



# AGENDA

## Environmental Services Committee Meeting Tuesday, 27 August 2024

**Date** Tuesday, 27 August 2024

**Time** 10.00am

**Location** Council Chamber  
District Council Building  
King George Place  
Timaru

**File Reference** 1701606

## Timaru District Council

**Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Environmental Services Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru, on Tuesday 27 August 2024, at 10.00am.**

### **Environmental Services Committee Members**

Clr Michelle Pye (Chairperson), Clr Owen Jackson (Deputy Chairperson), Clr Sally Parker, Clr Gavin Oliver, Clr Stu Piddington, Clr Allan Booth, Clr Peter Burt, Tewera King (Mana Whenua), Clr Stacey Scott, Clr Scott Shannon and Mayor Nigel Bowen

Quorum – no less than 5 members

### **Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968**

Committee members are reminded that if you have a pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda, then you must declare this interest and refrain from discussing or voting on this item, and are advised to withdraw from the meeting table.

Paul Cooper

**Group Manager Environmental Services**

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- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Public Forum**
- 3 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**
- 4 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**
- 5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**
- 6 Chairperson's Report**

## **7 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **7.1 Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 30 July 2024**

**Author:** Rachel Scarlett, Governance Advisor

#### **Recommendation**

1. That the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 30 July 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

#### **Attachments**

1. Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 30 July 2024



# MINUTES

## Environmental Services Committee Meeting Tuesday, 30 July 2024

Ref: 1701606

**Minutes of Timaru District Council  
Environmental Services Committee Meeting  
Held in the Council Chamber, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru  
on Tuesday, 30 July 2024 at Following Council Meeting**

**Present:** Clrs Michelle Pye (Chairperson), Owen Jackson (Deputy Chairperson), Sally Parker, Gavin Oliver, Stu Piddington, Stacey Scott, Scott Shannon, Mayor Nigel Bowen

**In Attendance:** **Community Board Members:** Michael Thomas (Pleasant Point Community Board)

**Officers:** Nigel Trainor (Chief Executive), Andrew Dixon (Group Manager Infrastructure), Paul Cooper (Group Manager Environmental Services) Stephen Doran (Group Manager Corporate and Communications), Andrea Rankin (Chief Finance Officer) Beth Stewart (Group Manager Community Services), Nicole Timney (Group Manager Property Services), Aaron Hakkart (Planning Manager – District Plan Review), Jayson Ellis (Building Control Manager), Maddison Gourlay (Communications and Marketing Advisor)

## **1 Apologies**

### **1.1 Apologies Received**

Moved: Clr Gavin Oliver

Seconded: Mayor Nigel Bowen

That the apology received of Clr Booth and Clr Burt be received and accepted.

## **2 Public Forum**

There were no public forum items.

## **3 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**

No items of urgent business were received.

## **4 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

## **5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Clr Stacey Scott declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 8.2, due to a her sitting on the district hearings panel.



## **6 Chairperson's Report**

### **6.1 Presentation of Chairpersons Report**

The Chairperson has attended a number of meetings including;

- An OTOP meeting
- Met a number of times with GM Mr Cooper to discuss various things including a proposed workshop on local leadership in the Fresh Water space and the role of Zone committees and Environment Canterbury's draft RPS.
- Met with Mr Ellis (Building Control Manager) regarding our submission on the changes to the Building act around granny flats which a report for discussion and decision in this meeting.
- Attended an online session for Zone Committees to provide feedback on Environment Canterbury's draft Regional Policy Statement.

#### **Resolution 2024/16**

Moved: Chairperson Michelle Pye

Seconded: Clr Gavin Oliver

**Carried**

## **7 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **7.1 Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2024**

#### **Resolution 2024/17**

Moved: Clr Scott Shannon

Seconded: Clr Sally Parker

That the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

**Carried**

## **8 Reports**

### **8.1 Actions Register Update**

Additional discussion was had around the water wone committee workshop, noting that it is set for 5 August, closing off this action.

#### **Resolution 2024/18**

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Clr Stu Piddington

That the Environmental Services Committee receives and notes the updates to the Actions Register.

**Carried**

## **8.2 District Plan Review Project Update**

The Planning Manager – District Plan Review spoke to his report noting that since writing they have held Hearing B, and have had feedback that those speaking felt engaged with in the preparation of the hearing. There may be changes to make better outcome for the hearings, but there is a desire to continue them on the same timeline.

Discussion was had around the extension of time to complete the review. An application is drafted and a meeting has been held with Ministry for the Environment (MfE) officers. A draft application has been sent to MfE for comment prior to lodgement, which officers are currently waiting for.

Intention is to lodge an application formally in the next couple of weeks. Staff are working hard to mitigate the risks within the application, the major risk is that the minister declines the extension, but this is seen as unlikely.

Discussion around approach to industrial growth. It is noted that the proposed district plan provides growth in the format it is notified. Changing this now during the process would be challenging, but 18 offers detail of a path in which growth could be accommodated in a future process.

### **Resolution 2024/19**

Moved: Clr Gavin Oliver

Seconded: Clr Scott Shannon

That the Environmental Service Committee receive and note this report.

**Carried**

## **8.3 Submission to the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on “Making it easier to build granny flats”**

The Building Control Manager spoke to his report. Their view being presented in the submission is has two aspects where they acknowledge that this change will have some challenges to make work, but also guidance for ways in which the industry can come to terms with them. It was noted that Government is keen to make changes and with that in mind it’s clear that the proposal is likely to go ahead, so council staff need to work out how can they make a fit for purpose and robust a process.

Discussion included support for the tone of the submission, outlines the positive but also the negatives, as well as financial impact on council income from not having to issue consents.

It was noted that there are still a long list of things that need to be met for that building not to require a consent and that loss of revenue would not be significant, as there isn't currently a lot of revenue from secondary dwellings.

There was further discussion about modular building systems being underutilised, and that the council tried highlight and raise awareness of this through the submission. If central government can help promote and set a pathway for businesses to provide this service it will have more robust results than people trying to go it alone.

Discussion over issues with utilities is an area of risk, concern was raised over the risk of the non-consented status encouraging corner cutting at other parts of a project. It was noted there will be less oversight over this, so this will be challenging.

### **Resolution 2024/20**

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cllr Owen Jackson

That the council approve this draft submission to the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on "Making it easier to build granny flats".

**Carried**

### **9 Consideration of Urgent Business Items**

No items of urgent business were received.

### **10 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

### **11 Public Forum Items Requiring Consideration**

There were no public forum items.

**Meeting closed at 1.55pm.**

.....  
Cllr Michelle Pye

**Chairperson**

## 8 Reports

### 8.1 Scope of Climate Change Response Plan

**Author:** Rhys Taylor, Climate Change Advisor

**Authoriser:** Paul Cooper, Group Manager Environmental Services

#### Recommendation

That the Environmental Services Committee:

1. Receives and notes the scope for Climate Change Response Action Plan; and
2. Provides direction on scope; and
3. authorises staff to commence relevant external consultation in advance of presenting an updated plan for adoption in October 2024.

#### Purpose of Report

- 1 The Draft Climate Change Response Action Plan (the Plan) is a non-statutory document intended to guide annual work plans and anticipate the next Long-Term Plan, focussed mostly on in-house operational activity and approaches taken to capital projects and procurement. It also relates to Local Government roles in providing services ranging from land use planning to emergency management, to social housing and recreational facilities – wherever there is opportunity to reduce (or mitigate) carbon emissions and to better adapt to a warming climate. It has been compiled by the Climate Change Advisor with assistance from colleagues in eight different units of the Council. It does not specify capital expenditures
- 2 It was requested as a follow up to the Council adopting a Climate Change Response Policy in February 2024 and appears in the Long-Term Plan. Some aspects are a follow-up to discussion of strategic issues identified in the public engagement of 2022-23, especially where the issues relate to Council assets or responsibilities.

