



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Date Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Time 10:30 am

Location Council Chamber
District Council Building
King George Place
Timaru

File Reference 1876169

Timaru District Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Ordinary Council will be held in the Council Chamber, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru, on Tuesday 29 September 2026, at 10:30 am.

Council Members

Mayor Nigel Bowen (Chairperson), Clrs Stacey Scott, Peter Burt, Stu Piddington, Scott Shannon, Michelle Pye, Owen Jackson, Graeme Wilson, Chris Thomas and Philip Harper

Quorum – no less than 5 members

Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

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

Nigel Trainor

Chief Executive

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- 1 Opening Prayer and Waiata**
- 2 Apologies**
- 3 Public Forum**
- 4 Identification of Urgent Business**
- 5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**
- 6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

7 Confirmation of Minutes

7.1 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 August 2026

Author: Jessica Kavanaugh, Democracy Services Lead

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 August 2026 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 Council Meeting held on 25 August 2026**



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting Tuesday, 25 August 2026

Ref: 1876169

**Minutes of Timaru District Council
Ordinary Council Meeting
Held in the Council Chamber, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Tuesday, 25 August 2026 at 10:30 am**

Present: Mayor Nigel Bowen (Chairperson), Clrs Stacey Scott, Peter Burt, Stu Piddington, Scott Shannon, Michelle Pye, Owen Jackson, Graeme Wilson, Chris Thomas, Philip Harper

In Attendance: **Community Board Members:** Rachel Wilson (Geraldine)

Officers: Nigel Trainor (Chief Executive), Stephen Doran (General Manager Corporate), Andrea Rankin (Chief Financial Officer), Paul Cooper (General Manager Regulatory, Development and Growth), Suzy Ratahi (General Manager Land Transport), Mike Wrigley (General Manager Recreation Facilities), Andrew Lester (General Manager Drainage and Water), Steph Forde (Strategic and Corporate Planner), Elliot Higbee (Legal Services Manager), Cara Fitzgerald (Gallery Director), Joanne Hamilton (Team Leader Animal Control / Parking), Sharon Hoogenraad (Chief Licensing Inspector / Enforcement Officer), Brendan Madley (Senior Policy Advisor), Aaron Hakkaart (Planning Manager), Alesia Cahill (Executive Support Manager), Tyler Zandrack (Senior Management Accountant), Matthew O'Brien (Finance Manager / Financial Accountant), Selina Kunac (Transport Strategy Advisor), Bhavisha Kapadia (Marketing and Communications Advisor), Jessica Kavanaugh (Democracy Services Lead)

Public: Howard and Leanne Brockie, John Shirtcliff

1 Opening Prayer

Andrew Maude (Wilson Street Baptist) conducted the opening prayer

The Community Partnership Team Leader led the Waiata

2 Apologies

That the apologies of Temuka Community Board Member John Jackson be acknowledged.

3 Public Forum

3.1 Petition Received

Resolution 2026/136

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Clr Stacey Scott

That the Council receives and notes the petition from the Pareora Community.

Carried

Attachments

1 Petition - Pareora Residents 17.08.2026*Howard and Leanne Brockie (Geraldine Top 10 Holiday Park)*

Howard advised the council that they are applying for a lease for the Geraldine Top10 Holiday Park. Howard provided the council with their background in the industry, including parks previously managed. The current lessee and previous owner approached Howard and Leanne to take the business over and provided a sublease. Howard and Leanne have owned and operated the Geraldine Holiday Park since January 2024. The number of improvements to the Holiday Park in this time was highlighted, along with a number of awards that have been won. The plans for the future were advised. Their engagement within the community was highlighted. The current financial position of the business was noted.

John Shirtcliff

John Shirtcliff spoke to the presentation provided to the councillors, which included Statutory mandates under the Local Government Act, Duty of Care, history of slips and trips on the tiles, inaction, continuing risk, lack of injury reporting, failure to apply the Significance and Engagement Policy, lessons from the Davison Report, risk assessments, cost of harm, exemplary damages, and historic headlines and articles.

Clr Owen Jackson provided clarification that during the presentation John mentioned comments made by Clr Owen Jackson; however, these comments were made by another candidate, not Clr Owen Jackson.

Attachments**1 John Shirtcliff Public Forum Presentation 25.08.2026****4 Identification of Urgent Business**

No items of urgent business were received.

5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

- Mayor Nigel Bowen declared a conflict of interest in item 9.4 Annual Report to Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority. Mayor Nigel Bowen will sit back from the table during this item, and Deputy Mayor Scott Shannon will resume the Chair.
- Clr Stacey Scott declared a conflict of interest in item 13.5 Proposed District Plan - Bidwill Trust Hospital Appeal

7 Confirmation of Minutes**7.1 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 July 2026****Resolution 2026/137**

Moved: Clr Peter Burt

Seconded: Clr Stacey Scott

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 July 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

7.2 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31 July 2026

Resolution 2026/138

Moved: Clr Peter Burt

Seconded: Clr Michelle Pye

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31 July 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

7.3 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 7 August 2026

Resolution 2026/139

Moved: Clr Stacey Scott

Seconded: Clr Scott Shannon

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 7 August 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

8 Schedules of Functions Attended

8.1 Schedule of Functions Attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors

Resolution 2026/140

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Clr Peter Burt

That the Schedule of Functions Attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors be received and noted.

Carried

8.2 Schedule of Functions Attended by the Chief Executive

Resolution 2026/141

Moved: Clr Owen Jackson

Seconded: Clr Philip Harper

That the Schedule of Functions Attended by the Chief Executive be received and noted.

Carried

9 Reports

9.1 Actions Register Update

The Chairperson spoke to the report to provide Council with an update on the status of the action requests raised by councillors at previous Council meetings.

It was noted that another discussion is required by the Mayor and the Chief Executive

Resolution 2026/142

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Clr Michelle Pye

That the Council receives and notes the updates to the Actions Register.

Carried

9.2 Affixing of the Common Seal

Council considered the report noting the affixing of the Common Seal to an Approval of Warrants of which names have been redacted to protect the privacy of employees.

Resolution 2026/143

Moved: Clr Chris Thomas

Seconded: Clr Peter Burt

That the following warrants have been approved by the Chief Executive and are being reported to the Council for noting:

22 July 2026– Approval of Warrants

Carried

9.3 Dog Control Annual Report for the 2025/2026 Year

The General Manager Regulatory, Development and Growth and Team Leader Animal Control / Parking spoke to the report to inform the Council of the dog control activities during the 2025/2026 financial year and to comply with statutory reporting requirements.

Clarification was sought on the dangerous dogs that departed the district throughout the year. Discussion was had on failure to register dogs, which had gone up since the previous year.

The number of service requests was clarified, including that there might be multiple people reporting the same event. There was further discussion around the cost of appealing a decision and the different levels of appeals which can incur higher costs.

Further discussion included the funding of the animal control unit and the dog control act and bylaw.

Resolution 2026/144

Moved: Cllr Scott Shannon

Seconded: Cllr Owen Jackson

That Council receive and note:

1. Dog Control Annual Report for the 2025/2026 year; and
2. That in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 the report be publicly notified; and
3. That the report is forwarded to the Secretary for Local Government.

Carried

9.4 Annual Report to Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority

The Mayor sat back from the table during this item; Deputy Mayor Scott Shannon chaired this item.

The General Manager Regulatory, Development and Growth and Chief Licensing Inspector / Enforcement Officer spoke to the report to inform Council about the Annual Report to the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority (ARLA).

Discussion included the administration required for Hearings and objections. It was confirmed the Ministry of Justice set the fees with a portion going to ARLA.

Resolution 2026/145

Moved: Cllr Peter Burt

Seconded: Cllr Chris Thomas

That Council receives and notes the Annual Report to the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority.

Carried

Mayor Nigel Bowen resumed as Chairperson.

9.5 Aigantighe Art Gallery Collection Policy - receipt of submissions, deliberations and adoption

The General Manager Recreation Facilities, Gallery Director and Senior Policy Advisor spoke to the report for Council to receive submissions on the draft Aigantighe Art Gallery Collection Policy (the

policy), deliberate on the submissions and proposed policy and adopt the policy, with or without amendments.

Discussion included in clause 46 of the policy the potential financial gain and reinvestment into the collection. The ability to reinvest the funds into other expenses associated with the Gallery, which depends on the artwork and where the funds came from. The wording of this clause was discussed further in relation to “merely on a personal whim or fashion”. It was clarified that any deaccession would follow a structured process against a criteria to enable transparency and predictability.

Further discussion was had on gallery storage and when deaccessions occur. Clarification was sought on long-term loans, bequest monies and the restrictions on using the funds.

It was confirmed that the feedback on the policy from Te Papa via Museums Aotearoa advised the policy was silent on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and mana whenua, which was the reason this section was added into the policy. There was further discussion on the reference to the Treaty of Waitangi reflecting other commitments that Council has made in other documentation.

It was requested that clauses 29 and 41 be amended to recognise a broader range of cultural provenance. Clarification was sought as to whether bequest funds could be applied to other Gallery expenses where permitted by the terms of the bequest, noting the exclusion in clause 28 of the policy. It was confirmed that approximately 95% of the collection is privately funded, with limited funding from rates. A further request was made to clarify the provenance of artworks within the policy.

Confirmation was sought on whether the environmental conditions and climate controls for storing the art are currently being met. The need for further consultation was discussed; it was advised that due to the additions reflecting existing practice and commitments, it was considered non-material.

Further clarification was sought on the environmental temperature being removed along with the fumigation and pest control in clause 67. The councillors discussed the difference between the use of the Treaty of Waitangi and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

There was discussion on the Theatre Royal art collection.

Resolution 2026/146

Moved: Clr Michelle Pye

Seconded: Clr Peter Burt

That Council:

1. Receive and note the *Aigantighe Art Gallery Collection Policy – receipt of submissions, deliberations and adoption* report;
2. Deliberate on submissions and the proposed final policy;
3. Delegate authority to the Mayor to adopt the changes to the “Aigantighe Art Gallery Collection Policy”;
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve non-material changes to the policy outside of formal reviews; and
5. Require that any non-material changes to the policy are reported to Council at the following Policy Update.

Carried

9.6 Biennial Community Survey 2025/26 Results

The General Manager Corporate and Strategic and Corporate Planner spoke to the report to present Council with results from the 2025/26 biennial community survey.

Discussion included how the information received can be used moving forward, and the ability to share good news stories. The disconnect in the results was noted, along with the ability to get better information from the questions without needing assumptions in the future.

It was advised how the results will be utilised in the forward works programme.

Resolution 2026/147

Moved: Cllr Chris Thomas

Seconded: Cllr Scott Shannon

That Council receive and note the *Biennial Community Survey 2025/26 Results* report.

Carried

9.7 Temporary Road Closure Applications - Section 342 and Schedule 10, Clause 11(e) LGA

The General Manager Land Transport spoke to the report to seek the Council's approval of temporary road closure application(s), as per Section 342 and Schedule 10, Clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974.

It was noted that the incorrect date was listed in the report; the date for the road closure is 07 November 2026 from 9.30am to 3.00pm. The proposed closure area was also incorrect it should state 'Main Road, State Highway 8 from Te Ngawai Road to Munro Street. Halstead Road from Main Road to Harris Street, Khan Street from Afghan Street to Main Road.

Resolution 2026/148

Moved: Cllr Scott Shannon

Seconded: Cllr Peter Burt

That Council:

1. Approve the temporary road closure application(s) listed in the table in Section 7 of this report, under Section 342 and Schedule 10, Clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, including all conditions proposed by officers.
2. Approve that traffic management for the application(s) listed in the table in Section 8 of this report be funded from the Community Events and Programmes budget.

Carried

9.8 Wai-iti Road Street Trees Removal & Replacement

The General Manager Land Transport and Transport Strategy Advisor spoke to the report to seek Council approval for the removal of 34 Rowan (*sorbus aucuparia*) street trees on Wai-iti Road, between Mountainview Road and Craighead Street during the 2026 winter planting season. This is

in accordance with the Urban Street Trees Policy, which requires Council to approve the removal of healthy, mature, or high-profile street trees.

It was requested in the future to have more detailed information, including expanding on the benefits, context of complaints, and the relationship between the Street Tree Maintenance Contract.

The conditions of the trees were noted, including the ability to replace trees when removed, along with keeping the amenity value of the trees. Discussion included the possible replacement species and suitability, and the future of the area in terms of road layout due to the increase in traffic. There was further discussion on the ability to remove the trees and not replace.

It was confirmed there is a tree asset register. The ongoing maintenance of the replacement trees was highlighted, along with the fact there are no street trees east of Craighead Street.

The impact of having street trees was highlighted.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cllr Michelle Pye

A motion was moved that Council suspend Standing Order 4.2 to allow the meeting to continue for more than 2 hours.

Councillors debated the preference of removing the trees and replacing over time versus removing the trees and replacing at once.

Resolution 2026/149

Moved: Cllr Peter Burt

Seconded: Cllr Scott Shannon

That Council:

1. Approves the removal of 34 *Sorbus Aucuparia* (Common Rowan) street trees on Wai-iti Road, between Mountainview Road and Craighead Streets; and
2. Notes that 27 of these will be replaced with an alternative tree species, and 7 will not be replaced due to safety concerns and high maintenance costs.

In Favour: Mayor Nigel Bowen, Cllrs Stacey Scott, Peter Burt, Scott Shannon, Michelle Pye, Owen Jackson and Chris Thomas

Against: Cllrs Stu Piddington, Graeme Wilson and Philip Harper

Carried 7/3

At 12.34 pm, the meeting was adjourned.

At 1.15 pm, the meeting reconvened.

9.9 Central Business District Footpath Renewal

The General Manager Land Transport and Transport Strategy Advisor spoke to the report to seek Council direction on the proposed renewal of footpath surfaces within the Timaru, Geraldine, and Temuka Central Business District (CBD) and to consider the appropriate replacement materials, the

timing of the renewal programme, and how the works should be coordinated with underground utility providers.

Clarification was sought on communications received from the other utilities on their work requirements within the CBD area. The cost for reinstatement was highlighted and where this cost lands.

Clr Scott Shannon provided an update on the footpath renewal in the Temuka CBD. It was advised the work is about 50% complete, with the town centre itself and the crossing point yet to be completed.

Clr Philip Harper advised the Council of the importance of the timing of any work to be done in the Geraldine CBD. The potential use of their strategic funding was noted for the current financial year. It was confirmed that previous reports to the Geraldine Community Board included three of the four problem areas outside Westpac and the Crown Hotel.

The treatment options that were explored previously were highlighted.

It was confirmed there is a small area in the Pleasant Point CBD that currently has the tiles. It was confirmed the remedial work will be undertaken when footpath work is next completed in Pleasant Point.

The ability to upgrade the streetscape in the Timaru CBD alongside this work was noted. The timing of completing the work in Geraldine and Temuka was discussed.

The possible replacement options in the Timaru CBD, disruption to the business and the importance of good communication. The infrastructure that is under the tiles was highlighted, including the age of the council's infrastructure. It was noted that each asset owner will have their own register of the assets.

The importance of consulting with the disability community was highlighted. The process for when the council receives a complaint from the tiles was advised. The estimated amount for Stafford Street three water assets, and the location of the trunk mains was noted. Different stormwater treatment devices are being considered for the Barnard Street block to improve stormwater quality.

It was requested that a report be presented to Council in November on what assets are under the tiles, including the age of the assets and replacement costs, other paver options, including samples if possible.

Discussion was had on the tiles that are removed and how they can be disposed of.

At 1:53 pm, Clr Stu Piddington left the meeting.

It was confirmed that the work can move ahead in Geraldine CBD and Temuka CBD with officers working with the Community Boards.

At 1:55 pm, Clr Stu Piddington returned to the meeting.

The councillors discussed the possible replacement surface options for the Timaru CBD. It was advised that option C is the cheapest, followed by option D, option A and option B. The potential colouring of the asphalt was discussed. It was confirmed a multicriteria analysis will be included in the November report.

It was confirmed the removal of like-for-like option can be removed for the November report.

Resolution 2026/150

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cllr Owen Jackson

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the *Central Business District Footpath Renewal* report;
2. Agrees in principle to Option Three – Prioritised Staged Renewal Programme as the preferred approach to CBD footpath renewal;
3. Agrees in principle to the use of asphalt surfacing with decorative paver borders and feature areas as the preferred treatment for the Temuka and Geraldine CBD renewal programme;
4. Notes that officers will continue utility coordination, design development, pricing and stakeholder engagement for Stafford Street and the wider Timaru CBD before confirming the appropriate staging for renewal;
5. Notes that no specific funding is currently provided for accelerated CBD footpath renewal in 2026/27 and that any works brought forward will require consideration of the associated funding and programme implications; and
6. Notes that a further reports in November 2026 will be provided to Council confirming scope, costs, funding, and delivery programme before physical works are committed.

Carried

9.10 Temuka Service Centre Access Request

The General Manager Land Transport spoke to the report to seek Council approval to negotiate an access arrangement with Hawker Buildings 2025 Limited for vehicle access across Council-owned land at the Temuka Service Centre and Library carpark, following consideration of the request by the Temuka Community Board.

Discussion included not including an incumbrance on the area, the times of higher traffic volumes to the area and the hours of operation. It was confirmed that two to four car parks would be affected, and the utilisation of the area by the staff of the business rather than using the public car park.

The proposed lease agreement with a term of 5+5+5 years was discussed, together with provision for the arrangement to terminate earlier upon the sale or development of the property.

Concern was raised on the devaluing of the Council asset, and the precedent this may set.

Resolution 2026/151

Moved: Cllr Michelle Pye

Seconded: Cllr Scott Shannon

That the Council:

1. Receives and notes the Temuka Service Centre Access Request report;
2. Notes that the Temuka Community Board, at its June 2026 meeting, recommended that Council authorise officers to negotiate a licence to occupy or similar access agreement for vehicle access across Council-owned land at the Temuka Service Centre.
3. Authorises officers to negotiate a licence to occupy, access agreement or similar arrangement with Hawker Buildings 2025 Limited, subject to terms and conditions that:

- preserve Council's ability to terminate or amend the arrangement should the land be required for future Council purposes;
 - require the applicant to meet all reasonable legal, design, physical works, maintenance, reinstatement and administrative costs associated with establishing and maintaining the access;
 - ensure proposed vehicle movements and physical works are demonstrated to be safe and practicable for users of the Service Centre and Library carpark;
 - address responsibility for any alterations to carparking, landscaping, fencing, gates and other Council assets;
 - provide no guarantee of permanent access or future renewal and do not create a permanent property interest over the Council-owned land; and
 - otherwise protect Council's ongoing ownership, operation and future use of the site.
4. Notes that should Council consider disposal or redevelopment of the affected land in the future, the feasibility and appropriateness of providing a permanent legal easement may be considered at that time.

In Favour: Mayor Nigel Bowen, Clrs Stacey Scott, Peter Burt, Scott Shannon, Michelle Pye, Owen Jackson, Chris Thomas and Philip Harper

Against: Clrs Stu Piddington and Graeme Wilson

Carried 8/2

9.11 Bad Debts Written Off as at 30 June 2026

The Chief Financial Officer and Finance Manager / Financial Accountant spoke to the report to outline the work Council Officers undertake to write off bad debts, the amount and details of these debts.

Clarification was sought on the level of bad debts compared to other councils, and the debt recovery rate.

Resolution 2026/152

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cllr Owen Jackson

That the Council receive and note the report Bad Debts Written Off as at 30 June 2026.

Carried

9.12 Council Investments and Borrowing for the period ending 30 June 2026

The Chief Financial Officer and Finance Manager / Financial Accountant spoke to the report to update Council on the status of Council's treasury activities at 30 June 2026.

It was confirmed that financial projection scenarios would be prepared as part of the next Long Term Plan review to ensure Council remained within its policy limits. It was also requested that the forecast liquidity ratio be included in the review.

It was confirmed that due to the large capital programme, there is still comfortable headroom.

There was discussion on the increase to the average cost of funds and long-term borrowing. There was also an emphasis on bringing the capital programme under depreciation.

Resolution 2026/153

Moved: Clr Peter Burt

Seconded: Clr Stacey Scott

That the Council receives and notes the quarterly Council Investments and Borrowing report for the period ending 30 June 2026.

Carried

9.13 Draft Council Financial Performance Report to 30 June 2026

The Chief Financial Officer and Senior Management Accountant spoke to the report to outline progress on implementing the 2025-26 Annual Plan and report on the draft financial results for the period ended 30 June 2026.

There was a detailed discussion on the included write-offs during the financial year and the build-up of work in progress over a number of years which is not able to be capitalised.

Discussion included why this has not been completed in previous years. It was confirmed that there was a correction of capital versus operational for Information Technology.

An update was provided on the Temuka Alpine Energy Stadium earthquake repairs.

Clarification was sought on the urban water reticulation renewal unbudgeted expenditure and the inclusion of carry-forwards in the budgets.

It was highlighted that the surplus for the 2025/26 year due to the expenses being lower than the previous year and the pull back of operational expenses, the impact of the restructure and the relief from interest rates.

It was requested that a headroom calculation excluding grant funding be provided. Further clarification was sought as to when councillors would receive comparative information on the financial implications of water services transferring out of the organisation.

Resolution 2026/154

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Clr Chris Thomas

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Draft Council Financial Performance Report to 30 June 2026.
2. Approves the write-off of capitalised project costs totalling \$14,152,040, as detailed in the write-off schedule included at Paragraph 7 in the report, where the associated projects have been discontinued, superseded, or are no longer expected to proceed.

Carried

9.14 Group Tax Risk Governance Framework 2026

The Chief Financial Officer spoke to the report to present the updated Group Tax Risk Governance Framework and the associated Group Tax Risk Governance Framework Management Strategy for recommendation to Timaru District Council (Council) for adoption.

It was confirmed that Timaru District Holdings Limited are aware of the framework; the officers are yet to take this to Venture Timaru. It is also confirmed that the water organisation will be expected to follow this framework.

Discussion was had on Council Controlled Organisation/Council Controlled Trading Organisation paying their own tax, rather than the Timaru District Council paying the tax liability. The opportunity to influence this through the Letters of Expectation.

Resolution 2026/155

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cllr Michelle Pye

That Council:

1. Receive and note the *Group Tax Risk Governance Framework 2026* report; and
2. Adopt the Group Tax Risk Governance Framework 2026 and the Group Tax Risk Governance Framework Management Strategy 2026.

Carried

9.15 Pleasant Point Community Pool - Summer 2026/27 Season - Operating Options

The General Manager Recreational Facilities spoke to the report to report seek Council direction on the operating model for Pleasant Point Pool for the 2026/27 Summer season.

It was advised the figures included in the report are from this year's finances; historically the district pools have not paid internal overheads; however, for this financial year they will be charged \$35,000 to cover this. It was also noted there is potentially an over-budget of wages for the Pleasant Point Pool of approximately \$20,000.

Discussion included the capital expenditure required for the pool, the user-pays portion of the fees and the investment in the other district pools. Clarification was sought on the opening hours and if these can be reduced further, and the different usage requirements from the community. The option to shut over the Christmas/New Year Period; the option to have an unheated pool; the other options for the users that have been offered historically.

There was a request to allow the Pleasant Point Community Board to make a decision for the ability to fund additional weeks through their targeted rate fund, to allow the pool to open longer.

Further discussion included community consultation, timing of the capital expenditure, including the cost of converting from gas. The need to get the usage up at not only the Pleasant Point pool, but all of the district pools. Different operating models were discussed, including the fee for using the pool.

It was noted it is too late to close the Pleasant Point pool for this season. It was also confirmed a report will be presented at the October Community Board Meetings, which will include operating

hours for the season and outline different operating models. Clarification was sought on the water charge for the Pleasant Point Pool versus the other district pools.

Resolution 2026/156

Moved: Clr Peter Burt

Seconded: Clr Owen Jackson

That Council

1. Approves a shortened 13-week operating season for Pleasant Point Pool for Summer 2026/27, commencing Monday 7 December 2026 and concluding Sunday 7 March 2027.
2. The Pleasant Point Community Board should be given the opportunity to use their Targeted Rate to assist with lengthening the swim season, if they wish.

In Favour: Mayor Nigel Bowen, Clrs Stacey Scott, Peter Burt, Scott Shannon, Michelle Pye, Owen Jackson, Graeme Wilson, Chris Thomas and Philip Harper

Against: Clr Stu Piddington

Carried 9/1

Suspension of Standing Orders**Resolution 2026/157**

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Clr Graeme Wilson

A motion was moved that Council suspend standing orders .2 to allow the meeting to continue for more than 2 hours.

Carried

9.16 Timaru District Council Contribution to Regional Spatial Plan Establishment Process

The General Manager Regulatory, Development and Growth and the Planning Manager spoke to the report to seek council's agreement to the establishment of the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Committee, nomination of one elected member representative to the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Committee and confirmation of the council's commitment to its share of the budget for development of the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan.

It was confirmed each council is required to adopt the Terms of Reference, with the next step being a process agreement. There was advice given that there has been discussion that the Mayors would be the representatives and the time commitment that this Committee would require.

There was clarification sought on the costs borne by each council, and how the programme will be delivered and funding models.

The cost of the recent District Plan was noted, and that the documents that have already been procured for the District Plan review will be beneficial. It was also confirmed spatial planning will

continue to be done at the regional level regardless of amalgamation; there is just a question over the boundaries.

Further discussion included the funding; it was advised there was \$71,000 in the Annual Plan 2025/26, and how this will be funded in the future to complete the spatial plan.

At 3:34 pm, Clr Stu Piddington left the meeting.

The frustration with the District Plan process was highlighted. If there is an ability to capitalise on the District Plan was discussed.

At 3:36 pm, Clr Stu Piddington returned to the meeting.

It was confirmed that if workload became an issue, the appointments to the Waitaha Regional Spatial Plan Committee can come back to Council.

Resolution 2026/158

Moved: Clr Graeme Wilson

Seconded: Clr Scott Shannon

1. That Council receives and notes the *Timaru District Council Contribution to Regional Spatial Plan Establishment Process* report.
2. That Council notes that every Council has been asked to make the recommendations contained in 3 below and that:
 - a. Kaikoura District Council has already noted that they will not be in a position to make any financial contribution until a government decision on their Head Start proposal with Marlborough District Council is indicated, however, in-kind Kaikoura District Council officer support will continue in the interim; and
 - b. That decision from other Councils had not been received at the time of writing.
3. That subject to the enactment of the Planning Act, the Timaru District Council:
 - a. Approves in principle the establishment of the Waitaha Regional Spatial Plan Committee (as a joint committee under the Local Government Act)
 - b. Approves the terms of reference for the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Committee
 - c. Notes that the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Committee might reasonably seek amendments to the Terms of Reference as the establishment phase progresses.
 - d. Appoints the Mayor Nigel Bowen as Timaru District Council's representative on the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Committee
 - e. Appoints Clr Scott Shannon as Timaru District Council's alternative representative on the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Committee.
 - f. Approves its share of funding (\$71,099.00) for the \$725,000 requested for 2026/2027 financial year, in accordance with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum allocation, for the establishment phase of the Waitaha Canterbury.
 - g. Approves the funding share split of 9.80% funding for the overall development and delivery of the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan.

