

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Gore District Council will be held in the Council Chambers, civic administration building, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 23 April 2024, at 4.00pm.



Stephen Parry
Interim Chief Executive

18 April 2024

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Councillor conflict of interests

3. Confirmation of minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 26 March 2024.

Pages 1-20

4. Urgent late business – as tabled at the meeting, pursuant to section 46 A (7) of the Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

5. Draft 2024/25 Annual Plan Summary and Consultation Document

Pages 21-50

6. Gore District Council Subdivision and Land Development Bylaw 2019 – technical amendment

Pages 51-54

7. Financial report for the eight months to 29 February 2024

Pages 55-65

8. Proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy

Pages 66-93

<u>9. Local Government New Zealand 2024 conference</u>	Page 94
<u>10. Coster Fund Distribution Sub-Committee</u>	Pages 95-97
<u>11. Proposed Gore District Plan – hearing procedures</u>	Page 98-112
<u>12. Rural Roads Sub-Committee meeting minutes</u>	Pages 113-119
<u>13. Issuing of staff warrant and authorisation</u>	Page 120
<u>14. Summary of Mayoral Forum meeting</u>	Pages 121-123
<u>15. Business to be considered pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987:</u>	
• Confirmation of minutes	
• Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in committee, on Tuesday 26 March 2024.	
• Other business	
• Racecourse Road waterline	
• Proposed Matura Medical Hub – terms of lease	
• Appointment of interim Chief Executive	

RURAL CITY LIVING



Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, in the Council Chambers, civic administration building, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 26 March 2024, at 4.00pm.

Present His Worship the Mayor (Mr B R Bell), Crs Dickson, Fraser, Gardyne, Hovell, MacDonell, McKenzie, P McPhail, Phillips, Reid and Stringer.

In attendance The interim Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager Critical Services (Mr Jason Domigan), General Manager Corporate Services (Ms Lornae Straith), General Manager People and Culture (Mrs Nicky Cooper), General Manager Communications and Customer Support (Sonia Gerken), Governance Manager (Susan Jones), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matthew Bayliss), 3 Waters Operations Manager (Mr Aaron Green), senior Facilities Officer (Mr Neil Mair), Roading Asset Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), senior Communications Officer (Ms Bonnie Mager), Katrina Ellis and Jo Skuse (The Property Group), four members of the public in the gallery, the Chairperson of the Mataura Community Board (Mrs Nicky Coats from 4.06pm) and the Deputy Chairperson of the Mataura Community Board (Ms Colleen Te Au from 4.15pm).

Apology Cr R McPhail apologised for absence, accepted on the motion of Cr Stringer, seconded by Cr Fraser.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Stringer seconded by Cr MacDonell, **THAT** the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Wednesday 7 February 2024, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dickson seconded by Cr Reid, **THAT** the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 5 March 2024, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Hovell seconded by Cr MacDonell, **THAT** the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee, held on Tuesday 13 February 2024, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

Minutes of the Policy and Regulatory Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27 February 2024

Clause 2 – Draft Cat Management Policy (SC0110)

Cr Hovell referred to the proposed policy in relation to cats and a request for a report about having a bylaw on the same subject. He understood the Policy Analyst had resigned. Would that impact on reporting back on the issue? The interim Chief Executive said most likely. The Analyst would be leaving the Council the following week. Cr Hovell suggested that until the Council determined whether it would have a Bylaw, he thought it appropriate to put revising the policy on hold in the meantime.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Hovell seconded by Cr Dickson, THAT the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Policy and Regulatory Committee, held on Tuesday 27 February 2024, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

Minutes of the Community Wellbeing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5 March 2024

Clause 1 – Presentations

Cr Dickson advised there had been a lot of feedback following Kristin Leckie's presentation on the drug issue and as a result, ROCC was setting up a "go to" place for people affected.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dickson seconded by Cr Reid, THAT the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Community Wellbeing Committee, held on Tuesday 5 March 2024, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Gardyne seconded by Cr Fraser, THAT the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Assets and Infrastructure Committee, held on Tuesday 12 March 2024, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

2. LOCATION OF MATAURA CAMPERVAN WASTE DUMP STATION (SC0613)

A report had been received from the senior Facilities Officer seeking agreement on a final position for a new campervan waste dump station in Mataura so staff could proceed with the installation of facilities at Tulloch Park.

A report had previously received by the Mataura Community Board (the Board) on 27 June 2022, regarding a proposed Mataura campervan dump station, following an earlier request for the installation of a site at Coster Park, adjacent to Bridge Street. Discussion at that meeting weighed towards the site being located at Coster Park and the Roading Asset Manager had been asked to enter into discussions with the NZ

Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA). A report updating the Board had been provided on 1 August 2022, advising that the NZMCA was agreeable to the idea, with three locations being discussed. These were Coster Park, the Railway Station and the RSA. The Board requested Council staff to provide detailed costings for the construction of a dump station at Coster Park and that in the event it proceeded, a source of funding be investigated.

Funding was subsequently obtained from the NZMCA and a suitable location at Coster Park identified in September 2022. Planning for the installation commenced shortly afterwards. However, while the installation was being completed in November 2022, a newly elected Board member stopped the work from progressing.

The new Board did not appear to agree with the project and construction was halted. The Board recommended that the Roading Asset Manager obtain costings to extend the disposal point approximately 10m north, so it did not interfere with large vehicles parked at Coster Park. At the Board meeting on 30 January 2023, the Roading Asset Manager outlined the cost of shifting the dump station 10m north would be \$4,607 plus GST. An alternative had been proposed of leaving the station where it was and instead shifting the time capsule at an estimated cost of \$753 plus GST.

At the Board's 6 March meeting, a concept plan for the whole Coster Park site was considered as a result of an informal discussion held at a Board workshop. The drawing showed the dump station included, at the eastern boundary of Coster Park, but moved several metres north. At the Board meeting on 31 July 2023, cost estimates of the various features shown on the concept drawing were considered. The aspect of the dump station was discussed but only in the context of traffic flow within the planned park. A suggestion was made for the Board to set aside planning for Coster Park and to focus on Tulloch Park and the proposed Medical Hub as priorities.

The Terms of Reference for the Tulloch Park Stage 2 project team were presented to Board on 19 June 2023. A dump station was not mentioned within the document. During 2023, once the decision to demolish the Matura pool building had been ratified by the Council, planning commenced for the layout of a splash-pad play area with adjacent toilets and changing facilities. The planning had not included a motorhome dump station at Tulloch Park.

Options for leaving the dump station at Coster Park and not shifting it to Tulloch Park had been included in the report.

His Worship asked if the dump station was moved 10 metres at a cost of \$4,607, could the cost of doing that be met from the Matura beautification fund? The interim Chief Executive said it was a moot point as to whether moving a dump station was beautification, but the Council could determine where the funding came from.

In response to Cr McKenzie, His Worship said the original decision about providing a dump station in Matura had been made by the previous Community Board. The current Board had put a halt on it.

Cr Reid said the Council had been asked to receive the report and have the dump station remain at Coster Park. In response to Cr Reid, the Facilities Officer said the station had been funded by the Motor Caravan Association. Cr Reid did not understand the delay and said it was not wanted at Tulloch Park. She thought it should remain where it was. Cr Dickson asked what the reason was for shifting the station 10 metres. Cr Phillips said the previous Community Board had recommended the current position of the waste station. After the election, the new Board did not want the station at that location. In response to His Worship, the Chairperson of the Maitara Community Board circulated background information about the dump station issue and spoke to the Council about it. She said the Council's own communication on Antenna about the demolition of the Maitara swimming pool building to make way for development work at Tulloch Park had included a caravan waste disposal unit. Some residents believed the dump station should be located at Tulloch Park. Developing Coster Park was a future priority of the Board and it was in agreement that moving the dump station 10 metres north was preferable.

Cr Phillips said the current Community Board had not been aware of the dump station being constructed and stopped it. He thought if it was to be shifted north, it should be by a pipe length which was six metres, not ten. That was an adequate distance in his mind. The reason it had been located where it was, was it was near a Council pump station.

Cr Hovell said the Maitara Community Board was an elected body and under Section 52 of the Local Government Act took the role of representing and advocating for the interests of its community. It was not really a decision for the Council to make. It was a Community Board decision. If there was funding required, that was all the Council should be involved with. He thought the Council should allow the Community Board to make the decision if it could find the funding to do so. He supported the Board choosing to relocate the dump station. Cr McKenzie asked if Tulloch Park was still in the mix. The Board Chairperson advised she had been told it was not an option. Cr McKenzie agreed it was a Community Board decision. Cr Reid did not support having the waste station at Tulloch Park. It was a recreation area. There was a lot of traffic that came off the back road past Coster Park and the station was off the road. She did not see the point of putting it in a recreation area.

His Worship thought referring the matter back to the Community Board with a suggestion the station remain where it was, might be appropriate. Cr Fraser agreed. He did not like receiving background information at the table. It should have been provided before the meeting so Councillors had time to read it. He supported Cr Hovell. The Facilities Officer said several other locations had been considered by the Board and the consensus was that it would not go at Tulloch Park mainly because of the new facilities to be installed there and it would not interfere with parking. If the decision was delayed, there could be additional delays in getting consents for the other facilities to be located at Tulloch Park. The Board Chairperson repeated the communication the Council had put out on Antenna suggested that a waste disposal site would be located at Tulloch Park. The Officer said at some stage, Tulloch Park had been put into the mix and it had got into the media.

Cr P McPhail asked if the Motor Caravan Association had any say in determining where the station should go. The Officer said the location had been discussed with the Association before the funding was approved. Cr MacDonell said he was not too concerned about whether the station was shifted if the Board had the funding but he was not in support of moving it to Tulloch Park.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Hovell, seconded by Cr P McPhail, THAT the report be received,

THAT the matter be referred back to the Maitara Community Board to determine whether the dump station either remained where it was at Coster Park or was moved by 10 metres at most,

AND THAT any costs associated with relocating the dump station be met by the Maitara Community Board.

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Cr Phillips voted against the motion and asked for his vote to be recorded.

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT AND PLANNER DELEGATIONS (SC0112)

A report had been received from Katrina Ellis of The Property Group outlining changes needed to the Council's Resource Management Act (RMA) delegations so that when new Council planning staff were employed or promoted, there did not need to be changes made to the delegations. A copy of the current RMA delegations had been circulated with the agenda.

The report also sought to provide Victoria Woodbridge and Penny Weng from The Property Group (TPG) with the same delegations as other TPG staff with delegation to review and sign off resource consents under the RMA. This was to ensure there were enough people with appropriate delegations available for quick turnaround of work, noting other persons had planned leave and/or would be busy with other duties including the Council's Proposed District Plan at times this year. A copy of the proposed delegations had also been circulated with the agenda.

Under the RMA, delegations automatically sat with the Council's Chief Executive. Delegations could be provided to Council staff and to certified hearing commissioners. The RMA did not directly specify how consultants fitted into this, but there was established best practice around the country to provide guidance.

The Property Group was the Council's procured planning consultant. It had planning staff of various levels that assisted with day to day processing of consents. Currently, there were three TPG staff who were able to make decisions under delegated authority, noting they were certified Commissioners and the Council had previously approved for TPG to do that work.

A copy of the Queenstown Lakes District Council's delegation register had been circulated with the agenda as an example of a delegations register from another Council that used consultants frequently, and had some consultants that were hearing commissioners, making decisions under delegation.

Only external resources that were certified RMA Commissioners, could be granted those RMA delegations by a Council. Currently three staff members from TPG had those delegations for the Council. It was proposed to add Victoria Woodbridge and Penny Weng who could review and sign off from TPG and to assist with any overflow work when other personnel with the authorised delegation were not available. Both Victoria and Penny had a strong understanding of the Gore District Plan and experience to take on the role.

Cr Hovell referred to page 61 of the agenda that provided for planning consultants that determined resource consent with costs being met by the applicant. It worried him a little that The Property Group also had the delegation to consider any objections lodged. It was a conflict of interest. The same people who sent out a request for information should not be determining an objection. He thought deciding on objections and fees and charges should sit with the Chief Executive or other senior Council staff.

The second issue was the list of headings and he thought the in-house skill set was extremely limited, with most of the decisions being made by those included in the senior planner, principal planner etc column. He would like to see the column with Graduate Planner and Planner split and have a separate Graduate Planner and Intermediate Planner column. There were also issues raised that could be dealt with by administrative staff. He thought for the sake of efficiency and developing in-house skills, he would like to see the table reviewed again. He was happy to have additional people added to the recommendation but wondered if the Council needed to sign off on the proposed updated delegations register at this meeting or whether it could wait until the April meeting.

Cr Hovell was happy to be involved with the consultants and work through his suggestions.

Cr Gardyne moved THAT Victoria Woodbridge and Penny Weng be given the same Resource Management Act delegations as Katrina Ellis, Werner Murray and Matt Heale,

AND THAT a working group comprising Crs Hovell and Stringer and staff work through the proposed amended delegations register as per Appendix A circulated with the agenda, for consideration at the next Council meeting.

The motion was seconded by Cr Stringer.

Ms Ellis said there were conflicts of interest provisions and because the company was processing a consent it was not independent and objections received were referred to

others. In terms of splitting the Graduate and Intermediate Planner, it was very much understood and clear to the consultants. In her experience, she thought it important there was peer review and sign off by a senior person for RMA decisions. She would appreciate a working group to consider what parts of the delegations could be split out and delegated to a lower planner level.

The motion was put and it was carried.

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Cr Hovell wanted Councillors to be aware that a summary of submissions to the proposed District Plan had been completed but there had been a glitch with the summary. The summary included everything but when it had been compiled under separate topics, some had been omitted. There would be a public notice in the paper advising that. It would delay the start of hearings to the District Plan by about two weeks. It was intended that hearings now commence in the week of 4 June.

The Property Group representatives departed the meeting at 4.39pm

4. GORE COMMUNITY PATROL - PROVISION OF VEHICLE (SC3859)

A memo had been received from the interim Chief Executive advising that an approach had been received from the Gore Community Patrol for the Council to make available a vehicle for its members. A copy of the email request received had been circulated with the agenda.

The Gore Community Patrol had been established in 1992 and had been an integral part of community safety since that time. With some members now retired and no longer having access to work vehicles, the Community Patrol sought the Council's assistance in having a vehicle made available. It has been ascertained that the Council did have a vehicle that could be lent. The vehicle was a 2015 Toyota Rav4 Model GX 2.5 4WD with an odometer reading of only 49,631 kilometres. It was suggested the vehicle be made available to the Gore Community Patrol with ongoing operating costs such as fuel and maintenance being the responsibility of the Patrol and ownership registration and responsibility for insurance rest with the Council. Petrol costs were estimated to be around \$150 per month.

The Council presently made a contribution to community safety in the form of the provision and maintenance of security cameras and improving lighting in certain areas.

The interim Chief Executive advised the intention was to leave the vehicle parked at the Council office and would be used by the Community Patrol at weekends and could be used by Council staff during the day.

Cr Reid supported the request and said the organisation had never asked for anything for 32 years. She thought the suggestion put forward by the interim Chief Executive was a good one. The patrol did a very good job.

Cr Reid moved THAT the report be received,

AND THAT in light of the benefits provided to the safety of the Gore and Mataura communities, the Council make available a vehicle to the Gore Community Patrol on the basis of ownership remaining with the Council, along with the costs of registration and insurance.

The motion was seconded by Cr Fraser.

Cr Fraser supported Cr Reid's comments and said the Community Patrol was very good for the district. In response to Cr Fraser, the Chairperson of the Community Patrol confirmed it did not receive funding from any other organisation.

Cr McKenzie asked about insurance. The General Manager Corporate Services said as long as the Council notified its insurers that vehicles were provided to community organisations, there was insurance cover enabled.

Cr Phillips questioned the maintenance being funded by the Community Patrol. The interim Chief Executive agreed the maintenance should be funded by the Council, particularly if Council staff were going to be using the vehicle as well. Cr MacDonell suggested if Community Patrol applied for financial assistance to the Gore Rotary Club it could be well received. Cr Phillips suggested the organisation could also make application to the Council's Grants Sub-Committee.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2024/22

5. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE SEVEN MONTHS TO 31 JANUARY 2024

A memo had been received from the General Manager Corporate Services and senior Finance Manager together with a financial report for the seven months to 31 January 2024. Key points from the report were as follows:

- Total income was higher than budget by \$1.517m.
- Total expenses were higher than budget by \$2.583m.
- This had resulted in a variance in the deficit compared to budget of \$1,066k.

The favourable variance for income was essentially explained by:

- Grants and subsidies were favourable by \$1.329m.

Significant items contributing to the expenditure variance included:

- \$836k over budget for depreciation due to prior year revaluation.
- \$487k District Plan related expenditure.
- \$321k over budget for materials and chemicals.
- \$225k over budget for interest costs.
- \$198k expenditure relating to 3 Waters transition programme (fully offset by grant income received, therefore neutral impact on the operating deficit).

- \$99k write off on disposal of Mataura pool and boiler.
- \$82k over budget for motor vehicle and plant repairs, parts and consumables.
- \$78k over budget for resource consent and planning consultant fees (in the absence of a Planning Manager).
- \$77k expenditure relating to Mayor's Taskforce for Job's/Closing the Gaps (fully offset by the grant income received, therefore neutral impact on the operating deficit).
- \$61k unbudgeted expenditure due to the call on funds for Riskpool.

The General Manager said taking depreciation out of the equation, the Council was tracking close to budget. Depreciation continued to be an issue.

Cr MacDonell said depreciation and the demolition and write-off of the Mataura pool amounted to \$935k. The Council was only \$131k down in cash which, against the Council's budget, was insignificant. He thought the Council was tracking well.

Cr Gardyne noted an increase in interest costs, repairs and maintenance and RiskPool that added up to about \$700k over budget. The General Manager advised those costs had been offset by increased income which balanced out overall. Cr Gardyne said his point was some of those costs would be greater going forward.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr MacDonell, seconded by Cr Reid, THAT the financial report to 31 January 2024 be received.

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6. GORE AND MATAURA WASTEWATER DISCHARGE CONSENT RENEWAL – RECOMMENDED PREFERRED UPGRADE OPTIONS (SC2270/SC2271)

A comprehensive report had been received from the 3 Waters Asset Manager seeking approval of the recommended upgrade options for the Gore and Mataura wastewater treatment plants to be submitted to Environment Southland as part of the application to renew the respective discharge consents.

The Council currently held three resource consents associated with the Gore and Mataura wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). The Mataura WWTP consent had expired in May 2021, while the Gore WWTP consent expired in December 2023.

The report covered the Technical Working Group, consultation with Hokonui Rūnanga (HR), the use of horizontal subsurface flow wetlands in New Zealand, potential land purchase, implementation plan and the next steps. A copy of the preferred option report completed by Pattle Delamore Partners (PDP) had been circulated with the agenda. The report identified the following upgrades as the preferred/best practicable options:

- Gore – a Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) plant and optimisation of the existing oxidation pond system, then discharging to a 1 day hydraulic retention

time (HRT) horizontal sub-surface wetland, prior to eventually discharging to the Mataura River via a land passage.

- Mataura – optimisation of the existing oxidation pond system, reconfiguration of the existing wetlands to a 1 day HRT horizontal sub-surface wetland, prior to eventually discharging to the Mataura River via a land passage.

It also provided a detailed assessment of the technical aspects of the shortlisted options and a multi-criteria matrix which had been used to determine the preferred upgrade options for both treatment plants.

Over the past three years, the Council staff had been working closely with HR to ensure that the proposed upgrades met cultural requirements and expectations. It was important to note that HR deemed all shortlisted options considered in the PDP report to be culturally acceptable.

The following estimated upgrade costs and 20 year net present value of the shortlisted options had been provided. It was emphasised that the cost estimates were high level and likely to change as the design process progresses.

Financial Estimates for Gore Shortlisted Options			
Option	Capital Cost	Annual Operational Cost	20 Year Net Present Value
WWTP Upgrades and 2-day HRT HSSF wetland	\$61.7 - \$69.9 million	\$1.88 – 1.97 million	\$80.2 - \$89.2 million
MABR with 1-day HRT HSSF Wetland	\$55.5 – \$64.0 million	\$2.45 - \$2.18 million	\$79.8 - \$85.4 million

Financial Estimated for Mataura Shortlisted Options			
Option	Capital Cost	Annual Operational Cost	20 Year Net Present Value
Wetland Optimisation and Slow rate irrigation	\$33.2 - \$46.5 million	\$270,000	\$35.8 - \$49.2 million
Wetland Reconfiguration and Land Passage	\$9.7 – 13.0 million	\$210,000 - \$240,000	\$11.7 – 15.3 million
Wetland Reconfiguration and Rapid Infiltration	\$31.2 - \$36.9 million	\$480,000 - \$550,000	\$35.9 - \$42.3 million

Until recently, it had been expected that the requirement to fund the upgrades to the Council’s wastewater treatment plants would fall with the proposed new 3 Waters service delivery entities. However, as a result of the new Government repealing the 3 Waters reform, there was a significant amount of uncertainty around how these upgrades would be funded.

The Council was currently forecasting to reach its debt cap in the next few years and it was expected to be very difficult for the Council to complete the required upgrades under its current funding limitations. Furthermore, with an estimated combined capital cost of between \$65.2 and \$77.0 million for the upgrades and the Council’s current financial constraints, developing a strategy to fund this work was seen as a key hurdle that had to be overcome.

Three consenting options had been included in the report. The Council had already spent approximately \$775,000 on investigating options and preparing a resource

consent application. Further investigations would only increase the cost further. In order to allow further consideration of options and discussions with Hokonui Rūnanga, a further time extension was possible, but could not be confirmed until a written request had been submitted and considered. The Council had only just completed a nearly three year long process to identify a preferred option and trying to change the outcome of that process in a short period of time would come with a high level of risk of damaging the relationship the Council had with Hokonui Rūnanga.

The report included details of the use of Horizontal Subsurface Flow Wetlands in New Zealand, land purchase, an implementation plan and what the next steps should be.

The proposed upgrades for the Gore wastewater treatment plant were notably different to the original application. An entirely new consent application would need to be submitted. This would require more work and effort to prepare. An exact timeframe as to when the Council could expect to submit a revised application would be determined in the coming weeks.

Following the Government's decision to repeal the proposed 3 Waters reform, the Council did not have a confirmed funding strategy to complete the upgrades.

Cr Gardyne had not seen a breakdown of cost between the wetland and the BNR plant. The Manager said the costs were very high level and because of that there had been a substantial contingency built into them at this stage. Once the Council got a consent and could progress with further design work, the contingencies could be reduced. It was difficult to separate the costs at this stage. He suggested as a ballpark indication, 50% of the cost would be associated with mechanical costs and 50% associated with the discharge to land. Cr Gardyne said if the BNR plant was taken out and the Council only went with a wetland, the costs did not seem to change much. The Manager said the two options were reasonably similar. Cr Gardyne agreed but if the BNR plant was removed, it should lower the cost. The Manager said the rest of the cost was the wetland and it would be double. He added the large majority of the cost was associated with earthworks and construction of the wetland. It was important to appreciate it was an engineered wetland with specific media that the water needed to pass through. The amount of earthworks, material, land to be purchased and plants was double. He repeated they were high level costs with a lot of contingency built in. There was a lot more work to be done before the design was undertaken. The consent needed to be obtained before the Council got too far down the design path. Cr Gardyne asked if there were examples of other options in New Zealand so the Council did not have to be a guinea pig. The Manager said another acceptable option was discharge to land with estimated costs of over \$100 million. The other was rapid infiltration and for that option to work it had to be treated to a very high level. The problem with that option was issues with gravels. In his mind, the wetland was the most appropriate option but there were no examples of that in New Zealand at the scale required.

Cr Dickson asked if Iwi was aware of the cost to the ratepayers with the system and did it have any way of foreseeing that and working to decrease the costs. The General

Manager Critical Services said the process had been entered into with Hokonui Rūnanga, Environment Southland and other stakeholders. The Council had to remember that the Rūnanga was a ratepayer too. The stakeholders had worked through the process together to put a consent forward. It was acknowledged that the costs were high and Councils were moving away from discharges to water to discharges to land. The costs would need to be put back to central Government around the reform process. One of the key drivers was the affordability of infrastructure upgrades around the country. He acknowledged it was not affordable for the Gore District community as it was for many others. The Council needed to be moving towards a consent and meeting its obligations in managing the environment. His Worship said Councils needed to keep driving the narrative back to the Government.

Cr P McPhail said the contingency figures were very hard for elected members to understand. They had to make a decision that would affect the community for 20 years. He found it very difficult to back something that no-one actually knew what it would be. The interim Chief Executive said the reality was the Council was facing "hobson's choice". It needed to get a consent to dispose of wastewater. The National Policy Statement on Freshwater had raised the bar on environmental responsibility. The Council's consent had expired. There could be modifications to what had been proposed but it would not happen overnight. It behoved the Council and many others to inform the Government that it was a national problem and local government needed a helping hand. Regardless of what option was chosen, the Council could not afford it within its current debt ceiling. It had to apply for consent and see what happened at the end of that process.

Cr Reid said the Council's hands were tied and it needed a consent. Local Water Done Well was being left to local government not central Government. The options given were quite clear and the Council needed to make the consent happen. Cr Fraser said his issue was there were only two options and there were none that allowed discharge to the river. Could a change be requested to the consent? The Manager said the original consent applied for was a straight discharge to river and the Rūnanga made it clear it would oppose that as it was not culturally acceptable. There was always potential to make changes in the future but whatever was done needed to be culturally acceptable. He expected the Rūnanga's position not to discharge to the river would not change. Cr Fraser said the Council had a responsibility to its ratepayers with costs and there would be people saying there had to be a cheaper way. The General Manager said option three was still an option and the Council could speak with Environment Southland which would allow time to have discussions with the Government.

Cr Stringer said there was still a lot of the wastewater network connected with gray water. What happened to the wetland plants if people added oil or chemical sprays into the network. There were alternatives used in Europe involving biomethane anaerobic digesters. What was the contingency if the trial failed? What happened if there was a change of Government in say six years time and the Council needed to invest another \$30-40 million in a different system? The Manager said in terms of

future changes, going through this process and getting something that was culturally acceptable, the Council was hopeful of getting a long-term consent. In terms of trials not working, the purpose of the trial was to determine what level of ecological treatment the wetlands got. The Council had been conservative about the level of mechanical treatment that may need to be provided. There were some examples of anaerobic digesters being used in New Zealand. The Council was trying to utilise the existing oxidation ponds but they were challenging. In terms of the mechanical treatment component, the technology was evolving quite rapidly and there could be all types of options available by the time the Council got to the stage of building the wetland.

In response to His Worship, the Manager said the Council would need to write to Environment Southland and ask for extra time. It would be critical to have a meeting at a governance level between the Council and Hokonui Rūnanga to determine the next steps over the next three to six months. Cr McKenzie said if it was not culturally acceptable, the Council would not get a consent. Was that a fact? The Manager said if it was not culturally acceptable the Council was unlikely to get a long-term consent. It was a huge effort to have something culturally acceptable.

Cr Stringer asked what the longest timeframe was for a long-term consent. The Manager said the maximum consent duration was 35 years. Generally 25 year consents were more common. The General Manager added a short-term consent would be in the five to ten year range. The longer it was delayed, the more expensive the project would become.