#### Assessment of Significance

- 3 This matter has been assessed as being of low significance at this time, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

#### Background

- 4 The Plan scope attached is in part a response to independently facilitated public engagement in 2022-23 towards a District-wide *Climate Strategy* but is now less focussed than the original discussion on seeking external influence across the Timaru District, beyond Council operations.
- 5 In November 2023 the Environmental Services Committee supported: (i) further work planning by Council staff with coastal hut holders (See topics 16, 17 and 19 of attached Scoping Report); (ii) more investigation of economic impacts, including opportunities, brought by climate change (see topics 25 and 28); (iii) community education activity on transport emissions, waste reduction, rainwater storage, and domestic food resilience (see topics 3, 12, 22, 24, 27) plus (iv) topics to consider alongside Venture Timaru (see topics 1, 3, 25, 28).

- 6 A focus mostly on Council operations will have only a small impact on District-wide carbon emission mitigation, because the Council's carbon footprint (see Toitu verified TDC emission inventory for 2022-23) represents only 1.5% of the estimated emissions for the whole District in 2021 (from recently published Environment Canterbury data). It should contribute to the Council 'getting its own house in order' on those emissions which can be reduced, to potentially provide local leadership in the community.
- 7 Further drafting before re-presentation of this Plan in October will be influenced by Environment Canterbury's *Climate Action Plan* due for publication in September 2024 and will allow integration of Mayoral Forum Climate Partnership activity proposed for 2024-2027.
- 8 Changing Government context includes a draft *Second Emissions Reduction Plan* (published recently for consultation in August, on which a submission is being made by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum) and the Select Committee inquiry under way into Natural Hazards and Climate Change Adaptation, expected to influence new legislation.

### Discussion

- 9 The Plan will address Council's contribution to both **emission mitigation**, which reduces our contribution to the human causes of climate warming, and to **adaptation** which helps to address local impacts, from sea rise and extreme weather, brought by global climate warming.
- 10 Successive Governments, as signatories of international accords since Kyoto (2005) and Paris (2015), have shared this commitment.
- 11 Government's previously published guidance for councils has included a First National Emissions Reduction Plan (2022) and a First Adaptation Plan (2022). Progress is being monitored by the Climate Commission, whose August 2024 report has identified a need firstly for: "Central Government to provide a way forward by giving communities the tools they need to make their own choices. Supporting councils as they plan and act with their communities to live with the impacts of climate change is a key issue that needs to be addressed as soon as possible." Secondly, they indicated priority for: "Central government to be clearer about where the costs of climate impact would fall."

### Options and Preferred Option

- 12 Adoption of the Climate Change Response Policy in 2024 has indicated Council's willingness to act. The scale of submissions received on the Draft Long-Term Plan 2024 relating to climate change suggested that public interest in Council's response is strong, both for in-house work and for the wider community and economy.
- 13 It is proposed that the Committee receive this scoping report, offer guidance on its further development by staff and approve release in draft for wider consultation with relevant bodies including Manawhenua, Venture Timaru, Community and Public Health, and Environment Canterbury, before returning to the Council for further consideration and adoption.

### Consultation

- 14 Consultation thus far has been internal, conducted across staff in several Council departments.
- 15 In a second stage, during September, it would be appropriate to consult with organisations in a position to usefully inform and strengthen the Plan, as the challenges involved are complex and may require multi-agency involvement to make significant progress.

**Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans**

- 16 Context provided by TDC *Climate Change Response Policy (2024)*, *Infrastructure Strategy* (published with the 2024 Long Term Plan), *Waste Management Plan 2024*, and Canterbury Mayoral Forum *Climate Change Risk Assessment 2021*.
- 17 The Council's Strategic Risk Register lists significant natural hazards such as earthquake and flood at number one, and climate change impacts at number two: "the risk is that adaptation and mitigation actions may not be adequate to respond, absorb and/or reduce impacts of climate change".
- 18 Legislative and Government background taken from *Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019*; Ministry for the Environment *First National Adaptation Plan* and *First National Emissions Reduction Plan 2022*; and a consultation draft of the *National Emissions Reduction Plan 2024*.

**Financial and Funding Implications**

- 19 This Plan once complete will establish areas of focus for the next two years but does not in this draft contain costed new work programmes, which would be produced subsequently across the organisation for financial consideration in Annual and Long-Term Work Plans. Future asset management and project development should consider the recommendations to be incorporated into long term asset maintenance and development.

**Other Considerations**

- 20 This Plan is intended to influence Council Activity Management Plans for 2025-26 onwards and the next Long-Term Plan (2027). It will focus research meanwhile by Climate Change Advisory staff.
- 21 Community Boards could be invited to consider the Plan later in 2024 or early 2025 in the context of their local strategies.

**Attachments**

1. **Scope for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan TDC.docx** [↓](#) 

## Scoping TDC's first **Climate Change Response Action Plan**.

### A discussion draft

**This action plan scope** has been informed by preparatory work towards a Climate Strategy for Timaru District in 2022-23 and by *Climate Change Response Policy* adopted by the Council in February 2024. It is a non-statutory document, ready for further development during 2024.

Presentation to Environmental Services Committee is scheduled for 27 August 2024, to be followed by an update in early October (informed by further consultation and to account for additional Government policy statements expected on emission reduction and adaptation). It is intended to be in place ready to inform and influence TDC Activity Management Plans across Council for 2025 onwards and would be updated and detailed in a year's time, ready to assist the next LTP process. This is part of staff response to public input on the 2024 Long Term Plan.

It may be influenced by a *Climate Action Plan* to be published by Environment Canterbury in August 2024 and by a shared work plan for the *Mayoral Forum Climate Partnership*, in which TDC are active participants. Detail of the partnership work will be available to Council in September with a public launch likely in mid-October. The region-wide research and action *climate partnership work plan* could be presented for information to the Council's October meeting.

#### ***Climate warming, in a nutshell:***

*As our population has grown in the past 150 years, humans have used technologies that oxidise (i.e. burn) carbon extracted from the Earth's crust (as coal, oil, tar-sands and gas) to release energy for transport, water heating and chemical production of key materials such as cement and steel. This activity releases ancient atmosphere plant-stored 'fossil fuel' carbon dioxide into today's atmosphere in much larger quantities than the continuing natural process of growth and decay can recycle the carbon. In addition, agriculture has decreased carbon-storing forest cover and greatly increased pastureland supporting ruminant livestock, which belch methane from digestion; and also, the use of nitrogen fertilisers plus the livestock urine generates nitrous oxide, another potent greenhouse gas.*

*The Greenhouse Gases are so-called because they accumulate in the atmosphere where they have the effect of trapping a proportion of energy arriving from sunlight (a gain illustrated by the glazing in a greenhouse) which would otherwise have been lost into space. The net effect is a rise – higher and faster than seen in the last 800,000 years - in the average temperature of Earth's atmosphere, oceans and land, with measurable impact on weather patterns. It results in greater water evaporation from the oceans leading to a larger transfer by prevailing winds into rain on land, also faster drying of the land between rainfall (hence droughts and fires), stronger windstorms, larger cyclones/hurricanes/tornados. Whilst there is considerable weather variation from year to year in any location, the*

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*clearly established trend is climate warming. New Zealand has been affected perhaps less severely than some equatorial and tropical countries, so far, but climate warming impacts are measurable here and accelerating. Warming is also rapid in Antarctica. NZ is only a small contributor to total global greenhouse gas emissions, but our high-car use population plus livestock impact equates to globally high emissions per person, which suggests that taking action is desirable, to become less of a problem and more of a solution.*

*If global carbon emissions stay high or grow, the planet may warm by more than two degrees Centigrade. For the expected damaging effect of this see <https://climateadaptationplatform.com/what-happens-when-we-cross-the-2c-temperature-limit/>*

We are considering here our Council's contribution to emission **mitigation**, which reduces local contribution to causes of climate warming, and to **adaptation** which helps to address local impacts brought by global climate warming. We also have opportunities to influence wider responses within the geographic District.