- h. Notes the funding arrangements for the development will be refined through the establishment phase of the Programme with future reports for updates funding requirements provided to Council as required.
- i. Delegates authority to the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Committee to appoint an independent chair at its first meeting.
- j. Notes the next decision for Council, with respect to the Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan, is the approval of the Process Agreement to enable preparation of the regional spatial plan to formally commence.
- k. Notes the Christchurch City Council has confirmed through the Mayoral Forum to host the Independent Waitaha Canterbury Regional Spatial Plan Programme Director, the associated programme management office and the secretariat.

Carried

10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

No items of urgent business were received.

11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

12 Public Forum Items Requiring Consideration

Howard and Leanne Brockie (Geraldine Top 10 Holiday Park)

It was confirmed that there is a report in public excluded.

John Shirtcliff

It was confirmed that the discussion on item 9.9 Central Business District Footpath Renewal covered this matter.

13 Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolution 2026/159

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cllr Peter Burt

That the public be excluded at 3.40pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely,—

- 13.1 Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 July 2026**
- 13.2 Geraldine Motorcamp new lease**
- 13.3 Expiration of Caroline Tearooms Lease**
- 10.4 Development Opportunity Feasibility Report**
- 13.5 Proposed District Plan - Bidwill Trust Hospital Appeal**
- 13.6 Budget Re-allocation - Unplanned works in association with subdivision development**

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

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Plain English Reason
13.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 July 2026 Matters dealt with in these minutes: 12.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 June 2026 12.2 - Council Approval for Land acquisitions for road reserve purposes	Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.	The public excluded minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2026 are considered confidential pursuant to the provisions of the LGOIMA Act of 1987. The specific provisions of the Act that relate to these minutes can be found in the open minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2026.
13.2 - Geraldine Motorcamp new lease	s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	To protect commercially sensitive information
13.3 - Expiration of Caroline Tearooms Lease	s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the	To protect commercially sensitive information

	person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	
10.4 - Development Opportunity Feasibility Report	s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	To protect commercially sensitive information
13.5 - Proposed District Plan - Bidwill Trust Hospital Appeal	s7(2)(c)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest s7(2)(g) - The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege	To protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and/or that was required by law to be provided where the release of that information would not be in the public interest To protect all communications between a legal adviser and clients from being disclosed without the permission of the client
13.6 - Budget Re-allocation - Unplanned works in association with subdivision development	s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	To protect commercially sensitive information

*I also move that Ross Meikle (Partner, Team Projects) be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded for item 13.4 Development Opportunity Feasibility Report due to being the author of the feasibility report. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed.

Carried

Note

[Section 48\(4\)](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

- “(4)Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof)—
 - (a)shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
 - (b)shall form part of the minutes of the local authority.”

14 Public Excluded Reports

13.1 Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 July 2026

12.1 Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 June 2026

12.2 Council Approval for Land acquisitions for road reserve purposes

13.2 Geraldine Motorcamp new lease

13.3 Expiration of Caroline Tearooms Lease

10.4 Development Opportunity Feasibility Report

13.5 Proposed District Plan - Bidwill Trust Hospital Appeal

13.6 Budget Re-allocation - Unplanned works in association with subdivision development

15 Readmittance of the Public

Resolution 2026/160

Moved: Mayor Nigel Bowen

Seconded: Cllr Owen Jackson

That the meeting moves out of Closed Meeting into Open Meeting at 5.38pm.

Carried

The meeting closed at 5.38pm.

.....
Mayor Nigel Bowen
Chairperson

8 Reports

8.1 Sister Cities - Eniwa Student Exchange presentations

Author: Alesia Cahill, Executive Support Manager

Authoriser: Nigel Trainor, Chief Executive

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Sister Cities, Eniwa Student Exchange verbal presentations.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The chaperone and three students, one from Mountainview and two from Roncalli to share their experience of their Eniwa, Japan 2026 student exchange.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This has been assessed to be of low significance under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Discussion

- 3 This is a verbal presentation.

Attachments

Nil

8.2 Gambling Venue Policy - Receipt of submissions and Hearing

Author: Brendan Madley, Senior Policy Advisor

Authoriser: Paul Cooper, General Manager Regulatory Development and Growth

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receives the report “Gambling Venue Policy – Receipt of submissions and Hearing”;
2. Receives and notes the written submissions on the Gambling Venue Policy consultation;
3. Acknowledges submitters who have spoken to their submission;
4. Notes that all submissions will be considered as part of deliberations on the Gambling Venue Policy; and
5. Identifies where it may seek further information or analysis from officers to inform future decision making.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is for Council to receive all submissions on the Gambling Venue Policy consultation, and to hear from any individuals or organisations who wish to speak to their submissions.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This report has been assessed against Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy as being of low significance. This is because it facilitates the receiving of written and oral submissions, does not seek any material decisions from Council. Deliberations and policy decisions will occur at a separate date.
- 3 Overall, it is noted that the policy will be of high interest and significance to the class 4 gambling sector – such as venues and gaming machine societies –, and may be of high interest to class 4 gambling and TAB users, local community groups, prospective funding applicants from class 4 gambling, and those involved in public health and problem gambling.

Consultation

- 4 A consultation has been taken in accordance with the Special Consultative Procedure, as required by s102(2) of the Gambling Act 2003.
- 5 Consultation opened on 3 August and closed at midday on 7 September.
- 6 Submissions were able to be made via an online form, hard copy (free-posted, emailed or hand-delivered to Council), or via email.
- 7 The consultation was advertised or promoted via the following means:
 - 7.1 The Council website (including a dedicated consultation webpage).
 - 7.2 Consultation documents were available at Council facilities (Main Building and libraries/ service centres).

- 7.3 Direct communication/ invitations to submit with approximately 40 identified stakeholders.
- 7.4 Council's weekly Noticeboard bulletin in the Timaru Courier.
- 7.5 Council's Facebook channel.

Submissions received

- 8 13 submissions were received by the close of the consultation. No late submissions have been received at the time of writing this report.
- 9 The submissions are located at Attachment 1.

Submission Analysis

- 10 An analysis of key themes and sentiments of the submissions will form part of the Deliberations report, with accompanying officer comment. Key themes from the Hearing and elected member requests for information will also be included.
- 11 It is proposed that Council will deliberate and make policy decisions on the Gambling Venue Policy at its scheduled 27 October 2026 Council meeting.

Hearing

- 12 Five submitters have requested to speak to their submission.
- 13 The current Hearing schedule is as follows:

Time	Name	Organisation <i>(if applicable)</i>	Method of attendance	Submission page reference <i>(refer page # top right of Attachment 1)</i>
11:00	Mahlon Saumalu and colleagues	Te Huinga Kōtuku – Purapura Whetū	Remotely	064
11:10	Kate Bain and colleague	Trust Aoraki Limited	In person	001
11:20	Jarrod True	Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand	Remotely	090
11:30	Hebe Gibson and Imogen Evens	National Public Health Service – Te Waipounamu	Remotely	006 (refer to Rosa Barron submission)
11:40	Ben Hodges	NZCT	Remotely	046 (refer Jo Salisbury submission)

- 14 This schedule is subject to change prior to the meeting, for example if a submitter withdraws.

Attachments

- 1. Submissions received (redacted)  

Consultation name: Gambling Venue Policy

Dates opened/ closed: 3 August – 7 September 2026

Webpage: <http://www.timaru.govt.nz/gambling-review-2026>

CM folder/s: F16379, F16380 and F16381.

The following Privacy Statement applies to responses/ information received during this consultation. Officers need to familiarise themselves and adhere to it when using this information.

All submissions are public information and will be included on Council's website and/or in public documents located at Council offices and Libraries/Service Centres. This will include your name and, if applicable, the organisation you represent.

The contact information (phone number and/or email address and/or postal address) that you provide at the beginning of the submission will be accessible to Council staff and used only for submission administration purposes. It will not be made publicly available. However, the content of the remainder of your submission (including any private information and attachments that you provide) may not be redacted. Please contact us via submission@timdc.govt.nz if you have any questions about this, before making your submission.

All information is held by Council in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020. You have the right to access and correct personal information. Nothing in this Privacy Statement overrides, or will prevent Council meeting its obligations under, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other relevant legislation.

Name	Organisation	Page # (refer top right corner)	Attachment	Hearing
Kate BAIN	Trust Aoraki Limited	001	Yes	Yes
Rosa BARRON	National Public Health Service – Te Waipounamu	006	Yes	Yes
Anna-Lisa BERNSTEIN		016	Yes	No
Shaun CAMPBELL	Sport Canterbury (South Canterbury)	022	No	No
Martin CHEER	Pub Charity Ltd	024	Yes	No
Zinnia FOSTER	Hospitality New Zealand	033	Yes	No
Jennifer HARDIE		038	No	No
Niall MILLER	TAB NZ	040	No	No
Jacob MULHOLLAND	South Canterbury Basketball	042	Yes	No
Jo SALISBURY	NZCT	046	Yes	Yes
Mahlon SAUMALU	Te Huinga Kōtuku - Purapura Whetū	064	Yes	Yes
Jarrold TRUE	Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand	090	Yes	Yes
Cam WILSON	Aotearoa Gaming Trust	113	No	No

001

Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name *

Kate

Last Name *

Bain

Organisation (if applicable)

Trust Aoraki Limited

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)

[REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Postal address

[REDACTED]

Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? *☒ Yes ☐ No

The Hearings are scheduled for during the Council meeting on Tuesday 29 September. There will be the ability to present in person or remotely. If you select "Yes", we will contact you to arrange your time.

Do you support the draft policy as presented?☒ Yes ☐ No**Provide any comments to support your view**

See Attached

What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?

See Attached

Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?

See Attached

Upload files here

Please only upload .pdf, .doc or .docx files. 5MB max per file.

Other attached files: TDC Gambling Policy Review 2026 - Trust Aoraki Submission.pdf

Privacy Statement

002

All submissions are public information and will be included on Council's website and/or in public documents located at Council offices and Libraries/Service Centres. This will include your name and, if applicable, the organisation you represent.

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**SUBMISSION****Timaru District Council Gambling Venue Policy Review 2026**

Support for increasing the permitted number of gaming machines per venue from seven to nine

Submitter	Trust Aoraki Limited
To	Timaru District Council
Consultation closes	Midday, Monday 7 September 2026
Contact	Kate Bain, Chief Executive Officer, [REDACTED]

Submission Summary

Trust Aoraki Limited (**Trust Aoraki**) supports the Council's proposed amendment to clauses 17 and 18 of the draft Gambling Venue Policy to increase the maximum number of machines for new and existing venues from seven machines to nine machines.

Trust Aoraki also supports the proposed updates to planning-zone references and supports retaining the balance of the policy, including its present approach to relocations and exemptions.

Decision sought: Adopt the draft Gambling Venue Policy as proposed, including the nine-machine maximum in clauses 17 and 18.

About Trust Aoraki

Trust Aoraki is a locally based Class 4 gaming society. Its purpose is to operate a compliant and responsible gaming model and return net proceeds to authorised community purposes. That gives Trust Aoraki a direct perspective on the practical relationship between venue settings, regulatory costs, harm-minimisation obligations and sustainable community funding.

Trust Aoraki has venue agreements with four Timaru District venues - Crown Hotel Temuka, Old Bank Cafe and Bar, Pleasant Point Hotel and Temuka Hotel - operating 52 machines in total. This represents one-third of the 156 machines recorded across the district.¹

Reasons for supporting the nine-machine limit**1. Nine machines is the national statutory maximum**

- 1.1. The Gambling Act 2003 permits up to nine machines at a new Class 4 venue unless a territorial authority adopts a lower limit. The Council's proposal therefore does not create an unusually permissive local rule; it aligns Timaru with the national maximum while leaving all licensing, suitability, compliance and harm-minimisation requirements in place.
- 1.2. The amendment is modest in practical effect. Currently, only two local venues have fewer than nine machines. An increase in the policy limit does not itself establish a venue, or

¹ Timaru District Council, Social Impact Assessment update - 2026 Gambling Venue Policy review, pp. 4-5 (venue and machine table; December 2025 data).



guarantee that an existing venue will increase the number of machines to the maximum.² Any change still depends on the relevant statutory approvals and commercial circumstances.

2. The available local evidence does not indicate unchecked growth

- 2.1. The district had 12 venues and 156 machines in December 2025. Compared with 2021, this is one fewer venue and 10 fewer machines. The ratio has moved from one machine per 209 adult residents at the previous review to one per 222 adult residents.³ These figures show a stable-to-declining local network.
- 2.2. The Council's assessment also reports that Timaru's total gaming machine proceeds fell by 9.26% in real terms between September 2022 and September 2025.⁴ Against that background, moving from seven to nine is a calibrated adjustment to venue-level flexibility, not evidence of a policy-driven increase in gambling activity.

3. A nine-machine venue can use fixed compliance and operating costs more efficiently

- 3.1. Class 4 venues have substantial fixed cost obligations regardless of whether they operate seven or nine machines. These include electronic monitoring, licensing, secure and compliant gaming areas, equipment servicing, staff training, record keeping, regular compliance activity and harm-minimisation systems.
- 3.2. Allowing those fixed costs to be spread across up to nine machines improves the prospect that a greater share of net proceeds can support authorised community purposes. This does not remove or dilute any compliance requirement. It improves the operating efficiency of a tightly regulated model and helps protect the sustainability of community funding.

4. Community benefit is material and should remain part of the balance

- 4.1. The Council's assessment recognises that a minimum of 40% of gaming machine profits must be distributed as grants and that recipients commonly include sports organisations, health services and cultural initiatives. It also notes that published figures may understate the value ultimately reaching Timaru organisations where funding is first granted through a national body.⁵
- 4.2. Trust Aoraki recognises that community funding does not cancel out gambling harm. It is, however, a real and legislatively intended benefit that Council must weigh alongside the risks. A policy that supports efficient, compliant venues is more likely to preserve that benefit than an arbitrary seven-machine limit.

Gambling harm and responsible operation

Trust Aoraki accepts that Class 4 gambling can cause harm for some people and that this risk deserves serious treatment. Support for the nine-machine limit should not be understood as minimising that potential harm.

The relevant local evidence should nevertheless be considered accurately. The Council's assessment states that Timaru residents represented between 0.29% and 0.48% of clients

² Timaru District Council, Statement of Proposal: Gambling Venue Policy, p. 5 (practical effect of the proposed increase).

³ Social Impact Assessment update, pp. 4-6 (12 venues, 156 machines, change since 2021 and adult-population ratio).

⁴ Social Impact Assessment update, pp. 7-10 (inflation-adjusted gaming machine proceeds).

⁵ Social Impact Assessment update, pp. 10-11 (funds returned to community).



assisted by gambling-harm services from July 2018 to June 2023, compared with approximately 1% of New Zealand's population. The assessment appropriately cautions that these are self-presentation figures and do not capture every person experiencing harm.⁶

The correct policy response is to maintain strong prevention, identification and intervention practices while setting a workable venue limit. Trust Aoraki supports continued enforcement of statutory harm-minimisation measures, including trained staff, regular monitoring of gaming rooms, exclusion processes, restrictions on access to cash, clear information about help services and careful host responsibility.

Relocations, zoning and the balance of the policy

Trust Aoraki supports updating the policy's zone names to match the Proposed District Plan. Trust Aoraki also supports retaining the current case-by-case approach to relocations and exemptions.

Relocation flexibility can enable a venue to move to safer, more suitable or modern premises. Retaining Council oversight ensures that location, proximity to sensitive sites and local social effects can still be assessed in the circumstances of each application.

Requested Council decision

Trust Aoraki respectfully asks the Council to:

1. adopt clauses 17 and 18 as drafted, permitting a maximum of nine gaming machines at new Class 4 venues and allowing existing venues with fewer than nine machines to apply to increase to nine;
2. adopt the proposed updates to planning-zone references; and
3. retain the balance of the draft policy, including the existing approach to relocations and exemptions.

The proposed nine-machine limit aligns with the national statutory maximum, improves venue-level efficiency, supports sustainable community return and retains the wider regulatory and harm-minimisation framework.

Hearing

Trust Aoraki wishes to speak in support of this submission at the Council hearing scheduled for 29 September 2026.

Signed for Trust Aoraki Limited:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Bain".

Name: Kate Bain

Position: Chief Executive Officer

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Date: 7/09/2026

⁶ Social Impact Assessment update, p. 15 (problem-gambling service presentations and caveats).

006

Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name *

Rosa

Last Name *

Barron

Organisation (if applicable)

National Public Health Service (NPHS) Te Waipounamu region, Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)**Email *****Postal address****Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? ***☒ Yes ☐ No

The Hearings are scheduled for during the Council meeting on Tuesday 29 September. There will be the ability to present in person or remotely. If you select "Yes", we will contact you to arrange your time.

Do you support the draft policy as presented?☐ Yes ☐ No**Provide any comments to support your view****What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?****Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?****Upload files here**

Please only upload .pdf, .doc or .docx files. 5MB max per file.

Other attached files: Technical Advice Timaru Gambling Venue Policy.pdf

Privacy Statement

007

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008

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

3rd September 2026

Timaru District Council
PO Box 522
Timaru 7940

Tēnā koutou

Technical Advice on the Timaru District Council Gambling Venue Policy

1. This technical advice has been compiled by the National Public Health Service (NPHS) Te Waipounamu region, Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora. NPHS Te Waipounamu provides services to the South Island including the Timaru District.
2. NPHS recognises its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities of Aotearoa New Zealand under the Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Act 2022 and the Health Act 1956.
3. Pae Ora requires the health sector to protect and promote healthy communities and health equity across different population groups by working together with multiple sectors to address the determinants of health.
4. NPHS is focused on the achievement of equitable health outcomes. We use the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora definition of equity:

*In Aotearoa New Zealand people have differences in health that are not only avoidable, but unfair and unjust. Equity recognises different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes.*¹
5. We welcome the opportunity to comment on Council's Gambling Venue Policy. This document reiterates feedback we gave in March 2026 during the early engagement phase of policy development.
6. Health and wellbeing are influenced by a wide range of factors beyond the health sector. These factors are often referred to as the 'social determinants of health', and can be described as the environmental, economic and social conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, age and play.²

¹ Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (2024, July 2). Achieving equity. <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/what-we-do/achieving-equity>

² Public Health Advisory Committee. (2004). The Health of People and Communities. A Way Forward: Public Policy and the Economic Determinants of Health. Public Health Advisory Committee.

https://mohlibrary.soflinkhosting.co.nz/443/liberty/OpacLogin?mode=BASIC&openDetail=true&corporation=default_corp&action=search&queryTerm=uuid%3D%225e0914be0a5a01e27fdf294000051624%22&editionUuid=5e0914be0a5a01e27fdf294000051624&operator=OR&url=%2Fopac%2Fsearch.do

7. The diagram³ below shows how these determinants of health are complex and interlinked. Initiatives to improve health outcomes and overall quality of life must involve organisations and groups beyond the health sector, such as local government and businesses, if they are to have a collective impact.⁴

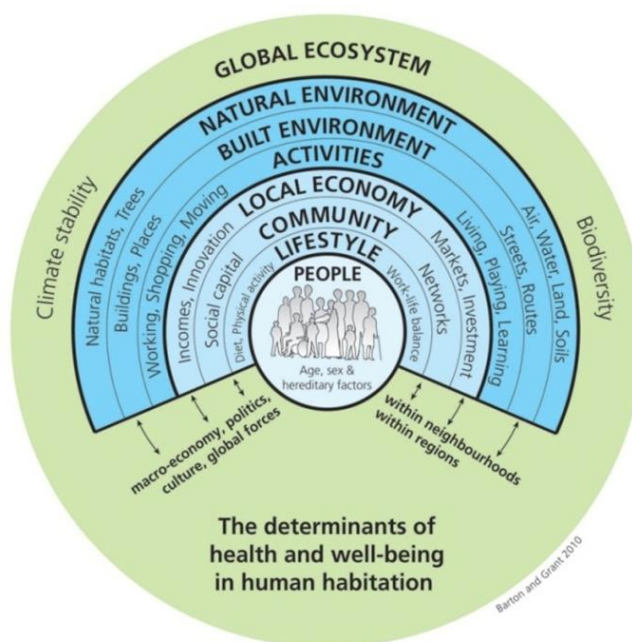


Figure 1: Social determinants of health

Gambling harm and health

8. As highlighted in our earlier advice, gambling harm is a significant public health issue that affects not only individuals who gamble, but also their families, whānau, and wider communities.⁵ Gambling harm may include physical and mental health impacts, family violence, relationship breakdown, disruptions to work or study, financial hardship, and crime. These harms are often linked to financial stress, social isolation, and family conflict, which compound over time and reduce wellbeing.⁶
9. Recent national data show that gambling harm is widespread. One in five New Zealand adults are affected by gambling harm at some point in their lives, either through their own or others' gambling. The NZ Gambling Survey 2023/24 shows 8.3% of New Zealanders

³ Barton, H. & Grant, M. (2006). A health map for the local human habitat. *The Journal of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health*, 126(6), 252-253. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1466424006070466>

⁴ McGinnis J.M., Williams-Russo P. & Knickman JR. (2002). The case for more active policy attention to health promotion. *Health Affairs*, 21(2), 78-93. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.21.2.78>

⁵ Wardle, H., Reith, G., Langham, E., & Rogers, R. D. (2019). Gambling and public health: We need policy action to prevent harm. *BMJ*, 365, 11807. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.11807>

⁶ Browne M, Tulloch C, Dellosa G, et al. (2025). *Economic and Social Costing of Gambling in Aotearoa New Zealand 2023-24*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

experienced some level of gambling harm in the past 12 months, including 2.4% at moderate or high risk.⁷

10. Gambling harm extends well beyond the person who gambles. An estimated 381,000 people report experiencing second-hand harm within their households or families. Importantly, harm is not limited to those identified as problem gamblers, as nearly 50% of all gambling-related harm is experienced by people considered low-risk gamblers.⁸ This shows that gambling harm is both widespread and often less visible, reinforcing the need for a whole of population approach to prevention and harm reduction.
11. Gambling harm is not evenly distributed in New Zealand and disproportionately affects certain population groups. Māori, Pacific, Asian peoples, disabled people, and young people are all more likely to experience moderate-risk or problem gambling than the general population. National data show Māori and Pacific people are more than twice as likely, and disabled people over four times as likely, to experience harmful gambling.^{9 10}
12. These inequities reflect broader social and structural factors, including socioeconomic deprivation. Many of the groups most affected are more likely to live in communities with higher exposure to gambling opportunities, particularly electronic gaming machines. Evidence shows that both gambling participation and expenditure are higher in more deprived areas, where the risk of harm is greater.¹¹ This demonstrates that gambling is not simply an individual choice, but a significant equity issue, where harm is concentrated among populations already experiencing disadvantage.
13. Class 4 gambling machines (pokies) are widely recognised as one of the most harmful forms of gambling in New Zealand. Pokies are strongly associated with harm because of their design and operating environments, which encourage continuous play, rapid repetition, and reinvestment of winnings. These features increase the likelihood of harmful and persistent gambling behaviour.¹²
14. In 2023/24, pokies accounted for \$1,037 million or over one third of total gambling expenditure (\$2,792 million).¹³ Spending is also highly concentrated, with around 37% of total gambling losses coming from just 14% of people who play gaming machines.¹⁴ This reflects the intensity of pokie machine use and its strong link to gambling harm. This is further reflected in service data, where pokies are the primary form of gambling among people accessing gambling harm services.¹⁵

⁷ Ministry of Health. (2025). Strategy to prevent and minimise gambling harm 2025/26 to 2027/28. <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2025-09/strategy-prevent-minimise-gambling-harm-2025-26-2027-28-online-v2.pdf>

⁸ Ministry of Health. (2025). Strategy to prevent and minimise gambling harm 2025/26 to 2027/28. <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2025-09/strategy-prevent-minimise-gambling-harm-2025-26-2027-28-online-v2.pdf>

⁹ Ministry of Health. (2025). Strategy to prevent and minimise gambling harm 2025/26 to 2027/28. <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2025-09/strategy-prevent-minimise-gambling-harm-2025-26-2027-28-online-v2.pdf>

¹⁰ Russell AMT, Browne M, Hing N, Rockloff M, Newall P, Dowling NA, Merkouris S, King DL, Stevens M, Salonen AH, Breen H, Greer N, Thorne HB, Visintin T, Rawat V, Woo L. Electronic gaming machine accessibility and gambling problems: A natural policy experiment. *J Behav Addict*. 2023 Aug 18;12(3):721-732. doi: 10.1556/2006.2023.00044. PMID: 37594879; PMCID: PMC10562817.

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¹³ Department of Internal Affairs. (n.d.). Gambling expenditure statistics. <https://www.dia.govt.nz/gambling-statistics-expenditure>

¹⁴ Ministry of Health. (2025). Strategy to prevent and minimise gambling harm 2025/26 to 2027/28.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2025-09/strategy-prevent-minimise-gambling-harm-2025-26-2027-28-online-v2.pdf>

¹⁵ Ministry of Health. (n.d.). Gambling harm intervention services data. <https://www.health.govt.nz/monitoring-statistics/statistics-and-data-sets/gambling-harm/gambling-harm-services-data>

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Class 4 gambling in Timaru District

15. As highlighted in the Social Impact Assessment, there are 156 pokie machines across 12 venues in the Timaru District, and the number of venues and machines has decreased slightly between 2022 and 2025, following a similar pattern to the national picture. Timaru District currently has a higher density of pokie machines per 1000 people (3.15), compared to the national average (2.59).^{16 17}
16. Gaming Machine Profits (GMP) were approximately \$10.8 million in the Timaru District in the year ending December 2025. This equates to approximately \$29,470 being lost per day to Class 4 gambling in the district. GMP has decreased in the district in recent years; GMP was approximately \$11 million in 2024 and \$11.2 million in 2023.¹⁸
17. GMP is all the money generated through the use of Class 4 gambling, less the amount paid back as prizes. The figure of \$10.8 million is the money that was lost in 2025, so the total money spent on gaming machines was actually much higher when winnings are considered.
18. In the Timaru District, the majority of Class 4 gaming machines and venues are in high or medium high socioeconomic deprivation areas. There are 5 venues and 75 machines located in decile 7 areas and 5 venues and 69 machines in decile 9 areas. Figure 1 shows that in the Timaru District over 92% of pokie machines are located in high or medium high deprivation areas.

