access past the clock has highlighted what was always going to be a very tight location and that a better solution is move the clock, refresh the looks and maintain the clock mechanism. This best protects the clock's future.

Significance

This issue has been previously consulted on and the change reported within this report, namely retaining but moving the clock. The funding proposed for the project is less than the Long-term Plan (LTP). This report does not trigger the significance policy.

Options

The concept plans set the scene for more design and detailing to occur. It establishes the building blocks of the area and how these areas interact. The site has a range of existing physical limitations which includes the underground utilities for locations such as the clock or changing where access could occur.

The options which have been considered were to either leave the clock in its current location, relocate within Wachner Place or find an alternative site. The earlier consultation highlighted the support for the clock and the relocation option is seen as the most appropriate outcome to ensure the clock remains valued, is upgraded appropriately and becomes a feature. The proposed location sits within the central axis of the street and is complementary to the completed Esk Street section.

This report and the concept design looks to utilise and enhance the direction set by Council when it approved the access through Wachner Place.

Community Views

Council has already consulted and received the community views on this proposal.

Implications and Risks

Strategic Consistency

The concept plans received are consistent with the City Centre Master Plan and look to support the strengthening the connection to the City Centre. The work is strategically important in that it connects the west side of Dee Street to the recently completed work in Don and Esk Street and importantly the hotel will ensure there are more people movements in this area. The look and feel of Esk Street West will be significantly changed upon completion.

Financial Implications

The Developer has agreed in principle at their cost to undertake and coordinate delivery of the majority of the works needed to establish and restore Esk Street West and the access from Dee Street. Council would contribute a sum which would be presentative of the improvements being undertaken but would pay for the planned maintenance of the clock mechanism and any specific requirements for the cladding elements. The new structure would be provided by the Developer. The budget assessment for the project is a \$2 million contribution for street improvements, \$1 million contingency for any soil contamination within the road area, \$1 million contingency for associated works such as clock mechanism and unforeseen requirements. The Developer would be responsible for the works from Leven Street through to Dee Street but not the area of Wachner Place to the east of the access lane. Funding will be confirmed through the LTP process.

Legal Implications

There are no current legal implications. An agreement with the Developer is being concluded which will set out all the requirements and standards expected and ensure that the works are completed.

Climate Change

Works are at a concept stage and where possible climate change impacts will be considered in the works planned.

Risk

Council will be working directly with the developer and the majority of the cost risk is not being carried by Council as the proposed approach is a lump sum.

Risks relating to unforeseen soil or foundations are looked to be addressed through the contingency allowance.

The community considerations have been received through the consultation and the concept plan looks to strengthen the direction of retaining the clock. The new location is seen as a stronger feature for the area and more likely that the level of maintenance will be better and ongoing.

Next Steps

The Developer will continue to have further design undertaken through to a preliminary design stage where this will be considered by the Governance Group. This would be reported back to Council. Following this stage detailed design would be completed and construction works would commence (hopefully during the improving weather post winter) with a completion in Quarter 2 2025.

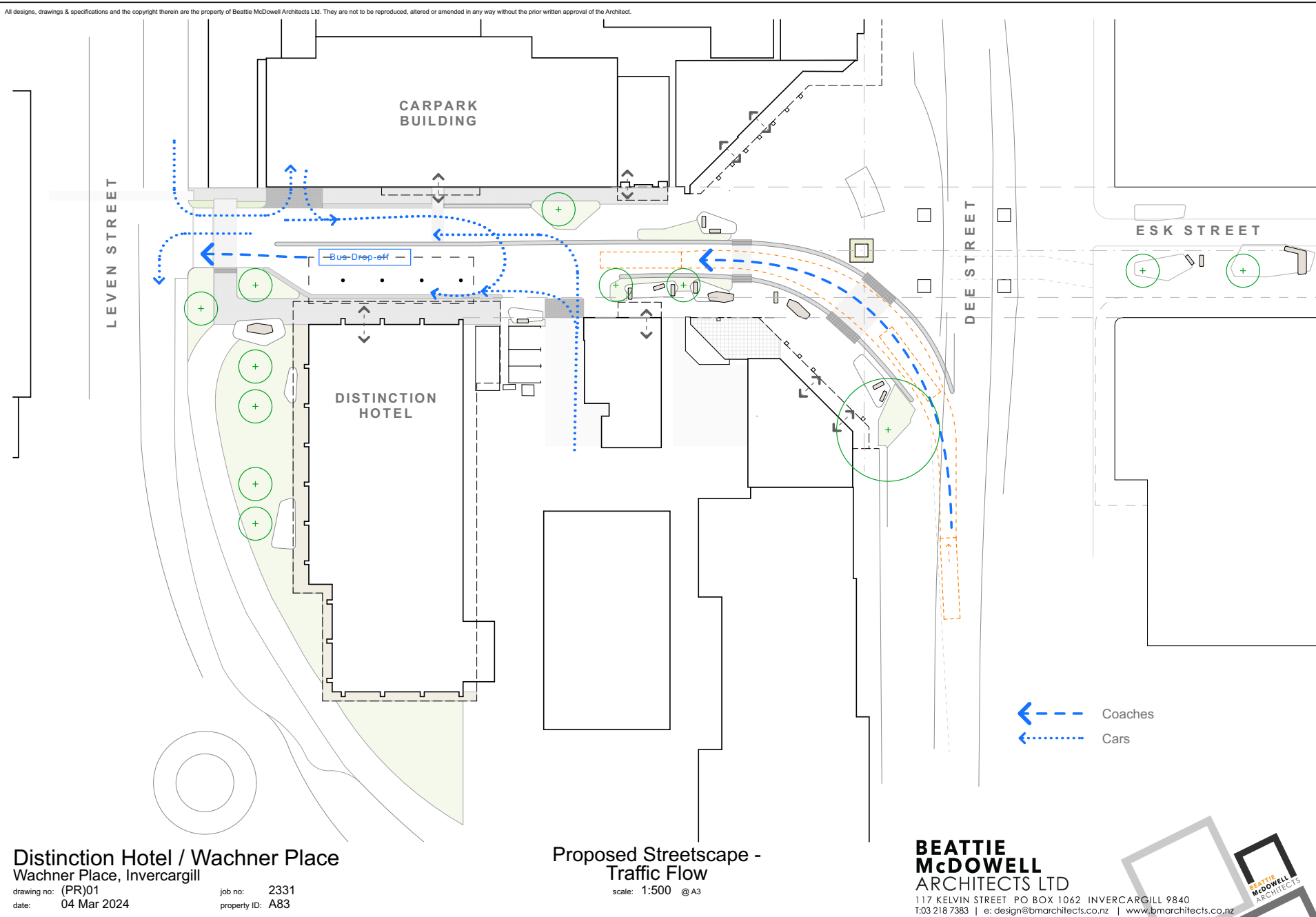
Further and ongoing discussions will occur with the adjacent property owners (and tenants) and Waka Kotahi. Internal stakeholder discussion and collaboration would continue with the developer.