Successive Governments have been signatories of international accords including Kyoto (2005) and Paris (2015), and Government's published guidance has included a First National Emissions Reduction Plan (2022) and a First Adaptation Plan (2022).

#### **Latest Government planning.**

A draft Second Net Emissions Reduction Plan for 2026-2023 has been released by the Coalition Government, open to submissions during August. The five broad aims or 'pillars' of this were announced by Climate Minister Simon Watts, in July 2024 as:

- infrastructure is resilient and communities are well prepared
- credible markets support the climate transition
- clean energy is abundant and affordable
- world-leading climate innovation boosts the economy, and
- nature-based solutions address climate change.

Examples of the Government's outline plans under each *pillar* include:

- Delivering a fair and enduring adaptation system that helps New Zealand be ready for climate change and provides clarity on costs.



- Pricing emissions fairly and effectively to incentivise emissions reductions. (reference to Emissions Trading Scheme)
- Doubling renewable energy by 2050 and installing 10,000 public charging points for electric vehicles.
- Providing tools and removing barriers to help businesses (including farmers) to innovate and prepare for the future.
- Restoring biodiversity, while investigating new ways of harnessing nature to remove emissions from the atmosphere, e.g. wetlands.

Detail from Government remains thin, and consultation has begun, with further information available at <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/climate-change/emissions-reductions/erp/>

#### Action planning for the Council

In this scoping of a TDC Climate Change Response Plan, for each proposed area of activity there is an indication of whether it could be timed early or late in the triennium 2024-2027, an expected scale/impact, and if it relates to mostly operational or capital work.


Climate change and natural hazard issues already identified by TDC Infrastructure teams for their work programmes are outlined in the 2024 *Infrastructure Strategy*, published with the Long-Term Plan. Where budgets for future actions would be new or differ from those available in the ten-year horizon of current LTP, input to the 2027 LTP would require preparation of project descriptions, timetable and feasibility analysis. **This early scoping stage is not costed** but may influence choice of priority effort.

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## Section A - Mitigation of Council's carbon emissions.

Examples of previous emission reductions at TDC have included introducing hybrid petrol engine cars to the Fleet; and replacing sodium streetlights with light-emitting-diode (LED) technology, as capital investments motivated by projected operational cost savings. Replacement of desktop computers by laptops has also reduced the office electric power use 'per worker' and thus slightly trimmed emissions.

**Table A. scope of a Mitigation Plan.**

Mitigation Activity	Early/later within decade?	Impact?	Capital cost?
<p><b>1. Measure to manage – TDC’s carbon inventory</b> (Baseline year 2022-23 using Toitu E-manage software for annual calculation, applying MfE-approved emission factors, with next independent verification booked for 2026.). Annual summary of findings, within the context of a 50x larger size District-wide carbon emission from all sources, assembled for 2012 by Environment Canterbury. Aim to improve accuracy of measurement in future years but recognise limited scope to make major reductions without reducing activity &amp; services. We are adding two Council-controlled Organisations’ operations data to TDC calculations from 2023-24 onwards (VT and TDHL).</p>	Under way. Annual.	Informs targets for mitigation effort.	no
<p><b>2. Consolidate progress being made at Redruth</b> by new landfill gas interception pipe network and controlled flaring (oxidises methane to less damaging H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub>). Photo below of the flare. Should reduce cost to TDC of required Carbon Unit purchases - once we have data for 2025-25.</p> 	Under way	Cumulative methane reductions	Previous spending

<p>In addition, EnviroNZ operate a new green-waste composting plant at Redruth, which provides an alternative to landfill disposal of organic material for kerbside Green Bin contents plus some commercial green waste sources. Perhaps add photo of new compost plant?</p>			
<p><b>3. Promote organic waste inputs being diverted from landfill</b>, through household and business behaviour changes, to reduce on-site methane production; encourage home and business on-site composting and use of kerbside Green Bin for commercial-scale composting.</p> <p>Alongside this (with EnviroNZ) better-educate consumers &amp; local manufacturers to identify non-recyclable categories of plastics to avoid purchase, which also reduces embodied carbon impact.</p>	early	measurable	Not scoped
<p><b>4. Explore scope for reduction of Green House Gas emissions from wastewater treatment plant</b> (methane and nitrous oxide). GHG impact of domestic and trade waste emissions is currently estimated from the total volumes handled, which is inaccurate: we also need to know more about what is sent down Trade Sewers and how chemicals there interact before emission to ocean. Identify water quality data collection &amp; cost for more accurate estimating. May also require review of Bylaws on acceptable wastes?</p> <p>Reporting of estimated annual emissions from wastewater treatment is now required by Taumata Arowai, which may be a precursor to an obligation to offset emissions, by buying carbon credits?</p> <p>Perhaps add photo of Aorangi Rd plant?</p> <p>Long term, the vulnerability of this coastal plant to sea level rise is an issue and the Water team intend to review future location options for wastewater treatment.</p> <p>Emission reductions could require different treatment technology from the current oxidation ponds which are based on biological actions of algae and other micro-organisms. Technology to investigate may include hydrolysis of wastewater to produce hydrogen (usable as fuel) plus ozone (a useful disinfectant of wastes).</p>	later	Could be significant	Yes, in longer term

<p>Explore scope for sealed <b>anaerobic digestors</b> to treat organic trade wastes and produce biogas – at sources upstream of flow into wastewater treatment and ocean outfall. (Is there scope for private/public partnership? Perhaps involve Venture Timaru <i>Sustainable Is Attainable</i> programme?)</p>			
<p><b>5.</b> For Council’s <b>freshwater storage locations</b>, such as Claremont in Timaru, we might consider feasibility and economics of floating and/or roof mounted solar PV panels to supply daytime power demand (plus an option of battery storage for overnight use of any surplus daytime power generated, which could also provide greater resilience during disruption of power grid.)</p>	early	Saves on grid power use (lower emission)	Capital cost for operational saving
<p><b>6.Reduce embodied carbon in TDC capital projects</b> – impact of civil engineering and building construction material choices and quantities, also contractors’ operational carbon efficiency in construction and maintenance work.</p> <p>Explore opportunity to measure and to influence via both design and specification (an early example: Aorangi stadium extension) and through purchasing policy on services and construction.</p> <p>Propose initiatives related to embodied carbon in road maintenance and future road construction. Recent rates of sealed road surface renewal would take 100 to 150 years to renew the entire network, so there is a backlog. Use of emulsion seal is already reducing embodied carbon compared to the cutback bitumen materials used a decade previously, although bitumen preparation technology is also improving to reduce emissions. Also explore scope to include any recycled plastic additives in the road seal, and resulting benefits/impacts?</p> <p>A little over 40% (741 km) of the District road network is unsealed, and predominantly low traffic volume. Roughness is measured using <i>Roadroid</i>. An estimated 100km would benefit from sealing extension, e.g. to assist milk tankers, forestry vehicles (as logging now under way on maturing 1990s boom in forest plantings), and to better-tackle heavy rainfall events, but these District roads are not funded by NZTA/Waka Kotahi. Consider low-carbon-emission approaches.</p> <p>One of the challenges to mitigating emissions from road building is that today’s heavier vehicles require a thicker road pavement at renewal, plus stronger bridges and culverts, which implies that</p>	Mid-term	significant	Capital cost for operational saving