Cr Hovell was very mindful of the case law that applied to discharge consents and the costs that could be incurred if the Council ended up in the Environment Court. If the Council did not follow option 1, he thought there was some certainty that the Council would end up in Court. As part of any consent granted, a condition could be imposed that gave a time period to give effect to the consent. As part of the consent process, the Council could ask for a timeline to give effect to it. That would provide a holding pattern that other Councillors had referred to.

Cr Hovell moved THAT the report and associated attachments be received,

AND THAT the Council approve consent applications to be lodged with Environment Southland for the Gore and Maitai wastewater treatment plants to discharge to land as per the best practicable options outlined in the circulated report, being option 1 – that the Council proceed with a consent application with the preferred upgrade options that had been identified.

The motion was seconded by Cr Dickson.

Cr MacDonell was concerned at the potential costs and referred to comments from the Manager in his report about the timeline that the project was likely to take.

Cr Gardyne thought the Council should put pressure on the Government to change the regulations. He did not want the Council to burden the ratepayers with an additional \$2,500 extra in rates per year. The Council needed to consider all options and should be speaking with the Rūnanga. It was not affordable to small town New Zealand. It needed to do something quite different. He opposed it totally. Cr P McPhail concurred with Cr Gardyne. He questioned if there had been elected members on the working group. He accepted it would be a generational issue as far as cost was concerned, but he could not support it the way it was. His Worship said there were no elected members on the working group. It was an operational group. Cr Phillips said it would be remiss of the Council not to progress the project. It needed to ensure the Government heard the Council's objections and make sure the requirements were affordable for every New Zealander.

Cr Fraser supported Cr Gardyne. The Council was agreeing to something that had never really been tested. He acknowledged there had been a lot of work done, but there had to be a better way. Cr Dickson recalled the Minister wanted Councils to work together and the Government was setting up long term funding if Councils banded together. Cr Philips said the Minister also said if Councils did not work together then the Government would bring in Commissioners. That was unacceptable to him. The Government needed to be listening to the people.

His Worship said he was still sitting on a letter to the Minister about the stormwater separation issue. Did the Council want this issue to be added to it. Cr Hovell said there were two conversations around the table. He suggested the motion that had been moved be dealt with and then consider a second motion about funding and advocating to the Government.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2024/24

Crs Gardyne, Fraser, P McPhail, McKenzie and Stringer voted against the motion and asked for their votes to be recorded.

Cr Reid suggested the letters be kept separate and retain a separate approach to the Government. Cr Dickson agreed.

Cr Dickson moved THAT the Council write to the Minister of Local Government about the cost implications for meeting wastewater consent renewal requirements.

The motion was seconded by Cr Reid.

Cr Gardyne said it would be useful to have a national policy on wastewater and discharge to water or land. Cr Hovell said there was already a framework in place through the National Policy Statement that dealt with freshwater. A policy statement on its own would not necessarily give the Council the answer it was looking for. The key message was the uncertainty it was operating under was causing concern for Councils and ratepayers and until the Government came up with a funding model for

territorial authorities and a way of sharing the costs, the issues would not go away. In its absence, there was an evolving crisis being faced by local government and the Government needed to take act swiftly. Cr Phillips was supportive of the Council making loud noises to the Government about the costs of the project.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2024/25

7. REPRESENTATION REVIEW (SC3655)

A report had been received from the interim Chief Executive profiling the issues that the Council must address in a review of its representation arrangements. The review, conducted under section 19 of the Local Electoral Act 2001, must be undertaken at six yearly intervals. To meet the deadline, an initial proposal for the community to consider and provide input on, must be promulgated by 8 August 2024. The report followed a decision made by the Council in December to conduct the review in house and a workshop on issues and options that had been held on 8 February 2024.

Details of the statutory provisions, the number of elected members including an analysis of similar sized Councils, identification of communities of interest, Council wards, Councillor's elected at large, Gore District wards 2023, the quality of distribution of population serviced by each elected member and potential options had been included in the report.

A suggested minor adjustment was proposed for the Gore Ward to take account of urban expansion. The Eversfield Rise area above Coutts Road and the Bupa Retirement Village were both currently domiciled in the Waimumu-Kaiwera Ward. The area in which the Bupa Retirement Village was located had now been intensively developed and was very much part of the Gore community. Eversfield Rise was less intensely developed. It was proposed to incorporate the Bupa Retirement Village and surrounds into the Gore Ward.

The need for a Community Board was a mandatory component of the representation review and had also been included in the report. The Council had one Community Board in Matura, which had been in operation since 2003. The interim Chief Executive suggested the Community Board had not had the impact desired when it was first set alight 20 years ago. It raised a question was to whether there was a need for both a Community Board and a dedicated ward Councillor for a community of 1740 people, which was only 14 kilometres away from the principal administrative office of the Council. A table detailing the number of Community Board meetings held and attendance levels by members since the last representation review, had been circulated with the agenda. The data revealed that in the period January 2018 to November 2023:

- Three meetings were cancelled due to a lack of business;
- Three meetings were cancelled due to Covid;
- A total of 41 meetings were held in the 6-year period; and
- Only 16 or 39% of those meetings had full attendance

Irrespective of whether there was agreement on the Board's effectiveness, it was likely that any move to disestablish it would be met by objections to the Local Government Commission. The Commission appeared to have a proactive outlook in regard to Community Boards. On that basis, it appeared that the Community Board, despite its struggles, was here to stay.

The report concluded by stating the Council, as currently constituted, had too many Councillors for the population and area it served. The conclusion was drawn from comparing the Gore District Council with other similar sized Councils around the country. A Council comprising of nine Councillors plus a Mayor appeared to be the appropriate size while still allowing for a diversity of views around the Council table. There were three broad and readily identifiable communities of interest in the Gore District, being Gore, Mataura and Rural. A ward system based on the three communities of interest should be retained. There was no compelling reason to have two separate wards in the rural area. One large ward, comprising of two members, would give rural voters more choice. The Gore ward needed to be slightly expanded in the north-west to recognise urban expansion that had occurred over the past 20 years around the Bupa Retirement Village. The retention of two members elected at large provided a balance when competing views of urban and rural interests may be difficult to reconcile.

The interim Chief Executive expected there would be a good level of public interest in the review which was the start of a legislative process. It was able to be appealed to the Electoral Commission. By having a lesser number of elected members meant that the areas would not suffer from a dilution of representation.

Cr Gardyne said reducing the number of Councillors to nine reduced the number of at large members from three to two. Most people liked to exercise their vote. He suggested retaining ten members and having three at large representatives which gave people more choice. His Worship said rural people would still have four members to vote for and Mataura also had a Community Board to elect.

Cr Hovell said the Council needed to be mindful of the workload of Councillors. There were currently four Committees, seven other Committees and Sub-Committees, four funding allocation bodies, nine Trusts that had elected member representatives on and eight other external Committees and bodies. At the beginning of this triennium, Councillors were appointed to three Committees and the other 28 bodies were divided up between the elected members. Some of the organisations involved attendance at full-day, monthly meetings. It was not just a matter of attending monthly Council meetings but all of the other work undertaken behind the scenes with organisations that Councillors were represented on. The less elected members, the more work. He said the Council's meetings started at 4.00pm to make it easier for people to stand as Councillors and not interfere with work. He thought if there was a desire to go to nine Councillors, then the regime under which the Council operated needed to change and hold a number of meetings in the daytime. He recognised that a number of other trusts and external Committees met during the daytime. His Worship said the spread of organisations went from 2.3 per person to 2.8 per person, so only .5 extra per

person. Changing the time of meetings would be up to the next Council and the Mayor of the day after the 2025 elections.

Cr Reid said there was no mention of workshops held or private involvement with community groups. She was happy to see quality over quantity but with the democratic process, that did not always happen. She asked what was wrong with the status quo. Cr MacDonell thought the Council needed to stick with at least ten Councillors mainly for the workload issues referred to by Cr Hovell. He added fewer elected members would not make it cheaper for the ratepayers.

Cr Phillips said his view was that the Council had always been too large. His preference would be to have five elected members, then there would be some work done. If members were fully informed and the commitment needed to happen, the quality would come through. He was in favour of dropping the number of Councillors to nine.

Cr Fraser was keen to retain the status quo. As a recently newly elected Councillor, he had underestimated the amount of time required as well as having a full-time job. He had missed two important workshops the previous week because of work. His Worship said a reduction in numbers would not impact on workshops as they were attended by all Councillors. Cr Stringer was sitting on the fence but liked the idea of 11 elected members which provided more reach into the community. Quantity had a quality of its own. Cr McKenzie said it was a commitment and there was a lot of time involved. He thought there had been more hours required than initially thought. He liked 11 members as it added to the variety of commentary from the community. Cr Phillips said since the last elections, it had been an exceptionally busy term to date. Cr P McPhail favoured the status quo unless the way Committees were structured changed. There was a lot more to being a Councillor than people first thought. Having 11 people enabled newer Councillors to learn from them.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Hovell, seconded by Cr Stringer, THAT the report be received and noted,

AND THAT pursuant to section 19H of the Local Electoral Act 2011, the Council notify an initial representation proposal to come into effect at the 2025 Local Authority elections that the Gore District Council will comprise of 11 Councillors plus a Mayor.

2024/26

His Worship and Cr Phillips voted against the motion and asked for their votes to be recorded.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr MacDonell, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the Kaiwera-Waimumu and the Waikaka Wards be amalgamated to form an enlarged single rural ward, from which two Councillors will be elected. This change reflected a singular community of interest in rural issues and will provide more choice for voters in the composition of the Council.

2024/27

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Fraser, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT meshblock 3052402, in which the Bupa Retirement Village is situated, will transfer from the current Kaiwera-Waimumu Ward to the adjoining Gore Ward, due to the urban characteristics of the majority of the population within that meshblock.

2024/28

Cr Hovell moved THAT the Gore Ward, with the addition of meshblock 3052402, be represented by five Councillors,

THAT the Mataura Ward remain unchanged and be represented by one Councillor,

THAT the Mataura Community Board remain unchanged, consisting of five members,

AND THAT the Mataura Ward Councillor be an appointee to the Community Board.

The motion was seconded by Cr Phillips.

Cr Phillips said the Community Board currently had recommendatory powers only. Did the Council allow the Board to have changes made to its Charter. His Worship thought that should be a Long Term Plan discussion.

Cr Hovell said there was a question in the report as to whether the Board should be retained. He had not seen a copy of the Board Charter but did not believe as a Council it had given the Board the respect it deserved or should have. He highlighted the intent of the Local Government Act relating to Community Boards. He had reviewed agendas of the Board for the past six months and thought the reports presented indicated what the Council had decided rather than allowing the Community Board to provide feedback and direction to the Council. The Act also enabled a Community Board to make an annual report to the Council. He had been involved with the Council for many years and had never seen such a report. The Board should be utilised to allow it to represent its community rather than having the Council dictate. He thought it would be appropriate for the Board to have a budget for say footpath upgrades to determine how it was spent. He said the Mayor could be a member of all Council Committees. He asked what role the Mayor played at Community Board meetings. The interim Chief Executive said the Mayor would provide advice, guidance and leadership. He did not associate the role of the Mayor with voting and wielding leadership but one of providing support for the Board. It was not a Committee of the Council and the usual ex officio rights did not run to the Community Board. Traditionally, the Mayor had attended in sync with the local Ward member who was an appointed member to the Board. His Worship recalled the Charter included the Mayor having voting rights as an ex officio member. He said he tried to play a neutral part at Board meetings.

Cr Dickson was concerned at attendance at Board meetings where only 39% had full attendance. She asked what the reason had been. Was there insufficient business? Board members were paid to be members. Cr Phillips did not see any reference to a Council or Committee meeting attendance list. Why pick on the Board? He was

disappointed Cr Dickson had bought it up. The reason was what Cr Hovell had raised. The Council had not given the Board enough authority to undertake its role. The Community Board made recommendations to the Council. The reasons the meetings had been cancelled was probably due to a lack of business. The Board could recommend to the Council issues such as footpath upgrades etc. His Worship clarified the Charter did not providing voting rights to the Mayor.

Cr Gardyne said there needed to be clear lines maintained between governance and management.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2024/29

8. SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT ON LAND TRANSPORT (SC0756)

A detailed report had been received from the General Manager Critical Services providing a summary on the draft Government Policy Statement (GPS) on Land Transport 2024 that had been released on 4 March. Four strategic priorities had been outlined by the Government for the GPS to deliver against. These were:

- Economic growth and productivity;
- Increased maintenance and resilience;
- Safety; and
- Value for money.

A copy of the full policy statement had been circulated with the agenda. Details on the investment in land transport had been included in the report together with funding and inflationary increases, funding decreases and implications for the Gore District.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Fraser, seconded by Cr MacDonell, THAT the report and supporting documentation be received,

AND THAT the Council delegate authority to the interim Chief Executive to draft a submission generally supporting the draft GPS 2024 but questioning the movement of bridge and structural renewals from the maintenance to improvement activity class for local roads.

2024/30

9. ISSUING OF STAFF WARRANTS AND AUTHORISATIONS

A memo had been received from the Governance Manager advising that Council staff were occasionally required to undertake certain enforcement activities as part of Bylaws and other regulatory functions that the Council administered. To enable staff to carry out these activities, they were required to be appointed and authorised by the local authority, and to carry warrant cards.

Mr Marcelo Esposito had recently been employed as an Animal Control Officer and needed to be appointed and warranted by the Council under the Dog Control Act 1996 and as an Enforcement Officer under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2002.

In addition, Ms Michelle Ellis, Team Leader, Environmental Health was a recently appointed Food Verifier and Enforcement Officer with the Invercargill City Council. Due to the Invercargill City Council providing environmental health functions to the Council, Ms Ellis needed to be appointed and warranted.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Reid, THAT the Council appoint and authorise Marcelo Esposito to undertake various enforcement related duties in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Local Government Act 2002,

AND THAT the Council appoint and authorise Michelle Ellis to undertake duties related to environmental health in accordance with the Health Act 1956 and the Local Government Act 2002 as an Enforcement Officer and a Food Verifier in accordance with the Food Act 2014.

2024/31

10. MINUTES OF CREATIVE COMMUNITIES ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (SC3694)

A copy of the minutes of the Creative Communities Assessment Committee meeting held on 19 February 2024, for the Council's information.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dickson, seconded by Cr Reid, THAT the minutes be received.

2024/32

11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOUR MONTHLY REPORT (SC3860)

A copy of a four monthly report from Local Government New Zealand providing an update and summary on its activities had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Stringer, THAT the report be received.

2024/33

12. SUMMARY OF MAYORAL FORUM MEETING (SC3619)

A copy of a summary of the Southland Mayoral Forum meeting held on Friday 1 March 2024, had been circulated with the agenda, for the Council's information.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr MacDonell, seconded by Cr Fraser, THAT the information be received.

2024/34

The meeting concluded at 6.12pm

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY 23 APRIL 2024

5. DRAFT 2024/25 ANNUAL PLAN SUMMARY AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

(Report from interim Chief Executive - 15.04.24)

1.0 Introduction

- ↳ This report profiles the proposed 2024/25 Annual Plan Summary and consultation document (attached). The document has been prepared following an exhaustive budget-setting process. The figures proposed for next year's budget have been refined down as far as practicable and duly incorporated in the draft document before the Council.

2.0 Background

2.1 On 5 March 2024 the Council approved the preparation of an enhanced Annual Plan for 2024/25 and to defer its Long Term Plan for adoption by 30 June 2025. The decision arose from a legislative change by the government, which provided an option for Councils to defer the preparation of an LTP. Given the uncertain state of the Three Waters reform, together with the Council's previous messaging pleading for the option of deferring an LTP, the decision of the Council to embrace an Annual Plan only had a fair degree of inevitability about it.

2.2 By the time the Council made the decision to undertake an Annual Plan only, it had become abundantly clear that the Council was facing a very demanding task of trying to develop a budget for the next year that was both responsible, sustainable and acceptable to the public. The spectre of larger-than-normal rate increases has loomed large in the public psyche with a number of Councils, both large and small, announcing rates increases nudging close to 20%, with some even higher. The Gore District Council is not immune from these cost pressures.

2.3 Three workshops with the Council have been held this year to 'knock into shape' next year's budget. For the public to understand the evolution of the Council's thinking and endeavours made by senior staff to drive down cost, it is germane to set out both the unavoidable cost increases, together with the opening rate increase that first emerged once all departmental budgets were aggregated.

3.0 Unavoidable cost increases

3.1 Before contemplating funding requirements for the next twelve months in regard to the activities of the Council, there are a number of unavoidable cost pressures that need to be confronted. These pressures, in the main, cannot be dodged and have driven upwards appreciably, the rating requirement that the

Council needs to consider. The following elements are explained in terms of their contribution or impact on the Council budget for 2024/25:

3.1.1 Depreciation

3.1.2 The Mayoral and Executive Forward to the Annual Report last year highlighted the fact that the Council had experienced a \$1.3 million increase in depreciation during the year under review.

3.1.3 The provision for depreciation in the 2023/24 Annual Plan was \$7.163 million. The asset revaluation is part of the annual reporting process. This occurred after the adopting of the Annual Plan and increased this figure to \$8.37 million. It needs to be emphasised that this additional depreciation was not funded in the 2023/24 year but now has to be faced up to in the 2024/25 financial year.

3.1.4 The revaluation of Council assets is heavily influenced by inflationary and construction cost pressures that have arisen since Covid-19. Therefore, in preparing the Council budget, the automated calculation for depreciation now sits at \$9.2 million, an increase of \$2.1 million (approximately) from the current 2023/24 Annual Plan.

3.1.5 Therefore, if this increase in depreciation was fully funded, it would account for 9.33% of any rates increase. In other words, just facing up to an increase in depreciation alone would drive rates up 9.33% without looking into other cost pressures which are set out below.

3.2 Finance costs

3.2.1 Like any household, the Council is not immune to rising interest rates. The Council's debt has risen in line with previous Long Term Plan forecasts to address a number of major capital works which are complete or substantively complete. However, the combination of rising debt levels and higher interest rates does mean that the cost of servicing these borrowings has increased. The estimated increase of servicing the Council's debt is \$400,000 per annum. This constitutes 1.78% of rates.

3.3 Civic property

3.3.1 Civic property, which covers a wide portfolio of large and small buildings has traditionally been chronically underfunded. This has resulted in a number of deferred maintenance issues that need to be addressed.

With civic property now under a dedicated senior officer, these maintenance issues are now being addressed and a dedicated budget assigned for each building. The effect of this is that there is an increase in \$160,000 (approximately 0.7%) that needs to be assigned to address these maintenance issues.

3.4 Information Technology resilience/upgrades

3.4.1 The Council has a very lean information technology department. In recent years, a focus has been placed on strengthening its reliability and resilience particularly from hostile cyber-attacks. This investment was sanctioned and endorsed by the Council's Audit and Risk Committee.

3.4.2 There are a number of key information technology upgrades that are required, particularly in areas where a lack of software support necessitates the Council moving in a new direction. The cumulative effect of these upgrades is \$274,000 or 1.2% of rates.

3.5 Chemicals

3.5.1 The Council's chemical costs have risen appreciably over the past year or so. This has affected both the water treatment operations and our aquatic centre. An increase in \$196,000 (0.87% of rates) reflects current running costs which exceed the existing budgetary provisions.

3.6 Roading

3.6.1 In line with a continued focus on raising the quality of rural roading, additional investment has been allocated to this activity. Additional investment of \$535,000 represents 2.4% of rates.

3.7 Insurance

3.7.1 Insurance costs for the Council have risen sharply. These costs represent an additional \$275,000 or 1.2% in rates.

3.8 Asset revaluation and audit fees

3.8.1 Professional fees for revaluation of the Council's assets and fees for the audit of the 2025/26 LTP have increased. The asset revaluation fee has increased by \$50,000, and the audit fees for the LTP, which have risen markedly in recent years, will incur an additional cost of \$100,000. Therefore, these two items contribute a further 0.66% on rates.

4.0 Overall impact of unavoidable cost

4.1 The combined impact on these increased costs, not allowing for other inflationary pressures within the budget, including staff salaries, constitutes an increase of 18.17%.

5.0 Starting point and where we have arrived at

5.1 The starting point for the General Manager Corporate Support when budgets for all Council activities were initially collated stood at an eye-watering 40%. From that lofty beginning, the General Manager Corporate Support worked assiduously to whittle the rates increase down to 31.7%. This was prior to workshops, drilling into the detail of budgets, commencing in earnest in February.

Since that time, the following changes and cuts have been made to strip a further \$2.2 million (approximately) from the rates requirement.

6.0 Further reductions suggested

6.1 The three Annual Plan workshops held this year have been valuable in providing elected members the opportunity to come to grips with the priorities and pressure points contained within each departmental budget of the Council. During these workshops and further analysis undertaken between each session, a number of potential expenditure cuts were identified to drive down the overall rates increase. These suggested cuts were:

- Not fully funding the total increase in depreciation (\$1.2 million).
- Non-employment/deferral of new positions identified in the organisation (\$240k).
- Deferring some property renewals and maintenance (\$200k).
- Deferring some IT upgrades and projects related thereto (\$158k).
- Delaying the rollout of the kerbside recycling service until 1 April 2025 (\$175k).
- Downsizing the community strategy department (\$271k).
- Trimming parks and reserves expenditure in relation to materials and contractors (\$120k).
- Deferring the upgrading of the Council's customer service request system (\$80k).
- Deferring some Multisports complex capital projects (\$150k).
- Discontinuing the community awards (\$30k).

6.2 Of these items, depreciation presents both the most significant expenditure reduction but also the most acute knock-on effect. Please find enclosed some depreciation summaries prepared by the General Manager Corporate Support which highlights the impact of not fully funding depreciation in each activity area.

6.3 Put simply, not fully funding depreciation means that renewal programmes are reduced and the ability of the Council to retire debt is compromised. The upside is that the rate requirement does meaningfully reduce. However, it should be noted that this option is unlikely to be open to the Council next year when it prepares its Long Term Plan, and the Council's financial projections will be the subject of a rigorous audit.

6.4 There is an element, no doubt, of the Council 'kicking the can down the road'. However, this is being put forward as a recognition that the community is not well positioned to absorb a very large rate increase. Ultimately that will mean there will be two reasonably large rate increases spread over two years.

7.0 Rate increase proposed for 2024/25

7.1 The reductions outlined above and contained within the annual plan summary and consultation document have led to a proposed rate increase of 21.4%. This is now submitted for approval to consult with the community.

8.0 Conclusion

8.1 Like most other Councils around New Zealand, the Gore District Council has discovered that there is nowhere to hide when faced with steeply rising costs, soaring depreciation levels, and large Three Waters infrastructure investment and upgrades. The forecast rate increase, along with other large increases around New Zealand, suggests that funding of local government in New Zealand is in dire need of being overhauled. But until national reform on this front occurs, the Council has no alternative but to look to its ratepayers for the funding required to meet legislative obligations.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council approve the draft 2024/25 Annual Plan summary and consultation document for public notification.

2024/25 Draft Annual Plan Summary & Consultation Document

Mayoral Foreword

Welcome to our draft 2024/25 Draft Annual Plan Consultation Document.

This plan details what our focus will be over the next 12 months. It is essential that we respond to the challenges of today while maintaining our assets for the future.

During the process of developing our Long Term Plan, the uncertainty around water infrastructure and changes coming out of central Government led the Council to be strong advocates for a one-year deferral. When this option was granted by the Government, we decided to produce a realistic plan for the next year rather than an unrealistic, optimistic plan for 10 years.

Unfortunately, a more certain outlook isn't necessarily a brighter one. Due to consistent under investment, we find ourselves in an unavoidable position where we can no longer afford to "kick the can down the road".

This has created a "perfect storm" as like all businesses and households, we've been hit with high inflation, a jump in insurance charges and increased interest costs.

There is an additional factor for us as a council—we are remarkably close to our debt ceiling. This means it is crucial we pay down debt despite experiencing the heightened effects of interest payments. We are not alone. Many other councils are in a similar position, particularly the ones experiencing growth.

We need to be deliberate in our thinking as we plan for the future of our District, while being mindful of our financial restraints and the impact on our ratepaying community.

A major factor for advocating for the one-year deferral was not only to get some clarity from central Government but also to get that clarity from the community we serve. Back to basics has been a constant conversation around the table, but it is time to understand what that means from the community. It's no surprise that we have had to hit pause on several key projects. Feedback on these will allow us to build our Long Term Plan on a sounder basis.

We will be closely watching the Government's transitional arrangements for Local Water Done Well and strongly advocating in the interest of our District as the reform agenda is developed.

We know that an average proposed rates increase of 21.4% is an unprecedented figure for the District. To put this figure into context, when we first started the conversation, the number was 31.7%. As you can imagine we have had many difficult conversations over the past few months to bring this number down.

In this plan, we have tried to take things back to basics without completely slashing our services or underfunding renewals for the future.

We want to hear from as many of you as possible about whether we have the balance right. Keep in mind that we will be continuing work on our long term plan right after this plan is adopted, so please let us know if there is a major change you would like us to consider.

Please read through this document and have your say. Your thoughts help us make informed decisions.

What's the Plan?

Welcome to our 2024/25 Draft Annual Plan Summary & Consultation Document. Here you will find information about

- the services, activities, and projects we are going to deliver in the next financial year,
- how much we expect these to cost,
- how we will pay for everything, and
- what it all means for you and your rates

This has been a challenging year for us and councils around the country to set budgets that realistically reflect the increased cost of doing business while being mindful of the impact on ratepayers and residents.

Our budgets for 2024/25 have been about holding the line.

We have managed to cut \$2.3 million from our initial starting point, which was 31.7%, to achieve a 21.4% district-wide average rates increase.

In dollar terms, this means (on average)

- A \$450,000 home in Gore will pay \$15.87 extra a week
- A \$350,000 home in Mataura will pay \$14.60 extra a week
- A \$5.7 million farm will pay \$26.05 extra a week

This number will be different for everyone. Our online rating calculator has been set up to tell you exactly how much your rates increase will be, if this proposed rate increase is adopted. You can check it out at goredc.govt.nz/rates calculator.

We are acutely aware of what this increase means for our community, particularly ratepayers on fixed incomes. Unfortunately, this year local government in New Zealand has been hit by a perfect storm of unavoidable cost escalations, as we've seen by the almost weekly headlines of massive rates increases from around the country.

We're no exception.

The unavoidable we've faced are:

- Rising inflation
- Increased interest costs
- Increased insurance fees
- Increased audit and compliance fees

Add to the mix the need to fund depreciation and our rates increase was already in double digits before we even looked at next year's budgets.

Your elected members and staff have worked hard to trim budgets as much as possible. However, we still want to move forward on re-introducing kerbside recycling. Gore and Mataura residents have repeatedly told us they want recycling back, and we've listened.

We will discuss the new recycling service and the critical financial details later in this document.

Before we go any further, though, we need to explain why we are delivering an Annual Plan in a year we should have been talking to you about our 2024 – 34 Long Term Plan.

What happened to the Long Term Plan?

What happened was a huge amount of uncertainty and change regarding the direction of 3 Waters reform!

Earlier this year, the Government scrapped the 3 Waters Reform programme and announced a new direction for water services. What that may look like won't be completely revealed until later this year. Understandably, this uncertainty put councils under considerable pressure as they tried to prepare a plan with 10-year expenditure and revenue projections in an environment where no one knew what the future held for 3 Waters services.