Governance Group will meet bi-monthly or as required to ensure the project continues in an agreed manner and the working relationship with the Developer continues. Reports to Council would follow those meetings or as significant stages or issues are approached.

Attachments

1. Concept Plans – Esk Street West. (A5326665)

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Distinction Hotel / Wachner Place
Wachner Place, Invercargill

drawing no: (PR)01 job no: 2331
date: 04 Mar 2024 property ID: A83

**Proposed Streetscape -
Traffic Flow**

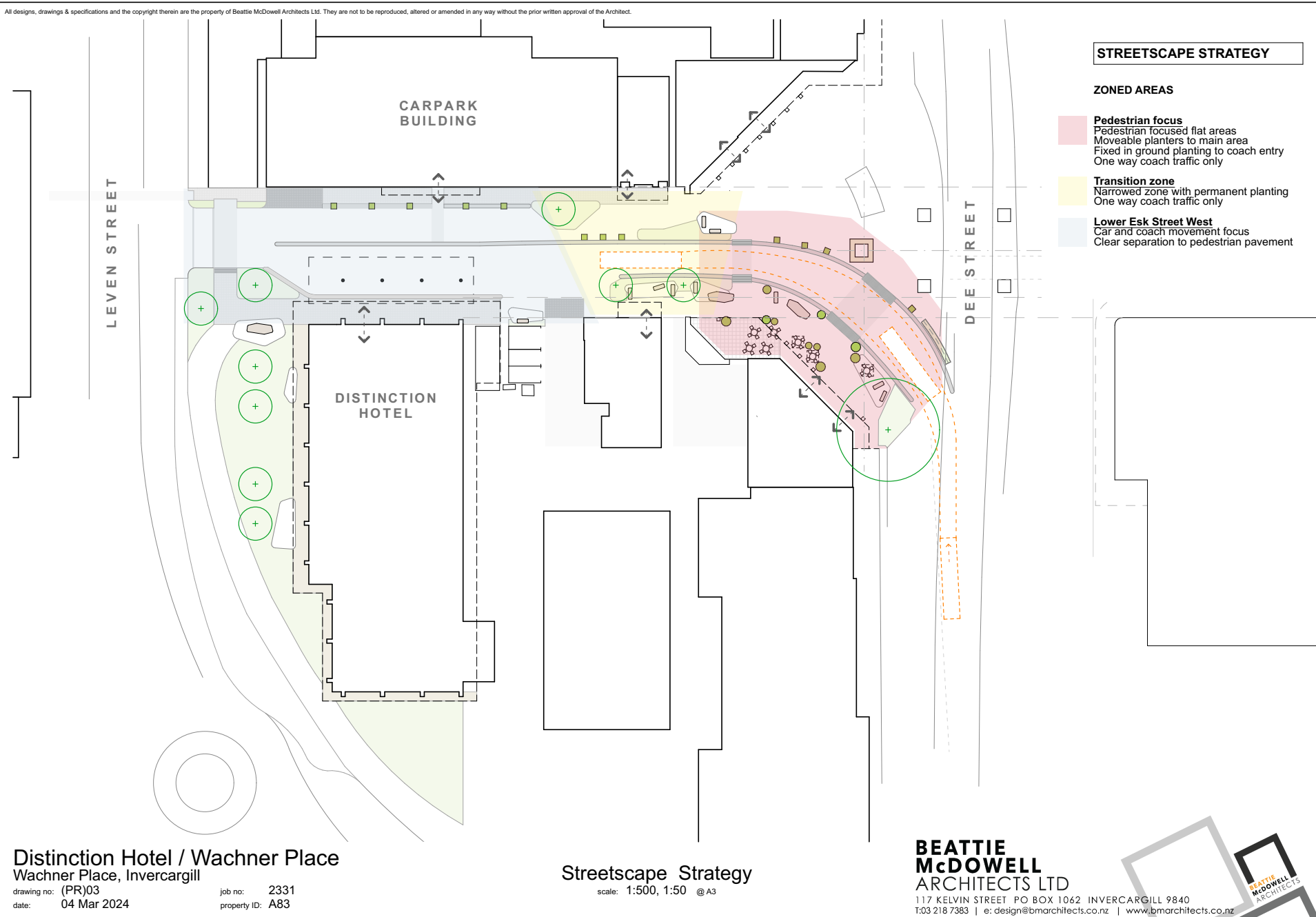
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STREETSCAPE STRATEGY

