

MINUTES (in Review)

CANTERBURY MAYORAL FORUM



Name:	Canterbury Mayoral Forum
Date:	Friday, 30 May 2025
Time:	8:30 am to 12:37 pm (NZST)
Location:	Sudima Hotel, 114 Esplanade, Kaikōura
Board Members:	Craig Pauling, Nigel Bowen (Chair), Gary Kircher, Craig Mackle, Dan Gordon, Neil Brown, Sam Broughton, Karen Morgan
Attendees:	Mayor Monique Croon, Angela Oosthuizen, Hamish Riach, Hamish Dobbie, Jeff Millward, Sharon Mason, Stefanie Rixecker, Will Doughty, Paul Eagle, Mree McNeilly, Ann Fitzgerald, Amelia Wilkins
Apologies:	Marie Black, Craig Rowley, Phil Mauger, Stuart Duncan, Nigel Trainor, Mary Richardson, Alex Parmley
Guests/Notes:	Jesse Burgess (ECan) (Items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4); Vania Llewellyn (Regional Public Service Commission) (Item 2.3); Cameron Smith (ECan) (Items 4.1, 4.3); John Saxcliff (ECan councillor). Sharon Mason online; Alex Parmley online from 9.25am to 10.00am

1. Open Meeting

1.1 Welcome, karakia and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and her members in the opening karakia.

Apologies from Mayors Marie Black, Craig Rowley and Phil Mauger and Chief Executives Stuart Duncan, Nigel Trainor and Mary Richardson were noted, along with an apology from Gary Kircher for lateness (joined meeting at 9.25am).

1.2 Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was confirmed as presented.

The following items were tabled for general business discussion:

- i. Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (Mayor Brown)
- ii. Update on local government metrics to be released from DIA (Mayor Broughton)
- iii. CMF meetings open to the public/livestreaming
- iv. Genetic Engineering national conversation

1.3 Minutes from the previous meeting

Canterbury Mayoral Forum 14 Feb 2025, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Decision

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2025 were confirmed as presented.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Sam Broughton
Seconder: Dan Gordon
Outcome: Approved

1.4 Action List

Due Date	Action Title	Owner(s)
22 Aug 2025	Action Status: In Progress	Hamish Riach, Maree McNeilly

Options for a Canterbury Building Consent Authority

The Chair updated members on his discussion with Minister Penk, the key message being the Ministers desire to see councils working together. The recent announcement of a private Building Consent Authority based initially in Selwyn was noted.

Wilde and Winder report – review of functions – discussed at item 4.6

Regional Deal – discussed at item 2.1.

2. For discussion and decision

2.1 Canterbury Regional Deal

The Chair introduced this item and invited Jesse Burgess, Regional Deal working group member, to provide an update on the approach taken to date on the development of a future regional deal for Canterbury, noting the work and associated funding that would be required.

The Chair conveyed Waimate District Council's concern regarding any extra funding requirements this would place on member councils.

While the Government has advised (informally) that they are not expecting additional regional deal proposals at this time, there is still a need to consider what information will be provided to the Minister later this year, as set out in the CMF letter to the Minister in February – this could be a high-level overview of the components of a regional deal as set out in paragraph 31 of this paper, and should also include potential funding tools, regulation and legislative changes being sought (if appropriate).

Regarding discussions with Papatipu Rūnanga, the Chair advised that at the stage four Papatipu Rūnanga have expressed an interest in working with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on a regional deal, and also for wider conversations on whole of Canterbury priorities such as housing and transport.

To date the Chair has met with Tania Wati (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri) and spoken with Dardanelle McLean-Smith (Waihao Rūnanga) and intends to meet individually with the remaining Rūnanga in the next few weeks.