This uncertainty was the driver behind the Government allowing councils to defer their Long Term Plans in favour of an enhanced Annual Plan. It's an opportunity we accepted, given we were one of the first councils to lobby the Government to delay the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

The other main reason we decided to focus only on the next 12 months was the significant proposed rates increase. We appreciate how difficult it is to look long-term when your view is obstructed by the spike in rates that's looming for next year.

A couple of key points to note:

- It's important to read our enhanced draft 2024/25 Annual Plan and accompanying documents in conjunction with this summary.
- We will produce a nine-year plan next year, which must be adopted by 30 June 2025.
- There will only be two years between the next two Long-Term Plans to bring the three-yearly planning cycle back in to line.

How much does it cost to run the District?

Every day the money we collect in rates is used to look after what we have and to run the District.

Most of us know about the essential but somewhat unglamorous day-to-day stuff we do such as replacing wastewater pipes, grading roads, keeping your taps running and your toilets flushing.

But we also use rates to make sure the things that enhance our lifestyle, such as using the pool, borrowing a library book, or playing sport, are affordable for most people.

Cost per resident per day

3 Waters - \$2.14

Roading and footpaths - \$1.75

Parks and Recreation – \$0.81

Regulatory & Planning - \$0.80

Solid Waste - \$0.74

Civic Property and other District Assest - \$0.59

Gore Multisports Centre - \$0.58

Governance - \$0.46

Libraries - \$0.31

Arts and Heritage - \$0.26

Visitor Services and Events - \$0.23

Grants and Sponsorships - \$0.15

Civil Defence and Climate Change - \$0.05

Total - \$8.87 per resident per day

How do we pay for everything?

- General rates, uniform annual general charge and rates penalties 22%
- Targeted Rates 41%
- Subsidies and grants for operating purposes 8%
- Subsidies and grants for capital purposes 5%
- Fees and charges 11%
- Other revenue %1
- Investment income 1%
- Increase (decrease) in debt 11%

Rates are our main source of income. For many years the amount we have been collecting in rates has not truly reflected the cost of running our District.

Like all councils in New Zealand, we've had to take on debt (borrow) to fund investment in our infrastructure. Borrowing is an effective tool to ensure the cost of any projects that deliver benefits to generations is spread across all beneficiaries.

The catch – the unforeseen escalation in interest rates means we are paying more than ever in loan repayments.

We've been fortunate that we've been able to deliver major projects, such as the upgrades to the Gore and Mataura Water Treatment Plants or the new library with the help of Government funding via the Provincial Growth Fund and Shovel Ready Fund. However, we are now facing significant pressure on our budgets just to deliver the same levels of service and maintenance.

As we've said, the proposed district-wide average rate increase of 21.4% is largely made up of unavoidable cost increases.

The same things affecting your home costs – interest rates, insurance costs and inflation – are impacting our business. On top of this councils must fund depreciation. In our case, depreciation costs for 2024/25 are up by \$2.1million on this current financial year.

Due to the significant impact on rates this year, the Council is proposing not to fully fund depreciation in some activities. The following table provides a summary of the proposed unfunded depreciation:

Activity	% unfunded	Value
Wastewater	30	627,612
Stormwater	30	287,041
3 Waters Administration	20	34,714
Arts and Heritage	20	10,997
Libraries	20	27,251
Parks & Reserves	20	90,196
Civic Buildings	20	70,490
Gore Multisport Centre	20	76,501
		1,224,802

What is depreciation?

Depreciation recognises the wear and tear on an asset over its useful life.

Why do we have to fund it?

The law requires Councils to collect rates for the cost of depreciation. This is unique to Local Government.

What are the funds used for?

The funds are used to replace aging assets. They can also be used to pay down debt.

Why is it going up?

We must revalue our assets based on current replacement costs at least every 3 years. A sharp rise in construction costs since covid-19 has significantly increased the cost of replacing assets.

The implications of not fully funding depreciation are that in some activities the renewal of a number of assets will be deferred to a later date, and the ability for the Council to pay down debt is reduced.

Due to the significant impact on rates this year, the Council is proposing to only fund 70% - 80% of the depreciation costs in some activities in 2024/25. However, this is only a temporary measure that will need to be remedied in the future. Other key cost drivers are:

- Finance costs \$400k
- Civic property maintenance \$160k
- Information Technology upgrades \$274k
- Chemicals \$196k
- Roading \$535k

- Insurance \$275k
- Asset revaluation fees \$50k
- Audit fees for LTP \$100k

And let's not forget we must pay for the ever-increasing unfunded mandates from Central Government in areas such as health and safety compliance, traffic management, drinking water standards, wastewater disposal and waste minimisation.

What have we done to keep costs down?

It's been a delicate balancing act the last few months as elected members and staff worked through ways to continue to deliver the level of service you've come to expect while keeping costs down. In order to get to the 21.4% number we have:

- Not funded 20%-30% of depreciation in some activities
- Deferred all new positions
- Deferred property renewals and maintenance
- Deferred IT upgrades and projects
- Delayed recycling rollout to 1 April 2025 or 1 July 2025
- Realigned how we deliver community strategy activities
- Trimmed the parks and reserves materials and contractor budgets
- Deferred upgrading our customer service request system
- Deferred Multisports complex capital projects
- Discontinued the community awards

Is this sustainable?

To be honest, deferring work or not funding depreciation provides only temporary relief. It's called '*kicking the can*', which means the costs will likely end up on next year's budgets or beyond.

As part of our 2025 - 34 Long-Term Plan discussion, we need to be prepared to start talking about significant cuts to levels of service or how we deal with rates increases in double digits.

How do we calculate your rates?

Our rating system is capital value-based. This means the value of your property is used to calculate the percentage you pay for certain activities. It is not used to calculate your total rates.

There are two types of rates - a general rate and a targeted rate. Your rates account is made up of the following:

- Uniform Annual General Charge & other uniform targeted rates
- Fixed targeted ward rates
- Valuation-based targeted rates
- Valuation-based general rates

What do we have planned?

3 Waters

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,256 – the number of water connections we have • 6,229 – the number of wastewater and stormwater connections we have |
|--|

Uncertainty is the only certainty about how 3 Waters will be delivered in the future. The Government replaced 3 Waters Reform with Local Water Done Well, but it will take at least another 12 to 18 months before we know what exactly that means.

What we do know is that:

- We must invest millions of dollars in renewing or upgrading our water, stormwater and wastewater networks.
- Our ratepayers can't afford to meet the costs alone.
- The Government's been clear that there's no Crown funding assistance to support the new reform programme.

Whats coming up?

Mataura River Crossing Project - \$4m

In 2022, we completed a major upgrade of the East Gore Water Treatment Plant to ensure it meets NZ Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules (DWQAR).

However, until we get a new pipeline across the Mataura River we can only supply 65% of Gore's drinking water from the upgraded plant.

The new pipeline will connect the East Gore plant to the Jacobstown Well and Hilbre Avenue Reservoir, which provides water to the other 35% of Gore. Directional drilling has been identified as the preferred method to install the pipes under the river.

Hilbre Avenue Reservoir Replacement - \$6m

The Hilbre Ave reservoir is in poor condition. It's a potential contamination risk to Gore's drinking water supply and has structural integrity issues.

On top of this, we need to increase the reservoir's capacity from 1000m³ to 1500m³. This project includes demolishing the reservoir, treatment plant and possibly the water tower. We will replace it with a new 1500m³ reservoir and associated pipework.

Stormwater Separation - \$3.1m

This project is part of ongoing upgrades to resolve issues with our stormwater network. Did you know that in Gore about 40% of the wastewater and stormwater networks are combined. In Mataura, the figure's 25%.

Combined networks create capacity issues. The lack of capacity results in

- flooding in the network,
- untreated wastewater overflowing to the environment, and
- increased pressure on our wastewater treatment plants.

Due to climate change, more frequent and intense rain events are expected to exacerbate these issues. We estimate it will cost over \$300 million and take at least 30 years to fix all the capacity issues in our networks. We are currently prioritising parts of the network that need to be upgraded and confirming the scope of work to be completed over the next three years.

Roads

We look after:

- 896km of road, including 550km of gravel roads
- 128 bridges
- 100km of footpaths

We need roads to get to work, school, or footy practice. Most importantly, our roads are the lifeblood for our primary producers to get their products to market.

That said, most of our roads have low traffic volumes – about half of the network carries less than 50 vehicles daily.

Our major challenges with roading are:

- Maintaining gravel roads – 60% of the network is unsealed
- Maintaining or replacing bridges
- Drainage

We receive financial assistance from Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency to look after our roads. It's a partnership that enables us to get work done without ratepayers paying for everything. We get a 61% subsidy from NZTA – so for every \$1 we spend, the agency covers 61c.

What's coming up?

Unsealed roads

- Increase grading, including using a second grader when needed. We are aiming to grade 1,600km next year (1,500km this year).
- Increase the amount of gravel we put on our roads to a minimum of 10,500m³ consistently. The last five years the amount has fluctuated between 7,500m³ and 10,500m³.
- Investigate alternative gravel sources.

Sealed Roads

- Maintain the current level of resealing, which is about 18km.
- Do about 300m of pavement rehabilitation.
- Maintain the current level of sealed pavement repairs.

Drainage

- Continue the existing level of routine drainage maintenance.
- Increase drainage renewals – our rural target is to renew 20kms of surface water channels. The urban kerb and channel replacement target is 400m.
- Continue replacing stormwater culverts and sumps as required.

Footpaths

- Continue the current level of footpath maintenance and replacement.
- Renew about 400m of footpath.

Bridges

- Spend an extra \$220k on renewals.
- Replace the Middle Road West bridge.
- Look at disposing of several bridges which provide little public benefit.

Capital Projects - Intersection Safety Improvements

- Ardwick/ Crewe Street's kerbed splitter islands
- Seal the gravel legs of Strauchon Road, Pope Road and Nicholson Road where they intersection with Reaby Road.

Solid Waste

We have to meet the Government's expectations to manage waste better. These are set out in a new national waste strategy, which will be rolled out in three phases. Targets for the first phase, to be achieved by 2030, are:

- Waste generation: reduce the amount of material entering the waste management system by 10 per cent per person.
- Waste disposal: reduce the amount of material needing final disposal by 30 percent per person.
- Waste emissions: reduce the biogenic methane emissions from waste by at least 30 percent.

In 2020, we significantly reduced kerbside recycling options. We know through our Rethinking Waste conversations that you want us to manage our waste better.

Over the next 10 years, we propose reintroducing a recycling programme for Gore and Mataura. We will also investigate other key projects to meet NZ Waste Strategy targets. This includes:

- Investigate a feasibility study, through WasteNet, on options to manage organic waste across Southland
- Investigate options for rural recycling initiatives and partnerships
- Investigate a feasibility study for a resource recovery centre to re-use items from our community so they do not end up in landfills.

Have your say: What should we do about Kerbside Recycling?

Council wants to improve the way we manage our waste through providing new and better options for recycling. In order to align with national kerbside standards we need to bring in a 3 bin kerbside collection for both Gore and Mataura.

We have until 1 January 2027 to add paper and cardboard, plastic bottles, trays and containers of resin identification codes 1, 2, and 5, and aluminum and steel tins and cans to our recycling collection.

Moving to a 3 bin system will enable us to reintroduce recycling while continuing to reduce the impact of contamination of broken glass in mixed recycling, which causes extra waste having to be sent to landfill. In addition, Wastenet needs to cover a range of increased costs for this service, including increases in emissions trading scheme costs and waste level charges. Wastenet will also increase the amount that it invests in education.

Under this new model, waste and recycling would be collected on alternate weeks with glass continuing to be collected on a four weekly cycle.

Option one: (preferred option)

Introduce a new 140 litre fortnightly blue lid glass recycling bin collection service

This will mean everyone who currently receives recycling services will have three bins. Red lid for rubbish, a new blue lid for glass, and the current yellow lid will be for paper and cardboard; plastic bottles, trays and containers of resin identification codes 1, 2, and 5; and aluminium and steel tins and cans.

As well as the cost involved for the new bins, the cost of the service will increase to account for the additional bin collections.

There will also be improvements in health and safety for people processing the waste and improved sustainability from less waste being sent overseas.

The figures:

- \$400k investment into purchase of additional bins for glass collection in 2024/2025 (increase in debt)
- \$75k in solid waste operational costs from 2024/2025 (3 month implementation)
- \$250k in ongoing solid waste operational costs from 2025/2026
- Level of service increase from April 2025

The average annual targeted rate for this service will increase by will increase by \$15.35 per annum in 2024/25 and \$51.20 per annum in 2025/26.

Option two: (another option)

Delay the introduction of a new 140 litre fortnightly blue lid glass recycling bin collection service starting until the 2025/2026 year

This option will mean a new bin for every property that currently receives recycling services as outlined in our preferred option above but this wouldn't start until 1 July 2025. This would save on implementation costs in this Annual Plan and start those in line with the Long Term Plan next year.

- \$400k investment into purchase of additional bins for glass collection in 2024/2025 (increase in debt)
- \$250k in ongoing solid waste operational costs from 2025/2026
- Level of service increase from July 2025

YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT

You can provide us with feedback until Friday 17 May.

Having your say is as easy as ticking a box on our submission form. Here's how you can get involved:

Online

Visit our website www.lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz where you will find all the information about the 2024/25 Annual Plan, including an easy feedback form.

Message us Facebook

Make sure you include your name, address and preferred contact method.

Hard copy

Fill out the feedback form at the back of this document then:

Drop it off at

- Our main office, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore,
- Maitauro Library/Service Centre, McQueen Avenue, Maitauro

Email us at info@goredc.govt.nz. Please put Annual Plan Feedback in the Subject line

Post it to: Gore District Council, P O Box 8, Gore 9740

Key Dates

Monday 29 April – the draft 2024-25 Annual Plan is open for feedback

Friday 17 May – Feedback closes

Tuesday 28 May – Hearing (if required)

Tuesday 25 June – the Council adopts its 2024/25 Annual Plan

Come and have a chinwag

We will be out and about with Agnes, our conversation caravan, to talk about whether we should reinstate kerbside recycling. These pop-up sessions will be a chance to korero with your elected members and let them know your thoughts about the draft Annual Plan.

We look forward to seeing you at one of these locations – just look out for Agnes, you can't miss her!

- Gore Date
- Maitauro Date
- Waikaka Date

Arts & Heritage and Libraries

The tables below illustrate the depreciation expense per the 2024/25 Annual Plan, and the projects that it is anticipated that it will fund. For some cost centres, the table also includes the impact of not fully funding the depreciation.

Arts & Heritage (210)		2024/25	
Depreciation		54,986	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(10,997)	
			43,989
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Arts & Heritage : vehicle renewal		-	
			-
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			43,989
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			2,698,438

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.

Libraries (230)		2024/25	
Depreciation		136,255	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(27,251)	
			109,004
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Kanopy		5,000	
Book collection renewals		104,400	
			109,400
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			(396)
<u>Proposed reduction in renewal programme:</u>			
Reduction in book collection renewals		(400)	
Realigned funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			4
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			287,127

Comments:

- The current programme cannot be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.
- The funding shortfall is minimal; therefore, the recommendation is to slightly reduce the renewal budget for library books.

Key	
	Depreciation funding shortfall
	Potentially loan fund
	Proposed reduction in renewal programme
	Proposed depreciation change

Cemeteries, Parks & Reserves

The tables below illustrate the depreciation expense per the 2024/25 Annual Plan, and the projects that it is anticipated that it will fund. For some cost centres, the table also includes the impact of not fully funding the depreciation.

Cemeteries (420)		2024/25	
Depreciation		17,322	
			17,322
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Renewals: vehicles, plant & equipment		35,543	
Charlton Park Cemetery building re-roof		27,000	
Gore cemetery garden redevelopment		3,000	
Mataura cemetery garden redevelopment		3,000	
Pukerau cemetery garden redevelopment		3,000	
Charlton Park cemetery garden redevelopment		5,000	
			76,543
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			(59,221)
<u>Proposed reduction in renewal programme:</u>			
Reduction in renewals programme		(35,543)	
<u>Proposed loan funded project:</u>			
Charlton Park Cemetery building re-roof		(27,000)	
Realigned funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			3,322
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			1,562

Comments:

- Depreciation is insufficient to cover the renewal work programme.
- Consider loan funding re-roof project.
- Reduced remainder of renewal programme to fit within budget.

Parks & Reserves Administration (460)		2024/25	
Depreciation		216,542	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(43,308)	
			173,234
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Replacement flags		10,500	
Renewals: vehicles, plant & equipment		336,073	
			346,573
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			(173,339)
<u>Proposed reduction in renewal programme:</u>			
Reduction in renewals programme		(175,000)	
			1,661
Realigned funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			231,664

Comments:

- The current programme cannot be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.
- The proposed renewals programme has doubled from the previous year and does not fit within the depreciation funding envelope.
- Renewals budget to be reduced by \$175k.

Parks & Reserves Gore (461)		2024/25	
Depreciation		128,996	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(25,799)	
			103,197
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Renewals: vehicles, plant & equipment		-	
Hamilton Park Hall - outdoor seating		2,000	
Hamilton Park Hall - heating & lighting replacement		15,600	
Playground renewals		50,000	
Reserves signing and branding renewals		20,000	
			87,600
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			15,597
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			133,420

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.

Parks & Reserves Matura (462)		2024/25	
Depreciation		22,064	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(4,413)	
			17,651
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Tulloch Park drainage		10,000	
Playground renewals		27,583	
Reserves signing and branding renewals		5,000	
Culling Terrace walkway upgrade		20,000	
			62,583
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			(44,932)
<u>Proposed reduction in renewal programme:</u>			
Deferral of Tulloch Park drainage		(10,000)	
Deferral of Playground renewals		(27,583)	
Deferral of Reserves signing and branding renewals		(5,000)	
Reduction of Culling Terrace walkway upgrade expenditure		(2,349)	
Realigned funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			0
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			18,956

Comments:

- The current programme cannot be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.
- The implications are a deferral of the majority of the work programme, and a reduction in funding available to upgrade the Culling Terrace walkway.

Parks & Reserves Rural (463)		2024/25	
Depreciation		13,628	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(2,726)	
			10,902
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Playground renewals		9,250	
			9,250
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			1,652
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			81,000

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.

Parks & Reserves Dolamore (464)		2024/25	
Depreciation		69,752	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(13,950)	
			55,802
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Renewals - vehicle, plant & equipment		17,490	
House/Education centre refresh & refurb		25,000	
Playground renewals		14,166	
			56,656
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			(854)
<u>Proposed reduction in renewal programme:</u>			
Reduction in playground renewals		(1,000)	
Realigned funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			146
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			49,153

Comments:

- The current programme cannot be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.
- Proposed deferral of a portion of playground renewals.

Key	
	Depreciation funding shortfall
	Potentially loan fund
	Proposed reduction in renewal programme
	Proposed depreciation change

Corporate and IT & GIS

The tables below illustrate the depreciation expense per the 2024/25 Annual Plan, and the projects that it is anticipated that it will fund. For some cost centres, the table also includes the impact of not fully funding the depreciation.

Corporate Support (200)		2024/25	
Depreciation		91,207	
			91,207
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Renewals: vehicles, furniture		60,089	
			60,089
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			31,118
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			724,436

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within the depreciation funded window.
- Unfunded depreciation of 20% could be applied to this cost centre without affecting this year's renewals programme.
- If unfunded depreciation were to be applied, then the ability to pay down debt would be reduced.

IT&GIS (110)		2024/25	
Depreciation		104,813	
			104,813
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
End-user compute renewals		74,000	
			74,000
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			30,813
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			470,944

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within the depreciation funded window.
- Unfunded depreciation of 20% could be applied to this cost centre without affecting this year's renewals programme.
- If unfunded depreciation were to be applied, then the ability to pay down debt would be reduced.

Key	
	Depreciation funding shortfall
	Potentially loan fund
	Proposed reduction in renewal programme
	Proposed depreciation funding change

Facilities & Solid Waste

The tables below illustrate the depreciation expense per the 2024/25 Annual Plan, and the projects that it is anticipated that it will fund. For some cost centres, the table also includes the impact of not fully funding the depreciation.

Civic Property (471)		2024/25	
Depreciation		41,409	
			41,409
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Mataura community Hall - new blinds		2,000	
Distribution board renewals (identified through thermal imaging)		20,000	
Appliance renewals		10,000	
			32,000
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			9,409
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			683,972

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within the depreciation funded window.

Civic Buildings (473)		2024/25	
Depreciation		352,450	
			352,450
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Mataura Library & Service centre - heat pump, light sensors, handrails etc		12,000	
Mataura Library & Service centre - re-roof		196,000	
			208,000
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			144,450
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			11,072,707

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within the depreciation funded window.
- Unfunded depreciation of 20% could be applied to this cost centre without affecting this year's renewals programme.
- If unfunded depreciation were to be applied, then the ability to pay down debt would be reduced.

Public Conveniences (474)		2024/25	
Depreciation		54,933	
			54,933
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
			0
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			54,933
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			494,037

Comments:

- The Hamilton Park toilet replacements are proposed to be loan funded, therefore do not appear on this renewal list.
- The depreciation funding would not have been sufficient to cover the cost of the replacement facilities at Hamilton Park.
- Unfunded depreciation would not be recommended in this cost centre, as the difference should either pay down debt, or be carried forward to reserves in order to assist with the cost of replacing the next public conveniences identified for replacement (Ordsal Street).

Aerodrome (476)		2024/25	
Depreciation		1,818	
			1,818
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Airport runway reseal		250,000	
Boundary fence		2,500	
			252,500
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			(250,682)
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			Nil

Comments:

- Depreciation is insufficient to cover the renewal work programme.
- Consider loan funding the runway reseal project.

Solid Waste (458)		2024/25	
Depreciation		70,841	
			70,841
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Gore Transfer Station - replace gravel		6,000	
			6,000
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			64,841
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			2,384,780

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within the depreciation funded window.
- Unfunded depreciation of 20% could be applied to this cost centre without affecting this year's renewals programme.
- If unfunded depreciation were to be applied, then the ability to pay down debt would be reduced.

Key	
	Depreciation funding shortfall
	Discussion with budget holder required
	Potentially loan fund

Gore Aquatic & Multisport Centre

The tables below illustrate the depreciation expense per the 2024/25 Annual Plan, and the projects that it is anticipated that it will fund. For some cost centres, the table also includes the impact of not fully funding the depreciation.

Gore Multisports & Aquatic (290)		2024/25	
Depreciation		251,924	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(50,385)	
			201,539
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Pool hall fire door replacement		9,000	
Exterior maintenance		22,000	
BMS upgrade		21,000	
Security System upgrade		60,000	
Poolside Hoist		45,000	
			157,000
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			44,539
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			1,865,899

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.

MLT Event Centre (292)		2024/25	
Depreciation		130,579	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(26,116)	
			104,463
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Wooden Court floor replacement		15,240	
Sweep and cleaner replacement		40,000	
Ice Rink door replacement		10,000	
MLT door replacement		10,000	
			75,240
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			29,223
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			697,164

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.

Key	
	Depreciation funding shortfall
	Potentially loan fund
	Proposed reduction in renewal programme
	Proposed depreciation funding change

3Waters

The tables below illustrate the depreciation expense per the 2024/25 Annual Plan, and the projects that it is anticipated that it will fund. For some cost centres, the table also includes the impact of not fully funding the depreciation.

3Waters Administration (450)		2024/25	
Depreciation		173,569	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(34,714)	
			138,855
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Renewals: vehicles, plant & equipment		124,094	
			124,094
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			14,761
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			Nil

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.

Water (451)		2024/25	
Depreciation		1,184,172	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(236,834)	
			947,338
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Jacobstown Consent Renewal		45,000	
Reticulation Minor Renewals		180,000	
Minor Renewals of Mechanical and Electrical Equipment		10,000	
Replacement of the Charlton Road Water Main		500,000	
Installation of fish screening at the Pleura Dam		300,000	
Mataura River Emergency Water Take		35,000	
Minor Renewals of Mechanical and Electrical Equipment		67,000	
			1,137,000
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			(189,662)
<u>Fully fund depreciation to cover renewal programme</u>			
20% unfunded depreciation added back		236,834	
Realigned funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			47,172
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			10,239,277

Comments:

- The current renewals programme cannot be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window; however, it would be accommodated at 100% depreciation funding.
- From discussions held with the 3Waters budget holders, these renewal programmes are required.
- Proposal is to fully fund depreciation in Water, and increase the level of unfunded depreciation in Wastewater and Stormwater.

Wastewater (456)		2024/25	
Depreciation		2,092,040	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(418,408)	
			1,673,632
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Riverhead Lane Pump Station Electrical Overhaul (Mataura)		92,000	
Miscellaneous Minor PS renewals (pump & valve failures)		87,000	
Gore WWIP - minor renewals		55,000	
Gore and Mataura Wastewater Treatment Plant re consenting		200,000	
Unplanned/ Minor Reticulation Renewals		290,000	
Mataura WWIP - wetland plants rejuvenation. Minor improvements		25,000	
Waikaka Wastewater Treatment Plant consent (200336)		35,000	
Dacre St Pump Station Electrical Overhaul (Mataura)		92,000	
			876,000
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			797,632
<u>Additional unfunded depreciation:</u>			
10% depreciation unfunded to cover water		(209,204)	
Realigned funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			588,428
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			8,787,307

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.
- Unfunded depreciation of 30% is proposed in this cost centre to offset the Water activity that needs to be fully funded.
- Note, that the impact of not fully funding depreciation is that there will be less funding available to pay down debt.

Stormwater (457)		2024/25	
Depreciation		956,803	
less: 20% unfunded depreciation		(191,361)	
			765,442
<u>Renewal projects funded by depreciation</u>			
Reticulation renewals		100,000	
Oxford & Richmond Street Pump Station		193,000	
			293,000
Funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			472,442
<u>Additional unfunded depreciation:</u>			
10% depreciation unfunded to cover water		(95,680)	
Realigned funding available for debt repayment/(funding shortfall)			376,762
Debt balance attributed to this activity at 30 June 2023			2,867,178

Comments:

- The current programme can be accommodated within an 80% depreciation funded window.
- Unfunded depreciation of 30% is proposed in this cost centre to offset the Water activity that needs to be fully funded.
- Note, that the impact of not fully funding depreciation is that there will be less funding available to pay down debt.

Key	
	Depreciation funding shortfall
	Potentially loan fund
	Proposed reduction in renewal programme
	Proposed depreciation funding change

6. GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT BYLAW 2019 — TECHNICAL AMENDMENT (Aaron Green)

(Report from 3 Waters Operations Manager – 12.04.24)

1.0 Purpose

1.1 This report is to seek the approval of an additional standard construction drawing to the Subdivision and Land Development Bylaw 2019 under 5.3.12 of the bylaw.

2.0 Background

2.1 In the past couple of years the requirement for pumped wastewater connections have increased.

2.2 The current Subdivision and Land Development bylaw states the following under provision 5.3.12 relating to pressure sewers:

Pressure sewers shall be designed and installed in accordance with the standards of the Council, with consideration in the design for cyclic dynamic stresses. Refer to the PIPA design guidelines (<http://www.pipa.com.au>). If the Council has no applicable standards, then they shall be designed in accordance with WSA 02 and WSA 07.

2.3 Apart from reference to the WSA (Water Services Association) codes listed, there is no simple design standard in the Subdivision and Land Development Bylaw 2019 for any type of pumped connection. This has resulted in longer processing time of building consents as plumbers are unsure of what our requirement is.