	<p>more weight of material will be required per job (to be quarried or manufactured, transported and placed) which has potentially increased embodied carbon per km of road.</p> <p>Potholes and other road deterioration are managed with aid of <i>Junoviewer</i> software and a trial under way of <i>Pavestate/Geosolve</i> (multispeed deflectometer testing, analysed using Artificial Intelligence)</p> <p>Map here: Road assets are mapped in RAMM, indicating what parts of the network are <b>Critical, High, Medium or Low</b> priority: see colour coded map.</p>			
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<p><b>7. Re-visit TDC vehicle fleet policy.</b> Managing use &amp; renewal of vehicle fleet to cut emissions. Favour lower-emission vehicles, reduce total kms of use by efficient work scheduling and later the total no. of internal combustion engine vehicles required (and/or use biodiesel or biomethane). Introduce two or more EVs to the pool in 2025-26, as a trial.</p> <p>Set up an overnight ac charging facility for Fleet vehicles at Municipal Offices in 2025, and tackle other barriers to EV uptake at Council, which have included limited power availability in the CBD for vehicle fast-charging installations.</p> <p>Add a photo showing electric chargers replacing the petrol pump, to achieve carbon emission and cost reductions?</p> <p>Over time, we could extend this decarbonisation intention to major contractors to TDC, such as EnviroNZ’s fleet of kerbside bin-emptying vehicles, and equipment used by civil engineers and roading contractors.</p>	early	cumulative	Yes, but may reduce operational cost
<p><b>8. Apply recently updated purchasing policy to new contracts</b> to encourage lower embodied and operational carbon approaches by contractors.</p>	Mid-term	Potentially significant	cost savings by reducing waste?
<p><b>9. Plan, install and publicise more traffic-separated cycleways.</b> To reduce carbon emission impact, locate these to suit likely cycle commuting journeys as car travel alternative.</p> <p>Include cycleways within Future Design Areas, perhaps sharing green corridors for stormwater swales and biodiversity co-benefits?</p>	Mid-to long term	Small carbon savings	Previously NZTA funded, but that funding paused
<p><b>10. Identify small scale impacts</b> available from staff behavioural changes, with suggestions to address barriers to making such changes, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influencing staff commuting choices of transport mode &amp; journey sharing (e.g. set up an Intranet platform to encourage car journey sharing by staff);</li> <li>• Lower target vehicle travel speeds for Fleet fuel &amp; emission efficiency. Marginal impact on travel times.</li> </ul>	early	modest	Yes, if new facilities created. Some may have external grant funding?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk/bike/bus/car- share to work. Workplace parking space provision when limited, might favour shared cars; Within Timaru, staff car commuting in 2022-23 year released 52 tonnes CO2e and from outside Timaru 191.5 tonnes CO2e.</li> <li>• Improve cycle parking facilities at Council premises, trial a discounted e-bike purchase scheme (e.g. Workride), enable safe E-bike battery charging on premises.</li> <li>• Introduce staff to EVs for in-town journeys, otherwise use the most fuel-efficient.</li> <li>• Advocate to Alpine Energy, EECA and others for more public charging points for EVs across the District, including at new commercial developments and suitable Council facilities or on surplus TDC land (noting Government recent commitment to extending public-accessible charging network).</li> </ul>			
<p><b>11. Review energy efficiency</b> at selected TDC offices, libraries, stadium, freshwater reservoirs and other facilities, to find potential cost <i>and</i> carbon savings. (e.g. make a case study of King George Place offices' current energy efficiency, using self-assessed NARBERS, to inform any future refit?)</p> <p>The carbon emission reduction of efficiency gains secured in daytime electricity use is lower than carbon impact of fuel efficiency (or the substitution of electricity for fuels such as gas) because 85% of daytime electricity is generated from renewables. Council buildings' asset management should include priority to decarbonisation, phasing out any remaining fossil fuel use (such as the LPG used at Aorangi Stadium).</p> <p>Explore scope for PV power generation by reviewing TDC sites and premises, such as urban office and library buildings and detached rural land blocks (e.g. where PV is suited to shared grazing by sheep) provided adjacent to suitable power grid connection to allow power export, or utility work sites requiring daytime power such as Claremont freshwater reservoir (Noting t at PV generation has been used at other reservoirs in NZ); and on council housing for retired age-group. One consideration is assessing sufficient roof strength to support PV installations.</p>	early	modest	Yes where investment in new technology reduces operating costs and emissions?
<p><b>12. Public education on household and business opportunities for emission reduction</b> and also on value of carbon sequestration by trees, beyond focus on the Council's property holdings and influenced by our experience. Build on our 2024 publication for households seeking action, which is now available in print, as PDF download and as webpages. Explain emission reduction value of fully-electric homes. Picture below from <a href="http://www.rewiring.nz">www.rewiring.nz</a></p>	continuing	cumulative	Not capital

The diagram shows a cross-section of a modern home with several energy and utility features labeled with dashed lines pointing to their locations:

- Heat pump water heater (or resistance with solar)**: Located in the bathroom area.
- Heat pump (AC) (reverse cycle aircon)**: Located in the living area.
- Rooftop solar**: A large array of solar panels on the roof.
- Electric cooking**: Located in the kitchen area.
- Home battery backup**: A battery unit located in the garage area.
- Electric vehicles**: A blue car parked in the garage, connected to a charging station.
- Connected to grid**: A utility meter and connection point on the exterior wall.

**If we moved beyond education to regulation in future, we might use the planning consent and building consent system for new homes to discourage installation of fuel oil heating and gas for heating & cooking, in favour of electric heat pumps and cookers, because the fossil fuels are significant carbon emitters, and often the most expensive option. (see for example <https://www.consumer.org.nz/articles/home-heating-costs#article-renewable-vs-non-renewable-fuels> and: <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/insights/eeca-insights/the-impact-of-electric-homes/> )**

Affordable gas supply in NZ will also not last for the intended lifetime of today’s new buildings. Solar PV and batteries could be encouraged to reduce operating costs and increase resilience.



<p><b>13. Carbon forestry combined with catchment water quality protection</b> – explore scope for indigenous afforestation by public and private landowners of public supply water catchments, including consideration of attendant biodiversity values. If large enough areas these could attract carbon credit earning. South Taranaki District, for example, are considering reforesting 200 hectares of Council owned land over five years with a mix of non-wilding exotic timber and indigenous trees, eventually transitioning to native forest.</p>	<p>Mid-term</p>	<p>Carbon capture (offsetting)</p>	<p>Yes, if requires land purchase by Council</p>
<p><b>14. Administrative aspects, in-house</b>, might include introducing climate change impact statements to key committee decision papers, making reference to adopted policy and this plan, with cross-reference to other committed plans, such as for Waste Management and Land Transport. Decision-making would take account of adaptation for projected climate change; whether the proposed actions will increase or reduce carbon emissions and by what extent; and whether the decision will show climate response leadership to the wider community.</p>	<p>early</p>		<p>no</p>

More follows

## Section B. Local adaptation to impacts of the warming climate.

### Climate warming impacts identified and projected for South Canterbury include:

- Summer temperature extremes creating overheating of unshaded livestock and people (elderly and babies most vulnerable) and greater fire danger. Road seal softening.  
*7% increase in annual hot days above 25 degrees, between 1995 and 2055 in Timaru (NIWA projections, RCP06 climate model – which is not the most extreme - based on some lowering of carbon emissions globally)*
- Damage to buildings, businesses and closed landfill sites by floods and slips in valleys and at coastline – at high insurance cost, sometimes injury & lives lost (recent Auckland, Coromandel, Wairoa and Gisborne examples). Resulting economic damage and psychological stress.  
*Potential annual rainfall rise between 10% to 15% up from 1995 by 2055 in Timaru, most pronounced in winter. (NIWA projection, RCP06 climate model)*
- Disruption of transport by flood wash out of roads and bridge-approaches (Rangitata River floods 2019)  
Threats to domestic food supply source locations from extreme rain events (Hawkes Bay example) and to water supply quality from silt.
- Droughts, creating water scarcity for human and agricultural supply (Canterbury examples). Increasing need for storage.
- Fewer frost nights. Lack of winter chill for pip-fruit growers or ski-fields. But this may lengthen the grass-growing season.
- More extreme wind days. Storm disruption to power supplies (Northland examples), to communications technology, to airflights, also more turbulence during flights.
- Storm and fire damage to commercial forestry (Canterbury examples) and hailstorm damage to vehicles and structures (Timaru).
- Habitat loss in mountains, rivers and coastal wetlands, as ecosystems become eroded or experience temperature stress. Increased stress on new plantings of crops or trees. Faster spread of drought-tolerant weeds.
- Human respiratory health impacts from increased vehicle emissions, dust, pollen, smoke.