ZONED AREAS

- Pedestrian focus**
 Pedestrian focused flat areas
 Moveable planters to main area
 Fixed in ground planting to coach entry
 One way coach traffic only
- Transition zone**
 Narrowed zone with permanent planting
 One way coach traffic only
- Lower Esk Street West**
 Car and coach movement focus
 Clear separation to pedestrian pavement

Distinction Hotel / Wachner Place

Wachner Place, Invercargill

drawing no: (PR)03 job no: 2331
 date: 04 Mar 2024 property ID: A83

Streetscape Strategy

scale: 1:500, 1:50 @ A3

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Removeable planters used to identify pedestrian and vehicle zones



Existing tree to south end of Wachner Place

Distinction Hotel / Wachner Place
Wachner Place, Invercargill

drawing no: (PR)04 job no: 2331
date: 04 Mar 2024 property ID: A83

Moodboard Images

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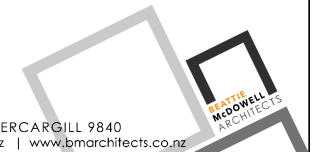
Distinction Hotel / Wachner Place
Wachner Place, Invercargill

drawing no: (PR)05 job no: 2331
date: 04 Mar 2024 property ID: A83

Clock Image 1

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Distinction Hotel / Wachner Place
Wachner Place, Invercargill

drawing no: (PR)06 job no: 2331
date: 04 Mar 2024 property ID: A83

Clock Image 1a

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Distinction Hotel / Wachner Place
Wachner Place, Invercargill

drawing no: (PR)07 job no: 2331
date: 04 Mar 2024 property ID: A83

Clock Image 1b

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Distinction Hotel / Wachner Place
Wachner Place, Invercargill

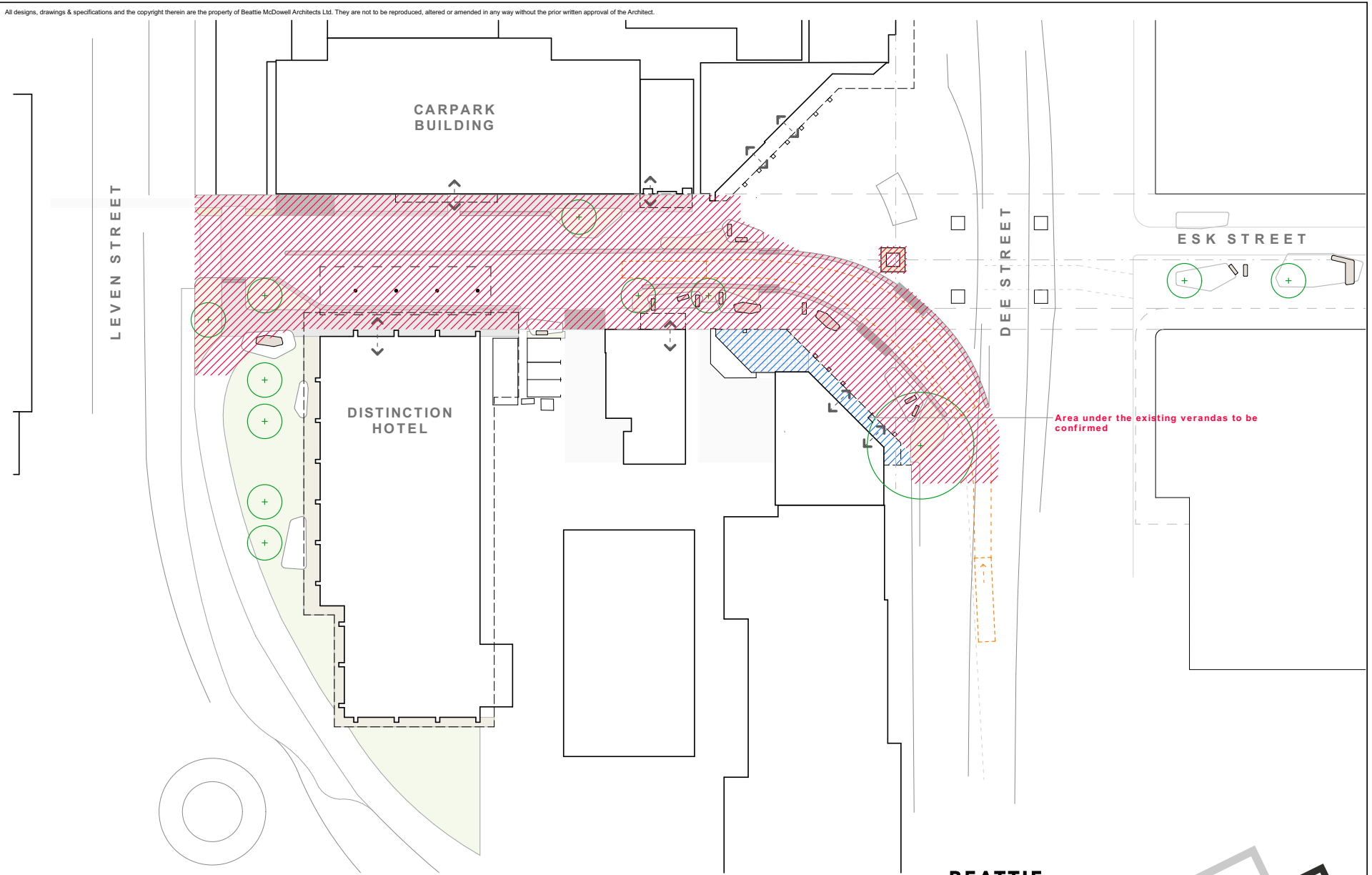
drawing no: (PR)08 job no: 2331
date: 04 Mar 2024 property ID: A83