Discussion on the merits of progressing a pathway to a regional deal to meet the August/September 2025 timeline that the CMF has signaled to central government, and the budget implications of this versus a full regional deal included:

- while the Government has advised (informally) that they are not expecting additional regional deal proposals at this time, the Minister has indicated an expectation for a regional deal proposal from Canterbury at some point
- the CMF letter to the Minister in February signaled an intention to submit further development of a regional deal proposal in late 2025
- option to submit a pathway to a regional deal - with a focus on transport (including funding tools and prioritised initiatives that will unlock regional growth initially), and signal other key areas of energy, spatial planning and housing, infrastructure, tourism

- budget to support development of a regional deal will need to be considered by each council. With 2025/26 Annual Plans already adopted, any additional funding and in-kind support will need to be considered in the following financial year
- a primary focus on what is good for Canterbury, and taking a long term approach
- transport needs across the district and the case for additional government funding to meet these are well advanced. This could form the basis of an initial pathway to a regional deal, whilst signaling other areas including energy, tourism, spatial planning and housing. The work required in the additional areas would then be subject to individual planning and budget processes in the next financial year
- acknowledgement of the changes to come in the Resource Management Act reform, and the likely requirement to develop regional spatial plans
- consensus that is important to signal Canterbury's presence at this early stage
- aspects of the approach used by Chatham Islands "Island deal" were shared, including utilising the DIA template, alignment with infrastructure needs, with a focus on keeping the proposal simple
- noting that in-kind resource has served us thus far, but this next stage will require support from the Economic Development Forum members and in particular the region's Economic Development Agencies. There was acknowledgement that the volume of work required in the discovery stage may need some outsourcing. This will need to be well scoped, and budget identified.
- discussion regarding budget for this work was deferred until item 4.5.



ACTION

Mayor Monique Croon to forward the Chathams Island Deal information to Secretariat.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Mayor Monique Croon



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. noted the work to date on developing a regional deal proposal and provide feedback on the approach taken
2. endorsed the development of a pathway to a regional deal to come back to the August 2025 Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting for approval
3. notes that this will require in-kind resource support from individual councils.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Dan Gordon
Seconder: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved

2.2 Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan

Introducing the paper Sharon Mason, Chair of the Economic Development Forum acknowledged in particular the contribution from Simon Hart in the Housing workstream and Jesse Burgess across multiple workstreams.

The key regional housing priorities were noted. Feedback included:

- land affordability is a significant barrier, options for mitigating this to be highlighted, such as leasing, zoning, covenants, National Policy Statement - Urban Development, funding for new infrastructure

- highlight priority tools for central government to address land affordability and availability such as GST on new builds
- part of a regional deal could include seeking government contribution such as through restructuring council debt to enable councils to support housing growth
- consider inclusionary zoning, noting that individual councils may or may not wish to utilize this tool
- include managed retreat and tools to assist affected communities
- prioritizing the top 3-5 in the list of tools and levers so there is a clear ask from the report
- acknowledging some of the levers are already within council remit – policy settings around density and land availability.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. provided feedback on the draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan, with particular focus on the proposed actions for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum
2. endorsed the draft Waitaha Canterbury Regional Housing Strategic Plan for its completion and approval at the Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting in August 2025.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Neil Brown
Seconder: Gary Kircher
Outcome: Approved

2.3 Canterbury Energy Workstream

In introducing the paper Sharon Mason, Chair of the Economic Development Forum acknowledged the in-kind contribution for member councils, in particular from Environment Canterbury (Jesse Burgess and Tammy Philips) and the Regional Public Service Commission (Vania Llewellyn).

Development of the inventory included a stakeholder workshop and there was significant buy-in from the sector in this work. There is a strong desire from the sector that this work continue with the development of a future energy strategy for the region. The sector has indicated their willingness to contribute resources to continue to support this work.

Due to the strong in-kind work from the Regional Public Service Commission and Environment Canterbury there is still budget remaining from the original \$50,000 committed for this work to support the first part of phase two - developing a regional approach to energy with key sector stakeholders.

It was confirmed that ongoing central government in-kind support through the Regional Public Service Commission is available over the next six months and this, along with the remaining budget, will provide the ability to progress the work to the next stage.

Budget requirements outside of what is currently committed will be developed to be considered through future Council Annual Plan processes.