- Sea level rise at 1.7mm per year throughout this Century, and faster if there are ‘step change’ major melts of ice sheets in Antarctica or Greenland. It is predicted to increased frequency of what were 1 in 100-year coastal floods in Canterbury to annual occurrences by 2065.
- Economic impacts on food growing, processing and export (with both challenges and opportunities).

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Environment Canterbury commissioned a Regional Risk Assessment, which used a more challenging projection of RCP8.5 (‘business as usual’ which had growing global emissions), to warn of the consequences of inaction, going out to year 2100. <https://www.canterburymayors.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Canterbury-Climate-Change-Risk-Assessment-Summary-Report-2022.pdf> For a set of similar projections, but taken out to different dates, see MfE website: <https://environment.govt.nz/facts-and-science/climate-change/climate-change-projections/impacts-of-climate-change-per-region/projections-canterbury-region/>

The concept of resilience to climate warming is becoming better understood. Examples of *decreasing* resilience would include failing to take account of sea level rise, not thinking out to the expected life of buildings or structures when proposing new construction in hazardous sites, or an expected increase in heavy rainfall events not being accounted-for within designed stormwater capacity. Resilience is thus a measure of people’s ability and public service’s capacity to respond and adapt: anticipating local demands brought about by global climate warming.

This draft plan scope aims to increase resilience through adaptation in the built environment, in behaviours and public decision-making. Is it heading in the best direction, before moving into finer detail of plan and costings?

### Table B. scope of an Adaptation Plan.

Adaptation Activity	Early/later within decade?	Impact?	Capital cost?
15. Be well informed. Prepare a summary of local climate change impacts, predicted by NIWA, ECan, etc. (a range of impacts, based on several global IPCC models/scenarios). Quote emerging	early	inform	no

<p>direction on climate change response from draft Regional Policy Statement– anticipate impact when suggesting variation to our Proposed District Plan? E.g. in ‘Future Development Areas’, we need to select resilient housing sites &amp; design these for impacts of increased stormwater, compounded by groundwater rise if near the coast. Our Proposed District Plan would prohibit development in high hazard areas, guided by National Policy Statement on Natural Hazard Decision making and probably strengthened by future legislation.</p> <p>Local authorities are mapping coastal and river valley inundation hazards, thus identifying threatened properties. We anticipate insurance industry premium increases and potential withdrawal of cover in what those companies perceive as the most-at-flood-risk locations. The direction of planning policy at Environment Canterbury and the Proposed District Plan is towards excluding new development from high hazard areas.</p> <p>NIWA historic maps are at <a href="https://niwa.co.nz/climate-and-weather/canterbury">https://niwa.co.nz/climate-and-weather/canterbury</a> and projections at <a href="https://ofcnz.niwa.co.nz/#/nationalMaps">https://ofcnz.niwa.co.nz/#/nationalMaps</a> , plus Jacobs consultancy South Canterbury coast studies. Note that land surface drop is not a significant issue exacerbating effect of sea level rise on most of Timaru District’s coastline, unlike some parts of NZ (<i>SeaRise</i> at <a href="https://www.searise.nz/maps-2">https://www.searise.nz/maps-2</a>)</p> <p>Explore scope and affordability of using dedicated GIS mapping software to assist public communication, such as <i>Resilience Explorer</i> (which is used by Christchurch City, Nelson, Wellington far North and Waimakariri DCs and is on the agenda for Canterbury Climate Change Partnership).</p>			
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<p><b>A consistent understanding of risk across your region</b> Risk as a cornerstone of decision-making</p>  <p>NZTA, MoE, and HealthNZ can, using the information as council, assess the vulnerability of different assets and infrastructure, and align their investment priorities</p> <p>Regional Emergency Management can be coordinated by using a Common Operating Picture providing a real-time, continuously updated overview of an emergency.</p> <p>Canterbury councils can prioritise asset resilience investment due to scenarios risk testing to understand cascading impacts</p> <p>PowerNet can collaborate with councils and other lifeline providers to prepare long-term asset plans that ensures resilient infrastructure.</p> <p>Provide the primary sector with risk information to prepare and significantly reduce the social and financial impacts of climate events</p> <p>Provide IWI with access to the best available information to enhance their ability to evaluate mitigation options that are appropriate</p> <p><b>RESILIENCE EXPLORER™</b> powered by URBAN INTELLIGENCE</p> <p>Variations to Proposed District Plan may be required in future to help manage coastal land use, and protect public safety, to be guided by anticipated Climate Adaptation Legislation, in 2025. Coastal and river flood hazards are mapped in the online Proposed District Plan. See also 21 below.</p>			
<p><b>16. Consider, how long can we rely on historic sea &amp; river defences?</b> Plan for staged responses and agree adaptation trigger points before choice of specific physical intervention bunds or wall structures, or managed relocation or abandonment. Use <i>Dynamic Adaptive Pathway Planning</i>, sharing emerging good practice in and beyond Canterbury, with help from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network (ACAN).</p>	<p>Mid-and long-term</p>	<p>Large (if retreating)</p>	<p>Yes (if frequently rebuilding bunds &amp; walls)</p>

<p>A specific example of this is seen at Redruth where the Main Trunk rail line embankment, recently reinforced with stone by KiwiRail, currently protects Saltwater Creek and the landfill site from direct sea erosion. Perhaps insert aerial photo in final version?</p> <p>Environment Canterbury has a significant role in coastal land management and proposes policy requiring 'important' new buildings located in areas at risk of sea erosion to be relocatable (see draft Regional Policy Statement 2024).</p>			
<p><b>17. Explore the role of natural coastline evolution.</b> Consider opportunities for land-use change on intermittently inundated coast, providing nature-assisting brackish wetlands, as alternatives to unreliable sea-edge bunds or walls. Coastal habitats are scarce in Canterbury and existing lagoons/hapua are getting smaller each year as the coastline recedes towards or onto farmland. (Illustrate by Waitarakao/Washdyke project including proposed retreat to a new line of sea defence for land-uses.) Is there scope for new public 'esplanade/climate adaptation reserve' strips along other parts of the coast? This topic is also of interest to Canterbury Mayoral Forum Climate Partnership and ACAN. Perhaps Insert image in final document- show new sea defence line at Waitarakao?</p> <p>Respond to climate change impacts on biodiversity – Clarify TDC role in 'endemic biodiversity protection', alongside others including DOC, runaka and NGOs? Consider some of the Council's rural land holdings including roadside reserves as biodiversity restoration points, suited to community planting with eco-sourced indigenous plants and/or sites suited to natural regeneration, with aftercare in both to control exotic weed incursions? There may be carbon sequestration potential to earn Carbon Credits, where areas are large enough.</p>	Mid and long term	Regionally significant	Yes to build relocated sea defences, but who pays?
<p><b>18. Consider and map key public infrastructure's vulnerability at coastal and riverside locations</b> (including Council, NZTA, KiwiRail, and Alpine Energy/Transpower infrastructure): Protection of Main Trunk rail line, the Redruth active managed landfill, Peel Forest and the most vulnerable of 25 other small, closed landfills, Aorangi Road TDC Wastewater Treatment Ponds, Prime Port and nearby low-lying industrial/warehousing land at Washdyke.</p> <p>Explore range, predicted effects and durability of varied response options, including installing groynes at shore, making bunds or rock armouring, retreat behind new inland flood-barrier lines</p>	Early and continuing	large	later