I have been sent the pumped design in order that the processing of the consents can continue. Feedback from plumbers is that the design should be added to the Council standard drawings.

2.4 We want to ensure that any pumped connection is installed the same. This means when any work is carried out, staff are aware of what is in the ground, and we can stock the parts to ensure that any failures are repaired in a prompt time without causing any environmental issues.

3.0 Clarity around the requirements

3.1 The design standard attached as Appendix A will not only give clarity for Council staff, but will also make it clear for developers about what is required.

3.2 When the Building Control and 3 Waters are completing inspections, they will know what should be installed.

3.3 The new pumping boundary kit belongs to the property owner, and it is their responsibility for its ongoing maintenance. The Council's responsibility begins once the connection enters the lateral.

4.0 Local Government Act provisions

4.1 The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) sets out the provisions for amending bylaws under section 156. Subsection 2 outlines as follows:

Despite subsection (1), a local authority may, by resolution publicly notified,—

- (a) make minor changes to, or correct errors in, a bylaw, but only if the changes or corrections do not affect—*
 - (i) an existing right, interest, title, immunity, or duty of any person to whom the bylaw applies; or*
 - (ii) an existing status or capacity of any person to whom the bylaw applies:*
- (b) convert an imperial weight or measure specified in a bylaw into its metric equivalent or near metric equivalent*

4.2 Staff are not proposing to change the intent of the bylaw in this instance. The purpose of the recommended inclusion of the diagram is to provide clarity to both developers who are looking to install pumped sewer connections and staff who are signing them off, a consistent design standard for guidance.

4.3 As a result, it is the view of staff that pursuant to section 156(2)(a) of the LGA, this is a minor change to the bylaw that does not affect an existing right, interest, title, immunity, or duty of any person to whom the bylaw applies or an existing status or capacity of any person to whom the bylaw applies.

5.0 Proposed amendments to the Subdivision and Land Development Bylaw 2019

5.1 It is proposed to amend Section 5.3.12 of the bylaw as follows:

Page 124 – Amend text in the document as outlined below.

5.3.12 Pressure sewers and vacuum sewers

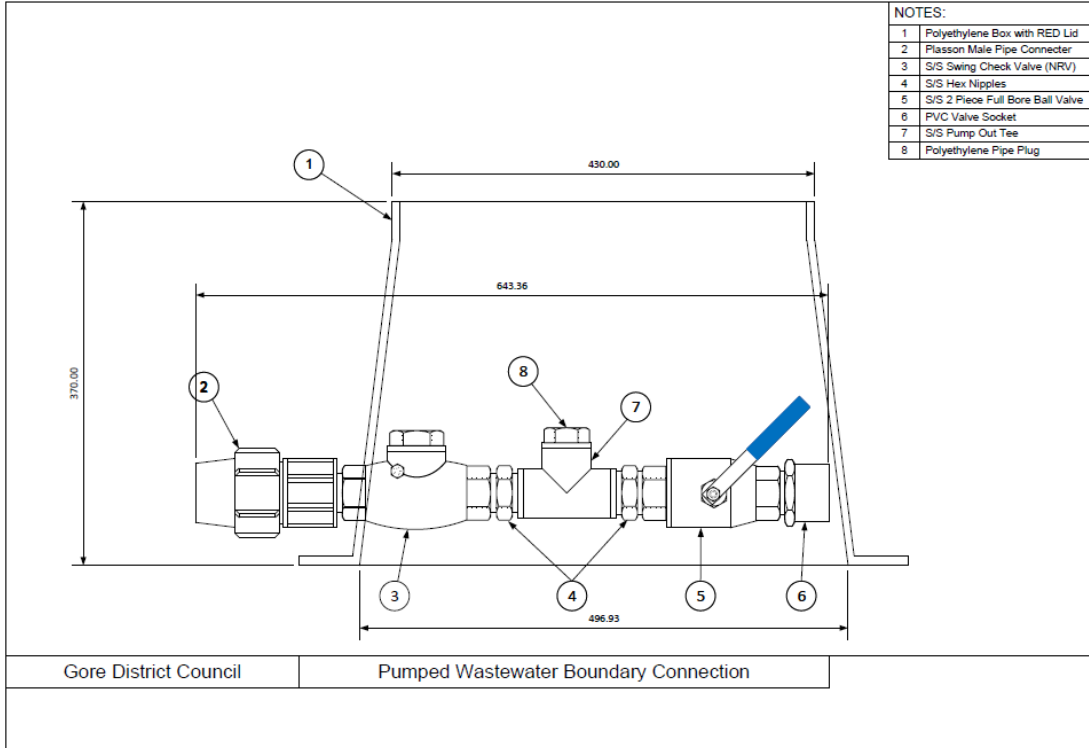
Pressure sewers shall be designed and installed in accordance with the standards of the Council, with consideration in the design for cyclic dynamic stresses. Refer to the PIPA design guidelines (<http://www.pipa.com.au>). They shall be designed in accordance with the Pumped Wastewater Boundary Connection standard in Appendix B Standard Detail Figure B50, or with WSA 02 and WSA 07.

Vacuum sewers shall be designed and installed in accordance with the standards of the Council. If the Council has no applicable standards, then they shall be designed in accordance with WSA 06.

Page 228A – Insert new standard construction drawing.

Appendix B – Standard Construction Drawings

Figure B50 – Pumped Wastewater Boundary Connection



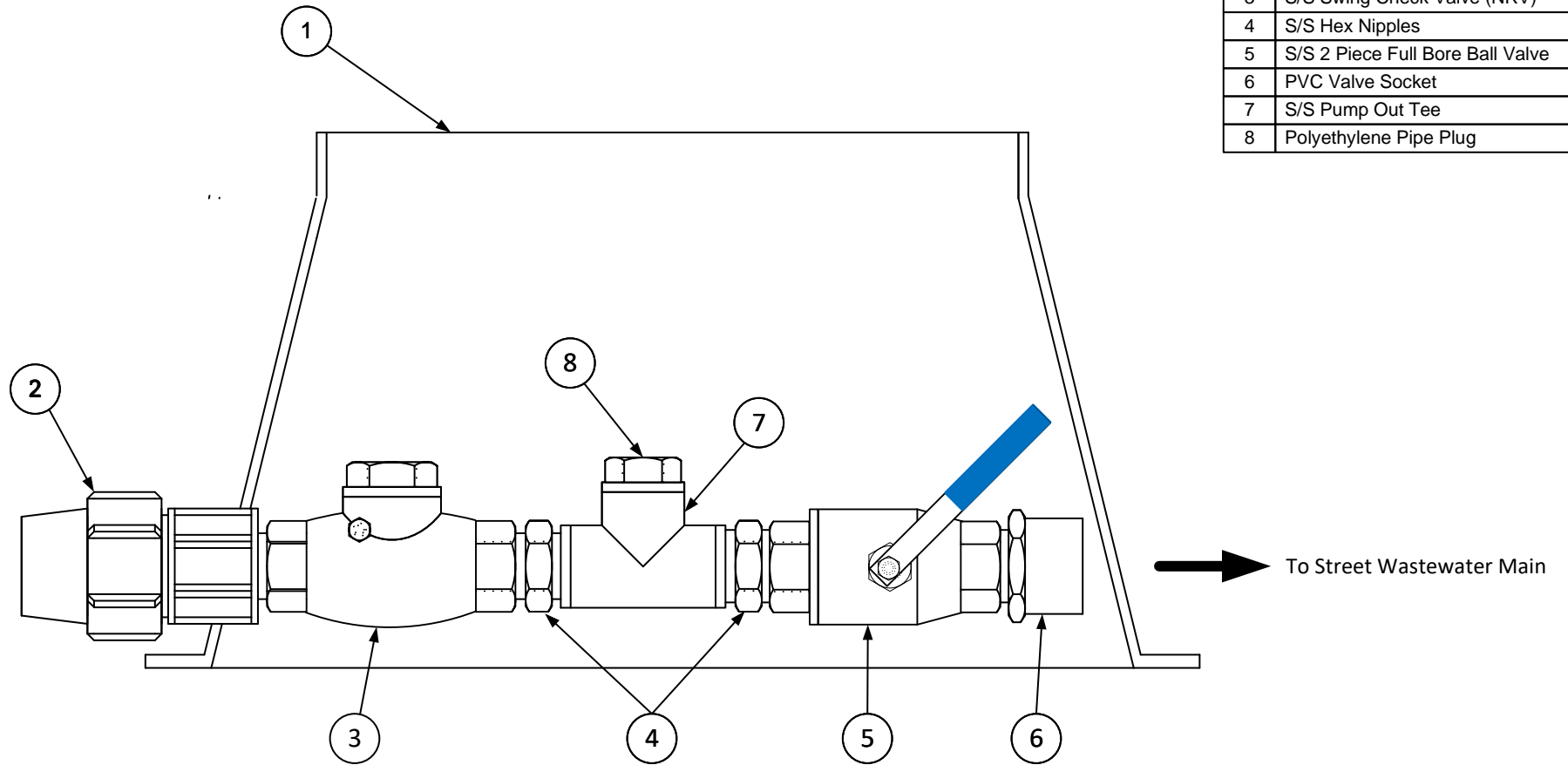
RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received,

AND THAT the Council approve the minor amendment to Section 5.3.12 of the Subdivision and Land Development Bylaw 2019 and subsequent construction drawing as outlined in 5.1 of this report.

NOTES:

1	Polyethylene ACUFLO Jumbo Box with RED Lid
2	Plasson Male Pipe Connector
3	S/S Swing Check Valve (NRV)
4	S/S Hex Nipples
5	S/S 2 Piece Full Bore Ball Valve
6	PVC Valve Socket
7	S/S Pump Out Tee
8	Polyethylene Pipe Plug



7. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 29 FEBRUARY 2024

(Memo from General Manager Corporate Support and Senior Finance Manager – 15.04.24)

Summary

Key points:

- Total income is higher than budget by \$1.600m.
- Total expenses are higher than budget by \$2.810m.
- This has resulted in a variance in the deficit compared to budget of \$1,210k.

The favourable variance for income is essentially explained by:

- Subsidies and grants are favourable by \$1.375m.

Significant items contributing to the expenditure variance include:

- \$996k over budget for depreciation due to prior year revaluation.
- \$559k District Plan related expenditure.
- \$352k over budget for materials and chemicals.
- \$263k over budget for interest costs.
- \$204k expenditure relating to 3Waters transition programme (fully offset by grant income received, therefore neutral impact on the operating deficit).
- \$99k write off on disposal of Mataura pool and boiler.
- \$91k over budget for motor vehicle and plant repairs, parts and consumables.
- \$86k expenditure relating to Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs/Closing the Gaps (fully offset by the grant income received, therefore neutral impact on the operating deficit).
- \$68k over budget for resource consent and planning consultant fees (in the absence of a Planning Manager).
- \$61k unbudgeted expenditure due to the call on funds for Riskpool.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

Statement of Income and Expenditure For the 8 Months Ended 29 February 2024

	Actuals	Current Budget	Variance	Fav/ Unfav	Annual Current Budget	% of Annual Budget
Income						
Rates	14,926	14,933	(7)	U	22,399	67%
Subsidies & grants	4,392	3,017	1,375	F	4,526	97%
User fees & charges	3,367	3,367	(0)	U	5,050	67%
Investment income	167	69	98	F	104	161%
Other income	228	107	121	F	161	142%
Internal overheads	6,345	6,332	13	F	9,498	67%
Income total	29,425	27,825	1,600	F	41,738	70%
Expenditure						
Employee costs	6,219	6,256	37	F	9,384	66%
Finance costs	1,553	1,290	(263)	U	1,934	80%
Depreciation	5,772	4,775	(996)	U	7,163	81%
Other expenses	11,522	9,947	(1,575)	U	14,921	77%
Internal overheads	6,345	6,332	(13)	U	9,498	67%
Expenditure total	31,410	28,600	(2,810)	U	42,900	73%
Surplus (deficit)	(1,985)	(775)	(1,210)	U	(1,162)	171%

Commentary on significant variances

Income

Subsidies and grants

Grants and subsidies are favourable by \$1.375m. This variance is largely due to timing with some grants having been budgeted to be received in previous years, and others not having been confirmed until after the start of the 2023/24 financial year.

Grants received for the Māruawai Centre redevelopment project make up \$539k of the \$1.375m variance. These grants from the Provincial Growth Fund, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Community Trust South, had been budgeted to be received in previous years.

The grants that were confirmed post adoption of the 2023/24 Annual Plan were grants for the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs/Closing the Gaps (\$145k) and additional 3Waters transition funding (\$198k).

The Mataura Valley Milk financial contribution (\$240k) to the library redevelopment project was known but unbudgeted.

Expenditure

Other expenses

The overall unfavourable variance in other expenses (\$1.575m) is made up of a number of different elements:

- \$531k over budget for the District Plan related costs. At the time that the 2023/24 Annual Plan was constructed, the timeline for the consultation period for the District Plan was to have been in the 2022/23 financial year, and therefore the plan was anticipated to be close to adoption. Unforeseen delays and a recent challenge to a number of chapters in the District Plan has meant that there is unbudgeted expenditure for the 2023/24 financial year.

This variance is a permanent variance and will continue to increase as the year progresses. The funding for this overspend compared to budget will come from borrowings as the District Plan has a multi-year life.

- \$352k over budget for materials and chemicals due to an increase in costs from suppliers. This has been experienced across the board in most departments.
- \$204k expenditure for 3Waters transition costs. Note that this is fully offset by grant funding received so has a nil effect on the operating deficit.
- \$108k expenditure for Mayor's Taskforce for Job's/Closing the Gaps. This is fully offset by grant income received. The impact on the operating deficit therefore is neutral. The expenditure was unbudgeted as the grant was confirmed post adoption of the 2023/24 Annual Plan.
- \$99k write off on disposal of Mataura pool and boiler.
- \$68k planning and resource consent consulting fees. In the absence of a Planning Manager, the Council outsources a significant portion of this activity to The Property Group. It is a difficult area to predict future activity, and therefore budget requirements.
- \$61k Riskpool call. Riskpool provided public liability and professional indemnity cover to member Councils and is now in run off. As a Fund member the Council was required to pay a contribution to fund deficits incurred in previous Fund years.

Depreciation

Depreciation is over budget by \$996k. This is due to the timing of the revaluation that was undertaken in a previous year occurring after the adoption of the 2023/24 Annual Plan. The Annual Plan had allowed for an increase in asset value of \$22 million. The

outcome of the revaluation resulted in the increase being three times that. This has in turn had a direct impact on the increased depreciation expenditure.

Finance costs (interest expense)

Finance costs are over budget by \$263k. The 2023/24 Annual Plan used the Council's weighted average cost of capital at 31 March 2023 to budget for finance costs (interest on borrowings). In the interim, interest rates have continued to rise as the Reserve Bank has been trying to curb consumer spending.

Income and Expenditure by Department For the 8 Months Ended 29 February 2024

Department	Income						Expenditure						Totals				
	Current			Fav /	Annual	% of	Current			Fav /	Annual	% of	Current			Fav /	Annual
	Actuals	Budget	Variance	Unfav	Budget	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Variance	Unfav	Budget	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Variance	Unfav	Budget
3 Waters & Solid Waste	7,464	7,262	201	F	10,893	69%	9,070	8,206	(864)	U	12,309	74%	(1,607)	(944)	(663)	U	(1,416)
Aquatic Services & Stadiums	1,366	1,366	1	F	2,049	67%	1,607	1,352	(256)	U	2,028	79%	(241)	14	(255)	U	21
Cemeteries	272	301	(28)	U	451	60%	248	301	52	F	451	55%	24	-	24	F	-
Central Administration	3,576	3,204	372	F	4,806	74%	3,715	3,233	(482)	U	4,850	77%	(139)	(29)	(110)	U	(44)
Civil Defence	124	125	(1)	U	187	66%	165	125	(40)	U	187	88%	(40)	-	(40)	U	-
Community Grants	499	467	32	F	701	71%	487	467	(20)	U	701	70%	12	0	12	F	0
Elected Members	1,389	1,234	155	F	1,851	75%	1,283	1,234	(49)	U	1,851	69%	107	0	107	F	0
Heritage Precinct	2,649	2,049	601	F	3,073	86%	2,168	2,101	(67)	U	3,152	69%	481	(53)	533	F	(79)
Parks and Reserves	3,074	2,962	111	F	4,443	69%	3,304	2,962	(342)	U	4,443	74%	(231)	-	(231)	U	-
Property	1,674	1,251	422	F	1,877	89%	1,202	1,096	(105)	U	1,644	73%	472	155	317	F	233
Public Conveniences	129	129	(1)	U	194	66%	124	129	5	F	194	64%	4	(0)	4	F	(0)
Regulatory	2,188	2,285	(97)	U	3,428	64%	3,004	2,428	(576)	U	3,643	82%	(816)	(143)	(673)	U	(215)
Roading	5,021	5,190	(169)	U	7,785	65%	5,032	4,965	(67)	U	7,447	68%	(11)	225	(236)	U	337
Income total	29,425	27,825	1,600	F	41,738	71%	31,410	28,600	(2,810)	U	42,900	73%	(1,985)	(775)	(1,210)	U	(1,162)

Commentary on significant variances

3 Waters and solid waste

The \$663k unfavourable variance for 3 Waters and solid waste is largely due to depreciation which is \$581k higher than budget. Contractors, chemical and materials costs are higher than budget by \$376k. Finance costs are \$109k higher than budget. These are partially offset by higher than budgeted user charges of \$140k, higher than budgeted levy received from the Ministry for the Environment of \$56k and a favourable variance in employee costs of \$101k.

Aquatic services and stadiums

The \$255k unfavourable variance for Aquatic Services & Stadiums is largely due to the write off on disposal of the Mataura pool and boiler \$99k, finance costs which are \$57k higher than budget and depreciation which is \$52k higher than budget.

Central administration

Central administration is currently recording an unfavourable variance overall of \$110k. Expenditure of \$204k for the 3Waters transition programme is fully offset by grant income received, therefore the impact on the operating deficit is neutral. Employee expenses are \$134k higher than budget. The unexpected Riskpool funding contribution of \$61k also contributes to the unfavourable variance in expenditure.

Heritage precinct – arts and heritage, libraries and visitor services

The \$533k favourable variance is predominantly due to the capital grant funding received for the Māruawai Redevelopment project. Grants totalling \$539k have been received to the end of February, and these had been budgeted to have been received in previous years.

Parks and reserves

Parks and Reserves are currently recording an unfavourable variance overall of \$231k. The favourable variance in income of \$111k is mainly due to the proceeds from vehicles traded in and the partial cost recovery from a capital project. Expenditure on vehicle and plant repairs and parts is \$66k unfavourable, partially due to the hydraulic repairs required on a stump cutter. Fuel is unfavourable by \$29k. Materials are \$119k unfavourable. The Parks and Recreation Manager believes that these unfavourable variances will reduce as the year progresses. Higher than budgeted depreciation of \$106k has also contributed to the unfavourable variance.

Civic buildings and property

The \$317k favourable variance is a largely a result of the \$240k financial contribution from Mataura Valley Milk for the James Cumming Community Rooms and Library redevelopment project.

Regulatory

The \$673k unfavourable variance in regulatory can be attributed to the \$559k overspend in the District Plan budget. This is a resource hungry process, and the variance will continue to increase as the year progresses.

Roading

The \$236k unfavourable variance for roading is largely due to depreciation which is \$174k higher than budget.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 29 February 2024

	Actuals 29 February 2024	Annual Plan 30 June 2024
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,605	2,291
Inventories	805	226
Other financial assets	1,792	1,802
Other current assets	536	225
Trade and other receivables	1,895	4,633
Current assets total	8,634	9,177
Non-current assets		
Infrastructure property, plant and equipment	542,318	508,265
Other financial assets	1,431	339
Non-current assets total	543,749	508,604
Assets total	552,384	517,781
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Other financial liabilities	-	-
Employee entitlements	661	760
Short term borrowings	13,500	11,000
Short term provisions	48	135
Trade and other payables	4,156	4,450
Current liabilities total	18,365	16,345
Non-current liabilities		
Long term borrowings	39,000	44,789
Long term provisions	66	74
Other financial liabilities	62	2,578
Non-current liabilities total	39,128	47,441
Liabilities total	57,493	63,786
Net assets	494,890	453,995
Equity		
Accumulated surplus	136,417	140,981
Asset revaluation reserve	354,610	307,779
Other reserves	3,863	5,235
Equity total	494,890	453,995

Commentary on the Statement of Financial Position

The significant variance is with the Council's infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets. These are reflected as \$34m higher than the 2023/24 Annual Plan figures due to the revaluations that were undertaken in a previous year, and due to timing were not captured in the Annual Plan.

Capital Expenditure by Department For the 8 Months Ended 29 February 2024

Department	Actuals	Current Budget	Variance	Annual Current Budget	% of Annual Budget Spent
3 Waters & Solid Waste	2,711	3,787	1,076	5,681	48%
Aquatic Services & Stadiums	76	68	(7)	102	74%
Cemeteries	35	32	(3)	48	73%
Central Administration	48	93	45	139	35%
Elected Members	-	14	14	21	0%
Heritage Precinct	550	294	(256)	441	125%
Parks and Reserves	688	305	(384)	457	151%
Property	315	191	(124)	286	110%
Public Conveniences	94	-	(94)	-	0%
Regulatory	158	23	(135)	34	459%
Roading	1,416	2,729	1,313	4,094	35%
Total	6,091	7,536	1,445	11,304	54%

Commentary on the capital expenditure

More detailed information on specific capital projects is included in reports to the Assets and Infrastructure Committee.

Parks and reserves

Parks and reserves are currently undertaking the Gore A&P grounds irrigation upgrade. This had been budgeted in the Council's 2021-2031 Long Term Plan to be undertaken in the 2022/23 financial year.

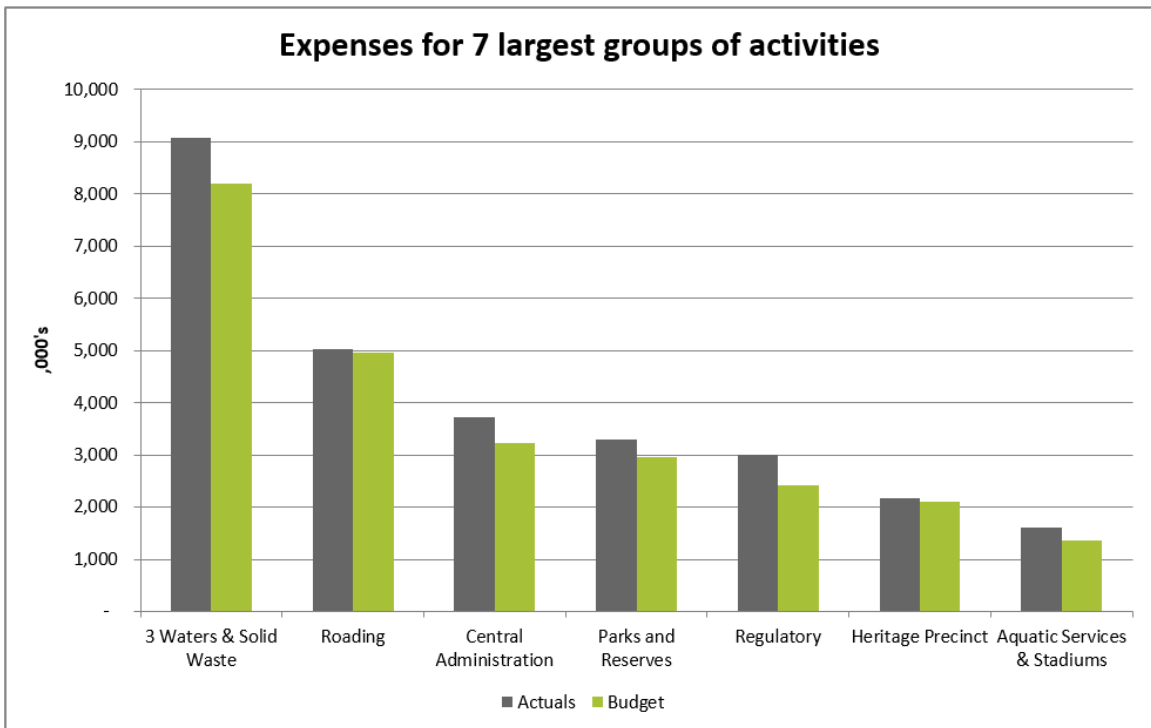
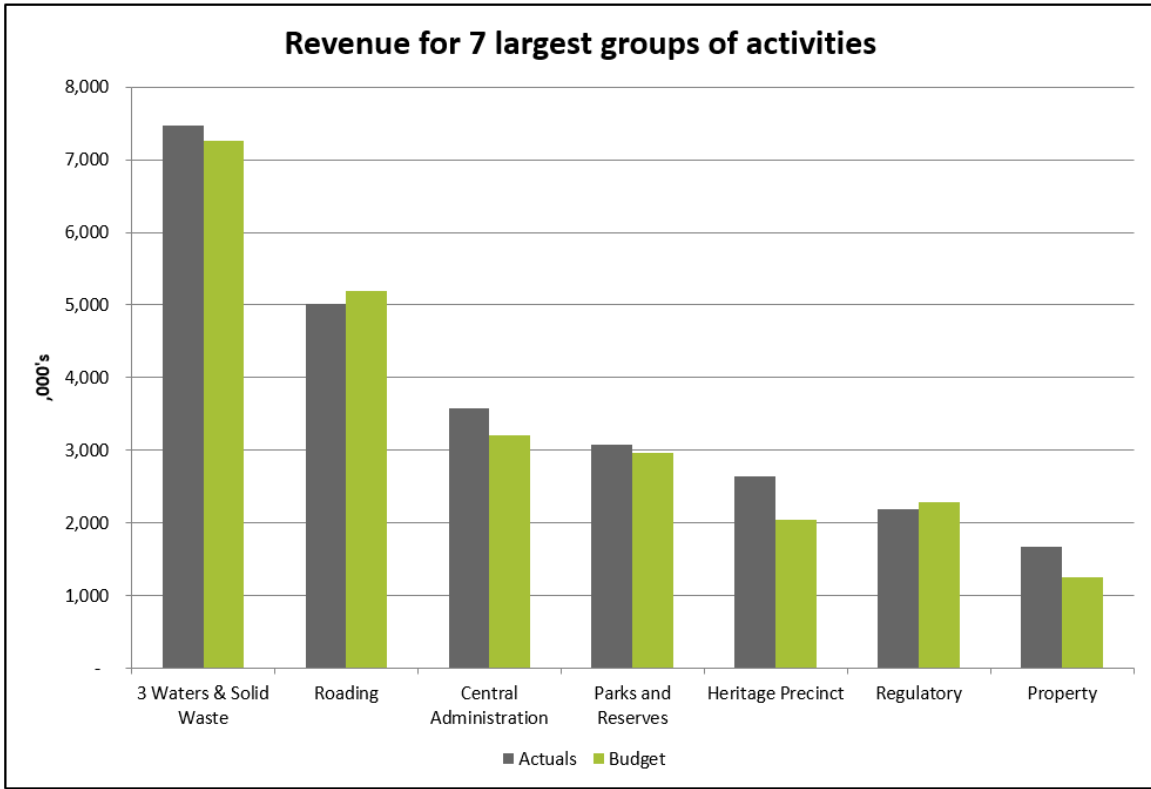
Regulatory