Clock Image 2

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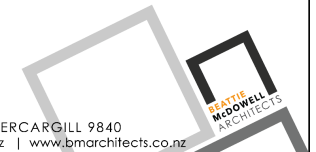
drawing no: (PR)09 job no: 2331
date: 04 Mar 2024 property ID: A83

Extent of Streetscape Work

scale: 1:500 @ A3

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To:	Council
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 30 April 2024
From:	Michael Morris – Manager, Governance and Legal
Approved:	Michael Day - Chief Executive
Approved Date:	Wednesday 24 April 2024
Open Agenda:	Yes
Public Excluded Agenda:	No

Purpose and Summary

Council currently has a paid membership of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) who act as an advocate/ single combined voice for Local Government and as a connector of councils at a governance level.

Council's membership is due for renewal, the cost to renew the membership is \$73,326.94 (GST Inc.)

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Receives the report titled "Local Government New Zealand Membership Renewal".
2. Resolves to **Renew/ Decline** Membership of LGNZ for the 2024-2025 year.

Background

LGNZ is the national organisation representing and advocating on behalf of all local authorities in New Zealand.

They support training, connection and guidance for all member councils.

It is a choice for councils to be members and the vast majority are members, however in recent times there have been councils withdrawing from LGNZ, most notably Auckland Council.

The decision of Membership is an elected member's decision.

If Membership is withdrawn then the following report in this agenda will be required to be left on the table.

Issues and Options

Analysis

LGNZ have provided the attached document setting out their reset strategy making clear their purpose - champion, connect and support.

Membership also brings with it the ability to attend the LGNZ Conference, contributing to training and hearing from leading figures in New Zealand, including the Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government. Ākoma the LGNZ online learning platform has also just been made available to all elected and appointed members.

LGNZ also provides a single voice that advocates on behalf of councils, seeing strength in numbers and unified voices, the remit process at the LGNZ AGM is part of this work to advocate on matters important to Local Government.

However, this needs to be balanced against the cost of membership and the services Council considers it receives from LGNZ. These are value based assessments of members relating to what is received back from LGNZ and the value of a national voice advocating for councils (while recording the disquiet that was raised by LGNZ and its approach to 3 Waters Reform under the previous Government).

Significance

Either renewing or withdrawing does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Policy requiring consultation. However to withdraw from membership of LGNZ is a significant step away from a collective group that Council has enjoyed many years of membership.

That needs to be balanced against the significant cost pressures Council and our community are experiencing and the value derived from LGNZ.

Options

There are two options, to renew or to not renew.

Community Views

No community engagement has been undertaken on this matter and is not recommended as this is a matter for Council being part of, or not part of a membership group.

Implications and Risks

Financial Implications

The cost to renew membership is \$73,326.94.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications either way.

Climate Change

There are no direct impacts on climate change from either decision.

Risk

Council risks becoming isolated from other councils on a national basis and losing the connectedness with other elected and appointed members if it is to withdraw.

There is also reputational risk with other councils, including amongst the Southland councils if Council chooses to withdraw, as other councils have prioritised retaining membership for the benefits they see LGNZ bringing.

The risk of remaining a member is not deriving sufficient benefits to justify the expense in a time of financial hardship across our community.