<p>using natural solutions at seaward, and building relocations or raising structures on-site by owners provided servicing infrastructure is still viable (see also 16 above and 21 below).</p>			
<p><b>19. Focus geographically on the most vulnerable populations</b> in this District: where they are located and why they are vulnerable (e.g. to rising and/or saline groundwater, surface floods in valleys &amp; storm surge erosion of coastline).</p> <p>Recognise Local Government Act role for TDC in supporting population wellbeing and Emergency Management Act responsibilities when facing natural hazards, Resource Management Act role in planning: we shall need to distinguish between building capacity for emergency responses and potential longer-term resilience-building roles of both TDC and ECan: agreeing who leads on what. This will be influenced by proposed new legislation on Climate Adaptation, scope currently unknown.</p> <p>Begin proposed engagement actions in 2024-2027 with vulnerable communities, preferably in collaboration with ECan. We suggest including Community &amp; Public Health, as the significance of health impacts driven by climate change is likely to grow. This would involve practical information support and empowerment over several years for coastal residents, e.g. at South Rangitata Huts (where TDC is their ground landlord), Milford Huts and Waipopo.</p> <p>Perhaps Insert aerial image of Milford huts at high tide?</p> <p>Discuss climate challenges, resilience concepts, understand local aspirations and discuss a range of adaptation options and phased response trigger points with residents. Include discussion with Manawhenua on their needs and perspectives. Consider, but not be limited in engagement scope by, Proposed District Plan and Regional Policy Statement impacts on coastal settlements and by emerging climate adaptation legislation.</p> <p>We may need access to national or local funding for community work and process facilitation?</p>	<p>Early and mid-term</p>	<p>large</p>	<p>engineering works at some locations?</p>
<p><b>20. Consider human health dimensions</b> –overheated buildings in summer, rain-leaking homes, more pest insects including potential disease vectors such as mosquitoes, higher temperatures bringing increased bacteria risks to food. Environmental health planning at TDC in collaboration with Community &amp; Public Health.</p>	<p>Mid-term</p>	<p>Significant over time</p>	<p>Yes, when adapting TDC buildings</p>





<p>own housing stock. Publish pro-active advice to constructors of small homes &amp; ‘granny flats’ (up to 60 m<sup>2</sup>) especially if these are to be exempted by proposed new Legislation from Building Consent.</p> <p>Consider how best to advise residents of coastal huts on sanitation, health and planning aspects and construction approaches if staying at or deliberately relocating from the coast. Be aware of what triggers ‘campground’ status if a collective relocation of huts is considered.</p> <p>Advocate via LGNZ and professional bodies for better Building Code Regulations and use of higher quality building materials, as the Building Act is amended.</p> <p>Consider Bylaws encouraging rainwater collection and storage for garden and non-potable uses and to help mitigate peak storm flows; also providing water storage in civil emergency where it can be treated before use. Collaboration required with Taumata Arowai and Community Public Health.</p>	<p>continuing</p> <p>Mid-term</p>		
<p><b>23. Introduce water metering</b>, with associated educational activity. We may find that the Government encourages metering as part of the <i>Local Water Done Well</i> reform. Messages to users would include value of water use efficiency to ratepayers for demand management and its connection with resilience, including information about when and how to use <b>rainwater tanks as emergency supply</b>. Reducing water demand from public reticulation is especially useful in dry summers and useful after flood events which create turbidity at drinking water intakes.</p>	<p>Linked to meter roll-out</p>	<p>cumulative</p>	<p>yes</p>
<p><b>24. Explore concepts of supporting local resilience, to survive well after different emergencies.</b> Note parallels between large-earthquake vulnerability (particularly an Alpine Fault rupture) and storm event vulnerability. Note useful roles of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water storage (and optional access to on-site treatment to make it potable),</li> <li>• garden and community scale food production, home food storage,</li> <li>• community foodbanks and more-resilient supermarket supplies (Engage with Chamber of Commerce members, farmers and food retailers on planning for food security),</li> <li>• recruiting and training CD/EM volunteers,</li> <li>• Environmental Health Officer advise (in liaison with Taumata Arowai and Community Public Health as appropriate) on sanitation, food safety in event catering, welfare centres, water storage and use.</li> <li>• decentralised solar or wind power generation with associated battery storage,</li> </ul>	<p>Early (in liaison with CD-EM)</p>	<p>Significant (impact extends beyond TDC)</p>	<p>Yes, such as providing and equipping safe welfare centre locations</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dry and strong places for safe refuge and assembly,</li> <li>• voluntary ‘resilience hubs’ on private land, encouraged for neighbours outside towns,</li> <li>• relocatable power sources for water pumping and lifeline services including communications.</li> <li>• extend Council role held by CD/EM into a wider and longer-term look at resilience?</li> </ul>			
<p><b>25. Agricultural and commercial vulnerability and opportunities within District:</b> food supply security and local economic impacts of climate change (including opportunities). Impacts of farm diversification on resilience. Community and commercial responses. Explore farm bio-methane potential to both reduce livestock effluent emissions and capture CO2. Note ‘Sustainable is Attainable’ industry initiatives on decarbonisation and waste reduction – engage with future work on this by Venture Timaru and businesses.</p>	Mid-term	Significant (larger scale than TDC in-house)	Not by TDC unless private/public partnership
<p><b>26. Drought and wildfires:</b> are a greater hazard inland at present (Mackenzie Basin examples such as Ohau Village and near Lake Pukaki), but we’ve just had unusually dry autumn 2024 on coast. Publicise how to reduce fire vulnerability. Changing urban parks and roadside Significant Natural Area management practices for combined adaptation and emission mitigation, now that Parks management is moving ‘in house’.</p>	Mid-term	Modest, (until droughts increase)	?
<p><b>27. Community education on adaptation and mitigation.</b> Follow up to the June 2024 household-focussed publication by TDC/WDC (PDF version free at <a href="http://www.timaru.govt.nz/climatechange">www.timaru.govt.nz/climatechange</a> or print version \$5 at Council offices) with public talks, media input, stalls at larger public events, etc. Available photograph to insert of two mayors with this new publication?</p> <p>Explore future scope to employ an advisor to the public and building trades, operating like the Eco-Design Advisors at six other Councils. (see: <a href="http://ecodesignadvisor.org.nz">ecodesignadvisor.org.nz</a>). Explore scope for collaboration with external partners such as BRANZ, Sustainable South Canterbury Trust and Energy Smart, and potential external funding assistance from EECA?</p>	Early  Mid-term	cumulative	No
<p><b>28. A forum or summit with invited-participation</b> to guide leading decision-makers from across the District towards shared recommendations for action on the major climate-related impacts identified in <i>The First Report on the Timaru District Climate Change Strategy April 2023</i>.</p>	Early	Extends impact.	Invites investment by others

## 8.2 Environmental Services Group Update

**Author:** Paul Cooper, Group Manager Environmental Services

**Authoriser:** Paul Cooper, Group Manager Environmental Services

### Recommendation

1. That the Environmental Services Group Update report be received and noted.

### Purpose of Report

- 1 The Environmental Services Committee via the Chair has requested regular BAU updates from each unit of the Group. The following brief report will be tabled periodically by way of an update about BAU.

### Assessment of Significance

- 2 This report is recommended to be received and noted, with no decision being sought by officers. Consequently, when considered against the criteria of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, it is of low significance.

### Discussion

- 3 The sections below have been provided by unit managers. Each manager has considered what might be of interest to the Committee. Climate Change is an activity that sits outside the units, and has been reported on separately.

#### 4 District Planning - District Plan Review

- 4.1 The District Plan Review continues to progress with matters to arise during Hearing B currently being responded to. The completion of these tasks will allow for the Hearings Panel to form initial views on the submissions heard. Decisions will not be issued until the completion of the hearings schedule. Officers continue to work with submitters where appropriate to respond to any outstanding matters so that any agreement in position can be reflected in responses to the panel.
- 4.2 An application to the Minister for a time extension has been lodged and we await a response on this application. Feedback was received from staff at the Ministry for the Environment prior to lodgement of this request. Matters raised within the feedback were responded to within the formal application that has been lodged.
- 4.3 Since the last update, the hearings stream and the associated allocation of topics has also been refined to acknowledge the need for more time to better respond to submissions, and to seek further information from submitters that will support reporting officers in making recommendations to the panel. The Hearings Panel reviewed the revised schedule and determined that there was not a need to progress with Hearing C, with these topics moved to Hearing D. This movement allows for a more efficient use of the panels time and is a positive for the project from an efficiency perspective.