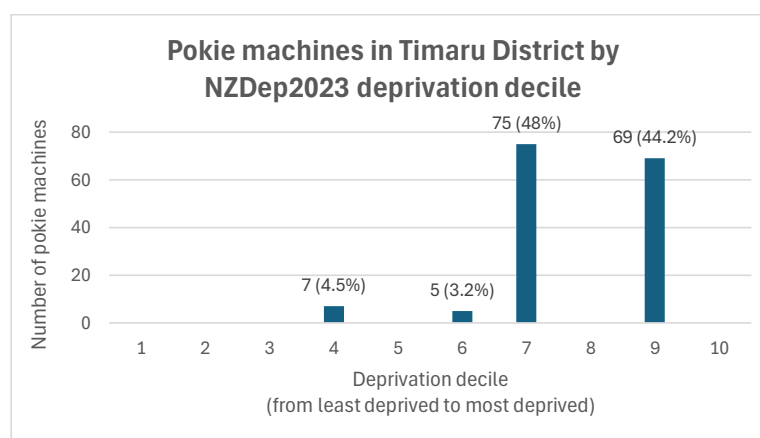


Figure 2: Pokie machines in Timaru District by NZDep2023 deprivation decile

19. The concentration of venues in deprived communities highlights the inequitable exposure of socioeconomically deprived communities to gambling. Problem gambling is three times higher in deprived neighbourhoods when compared with those in the lower deprivation

¹⁶ Department of Internal Affairs. (2025). Current Quarter Licensed Venues. Retrieved March 3, 2026, from [Microsoft Power BI](#).

¹⁷ Stats NZ–Tātauranga Aotearoa (n.d.). Timaru District. Retrieved March 3, 2026 from [Timaru District, Place and ethnic group summaries | Stats NZ](#)

¹⁸ Department of Internal Affairs. (2026). Gaming Machine Profits (GMP) Quarterly Report – June 2026. Retrieved 25 August 2026 from [Microsoft Power BI](#).

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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quintiles.¹⁹ This is reflected in the significantly higher gambling expenditure in deprived areas when compared to more affluent ones. For example, people living in the most deprived areas spend on average up to three times more on Class 4 gambling than those in the least deprived areas.²⁰ This is particularly important in the context of Timaru District, where currently most of the gaming venues and machines are located in high or medium high deprivation areas.

Community grants

20. Gambling is often framed as providing community benefit through grant funding, and therefore it is argued that local gambling policies should be more permissive to return funding to the community. However, the evidence shows that only a small proportion of gambling revenue is returned to communities, with most revenue going towards venue operating costs.²¹ This means the community benefits of gambling are often overstated and do not outweigh the significant harms.
21. Gambling also diverts household spending away from other goods and services. New Zealand research indicates that if Class 4 gambling expenditure were redirected into other sectors such as retail or local services, it could generate greater economic activity and support more sustainable employment.²²
22. Importantly, gambling funding is derived from gambling losses, a significant proportion of which comes from individuals and communities experiencing harm. National evidence shows that a large share of gambling expenditure is generated by a relatively small group of users, many of whom are at higher risk of harm.²³
23. While the Gambling Act requires at least 40% of net proceeds to be returned to community purposes, there is no legislative requirement that these funds are redistributed to the communities from which they were generated. Of the \$10.8 million lost in Timaru District in 2025, only \$3,118,650 (approximately 29%) was returned to organisations based in Timaru District.^{24 25}
24. The proceeds of gambling generated in Timaru District may be distributed to communities outside the district, including at regional or national levels, while the social cost of class 4 gambling remains local. Evidence shows that the distribution of class 4 gambling funds is inequitable because much of this funding comes from the most deprived communities, while the recipients tend to be from more affluent communities. This transfer of wealth indicates that Class 4 gambling tends to magnify community disadvantage.²⁶

¹⁹ Pearce, J., Mason, K., Hiscock, R., & Day, P. (2008). A national study of neighbourhood access to gambling opportunities and individual gambling behaviour. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* (1979-), 62(10), 862–868.

²⁰ Bellringer, M. E., Janicot, S., & Ikeda, T. (2024). Changes in some health and lifestyle behaviours are significantly associated with changes in gambling behaviours: Findings from a longitudinal New Zealand population study. *Addictive Behaviors*, 149.

²¹ Francis, L., & Livingstone, C. (2020). Gambling's community contributions: Does the community benefit?. *Addiction Research & Theory*, 28(5), 365-378. <https://doi.org/10.1080/16066359.2019.1663834>

²² Hogan, S., & Siddharth, P. (2020). The retail employment and tax costs of Class 4 gambling in New Zealand. New Zealand Institute of Economic Research. https://www.nzier.org.nz/hubfs/Public%20Publications/Client%20reports/final_report_-_diverting_gambling_losses_22_june.pdf

²³ Ministry of Health. (n.d.). Gambling harm intervention services data. <https://www.health.govt.nz/monitoring-statistics/statistics-and-data-sets/gambling-harm/gamblingharm-services-data>

²⁴ Department of Internal Affairs. (2026). Gaming Machine Profits (GMP) Quarterly Report – June 2026. Retrieved 25 August 2026 from [Microsoft Power BI](#).

²⁵ Department of Internal Affairs. (2026). Explore Pokie data. Retrieved 26 August 2026 from <https://www.granted.govt.nz/dashboard>

²⁶ Cox, M., Hurren, K., & Nana, G. (2019). A proposed approach for assessing the effects of gambling on wellbeing in New Zealand

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25. Figure 3 shows the strong redistributive effect of class 4 community grants where less deprived communities (decile 1-5) provide 26% of the GMP but receive 88% of the grants. Conversely, more deprived communities (decile 6-10) provide 74% of the GMP but receive only 12% of the grants.²⁷

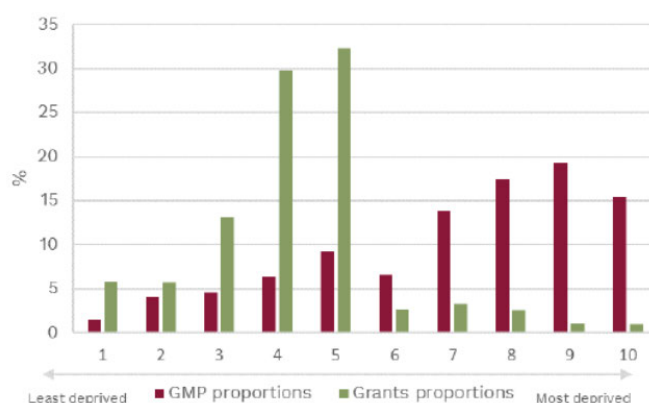


Figure 3: The origin of GMP and the destination of class 4 grants by socio-economic decile

26. While community grants can provide some benefit, the broader social and economic harms associated with gambling, including financial hardship, reduced wellbeing and increased pressure on social services, are likely to outweigh these benefits. This highlights the need to reduce reliance on gambling-derived funding and to pursue more sustainable, less harmful models of community investment.
27. The return of gambling revenue through grants is often used to justify the presence of gaming venues and machines. However, this view may not reflect public sentiment. The New Zealand Gambling Survey found that 46.2% of respondents felt that raising money through gambling does more harm than good.²⁸

Specific Comments

28. NPHS Te Waipounamu does not support the proposal to increase the maximum permitted number of pokie machines in new or existing venues from 7 to 9 machines.
29. We strongly recommend that Council implements a sinking lid policy. As stated in our previous feedback, we recommend that Council adopts a sinking lid policy that bans the establishment of any new Class 4 or TAB venues, the relocation of pokie machines and club mergers.
30. A sinking lid policy gradually reduces the number of gaming venues and machines overtime by restricting new licenses and replacements. A sinking lid policy is one of the most effective

²⁷ Cox M, Hurren K, Nana G. Assessment of the effects of Class 4 gambling on Wellbeing in New Zealand: Final Report. Wellington: Business and Economic Research Limited; 2020.

²⁸ Ministry of Health. (2024). New Zealand Gambling Survey 2023/24 [Data set]. Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora

policy interventions available to reduce the number of pokie machines, expenditure on pokie machines and the associated gambling harm.²⁹ Gambling availability is a key driver of gambling participation and expenditure, therefore maintaining a sinking lid approach remains important to reduce exposure and associated harm.

31. By adopting a sinking lid policy, Timaru District Council would join the growing number of local authorities adopting sinking lid policies. Currently, over half (55%) of councils in Aotearoa New Zealand have adopted a sinking lid policy. Councils that implement sinking lid policies have seen reductions in the number of gaming machines, venues, and overall Class4 gambling expenditure.³⁰
32. NPHS Te Waipounamu commends Council for conducting a Social Impact Assessment to understand the potential harms that Class 4 gambling causes in the district.
33. We recommend that Council engages with community stakeholders to supplement the Social Impact Assessment and ensure that its Gambling Venue Policy is informed by experiences of gambling and gambling harm in the district. We recommend engaging with the following stakeholders: Purapura Whetū, Mapu Maia, Asian Family Services, Problem Gambling Foundation, local Police, and Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua.
34. Our primary recommendation is to adopt a sinking lid policy. If Council decides not to adopt a sinking lid, we have the following recommendations (as stated in our earlier feedback):
 - We recommend introducing an absolute cap of 156 pokie machines with no re-location. This would maintain the current level of Class 4 gambling in the district and prevent any growth in the gambling ecosystem.
 - We strongly recommend prohibiting the merger of clubs (for both a sinking lid policy or an absolute cap on pokie machines).
 - We recommend prohibiting the relocation of venues (for both a sinking lid policy or an absolute cap on pokie machines).
35. In addition, we have the following comments about the proposed policy.
 - We support updating the zoning references in the policy to align with the new District Plan.
 - We recommend broadening the definition of sensitive sites to include hospitals, health services and marae to protect users of these sites from exposure to gambling.
 - For gambling venues outside of the Timaru township, we recommend increasing the minimum distance of 25 metres to 50 metres to reduce exposure to gambling.
 - We do not support allowing gaming venues in the Neighbourhood Centre Zone.
36. NPHS Te Waipounamu wishes to be heard with respect to this technical advice.

²⁹ Erwin, C., Lees, K., Pacheco, G., & others. (2020). Capping problem gambling in NZ: The effectiveness of local government policy intervention.

³⁰ Erwin, C., Pacheco, G., & Turcu, A. (2022). The effectiveness of sinking lid policies in reducing gambling expenditure. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 38(3), 1009-1028.

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Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Ngā mihi,



Vince Barry

Regional Director
National Public Health Service
Te Waipounamu Region



Dr Cheryl Brunton

Medical Officer of Health
National Public Health Service
Waitaha District

Contact details

Hebe Gibson
NPHS Te Waipounamu

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name *

Anna-Lisa

Last Name *

Bernstein

Organisation (if applicable)

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)**Email *****Postal address****Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? ***☐ Yes ☒ No

The Hearings are scheduled for during the Council meeting on Tuesday 29 September. There will be the ability to present in person or remotely. If you select "Yes", we will contact you to arrange your time.

Do you support the draft policy as presented?☐ Yes ☒ No**Provide any comments to support your view****What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?****Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?****Upload files here**

Please only upload .pdf, .doc or .docx files. 5MB max per file.

Other attached files: Submission.pdf

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Submission on the Gambling Venue Policy Consultation 2026

<https://www.timaru.govt.nz/tell-us/current-consultations/gambling-venue-policy-consultation-2026>

Introduction

This submission opposes the proposed amendments to increase the permitted number of pokie machines per venue from seven to nine in Timaru. Having had a family member experience addiction to pokies and consequently lose their entire life savings, I believe that pokies are harmful to individuals and to communities.

Addictive mechanism

Increasing the permitted number of pokie machines poses a significant risk of addiction to the residents of Timaru. Pokies are an addictive instrument built to keep people playing. According to Thomson (2023), pokies are designed in such a manner that the music, color and spinning system create anticipation and a reward system that stimulates a rapid release of dopamine. This establishes a mechanism for addiction. Furthermore, pokies produce an illusion of possessing favorable odds, which encourages people to continue playing regardless of their previous losses (Collier, 2008). Thomson (2023) labels this illusion as “losses disguised as wins” where a win will occasionally occur and will be larger than the bet placed. Because wins are much less frequent than losses, the player will have ultimately lost money. However, the dopamine spike and strong excitement of a win often overshadow the losses. This creates an incentive to continue playing. Furthermore, the location and nature of pokies encourage solitary activity. Pokies is a solitary game where machines are often located in low-lit areas of a room, secluded from public observation (PGF Services, 2024). This promotes uninterrupted activity, thus a longer time spent playing and an increased amount of money lost. Pokies are therefore designed to provoke compulsive play and form addiction.

Accessibility

Substance use and high gambling availability are linked to an increased risk and frequency of gambling (Bellringer et al., 2020). Pokie machines are in rather accessible and available venues such as bars and clubs. In New Zealand, bars are often unrestricted to individuals aged 18 years and over, contrary to casinos where entry is strictly restricted to individuals aged 20 years and over. These factors demonstrate the high accessibility of pokie machines to everyone of the legal age. Furthermore, because pokie machines are often in

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areas associated with alcohol, increased access could also lead to higher alcohol consumption and further endanger those already vulnerable to addictions. Increasing the permitted number of pokie machines would consequently increase access to gambling for Timaru residents.

Harmful to the individual

Gambling addiction resulting from pokies has significant financial and mental consequences. As reported by Browne et al. (2025), the total amount lost on Class 4 pokie machines in New Zealand in 2023 and 2024 was \$1.037 billion. Pokies create an increase in spending and can lead to debt. They also affect those already of socioeconomically deprived status. The Salvation Army (2008) found that of those benefitting from Salvation Army social services, 12-14% were problem gamblers and 32% had been impacted by someone else's gambling. Moreover, gambling is associated with mental health issues including depression and anxiety. Results from a study implicating gamblers seeking treatment found that 58% satisfied the criteria for depression and 56% possessed high levels of mental distress (Bellringer et al., 2020). While direct causation is not explicit, together, gambling and depression form a vicious circle. People vulnerable to depression may seek relief and escape through pokies. Those experiencing the strain caused by gambling may fall into depression. It was also found in the same study that the participants had poor health and were less likely to look for medical attention because of the financial burden. In addition, gambling affects families due to an increase in arguments, mental burden, abuse, neglect and financial pressure from increased spendings or debt (PGF Services, 2024). Pokies are thus harmful to gamblers and to their families.

Economic impact on the community

Pokies negatively impact communities. While 40% of the total profit from pokies is legally required to be redistributed among community organizations, this creates an unhealthy and unethical relationship where community groups depend on people's addictions and financial losses as a source of funding, as declared by Professor Peter Adams (Bellringer et al., 2020). This system reinforces inequalities because pokie machines are often located in poor areas and as previously mentioned, affect people of low socioeconomic status. This should be considered in relation to Timaru. Moreover, pokies create a displacement of spending. This means that money is spent on gambling instead of being invested into personal savings or back into the community through local businesses like cafes and restaurants (Andelane, 2020). Other impacts on communities include crime, the price of managing gambling issues, the affected wellbeing of the community and the increased use

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of social services like food packages (Bellringer et al., 2020). Therefore, pokies are damaging to communities.

Alternative options

An alternative option to the proposed amendments is to introduce a sinking lid which would gradually decrease the number of pokie machines in the region. It would allow community organizations to maintain funding while avoiding further support of harmful and addicting activities. In addition, investing money in other sectors like hospitality and tourism could increase financial flow into Timaru in the long term, thus counterbalancing the potential financial loss from a decrease in pokie machines. Another option would be to maintain the current permitted number of machines per venue.

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Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name *

Shaun

Last Name *

Campbell

Organisation (if applicable)

Sport Canterbury (South Canterbury)

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)

[REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Postal address**Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? ***☐ Yes ☒ No

The Hearings are scheduled for during the Council meeting on Tuesday 29 September. There will be the ability to present in person or remotely. If you select "Yes", we will contact you to arrange your time.

Do you support the draft policy as presented?☒ Yes ☐ No**Provide any comments to support your view**

We support the proposed policy because we recognise the significant contribution gambling-generated funding makes to community sport and recreation. However, this support is conditional on Council continuing to prioritise harm minimisation and monitoring the actual impact of the policy.

What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?

The Policy could include a formal benefit and harm review.

1 - the total benefit of \$ invested back into the Timaru community

2 - the level of gambling and indicators of gambling harm.

This may be beneficial information at the time of the next policy review to measure if the policy has achieved its purpose.

Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?

Sport Canterbury believes there is an important role for sport and recreation in building healthy, connected and resilient communities. We therefore acknowledge the significant community benefit that gambling proceeds can provide, while also recognising our responsibility to support approaches that reduce gambling-related harm.

Our position is therefore one of support for the proposed policy, with an expectation that harm minimisation and community wellbeing remain central to its implementation and future review.

We believe the ultimate measure of success should be whether the policy enables meaningful community benefit while ensuring that the wellbeing of individuals, whānau and communities remains protected.

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Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name *

Martin

Last Name *

Cheer

Organisation (if applicable)

Pub Charity Ltd

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)**Email *****Postal address****Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? ***☐ Yes ☒ No

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Please only upload .pdf, .doc or .docx files. 5MB max per file.

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Submissions Timaru District Council
Gambling Venue Policy Review 2026

Martin Cheer
Managing Director
Pub Charity Limited



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Executive Summary

Established in 1987, Pub Charity Limited (PCL) is the oldest, and currently the largest, continuously trading class 4 gambling society in New Zealand.

PCL operates 1,700 gaming machines in 125 venues across New Zealand. With forecast revenue for the 2025/2026 year of \$130M, PCL will pay tax and duty of \$44M, venue payments to local businesses of \$18.2M, and grants of \$47.6M.

PCL currently operates 5 venues in Timaru District, Timaru (3), Geraldine (1) and Temuka (1). In the previous 3 years and 8 months PCL has distributed the \$6,717,947 in grants to 402 applicants.

PCL supports the proposed changes to the policy and believes the changes will not adversely affect community well-being.

Legislative Context

The presentation focused on harm minimisation as the primary purpose of the Gambling Act; however, the Act contains **eight purposes**, including:

- authorising some gambling prohibit the rest
- controlling the growth of gambling
- facilitating responsible gambling
- ensuring the money from gambling benefits the community.

The Gambling Commission has previously confirmed that harm minimisation does not override the other purposes of the Act¹.

Policy discussions should therefore consider the purpose of the full legislative framework for class 4 gambling.

The “Insidious Model” Framing

The previous workshop held by TDC policy staff introduced the idea that the Class 4 system has been described by some as “Insidious”, on the proposition that;

“Whereby you have, to a significant extent, expenditure from lower socioeconomic groups being redistributed to that are predominantly of a higher socioeconomic status.”

¹ GC 16/20 Hamilton Casino vs DIA, 2020.

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That claim was presented without evidence or examples, nationally or locally, and without any meaningful discussion of how the class 4 grants allocation system is required to operate under the applicable law and regulations.

Councilors were not told that Class 4 societies return millions of dollars every year to a large number and wide range of community organisations, meeting the needs of people from all circumstances. Grants assist many low-income families, increasing participation and access to a range of community services, in health, education, sport, the arts, and community events.

PCL funds local, regional and national community projects that provide benefits to all of the community. Examples on a national scale include, the refurbishment of the pediatric ICU at Starship Hospital, replacement air ambulances for LifeFlight including airframe modifications and neonatal transport incubators, COVID food relief programs in south Auckland, and \$1M for KidsCan school lunch and shoes/wet weather clothing distribution. Pub Charity is also one of the largest funders of Hospice Care in New Zealand.

In South Canterbury alone in the 3 years since the previous review, Pub Charity has provided approximately \$750,000 to South Canterbury Hospice, and \$850,000 to fund the multi-sports upgrade of Fraser Park as a part of over \$5.5M in Pub Charity grants returned to benefit Timaru District regardless of socioeconomic status. (grants list attached)

Describing the system using a loaded term like “Insidious”, without acknowledging these outcomes, lacks balance, and risks giving Councillors a one-sided picture of the issue.

Machine Numbers and Gambling Harm

Previous policies were influenced by the suggestion that reducing the number of gaming machines reduces gambling harm, however New Zealand has already experienced a large reduction in gaming machines with no reported improvements in prevalence or incidence of problem gambling being reported.

In 2004 there were approximately 25,350 gaming machines operating nationwide. By the end of 2025 there were 13,772. This represents a reduction of roughly 46 percent.

If reducing machine numbers directly reduced gambling harm, we would expect to see that reflected clearly in the data. However, Ministry of Health research shows that problem gambling prevalence has remained broadly stable since the late 1990s.

The Ministry itself concluded that there has probably been no change in the prevalence of problem and moderate-risk gambling since 2006. This suggests that the relationship between machine numbers and gambling harm is more complex than the presentation implied.

The presentation noted for Timaru District since the last review:

- one venue closure

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- a reduction of ten machines.

This change appears to reflect commercial decisions rather than policy intervention and no evidence was presented that the current policy settings influenced these changes.

Loss-Per-Head Figures

Concern was previously expressed by TDC staff about Timaru's gambling losses per head compared with other districts. Several factors that may influence those figures were not discussed.

Timaru has a significant transient population including port workers, fishing crews, contractors and visitors. These groups contribute to gambling expenditure but are not counted in the resident population used in per-capita calculations.

Local economic conditions can also influence gambling expenditure. Without accounting for these factors, loss-per-head comparisons between districts should be interpreted with caution.

Nationally, in inflation adjusted terms between 2015 and 2025 spending on class 4 gambling fell by -8.7%, and the population grew by +16%. That resulted in inflation adjusted per capita class 4 spending in New Zealand falling by -21.1%.

Between 2015-2025, class 4 gambling expenditure increased in Timaru District in nominal terms by +3.7%. In inflation adjusted terms expenditure fell by -22.2%.

When the 6.9% in population growth over the same period is factored in, the inflation adjusted per capita spend in Timaru District has decreased by -27.8% since 2015, which contrasts from the tone of the presentation suggesting there is a cause for alarm over spending trends.

Community Funding

Previously TDC staff had commented on class 4 gambling expenditure in the district compared with the amount returned locally in grants.

While the comparison did not account for several sizeable deductions including, government duties and GST, the problem gambling levy, and payments to venue operators, these are constants and the Council staff were right to note a substantial decline in reported grant funding for the Timaru District between 2023 and 2024.

Council staff concluded that this was evidence that grant funds were, *"obviously around 25 odd percent that in that particular year has gone to other districts, yeah, so that's all that slide is showing -to show that there isn't necessarily a strong relationship between expenditure in the district and what returned to the district."*

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No attempt was made to question why Pub Charity's reported grants had fallen from over \$1,500,000.00 in 2023 to just \$7,630.00 in 2024. The coding error in the source data from the DIA was identified only when the media reported the shortfall. The actual figure for Pub Charity's grants to the Timaru District for 2024 was \$1.53M increasing the total returns from \$2M to \$3.5M.

Once these factors are taken into account the relationship between local gambling expenditure and local grants are inextricably linked.

Venue Location and Deprivation

The presentation suggested that gaming venues are concentrated in areas of higher deprivation. In the Timaru District most venues are long-established pubs and clubs located in commercial areas. Many of these venues existed long before gaming machines were introduced.

Legislation restricts class 4 gambling to licensed premises. The locations of these venues are determined by local government zoning. The deprivation index rates commercial and industrial areas as high deprivation.

In smaller towns commercial centers can also fall within higher deprivation zones in the deprivation index. Without more detailed spatial analysis, it is difficult to draw strong conclusions about venue placement from this data alone.

Despite these factors being well known, and in fact a function of the same Council staff making the presentation, consistent with the "Insidious" comment, the presenter assumes that venue location is a factor determined by Class 4 Operators like Pub Charity;

"You can see that these venues are disproportionately located within areas of relatively high social deprivation, and you know, would then lead yourself to wonder; why is that the case? Why would 'they' for market reasons, deem that to be appropriate to set up there."

If the Council is concerned about the location of class 4 venues in Timaru District, it is assumed that the relocation provisions will be retained in the future policy.

Online Gambling

One major issue that received little attention during the workshop was the growth of online gambling. The Government is currently developing a regulatory framework expected to license around fifteen online casino operators in New Zealand.

Online gambling offers round-the-clock access, large numbers of games and the ability to gamble anywhere using a mobile phone. Reducing physical venues does not necessarily

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reduce gambling participation. In many cases it simply shifts activity online where there is no community benefit.

This possibility was not explored during the workshop.

Problem Gambling Help Seeking Data

Service utilization data supported the demographic profile that suggests a relatively low gambling harm risk profile for Timaru residents.

As pointed out service use data is not a proxy for harm and can be influenced by factors such as:

- reporting behaviours
- awareness of services
- cultural factors.

Service use should therefore be interpreted cautiously and is an unreliable method of assessing prevalence and risk.

Policy Levers

The Act gives Councils the opportunity to set specific future parameters on future class 4 gambling activity, including;

1. Machine numbers per venue for new venues, or allow potential increases to existing venues up to maximum of 9.
2. Total future venue numbers
3. Location restrictions for new venues
4. Relocation rules

Despite the implication that these policy settings might have a direct influence over gambling harm there is no evidence that is demonstrably not the case. Christchurch, for example, has operated a sinking lid for many years yet still records relatively high losses per head and levels for help seeking.

In 2003 when the Act commenced, high speed broadband and smart phones did not exist and the idea that the state might control gambling opportunities by restricting the licensed gambling activities permitted.

Technology has made restrictions on access to licensed gambling venues irrelevant. Gambling has migrated to online and mobile platforms, culminating in the pending

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introduction of licensed online casinos which will see gaming machines and gambling opportunities available to all 24/7.

Unlike class 4 gambling which has limits on maximum bet sizes and prizes and requires cash, online gambling has no such limits and will allow the transfer of funds from credit cards to online gambling accounts.

This reality makes the suggestion of placing a sinking lid on licensed, controlled and supervised gambling spaces, that pay the highest levels of tax and critical community grants, counterproductive.

Sinking Lid Policies

The presentation suggested that sinking lid policies are the most effective tool available to councils. The evidence does not clearly support that claim.

Gaming machine numbers have already been declining for more than two decades, yet problem gambling prevalence has not shown the same downward trend.

What sinking lids reliably do is reduce the amount of funding available to community organisations. The benefits claimed for them are uncertain. The impact on community funding is not.

Conclusions

Councilors require reliable information to support discussion of the gambling venue policy review.

Previous information provided by TDC policy staff was not reliable;

In particular:

- some data was acknowledged by staff as uncertain
- several conclusions were drawn without supporting modelling
- important structural changes in the gambling environment (particularly online gambling) were not considered.

Most importantly, the available evidence does not demonstrate that changes to the current Timaru District policy settings would materially reduce gambling harm.

Before councilors consider altering the current policy settings, they should be confident that the evidence presented to them is robust and reliable.

The changes proposed do not materially alter public safety and should be supported.

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Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name *

Zinnia

Last Name *

Foster

Organisation (if applicable)

Hospitality New Zealand

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)**Email *****Postal address****Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? ***☐ Yes ☒ No

The Hearings are scheduled for during the Council meeting on Tuesday 29 September. There will be the ability to present in person or remotely. If you select "Yes", we will contact you to arrange your time.