Attachments

1. LGNZ Priorities (A5329476)

We champion, connect and support local government



CHAMPION/

- + We advocate for the national interests of local government on critical issues.
 - > For example, our advocacy meant councils could choose to delay adopting their LTP given the changes to water services reform. So far, eight councils have decided to delay by up to three months and 11 councils deferred for a year.
 - > We've advocated strongly for the Minister of Local Government to be included in Cabinet – which is the approach taken by the current government.
- + We generate a national conversation about key local government challenges by commissioning research and developing thought leadership.
 - > In March, LGNZ released research by Infometrics analysing increases in local government infrastructure costs that are driving rates rises.
 - > We've commissioned NZIER to estimate the costs of four reforms on local government, to show how unfunded mandates contribute to councils' costs. This research is due out in June.
- + LGNZ speaks out for local government in the media – on issues like rates rises, local government funding and harassment of elected members.
 - > For example, since December we've generated more than 100 media mentions on why rates are increasing and how local government needs new funding and financing tools.
 - > We regularly talk to Local Democracy reporters to help them understand the issues behind the headlines and make their coverage more balanced.
- + Our expertise helps you to decode policy and make submissions. For members using the analysis and evidence in our submissions, we estimate you save time or costs worth:
 - > \$34,000 for the submission on the NPS-Natural Hazards and Inquiry into Community-Led Retreat and Adaptation Funding
 - > \$27,300 for the submission on the Emergency Management Bill
 - > \$82,100 for the submission on the Natural and Built Environments and Spatial Planning Bills
 - > \$43,800 for the freedom camping guidance.
- + We operate in a political environment – but we're nonpartisan and build a strong relationship with the government of the day that supports members' engagement.
 - > We met with the PM in March and have locked in quarterly meetings for 2024, along with regular meetings with the Local Government Minister, Regional Development Minister and Minister for RMA and Infrastructure.
 - > We've established an LGNZ Transport Forum to drive transport advocacy.
 - > We meet regularly with senior officials in key central government agencies.

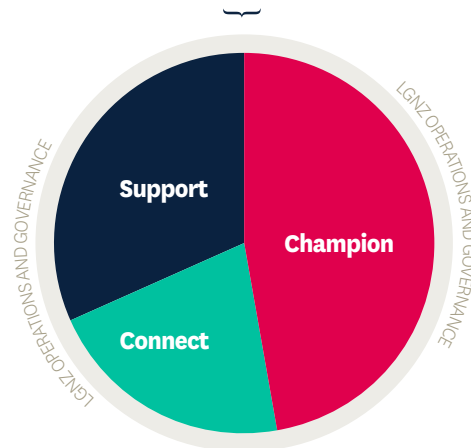
CONNECT/

- + Our sector and zone meetings connect local government leaders and put you in front of central government politicians and experts.
 - > We've secured Ministers and key stakeholders for recent Metro, Rural & Provincial and Regional sector meetings.
- + Our networks – Te Maruata, Young Elected Members and CBEC – connect their members and provide targeted support.
 - > Each network holds in-person hui. This year the CBEC Conference is being held in tandem with SuperLocal24.
- + Our must-attend conference brings everyone in local government together.
 - > More than 800 people attended SuperLocal23, with very positive feedback about the venue, sessions, networking opportunities and overall experience.

SUPPORT/

- + We're the home of Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, which has placed thousands of young people into employment and training.
- + Through Ākōna, we tailor professional development and induction for local government's exact needs and provide every elected member access.
 - > Ākōna's range of courses and resources has grown exponentially since it launched, thanks to councils' input. The online learning platform includes 17 e-modules as well as in person and online workshops, with an average of three new courses rolled out every quarter.
- + We develop templates and guides that you can use or adapt – from standing orders to codes of conduct.
 - > We've had more than 300 downloads of our governance guides in the past four months.
- + We support elected members and councils when they are stuck. We're who you call when things get tough and messy. We work behind the scenes to support elected members, councils and local democracy.
 - > We provide free, anonymous counselling for members. 97% of people who accessed therapy in the 2023 calendar year and provided feedback said that it was helpful.
- + Member councils receive financial benefits from participating in initiatives like our Street Light Profiles or the Moata Carbon portal.
- + LGNZ is a partner in the Road Efficiency Group –Te Ringa Maimoa, which is a unique partnership focused on better activity management and decision making while building capability across the transport sector.

WHERE OUR EFFORT GOES





OUR VISION/ To create the most active and inclusive local democracy in the world.

Our purpose:

WE SERVE MEMBERS BY CHAMPIONING, CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CHAMPION/

- > Advocate for local government on critical issues.
- > Build relationships with ministers and officials.
- > Decode policy and make submissions.
- > Speak out for local government in the media.

CONNECT/

- > Bring members together at zone, sector and conference events or via networks like Te Maruata and YEM.
- > Create strong feedback loops between members and LGNZ's work.

SUPPORT/

- > Provide professional development uniquely tailored to local government.
- > Support councils and elected members when they are stuck.
- > Support elected members to deal with pressure and harassment.

Our long-term goals:

- 01.** Local government and central government are trusted partners.
- 02.** Localism is entrenched as the best way to deliver for our communities.
- 03.** Elected members are connected, engaged and highly capable.
- 04.** Te Tiriti partnerships between local government and Māori are authentic, strong and respected.
- 05.** More New Zealanders value and participate in local government.
- 06.** A sustainable and fit-for-purpose LGNZ.