## 5 District Planning – Consents, Compliance & Strategy

- 5.1 The Resource Management consenting team have received a Notice of requirement for works (including potential land takes) along SH1 south of Timaru. There has been ongoing processing of a major application on serviced highly productive land, adjacent to the Wastewater Treatment Plant along Meadows Road and the sign-off of a s224 (final stage of subdivision at the Showgrounds) on what is probably the most complicated site in the district.
- 5.2 There has been an encouraging application for reuse of an empty first floor, above existing retail/hospitality on Stafford Street for apartments.
- 5.3 The team are to advertise shortly for a 0.5FTE Biodiversity Officer and 1FTE Compliance Officer role, which will significantly boost the capacity of the team. There are several ongoing biodiversity related work projects and there is support for work around the district including a request to enter into a charter with other parties associated with the Long-Tailed Bat Working Group. The roles are being funded from within existing budget.
- 5.4 There have been some complex investigations and interventions around breaches of RMA provisions including a wood chipping operation and an unconsented contractor along SH1. These are ongoing compliance and enforcement investigations.
- 5.5 The resource consent applications for financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24 are as follows:

### **2022 – 2023**

Subdivision	99 decisions
Land Use	108 decisions

### **2023 – 2024**

Subdivision	69 decisions
Land Use	117 decisions

## 6 Environmental Compliance

### Noise Control

**Table 1** - Noise call outs by month

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
January	83	95	107	102	387
February	56	95	75	104	330
March	105	70	79	87	341
April	64	77	72	71	284
May	37	55	66	55	213
June	39	47	66	64	216
July	44	65	79	68	256
August	62	60	52		174
September	82	83	80		245
October	90	120	65		275
November	109	97	59		265
December	96	142	81		319
<b>Total</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>3305</b>

- 6.1 Timaru District Council offers a 24/7 noise control service which is undertaken by First Security on behalf of Council.
- 6.2 Typically, the types of noise call outs relate to stereo music, noisy pubs and clubs, noisy workshop equipment.
- 6.3 Noise generated by commercial enterprises, or heat pumps requires more detailed investigation and hence sits with the planning compliance officer and is not included in these statistics.
- 6.4 From table 1 above, you can see that the noisy months are typically the warmer months when people are likely to be socialising more.
- 6.5 From the above figures, you will note that noise had increased during the 2022 calendar year, and this would have no doubt been because of more people using loud music as an outlet during the height of the pandemic.
- 6.6 In terms of table 2, you will note that the most problematic areas are Temuka, West End and Marchwiell.
- 6.7 The noise contract is structured along a fixed fee rate, which has benefits for both council and the contractor, as the cost is fixed for both parties enabling the contractor to guarantee an income to support the required staff, with the flip side of Council being able to be more accurate with budgeting.
- 6.8 The average callout time for the satellite towns is around 45 minutes to an hour with around the 30 to 45 minutes response time within the Timaru town boundary.
- 6.9 **Table 2** – Noise call outs by suburb

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
#n/a	43	60	51	75	229
Cave		3		1	4
Fairlie	1				1
Geraldine	38	31	37	8	114
Gleniti	22	14	4	11	51
Glenwood	50	53	19	23	145
Highfield	56	58	47	21	182
Kensington	56	41	18	29	144
Maori Hill	12	32	18	7	69
Marchwiell	83	94	80	76	333
Oceanview	6	14	10	5	35
Pareora	10	18	3	8	39
Parkside	49	76	98	44	267
Pleasant Point	9	4	16	9	38
RD 1	1	2		1	4
RD 12		2			2
RD 13			2		2
RD 2	3		2		5
RD 21		1		1	2
RD 22	2	6	11	4	23
RD 25	3	25	27	2	57
RD 26		6	3	2	11
RD 3	20	82	10	3	115
RD 4		1	9	9	19
RD 5	4	11	2	3	20
Redruth	1	1		2	4
Seaview	95	47	55	31	228
Smithfield			1		1
Temuka	65	112	116	48	341
Timaru	8	14	20	24	66
Waimataitai	44	54	61	40	199
Washdyke	5	19	12	12	48
Watlington	64	34	35	36	169
West End	117	89	113	16	335
Winchester		2	1		3
<b>Total</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>3305</b>

- 6.10 The Resource Management Act 1991 outlines the requirements regarding the mitigation of noise.
- 6.11 When council receives a noise complaint, the officer investigates. The officer's use a matrix to determine the level of noise. This provides for a consistent approach to each case.
- 6.12 The matrix considers the bass, tone, noise level as well as time of day or night.
- 6.13 A numerical value is arrived at because of assessing the noise against the matrix. If a level of 5 or above is reached, then the officer will issue a warning. Should this occur again in a 72hr period, then the officer will issue an excessive noise direction. Should the offender, re-offend within this period, the officer will seize the equipment.

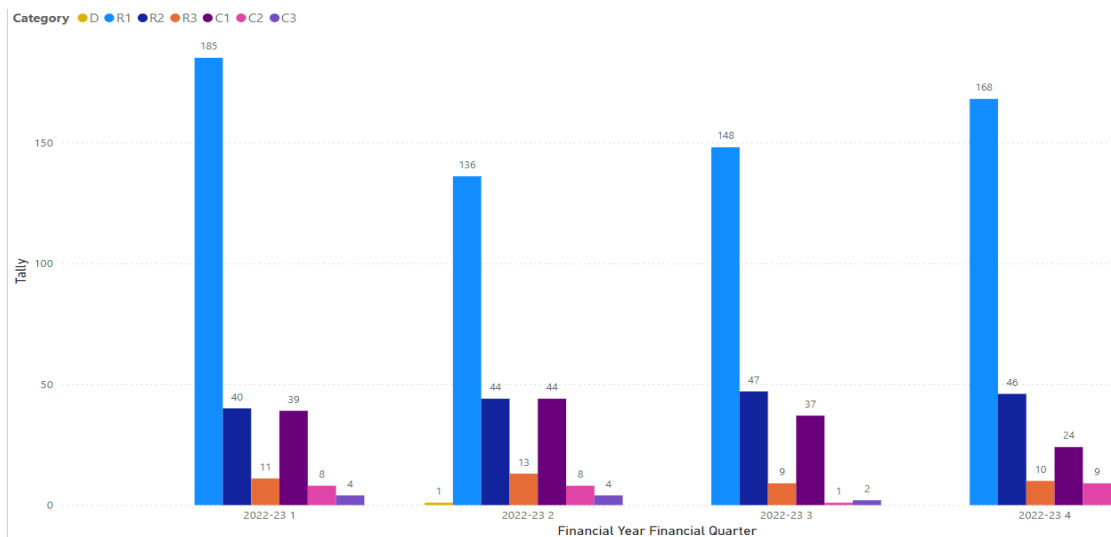
- 6.14 Once equipment is seized, officers will assess the case and determine if an abatement notice is to be issued. Where an abatement notice is issued and an offence occurs again, officers can immediately seize equipment and issue a \$750.00 fine.
- 6.15 A total of 5 infringements have been issued during this current financial year.
- 6.16 There are a total of 68 properties within the district that currently have abatement notices against them. Abatement notices are only lifted once a property changes hands or has a change of tenants and at the request of the property owner.
- 6.17 In most cases, an abatement notice, and infringement notice will resolve the problem, however this is not always the case. Council could prosecute in cases where offenders disregard notices and abatements, but this does require substantial evidence and rigor to ensure a successful outcome. Officers have recently undertaken work in this regard, in readiness to consider taking a prosecution in a recidivist offender case.

## 7 Building Control

### General workloads – painting the picture over the last 2 Financial Years

7.1 There has been much talk about workloads dropping off and building consent numbers are down. Whilst this is the case for most areas throughout the country, the Timaru District is fortunate there is a diverse range of business, industry and residential work all happening at varying levels. This is significant for us as these work streams tend to perform reasonably consistently without the peaks and troughs that other areas experience, where they are more reliant on one type than another (e.g residential).