Discussion included:

- no reference to nuclear energy, noting that in the next phase all energy sources will be explored, and noting New Zealand's current policy on nuclear energy
- energy workstream to be a key component of the draft regional deal proposal (see item 2.1) and needs to take into consideration spatial planning and housing strategy work
- raising the opportunity for central government to provide incentives for alternative energy generation such as household solar energy on new builds

- amend reference to hydro dams to reflect that these are shared across territorial authority boundaries, and maps to show whole of Waitaki district
- acknowledging the importance of an energy strategy in giving long-term confidence to the sector with its large-scale capital investments.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. approved the draft Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory, subject to any minor modifications
2. delegated approval of minor modifications to the Chairs of the Regional Energy Inventory Steering Group and Canterbury Economic Development Forum
3. noted that the Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory will be circulated to stakeholders and published on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum website in June 2025
4. noted that an accompanying summary infographic has been drafted for publication alongside the Canterbury Regional Energy Inventory
5. endorsed the recommended approach to the next phase of the regional energy work for the Canterbury region, including the multi-stage process and approved the use of the remaining \$40,000 budget for this work, noting the in-kind resourcing requirements
6. noted that a Scope of Work for the next phase of the regional energy work would be developed by the Canterbury Economic Development Forum in mid-2025.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Dan Gordon
Seconder: Craig Mackle
Outcome: Approved

2.4 Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan

Dan Gordon, Chair of the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group introduced the paper, acknowledging the progress made to date on implementation of key actions and summarised the background to the recommendations, including the repurposed role of the Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group as the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group.

Discussion included:

- action 6 – include the discussions the Chair is currently having with individual Pūnanga, and reference to all Mayoral Forum members engaging with their local rūnanga
- the infeasibility of the CMF developing or administering a Canterbury Climate Commitment Scheme to spur local business into climate action, noting the multitude of existing similar initiatives
- noting Environment Canterbury is currently reviewing the Tuia agreement, to be finalised at the end of this term. Recent strategic position statements were agreed by council on a range of matters, including relations with mana whenua and these can be shared with the Forum.



Action

Secretariat to prepare key speaking points from the CCPP for councils to utilise when having discussions with local rūnanga

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Amelia Wilkins



Action

Environment Canterbury to share the Tuia agreement review with member councils and strategic position statements with CMF.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025

Owner: Craig Pauling



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the quarterly Canterbury Climate Change Partnership Plan progress report
2. approved the implementation overviews for key actions 2 (emission reduction) and 3 (adaptation planning) and action 6 (supporting councils to work with papatipu rūnanga)
3. approved the recommendation with respect to action 8.2, it is not feasible for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to develop or administer a Canterbury Climate Commitment scheme
4. approved the proposal to repurpose the Canterbury Climate Action Planning Reference Group as the Canterbury Climate Champions Reference Group, and the updated terms of reference.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025

Mover: Nigel Bowen

Seconder: Karolin Morgan

Outcome: Approved

3. KAI - Morning tea

3.1 Kai - morning tea

4. For discussion and decision

4.1 Canterbury Water Management Strategy - Zone Review

Cameron Smith, Senior Strategy Manager Environment Canterbury, joined the meeting for the Water Management Strategy items.

Craig Pauling introduced the paper noting that the review has been a large piece of work, and there has been a wide range of feedback from individual councils and rūnanga. The aim has been to put forward a model for CMF consideration that provides the flexibility that has been requested and is able to be tailored as required across the region as required.

It was noted that the use of Freshwater Management Units is a new approach, currently set out in the draft Regional Policy Statement – the FMUs are developed based on catchments or sub-catchments and can be logically combined.

Discussion included:

- Neil Brown reiterated the Ashburton district view that rather than a three leg stool, Ashburton consider a fourth leg of community representation be added from the outset, and that the water zone is based on the local authority boundary
- noting that while the three statutory partners are listed initially – territorial authority, rūnanga, regional council, if the local water zone committee wishes to have community representation, or any other representation, they are able to include these as an equal partner

- consideration of how to effectively include major rivers, such as the Rangitata, if Zone Committees are based on local authority boundaries, and support for the alpine rivers to be addressed more effectively in the refreshed model
- a view that a catchment basis makes sense, noting that there may be cross over with councils and rūnanga, who may be involved in more than one Water Zone Committee
- timing of the new structure, noting that as it is late in the Annual Plan process, it could be likely that the current structure is retained, with local community consultation undertaken in the next Annual Plan
- noting that going forward eight rather than ten Water Management Zone Committees are proposed
- the aim is to have discussions with councils concluded by the end of the year, and an undertaking was given that liaison with Ashburton District Council would be scheduled early in this process.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the progress update for the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee Review and identified next steps to be undertaken to early 2026
2. endorsed the Working Group's recommendations for the design of the proposed local leadership groups.