Do you support the draft policy as presented?☐ Yes ☐ No**Provide any comments to support your view****What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?****Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?****Upload files here**

Please only upload .pdf, .doc or .docx files. 5MB max per file.

Other attached files: HNZ Submission on Timaru DC Gaming Policy Review - August 2026.pdf

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Hospitality New Zealand

TO
Timaru District Council

SUBMISSION ON
Gambling Venue Policy Review

31 August 2026

CONTACT DETAILS: **Hospitality New Zealand**
Zinnia Foster (on behalf of Nikki Rogers)
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.hospitality.org.nz

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About Hospitality New Zealand:

1. Hospitality New Zealand (“Hospitality NZ”) is a member-led, not-for-profit organisation representing around 2,500 businesses, including cafés, restaurants, bars, clubs, nightclubs, commercial accommodation, country hotels and off-licences. Our vision is to see hospitality recognised and celebrated for its contribution to Aotearoa, attracting fresh talent and generating sustainable returns for businesses and communities.
2. Hospitality NZ has advocated on behalf of the hospitality and tourism sector for over 120 years through advocacy, training, connection, and support, and seeks to ensure that the industry's needs are represented in engagement with Government and the wider sector.
3. This submission relates to the Timaru District Council Gambling Venue Policy Review. Enquiries should be referred to Zinnia Foster by phone on 027 946 6420 or email zinnia@hospitality.org.nz.

General Comments:

4. Hospitality New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Timaru District Council's proposed Gambling Venue Policy. Class 4 gaming venues are significant contributors to community funding across the district – in 2025 alone, grants totalling \$3,118,650 were distributed to Timaru District-based organisations. We commend the Council for taking an evidence-based approach to this review and are broadly supportive of the proposed changes.

Specific Comments:**Proposed Increase in Per-Venue Machine Cap (Clauses 17 and 18)**

5. Hospitality NZ supports the proposal to increase the maximum number of gaming machines per venue from seven to nine. Nine machines is the national maximum under the Gambling Act 2003, and there is no evidence-based justification for the Timaru District to restrict itself below this threshold.
6. The community funding case is compelling. A venue operating at seven machines carries the same fixed compliance costs as one operating at nine – electronic monitoring, gaming room fit-out, staff training, and licensing. Restricting venues to seven machines therefore reduces the community return rate without any corresponding reduction in operating burden. Allowing venues to operate up to nine machines improves the efficiency of the community funding model and maximises grants available to local organisations.
7. The evidence does not support the view that increasing the per-venue cap will increase

1

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gambling harm. Machine numbers in the district have declined significantly over the past decade while problem gambling rates have remained broadly stable nationally. We also note the risk of displacement to unregulated offshore online gambling – a growing market that operates without the harm minimisation protections mandatory in New Zealand Class 4 venues. Keeping regulated venues viable helps retain gambling activity within a well-governed environment.

Zoning Updates (Clauses 11 and 12)

8. Hospitality NZ supports the proposed updates to zone references to reflect the Proposed District Plan. These are sensible housekeeping amendments and we are satisfied the new zone names represent a reasonable and equivalent substitution.

Recommendations:

9. Hospitality NZ recommends the Council adopt the proposed policy as presented. The changes strike an appropriate balance between maximising community funding returns, supporting the hospitality sector, and maintaining robust harm minimisation settings.

Conclusion:

10. We thank Timaru District Council for the opportunity to submit. The decisions made through this review will have a real bearing on the level of community funding available to local organisations, and we encourage the Council to adopt the proposed changes with confidence.

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Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name *

Jennifer

Last Name *

Hardie

Organisation (if applicable)

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)

[REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Postal address

[REDACTED]

Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? *☐ Yes ☒ No

The Hearings are scheduled for during the Council meeting on Tuesday 29 September. There will be the ability to present in person or remotely. If you select "Yes", we will contact you to arrange your time.

Do you support the draft policy as presented?☐ Yes ☒ No**Provide any comments to support your view**

There is enough gambling in South Canterbury now. I've noticed that the poor people seem to be the ones most drawn to the maybe wins. They are the ones least able to afford to lose their money and the children are the ones that suffer. Along with gambling goes drinking and often smoking. Please don't make it worse for South Canterbury. Please don't put in more machines.

What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?**Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?**

I would prefer the machines were removed completely.

Upload files here[Browse](#)

Please only upload .pdf, .doc or .docx files. 5MB max per file.

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040

Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name *

Niall

Last Name *

Miller

Organisation (if applicable)

TAB NZ

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)**Email *****Postal address****Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? ***☐ Yes ☒ No

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Do you support the draft policy as presented?☐ Yes ☒ No**Provide any comments to support your view**

TAB NZ supports the increase of gaming machines permitted in a venue from 7 to 9, believing it seems reasonable to maximise community returns and match the legal maximum limit. TAB NZ holds a preference of this over other more limiting policy options such as a sinking lid. This will allow funding for grants and local communities to continue, as it doesn't eventually cut off vital funding streams for local teams and organisations. This is particularly prevalent with C4 expenditure already declining, and in-person venues competing with online casinos once the regime is in place.

TAB NZ does not oppose the updating of the policy to match the new proposed district zone plans

What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?

We propose that Council retain the existing exemption that allows TAB venues to be located within the specified distance of another gambling venue. This provision is reasonable given TAB NZ's unique statutory role and authorised purpose. TAB NZ's revenue from racing and sports wagering is uniquely returned directly to the racing industry and National Sporting Organisations, while Class 4 gaming machine profits generated through TAB venues are distributed with 80% directed to racing and the remaining 20% supporting grassroots and amateur sport. Importantly, the exemption does not remove Council oversight, as any proposal would still be subject to an application process and Council would retain discretion over whether the exemption should be granted.

TAB NZ operates under a statutory objective that requires it to minimise the risks of underage and problem gambling while maximising funding for the long-term benefit of New Zealand racing and returns to New Zealand sport. Through this model, revenue generated by TAB NZ directly supports the racing industry and sporting organisations across New Zealand. Retaining this provision would provide flexibility for TAB venues to serve different parts of a community with its unique and highly specific Authorised Purpose.

All TAB NZ venues are designed and monitored to minimise gambling-related harm. TAB NZ has committed \$5 million to harm minimisation initiatives, including the implementation of facial harm recognition technology in TAB venues and investment in New Zealand-specific research on gambling harm. Venue staff undertake comprehensive harm minimisation training, and gambling activity is continuously monitored in accordance with national harm minimisation regulations. In addition, TAB NZ contributes to the Problem Gambling Levy, which provides approximately \$24 million annually to the Ministry of Health to provide support for problem gambling and raise awareness for safer gambling practices.

Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?

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Browse

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042

Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name *

Jacob

Last Name *

Mulholland

Organisation (if applicable)

Southcanterbury Basketball

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)

[REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Postal address

[REDACTED]

Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? *☐ Yes ☒ No

The Hearings are scheduled for during the Council meeting on Tuesday 29 September. There will be the ability to present in person or remotely. If you select "Yes", we will contact you to arrange your time.

Do you support the draft policy as presented?☐ Yes ☐ No**Provide any comments to support your view****What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?****Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?****Upload files here**

Please only upload .pdf, .doc or .docx files. 5MB max per file.

Other attached files: TDC Gambling Venue Policy Letter - SCBA.pdf

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To: The Policy Team, Timaru District Council

Date: August 31, 2026

Subject: Submission on the Review of the Gambling Venue Policy 2026

To whom it may concern,

South Canterbury Basketball (SCBA) welcomes the opportunity to submit a review of the Timaru District Council Gambling Venue Policy. As a cornerstone of the regional sporting community, we represent thousands of local players, coaches, and families who rely on the accessibility of our sport.

Executive Summary

South Canterbury Basketball strongly supports the retention of the current policy, specifically the maintenance of a cap system rather than a sinking lid. The current policy effectively balances the need for social harm minimisation with the vital necessity of community funding. Any move toward a more restrictive policy would create a significant funding deficit for local youth sports that cannot be easily replaced.

1. Performance of the Current Policy

From our perspective, the current policy is performing effectively. It has provided a stable funding environment for the Class 4 Gaming Trusts that support our programmes.

- **Affordability:** Because of the grants generated under this policy, we have been able to keep player registration fees low. This ensures that basketball remains an inclusive sport for families across all socio-economic backgrounds in Timaru.
- **Infrastructure and Growth:** Grant funding has allowed us to invest in equipment, court hire, and representative travel that would otherwise be cost-prohibitive for our members.

2. Requested Policy Directions

We request that the Council maintains the following positions in the 2026 update:

- **No Sinking Lid Policy:** We oppose the introduction of a sinking lid. Forcing a permanent reduction in machine numbers over time would directly lead to a reduction in the authorised purpose funds available to South Canterbury sports.

General Manager | Jacob Mulholland
Office | Aorangi Stadium, 70 Morgans Road, Timaru, 7910
M | [REDACTED] **E** | [REDACTED]

045



- Retention of the 7-Machine Cap: The current cap on new venues (or relocated venues) is a fair compromise that prevents mega-venues while ensuring the commercial viability of the local hospitality sector that supports our grants.
- Relocation Provisions: We support flexible relocation rules. If a venue needs to move due to earthquake strengthening or lease changes, the machine licenses should be allowed to move with them to ensure the funding remains within the Timaru District.

3. The Social Return of Pokie Grants

While we acknowledge the Council's role in minimising gambling harm, we wish to highlight the harm prevention role that sports play. Basketball provides a structured, positive outlet for Timaru's youth. By keeping young people engaged in physical activity and team environments, we are actively contributing to the community's overall wellbeing. In the current 2026 economic climate, with rising costs of living and the growth of offshore online gambling (which provides zero return to our community), supporting our local Class 4 venues is the only way to ensure that local money stays local.

Conclusion

If the funding pool is diminished through a more restrictive policy, the burden will fall directly on Timaru families through increased fees. We urge the Council to maintain the status quo and support the continued partnership between Class 4 gaming and community sports.

Sincerely,

South Canterbury Basketball

General Manager | Jacob Mulholland
Office | Aorangi Stadium, 70 Morgans Road, Timaru, 7910
M | [REDACTED] **E** | [REDACTED]

046

Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name ***Last Name *****Organisation (if applicable)**

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)**Email *****Postal address****Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? ***☒ Yes ☐ No

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Do you support the draft policy as presented?☐ Yes ☐ No**Provide any comments to support your view****What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?****Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?****Upload files here**

Please only upload .pdf, .doc or .docx files. 5MB max per file.

Other attached files: 260813 Timaru Submission.pdf, Grants to Timaru - NZCT - October 2022 to September 2025.pdf

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Timaru Class 4 Gambling Policy

Public Consultation



Thank you for giving NZCT the opportunity to be involved in the public consultation on your Class 4 Gambling Policy. Engaging with the community and key stakeholders provides for balanced and effective policy making.

NZCT supports the current open policy, relocation policy and Council's proposed changes to the number of gaming machines.

NZCT supports Council's proposal to retain the current open policy and flexible relocation provisions as it provides your district with a popular form of entertainment that also delivers extensive community funding benefits.

The current relocation policy allows venues to move to more modern premises which enhances their appeal and helps your hospitality sector to be more sustainable. Relocation also protects hospitality operators from opportunistic landlords who may impose excessive rent increases knowing that their tenants cannot relocate with their gaming lounges. Additionally, the policy provides a framework for venues to re-establish in cases of fire, natural disasters, public works acquisitions, or other significant challenges.

Without a relocation policy, the detrimental effects of a sinking lid were one to be adopted would accelerate its effects, resulting in a loss of the valuable benefits that Class 4 gaming brings to the community.

We also support Council's proposing to increase the maximum number of gaming machines permitted at new venues from seven to nine, along with updating the zoning references and planning maps. The Gambling Act expressly permits nine-machine venues. There is no research or evidence to support departing from the national nine-machine limit. Nine machines give customers a greater choice of games to play, which improves the entertainment offering. In a standard gaming room fixed costs can be offset from the revenue from all nine machines. When a seven-machine venue bears the burden of these costs, the rate of return to the community is diminished.

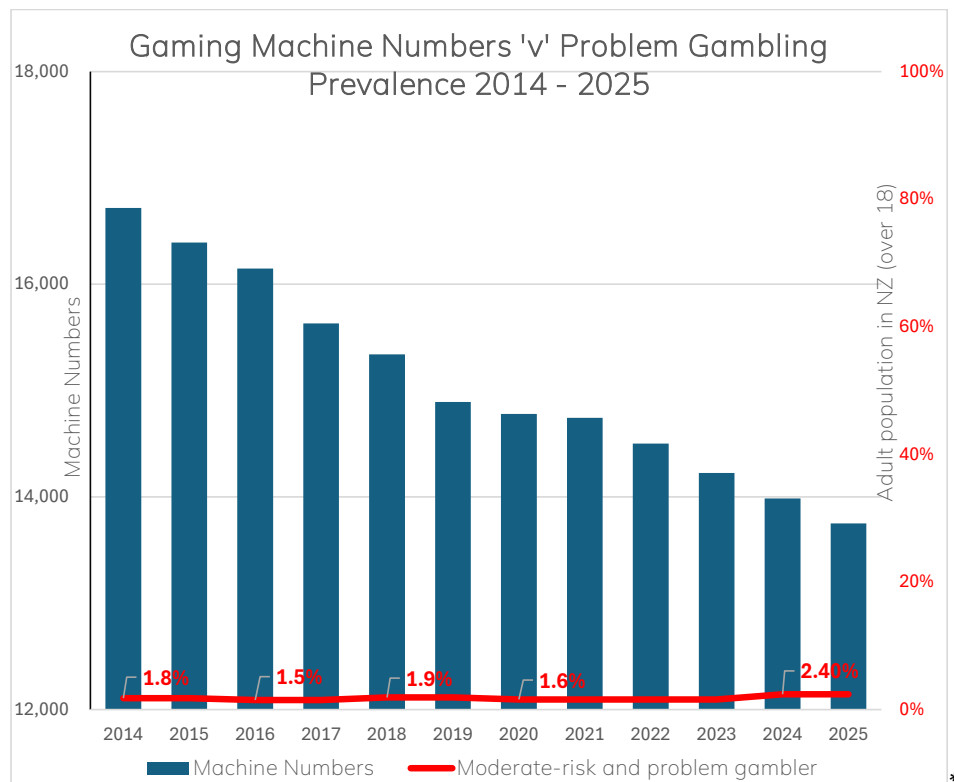
Sinking lids don't reduce gambling harm

Despite substantial reductions in machine numbers over time, national data does not show a corresponding reduction in problem gambling rates.

Since 2003 when the Gambling Act (2003) was promulgated, many councils have implemented sinking lid policies, leading to a reduction of 11,470 pokie machines nationwide (a 45% decrease; DIA). Since 2014, there has been a reduction of 2,966 machines nationwide (an 18% decrease; DIA). Despite this, Health NZ reports that the rate of problem gambling and

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those at moderate risk of gambling harm (all gambling types) has remained stable over the last decade, fluctuating only slightly between 1.8% in 2014 and 2.4% in 2024.



Note: the problem gambling rate measures ALL forms of gambling – pokies make up approximately half of the 2.4% of moderate-risk and problem gamblers shown above.¹

NZ has a low problem gambling rate

In response to an OIA request, the Ministry of Health explains that the 2024 percentage split for moderate-risk gamblers and high-risk (problem) gamblers is as per the table below.²

	Total
Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI)	% (95CI)
High-risk (problem) gambler	0.5*(0.2-0.8)
Moderate-risk gambler	1.9 (1.5-2.5)

¹ [Gambling harm intervention services data | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

² *Ministry of Health Response to NZCT OIA request 16th April 2025 (attached as appendix)

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**Health NZ states that the result should be viewed as unreliable, and caution should be used when interpreting the result, as Relative Standard Error is between 0.25 and 0.5.*

It is important to note that moderate-risk gamblers and problem gamblers are by definition distinctly different.

The Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) which the Ministry of Health uses as the template for its Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI), characterises 'problem gamblers' as people who experience harm³ and goes on to explain that 'Moderate risk' gamblers are defined as people who *'may or may not have experienced adverse consequences from gambling.'*

For clarity, this is stating that moderate risk gamblers are at moderate risk (or in other words have a moderate chance) of experiencing harm at some level from their gambling. This is different to the incorrect interpretation you may see in other submissions which describe the category as people who uniformly suffer moderate levels of harm.

Some submissions may also explain that 'low risk' gamblers also experience harm at low levels. But again, the PGSI states that *"...[t]his group likely will not have experienced any adverse consequences from gambling."*... at all.

Problem gambling in context

New Zealand's rate of problem gambling (not inclusive of moderate risk) is low by international standards as the following table and study shows.⁴

Comparing National Problem Gambling Prevalence Rates

Jurisdiction	Year	Problem Gambling Rate
USA	2015	4.60%
South Africa	2013	3.20%
Macau	2005	2.50%
Czech Republic	2014	2.30%
Cyprus	2012	2.20%
Northern Ireland	2010	2.20%
Canada	2005	2.00%
Hong Kong	2012	1.90%
Hungary	2012	1.90%
Germany	2015	1.70%
Brazil	2010	1.30%
Italy	2010	1.27%
Denmark	2012	0.90%
Iceland	2015	0.80%
Great Britain	2012	0.70%
Finland	2014	0.60%
South Korea	2013	0.50%
Singapore	2015	0.50%

³ [Canadian Problem Gambling Index: Final Report Feb 19, 2001](#)

⁴ [Calado F, Griffiths MD. Problem gambling worldwide: An update and systematic review of empirical research \(2000-2015\). Journal of Behavioural Addictions 2016; 5\(4\): 592-613. Doi:10.1556/2006.5.2016.073](#)

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France	2015	0.50%
Australia	2016	0.40%
Norway	2009	0.40%
Sweden	2014	0.30%
New Zealand	2015	0.20%

Relatively few New Zealanders are classified as problem gamblers under PGSI measures. The majority of gambling participation falls outside categories associated with measurable harm.

For comparison, whilst problem gambling in New Zealand occurs at a rate of 0.5% - with pokies making up approximately half (0.25%) of that figure ⁵ - the rate of hazardous drinking (have drunk hazardously in a way that can harm themselves or others⁶) is 16.6% of adults, which is equivalent to about 720,000 people⁷.

Despite the rate of hazardous alcohol consumption being sixty-six (66) times greater than problem Class 4 gambling, policy responses generally do not seek to eliminate alcohol availability, recognising that most adults can enjoy it responsibly.

While alcohol and gambling are regulated differently, the comparison illustrates the importance of proportional and evidence-based policy responses.

A sinking lid Council gaming policy would ultimately eliminate the availability of a legal and popular form of gambling entertainment for the 99.5% of adult New Zealanders who are not problem gamblers.

Historical and international policy experience suggests that prohibition approaches can result in unintended consequences and is not an effective tool for minimising harm. Eliminating gaming rooms over time does not address the root causes of problem gambling, especially since individuals can now easily shift to online gambling, which is available 24/7, has fewer controls as physical in-venue Class 4 gaming environments, and currently provides no return to the community in the form of grants.

Whilst co-morbidity between problem gambling and other negative behaviours a person may experience is acknowledged, The New Zealand Gambling Study Wave 4 (2015) states that there is no evidence for causative effects from problem gambling to those other negative experiences. It states that although problem gambling is *“highly co-morbid with substance use disorders and other behavioural addictions, as well as with mood, anxiety and personality disorders...”* ⁸ the *“...relationships between gambling and other mental health disorders are complex, prospective studies have found that substance use, substance use disorders and behavioural addictions are robust predictors of problem gambling onset...”*⁹ and not the reverse.

⁵ [Gambling harm intervention services data | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

⁶ [Alcohol Resources — Key facts about drinking in New Zealand](#)

⁷ <https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/annual-update-of-key-results-202324-new-zealand-health-survey>

⁸ Pg 26 - <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2018-08/national-gambling-study-report-6-aug18.pdf>

⁹ Pg 26 - <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2018-08/national-gambling-study-report-6-aug18.pdf>

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The Class 4 sector is heavily regulated

Despite the number of problem gamblers being very small, the Class 4 sector works hard to minimise harmful behaviours. The Class 4 sector contributes over half of the annual \$20 million problem gambling levy that funds a nationwide network of problem gambling services. Additionally, NZCT alone invests \$650,000 annually in harm minimisation initiatives, including staff training, resources, and technology.

Gaming rooms operate within strict harm minimisation regulations, with staff trained to identify and intervene when they observe signs of harm. For example, venue staff must undertake record-keeping sweeps of gaming rooms three times an hour to monitor for, and act on, signs of harm. Furthermore, venue staff must discuss with a customer their gambling activity should a customer attempt to make a second withdrawal of money from an in-venue ATM for the purposes of additional in-venue Class 4 gambling.

Responsible management and enhanced Harm Minimisation Regulations

The regulatory framework for Class 4 gambling ensures gaming lounge activities are managed with transparency and accountability. In 2023 there were updates to these regulations that have strengthened oversight, further promoting responsible gambling practices and enhancing community trust.

The stringent harm minimisation regulations provide even greater protections for individuals who are susceptible to harm. The current open policy is a balanced approach that maintains the provision of a legal form of entertainment in your community that enriches your district's hospitality offerings and generates community funding from discretionary income.

Online gambling

With the emergence of online gambling, it is unclear what effect sinking lids are having in migrating problem gamblers online where there are fewer protections against problem gambling compared to those provided by physical in person Class 4 venues. What is clear is that online gambling expenditure continues to increase year on year – up 10.5% (+\$129.6 million) to \$1.36 billion in the year to September 2025¹⁰ whilst spend on the more controlled environment of Class 4 gambling was down 0.8% (-\$8.6 million) to \$1.02 billion in the year to September 2025¹¹.

Class 4 spending is not growing

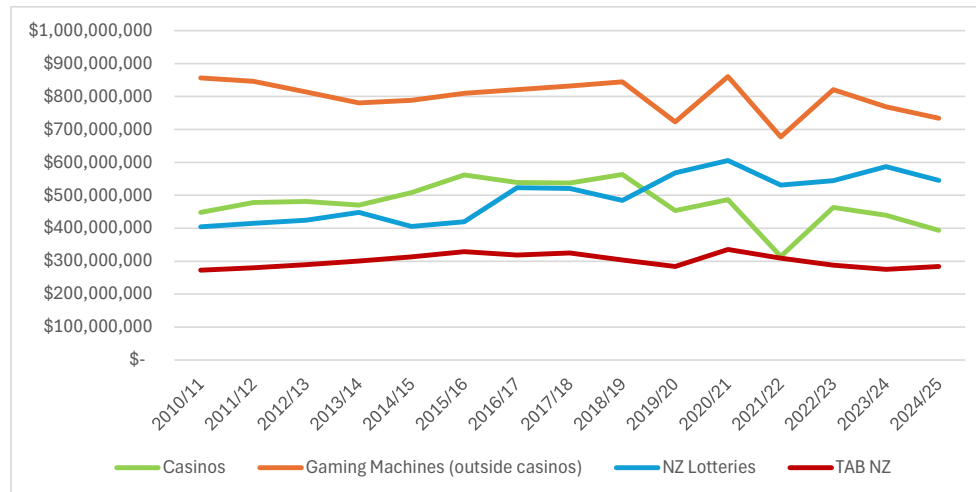
While Class 4 still accounts for the largest share of annual gambling expenditure in New Zealand, inflation adjusted spending since 2010/11 has seen Class 4 trend down 14%. Not all forms of gambling are down, with Lotto experiencing a 35% increase over the same period.

¹⁰ [DIA x Dot Historical Market Analysis](#) pages 9 and 10

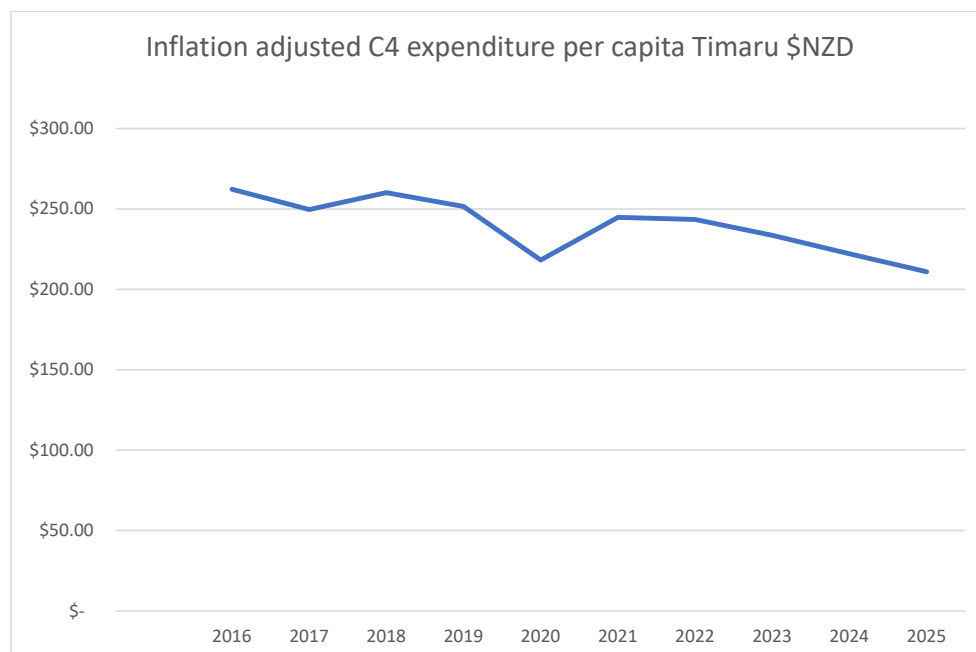
¹¹ <https://www.dia.govt.nz/gambling-statistics-expenditure>

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Inflation Adjusted Gambling Expenditure¹²



In Timaru specifically, pokie expenditure per capita is also down from \$262.24 in 2016 to \$210.95 in 2025 (a 20% per capita drop in inflation-adjusted expenditure over ten years).¹³¹⁴



¹² DIA Gambling Expenditure Statistics Report

¹³ <https://regions.infometrics.co.nz/timaru-district/population/growth> - age group 20+

¹⁴ www.dia.govt.nz/gambling-statistics-expenditure

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Comparable current data for online gambling is not yet available; however, the online gambling market has steadily grown across the previous two years. Online casinos have grown at the highest rate 14% of the total market in the year to September 2025.

The online gambling sector¹⁵



Another submission may claim that sinking lid policies have led to a 13% reduction in harm; however, this misinterprets research that indicated sinking lids decreased expenditure (not harm) by 13%. There is no evidence that indicates that there is a 1:1 correlation between expenditure and harm. Interestingly, the same research also found that per capita caps had the same effect on expenditure¹⁶.

Sinking lid policies do however pose a significant risk to the sustainability of pokie grants. Pokie grants are essential for supporting non-profit organisations to foster happier, healthier, and more connected communities. In 2025 Class 4 societies awarded \$3.12 million¹⁷ in grants within Timaru.