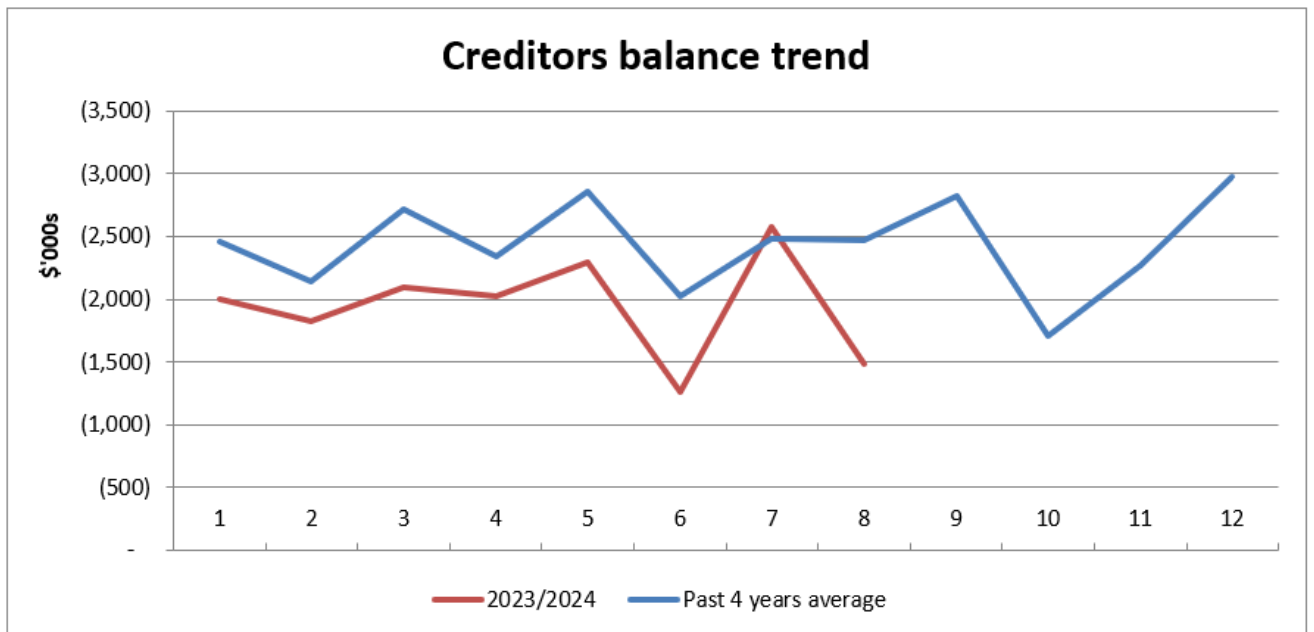
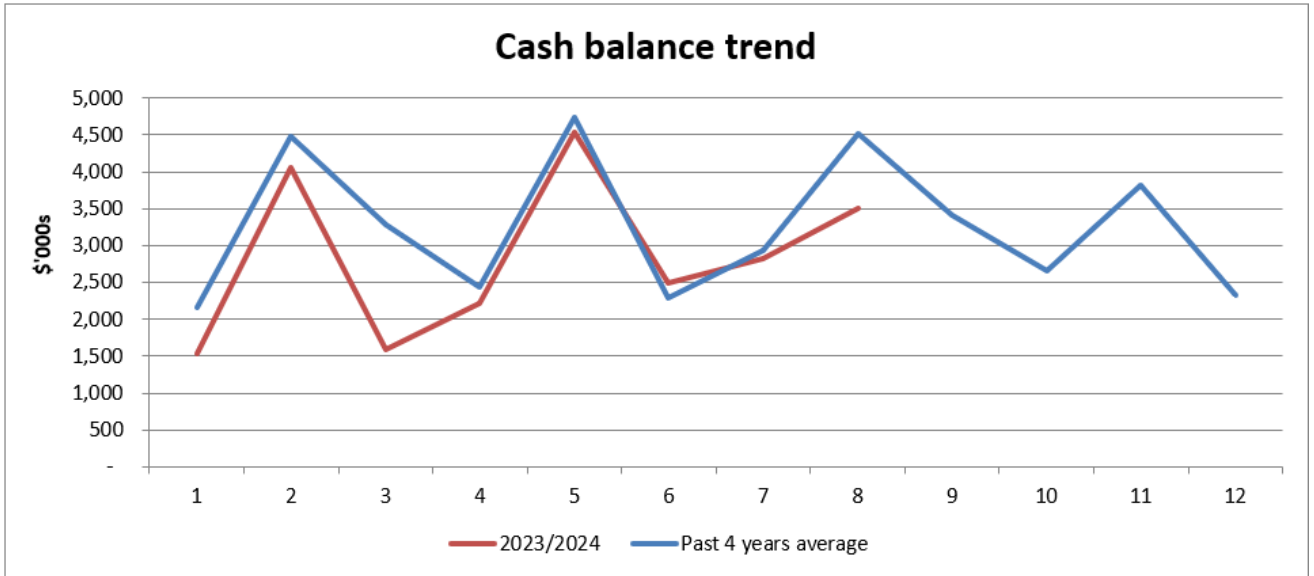
The capital expenditure in regulatory relates to the construction of the new animal enforcement facility. The variance is due to timing, with the project having been budgeted in previous years.

Roading

The variance in roading is due to timing with the busy construction period undertaken from late spring through to late autumn. A total of \$1.4m of reseal work is to be completed from March through to April.

Additional graphs for information





8. PROPOSED REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

(Memo from interim Chief Executive – 15.04.24)

- ✉ Enclosed, please find a letter from the Chair of Environment Southland inviting Gore District Council representation on a special hearing panel to consider submissions on a Proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy. Councillors may recall that the proposed strategy was discussed at its February meeting.

Submissions on the proposed strategy close on 8 May 2024.

Environment Southland is proposing that the Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Council's Policy and Regulatory Committee, Cr Hovell, be the Council representative on the Regional Hearing Panel.

Cr Hovell is well-versed in the area of climate change and appears well-suited to represent the Council's interests on the panel.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council appoint Cr Hovell as its representative on the special hearing panel to consider submissions received on the Proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy.

Our reference: A1044586

26 March 2024



Mayor B Bell
Gore District Council
PO Box 8
Gore

Dear Ben

Special Hearing Panel for Proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy

As you will be aware, Gore District Council is a key partner involved in the Regional Climate Change Inter-Agency Working Group (RCCWG). Since February 2023, this working group has been working towards:

Phase 1: developing a proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy (PRCCS) – defining how Te Ao Mārama and local government agencies will work together (principles) and toward what outcomes that work will focus (aspirations);

Phase 2: developing a Regional Framework for Action, which will define and prioritise the specific actions and initiatives needed to realise the outcomes being aspired to.

The RCCWG recently achieved a key milestone on agreeing on a proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy, which was endorsed by Gore District Council on 7 February 2024. Please find the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy [attached](#).

The RCCWG has also agreed that community feedback be sought on the proposed strategy alongside the Environment Southland LTP consultation process, on behalf of all agencies involved.

As part of the process, Environment Southland would like to hold a special hearing to enable people that have provided feedback on the proposed strategy with an opportunity to be heard in person. Given this has been a collaborative inter-agency process to date, Environment Southland would like to invite one RCCWG representative from each of the key partner agencies to be co-opted onto this special hearing panel. The role of this representative will be to directly hear and consider all of the community feedback received, and then to deliberate on that feedback and recommend any changes to the proposed strategy. Cr Phil Morrison (or alternative ES representative) will chair the special hearing panel.

The following governance representatives from each of the key partner agencies are being invited to participate in this special hearing panel:

Invercargill City Council – Cr Tom Campbell (or an alternative ICC representative)
Gore District Council – Cr Keith Hovell (or an alternative GDC representative)
Southland District Council – Cr Matt Wilson (or an alternative SDC representative)
Te Ao Mārama Inc – Dean Whaanga (or alternative TAMI representative)

To ensure the integrity of this process it will be important to ensure that at least one representative from four out of the five key partner agencies are able to attend as a member of the special hearing panel.

To align with the Environment Southland LTP consultation process, the special hearing and deliberations are likely to be held during the weeks of 13-24 May, with placeholder dates currently being set for **Thursday, 16 May 2024** and **Monday, 20 May 2024**. A full outline of the process is attached for your information.

Please reply advising that you are comfortable with the process and who Gore District Council's special hearing panel representative will be.

If you have any questions on the process or require further detail on how this will work, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicol Horrell', with a large, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Nicol Horrell
Chairman

Proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy: Phase One process 2024

Proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy and engagement portal live on the Environment Southland website

Opens: 29 February 2024. Closes 8 May 2024.



Environment Southland collation and distribution of feedback received

ASAP, but aiming for 10 May 2024



Special hearing of the Regional Climate Change Working Group panel to publicly hear those that wish to be heard in relation to the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy

Placeholder date: 16 May 2024



Deliberations by the Regional Climate Change Working Group special hearing panel to recommend changes to the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy

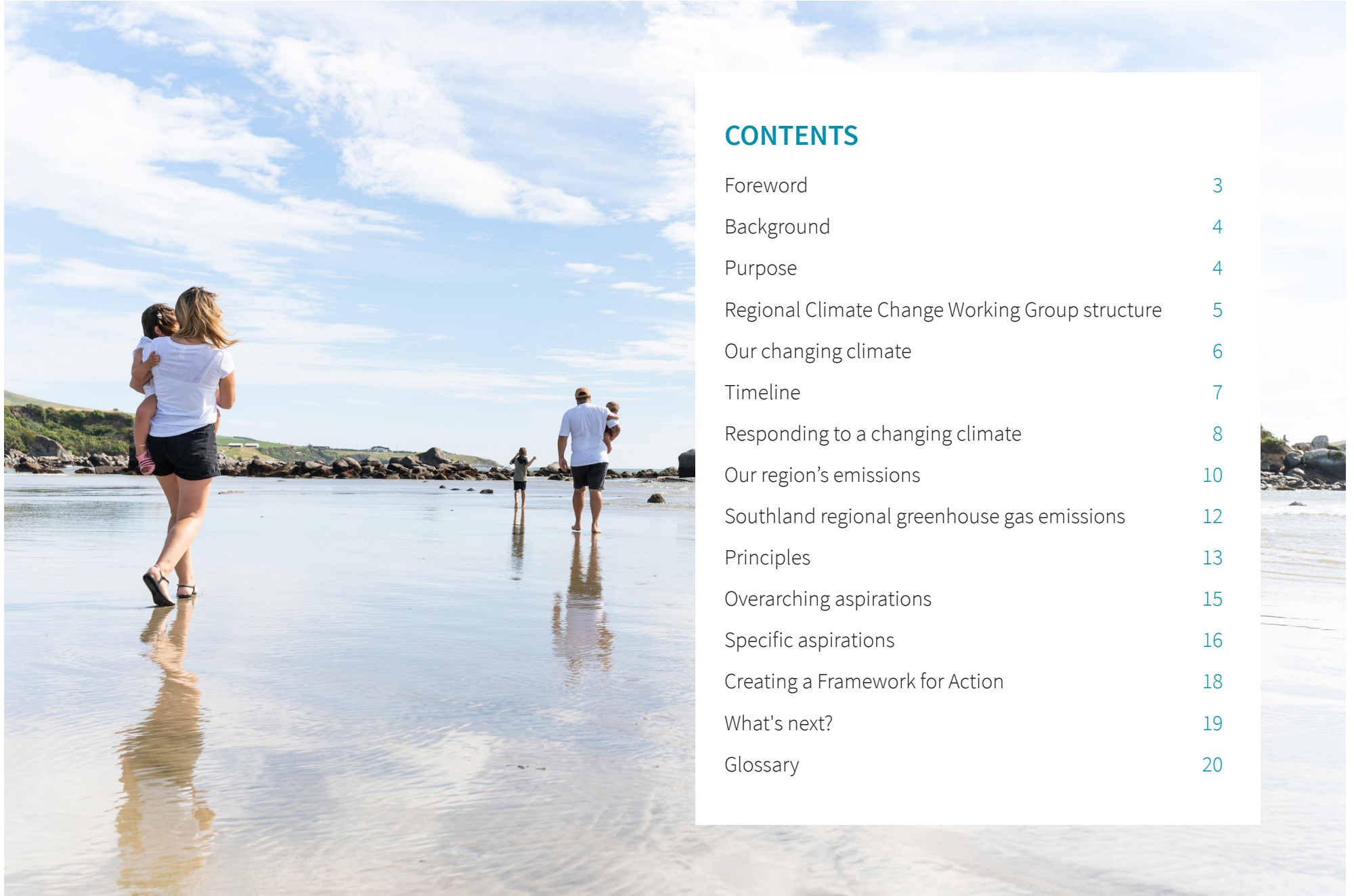
Placeholder date: 20 May 2024



Individual agency processes to consider changes to the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – to be determined

June 2024

Proposed **Regional** **Climate Change Strategy** **for Murihiku Southland** Phase One



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Foreword

Murihiku Southland Councils, alongside Te Ao Mārama Inc, have committed to a collaborative and inclusive partnership in defining our regional strategic response to a changing climate.

In doing so, it is important to build trust, confidence and capacity for continuing cooperation with our communities.

Murihiku Southland is not alone in addressing the challenges and opportunities of a changing climate. We are part of a global community responding to a shared crisis. We are able to learn from the experiences and efforts of others, both within Aotearoa New Zealand and abroad. However, we also recognise the distinctive character of our regional needs. Our actions will be guided by an appropriate mix of global and local knowledge including mātauranga Māori, ensuring the choices we make remain tailored to our unique environment, economy, and communities.

In aligning with national policy, this strategy distinguishes between the two pillars of climate change mitigation and

climate change adaptation. Mitigation involves the decarbonisation of our economy, as well as widespread behavioural change. This will be a challenging journey but it's an important pathway for our community to minimise the escalating impacts of a changing climate. There is significant scope to learn from others, benchmark, and leverage technology as we pursue our net-zero greenhouse gas goals. Our region is on a pleasing pathway, with the 2022 measurements indicating that regional emissions have been reduced by 14.8% since 2018.

Alongside mitigation, adaptation pathways may be the more demanding of the two. As New Zealand's Climate Change Commissioner, Rodd Carr, stated in a presentation at Environment Southland in September 2022: *“Adaptation is going to be one of the most challenging conversations local and regional governments have to have, because adaptation is inherently local – it is inherently about communities directly affected by the changed climate.”*

Accepting this challenge, it is important to recognise that the pursuit of climate change mitigation and adaptation are two pillars which often intersect,

offering a path toward resilience and sustainability. While opportunities may not always be immediately evident, we embrace the notion that actions to reduce emissions might enhance our adaptive capacity, and adaptation measures may contribute to mitigation efforts. This synergy highlights the importance of a holistic and flexible approach in response to the complex challenges and opportunities posed by a changing climate.

Finally, it is recognised that this strategy is framed against a backdrop of uncertainty in an increasingly changing world. Yet, given the potential consequences and costs of indecision, delay, and inaction, we need to do what we can with what we have now. Thus, we subscribe to the notion that local government agencies have a dual role – to lead as well as empower others to act. We understand that in navigating the complexities of a changing climate, we may not always ‘get it right’. But we believe that purposeful action accompanied by reflexive learning are essential elements of our response.

This challenge is ours to meet – and with humility *mahaki*, resolve *maia*, and commitment *manawanui*, together

“Adaptation is going to be one of the most challenging conversations local and regional governments have to have, because adaptation is inherently local – it is inherently about communities directly affected by the changed climate.”

RODD CARR
New Zealand Climate
Change Commissioner
September 2022

kotahitanga, we can secure Murihiku Southland for future generations. Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei.

**Environment Southland Councillor,
Phil Morrison and Te Ao Mārama (TAMI)
Kaupapa Taiao Manager, Dean Whaanga**
*Co-chairs, Murihiku Southland Regional
Climate Change Working Group*

Background

At a regional hui held in July 2022, recognising our strong mutual interdependence, it was agreed that local government agencies need to work together to establish a regional approach to respond to Murihiku Southland’s changing climate.

Environment Southland and Te Ao Mārama initiated discussions to create an inter-agency working group as a starting point for bringing Councils together – with Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council being key partners in developing a regional approach. Great South, as Southland’s regional economic development agency have also been involved.

This strategic collaboration will initially be defined and guided by two key documents as follows.

Phase One

Regional Climate Change Strategy for Murihiku Southland (this strategy) defining how local government agencies will work together (principles) and toward what outcomes that work will focus (aspirations).

Phase Two

Regional Framework for Action (being developed) which will define and prioritise the specific actions and initiatives needed to realise the outcomes being aspired to. It is expected the Regional Framework for Action will:

- Enable each individual local government agency to create Action Plans that align with the aspirations set out in this strategy.
- Define the continuing or new collaborative actions to which local government agencies will commit.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration beyond local government – empowering the aspirations, energies, and creativity of communities and industry.

Purpose

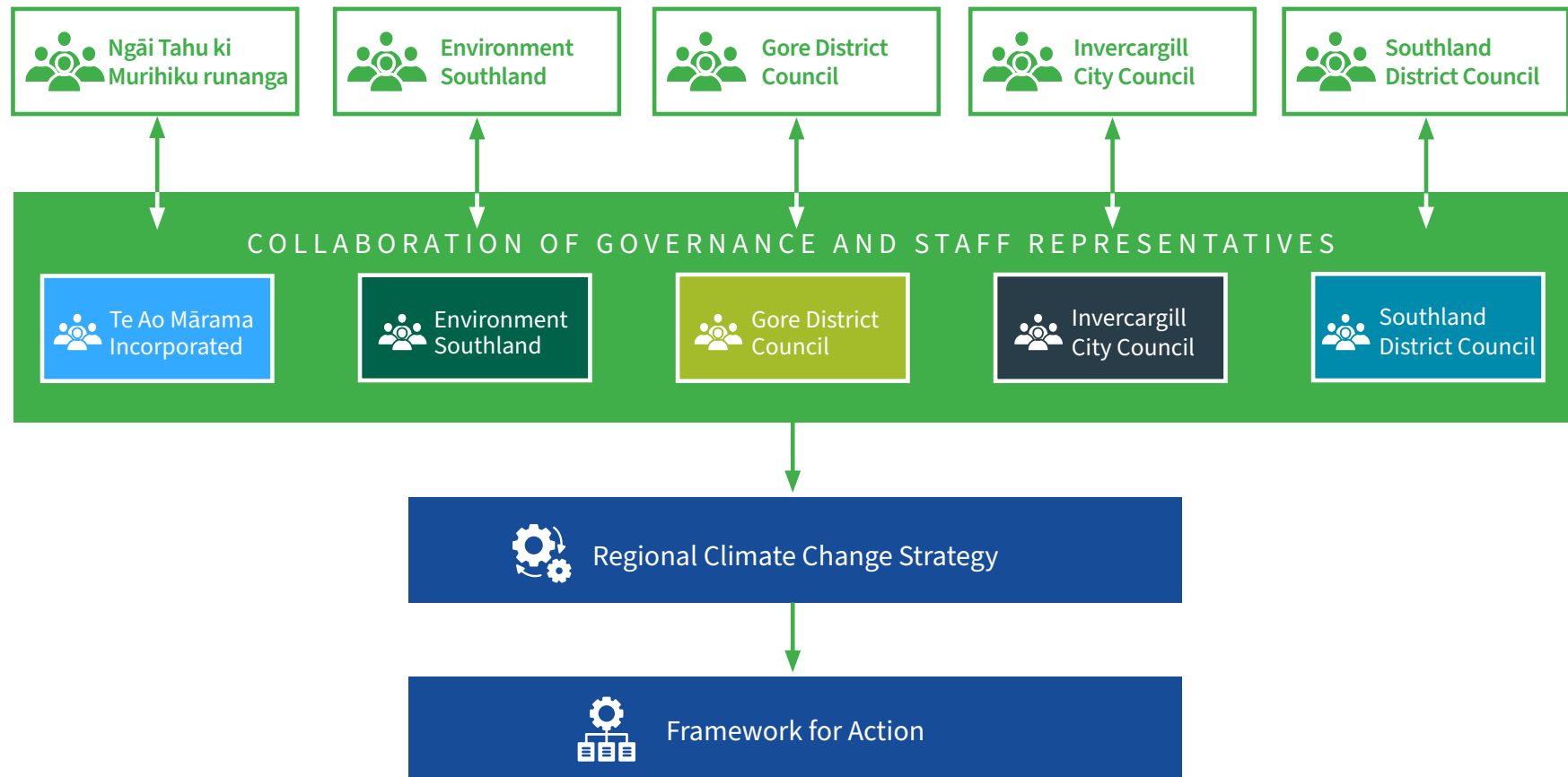
The purpose of this strategy is to unite the efforts of our four local government councils, Te Ao Mārama Inc and Great South to support a cohesive response to help protect our environmental, economic, cultural and social wellbeing against the effects of a changing climate by agreeing on broad principles and aspirations.

This strategy will enable local government agencies and our communities to work together efficiently and effectively, optimising the use of resources and expertise for the benefit of all ratepayers towards a resilient future for our region.



Regional Climate Change Working Group structure

The Regional Climate Change Working Group (RCCWG) was established in early 2023 with governance representatives from each council and Te Ao Mārama Inc, supported by a staff level inter-agency group. This informal working group has been instrumental in enabling cross-agency discussions and collaboration to progress strategy development.



Our changing climate

Our global, national and regional understanding of the changing climate has developed over time; though this has significantly accelerated during the past decade.

While the concept of a changing climate has been something that ‘will happen sometime in the future’, it is now accepted that our region is already experiencing the effects of increasing severe weather events.

Some parts of Murihiku Southland are already prone to flooding. Recent events include the Maitara catchment flooding in February 2020 (which also affected Fiordland), as well as all catchments experiencing significant flooding in September 2023.

In contrast, during the summers of 2021-22 and 2022-23 dry spells and drought conditions were experienced in many parts of our region.

These severe weather events often have serious economic, social and environmental impacts on the region. When these kinds of significant weather events are projected into the future, it can be daunting and overwhelming to consider.

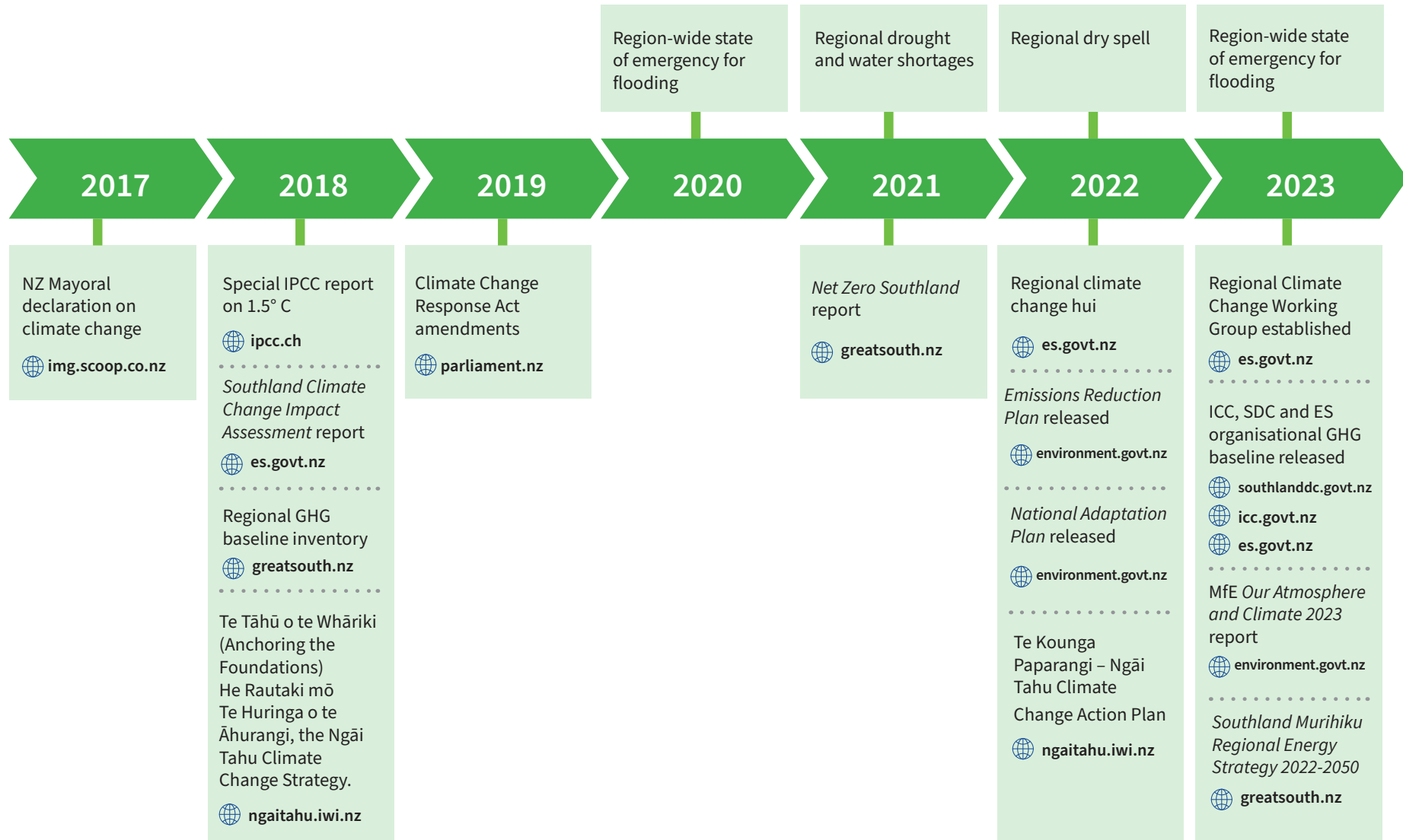
Determining what on-the-ground action can be pursued as individuals and as communities right now, could change the course of this future. Understanding the opportunities (and opportunity costs) of investing in resilience versus the costs of post-event recovery will be an important consideration.

This climate change strategy seeks to guide this journey for the Murihiku Southland region.



The Maitara River in flood at Gore, February 2020.

Timeline



Responding to a changing climate

Local government's role

Collective and collaborative regional leadership is important to enable the implications of a changing climate to be considered for the Murihiku Southland region. A core purpose of local government is to promote community wellbeing in the present and in the future. This is at the heart of how our local government agencies need to work together towards a more resilient future.

The Climate Change Response Act 2002 directs the development of clear and stable climate change policies, in order for New Zealand to meet its international obligations and administer a greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme. While New Zealand's resource management legislation is in the midst of significant and ongoing reforms, national policy directions currently issued under the RMA relating to freshwater, biodiversity, and coastal

management require decision-makers to consider the need for enhancing climate resilience. The resource management reforms aim to ensure that appropriate regard is given to the implications of a changing climate among other national priorities, including community wellbeing.

Environment Southland as the regional council, has specific responsibilities for example, managing flood risk under various pieces of legislation including the Local Government Act 2002 and Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941. Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council also have a range of obligations to consider natural hazard risks in planning and infrastructure decisions.

Emergency Management Southland has the responsibility for the delivery of emergency management responses

if a significant climate related event was to occur. While historically flood banks have been the main solution for protecting communities at risk, over the longer term there is a need to redesign the way we manage our catchments to help manage this risk.

A crucial step towards regional leadership is an opportunity for each agency to carry out individual organisational efforts to support this work. This is important, not only for role modelling, but also ensuring each agency understands what is required to enable the support of others; as well as contributing towards a collective community effort.