Neil Brown requested that his dissenting vote be recorded, along with acknowledging the undertaking from the Environment Canterbury Chair that individual Water Zone Committees have the power to have community representation on their committees.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Craig Pauling
Seconder: Nigel Bowen
Outcome: Approved

4.2 Canterbury Water Management Strategy update

Craig Pauling introduced the paper, noting the progress towards implementing the Canterbury Water Management Strategy over the last quarter.



Action

Cameron Smith to provide an update to Mackenzie District Council on the resourcing for the Te Mōkihi programme.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Regional Forums Secretariat



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the update for January to March 2025 on the region-wide work underway to implement the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconder: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved

4.3 Canterbury Water Management Strategy - targets progress report

In the absence of Gerard Cleary (Canterbury Operations Forum - Waimakariri) Cameron Smith presented the paper outlining the final draft Targets progress report 2025.

Discussion included:

- context around how the initial targets were established
- while noting number of targets are showing as “not met”, there will be opportunities going forward for Water Zone Committees to be more closely involved in progressing targets
- caution is needed regarding changing targets to ensure comparison with 2021 targets is not compromised
- there is an opportunity to focus on this work, particularly in light of the central government changes to freshwater management.



Action

Confirm if 2021 CWMS targets results will remain visible and will be archived once the 2025 updates are made, noting this information is available on the Environment Canterbury website.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025

Owner: Marce McNeilly



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum

1. provided feedback on the Canterbury Water Management Strategy's final draft online Targets Progress Report 2025
2. endorsed the Canterbury Water Management Strategy's final Targets Progress report 2025 for release mid-June, subject to feedback, supported by a communications plan developed by Environment Canterbury
3. noted the future work needed to be undertaken to improve reporting for 2030.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025

Mover: Sam Broughton

Seconder: Craig Mackle

Outcome: Approved

4.4 2026-2028 Triennium preparation

Discussion on the 2026 – 2028 triennial agreement included:

- the work being undertaken on a Canterbury regional deal and the associated workstreams will be the main focus of the next triennium and may effectively form the Plan for Canterbury going forward
- discussion will be needed on future structure of local and regional governance going forward
- opportunities for greater integration with the Greater Christchurch Partnership could be explored, including a standing agenda item for GCP members to update on GCP activity. It was also noted all agendas and minutes can be found on the GCP website and all meetings are now livestreamed
- opportunities for greater engagement with rūnagna, noting that an annual meeting with all 10 rūnanga representatives would be welcomed as a starting point, and that moving to some form of formal agreement may be possible in the future

- an opportunity for members to take the draft 2026-2028 triennial agreement to their councils in July 2025 to provide any feedback prior to the final draft agreement going back to the Mayoral Forum in August.



Action

Add a standing item on Canterbury Mayoral Forum agenda – Greater Christchurch Partnership.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Regional Forums Secretariat



Action

Forward members links to the Greater Christchurch Partnership meeting agendas and minutes.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

Draft a council paper to support seeking early feedback on the draft 2026-2028 triennial agreement from individual councils.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

Provide information on the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Triennial Agreement for Council induction processes post election (included in briefing packs for new members).

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Action

Engagement with Rūnanga – members to send views to Secretariat on options to for more effective engagement with Rūnanga.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Regional Forums Secretariat



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. discussed and provided feedback on the draft Canterbury Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2026-2028 and strategy options for the upcoming term.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconded: Craig Mackle
Outcome: Approved

4.5 Regional forums budget July 2025 - June 2027

Members were alerted to an error in the budget format where values in tables 1 and 2 should be summed. Table 1 only refers to councils' commitments to the Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan, Table 2 only refers to funds for the additional items as discussed in the paper.

Given discussions on the content and timing of a number of workstreams it was agreed that this item be deferred until the August 2025 CMF meeting.

4.6 Future regional and local government for Canterbury

Hamish Riach summarised progress on the opportunities the Canterbury Mayoral Forum identified at the February meeting with respect to opportunities for future local government arrangements for Canterbury:

Building Consent Authority

A sub-group of Chief Executives has progressed work on a regional building consent authority, initially undertaking a stock take of councils' current building consent activity.

A budget, or in-kind support is required to undertake the analysis of the information provided by councils and the policy and regulatory framework related to a BCA.

Chief Executives have reviewed the functions outlined in the Wilde and Winder Report and consider that rather than reviewing individual functions at this time, efforts may be better concentrated on understanding the impact of the Government's reform programme on local government while continuing to work through opportunities to work collaboratively as they arise.