¹⁵ [DIA x Dot Historical Market Analysis](#) -page 14

¹⁶ <https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/capping-gambling-in-nz-the-effectiveness-of-local-government-policy-interventions>

¹⁷ [Granted.govt.nz](#)

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Evaluating the impact of sinking lids

Sinking lid policies pose a significant risk to the sustainability of pokie grants. Pokie grants are essential for supporting non-profit organisations to foster happier, healthier, and more connected communities.

In 2025, Class-4 societies awarded approx. \$3.12million in grants within Timaru. NZCT contributed 3% (\$78,216) of this. We note that Council itself applied for and was awarded \$75,000 of pokie funding over the three-year period 2023-2025.

Over NZCT's last three complete financial years 2022/23 – 2024/25, NZCT awarded 30 grants in Timaru totalling \$257,668. During the same period, NZCT approved millions of dollars more of region-wide and nationwide grants, \$283,766 of which can be identified as being of direct benefit to the people of Timaru. In total, \$541,434 of NZCT grants benefited Timaru in this period.

If a sinking lid was introduced, and ultimately achieved its inevitable outcome of eliminating all Class 4 funding in Timaru, who or what will replace the \$3.12 million per annum being invested by Class 4 societies in community good?

Were Council to replace this funding (and there are no other obvious alternatives), Council would need to increase rates by 75% which under new local government rating cap policy is not possible.

Entertainment value

Class 4 gambling rooms offer recreational and social opportunities for residents. These hospitality establishments provide entertainment options and foster social connectivity in a way that online gambling does not, all whilst generating vital community funding.

Gambling has a net positive wellbeing benefit

In New Zealand, gambling in all its forms contributes net positive well-being benefits of approximately \$2 billion annually¹⁸. This value is the sum of its entertainment value, the resulting government revenue, the problem gambling levy, and the globally unique provision of community grants that inject money into a community's not-for-profit sector and the local retail and service industries that support it.

Sustainable class 4 policy

Retaining the current policy allows for growth, and a flexible relocation policy helps ensure that gaming remains a safe, responsible, and enjoyable form of entertainment for residents, that currently contributes an annual benefit of \$3.12 million to the Timaru community.

¹⁸ TDB Advisory Report 2021 Page 87

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By balancing growth with responsible oversight, the policy can continue to foster entertainment opportunities and social connection for Timaru residents, while sustaining vital funding for local initiatives.

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NZCT's grants to Timaru District - October 2022 to September 2025

Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Timaru District	Date of Approval	Purpose
96185	Craighead Diocesan School	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	13/12/2022	Rowing boat
97830	Cycling South Canterbury Inc	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	15/03/2023	Event costs
100755	Fraser Park Community Trust	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	22/11/2023	Redevelopment of multi-sport facility
106800	Gleniti Golf Club Inc	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	17/09/2024	Extension of cart shed
111015	Grantlea Downs School	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	3/07/2025	Pool heat pump
97839	Grantlea Downs School	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	15/05/2023	Fibreglass line school pool and upgrade of pool plant
95558	Lions Club of Timaru Suburban Charitable Trust	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	21/11/2022	Construction of shelter
99292	Midlands Squash Rackets Association Inc	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	18/07/2023	Salary
109036	Netball South Canterbury Inc	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	17/02/2025	Salaries of Umpire Convenor, Development Officer, Centre Administrator and Centre Manager
101790	Netball South Canterbury Inc	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	19/03/2024	Salaries of Centre Administrator, Centre Manager and Netball Development Officer
103953	Northern Hearts Association Football Club Inc	\$5,908.50	\$5,908.50	26/03/2024	First aid equipment, playing uniforms and equipment
97878	Northern Hearts Association Football Club Inc	\$5,143.22	\$5,143.22	29/03/2023	Playing uniforms and equipment, physio and first aid equipment
110128	Old Boys Sports Club Timaru Inc	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	20/05/2025	First aid and equipment
98578	Peel Forest Outdoor Pursuits Charitable Trust	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	23/08/2023	Wetsuits
102710	South Canterbury Hospice Inc	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	16/01/2024	Salaries of Patient & Family Support/Complementary Therapist and Nurse
108315	South Canterbury Multiple Sclerosis Society Inc	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	20/11/2024	Salary
111219	Special Olympics South Canterbury Trust	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	3/07/2025	Costs for NZ National Summer Games
104573	Table Tennis South Canterbury Association Inc	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	21/05/2024	Contractor
112122	Tennis South Canterbury Inc	\$6,888.00	\$6,888.00	16/07/2025	Equipment
104950	Tennis South Canterbury Inc	\$5,408.00	\$5,408.00	22/05/2024	Tennis balls
97922	Tennis South Canterbury Inc	\$7,474.63	\$7,474.63	15/03/2023	Security cameras
112967	Timaru Boys High School Cricket Club Inc	\$7,043.28	\$7,043.28	23/09/2025	Travel and accommodation, and cricket net and frame
111723	Timaru Boys High School Hockey Society Inc	\$6,561.03	\$6,561.03	3/07/2025	Travel and accommodation
110215	Timaru Squash Rackets Club Inc	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	15/04/2025	Contractor
105114	Timaru Squash Rackets Club Inc	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	20/06/2024	Contractor
111330	Waimataitai School	\$10,722.00	\$10,722.00	18/06/2025	Basketball hoops
105826	Waimataitai School	\$7,665.00	\$7,665.00	3/07/2024	Line marking for sports courts and recreational areas
98836	Waimataitai School	\$9,537.00	\$9,537.00	14/06/2023	Sports equipment
103501	West End Timaru Bowling Club Inc	\$2,817.39	\$2,817.39	28/02/2024	Event costs
97555	West End Timaru Bowling Club Inc	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	19/04/2023	Contractor
		\$257,668.05	\$257,668.05		
Regional and multi-regional grants that benefit Timaru District					
110683	Aorangi Golf Inc	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	17/06/2025	Salary
100179	Aorangi Golf Inc	\$10,000.00	\$6,679.03	22/11/2023	Contractor
108901	Ashburton, South Canterbury, North Otago, Area of the NZ Pony Club Association Inc	\$3,844.25	\$57.97	19/12/2024	Event costs
108007	Badminton Canterbury Inc	\$20,000.00	\$400.00	17/02/2025	Contractor
99559	Badminton Canterbury Inc	\$20,000.00	\$600.00	22/08/2023	Contractor
100459	Bone Marrow Cancer Trust	\$75,000.00	\$1,808.67	19/09/2023	Construction costs for Ranui Apartments
104536	Bowls Canterbury Inc	\$30,000.00	\$900.00	21/05/2024	Salary

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Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Timaru District	Date of Approval	Purpose
109970	Broken River Ski Club Inc	\$8,501.25	\$170.02	9/04/2025	Rope for Tow
101954	Broken River Ski Club Inc	\$10,000.00	\$300.00	15/11/2023	Roller door including installation
109405	Cancer Society of NZ Canterbury West Coast Division Inc	\$10,000.00	\$194.44	18/03/2025	Equipment trailer
103296	Cancer Society of NZ Canterbury West Coast Division Inc	\$10,000.00	\$292.02	19/03/2024	Automatic linear staining machine, chemicals and dyes
113007	Canterbury Area Pony Club Inc	\$5,000.00	\$100.00	23/09/2025	Coaching
105555	Canterbury Australian Football League Inc	\$15,000.00	\$450.00	16/07/2024	Contractor
105007	Canterbury Baseball Inc	\$2,015.66	\$60.47	3/07/2024	Turf MVP
107837	Canterbury Basketball Association Inc	\$190,000.00	\$3,800.00	19/11/2024	Wheelchairs; salaries of General Manager, Junior Competitions and Programmes Administration, Referee Appointments and Development Officer, Head of Basketball and Community Development, and Community Basketball Manager
101697	Canterbury Basketball Association Inc	\$175,000.00	\$5,250.00	22/11/2023	Salaries of General Manager, Referee Appointments and Development Officer, Junior Events Officer, Head of Pathways and Community Development, and Community Basketball Manager
96070	Canterbury Basketball Association Inc	\$160,000.00	\$3,200.00	13/12/2022	Salaries of Junior Events and Competitions Officer, Community Referee Development Officer, General Manager, Head of Pathways and Community Basketball Development, and Community Basketball Manager
109574	Canterbury Boxing Association Inc	\$5,000.00	\$100.00	26/02/2025	Flights
103521	Canterbury Boxing Association Inc	\$8,973.91	\$269.22	28/02/2024	Event costs
107958	Canterbury Cricket Association Inc	\$15,000.00	\$362.93	19/11/2024	Training nets
107057	Canterbury Cricket Association Inc	\$160,000.00	\$3,200.00	15/10/2024	Salaries of Game Development Officer, Cricket Operations and Team Logistics Manager, Talent and Transition Lead, Participation Manager, and General Manager - Community
101453	Canterbury Cricket Association Inc	\$160,000.00	\$4,800.00	22/11/2023	Contractor fee for Officials Coordinator, and salaries of Game Development Officer, Cricket Operations Lead, Cricket Operations Coordinator, Talent and Transition Lead, Participation Manager, and General Manager - Community
95471	Canterbury Cricket Association Inc	\$155,000.00	\$3,100.00	27/10/2022	Salaries of Cricket Operations Coordinator, Talent and Transition Lead, Head of Operations and Experience, and General Manager - Community
111103	Canterbury Hockey Association Inc	\$155,000.00	\$3,100.00	17/06/2025	Salaries of Competitions & Events Manager, Officials Development Manager, Participations Manager, Development Manager, and Chief Executive
105066	Canterbury Hockey Association Inc	\$155,000.00	\$4,650.00	20/06/2024	Salaries of Competitions & Events Manager, Officials Development Manager, Community Participations Manager, Hockey Development Manager, and CEO
98932	Canterbury Hockey Association Inc	\$140,000.00	\$4,200.00	20/06/2023	Salaries of Competitions & Events Manager, Officials Development Officer, Community Participations Manager, Hockey Development Manager and Chief Executive Officer
98098	Canterbury Ice Hockey Association Inc	\$7,500.00	\$225.00	17/05/2023	Contractor
110985	Canterbury NZ Croquet Association Inc	\$1,500.00	\$30.00	21/05/2025	Uniforms
110338	Canterbury Primary Schools Sports Association Inc	\$50,000.00	\$1,000.00	20/05/2025	Salary
103291	Canterbury Primary Schools Sports Association Inc	\$50,000.00	\$1,500.00	16/04/2024	Salary
109599	Canterbury Regional Basketball Foundation	\$115,000.00	\$2,168.59	18/03/2025	Salaries of General Manager, Women's Head Coach, Development Coach - People Lead, Participation & Coaching Lead, and Head Coach
104153	Canterbury Regional Basketball Foundation	\$117,000.00	\$2,970.39	16/04/2024	Salaries of General Manager, Development Coach - People Lead, Development Coach - Participation, and Head Coach
98105	Canterbury Regional Basketball Foundation	\$100,000.00	\$2,430.00	19/04/2023	Salaries of General Manager, Programme Coordinator, Development Coach - People Lead, Development Coach - Participation Lead, and Head Coach
108285	Canterbury Rowing Association Inc	\$22,500.00	\$450.00	17/02/2025	Contractor
96113	Canterbury Rowing Association Inc	\$40,000.00	\$800.00	13/12/2022	Contractor
112545	Canterbury Softball Association Inc	\$400,000.00	\$8,000.00	26/09/2025	Construction costs for new indoor training center
108743	Canterbury Softball Association Inc	\$150,000.00	\$3,000.00	14/01/2025	Salaries of Project Support, Development & Media Manager, and Operations Managers
102844	Canterbury Softball Association Inc	\$150,000.00	\$4,500.00	19/02/2024	Salaries of Project Support, Development and Media Manager, Operations Manager and General Manager
96950	Canterbury Softball Association Inc	\$150,000.00	\$4,344.49	16/02/2023	Salaries of Coach & Development Manager, Operations Manager and Chief Executive
101463	Canterbury Ultimate Inc	\$4,926.95	\$147.80	16/10/2023	Event costs for Mixed Ultimate Championships 2023
95592	Canterbury Ultimate Inc	\$3,979.82	\$79.60	17/10/2022	Event costs

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Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Timaru District	Date of Approval	Purpose
107839	Canterbury Volleyball Association CVA Inc	\$50,000.00	\$1,000.00	17/02/2025	Salary
100047	Canterbury Volleyball Association CVA Inc	\$40,000.00	\$1,200.00	22/08/2023	Salary
109314	Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust	\$190,000.00	\$3,694.27	20/05/2025	Salaries of Regional Sport Directors, Sport Development Lead, Tamariki Lead - Play and Sport, Rangatahi Lead - Sport and Active Recreation, South Canterbury Regional Manager and Sector Support Manager (excluding allowances and expenses)
104056	Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust	\$190,000.00	\$4,899.27	16/04/2024	Salaries of General Manager, Regional Play Systems Lead, Rangatahi Lead, Regional Sport Coordinator, South Canterbury Regional Manager, Community Advisor - Mid Canterbury, West Coast Regional Manager, Sport Development Lead and Sector Support Manager
97947	Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust	\$180,000.00	\$5,230.11	19/04/2023	Salaries of General Manager Participation Pathways, Regional Play Systems Lead, Rangatahi Lead, Regional Sports Coordinator and Office Administrator, South Canterbury Regional Manager, Mid Canterbury Regional Manager, West Coast Regional Manager, Community Coach Advisor and Sector Support Manager
107074	Canterbury Yachting Association Inc	\$7,000.00	\$140.00	26/09/2024	Contractor
109705	Capital Football Inc - No 5 District Federation of NZ Football Inc	\$300,000.00	\$1,109.72	18/03/2025	Contractor fees for Programme Administration (Southern, Central, Northern - South, Northern - North) and National Programme Director - Football For All, and Football For All programme costs
103450	Capital Football Inc - No 5 District Federation of NZ Football Inc	\$300,000.00	\$1,534.67	19/02/2024	Football For All Programme costs (on behalf of all Federations)
100237	Capital Football Inc - No 5 District Federation of NZ Football Inc	\$125,000.00	\$379.28	19/09/2023	Travel and accommodation for 2023 Futsal Youth Championships (on behalf of all Federations)
91832	Capital Football Inc - No 5 District Federation of NZ Football Inc	\$175,000.00	\$609.01	20/06/2023	Travel and accommodation for 2023 National Youth Development League (on behalf of all Federations)
107465	Cholmondeley Childrens Centre Charitable Trust	\$40,000.00	\$967.82	19/11/2024	Salaries of Child and Youth Care Practitioner Team Leader and Child and Youth Care Practitioner
101491	Cholmondeley Childrens Centre Charitable Trust	\$40,000.00	\$1,200.00	22/11/2023	Salaries of Child and Youth Care Practitioner and Child and Youth Care Practitioner Team Leader
96055	Cholmondeley Childrens Centre Charitable Trust	\$40,000.00	\$800.00	13/12/2022	Senior Child & Youth Care Practitioner Team Leader and Child & Youth Care Practitioner
112192	Christchurch Group NZ Riding for the Disabled Association Inc	\$5,000.00	\$100.00	30/07/2025	Salary
97864	Christchurch Schools Music Festival Association Inc	\$10,000.00	\$290.56	19/04/2023	Venue hire
112152	Classic Action Motorcycle Sport South Island Inc	\$7,675.00	\$153.50	16/07/2025	Event costs
105729	Classic Action Motorcycle Sport South Island Inc	\$5,475.00	\$164.25	3/07/2024	Timing equipment
100467	Classic Action Motorcycle Sport South Island Inc	\$5,715.00	\$171.45	23/08/2023	Timing equipment
104180	Craigieburn Valley Ski Club Inc	\$6,930.30	\$207.91	5/06/2024	Flares, vacuum mattress, avalanche airbags and AED
99766	Craigieburn Valley Ski Club Inc	\$1,895.00	\$54.53	26/07/2023	AED
101747	ESNZ Eventing Canterbury Inc	\$10,500.00	\$315.00	2/11/2023	Construction of cross country jumps
97216	ESNZ Eventing Canterbury Inc	\$13,110.75	\$393.32	16/02/2023	First aid cover
99651	Graeme Dingle Foundation Canterbury	\$10,000.00	\$300.00	22/08/2023	Salaries of two Kiwi Can Leaders, Programme Manager and Assistant Kiwi Can Coordinator
96763	Graeme Dingle Foundation Canterbury	\$20,000.00	\$600.00	17/01/2023	Salaries of four Team Leaders, Programme Manager, Kiwi Can Assistant Coordinator and Kiwi Can Team Leader
100477	Kuki XIII Inc	\$6,582.60	\$150.61	23/08/2023	Playing uniforms
109973	Mainland Badminton Inc	\$4,000.00	\$73.29	27/03/2025	Travel
104036	Mainland Badminton Inc	\$5,004.00	\$115.14	10/04/2024	Van hire
98690	Mainland Badminton Inc	\$3,000.00	\$64.84	17/05/2023	Van hire
106925	Mainland North BMX Association Inc	\$7,600.00	\$127.31	11/09/2024	Coaching
100412	Mainland North BMX Association Inc	\$3,723.00	\$98.34	10/08/2023	Coaching
107047	Marching Canterbury Association Inc	\$10,000.00	\$200.00	26/09/2024	Venue hire
111222	ME/CFS Canterbury/West Coast Charitable Trust	\$7,000.00	\$134.39	3/06/2025	Salary

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Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Timaru District	Date of Approval	Purpose
109706	ME/CFS Canterbury/West Coast Charitable Trust	\$3,000.00	\$69.89	27/03/2025	Salary
104774	ME/CFS Canterbury/West Coast Charitable Trust	\$3,251.44	\$94.95	20/06/2024	Salary
99178	ME/CFS Canterbury/West Coast Charitable Trust	\$6,185.84	\$155.33	14/06/2023	Salary
97110	ME/CFS Canterbury/West Coast Charitable Trust	\$5,000.00	\$140.26	31/01/2023	Salary
107399	Motorcycling Canterbury Inc	\$5,202.50	\$104.05	20/11/2024	Rescue and medical services
101984	Motorcycling Canterbury Inc	\$3,000.00	\$90.00	15/11/2023	Medical services
96109	Motorcycling Canterbury Inc	\$3,060.00	\$61.20	3/11/2022	Medical services
108738	Mount Cheeseman Ski Club Inc	\$18,770.00	\$375.40	17/02/2025	Gearbox
103841	Mount Cheeseman Ski Club Inc	\$9,000.00	\$270.00	13/03/2024	Equipment
100221	Mount Cheeseman Ski Club Inc	\$10,269.27	\$308.08	10/08/2023	Kitchen upgrade
110190	Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinsons Canterbury Charitable Trust	\$5,000.00	\$100.00	9/04/2025	Salary
102471	Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinsons Canterbury Charitable Trust	\$5,000.00	\$150.00	19/02/2024	Salary
94200	Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinsons Canterbury Charitable Trust	\$4,000.00	\$80.00	15/11/2022	Salary
112184	No 6 District Federation of NZ Football Inc - Mainland Football	\$180,000.00	\$2,857.40	19/08/2025	Salaries of Community Competitions Manager, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Manager, Adaptive Football Lead, Club Support & Administration, Referee Development Officer, Community Development Officer, Technical Director, Futsal Development Manager and Competitions & Operations Manager
105835	No 6 District Federation of NZ Football Inc - Mainland Football	\$180,000.00	\$2,946.29	17/09/2024	Salaries of Club Support & Administration, Referee Development Officer, Adaptive Football Lead, Regional Administration Manager & Technical Support, Community Competitions Manager, Futsal Development Manager, Competitions & Operations Manager, Technical Director and Community Development Manager
99058	No 6 District Federation of NZ Football Inc - Mainland Football	\$180,000.00	\$4,680.87	22/08/2023	Salaries of Regional and Technical Support, Club Support and Administration, Referee Development Officer, Football Administration Manager Nelson Bays, Community Development Officer, Coach & Leadership Manager, Player Development Manager, Futsal Development Manager and Competitions Manager
107714	No 7 District Federation of NZ Football Inc	\$20,000.00	\$4,380.97	19/11/2024	Salaries of Competitions Manager for Otago, Central Otago and South Canterbury, Football Development Officer Girls and Women for Otago, Women's Football Development Officer for South Canterbury and Football Development Officer for Otago
101611	No 7 District Federation of NZ Football Inc	\$20,000.00	\$4,498.08	22/11/2023	Salaries of Federation Football Development Officer– South Canterbury, Federation Women and Girls Development Officer - Otago/Central Otago, Federation Women and Girls Development Officer - Otago/Central Otago, and Federation Football Development Officer - Otago
96126	No 7 District Federation of NZ Football Inc	\$15,914.00	\$312.04	13/12/2022	Salaries of Football Development Officer– South Canterbury, Futsal Development Manager– Otago/Central, Women and Girls Development Officer Otago/Central Otago, and Football Development Officer
108974	North Canterbury Alpine Trust Board	\$50,000.00	\$1,000.00	18/03/2025	Salary
102014	North Canterbury Alpine Trust Board	\$50,000.00	\$1,500.00	12/12/2023	Salary
96296	North Canterbury Alpine Trust Board	\$50,000.00	\$1,448.16	13/12/2022	Salaries of Instructors
109031	Order of St John South Island Region Trust Board	\$150,842.61	\$2,932.92	17/02/2025	Ambulances and equipment
99480	Order of St John South Island Region Trust Board	\$400,000.00	\$42,000.00	18/07/2023	Ambulances
111521	Parafed Canterbury Inc	\$10,000.00	\$200.00	18/06/2025	Salaries of Administration Manager and General Manager
105400	Parafed Canterbury Inc	\$10,000.00	\$300.00	19/06/2024	Salaries of Administration Manager and General Manager
98885	Parafed Canterbury Inc	\$10,000.00	\$300.00	31/05/2023	Salaries of Junior Sports Manager and Sports Manager
110720	School Sport Canterbury Inc	\$45,000.00	\$900.00	20/05/2025	Salaries of Student Activation Lead and Sport Development and Programme Manager
103447	School Sport Canterbury Inc	\$40,000.00	\$1,200.00	16/04/2024	Salaries of Sport Development & Programme Manager and Student Activation Lead
97708	School Sport Canterbury Inc	\$30,000.00	\$900.00	19/04/2023	Salaries of Student Activation Lead and Sport Development and Programme Manager
102556	Selwyn Sports Trust	\$25,000.00	\$750.00	16/01/2024	Salary
98700	Selwyn Sports Trust	\$23,228.75	\$696.86	20/06/2023	Salary of Community Activity & Events Manager, court hire, pool hire, admission fees, and lifeguard
104403	Softball Mainland Inc	\$6,769.23	\$159.10	24/04/2024	Contractor
96142	Softball Mainland Inc	\$7,600.00	\$168.19	15/11/2022	Contractor

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Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Timaru District	Date of Approval	Purpose
102170	South Canterbury Basketball Association Inc	\$10,000.00	\$6,679.03	15/11/2023	Court hire
112154	South Island Ice Skating Sub Association Inc	\$5,000.00	\$90.51	16/07/2025	Ice hire
106488	South Island Ice Skating Sub Association Inc	\$5,000.00	\$90.54	12/08/2024	Ice time
105755	South Island Masters Games Timaru Inc	\$30,000.00	\$460.21	16/07/2024	Contractor
105903	South Island Rowing Inc	\$30,000.00	\$452.37	20/08/2024	Salary
98828	South Island Rowing Inc	\$30,000.00	\$673.34	20/06/2023	Salary
97514	Southern Disability Trust	\$6,148.66	\$184.45	29/03/2023	Gym hire
110083	Southern Zone of NZRL Inc	\$120,000.00	\$1,835.20	15/04/2025	Contract fees for CRL Director of Football, and salaries of Football Operations & District Capability and General Manager
103765	Southern Zone of NZRL Inc	\$120,000.00	\$2,736.00	16/04/2024	Salaries of Football Operations and District Capability and General Manager, and CRL Director of Football contract fee
97694	Southern Zone of NZRL Inc	\$118,269.23	\$2,556.09	19/04/2023	Canterbury Rugby League Director of Football, and salaries of Club Capability & Event Manager and Southern Zone General Manager
99777	Squash Canterbury Inc	\$35,000.00	\$849.87	22/08/2023	Salary
108681	Swimming Canterbury West Coast Inc	\$30,000.00	\$583.67	14/01/2025	Salary
101406	Swimming Canterbury West Coast Inc	\$30,000.00	\$886.93	22/11/2023	Salary
100621	Table Tennis Canterbury Inc	\$300,000.00	\$9,000.00	19/09/2023	Costs associated with stadium upgrade
107641	Te Waipounamu Touch Inc	\$30,000.00	\$339.22	19/11/2024	Salary
110860	Temple Basin Ski Club Inc	\$6,980.00	\$139.60	21/05/2025	Fridges
108664	Tennis Canterbury Region Inc	\$70,000.00	\$1,400.00	14/01/2025	Salaries of Operations Assistant and General Manager
102589	Tennis Canterbury Region Inc	\$70,000.00	\$2,100.00	16/01/2024	Salaries of Operations Assistant and General Manager
95698	Tennis Canterbury Region Inc	\$60,000.00	\$1,737.80	21/11/2022	Salaries of Participation & Competitions Coordinator and General Manager
111958	The Kind Foundation	\$30,000.00	\$575.95	19/08/2025	Salary
96673	The Kind Foundation	\$30,000.00	\$871.68	21/03/2023	Salary
113088	Touch Canterbury Inc	\$50,000.00	\$959.92	26/09/2025	Salaries of Administration, Junior Module & Representative Officer and Regional Development Manager
106755	Touch Canterbury Inc	\$50,000.00	\$972.79	17/09/2024	Salaries of Administration, Junior Module & Representative Officer and Regional Development Manager
100759	Touch Canterbury Inc	\$50,000.00	\$1,462.77	19/09/2023	Salaries of Administration, Junior Module & Representative Officer and Regional Development Manager
103184	Wandersearch Canterbury Charitable Trust	\$2,706.50	\$71.70	1/02/2024	Tracking devices
95395	Wandersearch Canterbury Charitable Trust	\$3,011.96	\$87.24	15/11/2022	Equipment
111554	Yes Disability Resource Centre Services Trust Board	\$6,000.00	\$40.65	18/06/2025	Salary
		\$7,804,162.48	\$230,136.80		
Grants to National organisations that benefit Timaru District					
96267	Baseball NZ Inc	\$5,000.00	\$144.81	17/01/2023	Salary
111985	Basketball NZ Inc	\$198,000.00	\$1,436.21	26/09/2025	Salaries of Disability Inclusion Lead, National Participation Manager, Women & Girls Lead South Island, and People Development Lead South Island
106523	Basketball NZ Inc	\$200,000.00	\$1,905.40	17/09/2024	Salaries of Disabilities Lead, Participation & Wellbeing Lead, Women and Girls Lead - South and People Development Lead South
100160	Basketball NZ Inc	\$200,000.00	\$3,000.00	22/08/2023	Community programme costs, and salaries of Participation and Wellbeing Lead, Women and Girls Lead - South and People Development Lead-South
105177	Canteen Aotearoa Inc	\$35,000.00	\$170.56	17/09/2024	Salaries of Youth Workers and Programmes & Leadership Manager
102433	Chamber Music NZ Trust Board	\$139,300.00	\$90.00	16/01/2024	Salaries of Engagement Artist, Concerts & Communities Administrator, Operations Coordinator and Manager of Artistic Delivery & Communities, and contract fees for regional District Contest Organisers
95291	Child Cancer Foundation Inc	\$12,500.00	\$375.00	17/01/2023	Salary
110363	Cystic Fibrosis Association of NZ	\$80,000.00	\$398.93	20/05/2025	Salaries of Community Support Lead/Registered Social Workers, Team Leader Community Support/Registered Social Worker, Community Engagement Lead and GM Finance and Operations