For the Murihiku Southland region, this climate change strategy is a key step for local government agencies in undertaking this journey.

Environment Southland as the regional council, has specific responsibilities for example, managing flood risk under various pieces of legislation including the Local Government Act 2002 and Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941.

Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council also have a range of obligations to consider natural hazard risks in planning and infrastructure decisions.



Key components of this strategy

Following the international and national lead, this strategy focuses on two key strands – mitigation and adaptation. Communication and engagement are needed to support these two inter-connected strands of the climate change conversation.

Mitigation

Mitigation is the human actions to reduce emissions by sources; or enhance removals of greenhouse gases. At a national level this is guided by the Emissions Reduction Plan. Examples include increasing the energy efficiency of homes and offices; or replacing a coal boiler with a renewable electric-powered one. An example of increasing the removal of greenhouse gases is growing new trees to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

This strategy guides the development of future action in relation to each of these key components.



Adaptation

Adaptation is the process of adjusting to actual or expected climate and its effects. At a national level this is guided by the National Adaptation Plan. Examples of adaptation include managed retreat, land-use changes, and investment in climate resilient infrastructure.

This process is inherently local and about communities directly affected by the changing climate. In addition, the inter-generational ramifications are an important consideration as our collective grandchildren and future generations will face increasing consequences of a changing climate.

Strategy review

This strategy has been written within a national context of ongoing revisions to the legislative framework, not only for climate change policy, resource management but also local government reform. It will be reviewed by June 2025 to ensure it remains current and aligned with anticipated national legislative and policy changes.

The principles, aspirations and strategy as a whole are a starting point of a long-term partnership and journey. It is anticipated that the next iteration of this strategy will extend beyond the needs of local government with greater consideration of the needs of key stakeholders and our communities.

Our region's emissions

1 Regional emissions inventory

Regional emissions inventory

In 2018, a baseline emission inventory for the region was established. This highlighted that we all contribute to our regional emissions profile, as individuals, communities, businesses and industry. This profile indicated that with 12% of New Zealand's total land area and producing 15% of New Zealand's tradeable exports, Southland (with only 2% of New Zealand's population in 2018) contributed 9.7% of New Zealand's gross emissions*.

It is best practice for this kind of regional inventory to be updated on a regular

3 or 5-yearly cycle in order to monitor changes over time. This inventory has been repeated regularly by Great South** since 2020, which has indicated a progressive downward trend in regional net emissions compared to the 2018 baseline. Great South will continue to report against the 2018 baseline annually and plays an important role in supporting local businesses to measure and reduce emissions, assisting the region's net zero greenhouse gas journey.

2 Regional emissions modelling

Regional emissions modelling

Further to the emissions inventory work, Great South (working alongside MfE and the Tindall Foundation) has undertaken regional emissions modelling as part of developing a carbon neutral advantage programme. The Net Zero Southland 2050 report (March 2021) provides direction on potential economic mitigation pathways for Southland.

Part of this modelling seeks to understand the economic value of emissions reduction, which could enable our region to contribute towards achieving national net zero emissions by 2050. It also notes that a low emission economy would provide Southland with major opportunities to support economic and social prosperity while mitigating the risks posed by a changing climate.

3 Regional emissions reduction pathway

* *Southland Regional Carbon Footprint 2018* – www.greatsouth.nz/resources/southlands-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2018

** Great South is a council-controlled organisation, jointly owned by Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council, Gore District Council, Environment Southland, Invercargill Licensing Trust, Mātaura Licensing Trust, Southland Chamber of Commerce, Southern Institute of Technology and Community Trust South. It is Southland's regional development agency which facilitates the implementation of the B2025 Southland Long Term Plan, as well as supporting the regional emissions reduction journey by working with businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions across the region.

Regional emissions reductions pathways

Our region is already on a net zero greenhouse gas journey and while some progress has been made since the 2018 baseline inventory, achieving this goal will involve individuals, communities, businesses and industries all evaluating their contribution/s.

In 2018 our region contributed 9.7% of the country's emissions. This has reduced by 14.8%, to contribute 8.2% of the country's emissions in 2022. This is due to the decarbonisation of fossil-fuelled boilers and a systematic reduction in emissions for agriculture, energy, transport, manufacturing

and waste. Partnerships with EECA, Government, the private and public sector as well as educational outreach has created the impetus for the success of this programme.

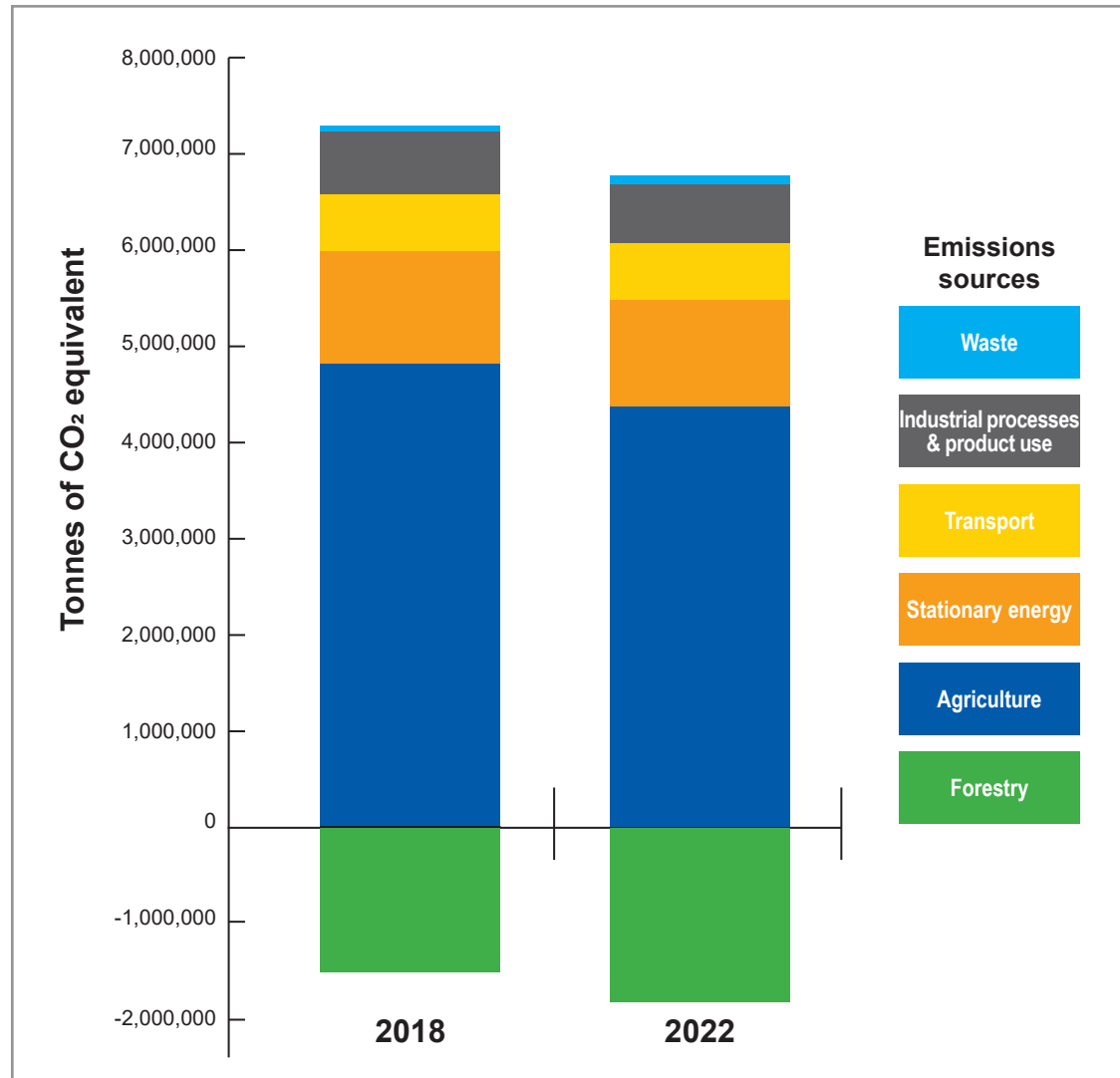
Achieving net zero greenhouse gases by 2050, will require everyone to play their part. In the short-term, local government agencies in Murihiku Southland are focusing on ensuring each organisation is on track to achieving net zero goals; while the longer-term focus is determining how local government should best play its part regionally.



Southland regional greenhouse gas emissions

Southland regional net greenhouse gas emissions 2018 and 2022 as measured by Great South. This graph illustrates that overall regional greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 14.8% from 2018 to 2022.

	2018	2022
Total gross	7,308,128	6,753,059
Total sequestration	-1,498,508	-1,805,554
Total net	5,809,620	4,947,505



Southland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for 2022 – www.greatsouth.nz/resources

Principles

Principles provide direction on ways of working together to create a regional response to the impact of a changing climate on Murihiku Southland. The seven principles provide the foundation for regional efforts to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by our changing climate and associated environmental effects such as sea-level rise, indigenous biodiversity loss and biosecurity incursions.

Kaitiakitanga Guardianship – our responsibility to protect the essential life-supporting capacity of our environment, balancing the wellbeing of our present and future generations.

Mōhiotanga Understanding – effective risk evaluation and an evolving, iterative management approach, which fosters a future-focused community of learning.

Whakamana Empowerment – facilitate innovative and bold pathways for action while nurturing the resilience of our youth, in preparation for their future.

Whakarāneinei Anticipation – adopting a data-driven approach in developing proactive action plans, prioritising long-term thinking and reinvestment in our environmental capital.



Hauora Wellbeing – the interconnectedness of a healthy environment for community wellbeing and resilience.

Kotahitanga Inclusivity – transparent sharing of knowledge for a fair and equitable transition towards our future.

Mahitahi Alignment – a comprehensive, inclusive, collaborative approach that facilitates consistency and synergy and enables informed and balanced decision-making.

Detailed principles

These principles will guide how Murihiku Southland local government agencies will work together, including prioritising to determine regional action.

They highlight the importance of recognising mutual dependencies and for example, taking a catchment focused and/or community focused approach to working across boundaries and prioritising the key issues.

These Murihiku Southland principles can be understood in more detail as follows.

Kaitiakitanga *Guardianship*

- Recognise our duty of care to safeguard our environment's fundamental life supporting capacity.
- Create a balanced framework, which supports many inter-connected strands.
- Value the wellbeing and livelihoods of our present and future generations.

Hauora *Wellbeing*

- Live with and understand how everything is connected.
- Recognise a healthy, functioning environment is inherent to our individual and collective wellbeing(s).
- Enhance community and environmental resilience in the face of change.

Whakarāneinei *Anticipation*

- Think and act with a long-term perspective, valuing and reinvesting in our environmental capital.
- Create proactive pathways for action, doing what we can now with what we know now.
- Ensure relevant regional science and information underpins a data-led approach.

Mōhiotanga *Understanding*

- Understand risks and look for potential ways to avoid, mitigate and manage risk.
- Pursue iterative management, adapting our approach as we learn and know better.
- Sow the seeds of how our future may be different, creating a broad community of learning.

Kotahitanga *Inclusivity*

- Share knowledge widely and transparently.
- Proactively consider those most vulnerable and voices least heard.
- Create a fair transition to our future.

Whakamana *Empowerment*

- Enable courageous pathways for action, inspiring individual and collective action.
- Look for opportunities and respond with innovation and creativity.
- Support our young people to understand, participate and be resilient in the face of their future – offering them hope.

Mahitahi *Alignment*

- Think ki uta ki tai – mountains to the sea, considering the effects in every direction and across boundaries.
- Adopt a united, integrated, consistent, and holistic approach enabling informed and balanced decision-making.
- Foster collaboration among various stakeholders, businesses, community groups and individuals.

Overarching aspirations

Our collective values spanning science, beliefs and hopes for the future, come together to form our aspirations for our regional response to a changing climate.

They provide an agreed 'direction of travel' for local government agencies, which can be improved and modified as the journey progresses.

Ongoing cross-agency discussions will help develop and implement aligned pathways towards these aspirations. These pathways will include managing the effects of a changing climate as well as capitalising

on potential opportunities that may benefit the region, keeping in mind the importance of ensuring that our future generations will also have the best possible opportunities. Additional specific aspirations may be developed, as part of the journey towards creating a Framework for Action.

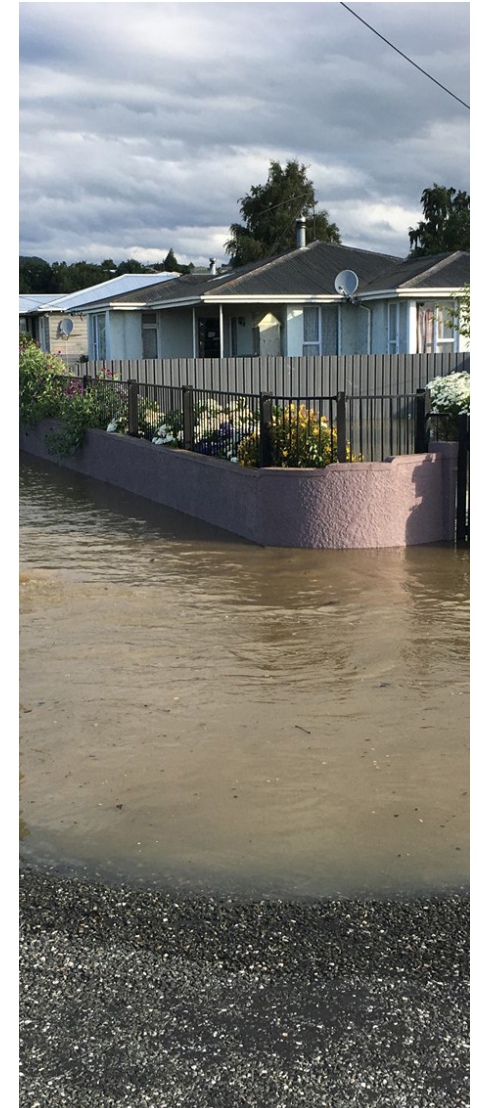
The following aspirations reflect the collective intent of local government agencies to support effective responses to our changing climate across Murihiku Southland.

In addition to these overarching aspirations, further aspirations provide a direction regarding mitigation, adaptation as well as communications and engagement as per the key focus areas of this strategy.

Our aspirations

- 1 Te Mana o Te Ao Turoa – the mana of the environment is valued and respected enabling our people to be responsive as our climate changes.
- 2 Science and Mātauranga underpins our response to our changing climate in Murihiku Southland.
- 3 We understand the changes, challenges and opportunities associated with our changing climate and will act courageously, building resilience to respond and thrive.
- 4 We will create meaningful change within one generation* and inspire future generations to continue this work.

* One generation equates to 25 years



Specific aspirations

Mitigation

Local government agencies need to collectively contribute towards mitigating the changing climate by reducing organisational emissions, offsetting if necessary and becoming more sustainable organisations. This will also enable Councils to understand the challenges businesses and other organisations face in reducing emissions and aid the efforts towards developing a best practice consistent approach.

Each agency is on their own organisational learning journey, of which measuring organisational greenhouse gas emissions is a first step towards understanding how these emissions can be reduced.

Councils are also working on understanding their mitigation role within the community. This is an important step towards being able to support the aspiration of becoming a net zero region.

5 Environment Southland, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council and Great South will be net zero* organisations by 2050 or earlier.

6 By June 2026**, all four Councils will measure their organisational greenhouse gas baseline and develop emissions reductions targets for progressive reduction of greenhouse gas emissions toward 2050.

7 Councils understand their role in leading Murihiku Southland to become a net zero region by 2050.

* Net zero refers to the reduction of organisational greenhouse gas emissions to a net zero level.

** This date is being referenced to ensure the direction resulting from organisational baseline measuring of greenhouse gas emissions, can be incorporated into planning as part of the LTP cycle 2027-2037.

Adaptation

The changing climate will significantly impact our communities, ecosystems and natural resources. It is likely to result in changes to land use, not only in terms of where people live, but also the location of key infrastructure, where and how businesses operate and how natural resources are used. It is therefore important to ensure that local government agencies understand the risks and opportunities this presents, in order to consider the regional spatial planning implications.

Adaptation is about undertaking actions to minimise threats or to maximise opportunities resulting from the impact of a changing climate. A first step to this is that Councils will need to align on climate change scenarios to inform regional planning decisions; as well as collaborate to consider regional issues anew with a climate change lens.

8 We fully understand the risks and opportunities to our communities associated with the impact of our changing climate on Murihiku Southland.

9 Councils align on climate change scenarios to inform key regional decisions.*

10 We collaborate to create regional pathways for action**, acknowledging the inter-connectedness of specific issues.

* This is important as local government agencies collectively work towards planning for the LTP cycle 2027-2037, however it is also relevant for regional decisions in a broader sense as well.

** Examples are: carbon forestry, sustainable transport, water availability, waste management, biodiversity etc. The intention is that these RCCWG discussions will be ongoing and aligned pathways for action will be able to be incorporated into the planning for the LTP cycle 2027-2037 and beyond.

Communications and engagement

It is clear that as a community we are all at different stages of learning and understanding about the implications of a changing climate for our region. It is important to bring people on the journey, of which Councils are also a part, so that we can learn from each other and contribute to increasing collective knowledge.

Councils have a role to play to find ways of supporting people's learning, wherever they might be at on their journey responding to our changing climate. In particular, our young people will face increasing implications as the climate changes and are therefore a key audience to engage and empower.

11 We build a regional community of learning, collectively improving our understanding of the complexity of our changing climate and its implications for Murihiku Southland.

12 We support individuals, businesses, community groups, and organisations to start and progress their journey responding to our changing climate.

13 We engage our children and young people to empower active participation in ongoing climate change conversations.



Creating a Framework for Action

This strategy sets out how local government agencies will work together towards these aspirations. The key next step for the Regional Climate Change Working Group is to develop a Framework for Action (Phase 2).

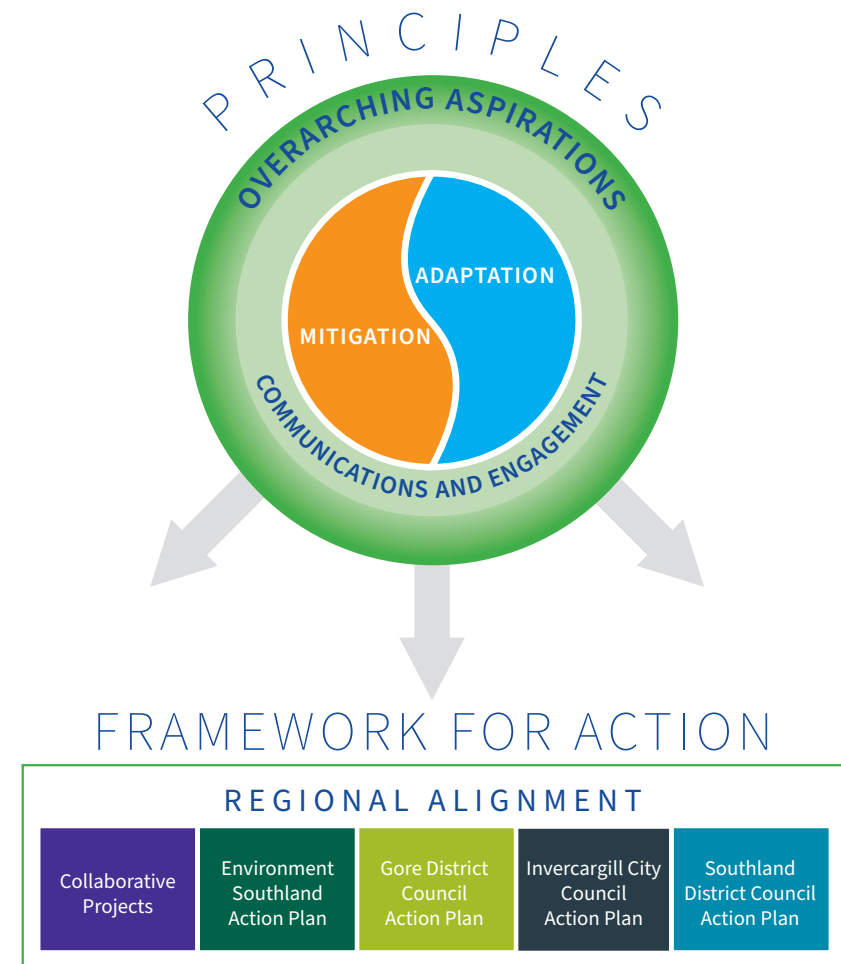
The purpose is to create 'regional action pathways' focusing on where there will be regional benefit. The pathways will highlight where agencies can collaborate and align, enabling each agency to progress these in their own way. It will be important to determine what the ongoing steps will be and the role and responsibilities of each agency to support these pathways.

The resulting pathways will inform the setting of regional priorities as well as future long-term planning cycles; keeping in mind the agreed principle of doing what we can now, with what we have now.

Partnerships with key stakeholders and wider Murihiku Southland communities will be important to input, influence and support the progression of these pathways.

Framework for Action

It is envisaged that the Framework for Action will follow the structured approach set out in this strategy. It will enable iterative planning, providing direction for both mitigation as well as adaptation pathways.



What's next?

Science and information are very important to understanding the regional implications of a changing climate.

Regional LiDAR data mapping has been commissioned.

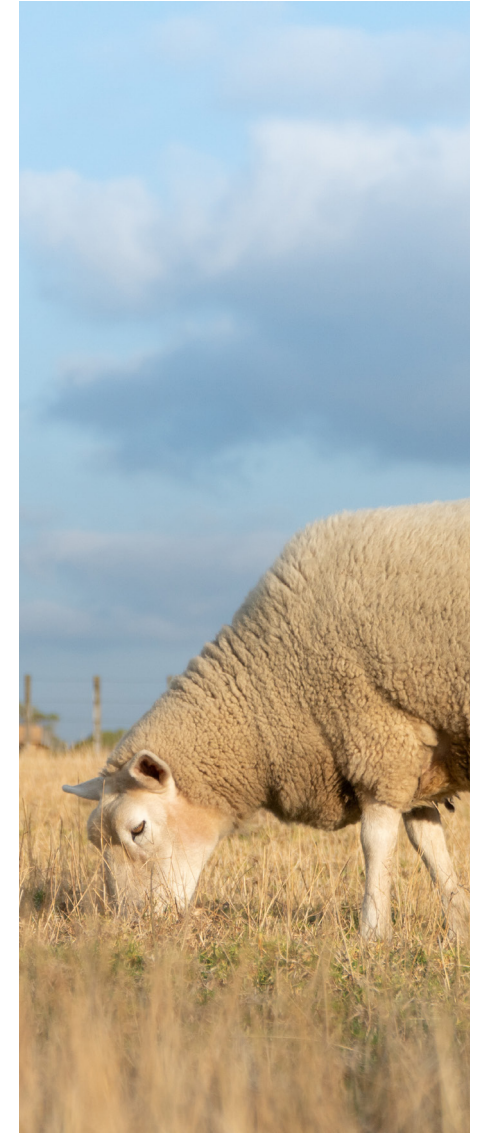
Work is also underway to develop a scope for updating and expanding the 2018 NIWA regional climate change report using updated global and national projections. Following the national work, regional climate, hydrological and sea level rise projections will be developed, which will increase the understanding of which areas of our region are most vulnerable and what this might mean for changes in land-use.

As our collective understanding of human risk, significance and environmental impacts develops, this will enable iterative risk assessment and reflexive learning.

The Regional Climate Change Working Group plans to develop a proposal for setting up a wider Murihiku regional climate change forum to enable this learning to be widely shared*. The purpose of this forum will be to ensure the climate change conversation becomes more inclusive for individuals, businesses, community groups, and organisations that would like to be involved. This is likely to be a key initial stepping stone towards building a regional community of learning to support information sharing as well as on-the-ground action taking place.

It is also important to acknowledge that at any time our region may be subjected to a significant climate related event and preparation for these will aid our capacity for resilience. Emergency Management Southland provide significant resources enabling individuals, businesses and our communities to 'be ready' if this was to occur.

In the meantime, the Regional Climate Change Working Group will continue to progress a regional Framework for Action with a sense of urgency. Determining what on-the-ground action can be pursued as individuals and as communities is important to achieve a more resilient future.



* The concept of a wider regional climate change forum was also a recommendation of the *Beyond 2025 Southland Regional Long Term Plan* prepared by Great South, June 2023.

Glossary

Adaptation	In human systems, the process of adjusting to actual or expected climate and its effects, to moderate harm or take advantage of beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjusting to actual climate and its effects. Human intervention may help these systems to adjust to expected climate and its effects. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Aspirations	Aspirations provide a regionally agreed ‘direction of travel’ and do not specify how something will be achieved. Collective discussions will be ongoing to develop and implement aligned pathways for how these aspirations will be achieved.
Baseline	An initial set of critical observations or data used for comparison or a control. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
B2025	Beyond 2025 – the project lead by Great South to develop a Regional Long Term Plan for Murihiku Southland.
Climate	Informally, the average weather over a period ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. In more formal terms, a statistical description of the mean and variability of quantities, usually of surface variables such as temperature, precipitation and wind, averaged over a period (typically 30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization). More broadly, climate is the state, including a statistical description, of the climate system. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Climate Change	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (eg, by using statistical tests) by changes or trends in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades to centuries. Includes natural internal climate processes and external climate forcings such as variations in solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) definition of climate change specifically links it to direct or indirect human causes, as: “a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods”. The UNFCCC thus makes a distinction between climate change attributable to human activities altering the atmospheric composition and climate variability attributable to natural causes. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Climate Change Commission (CCC)	A Crown entity that gives independent, expert advice to the Government on climate change matters and monitors progress towards the Government’s mitigation and adaptation goals. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
Climate Change Scenario	A plausible description of how the future may develop based on a coherent and internally consistent set of assumptions about key driving forces (e.g., rate of technological change, prices) and relationships. Note that scenarios are neither predictions nor forecasts, but are used to provide a view of the implications of developments and actions. IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/
Climate projection	A potential future evolution of a quantity or set of quantities, often computed with the aid of a model. Unlike predictions, projections are conditional on assumptions concerning, for example, future socio-economic and technological developments that may or may not be realised. IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/

Climate resilience	The ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to the impacts of a changing climate, including the impacts that we can anticipate and the impacts of extreme events. It involves planning now for sea-level rise and more frequent flooding. It is also about being ready to respond to extreme events such as forest fires or extreme floods, and to trends in precipitation and temperature that emerge over time such as droughts. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Climate variability	Deviations of climate variables from a given mean state (including the occurrence of extremes, etc.) at all spatial and temporal scales beyond that of individual weather events. Variability may be intrinsic, due to fluctuations of processes internal to the climate system (internal variability), or extrinsic, due to variations in natural or anthropogenic external forcing (forced variability) IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/
Decarbonise	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions e.g. through the use of low-emissions power sources and electrification. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
Drought	An exceptionally long period of water shortage for existing ecosystems and the human population (due to low rainfall, high temperature and/or wind). Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Dynamic adaptive pathways planning (DAPP)	A framework that supports climate adaptation decision-making by developing a series of actions over time (pathways). It is based on the idea of making decisions as conditions change, before severe damage occurs, and as existing policies and decisions prove no longer fit for purpose. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Emergency management	The process of applying knowledge, measures and practices that are necessary or desirable for the safety of the public or property, and are designed to guard against, prevent, reduce, recover from or overcome any hazard, harm or loss associated with any emergency. Activities include planning, organising, coordinating and implementing those measures, knowledge and practices. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Emergency Management Southland (EMS)	Emergency Management Southland (EMS) was established by the four local government agencies in Murihiku Southland and is responsible for the delivery of Civil Defence and Emergency Management responses throughout this region. As part of this, Emergency Management Southland coordinates the 24/7 operation of the Emergency Coordination Centre which facilitates planning and operational activity during an event. Emergency Management Southland (2023) About US
Environment Southland	Environment Southland is a regional council as defined under the Local Government Act 2002. Environment Southland is responsible for the sustainable management of Southland's natural resources - land, water, air and coast - in partnership with the community.
Emissions	In the context of climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases, precursors of greenhouse gases and aerosols caused by human activities. These activities include the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, land use and land-use change, livestock production, fertilisation, waste management and industrial processes. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Emissions reduction plan	A plan that sets out the policies and strategies to meet emissions budgets by reducing emissions and increasing removals. A new emissions reduction plan must be in place before the beginning of each emissions budget period. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.