### 7.2 **Graph 1** - Building Consent Application Received 2022/23 – Total 1038

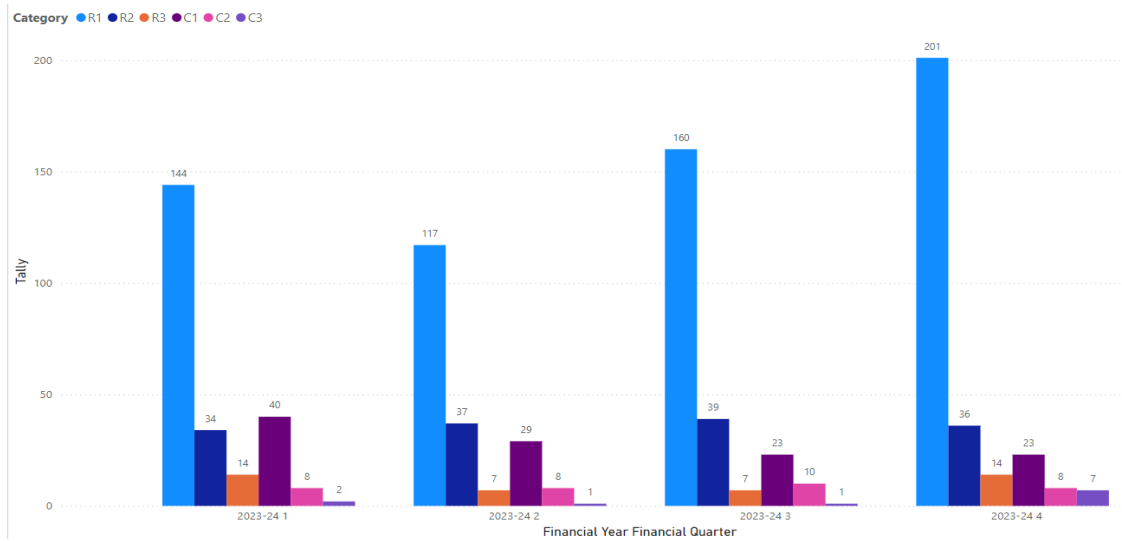


**Basic definitions:**

- D = Demolition
- R1 = Residential 1, single story.
- R2 = Residential 2, equal to two storeys.
- R3 = Residential 3, equal to three storeys.
- C1 = Commercial 1, equal to or less than two storeys.
- C2 = Commercial 2, equal to or less than four storeys.
- C3 = Commercial 3, over four storeys high.

7.3 **Graph 2 - Building Consent Application Received 2023/24 – Total 970**

7.4



Whilst the graphs in 7.3 show the amount of building consents applications received, the regulatory requirement for the Building Consent Authority (BCA), is granting these applications within 20 working days. There are many challenges faced by the BCA in achieving this time frame, with no recognition to the variation of work required to assess applications from Solid Fuel Heater to a significantly complex multi storey building, the 20-day timeframe is the same for each.

7.5 Notwithstanding this, the team perform reasonably consistently when it comes to meeting our 20-day timeframes.

7.6 **Table 1 - Building Consent Granted and the average % for the year 2022/23.**

(Performance Targets)	Total Issued	Total Granted	Granted within 20 days	Granted Percentage
July	105	113	107	94.69%
August	91	106	87	82.08%
September	91	99	89	89.90%
October	79	73	61	83.56%
November	95	103	96	93.20%
December	73	74	55	74.32%
January	68	53	43	81.13%
February	82	91	83	91.21%
March	123	115	107	93.04%
April	87	86	83	96.51%
May	106	108	105	97.22%
June	85	86	81	94.19%
			Average	89.25%



7.7 **Table 2** - Building Consent Granted and the average % for the year 2023/24.

(Performance Targets)	Total Issued	Total Granted	Granted within 20 days	Granted Percentage
July	83	92	84	91.30%
August	104	90	87	96.67%
September	69	63	62	98.41%
October	84	87	82	94.25%
November	73	65	65	100.00%
December	66	62	59	95.16%
January	47	41	41	100.00%
February	74	65	64	98.46%
March	83	87	85	97.70%
April	84	90	88	97.78%
May	110	106	100	94.34%
June	72	81	76	93.83%
			Average	96.49%

Accreditation Assessment

- 7.8 The Timaru BCA achieved its accreditation in November 2008 and has passed each subsequent bi-annually assessment conducted by International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ), with the most recent in February 2024. This latest assessment was one of the most successful audits receiving only 7 General Non-Compliances and 2 Serious Non-Compliances. During the exit meeting the lead assessor made specific comment to the fact that we were achieving “Best Practice” with 3 of the functions we perform, a status they admitted is rarely achieved.

Additional roles to the Administration team

- 7.9 In July 2023 the Administration team took over the responsibility and management of booking building inspections and producing Building File requests. These functions were previously performed by the Customer Services Team and the Records Team respectively. The change of bringing these functions into the building unit has been a successful one, having received feedback from our customers confirming it is great to speak with those that have specific knowledge relating to their enquiries.

Competent team

- 7.10 Competency is the currency of performing technical functions carried out by Building Control Officers (BCOs). To perform a technical function the BCO must have attained a relevant qualification (level 6) and be assessed by a third party as being competent. The frequency of these competency assessments has changed this year from annual to bi-annual. This has assisted in reducing the pressure and stress on the BCOs to produce the evidence required and the cost relating to these assessments has approximately halved to circa \$12,000.

Continuously evolving

- 7.11 Our recently approved submission to the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) relating to the “Granny Flat” proposal has been submitted and we await a response. Council has asked to speak to our submission with the intent of

providing further context and encouragement for the use of the existing regulatory tools that we believe will assist with its intent and implementation.

- 7.12 There are other changes on the horizon relating to the use of remote inspections and rolling back the changes to building code clause H1 Energy Efficiency that were implemented in November 2023. There is also the ongoing work relating to the bigger picture of the Building Consenting System and the many aspects of this, which we will hopefully get the opportunity to provide further submissions on.
- 7.13 An internal project of our technical team is focussing on the need to record our decisions in a way that is more effective and robust. We are looking at how we have performed our functions and decision making in the past, taking these learnings, and exploring how we can make better decisions for the future. We acknowledge this is a mindset change and will take some time to adjust, however we acknowledge the importance of this change and the enduring benefits that will result from it relating to outcomes and decisions.

## **8 Civil Defence Emergency Management**

- 8.1 We have continued to enhance our Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) capabilities through ongoing training and exercising. This has included an EOC stand up drill, refreshers and formal training in the EOC pathway. This pathway includes EOC Foundations, giving people the initial understanding of what an EOC is and how to operate in one, the EOC intermediate course which builds on those skills and adds knowledge and experience and specific EOC function training. These courses will continue to be delivered over the next two months. The training has expanded the EOC team by increasing staff numbers and equipping them with more specialized skills through targeted function-specific training sessions. The goal is to continue building an efficient team capable of managing emergency scenarios over a sustained period if required.
- 8.2 We will continue to promote EOC training as a core component of council staff members roles. To achieve this, we are working to incorporate the EOC Foundation course into the standard on-boarding of all new staff members, making sure that they have the skills required to meet the expectations that may be placed on them to operate in the EOC. This will help build the total number of the EOC team while reinforcing Emergency Management is a critical part of the Council's responsibilities.
- 8.3 A key component of our preparedness strategy is the development and distribution of the "Are You Ready?" guide booklet. This comprehensive resource has been crafted, printed, and mailed to households to provide residents with crucial information on emergency readiness. By enhancing public awareness and preparedness, the guide serves as an essential tool in fostering community resilience and ensuring that individuals are well-informed about the actions to take during emergencies. The requirement to educate communities on how to build their own resilience plans was a key learning from the North Island Severe Weather Events.

## **Attachments**

**Nil**



**9 Consideration of Urgent Business Items**

**10 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**

**11 Public Forum Items Requiring Consideration**