Our work:

CHAMPION/

- + Focus our advocacy effort on the big issues impacting local government and key priorities that matter to both local and central government.
- + Build a partnership with the new Government by creating connections and developing solutions.
- + Advocate for Choose Localism.

CONNECT/

- + Lift engagement with our members.
- + Bring localism to life at SuperLocal24.
- + Revitalise our Te Ao Māori/Te Tiriti based approach.

SUPPORT/

- + Fulfil the potential of our Ākōna learning and development platform.
- + Roll out the revitalised CouncilMARK/Te Korowai.
- + Create resolution service to address complaints and build trust.

WHAT MEMBERS SAY ABOUT LGNZ >>

“LGNZ provides opportunities to connect with my peers and learn from them as well as the ability to come together and negotiate with Central Government to get better policy and funding outcomes for the people we collectively serve. Without this work our community would be significantly disadvantaged.”

“LGNZ is like the dinner table at my parents’ house at Christmas time – a place where we can debate the issues of the moment, even if we don’t always agree. A place where we meet and get support from those that know what we are going through. And a place where we can reflect, laugh and relax (often over a beverage or two).”

“It’s been a lifeline at times to see, know and learn what is happening across the country, we can draw strength and ideas for our council and best of all build great networks.”

“During the last year, 42 councils were impacted when an engineering technologist used other engineers’ signatures to sign off on producer statements and certificates of design. While that person has now pleaded guilty to charges of forgery, LGNZ offered strong leadership and support, connecting councils together, and helping to carefully explain the impact to households across many communities.”

“The value of LGNZ to me is in the context of relationship and a safe place to go to when guidance is required and the knowledge that our sector body is representing the vision and goals of our communities. LGNZ needs to remain grounded in its purpose to ensure it continues to demonstrate valued and visible outcomes.”

“LGNZ’s forums create the ability to connect with people who ‘get it,’ in what can be an isolating role, I find this invaluable.”

“An increased feeling of support and connection – I’m part of a team that delivers!”

“In addition to the networks like Te Maruata and YEM, mayors and chairs have the additional support provided by the sector meetings. I find this invaluable for seeking support in what can be a very challenging job, and it also enables councils facing the same issues to work collectively together through LGNZ rather than individually reinventing wheels for every topic that comes up. These sector meetings also provide access to ministers in a way that would not necessarily be possible for an individual mayor or chair.”

“There are multiple opportunities for networking for councillors to discuss and compare issues their councils are facing, and to seek other forms of support.”

“The advocacy role to Government is huge. My council does not have the resources or the influence to ensure our experience on the ground is heard. By being part of LGNZ we become a national force, with significant mana and authority.”

“Most councillors arrive at the table with very little understanding of how local government works and the LGNZ induction is a useful training session alongside the induction process run by each council. This is often where network formation begins as well. Ākōna provides a method for continued up-skilling.”

“LGNZ submits on a far greater range of policy than my council does which means despite us not having the time or resources to flag all issues with government, we know that LGNZ is doing this on our behalf. In addition, the policy submissions that LGNZ prepares are often used as a basis for our own submissions, saving time for officers.”

“Ākōna has saved my council money because we’ve been able to reduce other training.”

“I think it is worth considering what the status quo would look like if LGNZ or an equivalent did not exist. I think councils would quickly get together and create an LGNZ equivalent because it would be glaringly obvious that it is necessary!”

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT LGNZ AGM AND LGNZ CONFERENCE 2024

To:	Council
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 30 April 2024
From:	Michael Morris, Manager – Governance and Legal
Approved:	Michael Day - Chief Executive
Approved Date:	Wednesday 24 April 2024
Open Agenda:	Yes
Public Excluded Agenda:	No

Purpose and Summary

Council will attend the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 21 August 2024 and needs to appoint a Presiding Delegate, and up to three Alternate Delegates who can vote on behalf of Council.

At the meeting all delegates will consider remits from the members on matters that they would like to see LGNZ advance for the coming year.

The LGNZ Conference, a separate but linked event, is from 21 August to 23 August and will be held in Wellington.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Receives the report titled "Council Representation at LGNZ AGM and LGNZ Conference 2024".
2. Notes that Cr [redacted] be registered as Council's Presiding Delegate and Cr [redacted] as the Alternative Delegate(s) for the Local Government New Zealand AGM.
3. Notes that the timeframe for lodging a remit is 5.00 pm on 18 June 2024.
4. Notes the process for lodging a remit as set out in the LGNZ Remit Form attached to this report as Appendix 1.
5. Approves the attendance at the Conference of Mayor Nobby Clark, Cr's [redacted] and the Chief Executive Michael Day.

Background

LGNZ AGM

The LGNZ AGM is a separate event to the LGNZ Conference and is being held in Wellington on 21 August 2024.

The LGNZ constitution that governs attendances at the AGM, states in clause G15:

“Every Member Authority must appoint one of its delegates as its presiding delegate and may appoint one or more alternate delegates; provided that the number of alternate delegates does not exceed the number of delegates appointed”.

Council is entitled to be represented at the AGM by four delegates, and the Presiding Delegate is the person responsible for voting on behalf of Council.

However only one person can be nominated as the Presiding Delegate, the balance will be alternative delegates.