Extreme weather event	An event that is rare at a particular place and time of year. What is ‘extreme weather’ may vary from place to place in an absolute sense. The measure of what is ‘rare’ may also vary but it involves the occurrence of a value of a weather or climate variable above (or below) a threshold value near the upper (or lower) ends of the range of observed values of the variable. In general, an extreme weather event would be as rare as, or rarer than, the 10th or 90th percentile of a probability density function estimated from observations. When a pattern of extreme weather persists for some time, such as a season, it may be classified as an extreme climate event, especially if it yields an average or total that is itself extreme (eg, high temperature, drought or heavy rainfall over a season). Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan. <i>While not explicitly stated, extreme weather events are linked to wider climatic changes as a whole, and as such, intertwined with our changing climate. The actual magnitude and frequency of events may continue to change and need to be assessed against new baselines as climate change takes effect.</i>
Flood	An event where the normal boundaries of a stream or other water body overflow, or water builds up over areas that are not normally underwater. Floods can be caused by unusually heavy rain – for example, during storms and cyclones. Floods include river (fluvial) floods, flash floods, urban floods, rain (pluvial) floods, sewer floods, coastal floods and glacial lake outburst floods. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Framework for Action	Phase 2: The Framework for Action will provide clarity on how local government agencies in Southland will collectively achieve the aspirations outlined in this strategy; as well as focusing where there will be regional benefit for agencies to collaborate and potentially align on.
Gore District Council	Gore District Council is a territorial authority as defined under the Local Government Act 2002.
Great South	Great South is a Council-controlled organisation, jointly owned by ICC, SDC, GDC, ES, Invercargill Licensing Trust, Maitua Licensing Trust, Southland Chamber of Commerce, SIT and its member Community Trust South. It is Southland’s regional development agency which facilitates the implementation of the B2025 Southland Long Term Plan; as well as supporting the regional emissions reduction journey by working with businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions across the region.
Greenhouse gases (GHG)	Atmospheric gases that trap or absorb heat and contribute to climate change. The gases covered by the Climate Change Response Act 2002 are carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆). Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
Hazard	The potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced physical event or trend that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, as well as damage and loss to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, ecosystems and environmental resources. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Invercargill City Council	Invercargill City Council is a territorial authority as defined under the Local Government Act 2002.
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	The United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC is organised into three working groups and a task force: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group I (WGI) – physical science basis • Working Group II (WGII) – impacts, adaptation and vulnerability • Working Group III (WGIII) – mitigation • Task Force on national greenhouse gas inventories. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.

LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging is a remote sensing method. It uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) from the LiDAR instrument to the Earth. These are used to create 3D models and maps of objects and environments.
Long Term Plan (LTP)	Called the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) prior to 2012, the Long term plan is a document required under the Local Government Act 2002 that sets out a local authority's priorities in the medium to long term.
Mana	Prestige, authority, control, power, influence, status, spiritual power, charisma. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Mātauranga	Māori knowledge systems and worldviews, including traditional concepts. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
MfE	Ministry for the Environment
Mitigation (of a changing climate)	In the context of climate change, a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Nature Based Solutions	Solutions that are inspired and supported by nature and are cost effective, and at the same time provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features (eg, vegetation and water features) and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions. For example, using vegetation (eg, street trees or green roofs) or water elements (eg, rivers or water-treatment facilities) can help reduce heat in urban areas or support stormwater and flood management. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NIWA	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
Net Zero	A target of completely negating the greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activity. This can be done by balancing emissions and removals or by eliminating the production of emissions in the first place. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
Pathway	The evolution of natural and/or human systems over time towards a future state. Pathway concepts range from sets of quantitative and qualitative scenarios or narratives of potential futures to solution-oriented, decision-making processes to achieve desirable social goals. Pathway approaches typically focus on biophysical, techno-economic and/or socio-behavioural changes, and involve various dynamics, goals and participants across different scales. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Principles	Principles provide direction on agencies' collective agreed way of working together to create a regional response to the impact of a changing climate on Murihiku Southland.
Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs)	Scenarios that include time series of emissions and concentrations of the full suite of greenhouse gases and aerosols and chemically active gases, as well as land use/land cover (Moss et al., 2008; van Vuuren et al., 2011). IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/

RCCS	Regional Climate Change Strategy (this strategy).
RCCWG	Regional Climate Change Working Group, which consists of governance representatives from Environment Southland, Te Ao Mārama, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council as key partners in developing a regional approach to a changing climate.
Resilience/resilient	The capacity of interconnected social, economic and ecological systems to cope with a hazardous event, trend or disturbance, by responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure. Resilience is a positive attribute when it allows systems to maintain their capacity to adapt, learn and/or transform. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy for which there is an expectation that this will be legislated for as a requirement to be produced regionally as part of the ongoing RMA reforms.
Sea level rise	Change to the height of sea levels over time, which may occur globally or locally. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Southland District Council	Southland District Council is a territorial authority as defined under the Local Government Act 2002.
Southland Mayoral Forum	The Southland Mayoral Forum includes the Mayors and Deputy Mayors from all four local government agencies in Southland. There is a standing invitation for all Rūnanga chairs or nominee, to attend meetings of the Southland Mayoral Forum. Te Ao Mārama Inc. also reports directly to their Board representing Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Rūnanga.
Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs)	A scenario that describes a plausible future in terms of population, gross domestic product (GDP), and other socio-economic factors relevant to understanding the implications of climate change. IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/
Te Ao Mārama Inc.	Te Ao Mārama Inc. looks after mana whenua interests in resource management and other aspects related to local government in Southland. It is authorised to represent Ngāi Tahu papatipu rūnanga in Murihiku/Southland. It is involved in the protection of the spiritual and cultural values of the region, including wahi tapu (sacred places), mahinga kai (gathering of food and resources) and other natural resources. Te Ao Mārama Inc. reports directly to their Board representing Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Rūnanga.
Wellbeing	The health, happiness and prosperity of an individual or group. It can cover material wellbeing (eg, income and wealth, jobs and earnings, and housing), health (eg, health status and work–life balance), security (eg, personal security and environmental quality), social relations (eg, social connection, subjective wellbeing, cultural identity and education) and freedom of choice and action (eg, civic engagement and governance). Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND 2024 CONFERENCE

(Memo from interim Chief Executive – 11.04.24)

This year's Local Government New Zealand SuperLocal conference will be held in Wellington from Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 August inclusive. A copy of the programme is expected to be available within the next few weeks.

It is usual for the Council to send His Worship the Mayor, the Chief Executive and one Councillor to the annual conference.

I understand the Maitua Community Board is wishing to have two delegates attend the conference. Its recommendation will be known by the Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council delegation to attend the 2024 Local Government New Zealand Conference in Christchurch comprise of His Worship the Mayor, the Chief Executive and Cr.....,

AND THAT His Worship the Mayor be the presiding delegate at the Annual General Meeting of Local Government New Zealand, with Cr..... being the alternative delegate.

10. COSTER FUND DISTRIBUTION SUB-COMMITTEE

(Memo from Governance Manager – 15.04.24)

Background

In mid-1999 the Council was notified by an Invercargill law firm that it had taken over the administration of the late Clause Andrew Coster. Mr Coster had died in December 1981. A large part of the late Mr Coster's estate was, inter alia, left to the "Mayor, Councillors and citizens of the Borough of Mataura." The terms of the will stated "*that the sum was to be invested for a term of not less than 10 years and at the expiration of 10 years, at least one half of the total sum including accumulated interest, shall be applied within a further period of five years in the provision of some substantial improvement or extension of any existing amenity. The balance of the investment was to be applied in any manner that the Mayor, Councillors and citizens of the Borough of Mataura thought fit for the benefit of the town of Mataura*".

The initial bequest of \$215,000 was invested and, as at 30 June 2011, had grown to \$531,000.

In September 2010, the Council approved the establishment of the Coster Fund Distribution Sub-Committee to administer and authorise the distribution of funds in accordance with the bequest of the late Claude Andrew Coster. The Sub-Committee comprised of the following membership:

- The elected member from the Mataura ward
- One member from the Mataura Community Board
- One Councillor who has been elected at large
- His Worship the Mayor
- One independent person appointed by the rest of the Sub-Committee who is a resident of the Mataura ward. (Subsequently amended in April 2011 to include two independent persons)

Distribution of funding

- ↳ Funding guidelines (copy attached) and an application form were developed. The first grant made by the Sub-Committee was \$150,000 in 2011 towards the Mataura Community Centre. Following that payment, the Sub-Committee determined applications for financial assistance would be invited from community organisations. At that time, a total of \$115,720 was available for distribution.

The first funding round resulted in the following grants being made:

Date	Organisation	Amount granted
January 2012	Mataura and Districts Historical Society	\$79,020
January 2012	Royal NZ Plunket Society	\$15,000
January 2012	Mataura Youth Centre Trust	\$11,700
January 2012	Mataura and Districts Marae Society	\$10,000

A second funding round was held in March 2017, with the following grants being made:

Date	Organisation	Amount granted
March 2017	Mataura Community Board – Tulloch Park pump track etc	\$150,000
March 2017	Mataura and Districts Historical Society	\$18,550
March 2017	Mataura School	\$50,000
March 2017	Mataura Fire Brigade	\$40,000

The last meeting of the Distribution Sub-Committee was held on 31 January 2019. The decision reached was that the balance of the fund remain on hold and be utilised when a meritorious project may emerge in the future, and no further funding rounds would be undertaken.

The current balance of the fund is \$115,000, as at 30 June 2023.

Original members of the Distribution Sub-Committee are no longer in office and fresh appointments will need to be made.

This report will be considered by the Mataura Community Board at its meeting to be held on 22 April 2024. Its appointment recommendation will be known by the Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received,

THAT His Worship the Mayor and Cr Phillips, as the Mataura Ward member, be appointed to the Coster Fund Distribution Sub-Committee,

THAT one elected member who has been elected at large be also appointed,

AND THAT the nomination from the Mataura Community Board of be ratified.

COSTER FUND - GUIDELINES

1. Applicants must be based within the Mataura Ward of the Gore District Council.
2. Applicants must be not-for-profit organisations. Applications from private individuals or companies and other legal entities with a profit motive, will not be considered.
3. Funds will be distributed to projects for new facilities or substantial improvement or extension of any existing amenity within the Mataura Ward, which are deemed to benefit the Mataura Community.
4. Operating expenses such as building maintenance, power, rates, insurance or salaries are ineligible for funding.
5. The Coster Fund Distribution Sub-Committee will only approve a maximum grant of 50% of the total project cost. Applicants will need to demonstrate how the balance of the project is to be funded.

11. PROPOSED GORE DISTRICT PLAN - HEARING PROCEDURES

(Memo from interim Chief Executive – 17.04.24)

As Councillors will be aware, the Proposed District Plan was publicly notified in August last year, with submissions closing towards the end of November. An opportunity for further input to be made on submissions received has been provided with plans now in train for hearings of submitters to commence in June.

- ✦ In anticipation of the hearings, the Chairman of the panel, Cr Keith Hovell, has prepared a minute for submitters providing a detailed account of how the hearings will be conducted, expert participation, site visits, and issue of decisions – to name some. A copy of the minute produced by Cr Hovell, along with a schedule of the indicative timetable for the hearings is attached. This minute is to be released to submitters on 18 April 2024.

In line with the Council resolution in establishing the hearings panel, the mix of commissioners to be deployed on specific subjects, as detailed in Appendix A of the minute, has been approved by the Chief Executive.

The minute provides submitters with a clear expectation of how they might present evidence and interface with the panel together with the proposed decision-making process. A good foundation has now been established for the hearings to be conducted in a fair and smooth manner.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council receive and note the hearing procedures of the proposed Gore District Plan hearing panel.



IN THE MATTER AND IN THE MATTER

of the Resource Management Act
1991

AND

IN THE MATTER

of Hearing of Submissions and
Further Submissions on the
Proposed Gore District Plan

Minute 5 of the Hearings Panel

HEARING PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Minute is to outline the procedures for the hearing of submissions and further submissions lodged to the Proposed District Plan. The Resource Management Act 1991 sets out the statutory requirements applying to hearings, and these inform some of the matters in this Minute. In addition, the Panel wishes to provide further guidance for those who wish to appear at the hearings.

All relevant information about the hearings, including Minutes of the Hearings Panel, formal notices, evidence and other presentations to the Hearings Panel, will be available on the Council's Proposed District Plan Hub at <https://lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz/hub-page/proposed-district-plan>.

The matters covered in this Minute are:

1. Membership and Role of the Hearings Panel
2. Hearing Times and Dates
3. Principles of the Hearings Process
4. Role of Staff and Consultants
5. Submitter Involvement at the Hearings
6. Hearing Format
7. Site Visits
8. What Happens After the Hearings

The following is also attached to this Minute:

- A. The Indicative Timetable for the various hearings to be held.
- B. A summary of timeframe requirements in relation to each hearing including the submission of evidence.

1. MEMBERSHIP AND ROLE THE HEARING PANEL

1.1 The Gore District Council has appointed the following certified Hearing Commissioners to consider and make decisions on the submissions to the Gore Proposed District Plan:

- Cliff Bolger
- Maria Bartlett
- Keith Hovell
- Glenys Dickson

1.2 Commissioner Hovell is the Chair of the Hearing Panel, responsible for the overall hearing process. Commissioner Bolger is a Hearing Commissioner with the Chair endorsement and will chair the hearings. Commissioner Hovell also holds the Chair endorsement and will chair hearings when Commissioner Bolger is not available for any reason.

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1.3 The Panel may determine it is appropriate to appoint additional Commissioners with particular expertise to assist in relation to one or more hearing topics. That will require the approval of, and appointment by, the Gore District Council.

1.4 The quorum for the Panel is two commissioners.

Managing Conflicts of Interest

1.5 Ensuring a fair and transparent hearing process means all Commissioners bring an independent and open mind to the role, free of any conflicts of interest that could result in bias and/or predetermination. Conflicts of interest may arise, for example, where a Commissioner:

- Has previously advocated or given evidence in support of a particular position of relevance to the finalisation of the provisions of the Proposed District Plan; or
- Has previously appeared as a witness or an advocate for a party who holds an interest and/or lodged a submission on the Proposed District Plan; or
- Has a private interest, including but not limited to a financial interest in a property, which could be affected, either positively or negatively, as a result of a decision made on a submission to the Proposed District Plan.

1.6 The allocation of Commissioners to different hearings has been designed to minimise known conflicts of interest.

1.7 A “Register of Interests” will be prepared by each Commissioner recording any previous links to submitters, involvement in issues being considered or other interests held by Hearings Panel members. The Register will be updated throughout the hearing process if potential conflicts come to light. The Register of Interests will be available on the Proposed District Plan Hub.

1.8 Any party to the hearing process is entitled to raise potential conflicts of interest. In that regard, in the submission from Yrless, a submitter to the Proposed District Plan, Rebecca Tayler has queried Commissioner Hovell being on the Hearing Panel given that he was previously engaged by the Council to assist with the District Plan process. Ostensibly that was in a managerial and technical capacity during the early stages of the preparing the Proposed District Plan and that by itself does not give rise to a conflict. However, having regard to matters set out in the Register of Interest and the submissions lodged, Commissioner Hovell will not participate in making decisions on various chapters of the Proposed District Plan.

1.9 Commissioner Bolger, between 1998 and 2022, served as a Gore District Councillor. Commissioner Dickson is a sitting Councillor, having served from 2016 until the present. Both Commissioners were members of the Committee providing direction on the review of the Gore District Plan. That does not rule them out of considering and deciding the submissions lodged to the Proposed District Plan. The two roles are recognised by the Courts as different.

1.10 Commissioner Bartlett previously worked for Aukaha Limited (2019) and Te Ao Mārama Incorporated (2020 – 2023), consultancies that provide services to Hokonui Rūnanga and other Papatipu Rūnanga. However, at no time did Commissioner Bartlett provide advice to Hokonui Rūnanga regarding the Proposed District Plan.

2. HEARING TIMES AND DATES

- 2.1 All hearings will be held at the Council's Administration Office at 29 Bowler Avenue. This will facilitate recording and livestreaming of the hearings, while also enabling remote presentations by submitters who are unable to attend the hearing in person.
- 2.2 Generally, hearings will commence at 9:30 am and conclude at 5:00 pm each day, with a 45 minute lunch break at approximately 1:00pm. Breaks at mid-morning, mid-afternoon and potentially at other times, will be taken at the convenience of the Panel. On days when Council meetings are also set down, the hearings will conclude at approximately 3:30 pm.
- 2.3 To facilitate attendance by submitters who may be unavailable during the usual hearing times, consideration will be given on request to extending the hearing time to the early evening.

Indicative Hearing Programme

- 2.4 Appendix A provides the indicative hearing programme. Generally, hearings are programmed over a weekly period each month from June 2024 until March 2025. Several chapters of the Proposed District Plan will be heard in each weekly block. Changes may be required to the indicative programme, and these will be advised to submitters directly. An up-to-date programme will also be included on the Proposed District Plan Hub.
- 2.5 It will be noted that the hearing on the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapter is set down for February 2025. This recognises statements from the Government regarding intended law changes to the obligations associated with identification and protection of Significant Natural Areas. In response to those statements, the Hearings Panel has directed the Council's planning consultants to pause the work they have been doing on this issue to provide an opportunity to fully understand the details of the proposed change and the implications on the Proposed District Plan.

3. PRINCIPLES OF THE HEARING PROCESS

- 3.1 The Hearings Panel will seek to ensure that, to the greatest extent practicable, the most appropriate, fair, and efficient hearing process is established while complying with the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991. To achieve that, the Hearings Panel will follow a process that:
 - Is appropriate and fair
The Hearings Panel will always act in a fair, impartial and transparent manner and ensure all parties are treated equally.
 - Avoids unnecessary formality
The Hearings Panel will be inclusive and acknowledge the broad range of interests of submitters. They will facilitate a process that provides all parties with the opportunity to hear others and be heard, whether they are presenting oral or written submissions and/or evidence.

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- Is efficient
The Hearings Panel will conduct an efficient process which minimises time and costs to all parties participating in the hearings. The Hearings Panel will provide submitters with an adequate opportunity to be heard, while at the same time, avoiding unnecessary repetition and presentation of irrelevant material.
- Recognises Tikanga Māori
The Hearings Panel will receive written or spoken evidence in Te Reo Māori, if requested to do so by a submitter who has given at least ten working days' notice to enable an interpreter to be available.
- Recognises New Zealand sign language
The Hearings Panel will receive evidence in sign language, if requested to do so by a submitter who has given at least ten working days' notice to enable an interpreter to be available.

4. ROLE OF COUNCIL STAFF AND CONSULTANTS**Administration**

- 4.1 The Hearings Administrator, Lindsey Crazy Wolf, is the 'point of contact' for submitters and the public (including the media) regarding the hearings. She can be contacted by email at lcrazywolf@goredc.govt.nz or by telephone on (03) 209 0330.
- 4.2 Outside the hearings, all communications with the Hearings Panel from submitters, their expert witnesses must be directed through the Hearings Administrator.
- 4.3 The Hearings Administrator will oversee the various administrative tasks needed to ensure an efficient hearing process, including:
- (a) Issuing schedules and hearing notifications
 - (b) Making hearing arrangements
 - (c) Arranging the schedule for submitters to appear at the hearing
 - (d) Circulating Hearings Panel Minutes and other directions
 - (e) Circulating evidence and reports for each hearing
 - (f) Handling submitter enquiries
 - (g) Managing public inquiries to the Hearings Panel
 - (h) Generally assisting the Hearings Panel with logistical matters as required
- 4.4 The Hearings Administrator is also responsible for managing the Proposed District Plan Hub to ensure that all necessary information to support an efficient hearing process is available to all participants.

Advice to the Panel

- 4.5 Section 42A of the Resource Management Act provides for the preparation of reports summarising and evaluating submissions relevant to a hearing topic and

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making recommendations on potential amendments to the Proposed District Plan in response to submissions.

- 4.6 Section 42A reports will be prepared either by Council staff or external planning consultants, supported, where appropriate, by expert evidence. Where a particular hearing involves submissions on multiple chapters of the Proposed District Plan, a number of section 42A reports may be prepared and released prior to the relevant hearing.
- 4.7 The purpose of a section 42A report is to assist both submitters and the Hearings Panel prepare for the hearing to which it relates. Among other things, each section 42A report will contain a schedule of the primary submission points it addresses and the author's recommendation in relation to each submission point, either singularly or grouped.
- 4.8 The section 42A reports, together with any supporting expert evidence, constitute part of the body of evidence to be considered by the Hearings Panel, alongside the submissions lodged and the presentations and evidence of submitters.
- 4.9 The recommendations within the section 42A reports are not binding on the Hearings Panel and carry no greater weight than any other evidence provided by or on behalf of any submitter.
- 4.10 Section 42A reports and any supporting expert evidence will be uploaded to the Proposed District Plan Hub a minimum of 20 working days prior to the hearing to which they relate.
- 4.11 Once section 42A reports are available online, the Hearings Administrator will email submitters who indicated they wished to be heard on the relevant topic, providing an electronic (PDF) copy of the relevant section 42A report(s). Hard copies of the section 42A reports will also be available from the Hearings Administrator on request.
- 4.12 If the Panel wishes to obtain any further advice from Council staff or its consultants regarding the submissions lodged, or the evidence presented at the hearing, that will be done either in public at the hearing, or by a Minute released to all relevant submitters. If the Hearings Panel considers it necessary to preserve natural justice, relevant submitters will be invited to provide feedback on any such further advice obtained.
- 4.13 No Council staff or external planning consultants, except for the Hearings Administrator for the purpose of recording decisions, will be present when the Panel is making decisions on the submissions lodged.

5. SUBMITTER INVOLVEMENT IN THE HEARINGS

- 5.1 All submitters who have lodged a submission or further submission are entitled to appear at the hearing where that submission is being considered. Presentations and evidence given is restricted to the matters contained in that person's submission or further submission.
- 5.2 When the formal notice of hearing is sent out, submitters will be invited to contact the Hearings Administrator if they wish to make a presentation to the Hearings

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Panel. A deadline for providing such advice will be given, generally two weeks before the hearing is due to start. Details will be required of the length of time the submitter requires to make their presentation and the names of any other persons who will be part of that presentation.

- 5.3 If a submitter wishes to use power-point as part of their presentation to the Hearings Panel, they must provide that in an electronic format to the Hearings Administrator at least two working days prior to the commencement of the hearing. This is to ensure compatibility with the electronic system at the hearing venue.
- 5.4 If submitters are unable to attend a hearing in person and wish to connect to the hearing remotely, that will require the prior approval of the Hearing Panel and at least two days' notice to the Hearings Administrator prior the commencement of the hearing.
- 5.5 If submitters have a preference for the day or time they wish to be heard, the Hearings Administrator will endeavour to accommodate that on a first come, first served basis. For short presentations, submitters will be grouped together into a one hour time slot (for example) to ensure continuity of the hearings.
- 5.6 The Hearings Administrator will compile and upload the Hearings Schedule on the Proposed District Plan Hub with indicative times for each submitter's appearance. Submitters are encouraged to be present at the hearings 15 minutes prior to their allocated time.

Sensitive Information

- 5.7 The Hearings Panel has the power to direct that information presented by a submitter is kept confidential in some circumstances, as provided for by section 42 of the Resource Management Act. The duration of such orders depends on the reasons for them being made. In cases of commercial sensitivity, confidentiality protections elapse at the conclusion of the hearings. The Hearings Panel has a broader jurisdiction where serious offence to tikanga Māori or the location of wāhi tapu is involved.
- 5.8 When presentations referring to sensitive information are being made at a hearing, the Hearings Panel, may if it deems it appropriate, exclude the public during that presentation.
- 5.9 If a submitter wishes the Hearings Panel to make an order relating to sensitive information, a written request with reasons must be made to the Hearings Administrator at least five working days prior to the commencement of the hearing.

When a Submitter is Unable to Attend

- 5.10 Where a submitter or their representative is unable to attend the hearing for a particular topic, they may choose to table written material in support of their submission. Such written material must be provided to the Hearings Administrator prior to the commencement of the hearing concerned.

Presentations by People Who Are Not Experts

- 5.11 Submitters may appear either in person or through their authorised representative who may be a friend, family member or a qualified professional such as a lawyer or planner.

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- 5.12 The Hearings Panel will have read the submissions lodged prior to the hearing. Submitters may however wish to add further to their submission and respond to matters contained in the section 42A report circulated prior to the hearing. It is preferred that this be in writing and be read at the hearing. If producing a typed version is a problem, a readable handwritten statement is fine.
- 5.13 If the additional material to be presented is more than three A4 pages it should be submitted to the Hearing Administrator two working days before the hearing. This will enable copies to be circulated to the Hearings Panel. If it is not submitted before the hearing then it will be necessary to bring eight copies on the day of the hearing.
- 5.14 If a submitter plans to speak verbally to their submission, that is fine, but only if their verbal presentation is less than the equivalent of three A4 pages read aloud (about 10 minutes). Otherwise, there is a risk that the Hearings Panel members will be too busy taking notes to take in what the submitter is saying – which is not helpful either to the Panel or the submitter.
- 5.15 If the submitter is relying on a professional or expert to represent them, or to supplement the submitters presentation, then that person should refer to the requirements for experts described below.

Presentations by Experts

- 5.16 An expert is a person equipped by training and experience to provide expert opinion on issues relevant to a hearing. While most experts will have academic qualifications, that is not a prerequisite. Kaumātua do not need a university degree to be expert on the cultural values of their iwi or hapū. Likewise, many people have acquired significant expertise 'learning on the job'. The key thing is for an expert witness to demonstrate to the Hearings Panel they have the expertise to advance the opinions they provide, and the ability to act independently of the submitter who calls them to give evidence.
- 5.17 The extent to which a submitter's case would be assisted by expert evidence will depend on the nature of the relief a submitter seeks. However, submitters should note that if they seek substantive changes to the notified plan provisions, their presentation needs to be accompanied by material which enables the Hearings Panel to undertake an evaluation of their relief sought under section 32AA of the Resource Management Act.
- 5.18 The deadline for pre-circulation of submitter expert evidence is ten working days prior to the commencement of the hearing. The Hearings Panel expects that all expert evidence will be in the form of a single searchable PDF document, with numbered paragraphs, and page numbered for ease of reference.
- 5.19 Expert witnesses must confirm their agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses applying in the Environment Court, in the same manner as they would if appearing in the Environment Court.
- 5.20 Expert evidence for submitters should be directed at the relevant section 42A report, identifying points of agreement and disagreement with precise cross referencing to the section 42A report, including in the case of planning witnesses, a marked-up version of the Plan provisions showing changes recommended from the section 42A report version. If the expert considers the section 42A report has not addressed a particular point, that should be dealt with separately.