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Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Timaru District	Date of Approval	Purpose
103248	Cystic Fibrosis Association of NZ	\$80,000.00	\$463.46	19/02/2024	Salaries of Community Support Lead Registered Social Worker, Team Leader Community Support Registered Social Worker and GM Finance and Operations
101690	Equestrian Sports NZ Inc	\$30,000.00	\$548.08	21/05/2024	Salaries of Community Manager Youth/Coaching/Para and Caretaker Christchurch Centre
111926	Golf NZ Korowha Aotearoa Inc	\$140,000.00	\$264.01	19/08/2025	Salaries of Golf South Island Participation Manager, North Island Participation Manager, Maori Golf Development Manager, Participation Coordinator Manawatu Wanganui, Participation Programmes Lead, Regional Manager Otago, Regional Manager - Manawatu Wanganui/BOP, Participation Coordinator Otago, Participation Coordinator Tairāwhiti, Participation Coordinator Otago and Coach Development and Performance Golf Coordinator
106251	Golf NZ Korowha Aotearoa Inc	\$150,000.00	\$810.15	17/09/2024	Salaries of Participation Co-ordinator, Regional Support Manager, Participation Manager South Island, Participation Manager North Island and Participation Programmes Lead Manawatu/Wanganui
100060	Golf NZ Korowha Aotearoa Inc	\$150,000.00	\$550.00	22/08/2023	Salaries of Mainland Club Capability Manager, Regional Support Manager, Golf Development Officer, Young People Participation Manager- South Island, Young People Participation Manager - North Island, Māori Golf Development Manager - North Island
95836	Golf NZ Korowha Aotearoa Inc	\$150,000.00	\$412.00	21/11/2022	Salaries of Club Capability Manager Canterbury, Regional Performance Golf Coordinator, Regional Golf Club Capability Officer Bay of Plenty and Young People Participation Manager Auckland
109544	Gymsports NZ Inc	\$190,000.00	\$604.09	20/05/2025	Salaries of Central Relationship Manager, South Island Relationship Manager, Relationship Team Manager (Wellington), Midlands Region Relationship Manager and Auckland/North Region Relationship Manager, and lease costs
104597	Gymsports NZ Inc	\$240,000.00	\$1,269.94	20/06/2024	Kiwi Gym Fun review and redevelopment, and salaries of South Island Relationship Manager, Auckland Northland Relationship Manager, Central Region Relationship Manager and Midlands Region Relationship Manager
97579	Gymsports NZ Inc	\$190,000.00	\$1,004.66	15/05/2023	Vehicle Lease; Salaries of Community Sport Manager, Upper South Relationship Manager, Central Region Relationship Manager, Midlands Region Relationship Manager and Auckland/North Region Relationship Manager
112004	Halberg Foundation	\$170,000.00	\$400.00	19/08/2025	Salaries of regional Disability Sport Advisors
106269	Halberg Foundation	\$170,000.00	\$491.05	20/08/2024	Salaries of regional Disability Sport Advisors
100002	Halberg Foundation	\$169,150.00	\$970.95	22/08/2023	Salaries of regional Disability Sport Advisors
100284	Life Flight Trust	\$1,125,000.00	\$6,107.65	22/08/2023	Air ambulance aircraft and service operational costs
109012	Netball NZ Inc	\$204,400.00	\$3,333.67	18/03/2025	Vehicle leases, office rental, contract fee for Mainland Pathways Development Lead, and salaries of Participation Lead, Coach & Umpire Lead and Relationship Manager
103373	Netball NZ Inc	\$203,132.64	\$5,040.51	19/03/2024	Office workstation rental, vehicle lease, Pathway Lead contract fee, and salaries of Participation Lead, Community Coach Lead and Netball Relationship Manager
97383	Netball NZ Inc	\$205,000.00	\$4,690.60	21/03/2023	Office workstation rental, vehicle leases, and salaries of Development Coach, Participation Lead, Community Coaching Lead and Netball Relationship Manager
100772	NZ Cricket Inc	\$65,867.72	\$714.67	19/09/2023	Programme costs
99852	NZ Ice Hockey Federation Inc	\$10,000.00	\$272.55	18/07/2023	Travel costs
109606	NZ Opera Ltd	\$50,000.00	\$381.32	15/04/2025	Orchestra fees
103191	NZ Opera Ltd	\$50,000.00	\$469.80	19/03/2024	Orchestral fees
98256	NZ Opera Ltd	\$50,000.00	\$459.96	15/05/2023	Orchestral costs
105945	NZ Rugby Foundation Inc	\$40,700.00	\$5,550.00	20/08/2024	Defibrillators
106833	Scout Association of NZ	\$95,000.00	\$452.37	15/10/2024	Salaries of South Island Scouts Territory General Manager, Lower North Island Territory General Manager and Upper North Island Territory General Manager
99870	Scout Association of NZ	\$95,000.00	\$785.56	22/08/2023	Salaries of General Manager South Island, General Manager Lower North Island and General Manager Upper North Island
111391	Special Olympics NZ	\$270,000.00	\$476.23	19/08/2025	Salaries of Partnership & Sport Manager, Regional Sports Coordinators and Regional Sports Coordinator Lead
105351	Special Olympics NZ	\$270,000.00	\$496.28	16/07/2024	Salaries of Sports Director and regional Sports Coordinators
98502	Special Olympics NZ	\$270,000.00	\$1,308.55	20/06/2023	Salaries of Sports Director and regional Sports Coordinators
95875	Stroke Foundation of NZ Limited	\$6,000.00	\$120.00	21/11/2022	Salary
112985	Surf Life Saving NZ Manatapu Inc	\$60,000.00	\$219.83	26/09/2025	Salaries of Sport Development Officer, Sport Manager Eastern, Regional Sport Manager Southern and Regional Sport Manager Central
104826	Surf Life Saving NZ Manatapu Inc	\$60,000.00	\$427.51	20/06/2024	Salaries of Sport Manager Central, Manager Southern and Manager Eastern Region
97391	Surf Life Saving NZ Manatapu Inc	\$60,000.00	\$417.31	21/03/2023	Salaries of Sport Manager Central, Sport Manager Southern and Sport Manager Eastern
96773	Swimming NZ Inc	\$80,000.00	\$600.00	16/02/2023	Contractor fees for Wanganui/Manawatu Water Skills for Life Advisor, BOP Water Skills for Life Advisor and Waikato Water Skills for Life Advisor, and salaries of Education Advisor - South Auckland, Canterbury Aquatic Education and Water Safety Advisor, and North Island Aquatic Education and Water Safety Manager

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Grant #	Organisation	Total Amount Approved	Amount drawn from Timaru District	Date of Approval	Purpose
111327	Talk Link Trust	\$10,000.00	\$146.55	11/07/2025	Vehicle
105005	Talk Link Trust	\$10,000.00	\$230.10	20/06/2024	Vehicle
98895	Talk Link Trust	\$21,695.65	\$486.95	20/06/2023	Purchase of a vehicle
102061	Touch NZ Inc	\$120,000.00	\$673.48	16/01/2024	Salaries of Regional Development Managers
104507	Triathlon NZ Inc	\$70,000.00	\$600.00	21/05/2024	Salaries of Community Regional Network Lead - Canterbury, Community Regional Network Lead - Wellington, Support Services Administrator, and GM Community, and contract fee for Age Group Experience Manager
110652	Volleyball NZ Inc	\$99,123.95	\$408.83	20/05/2025	Travel and accommodation, and contract fees for Coaches for North and Central Zone
103836	Volleyball NZ Inc	\$99,000.00	\$836.59	21/05/2024	Coach contract fees, and travel and accommodation
98139	Volleyball NZ Inc	\$100,000.00	\$449.71	15/05/2023	Travel and accommodation
108858	Yachting NZ Inc	\$145,000.00	\$554.38	17/02/2025	Salaries of Regional Development Managers for Northern, Bay of Plenty, Central and South
102779	Yachting NZ Inc	\$145,000.00	\$825.14	16/01/2024	Salaries of Regional Development Manager - Southern, Regional Development Manager - Central, Regional Development Manager - Bay of Plenty and Regional Development Manager - Northern
96774	Yachting NZ Inc	\$145,000.00	\$783.45	17/01/2023	Salaries of Regional Development Manager - Bay of Plenty, Regional Development Manager - Central, Regional Development Manager - Southern and Regional Development Manager - Northern
		\$6,933,869.96	\$53,628.85		
Total		\$14,995,700.49	\$541,433.70		

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Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name *

Mahlon

Last Name *

Saumalu

Organisation (if applicable)

Te HUinga Kōtuku - Purapura Whetū

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)

[REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Postal address

[REDACTED]

Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? *☒ Yes ☐ No

The Hearings are scheduled for during the Council meeting on Tuesday 29 September. There will be the ability to present in person or remotely. If you select "Yes", we will contact you to arrange your time.

Do you support the draft policy as presented?☐ Yes ☒ No**Provide any comments to support your view**

The working group's view is that Timaru should continue reducing exposure to high-risk Class 4 gambling, not increase it, while strengthening community-wide harm identification. The following local evidence supports this position:

- High Loss Rates: Timaru continues to record the second-highest nominal Gaming Machine Profit (GMP) per adult within the Canterbury region. Socioeconomic Inequity: Ten out of Timaru's 12 Class 4 venues are located in high-deprivation areas (deciles 7 or 9). These venues contain 144 out of the district's 156 gaming machines (approx. 92%), meaning vulnerable communities carry a disproportionate burden.

- Negative Net Financial Impact: In 2025, local communities lost \$10,755,948.57 to Class 4 gambling, but only \$3,118,650 (28.99%) returned to Timaru-based organisations as community grants.

- Underrepresented Harm Statistics: Current specialist treatment presentation statistics only measure active help-seeking and service utilisation. They significantly underrepresent the true prevalence and burden of gambling harm, which often manifests first in secondary social/health issues like family violence, debt, and food insecurity.

What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?

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The working group recommends incorporating nine practical actions into the final policy:

- Reject Machine Increases: Retain the maximum cap of seven machines for any new venues and reject the gambling societies' proposal to increase this limit to nine. Adopt a Sinking Lid: Move progressively toward a sinking-lid policy so venue and machine numbers naturally decline through attrition instead of being replaced when a venue closes.
- Strengthen Relocation Protections: Tighten provisions to prevent venues from relocating into high-deprivation communities, ensuring relocations cannot undermine the sinking lid objectives.
- Broaden the Harm Monitoring Framework: Develop a monitoring framework that looks beyond specialist treatment data to triangulate data on local financial hardship, frontline service intelligence, and online gambling trends.
- Establish Regular Frontline Engagement: Implement periodic engagement structures connecting Council with specialist gambling providers, addiction services, budgeting groups, and Māori, Pacific, and Asian health advocates.
- Institutionalise Financial Reporting: Require all future Social Impact Assessments (SIAs) to explicitly track and answer: "For every \$1 lost through Class 4 gambling in Timaru, how many cents return directly to Timaru organisations?".

Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?

We'd like to highlight that this submission, although authored by Mahlon Saumalu (Te Huinga Kōtuku - Puraora Whetū), this submission is on behalf of our collective working group 'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' of six individual organisations across Te Waipounamu.

We encourage the Council to make use of our collective group of organisations to have an efficient means of engagement with Community organisations that work at the heart of this subject area. This submission represents a newly formed alliance of six specialist South Island organizations (Purapura Whetū Trust, PGF Services, Asian Family Services, Te Kāika, Te Piki Oranga, and Mapu Maia), Council can efficiently engage with multiple diverse community frameworks simultaneously, saving time and administrative resources.

Upload files here

Please only upload .pdf, .doc or .docx files. 5MB max per file.

Other attached files: The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group Submission - Timaru Gambling Venue Policy Review - Sept 2026.pdf

Privacy Statement

All submissions are public information and will be included on Council's website and/or in public documents located at Council offices and Libraries/Service Centres. This will include your name and, if applicable, the organisation you represent.

The contact information (phone number and/or email address and/or postal address) that you provide at the beginning of the submission will be accessible to Council staff and used only for submission administration purposes. It will not be made publicly available. However, the content of the remainder of your submission (including any private information and attachments that you provide) may not be redacted. Please contact us via submission@timdc.govt.nz if you have any questions about this, before making your submission.

All information is held by Council in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020. You have the right to access and correct personal information. Nothing in this Privacy Statement overrides, or will prevent Council meeting its obligations under, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other relevant legislation.

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Timaru District Council

Gambling Venue Policy Review 2026

Submitted by:

Mahlon Saumalu, Co-Chair

Te Huinga Kōtuku – Purapura Whetū

September 2026

On behalf of:

‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ – a multi-organisational advocacy alliance for providers of Gambling harm prevention and minimisation across Te Waipounamu

Please note the following:

Introduction to Te Huinga Kōtuku (Purapura Whetū): Te Huinga Kōtuku (THK) is a free service delivered by Purapura Whetū (PW) working across Te Waipounamu to prevent and minimise Gambling and Gaming harm and addictions. We provide both clinical and non-clinical support, therapeutic intervention through counselling, education, workforce development, and one-on-one support for those affected directly or indirectly by gambling and/or gaming harm. Our organisation is a charitable trust with services delivered under contract to Te Whatu Ora and funded from the gambling levy.

Introduction to this working group: This is a joint submission by ‘The Prevention Minimisation of Gambling Harm (PMGH) Territorial Local Authority (TLA) Policy Working Group’, which is a collaborative South Island alliance of community gambling harm providers:

- Purapura Whetū Trust;

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- Problem Gambling Foundation Ltd (PGF Services);
- Asian Family Services;
- Te Kāiika (Ōtākou Health);
- Te Piki Oranga; and
- Mapu Maia

working together to reduce gambling-related harm across Te Waipounamu.

This submission is in response to the invitation by Timaru District Council to consult on their Gambling Venue Policy Review 2026. As a working group, we are united by a shared purpose to provide public health and clinical services that contribute to the wellbeing of whānau and communities.

Full name of working group: The full name of this working group is 'The Prevention and Minimisation of Gambling Harm Territorial Local Authority Policy Working Group'. However, for brevity, it is primarily referred to as 'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group'.

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Executive Summary

‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ welcomes the opportunity to contribute to Timaru District Council’s 2026 Gambling Venue Policy review. We acknowledge Council’s updated Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and the care taken to assemble local evidence on venues, gaming machines, expenditure, deprivation and community funding.

We also acknowledge the leadership and evidence development undertaken by PGF Services within the South Island gambling harm collaboration and the collective contribution of gambling harm providers working across Te Waipounamu.

Council’s SIA provides an important evidence base, but its findings also point to a clear public health concern: Class 4 gambling opportunities in Timaru remain concentrated in communities experiencing higher socioeconomic deprivation, while Timaru continues to record comparatively high gambling losses per adult within Canterbury.

As at December 2025, Timaru District had:

- 12 Class 4 gambling venues;
- 156 gaming machines;
- approximately one machine for every 222 adult residents; and
- the second-highest nominal Gaming Machine Profit (GMP) per adult in Canterbury.

This submission has three parts:

Part A – Class 4 Gambling in Timaru examines the local evidence: venues, machines, expenditure, deprivation, community funding and the policy tools available to Council.

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Part B – Measuring the Wider Burden of Gambling Harm addresses an important limitation in conventional SIAs: specialist gambling treatment presentations measure help-seeking and service utilisation and should not be interpreted as an accurate measure of the prevalence or total burden of gambling harm.

Part C – ‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ recommendations sets out nine practical actions arising from the evidence, including retaining the seven-machine maximum for new venues, moving progressively toward a sinking lid, strengthening relocation protections, broadening harm monitoring and improving engagement with frontline services.

The gambling environment is also changing rapidly. Council’s SIA uses an estimate of approximately \$700 million annually in online gambling, while more recent analysis suggests the offshore market may be considerably larger, with estimates extending to approximately \$1.6 billion. The exact amount is difficult to quantify because offshore expenditure does not sit within a complete New Zealand reporting system.

Our position:

‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ position for this submission is straightforward:

*Timaru should continue reducing exposure to high-risk Class 4 gambling,
not increase it, while strengthening the way gambling harm
is identified across the whole community.*

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PART A – CLASS 4 GAMBLING IN TIMARU**1. Class 4 Gambling and Council's Role**

Council's SIA describes Class 4 gambling as "high-risk, high-turnover gambling."

Electronic gaming machines enable rapid, continuous gambling and present a materially different risk profile from many intermittent forms of gambling.

That distinction matters because Class 4 gambling is one of the few parts of the gambling environment where territorial authorities retain direct and practical regulatory influence.

Council can influence:

- new venue locations;
- machine numbers at new venues;
- caps or sinking lids;
- relocation provisions; and
- protections relating to socioeconomic deprivation.

These are practical levers capable of increasing, maintaining or progressively reducing community exposure.

2. A Precautionary Approach to High-Risk Gambling

International experience supports a broad public-health principle relevant to this review: gambling harm is better addressed through a combination of prevention, reduced exposure, effective regulation, monitoring and treatment, rather than relying primarily on treatment after harm has occurred.

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International regulatory environments differ significantly from New Zealand, so 'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' does not suggest individual overseas interventions can simply be transferred to Timaru.

The relevant principle is more straightforward.

Where a product is recognised as high-risk and Council has practical regulatory levers available, the burden should sit with proposals to increase availability to demonstrate a corresponding community benefit and acceptable level of risk.

The view of 'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' is that the evidence before Council does not establish that case for increasing new-venue machine numbers from seven to nine.

3. Timaru's Current Class 4 Gambling Environment

As at December 2025, Timaru District had 12 Class 4 venues and 156 gaming machines, a reduction from 13 venues and 166 machines in 2021.

The closure of the Timaru South Cosmopolitan Club accounted for one venue and seven machines.

The longer-term trend is also downward:

- 162 machines in 2019;
- 166 machines in 2021;
- 156 machines in December 2025.

Timaru now has approximately one gaming machine for every 222 adult residents, compared with one for every 209 adults at the previous policy review.

'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' acknowledges this positive reduction. It demonstrates that Class 4 availability can progressively decline through natural attrition.

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	Venues	Gaming Machines
Prior Quarter	12	156
Current Quarter	12	156
Δ	0	0
% Change	0.00%	0.00%

From June 2026, compared to the prior quarter, the number of gaming machines and venues in Timaru District has not changed.

Figure a: Gaming Machines and Venues in Timaru District

4. Expenditure, Equity and Deprivation

Gaming Machine Profit is commonly used as an indication of collective losses through Class 4 gambling.

Council's SIA records that Timaru remains second highest among Canterbury territorial authorities for nominal GMP per adult.

'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' also acknowledges the positive trend that between September 2022 and September 2025 Timaru's total GMP declined by 9.26% in inflation-adjusted terms, compared with a 2.07% decline nationally.

These findings are not contradictory: Timaru's inflation-adjusted GMP has moved in a positive direction, yet the District continues to experience comparatively high Class 4 losses per adult within Canterbury.

Council's deprivation analysis is particularly important.

Ten of Timaru's 12 Class 4 venues are located in deprivation decile 7 or 9 areas. Those venues contain 144 of the District's 156 machines – approximately 92% of all Class 4 gaming machines.

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Society Name	Venue Type	Venue No	Venue Name	Venue Physical Address	Count of EGM	Count of Jackpot
New Zealand Community Trust	Restaurant	2000292	Ascot Sportshou	198 HILTON HIGHWAY WASHDYKE CANTERBURY 8602	7	1
Trust Aoraki Limited	Hotel	1155	Crown Hotel	64 King Street TEMUKA 7920	15	1
Pub Charity Limited	Hotel	882	Crown Hotel & P	31 Talbot Street GERALDINE 7930 New Zealand	10	1
Pub Charity Limited	Hotel	1222	EMPIRE HOTEL	50 KING STREET TEMUKA CANTERBURY 7986	10	1
Pub Charity Limited	Hotel	992	GROSVENOR HC	26 CAINS TERRACE TIMARU TIMARU 7910	18	2
Trust Aoraki Limited	Hotel	294	OLD BANK CAFE	232 STAFFORD STREET TIMARU TIMARU 7910	18	2
Trust Aoraki Limited	Hotel	1545	Pleasant Point H	95 Main Road PLEASANT POINT 7903	5	1
Pub Charity Limited	Tavern	1829	RICHARD PEARS	118 LE CREN STREET TIMARU TIMARU 7910	18	4
Pub Charity Limited	Tavern	295	Schnitz & Co Tim	164 Stafford Street TIMARU 7910	14	3
Trust Aoraki Limited	Hotel	1278	Temuka Hotel	141 King Street TEMUKA 7920	14	1
Timaru Town & Country Club Inc	Non-Commercial: Commercial	221	Timaru Town & C	99 Douglas Street Highfield TIMARU 7910	18	1
Aotearoa Gaming Trust	Tavern	2000109	VILLAGE INN	41 TALBOT STREET GERALDINE CANTERBURY 8751	9	1

Figure b: List of Venues and GMS

There are no Class 4 venues in deprivation deciles 1, 2 or 3.

That raises a straightforward equity question:

When approximately 92% of Timaru's gaming machines are already situated in decile 7 or 9 communities, what public-health case exists for facilitating greater gambling availability?

'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' considers the appropriate direction is to continue reducing exposure in communities carrying the greatest burden.

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5. Community Grants and Net Community Impact

‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ recognises that Class 4 gambling provides funding to sporting, cultural and community organisations. Those organisations undertake valuable work.

However, an SIA needs to consider both sides of the ledger:

“How much money is lost through Class 4 gambling in Timaru?”

and

“How much of that money returns directly to Timaru organisations?”

Historical Timaru evidence illustrates why these questions matter.

During the 2022 policy review, PGF reported that approximately \$10.2 million was lost through Class 4 gambling in Timaru during 2021, while approximately \$3.2 million was returned to Timaru-based organisations – around 31 cents for every dollar lost.

An earlier PGF analysis covering January 2018 to March 2019 found a similar pattern: \$12.137 million lost and \$3.436 million returned directly to Timaru, or 28.31% of local gambling losses.

These historical comparisons should not be presented as estimates of the current 2026 position. Rather, they demonstrate a persistent issue that Council’s

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current SIA itself acknowledges gambling expenditure generated within Timaru does not necessarily return to the Timaru community.

The 2025 data show that of the \$10,755,948.57 lost, \$3,118,650 (28.99%) was returned as community grants. Data on the grants returned by individual organisations can be found [here](#).

Yearly GMP (Year Ending)				
	Nominal		Inflation Adjusted	
Dec-2024	\$11,002,172.30		\$8,396,379.98	
Dec-2025	\$10,755,948.57		\$7,982,328.01	
Δ	-\$246,223.73	-2.2%	-\$414,051.97	-4.9%
Quarterly GMP				
	Nominal		Inflation Adjusted	
Mar-2025	\$2,600,529.78		\$1,950,397.34	
Dec-2025	\$2,871,979.14		\$2,109,540.14	
Δ	\$271,449.36	10.4%	\$159,142.8	8.2%

Figure c: Yearly GMP 2025



Figure d: Community Grants 2025 Timaru

More importantly, Council should institutionalise this comparison in future SIAs rather than requiring community organisations to reconstruct it at each policy review.

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Future SIAs should prominently report:

Total Timaru Class 4 losses → amount distributed directly to Timaru organisations
→ percentage returned locally → distribution by sector where available.

This would allow elected members to answer a simple question:

For every \$1 lost through Class 4 gambling in Timaru, how many cents return
directly to Timaru organisations?

Community grants should then be considered alongside available evidence of
associated financial, health and social costs rather than treated as a standalone
measure of community benefit.

6. The Proposal to Increase New-Venue Machine Numbers

‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ does not support increasing the maximum
number of machines permitted at a new venue from seven to nine.

This would represent a 29% increase in the maximum machine entitlement for a
new venue.

Council’s SIA records arguments from gambling societies that nine machines
would improve the entertainment offering, spread fixed venue costs across more
machines and would not increase problem gambling rates.

‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ considers the latter argument problematic
if specialist treatment presentations are relied upon as a proxy for prevalence.

The public-health test should not be whether two additional machines can be
shown to cause a measurable increase in specialist service presentations.

The better question is:

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What harm-minimisation or community wellbeing evidence supports increasing access to a gambling product Council itself describes as high-risk and high-turnover?

‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ does not believe that case has been established.

We recommend retaining seven machines as the immediate maximum and moving progressively toward a sinking lid, with relocation settings that prevent further concentration in high-deprivation communities and do not preserve machines that would otherwise disappear through venue closure.

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PART B – MEASURING THE WIDER BURDEN OF GAMBLING HARM**7. Specialist Service Utilisation Is Not Prevalence**

‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ welcomes Council’s acknowledgement of the limitations associated with specialist gambling service data.

The SIA notes that Timaru residents represented approximately 0.29% to 0.48% of all clients assisted nationally by problem gambling services between July 2018 and June 2023, while Timaru represents approximately 1% of New Zealand’s population.

Territorial Authority	June 2019		July 2019 to June 2020		July 2020 to June 2021		July 2021 to June 2022		July 2022 to June 2023	
	All clients assisted ¹	% of All ²	New clients Assisted ³	% of new clients assisted ⁴	All clients assisted ⁵	% of All ⁶	New clients Assisted ⁷	% of new clients assisted ⁸	All clients assisted ⁹	% of All ¹⁰
Timaru District Council	51	0.48%	20	0.30%	42	0.44%	18	0.22%	42	0.38%

Figure e: Ministry of Health client intervention data

On their face, these figures might suggest comparatively low gambling harm.

However, Council correctly acknowledges that the data represents people who self-present.

For somebody to appear in specialist treatment statistics, they generally need to:

- recognise gambling as contributing to their difficulties;
- overcome stigma or whakamā;
- know specialist assistance exists;
- choose to seek that assistance; and
- have the interaction recorded.

These statistics therefore principally measure identified help-seeking and service utilisation – not the total prevalence or burden of gambling harm.