It is for Council to determine who shall be the Presiding delegate and the Alternate delegate(s).

Remits at LGNZ AGM

LGNZ is the advocacy organisation for local authorities in New Zealand. At the AGM Councils vote on Remits to help set the direction of work for LGNZ for the coming year.

An opportunity is provided each year for member authorities to submit remits on matters which they would like LGNZ to advocate.

A memorandum setting out the process for remits is attached.

All remits must be lodged by 5.00 pm on 18 June 2024.

LGNZ Conference

The allocated budget from October 2022 to October 2025 triennium for Elected Members' travel and training covers travel, accommodation, incidental expenses and registration costs for Council related attendance at governance training and sector meetings, conferences and events. It also includes induction expenses after the election.

The funds are located in the travel and conference area of the Councillors' budget to cover the cost of Councillors only. Resource Management Act training for Councillors is currently paid for by the Planning budget.

The Mayor's travel and training budget costs are paid for from the Mayoral budget and the Bluff Community Board pays for the costs of travel and training for Community Board Elected Members.

Travel and attendance for the Chief Executive is covered by his own budget.

When selecting training, meeting or events, individual members are responsible for ensuring and demonstrating that their selected options align with these criteria:

Councillors must be able to demonstrate that:

1. The event is held in New Zealand.
2. The event is relevant to local government.
3. The event is preferably, but not exclusively, supported by Local Government New Zealand or aligned organisations.
4. The event supports the elected members in contributing effectively and appropriately, in their governance role, to the present and future needs and vision of Invercargill City Council.
5. The event is the most cost-effective option to achieve the identified outcomes and if not, why it is preferred over more cost-effective options.
6. The event is within their allocated individual budget.
7. Their travel and training costs meet the criteria outlined in 1-6, in response to any public or media inquiries about their travel and training, which will be directed to the individual member.

Other Events on at the same time as the LGNZ Conference

Te Maruata Hui

On Tuesday 20 August the Te Maruata Hui will be held bringing together elected and appointed Māori members, it provides an opportunity to bring the members together and connect.

Young Elected Members Hui

The Young Elected Members Hui is to be held on 21 August between 9.30 am and 1.30 pm in Wellington and is a chance for Young Elected members to meet, build connections and learn. It is for all elected members under 40 years old.

Women in Local Government: Leading and thriving

This event is an add on to the LGNZ Conference held on 21 August from 11.00 am to 12.45 pm. It is a chance to meet and network with other women in Local Government over lunch.

Issues and Options

Nil.

Community Views

Nil.

Implications and Risks

Strategic Consistency

Not applicable.

Financial Implications

Funds are located in the travel and conference area of the Mayoral budget, Councillors' budget and Chief Executive's budget to cover these costs.

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Risk

No risks identified.

Climate Change

With all travel there is a carbon impact.

It is also an option to travel by bus and ferry or to not attend the Conference.

Not attending the Conference is not recommended as it means valuable learning and networking opportunities are missed.

Next Steps

Once delegates and those attending the Conference have been selected, staff will arrange registration, flights and accommodation.

Attachments

1. Remit Application Form (A5328460)



REMIT APPLICATION FORM

How to submit a remit/

Remits are positions or policies put to LGNZ's AGM for a vote.

Any remit needs the support of either an LGNZ Zone, Sector or five councils.

LGNZ reviews all proposed remits to ensure they meet the criteria below.

If your council wants to propose a remit for consideration by the 2024 AGM, please complete this form and email it, along with any supporting information, to agm@lgnz.co.nz by Tuesday 18 June, 2024.

If you have any questions about the remit process, or want help completing your application, please contact [Simon Randall](#), Policy and Advocacy Manger.

Criteria for remits/

1. The remit is relevant to local government as a whole, not just a single Zone, Sector or council;
2. The remit relates to significant matters, including constitutional and substantive policy, rather than matters that can be dealt with administratively;
3. The remit concerns matters that can't be addressed through channels other than the AGM.
4. The remit does not deal with issues that are already being actioned by LGNZ. This covers work programmes underway as part of LGNZ's strategy.

The process from here/

Once LGNZ receives your proposed remit, it will be considered by our Remit Screening Committee. This Committee is made up of LGNZ's President, Vice-President, Chief Executive and Director of Policy and Advocacy. The Remit Screening Committee will determine whether your proposed remit satisfies the criteria above, and whether or not to put it forward to the 2024 AGM.

We will let you know whether your remit is going forward to the AGM by Tuesday 2 July 2024.



Why is this remit important?

Briefly describe what the issue is and why it requires action.

Max. 150 words

Background and context:

You may wish to include:

- > What has caused this issue?
- > Relevant legislation, policy or practice
- > Key statistics to show the scope of the issue
- > An outline of what your council/others have already done to address this issue or bring about the proposed change.

Max 500 words

How does this remit relate to LGNZ's current work programme?

Briefly describe how the proposed remit aligns with [LGNZ's Strategy](#) and policy priorities but does not duplicate existing or planned work.

Approx. 150 words



How will your council help LGNZ to make progress on this remit?