Discussion included:

- as the Canterbury Mayoral Forum continues to look for efficiencies for ratepayers, the Building Consent Authority work and a wider review of potential functions that could be considered for regional or sub-regional delivery should continue
- a "coalition of the willing" approach is more likely to produce results
- with regard to the future of local government in Canterbury the opportunity for a facilitated workshop to progress this discussion was raised
- Chair Pauling noted that Environment Canterbury is already doing work in this space. There are conversations happening at Te Āru Kahika – Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa and with other South Island regions and unitary authorities. He noted that he is very happy to share these with members
- noting that central government ministers have commented on the number of local government elected members and there is talk about reducing the number going forward
- being proactive may mean the region has more of a say about the form of local government going forward
- central government is proposing amendments to the Local Government Act
- Forum members can continue to discuss options going forward



Action

The Chief Executive sub-group to report back to the Chief Executive Forum in July 2025 and the August 2025 Mayoral Forum meeting on options with regard to a regional building consent authority.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. noted the update on the Building Consent Authority Project
2. endorsed the initial budget of \$20,000 to progress the Building Consent Authority project

3. agreed to continue to look at opportunities to work collaboratively as they arise.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconder: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved



Action

Future regional and local government for Canterbury
Secretariat to arrange for a facilitated workshop to be held for Forum members to further explore options for local government futures for Canterbury.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025
Owner: Maree McNeilly

5. For information

5.1 Chief Executives Forum report

This paper was taken as read.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the quarterly report from the Chief Executives Forum
2. noted updates on work underway or completed on key actions in the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's Plan for Canterbury 2023-2025.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconder: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved

5.2 Mayoral Forum Activities and Engagements

This paper was taken as read.



Decision

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. received the update on Canterbury Mayoral Forum activities, engagements and correspondence since the Forum's last meeting on 14 February 2025.

Decision Date: 30 May 2025
Mover: Nigel Bowen
Seconder: Sam Broughton
Outcome: Approved

6. General business

6.1 General business

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (Mayor Brown)

The flow on effect of central government's changes to the eligibility for access to the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) was discussed. Central Government policy dictates that recipients are

80 percent from jobseeker beneficiaries and only 20 percent 16-17 year olds (NEETS) (who are unable to receive jobseeker benefit) and members are concerned that this is setting up the scheme for failure.

The MTFJ has been very successful in supporting 16-17 year olds (NEETS) into jobs.

There is a concern that referrals from MSD will be those already difficult to place into employment. It was agreed that this is likely to reduce the effectiveness of the scheme and reduce funding for councils.

There is a real the concern from members around the table that these teens, who have a real chance to succeed with early interventions and support, are likely to slip through the cracks. It's not just about the funding.

It was noted that Selwyn have already pulled out of the scheme and others are considering their continued support as a result of this policy change.

Local Government Metrics - DIA data (Mayor Broughton)

Mayor Sam Broughton provided an update on conversations between LGNZ and DIA on the release of Local Government metrics.

LGNZ has received some concessions from DIA -in particular providing links to respective councils' websites. There are concerns around the timing of the release of data and that there does not appear to be any appetite to add context for the data.

Conversations are continuing between LGNZ, DIA and the Minister for Local Government.

CMF meetings open to the public, live streaming

Prompted by a recent enquiry members discussed the matter of CMF meetings being open to the public and/or live streaming. No conclusion was reached at this time, noting it may be something to be considered in the new triennium.

Genetic Engineering national conversation

The Chair asked if there any support from the CMF to support the current national discussion on genetic engineering, noting this could be an opportunity for a Canterbury view to be articulated. The Chair will circulate further information to CMF members.



Action

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Draft a CMF letter to Minister of Social Development outlining the concerns with the new policy direction of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs scheme for signature by all members.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025

Owner: Regional Forums Secretariat



Action

Genetic Engineering national conversation

Chair to circulate summary information from William Rolleston to CMF members.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2025

Owner: Nigel Bowen

6.2 Meeting review

6.3 Closing karakia

7. Kai - lunch

7.1 Lunch

8. Close Meeting

8.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: Canterbury Mayoral Forum - 22 Aug 2025, 8:30 am

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Unconfirmed draft