This distinction matters because Council’s other evidence presents a more complex picture:

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- Timaru remains second highest in Canterbury for nominal GMP per adult;
- approximately 83% of venues and 92% of machines are situated in decile 7 or 9 communities;
- Class 4 gambling is recognised as high-risk and high turnover; and
- Council accepts that specialist statistics capture only people who self-present.

Taken together, this warrants a broader assessment rather than concluding from relatively low specialist presentations that Timaru necessarily experiences relatively little gambling harm.

8. Much of the Harm Appears Somewhere Else First

The collective experience of 'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' is that gambling harm is frequently identified through secondary assessment after a person or whānau enters another health or social service.

AOD, family violence, budgeting and financial capability, mental health, Māori, Pacific, Whānau Ora, housing, Asian and other social services may see different manifestations of the same underlying harm.

The presenting issue may be: debt, alcohol or drug use, violence, anxiety, housing insecurity, food insecurity or relationship breakdown.

Gambling may only become visible through wider assessment.

This matters when recent Ministry of Health research estimates the annual economic and social cost of gambling problems in Aotearoa New Zealand at approximately:

\$4.219 billion

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with harm extending beyond the person gambling to partners, children, whānau, affected others and wider society.

‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ therefore proposes a simple shift:

Do not stop counting specialist gambling presentations. Stop treating them as though they represent the whole burden of gambling harm.

Council should progressively triangulate specialist treatment data with information and intelligence from the wider services already seeing gambling-related harm.

9. Online Gambling and Local Policy Responsibility

The rapid growth of online gambling should be acknowledged in future SIAs, but it should not be used to justify maintaining or increasing local pokie availability.

Council’s current SIA refers to approximately \$700 million in annual online gambling expenditure. More recent regulatory work and market analysis suggest the offshore market may be materially larger, with estimates reaching approximately \$1.6 billion.

No single figure should be treated as definitive because offshore gambling is not captured through one complete New Zealand reporting system.

DIA analysis has relied on consumer card transactions from one bank, upweighted to estimate the national market. Those data measure deposits rather than losses, do not account for winnings, exclude Lotto NZ and TAB, and cannot capture every method by which money reaches offshore operators.

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Future SIAs should therefore:

- use the latest available evidence;
- present online gambling estimates as indicative;
- explain the methodological limitations; and
- recognise the direction of travel: online and offshore gambling is now a major and growing part of New Zealand's gambling environment.

The existence of a growing online gambling market is not a public-health rationale for maintaining another high-risk gambling environment.

Increasing online gambling harm does not make Class 4 gambling less harmful.

Where Council retains effective regulatory levers, the appropriate response is to reduce avoidable exposure.

Online gambling also makes traditional measures of harm increasingly incomplete. People may gamble across pokies, offshore casinos, sports betting, racing, Lotto and multiple products simultaneously. Harm presenting through budgeting, addiction, family violence, mental health or social services may therefore not fit neatly into one gambling category.

10. Connect Gambling Harm With Wider Wellbeing Work

'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' recommends connecting gambling harm more deliberately with Council's wider health and community wellbeing planning.

Gambling harm intersects with:

- financial hardship;
- family and whānau wellbeing;
- family violence;

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- mental health;
- addiction;
- housing insecurity;
- child wellbeing;
- community safety; and
- socioeconomic inequity.

Council does not need to become a gambling treatment provider.

It's opportunity is to use its existing regulatory, planning, monitoring, convening and community leadership roles to connect organisations that may be seeing different manifestations of the same underlying harm.

11. Develop a Timaru Gambling Harm Monitoring Framework

'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' recommends progressively developing a broader Gambling Harm Monitoring Framework drawing together four complementary areas:

Gambling environment: venues, machines, GMP, GMP per adult, location, deprivation and online trends.

Economic and community impact: losses, grants returned locally, financial hardship and gambling identified through budgeting and financial capability services.

Health and social harm: specialist presentations alongside gambling identified through AOD, family violence, mental health and other assessments, affected-other presentations and frontline intelligence.

Equity: Māori, Pacific and Asian gambling harm, deprivation, affected others and the geographic concentration of gambling opportunities.

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Not every indicator will immediately provide complete quantitative data.

That is not a reason to avoid broader measurement. It is a reason to build a triangulated evidence base, drawing on multiple sources rather than allowing one dataset to stand in for the whole picture.

12. Regular Engagement With Frontline Services

‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ recommends, firstly, to engage with us as a newly formed alliance as you’ll be engaging with six specialist gambling services at the same time representing diverse communities and whānau experiences across Te Waipounamu – saving Council’s own time, energy and resources.

We also strongly suggest periodic engagement with organisations seeing gambling harm across the community, including gambling harm providers, AOD services, family violence organisations, budgeting and financial capability services, Māori, Pacific and Asian providers, mental health services and relevant government agencies.

This need not require another standing committee. It could be incorporated into existing Council health, wellbeing or community structures.

Periodic engagement should help Council understand:

- what frontline organisations are seeing;
- where gambling is identified through secondary assessment;
- whether particular communities are experiencing disproportionate harm;
- how online gambling is changing presentations; and
- what emerging evidence should inform the next SIA and policy review.

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PART C – ‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ RECOMMENDATIONS

‘The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group’ recognises that Council must balance statutory responsibilities, local community funding interests and harm-minimisation objectives.

Our recommendations focus on areas where Council has the clearest mandate and practical ability to act.

1. Reject the proposed increase from seven to nine machines

Retain seven machines as the immediate maximum permitted at new venues.

There is insufficient harm-minimisation evidence to justify increasing access to a gambling product Council itself identifies as high-risk and high-turnover.

2. Move progressively toward a sinking-lid policy

Allow venue and machine numbers to decline through natural attrition rather than establishing mechanisms through which gambling capacity can continually be replaced.

3. Strengthen relocation protections

Prevent relocations into high-deprivation communities and ensure relocation provisions cannot undermine the harm-minimisation objectives of a sinking lid.

4. Connect gambling harm with Council’s wider health and wellbeing planning

Recognise the relationship between gambling harm, financial hardship, family violence, addiction, mental health, housing and wider whānau wellbeing.

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5. Develop a broader Gambling Harm Monitoring Framework

Build on Council's existing SIA while explicitly recognising that specialist treatment data measures help-seeking and service utilisation rather than total prevalence.

Where practical, incorporate gambling harm identified through secondary assessment in other health and social services and include online gambling within the wider harm picture.

6. Establish regular engagement with frontline services

Periodically bring together gambling harm, AOD, family violence, budgeting and financial capability, Māori, Pacific, Asian and other relevant health and social service providers.

7. Apply an explicit equity lens

Monitor gambling availability, expenditure and harm alongside deprivation and the disproportionate burden experienced by Māori, Pacific, Asian and other communities experiencing disadvantage.

8. Measure and report the net community impact

Future SIAs should report gambling losses, grants returned locally, geographic distribution, deprivation and available health and social harm indicators together.

Council should specifically report:

For every \$1 lost through Class 4 gambling in Timaru, how many cents return directly to Timaru organisations?

9. Keep Timaru's Evidence Base Current and Connected to National Developments

Council should ensure future SIAs use the latest available gambling expenditure, online gambling, harm and regulatory evidence, rather than

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carrying forward estimates that may have been overtaken by a rapidly changing gambling environment.

This should include:

- monitoring emerging Ministry of Health research;
- incorporating relevant Department of Internal Affairs regulatory and market evidence;
- updating online gambling estimates as better information becomes available;
- maintaining relationships with 'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' and relevant gambling harm, health and social service providers; and
- refreshing key evidence between formal three-year policy reviews where significant changes occur.

This is particularly important for online gambling. Council's current SIA refers to approximately \$700 million, while more recent estimates extend considerably higher and available transaction data has acknowledged limitations.

The objective should not be to find one definitive number where the evidence cannot support one. It should be to ensure Council decisions use the best available and most current evidence.

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Conclusion

Timaru's evidence points in two directions that should be considered together.

There has been positive movement: venue and machine numbers have reduced and inflation-adjusted GMP has declined. However, Timaru remains second highest in Canterbury for nominal GMP per adult, 10 of its 12 venues are in deprivation decile 7 or 9 areas, and approximately 92% of its machines are located in those communities.

Against that evidence, 'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' sees no compelling harm-minimisation rationale for increasing the new-venue maximum from seven to nine machines. We recommend continuing the direction already occurring through natural attrition i.e. Fewer machines, less exposure and stronger protection for communities carrying the greatest burden.

The second challenge is measurement.

Specialist gambling presentations tell Council something important, but they do not tell Council how much gambling harm exists across Timaru. Harm may first become visible through addiction, family violence, budgeting, mental health, housing and other services, while the rapid growth of online gambling is making the environment increasingly complex.

'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' therefore proposes that Timaru combine stronger Class 4 harm-minimisation settings with a broader and more contemporary approach to measuring gambling harm.

The question for future SIAs should be:

Where is gambling harm occurring in Timaru, who is carrying the greatest burden, and what can Council practically do to reduce it?

'The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group' welcomes an ongoing relationship with Timaru District Council and relevant health, social service and government partners to help answer that question.

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Nō reira, kua mutu tā mātou tākohā kōrero. *Therefore, we leave these words as our gift to you.*

Ka tū tahi tēnei whakaminenga ki te whai i te rārangi whakakotahi...kia hāpai, kia tautoko hoki i te ora, te oranga, me te pae ora o ngā whānau me ngā hapori katoa mōna puta noa i Te Waipounamu. *This assembly of organisations stand together to pursue one unifying goal...to uplift and support the health, wellbeing and healthy futures of all families and communities right across the South Island.*

Signed by,



Mahlon Saumalu

Co-Chair – “The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group”

Te Huinga Kōtuku – Purapura Whetū



Charles Egwuba

Co-Chair – “The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group”

PGF Services



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Hana Edwards-Craig

Member – “The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group”

Te Kāika (Ōtakou Trust)



Youyou He

Member – “The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group”

Asian Family Services



Areposeta Timo

Member – “The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group”

Mapu Maia



Brenda McQuillan

Member - “The PMGH TLA Policy Working Group”

Te Piki Oranga



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Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name ***Last Name *****Organisation (if applicable)**

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)**Email *****Postal address****Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? ***☒ Yes ☐ No

The Hearings are scheduled for during the Council meeting on Tuesday 29 September. There will be the ability to present in person or remotely. If you select "Yes", we will contact you to arrange your time.

Do you support the draft policy as presented?☐ Yes ☐ No**Provide any comments to support your view****What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?****Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?****Upload files here**

Please only upload .pdf, .doc or .docx files. 5MB max per file.

Other attached files: GMANZ Submission to Timaru District Council.pdf

Privacy Statement

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All submissions are public information and will be included on Council's website and/or in public documents located at Council offices and Libraries/Service Centres. This will include your name and, if applicable, the organisation you represent.

The contact information (phone number and/or email address and/or postal address) that you provide at the beginning of the submission will be accessible to Council staff and used only for submission administration purposes. It will not be made publicly available. However, the content of the remainder of your submission (including any private information and attachments that you provide) may not be redacted. Please contact us via submission@timdc.govt.nz if you have any questions about this, before making your submission.

All information is held by Council in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020. You have the right to access and correct personal information. Nothing in this Privacy Statement overrides, or will prevent Council meeting its obligations under, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other relevant legislation.

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The Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand's Submission on Timaru District Council's Gambling Venue Policy

Introduction

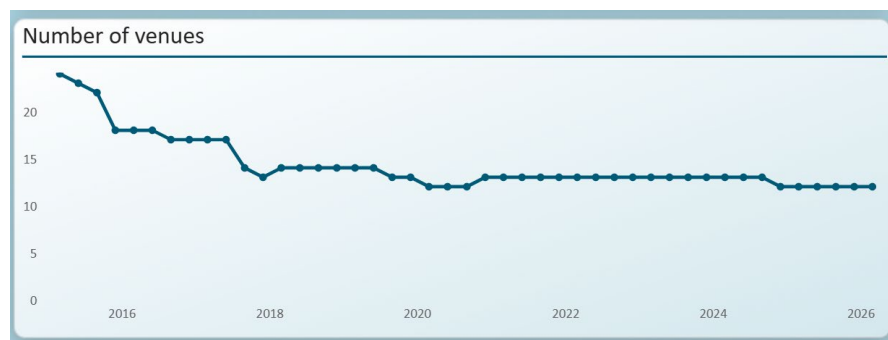
1. The Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand ("the Association") represents the vast majority of the gaming machine societies that operate in New Zealand. The Association wishes to provide Timaru District Council with pertinent information regarding gaming machine gambling to help council to make a balanced, evidence-based decision.

Summary

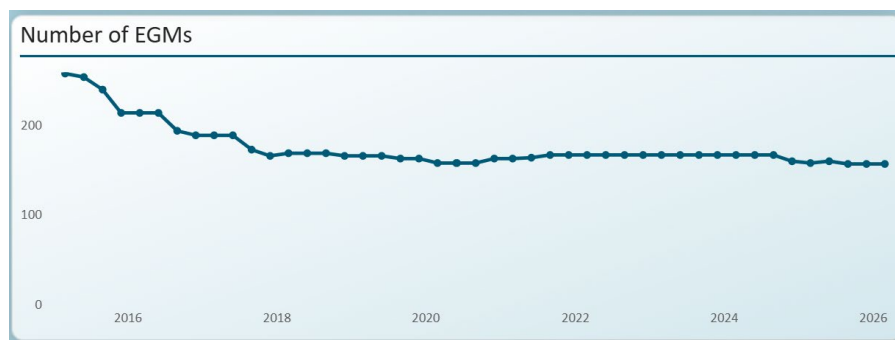
2. The Association:
 - Supports increasing the maximum permitted number of gaming machines from seven to nine.
 - Supports the zoning references being updated.
 - Recommends that the balance of the policy remain unchanged.

Local Data and Information

3. Local gaming machines numbers continue to decline. In March 2015, the Timaru District had 24 and 257 gaming machines. In March 2026, the District had only 12 venues and 156 gaming machines.



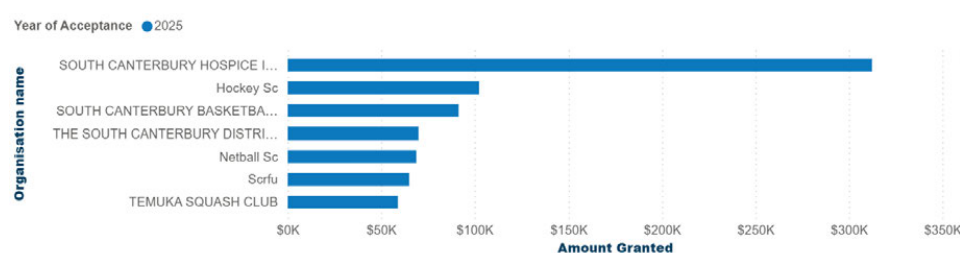
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4. Local gaming machine spend has been in decline since 2023:



5. The amount of grants made to Timaru District-based organisations is posted on the granted.govt.nz website. In 2025, grants totalling **\$3,118,650.00** were made to the Timaru District:



6. In addition to the external grants, club venues use the proceeds from the machines to support their members and their club facilities. One of the 12 venues that operate gaming machines in the Timaru District is a club venue, the Timaru Town and Country Club Inc.

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Seven Machine Limit Per Venue

7. The limit of seven machines for new venues should be removed and replace with the national cap of nine machines.
8. The Gambling Act expressly permits nine-machine venues. There is no research or evidence to support departing from the national nine-machine limit.
9. Nine machines give customers a greater choice of games to play, which improves the entertainment offering.
10. A venue with seven machines will have a lower community return rate than a nine-machine venue due to the fixed costs that are incurred. Regardless of the number of machines at a venue, the venue needs to have an electronic monitoring system installed, a gaming room constructed, signage, regular staff training, regular compliance checks, and a formal gaming licence. In a standard gaming room these fixed costs can be offset from the revenue from all nine machines. When a seven-machine venue has to bear the burden of these costs, the rate of return to the community is diminished.

Relocation Policy

11. The status quo relocation policy is sensible and should be retained.
12. In September 2013, Parliament recognised the merit in enabling venues to relocate, and expressly amended the Gambling Act 2003 to enable venues to relocate and retain the same number of machines when a relocation consent was obtained.
13. Venue relocation is a harm minimisation tool.
14. It is good that the current policy enables venues to relocate out of a high deprivation area to a lower deprivation area. There is no good policy reason for taking steps to restrict this option. Restricting the option to relocate simply entrenches venues in high deprivation locations.
15. It is good that the current policy enables venues to relocate out of a suburban/residential area to a more suitable area, such as a central business district. There is no good policy reason for taking steps to restrict this option. Restricting the option to relocate simply entrenches venues in undesirable residential locations.
16. It is good that the current policy supports businesses that wish to move to new, modern, refurbished premises. Allowing local businesses to upgrade their premises and provide a more modern, attractive offering to the public helps to revitalise business districts, improves the local economy and encourages tourism.
17. The first venue to relocate under the amendments made to the Gambling Act 2003 was the Te Rapa Tavern in Hamilton. The photos below show the old, rundown premises and the new modern premises. The redevelopment cost \$3,000,000.

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The old Te Rapa Tavern



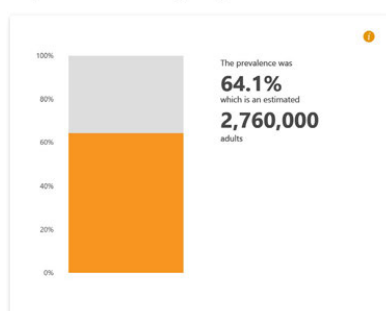
The new Te Rapa Tavern

18. It is good that the current policy enables venues to move to smaller, more suitable premises. Enabling venues to move away from large premises, with large car parking areas, to newer, smaller premises also has the advantage of freeing up large areas of land, which may be better used for affordable high-density housing.
19. It is good that the current policy enables venues to move out of earthquake-prone buildings to stronger, more modern buildings. This is a health and safety issue.
20. It is also reasonable to allow venues to relocate when the move is due to onerous rental sums or lease terms being imposed. Currently, once a venue has obtained a licence to host gaming machines its value is artificially increased. This often leads to landlords demanding higher than normal rentals. Allowing more flexible relocation prevents landlords demanding unreasonable rentals as it gives the venue operator the ability to relocate to an alternative venue.

Benefits from Gaming Machines - Gambling is an Enjoyable Activity

21. Gambling is a popular form of entertainment that most New Zealanders participate in. The 2025 New Zealand Gambling Survey¹ found that 64.1% of adult New Zealanders had participated in some form of gambling in the previous 12 months (estimated to be 2,760,000 New Zealanders aged 15 and over).

2023/24 New Zealand Gambling Survey



¹ <https://kupe.healthpromotion.govt.nz/nzgs/participation-frequency-and-expenditure/any-gambling/any-gambling-activity/>

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22. The majority of people who gamble do so because they find it an enjoyable activity. This was observed by Suits (1979, p. 155)², who stated:

Gambling is a recreational activity or a kind of participation sport from which the principal satisfaction derives from the activity itself and from the ebb and flow of wins and losses rather than from ultimate outcome - the net amount won or lost. For most gamblers, the purpose of gambling is not to get rich, but to "have fun," to experience "excitement," or to have "something to look forward to," and they view payment for this recreation in the same light as others look on outlays for theatre tickets, vacation trips, or a night on the town.

23. Gambling for the non-addicted gambler may be an avenue for socialising, stress relief and a way of having fun. Contrary to how it may appear from a non-gambler's perspective, gamblers do not necessarily anticipate they will make money from gambling. Parke (2015)³ stated:

Players mostly realise that they are paying for a leisure experience. They are not expecting to be paid, except for a small minority, who are going to earn an income as a professional gambler.

Benefits from Gaming Machines - Positive Wellbeing Impact from Gambling in New Zealand

24. The 2021 TDB Advisory report, Gambling in New Zealand: A National Wellbeing Analysis⁴, found that gambling in New Zealand had a net positive wellbeing benefit totalling around \$1.74b to \$2.16b per annum.



2 Suits, D. (1979). The Elasticity of Demand for Gambling. The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 93(1), 155–162.

3 Parke, J. (2015). Gambling, leisure and pleasure: Exploring psychosocial need satisfaction in gambling. Presentation at the KPMG eGaming summit. <https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/pdf/2016/07/im-esummit-report-2015.pdf>.

4 https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/Gambling_in_New_Zealand.pdf

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Revenue Breakdown

25. The return to players on a non-casino gaming machine is required to be set between 78% and 92%, with most being set at 91.5%. On average, for every \$1.00 gambled, 91.5 cents are returned to the player in winnings. The money retained is typically allocated as follows:

Typical Distribution of Gaming Machine Profits

	GST Inclusive	GST Exclusive
Government Duty	20%	23%
GST	13.04%	0
Problem Gambling Levy	1.08%	1.23%
DIA Costs	2.9%	3.33%
Gaming Machine Depreciation	6.95%	8%
Repairs & Maintenance	2.84%	3.27%
Venue Costs	13.9%	16%
Society Costs	1.74%	2%
Donations	37.53%	43.16%

Gaming Machines – Key Facts

26. Gaming machines have been present in New Zealand communities since the early 1980s. Initially the machines were operated without a gaming licence. The first gaming licence was issued to Pub Charity on 25 March 1988, over 38 years ago.
27. New Zealand has a very low problem gambling rate by international standards. The March 2025 New Zealand National Gambling Survey⁵ found that the combined rate of moderate-risk gambling and problem gambling was 2.4% of the adult population (aged 15+). This equates to approximately 104,000 adults. A subsequent OIA request⁶ revealed that this was comprised of 0.5% problem gambling and 1.9% moderate risk gambling. The problem gambling rate is for all forms of gambling, not just gaming machine gambling.
28. All gaming machine societies contribute to a problem gambling fund. This fund provides over \$25 million per annum to the Ministry of Health to support and treat gambling addiction and to increase public awareness. The funding is ring-fenced and not able to be redirected to other health areas.
29. An excellent, well-funded problem gambling treatment service exists. The problem gambling helpline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Free, confidential help is available in 40 different languages. Free face-to-face counselling is also available, and specialist counselling is available for Māori, Pasifika and Asian clients. An anonymous, free text service (8006) is available. Support via email is also available (help@pgfnz.org.nz).

⁵ <https://kupe.healthpromotion.govt.nz/nzgs/gambling-harm/problem-gambling-severity-index/>

⁶ https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/OIA_Problem_Gambling_Rate_March_2025.pdf

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Existing Gaming Machine Safeguards

30. Adopting a more restrictive policy is not necessary given the significant measures that are already in place to minimise the harm from gaming machines.
31. Gamblers are now only permitted to make one cash withdrawal per day. If a second cash withdrawal is made, the venue staff are required to talk to the player about their gambling and complete a two-page report about the person's gambling. That report must then be reviewed by the venue manager within seven days.
32. ATMs are excluded from all gaming rooms. ATMs at gaming venues must be in direct line of sight from the main bar area or main customer service area.
33. Gaming machines cannot be visible from outside the venue.
34. Venue staff are required to undertake three formal sweeps of the gaming room per hour and keep a detailed record of each sweep.
35. Limits exist on the type of venues that can host gaming machines. The primary activity of all gaming venues must be focused on persons over 18 years of age. For example, it is prohibited to have gaming machines in venues such as sports stadiums, internet cafes, and cinemas.
36. There is a statutory age limit that prohibits persons under 18 years of age playing a gaming machine.
37. There are very restrictive limits on the amount of money that can be staked and the amount of prize money that can be won. The maximum stake is \$2.50. The maximum prize for a non-jackpot machine is \$500.00. The maximum prize for a jackpot-linked machine is \$1,000.00.
38. All gaming machines in New Zealand have a feature that interrupts play and displays a pop-up message. The pop-up message informs the player of the duration of the player's session, the amount spent, and the amount won or lost. A message is then displayed asking the player whether they wish to continue with their session or collect their credits.
39. Gaming machines in New Zealand do not accept banknotes above \$20.00 in denomination.
40. All gaming venues have a harm minimisation policy.
41. All gaming venues have pamphlets that provide information about the characteristics of problem gambling and how to seek advice for problem gambling.
42. All gaming venues have signage that encourages players to gamble only at levels they can afford. The signage also details how to seek assistance for problem gambling.
43. All gaming venue staff are required to have undertaken comprehensive problem gambling awareness and intervention training.

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44. Any person who advises that they have a problem with their gambling is required to be excluded from the venue.
45. It is not permissible for a player to play two gaming machines at once.
46. All gaming machines have a clock on the main screen. All gaming machines display the odds of winning.
47. The design of a gaming machine is highly regulated and controlled. For example, a gaming machine is not permitted to generate a result that indicates a near win (for example, if five symbols are required for a win, the machine is not permitted to intentionally generate four symbols in a row).
48. It is not permissible to use the word “jackpot” or any similar word in advertising that is visible from outside a venue.

The Current Policy Settings are Reasonable

49. The current policy settings are reasonable given the current environment of high regulation and the expansion of online gambling.
50. There is no direct correlation between gaming machine numbers and problem gambling rates. Over the last 15 years, the problem gambling rate has remained static, despite gaming machine numbers declining by over 25%.
51. The 2012 National Gambling Survey⁷ concluded that the prevalence of problematic gambling reduced significantly during the 1990s and has since stayed about the same. The report stated on pages 17 and 18:

Problem gambling and related harms probably reduced significantly during the 1990s but have since remained at about the same level despite reductions in non-casino EGM numbers and the expansion of regulatory, public health and treatment measures. Given that gambling availability expanded markedly since 1987 and official expenditure continued to increase until 2004, these findings are consistent with the adaptation hypothesis. This hypothesis proposes that while gambling problems increase when high risk forms of gambling are first introduced and made widely available, over time individual and environmental adaptations occur that lead to problem reduction.

52. The New Zealand National Gambling Study: Wave 3 (2014)⁸ noted that the problem gambling rate had remained the same over the last 10-15 years despite gaming machine numbers decreasing. The report stated on page 19:

In contrast to the 1990s, there is no evidence that problem gambling prevalence decreased with decreasing participation rates during the 2000s. When methodological differences between studies are taken into account, it appears

⁷ <https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/national-gambling-study-report-2.pdf>

⁸ https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/NZ_National_Gambling_Study_Wave4_2015.pdf

that problem gambling prevalence has remained much the same during the past 10 to 15 years.

...gambling participation has decreased substantially in New Zealand during the past 20 years, and problem gambling and related harm has probably plateaued...

