

# NEWS FROM THE CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM

May 2018

## About the Mayoral Forum

The Mayoral Forum leads implementation of the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2017–19. A mid-term progress report is on our website: [www.canterburymayors.org.nz](http://www.canterburymayors.org.nz)

## The Mayoral Forum in action

*In May 2018, the Forum has:*

- worked with Alpine Energy to submit a proposal to the Minister for Government Digital Services to extend access to fibre broadband across Waimate District
- submitted on the Local Government (Community Wellbeing) Amendment Bill
- written to the Minister of Agriculture about the government's response to *Mycoplasma bovis*
- co-ordinated and supported applications from six Canterbury councils to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund
- supported applications to UNESCO for the Waitaki Whitestone and Banks Peninsula Geoparks
- written to the Minister of Health urging release of the Government Response to the Havelock North Drinking Water Inquiry
- written to the Minister of Tourism about the design and implementation of the proposed international visitor levy.

## PRE-FORUM DISCUSSIONS

- The evening prior to Mayoral Forum meetings, Mayors and Chief Executives meet for a working dinner. On 24 May, Mayor Winston Gray facilitated discussion on *regional visitor strategy*, one of seven priorities in the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy.
- Invited guests included Justin Watson (Christchurch Airport), Andy Roberts (Department of Conservation), Joanna Norris (ChristchurchNZ), Graeme Abbot (Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa), and Helen Wyn (Senior Regional Official for Canterbury).
- Discussion focused on a destination management strategy for Canterbury, how this could link into a South Island-wide destination management plan, as well as design and implementation of the proposed international visitor tourism and conservation levy.

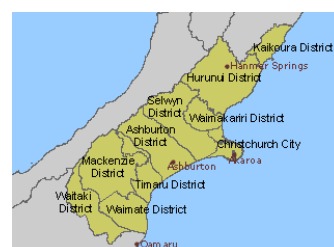
## MAYORAL FORUM HIGHLIGHTS, 25 May 2018

- The Forum discussed opportunities for Canterbury in the Provincial Growth Fund, including agreement on a process to align and co-ordinate applications from Canterbury.
- Mayors received a mid-term progress report on implementation of the Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2017–19, a progress report on CREDS projects, updates to the 3-year work programme, and a copy of the most recent report from the Youth Initiative project in Timaru.
- Steve Lowndes (Environment Canterbury) presented an update on implementation of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. This included plans to review the CWMS, to ensure it remains fit for the future, and progress of current work programmes that are relevant to freshwater management and environmental restoration in Canterbury.
- Jim Palmer (Waimakariri), as Chair of the Chief Executives Forum, reported on the recent Chief Executives, Policy, Corporate and Operations Forums.
- Mayors also received updates on Mayoral Forum advocacy, including engagement on immigration and international education with central government, and a potential region-to-region Memorandum of Understanding with Nagano Prefecture in Japan.

## THE MAYORAL FORUM PROVIDES LEADERSHIP, FACILITATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF CANTERBURY

*... a strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life for all.*

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**Canterbury – a great place to live, study, work, play ... and stay!**