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- 5.21 The Hearings Panel will have read the pre-circulated expert evidence prior to the hearing, and it will be taken as read. At the hearing, experts may, if they wish, read a summary of their evidence, not exceeding three A4 pages. If this summary is not submitted two working days prior to the hearing commencing, eight copies shall be provided on the day of the hearing for the sole use of the Hearings Panel, Council staff and consultants.

Expert Conferencing

- 5.22 Expert conferencing is a meeting on a particular issue, between the expert witnesses being called by submitters. Its purpose is to identify matters on which the experts agree and matters in dispute and the reasons for the disagreement.
- 5.23 While expert conferencing is most likely to be considered following the submission of the expert evidence, the Hearings Panel may on complex issues direct expert conferencing take place prior to expert evidence being prepared or during the hearing itself. The Hearings Panel will identify the issues on which conferencing is required and which experts are required to attend.
- 5.24 The Hearings Panel expects that, consistent with the agreement of experts to comply with the Environment Court Code of Conduct, experts will undertake conferencing in the same manner as they would in the Environment Court.

Legal Submissions

- 5.25 All legal submissions are to be written and if longer than three A4 pages in length are to be lodged with the Hearings Administrator not less than two working days before the commencement of the relevant hearing. Legal submissions of three A4 pages or less may be presented on the day of the hearing, with eight copies provided.
- 5.26 If legal submissions refer to caselaw, counsel should either insert an electronic link to the cases or provide electronic copies separately. Hard copies of cases will not generally be required unless otherwise advised.

6. HEARING FORMAT

- 6.1 The Hearing Chair oversees the progress of the hearing, making directions as required to ensure the orderly conduct of the hearing. Each hearing will generally follow the following format, although the Hearing Chair may vary this if they consider it desirable:
- (a) The Chair will introduce the Hearing Panel, cover any preliminary issues, and invite any party wishing to raise procedural issues to do so.
 - (b) The section 42A report authors officers will introduce their reports, followed by any supporting expert witness. This introduction shall be written and no longer than three A4 pages in length. Sufficient copies are to be provided for all attendees at the hearing.
 - (c) The Hearings Panel may ask questions of the section 42A authors and any supporting expert witnesses.

Minute 5 - Gore Proposed District Plan – Hearing Procedures

- (d) Submitters will be heard in the order set out in the Hearing Schedule. The Hearings Panel members may have questions of the submitters. These will generally be asked at the conclusion of the submitter's presentation.
 - (e) If submitters suggest changes to those recommended in the section 42A report, the Hearings Panel may, if it considers it appropriate, provide an opportunity for the section 42A report author to comment while the submitter is present and give the submitter a right of reply.
 - (f) At the conclusion of all presentations, the Hearing Chair will enquire of the section 42A author whether they wish to amend any recommendations in their report. That advice will generally be given orally while submitters are present followed by the Chair adjourning the hearing.
- 6.2 In some instances, the author of the section 42A Report may be granted additional time to consider and prepare a written response. Where this occurs, the response will be provided to submitters. Generally, submitters will not have the opportunity to comment further on any changes recommended. However, if the Panel considers new material is included in the advice given by the section 42A author, or it seeks clarification of any further matter, then an opportunity for further feedback will be given to the relevant submitters, either in writing or in person at a reconvened hearing.
- 6.3 No cross-examination of the authors of the section 42A reports, supporting expert witnesses or other parties is allowed. If submitters seek clarification or have questions relating to matters included in the section 42A report then this should be raised when they make their presentation.
- 6.4 The hearings are public, will be live-streamed, and recorded. The recordings will be available online for public viewing.

7. SITE VISITS

- 7.1 Where it is desirable for the Panel to understand issues raised by submitters, or to determine matters such as a request to change the zoning of an area of land, the Panel may on its own accord, or at the request of submitters, undertake a site visit. Generally, site visits will be undertaken following the presentation of evidence at the hearing, although in some cases the Panel may decide a site visit is desirable prior to the hearing.
- 7.2 Where the Hearings Panel wishes to access private land, the Hearing Administrator will contact the relevant submitter to arrange a suitable time and ascertain whether there are any health and safety requirements.
- 7.3 It is important to note, site visits are not an opportunity for an informal discussion of issues on site. When on site, the Panel members will not discuss the merits of a submission with the submitter, but they may ask the submitter to point out features on the site that are the subject of submission.

8. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE HEARING

- 8.1 Deliberations of the Hearing Panel will be in private with the public excluded. The Hearing Administrator will be present to record conclusions reached by the Hearing Panel. All other persons, including other staff and consultants, are excluded from deliberations.
- 8.2 The Hearing Panel has been delegated responsibility for making decisions on the submissions lodged to the provisions of the Proposed District Plan, including submissions to designations of the Gore District Council shown on the Planning Maps. Decisions on all submissions lodged will be issued at the same time following the completion of all hearings. This is likely to be in the second quarter of 2025.
- 8.3 Where there are submissions on designations of authorities other than the Council, the Resource Management Act requires the Hearings Panel to issue a recommendation to the designating authority. Following consideration of the Hearings Panel recommendations, the designating authority issues a formal decision accepting, rejecting or modifying the recommendation of the Hearings Panel.
- 8.4 Submitters and further submitters, with regard to matters they have submitted on, have a right of appeal to the Environment Court on all decision issued. Details of the appeal process, time allowed and how to lodge an appeal will be advised when decisions are issued.

Any queries regarding this Minute should be directed to the Hearings Administrator, Lindsey Crazy Wolf who can be contacted by email at lcrazywolf@goredc.govt.nz or by telephone on (03) 209 0330.



Keith Hovell
Hearings Panel Chair

APPENDIX A Indicative Timetable for Hearings

The following is the timetable the Hearings Panel wishes to adopt for the hearing of submissions. While we will use best endeavours, changes to the proposed hearing dates may be necessary. The up-to-date timetable for hearings will be posted on the Proposed District Plan Hub.

District Plan Chapters	Hearing Panel	Tentative Hearing Date
Introduction and General provisions UFD – Urban Form and Development	CB KH GD MB CB KH GD MB	5 – 7 June 2024
NCZ – Neighbourhood Centres Zone LCZ – Local Centre Zone MUZ – Mixed Use Zone TCZ – Town Centre Zone AIRPZ – Airport Zone NOSZ – Natural Open Space Zone SARZ – Sports and Active Recreation Zone CCZ – Camp Columba Zone FDZ – Field Days Zone	CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD	24 – 27 June 2024
MW – Mana Whenua	CB KH GD MB	22 July 2024
GRUZ – General Rural Zone RLZ – Rural Lifestyle Zone SETZ – Settlement Zone	CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD	22 – 26 July 2024
MPZ – Māori Purpose Zone GIZ – General Industrial Zone LIZ – Light Industrial Zone	CB KH GD MB CB KH GD MB CB KH GD MB	19-21 August 2024
LLRZ – Large Lot Residential Zone GRZ – General Residential Zone MRZ – Medium Density Residential Zone	CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD	21-23 August 2024
LIGHT – Light SIGN – Signs TEMP – Temporary Activities TRANS – Transport Designations	CB GD CB GD CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD	16-20 September 2024
CL – Contaminated Land HAZS – Hazardous Substances NOISE – Noise PA – Public Access SUB – Subdivision general	CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD CB KH GD	14-17 October 2024
EW – Earthworks ENRG – Energy INFR – Infrastructure ASW – Activities on the Surface of Water	CB GD MB CB GD MB CB GD MB CB GD MB	4-8 November 2024
HH – Historical Heritage TREE – Notable Trees SASM – Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori	CB KH GD MB CB KH GD MB CB KH GD MB	2-6 December 2024
NH – Natural Hazards ECO – Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity NFL – Natural Features and Landscapes	CB KH GD MB CB KH GD MB CB KH GD MB	10-21 February 2025
Wrap up	CB KH GD MB	10-14 March 2025

CB = Cliff Bolger KH = Keith Hovell GD = Glenys Dickson MB = Maria Bartlett

APPENDIX B Summary of Relevant Timeframes

For each of the hearings, there are a number of procedural steps that must be followed and deadlines that are required to be met. These are described in general terms below. When the formal notice of hearing is notified, submitters will be advised of the precise dates for each step and action.

If a submitter is unable to meet the deadlines stated then a written request for an extension of time is to be made to the Hearings Administrator, in writing with reasons, as soon as practical. The Hearings Panel Chair will consider the request and, if necessary, issue a procedural directive.

Summary of Key Dates		
	Hearing Step	Timing / Deadline
1.	Formal notification of the hearing	30 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing
2.	Section 42A report and any supporting evidence released by the Council and posted on the Proposed District Plan Hub.	20 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing
3.	Submitters advise Hearing Administrator if they wish to be heard at the hearing, length of time required and names of persons presenting.	10 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing
4.	Submitters advise Hearing Administrator if they wish to use Te Reo or sign language in their presentation.	10 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing
5.	Expert evidence to be submitted to Hearing Administrator for distribution to the Hearings Panel and posting on the Proposed District Plan Hub.	No later than 1:00 pm 10 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing
6.	Order of hearing submitters and proposed timetable to be posted on the Proposed District Plan Hub by the Hearing Administrator.	5 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing
7.	Requests in relation to management of sensitive information be submitted to Hearing Administrator for consideration by the Hearings Panel.	5 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing
8.	Power-point presentations to be submitted in electronic form to Hearing Administrator	No later than 1:00 pm 2 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing
9.	Requests to make a remote presentation to the Hearings Panel to be submitted to Hearing Administrator.	No later than 1:00 pm 2 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing
10.	Written presentations by persons who are not experts, if available, to be submitted to Hearing Administrator for distribution to the Hearings Panel.	No later than 1:00 pm 2 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing

Summary of Key Dates		
	Hearing Step	Timing / Deadline
11.	Summary of expert evidence no longer than 3 A4 pages, if available, to be submitted to Hearing Administrator for distribution to the Hearings Panel.	No later than 1:00 pm 2 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing
12.	Legal submissions greater than 3 A4 pages to be submitted to Hearing Administrator for distribution to the Hearings Panel.	No later than 1:00 pm 2 working days prior to the commencement of the hearing
13.	Tabled presentations and evidence from persons unable to attend the hearing to be submitted to Hearing Administrator for distribution to the Hearings Panel.	By the commencement of the hearing.
14.	If not submitted prior to the hearing, the submitter is to provide 8 copies of their presentation to the Hearings Panel.	At the time the submitter makes their presentation to the Hearings Panel.
15.	If not submitted prior to the hearing, 8 copies to be provided of the summary of the expert evidence.	At the time when the expert appears before the Hearings Panel.

12. RURAL ROADS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

(Memo from Roading Asset Manager – 11.04.24)

- ↳ Attached is a copy of the minutes of the Rural Roads Sub-Committee meeting held on 20 February, for the Council's information.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the minutes be received.



• Roads Sub-Committee Meeting

February 2024 Meeting Minutes

Location: Gore District Council Meeting Room 5/Teams
Date: 20 February 2024
Attendees: Murray Hasler (MH) – Roading Assets Manager, Jason Domigan (JD) – GM Critical Services via Teams, Hari Pillay (departed after introductions) – Senior Roading Officer, Councillors Stewart MacDonnell (SM), John Gardyne (JG), and Joe Stringer (JS), Terry Trotter (TT) – 3 Waters, GDC
Apologies: Prithesh Pillai – Roading Officer
Time: 3:00pm

Minutes typed from recording by: Lindsey Crazy Wolf – Administrator

3/4 x 1 3/4 = 1 3/4

Roading Team (item 7 brought forward)

The Committee members were introduced to two new roading team members; Senor Roading Officer, Hari Pillay and 3 Waters Project Engineer Terry Trotter. Murray explained that although Terry's primary role is with 3 Waters his previous experience, especially with KiwiRail, involved significant work on bridge maintenance and construction. GDC roading is taking advantage of Terry's experience and knowledge to assist us with our bridge maintenance and renewal projects.

1. Network Delivery

The January edition of the Roading Bulletin was tabled.

JS suggested that progress for the grading and metalling activities could be better displayed in graphical form similar to the pie graphs showing expenditure versus budget provided for each contract. It was agreed the current line graph adequately illustrates achievement versus target and will continue to be used.

2. Maintenance Contracts – Scope and Performance

Routine Road Maintenance – K2 Contracting

The contractor is performing satisfactorily.

Mechanical Cleaning - Downer

The contractor is performing satisfactorily.

Vegetation Control – Southern Vegetation Control

Concern was expressed by several councilors about the slow progress and the effectiveness of the weed spraying so far. Pest plant spraying caused the greatest concern. MH advised that council roading staff have discussed this issue with the contractor prior to this meeting. The need to improve the performance was emphasized to the contractor, however the contractor has been hampered by frequent windy conditions for much of this season.

Road Marking - Downer

The contractor is performing satisfactorily. Highest priority markings were completed during December. Further markings are programmed to commence during the week beginning 26 February. It was noted that only selected markings will be remarked, not a full network remark.

Concrete and Associated Works – McDonough Contracting

The contractor is performing satisfactorily. Work under this contract has significantly increased with the addition of the Railway Esplanade/Hamilton Park pedestrian crossing and footpath, Elizabeth Street reinstatement and the Mataura Welcome signs installation.

Sealed Pavement Repairs – Supreme Siteworks

Some performance/quality issues.

3. Budgets and Programmes

MH advised that the cost scope adjustment, an increase of \$458,694 in NZTA funding, for the current financial year, had been approved. The local share had already been approved by the council in the 2023/24 Annual Plan but until now was not matched with NZTA funding. Approval of the increased budget will support our bid for increased funding submitted to NZTA for the 2024-2027 programme.

MH provided a breakdown to work categories for which the funding increase had been approved. This fully subsidised programme aligns with the recommended roading budget Option 2 presented to the Council at the August 2023 workshop.

Works programmed to fit available budgets, however there may need to be some transfer of funds between work categories to ensure highest priority work is able to be done.

MH provided information on the Gore/Clutha council's collaborative reseal contract with Fulton Hogan. Fulton Hogan has assessed all the Gore sites proposed for reseal this season and provided its treatment options for each site. These options have in turn been assessed by GDC roading staff and the optimum treatment for each site agreed. Unfortunately, the cost of undertaking the full programme is \$1,821,831 which is \$500,382 greater than the 2023/24 budget for this work. JG queried MH regarding dealing with this shortfall. MH explained that the programme will be adjusted to conform with the budget. Some sites will be deferred while potential alternative treatments will be explored with Fulton Hogan for some other sites. Alternative treatments for sites such as McKinnon Road may include using heated chips and existing bitumen rather than applying any additional bitumen. This technique was recently used to successfully restore texture and skid resistance recently on Reaby Road. The section of Waimumu Road near the Field Days site is another where this technique may be employed. Use of this technique would significantly reduce the treatment cost.

MH updated the committee regarding a proposal to apply fees and charges for parties undertaking various activities within the road corridor. He has surveyed other southern councils including Clutha, Southland, Central Otago and Invercargill. Applying these "user pays" charges could potentially save the ratepayers up to \$50,000 per year. MH provided the example of the processing of Corridor Access Requests of which are partially processed by a Consultant on behalf of GDC at a cost. In answer to a query from Councilors, MH advised that where bonds are applied these are refundable if no damage occurs. SM asked whether before and after photographs are taken. MH advised that this is done where appropriate. Councillors agreed with the need to apply these charges where appropriate.

4. Metalling/Grading/Drainage

The achievements for the year to date for these activities were discussed.

The increasing cost and decreasing availability of gravel for roading activities, especially for remetalling our gravel roads was also discussed. MH advised that he recently met with Tony Baker, owner of the Waimumu silica/gold mine. Mr Baker has invited the council to consider using gravel from his mine site for roading activities. MH walked over the mine site to make a preliminary assessment of the suitability of the material. His initial impression was that the gravel may not be suitable. Engineering tests should be undertaken to check its suitability. This material may have properties that could improve the performance of the currently used alluvial gravels if blended. JG offered a word of caution as this mine is high-risk and not up to mining standards.

MH discussed a proposed collaboration with our neighbours, Southland District, and Invercargill City council's and potentially Clutha District and NZTA to investigate future gravel sources within the region. JG advised that Environment Southland has recently started a working group to investigate the potential extraction of gravel from Southland river beds. Southland District has engaged geotechnical consultant, GNS, already and has commenced a region wide study including Gore. SDC is happy to involve GDC in the process. The study is currently at the desktop stage looking at historic sites and determining their future potential.

5. Bridges

TT has been undertaking further assessment of the bridges identified as high priority for significant upgrading or replacement by our bridge consultant WSP. He has already identified and arranged works on some of these bridges which will keep them trafficable until upgraded, replaced or closed.

The top priority identified for replacement during the current financial year is Otama Valley Road bridge (Bridge #101). MH confirmed the location of this bridge as being very close to the Pyramid Creek Road intersection. The estimated cost to replace this bridge is approximately \$400,000. The Council has topographical, geotechnical and hydraulic surveys underway at the bridge site. The information gained from these surveys will be provided to tenderers for the bridge replacement. This will speed up the procurement process and ensure these surveys are not duplicated during the procurement.

Parker Road bridge was initially of similar priority to Otama Valley Road bridge. However, recent significant deck repairs have kept the bridge serviceable for at least another 2 years before it may need replacement. Replacement of this bridge will be a significant project which will likely require substantial earthworks. The depth of the waterway makes it unsuitable for replacement with a large culvert. As the bridge is on a no exit road serving one residence it may be difficult to obtain NZTA funding for its replacement. JS asked about “cookie cutter” modular bridges. Bridge renewals are likely to be carried out on a design build basis so this could very well be the approach that contractors will take. The current SDC bridge replacement contracts are based on design build. The bridges do need to comply with NZTA standards. We will be looking for innovative approaches that achieve the required outcome.

Crombie Road Bridge has a span which is in poor condition. Repair or replacement, due to its condition, is a high priority. Two large farms depend on this bridge however the public benefit is low. Steel bands have been installed on a significantly split timber pile to allow the continued use of the bridge albeit at a reduced carrying capacity. This will allow time for a more detailed investigation of the bridge to determine whether replacement of a wooden beam with a steel beam will be sufficient or whether replacement of the bridge is required.

Ontario Street bridge is critical strategically. It serves a significant and developing catchment area with a relatively high traffic volume including carrying much of the gravel used on GDC roads. This bridge has significant deterioration of the deck at each end which moves substantially when vehicles cross. Downer have been engaged to remove/replace the deck and reseal it at an estimated cost of \$110,000.00. The bridge has a current 90% of Class 1 load restriction. Theoretically and hopefully in practice heavy vehicles will not be carrying their full capacity over this bridge. The Downer deck repairs have been temporarily halted while WSP investigate whether there is a low cost simple method to bring the bridge up to full Class 1 while the deck is off.

Woodrow Road Bridge – generally good order except for a concrete abutment, which has significant cracking due to settlement in foundation. Settlement has caused a twist in the bridge. A contractor has been requested to provide a quote to rectify the abutment issue. However, the continual stream flow could make this difficult to access. MH advised that a Southland County Council plan for the bridge dated 1986 has been found however the bridge

does not appear to match the plan. This bridge serves only one property owner and provides little or no public benefit. Farm buildings including a residence are on the far side of the bridge.

MacGibbon Road bridge has a deck issue, but all the panels are in place so a small repair at an estimated cost of \$40,000 may be adequate.

Mason Road bridge is a relatively long bridge in the Pukerau area. The section of Mason Road is relatively short and runs parallel to State Highway 1. Therefore, there is good alternative access for the low traffic volume that uses the road. WSP has recommended it for a complete renewal or closure. A more detailed inspection of this bridge is required to determine whether it does need replaced. If the bridge is replaced or removed some of the timber components of the old bridge that are still in good condition could be used to upgrade other timber bridges in the district.

Kemp Road bridge is a 7m long timber bridge at the end of its life, with significant deck flexion. The bridge is on a partly formed paper road and provides little if any public benefit. The best course of action is to dismantle it and investigate other options such as culverts.

Middle Road West Bridge

This bridge is listed as a high priority for renewal by WSP. A more detailed inspection is planned to determine the future of this bridge which is on a through road providing public benefit.

Otamita Bridge handrail that had been damaged by a tractor has been replaced by a local engineering company at a cost of \$40,000.00. Pursuing an insurance claim.

MH mentioned that most of the bridges TT reviewed are coming up in the Long-Term Plan; some will hopefully be done in the current financial year and others will be done in the next three years.

6. Low-Cost Low Risk Projects 2024/27 LTP

MH provided details of the improvement projects proposed during the next three years. Most of the improvement projects proposed are those recommended specifically in the recent NZTA Technical Audit or as generic recommendations.

Site details were provided for sealing the gravel legs at gravel road intersections with sealed roads. These included side roads from Reaby, Wyndham and Diamond Peak Roads.

Realignments of the Chatton Corner and Bowmar/Waimumu Road intersections have been proposed as safety improvements. JG suggested a change in Give Way signage at Chatton corner may be a better way to improve that intersection instead of realignment. MH advised that JG's suggestion will be given consideration.

Seal widening of narrow sections of existing seal on Knapdale and Otama Roads is proposed. This will improve safety on these relatively busy sections.

MH mentioned that residents on several rural gravel roads have been voicing their concern about the lack of traction on steep sections of Landslip Valley Road, Terry Road, Boundary

Road (Mataura), Benio Road, Mountain Road, Kee Road and Robertson Road. These are all candidates for short traction seals in the future. Councilors suggested adding Pryde Road and Brock Road to the list.

MH advised there is not a large budget for these improvements and a transparent method of prioritization will need to be formulated for the future projects.

Next meeting date

To be advised.

13. ISSUING OF STAFF WARRANT AND AUTHORISATION

(Memo from Governance Manager – 15.04.24)

Background

Council staff are occasionally required to undertake certain enforcement activities as part of Bylaws and other regulatory functions that the Council administers.

To enable staff to carry out these activities and functions including but not limited to various enforcement powers, they are required to be appointed and authorised by the local authority, and to carry warrant cards.

Ms Nadia Carelsen has recently been employed as an Animal Control Officer and needs to be appointed and warranted as follows:

Dog Control Act 1996

Section 14 – Power of entry

Section 15 – Power to feed and shelter dogs

Section 19 – Request for information

Section 19a – Request for information about dogs

Sections 42, 52, 52A, 56, 57, 57A, 59, 60, 64, 72A—powers to seize dogs

To carry out any and all of the functions required to administer the Dog Control Act 1996 and Impounding Act 1955.

Enforcement Officer

Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) to carry out any and all of the functions and powers of an enforcement officer in the territorial area of the Gore District in relation to offences under the Act including without limitation:

1. Offences against bylaws under the Act.
2. Infringement offences provided for by regulations made under Section 259 of the Act
3. Part 8 (regulatory, enforcement and coercive powers of local authority) of the Act.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council appoint and authorise Nadia Carelsen to undertake various enforcement related duties in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Local Government Act 2002.

14. SUMMARY OF MAYORAL FORUM MEETING

(Memo from interim Chief Executive – 17.04.24)

- ↳ Attached is a summary of the Southland Mayoral Forum meeting held on Friday 5 April 2024, for the Council's information.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.



**Summary of the Southland Mayoral Forum meeting held
at Environment Southland, North Road, Invercargill on
Friday 5 April 2024 at 9.30am**

- Attended:** Chair Nicol Horrell; Mayor Rob Scott; Mayor Ben Bell; Mayor Nobby Clark; Cr Tom Campbell; Cr Christine Menzies; Cr Keith Hovell; Cr Jeremy McPhail; Michael Day (on zoom); Wilma Falconer.
- In Attendance:** Megan Seator (Policy Advisor); Jan Brown (notetaker).
- Apologies:** Steve Parry; Cameron McIntosh; Dean Whaanga.

1. Presentation from Datagrid

Rémi Galasso, Perrine Dhalluin, and Natalia Tatarchuk from Datagrid New Zealand provided background to the data centre proposed to be constructed on 43 hectares in Makarewa.

They commented on Southland being an ideal location for the project due to the availability of a large power source, cool temperatures to reduce water consumption, and political and economic stability.

There was discussion around the benefit of the data centre which would see Southland become hub for export cloud computing services serving Australia and abroad. They stated that this project would enable fibre connectivity resilience, increase employment, add to economic diversification, and further international data and science cooperation.

There were various questions from Mayoral Forum members including potential negative impacts of the proposal on the local community that the company would need to address, the matter of the highly productive soils classification of the site concerned, diesel generation as a back-up and potential for hydrogen going forward, potential need for a plan change process to be worked through, water usage and disposal, the fact that the cable across the Tasman was mandatory to the success of the operation, the implications of storing international data in New Zealand and associated geo-political matters.

Datagrid also advised the Forum of some of the challenges to date particularly in regard to the highly productive classification status of the land they propose to build the data centre on. They informed the Forum that they are exploring opportunities being presented by the new coalition government that will support them to move forward with the project and hoped for the Forum's support in doing so.

2. CE Forum update

Wilma Falconer updated the Mayoral Forum on the progress of appointing staff from across the Otago and Southland councils to the new Southland/Otago Local Water Done Well Working

Group. The group will focus their efforts across three proposed work streams:

- a) Regional collaboration and shared services;
- b) Options for delivery models;
- c) Sub-national collaboration and shared services.

The CE Forum will be updated by the staff representatives as the work progresses which will be fed back to elected members.

It was also noted that the recruitment process for the manager role at Emergency Management Southland is due to commence shortly which will involve a panel with representatives from all of Southland's councils.

Chami Abeysinghe advised that Minister Shane Jones is coming to Southland for the opening of the Stead Street stop bank but they date of this is yet to be confirmed. Minister Mark Patterson will be in Southland on 15 May and his itinerary includes visits to South Port, Ocean Beach, an event in Gore and then back to Invercargill for a stakeholder dinner hosted by Great South. There was discussion about the importance on maintaining communication when ministers travel to Southland to ensure their time is utilised to its maximum potential.

3. General business

There was discussion around the future of Just Transitions in particular in relation to funding with Budget 2024 being released on 30 May. It was noted that there is yet to be an announcement re the future of Tiwai, however, it was agreed there is significant value to of the outputs of the Just Transitions work to Southland such as the Engineering and Manufacturing Cluster. The Mayoral Forum will advocate for retaining funding for Just Transitions projects and programmes of regardless of whether Tiwai stays open.

The next Mayoral Forum meeting will be held on 10 May 2024.

Please contact Megan Seator (Policy Advisor – Southland Mayoral Forum) for further information.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

His Worship to move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely the items as listed below.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing the 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:

<u>General subject matter</u>	<u>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</u>	<u>Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</u>
<u>Confirmation of Minutes</u>		
Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Gore District Council, held in committee, on Tuesday 26 March 2024.		
<u>Other business</u>		
Racecourse Road waterline	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	7 (2)(i)
Proposed Mataura Medical Hub – terms of lease	Enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	7 (2)(i)
Appointment of interim Chief Executive	Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.	7 (2)(a)