Briefly describe the steps that your council would be prepared to take to assist LGNZ to progress the remit

100 – 300 words

Supporting information and research

Please attach to your email:

- > A copy of this application form.
- > Evidence of support from an LGNZ Zone or Sector Group or five councils. This could be in the form of emails, letters or Zone/Sector Group meeting minutes or resolutions.
- > Any further contextual/background information you'd like to share, combined in a single word or PDF file.

ELECTED AND APPOINTED MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE REGISTER JANUARY 2024 - MARCH 2024

To: Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday 30 April 2024

From: Michael Morris – Manager, Governance and Legal

Approved: Michael Day – Chief Executive

Approved Date: Tuesday 23 April 2024

Open Agenda: Yes

Public Excluded Agenda: No

Purpose and Summary

This report provides the elected and appointed members of Invercargill City Council information on their attendance register. This report also provides members the opportunity to review and raise any discrepancies in the register.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receives the report 'Elected and Appointed Members' Attendance Register – January 2024 - March 2024.

Background

Elected and appointed members of Council are expected to attend scheduled Council meetings and workshops to exercise their duties and responsibilities. Unless otherwise engaged in other Council related business or on a leave of absence or an apology has been tendered, an expectation is placed on each member to attend the meetings and workshops.

Members' attendance will be recorded in the attendance register which will provide information to be able to respond to requests for such information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Issues

If an apology has been missed then the councillor can seek to amend the minutes at the next meeting to have the record corrected. However they should be sure they did tender an apology before making the correction.

Standing Orders require elected members to tender apologies for their inability to attend meetings to the Mayor, Chief Executive or Governance and Legal Team. Therefore, it is recommended that apologies be sent to the Mayor / Chief Executive with a copy to the Governance and Legal team so that apologies are recorded in the minutes and maintained in the attendance register.

Once the minutes are corrected the attendance register will also be corrected.

Attachment

1. Attendance Register of Elected and Appointed Members (A5328335).

Council - Public - Elected and Appointed Members' Attendance Register – January 2024 - March 2024 (A53255959)

A5328335

LEGEND:		Mayor Nobby Clark	Cr Allan Arnold	Cr Ria Bond	Cr Trish Boyle	Cr Steve Broad	Cr Tom Campbell	Cr Alex Cackett	Cr Grant Dermody	Cr Peter Kett	Cr Darren Ludlow	Cr Ian Pottinger	Cr Lesley Soper	Cr Barry Stewart	Mana Whenua - Evelyn Cook	Mana Whenua - Pania Coote	BCB - Ray Fife	BCB - Sam Graham	BCB - Terina Stockwell	BCB - Justin Sutherland	BCB - Tammi Topi	External Appointee - Bruce Robertson	External Appointee - Ross Jackson
Member: Shaded column																							
Yes: Attended as a member, for more than 50% of meeting duration																							
Partly: Attended as a member for 50% or less of the meeting duration																							
Apols: Member did not attend, apology entered																							
DNA: Member did not attend, no apology entered																							
Att: in attendance as a non-member of the Committee																							
N/A: Not a member, did not attend																							
LG: Did not attend due to other Council business																							
AVQ: AV Attendee, counted as quorum																							
AVN: AV Attendee, not counted as quorum																							
LOA: Leave of Absence																							
Date of Meeting																							
Meeting Name: Council																							
Council	30/01/2024	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Council	27/02/2024	LOA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AVQ	Yes	LOA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Council	27/03/2024	Yes	AVQ	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Meeting Name: Community Wellbeing																							
Community Wellbeing Committee	23/01/2024	Apols	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apols	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Community Wellbeing Committee	13/02/2024	LOA	Att	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	LOA	Yes	Yes	Yes	DNA	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Community Wellbeing Committee	9/04/2024	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Meeting Name: Infrastructure Committee																							
Infrastructure Committee	13/02/2024	LOA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	LOA	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Infrastructure Committee	5/03/2024	LOA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apols	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Infrastructure Committee	3/04/2024	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Meeting Name: Finance and Projects																							
Finance and Projects	20/02/2024	LOA	Apols	Att	Att	N/A	Yes	Apols	Yes	N/A	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Finance and Projects	19/03/2024	Yes	AVQ	Att	Att	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Apols	Apols	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Finance and Projects	16/04/2024	Yes	AVQ	Att	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Meeting Name: Risk and Assurance																							
Risk and Assurance	20/02/2024	LOA	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Apols	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
Meeting Name: Bluff Community Board																							
Bluff Community Board	21/02/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Att	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
Bluff Community Board	18/03/2024	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Att	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Att	N/A	Yes	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
Meeting Name: Workshops																							
Workshop - LTP Engagement	23/01/2023	Apols	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apols	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Workshop - Coopers Creek	12/03/2024	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Donovan Park Masterplan Briefing	12/03/2024	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Great South Workshop	19/03/2024	Yes	Apols	Yes	DNA	Yes	Yes	DNA	Yes	DNA	Apols	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 Waters Options Workshop	19/03/2024	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DNA	Yes	DNA	Apols	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Meeting Name: Hearings																							
Long Term Plan Hearing	11/04/2024	Apols	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Long Term Plan Hearing	12/04/2024	Apols	Apols	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Apols	Yes	Yes	Apols	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Meeting Name: Connected Murihiku																							