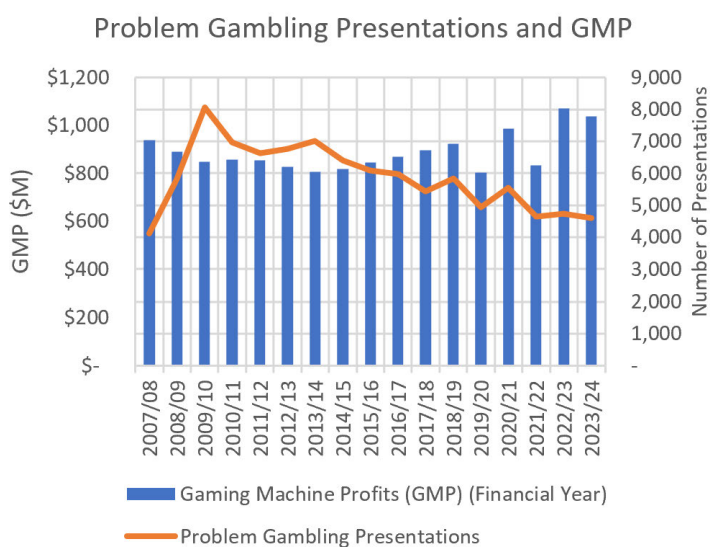
53. Professor Max Abbott is New Zealand's leading expert on problem gambling. In 2006, Professor Abbott published a paper titled *Do EGMs and Problem Gambling Go Together Like a Horse and Carriage?* The paper noted that gaming machine reductions and the introduction of caps generally appear to have little impact on problem gambling rates. Professor Abbott noted:

EGM reductions and the introduction of caps generally appear to have little impact (page 1).

Over time, years rather than decades, adaptation ('host' immunity and protective environmental changes) typically occurs and problem levels reduce, even in the face of increasing exposure (page 6).

Contrary to expectation, as indicated previously, although EGM numbers and expenditure increased substantially in New Zealand from 1991 to 1999, the percentage of adults who gambled weekly dropped from 48% to 40%. This is of particular interest because it suggests that greater availability and expenditure do not necessarily increase high-risk exposure (page 14).

54. There is no direct correlation between gaming machine spend and problem gambling presentations:

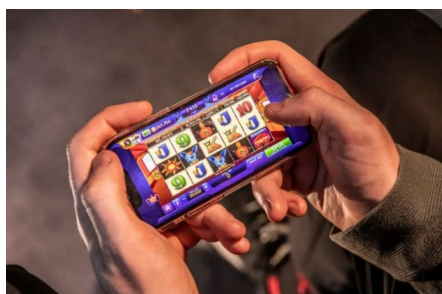


Source: DIA website: https://catalogue.data.govt.nz/dataset/class-4-gambling-key-performance-indicators/resource/4893f532-b4b8-4966-b33c-de3836817a49?inner_span=True

55. Adopting a more restrictive policy is unlikely to reduce problem gambling, but will, over time, reduce the amount of funding available to community groups based in the Timaru District. Reducing gaming machine venues reduces casual and recreational play, and therefore reduces machine turnover and the amount of money generated for grant distribution. However, problem gamblers are people who are addicted to gambling. If a new bar is established and the policy prevents that bar from hosting gaming machines, a person who is addicted to gambling will simply travel the short distance to the next bar that has gaming machines, or worse, may move to another form of gambling such as offshore-based internet and mobile phone gambling.

Unintended Consequences – Increase in Internet and Mobile Phone Gambling

56. Any reduction in the local gaming machine offering may have unintended consequences, as this may simply lead to a migration of the gambling spend to offshore internet- and mobile-based offerings. While it is illegal to advertise overseas gambling in New Zealand, it is not illegal to participate in gambling on an overseas-based website or mobile phone application.



57. It now takes only a simple search and a few minutes to download to your computer, tablet, or mobile phone any type of casino game you desire, including an exact replica of the gaming machine programs currently available in New Zealand venues.
58. The 2020 Health and Lifestyle Survey found that 1 in 4 New Zealand adults participated in some form of online gambling, with 19% participating almost every week.⁹



⁹ https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/2020_Health_and_Lifestyles_Survey_report.pdf

59. The November 2025 Historical Market Report¹⁰ estimated the New Zealand online gambling market (both sports betting and online casino gambling) to be \$1.36b:



60. The November 2025 Historical Market Report¹¹ found that the New Zealand online gambling market is expanding both in breadth (more customers) and depth (more transactions per customer, and higher spend per transaction). Market spend was up 10.5% in the year to September 2025:



¹⁰ <https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/2025-New-Zealand-Market-Insights-Report-Historical-Market-Analysis.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/2025-New-Zealand-Market-Insights-Report-Historical-Market-Analysis.pdf>

61. The November 2025 User Behaviour Report¹² found that in the year ended September 2025, 360,000 individuals participated in online, offshore gambling:



62. The migration from physical Lotto stores and SkyCity was apparent during the Covid-19 lockdowns. When the physical venues were closed, the number of online registered players, and the amount of online revenue, skyrocketed:

'MyLotto':

- 2018 748,000 registered players.
- 2020 1,230,000 registered players.
- 2018 \$201m spend.
- 2020 \$430m spend.

SkyCity online casino:

- 2018 25,661 registered players.
- 2020 48,958 registered players.
- 2018 \$254m spend.
- 2020 \$793m spend.

63. The Australian National University 2024 study *Gambling Participation in Australia 2024, Trends Over Time, and Profiles Associated with Online Gambling*¹³ confirmed the player migration from physical gambling venues to online. The study found at page 6:

¹² <https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/2025-New-Zealand-Market-Insights-Report-User-Behaviour.pdf>

¹³ https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/Gambling_in_Australia_2024_002.pdf

Our data also suggest that these individuals may have 'switched' their gambling activity from venue-based gambling (e.g. EGM gambling) to activities that are readily available online in Australia, such as betting on sports and racing. This may reflect [an] increase in overall online gambling participation that has been observed prior to COVID-19.

64. Offshore-based online gambling poses considerable risks because it:
- Is highly accessible, being available 24 hours a day from the comfort and privacy of your home;
 - Has no restrictions on bet sizes;
 - Has no capacity for venue staff to observe and assist people in trouble;
 - Reaches new groups of people who may be vulnerable to the medium;
 - Provides no guaranteed return to players;
 - Is more easily abused by minors;
 - Has reduced protections to prevent fraud, money laundering or unfair gambling practices; and
 - Is currently unregulated, so on-line gamblers are often encouraged to gamble more by being offered inducements or by being offered the opportunity to gamble on credit. For example, many overseas sites offer sizable cash bonuses to a customer's account for each friend that they induce to also open an account and deposit funds.
65. The 2019 New South Wales Gambling Survey¹⁴ found that the problem gambling rate among internet gamblers was twice as high as gamblers who gambled in physical venues. The report stated:
- Internet gamblers were more likely than non-internet gamblers to be moderate-risk and problem (18% compared with 5%). Problem gambling prevalence among internet gamblers was twice as high (4% compared with 2% of non-internet gamblers). Similarly, internet gamblers were more than three times more likely to be in the moderate-risk category (14% compared with 4% of non-internet gamblers).
66. Offshore-based online gambling currently does not generate any community funding for New Zealanders, and currently does not make any contribution to the New Zealand health and treatment services, as no contribution is made to the problem gambling levy.
67. The Government has confirmed its decision to regulate online casino gambling and begin issuing online gambling licences from 1 December 2026. The introduction of a licensing

¹⁴ <https://www.gamblinglaw.co.nz/download/NSW-Gambling-Survey-2019.pdf>

system will allow offshore-based online providers to market and advertise more freely, which is expected to drive significant growth. However, only 4% of their gross revenue will be allocated to community grants. These providers are likely to be entirely based offshore, resulting in no local employment and all profits being removed from New Zealand.

Council Conflicts of Interest

68. It is important that the committee of councillors that determines the gambling venue policy reflects the full views of the community. It has, however, become common for councillors who are involved in community and sporting groups to withdraw from the gambling venue policy deliberation as they consider the receipt of funding by a group that they are associated with constitutes a conflict. It has also been common for councillors with very strong, pre-determined anti-gambling views to refuse to withdraw from the policy deliberation, despite their strongly held views.
69. The Association has sought independent legal advice (copy attached) from Brookfields Lawyers regarding gambling venue policy conflicts. In summary, the key advice is:
 - Being a member of a club or organisation that receives funding from a gaming grant will not usually give rise to conflict of interest when it comes to deciding or discussing Council's gambling venue policy, unless that member holds a paid role (e.g., a coach who is paid for that service); and
 - Where an elected member, outside of a debate on the issue, has expressed a view on the gambling venue policy that suggests that they do not and cannot have an open mind on the matter, this could give rise to a conflict of interest on the grounds of predetermination.

Oral Hearing

70. Jarrod True, on behalf of the Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand, would like to make a presentation at the upcoming oral hearing.

5 August 2026

Jarrod True

Counsel

Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand

[REDACTED]

gmanz.org.nz



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NAVIGATING YOUR SUCCESS

15 March 2021

By Email: chair@gmanz.nz

Gaming Machine Association of New Zealand
c/o Peter Dengate-Thrush
Independent Chair

ATTENTION: Peter-Dengate Thrush

GAMBLING VENUE POLICY - CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We refer to your email instructions of 26 February 2021, seeking our advice regarding councillor conflicts of interest with respect to decision-making on Council's gambling venue policy.

YOUR QUESTIONS

1. You have asked us to advise whether:
 - a. Membership of a club or organisation that receives gaming machine grant funding would constitute a conflict of interest that would require the councillor to withdraw from decision-making or discussion regarding a proposed gambling venue policy; and
 - b. If Council has itself received gambling grant funding, does this impact on its ability to decide on a gambling venue policy, such that the decision should be made by an independent commissioner?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In summary:
 - a. If an elected member has a financial interest in a club or organisation that may be impacted by the gambling venue policy, the member must not participate in any discussion or decision-making on the policy. It would be rare for a financial interest to arise in this context, but examples may be where the elected member is in a paid role at a club or organisation, and the role is funded from a gaming grant. A more remote interest may arise where the quantum of membership fees paid to a club or organisation may be impacted by a gaming grant. In those circumstances,

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 Tower One, 205 Queen Street, Auckland, New Zealand. PO Box 240, Shortland Street, Auckland 1140
Tel: +64 9 379 9350 Fax: +64 9 379 3224 DX CP24134 www.brookfields.nz

it may be prudent to seek a decision from the Auditor-General as to whether the potential interest is deemed too remote to influence decision-making.

- b. Being a member of a club or organisation that receives funding from a gaming grant will not usually give rise to a conflict of interest when it comes to deciding or discussing Council's gambling venue policy, unless that member holds a paid role (e.g. a coach who is paid for that service).
 - c. Being a member or a club or organisation that operates a gaming licence will give rise to a conflict of interest, particularly where the elected member serves in an executive role at the club or organisation.
 - d. Where an elected member, outside of a debate on the issue, had expressed a view on the gambling venue policy that suggests that they do not and cannot have an open mind on the matter, this could give rise to a conflict of interest on the grounds of predetermination.
2. The fact that Council may have previously been the recipient of gaming grant money would not create a conflict of interest when deciding its gambling venue policy. Such democratic decision-making is fundamental to its role and is distinguishable from regulatory or quasi-judicial decision-making where appointment of an independent commissioner may be appropriate to avoid any appearance of bias. The decision-making processes in the Local Government Act 2002 (**LGA**) already impose important requirements to ensure that such decision-making involves consideration of broader community views and not just the interests of Council as an organisation. It would therefore be unnecessary and inappropriate to appoint an independent commissioner because Council initiatives may have previously benefited from gaming grants.

ANALYSIS

3. Under section 101 of the Gambling Act 2003 (**GA**), territorial authorities must, using the special consultative procedure in section 83 of the LGA, adopt a policy that specifies whether class 4 venues may be established in the district, and if so, where they may be located (**the policy**). The policy may also specify any restrictions on the maximum number of gaming machines that may be operated at a class 4 venue and may include a relocation policy.

Does membership of an organisation or club create a conflict of interest for participation in discussion or decision-making on gambling venue policies?

4. It is not uncommon for councillors to be members of organisations and clubs, some of which may receive grant funding from gaming machines. This raises the question of whether membership of such a club or organisation would constitute a conflict of interest that would prevent the councillor from participating in discussion or decision-making regarding the policy.
5. Broadly speaking, a conflict of interest occurs when an elected member is affected by some other interest that he or she has in their private life. There are different types of conflict of interest:

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- a. Financial conflicts of interest – where the member (or their spouse or partner) has a direct or indirect financial interest in a particular decision, they cannot discuss or vote on the matter.¹
- b. Non-financial conflicts of interest.

Financial conflicts of interest

6. The applicable legislation is the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 (**LAMIA**). While the LAMIA does not define what a financial interest is, section 6(2) outlines a number of examples where a member will be deemed to have a financial interest:
 - The member, or his or her spouse, owns 10% or more of the issued capital of an incorporated company or any company controlling that company, that has a pecuniary interest (direct or indirect) in a matter before the local authority or committee; or
 - The member, or his or her spouse, is a member of the company and either of them is the managing director or the general manager of the company; or
 - The member, or his or her spouse, is a member of a company controlling the company having a pecuniary interest in the matter before the local authority or committee, and either the member, or his or her spouse, is the managing director or the general manager; or
 - The member, or his or her spouse, is the managing director or general manager of the company, and either of them is a member of a company controlling that company.
7. Other than these examples, the LAMIA does not define what a "financial interest" is. However, the Auditor-General has described a "financial interest" as "a reasonable expectation of financial loss or gain from the particular decision".²
8. It is unlikely that membership alone of a community organisation that receives gaming grant funding would give rise to a financial interest. This is because such organisations and clubs are usually run on a not-for-profit basis. One example where a financial interest could potentially arise would be if the member were in a paid position at the club or organisation, and the funding for that position comes from gaming grants. Another example may be where there is a prospect that membership fees or subscriptions to a club could be affected by the amount of gaming grant funding. However, given that gambling venue policies are relatively high-level in nature and do not directly address matters such as the licensing of particular venues (which involve a separate decision-

¹ Section 6(1) of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968.

² Controller and Auditor-General, **Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968: A Guide for members of local authorities on managing financial conflicts of interest**, June 2020, at 4.15, referring to the definition of a financial interest in **Downward v Babington** [1975] VR 872.

making process, often by Council officers acting under delegated authority), or allocation of gaming grants (which are decided by the organisations that operate gaming licences subject to statutory requirements), any such potential impact is likely to be too speculative or remote to constitute a financial interest in the decision-making on a gambling venue policy.

9. Notwithstanding this view, where an elected member may receive a financial benefit of the kind described above from a club or organisation receiving gaming grant funding, they may as a matter of prudence wish to first obtain an exemption from the Auditor-General under section 6(3)(f) of the LAMIA (on the grounds that the financial interest is too remote or insignificant to be regarded as likely to influence him or her in voting or taking part in the discussion of the policy) before participating in discussion or decision-making on the policy. It is a relatively simple process to apply for such an exemption.

Non-financial conflicts of interest

10. A non-financial conflict of interest is any situation where a member is not affected financially by a decision but is affected in some other way that may constitute bias or the appearance of bias. Non-financial conflicts of interest are relevant to the avoidance of bias in decision-making. As opposed to financial interests, which can create personal liability for an elected member, bias is a matter of Council's accountability to the public. The avoidance of bias is part of the administrative law principles of natural justice, which require the Council to act fairly in reaching its decisions. The fairness principle has been described in these terms:³

In exercising that discretion, as in exercising any other administrative function, they [members] owe a constitutional duty to perform it fairly and honestly ... What is a fair procedure to be adopted at a particular enquiry will depend upon the nature of its subject matter.

11. The test for whether an interest may give rise to an apparent bias has been stated by the Court of Appeal as being where circumstances:⁴

...might lead a fair-minded lay observer to reasonably apprehend that the judge might not bring an impartial mind to the resolution of the instant case.

12. Unlike a financial conflict of interest, a potential non-financial conflict does not automatically exclude a member from participating in a decision. It will depend on how serious the conflict is. The Auditor-General has suggested a number of factors that may be relevant to an assessment of whether a potential conflict is serious enough to exclude a member from participation in decision-making. They include:⁵

- The type or size of the person's other interest;
- The nature or significance of the particular decision or activity being carried out by the public organisation;
- The extent to which the person's other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the public organisation's decision or activity; and

³ **Bushell v Secretary of State for the Environment** [1981] AC 75, 95.

⁴ **Muir v Commissioner of Inland Revenue** [2007] 3 NZLR 495.

⁵ Controller and Auditor-General, **Managing conflicts of interest: A guide for the public sector**, June 2020, at 4.31.

- The nature or extent of the person's current or intended involvement in the public organisation's decision or activity.

13. In our view, in the context of decision-making on a gambling venue policy, the mere fact that an elected member is also a lay member of an organisation or club that receives gaming grant funding is unlikely to give rise to a conflict of interest. This is because of the level of remoteness from any possible benefit or loss associated with the decision-making. In most cases, the contents of a gambling venue policy will not directly impact on funding that has or may be received by a club or organisation from gaming machine grants. The purpose of the policy is to specify whether class 4 venues may be established, and if so their location. It can also specify restrictions on the number of gaming machines that may operate at a class 4 venue. Such matters do not necessarily impact directly on whether a club or organisation may receive gaming grant funding, and if so, the amount of any such grant. Funding decisions are made by the organisations who operate the gaming machines, not the Council. The fact that a member, by virtue of membership of a club or organisation that has received gaming grants, has knowledge or experience of the beneficial impacts that gaming grants can have on the community does not give rise to a conflict of interest. To the contrary, it may contribute to a fair and balanced consideration of the issues arising when making decisions on a gambling venue policy. This would be consistent with the purpose of the of the GA, which is *inter alia* to ensure that money from gambling benefits the community and to facilitate community involvement in decisions about the provision of gambling.⁶

14. It is important to distinguish between membership of a club or organisation that receives gaming grants, and membership of a club or organisation that holds a gaming licence. In our view, while the former would not give rise to a conflict of interest in decision-making on a gambling venue policy, there is a much greater likelihood that the latter could give rise to a conflict of interest. This is particularly the case if the elected member holds an executive role in the club or organisation that operates a gaming licence. This is because, while a gambling venue policy does not specify whether or not a particular club or organisation is able to obtain a gaming licence *per se*, the policy may affect the eligibility of a club or organisation to hold a licence. As such, participation in the discussion or decision-making by a member of any such club or organisation could create an appearance of bias and therefore a conflict of interest.

15. Elected members should also always be mindful of avoiding predetermination, i.e., approaching decision-making with a closed mind. Elected members are entitled (and expected) to bring their previous knowledge and experiences to decision-making, but to approach any decision with an open mind. This means that elected members should be cautious about being vocal, other than in the course of Council debates, about particular views in a manner that may suggest that they do not and cannot have an open mind on a particular matter. This is because a conflict of interest may arise as a result of possible predetermination (i.e. actual or perceived bias).

16. In summary:

⁶ Section 3 of the GA.

- a. If an elected member has a financial interest in a club or organisation that may be impacted by the gambling venue policy, the member must not participate in any discussion or decision-making on the policy. It would be rare for a financial interest to arise in this context, but examples may be where the elected member is in a paid role at a club or organisation, and the role is funded from a gaming grant. A more remote interest may arise where the quantum of fees paid to a club or organisation may be impacted by a gaming grant. In those circumstances, it may be prudent to seek a decision from the Auditor-General as to whether the potential interest is deemed to remote to influence decision-making.
- b. Being a member of a club or organisation that receives funding from a gaming grant will not usually give rise to a conflict of interest when it comes to deciding or discussing Council's gaming venue policy.
- c. Being a member of a club or organisation that operates a gaming licence will give rise to a conflict of interest, particularly where the elected member serves in an executive role at the club or organisation.
- d. Where an elected member, outside of a debate on the issue, has expressed a view on the gambling venue policy that suggests that they do not and cannot have an open mind on the matter, this could give rise to a conflict of interest on the grounds of predetermination.

Would Council be conflicted in deciding a gambling venue policy because it has previously received gaming grants?

17. Council initiatives will frequently fall within the second category of the definition of an "authorised purpose" for which gaming proceeds may be used, as set out in section 4 of the GA i.e., "a non-commercial purpose that is beneficial to the whole or a section of the community". Notwithstanding the eligibility for Council initiatives to receive gaming grants, Parliament conferred territorial authorities with the responsibility of formulating a gaming venue policy for their districts. We do not consider that any conflict of interest would arise in relation to decision-making on a gambling venue policy because the Council may have previously been awarded gaming grants. This is because:

- a. While individual elected members are subject to the LAMIA which prevents them from participating in decision-making where they have a financial interest, Council as an entity is not subject to the LAMIA.
- b. Caselaw recognises the inevitability of a degree of conflict within councils when exercising certain statutory functions. It is established, for example, that a council may object to its own district plan, prosecute itself, and apply to itself for a resource consent.
- c. The standard of impartiality for a Council is that it must approach its duty of inquiring into submissions with an open mind.⁷ Given the requirement to undertake a special consultative process and the diverse views of individual members, it is unlikely that the fact that certain projects

⁷ *Lower Hutt City Council v Bank* [1974] 1 NZLR 545 at 550.



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undertaken by Council have benefited from gaming grants would unduly influence Council decision-making on its gambling venue policy. For the same reasons outlined above in relation to individual members, the connection between gaming grant money and decision-making on gambling venues is too remote to constitute a conflict of interest. In any event, compliance with the statutory rules in the LGA regarding decision-making by local authorities⁸ and the general principles relating to local authorities⁹ are intended to ensure that Council decision-making is open, transparent, and has regard to the diversity of community interests, notwithstanding the many facets and activities undertaken by Council.

18. We note that Council is not undertaking a quasi-judicial role when formulating a gambling venue policy. There is greater need to avoid the appearance of bias when it comes to regulatory or quasi-judicial decision making (such as considering a resource consent application). In those circumstances, where there is an apparent conflict in Council's interests, it is common for Council to delegate its decision-making to an independent commissioner. To that end, the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**) specifically allows for the appointment of independent commissioners to decide consent applications. However, while Council may delegate its decision-making on a gambling venue policy to a particular committee or sub-committee of Council, it would be unnecessary (and in our view, inappropriate) to delegate such decision-making to an independent commissioner.

Yours faithfully
BROOKFIELDS



Linda O'Reilly
Partner

Direct dial: +64 9 979 2167
email: oreilly@brookfields.co.nz

⁸ Section 76 of the LGA.

⁹ Section 14 of the LGA.

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Gambling Venue Policy submission form (2026 review)

First Name *

Cam

Last Name *

Wilson

Organisation (if applicable)

Aotearoa Gaming Trust

Indicate here if you are formally submitting on behalf of an organisation. By doing so, you confirm that you have the authority to submit on behalf of the organisation.

Phone (landline or mobile)

[REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Postal address

[REDACTED]

Do you want to speak to your submission at a Council Hearing? *☐ Yes ☒ No

The Hearings are scheduled for during the Council meeting on Tuesday 29 September. There will be the ability to present in person or remotely. If you select "Yes", we will contact you to arrange your time.

Do you support the draft policy as presented?☒ Yes ☐ No**Provide any comments to support your view**

We support the proposal to increase the maximum number of machines permitted at new and some existing venues from 7 to 9.
We support the proposal to allow relocation of existing venues.

What changes, if any, would you like to see to the draft policy?

We would like to see more clarity included regarding the relocation of existing venues. Relocation should be allowable in all situations where the new premises satisfies all criteria required for a new venue (new clauses 11-13).
Clause 11(i) should be amended to reflect the distances specified for other locations. The risk posed to a residential property by class 4 gambling is no greater than the risk posed to a sensitive site. There is no logical reasoning for a heightened control.

Is there anything else you would like to add to your submission?**Upload files here**

Browse

Please only upload .pdf, .doc or .docx files. 5MB max per file.

Privacy Statement

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All submissions are public information and will be included on Council's website and/or in public documents located at Council offices and Libraries/Service Centres. This will include your name and, if applicable, the organisation you represent.

The contact information (phone number and/or email address and/or postal address) that you provide at the beginning of the submission will be accessible to Council staff and used only for submission administration purposes. It will not be made publicly available. However, the content of the remainder of your submission (including any private information and attachments that you provide) may not be redacted. Please contact us via submission@timdc.govt.nz if you have any questions about this, before making your submission.

All information is held by Council in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020. You have the right to access and correct personal information. Nothing in this Privacy Statement overrides, or will prevent Council meeting its obligations under, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other relevant legislation.

8.3 Affixing of the Common Seal

Author: Jessica Kavanaugh, Democracy Services Lead

Authoriser: Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate

Recommendation

That the following warrants have been approved by the Chief Executive and are being reported to the Council for noting:

14 August 2026 – Approval of Warrants

31 August 2026 – Approval of Warrants

Purpose

1. To report the Chief Executive has approved the Warrant of Appointments and is reporting that as required under the delegation manual (Clause 3.4.5).
2. To note the names have been redacted for the privacy of the employees. Council authorise the signing and sealing of these documents.
3. The attached warrants for signing and sealing are detailed below;
 - Two new warrants for a Timaru District Council officer.
 - Eight new warrants for a contractor to reflect personnel changes.

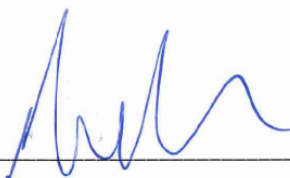
Attachments

1. Execution of Warrants - 14.08.2026 [!\[\]\(d0916728f87e3714451119bd9b223e28_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(284e99406533823cefd2ce582b98d875_img.jpg\)](#)
2. Execution of Warrants - 14.08.2026 (2) [!\[\]\(aac8d1c8dea7e07544cf0644ec5b0e38_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(2bb1a9aa4760edb8b47ee4a97867369a_img.jpg\)](#)
3. Execution of Warrants - 31.08.2026 [!\[\]\(eb5462cf9574daf8d98a627103812e3d_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(152015c79583497ec767ff04579f8736_img.jpg\)](#)



Approval of warrants

I, Nigel Trainor, Chief Executive of the Timaru District Council have delegated authority pursuant to clause 3.4 of the Timaru District Council delegations manual to appoint and authorise the Council Officers listed in the table below, and issue warrants to those Council Officers under the relevant legislation and the Council's bylaws, including delegating the exercise of powers under those warrants, and affixing the Council's common seal to warrants. I hereby approve the attached warrants.


Nigel Bowen




Nigel Trainor

14/08/2026

Date

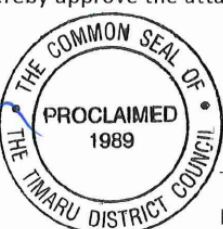
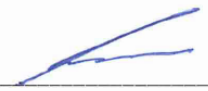
Name	Title	Unit
	Parking Warden	Regulatory
	Parking Warden (Section 32 Freedom Camping Act 2011)	Regulatory

#1851437



Approval of warrants

I, Nigel Trainor, Chief Executive of the Timaru District Council have delegated authority pursuant to clause 3.4 of the Timaru District Council delegations manual to appoint and authorise the Council Officers listed in the table below, and issue warrants to those Council Officers under the relevant legislation and the Council's bylaws, including delegating the exercise of powers under those warrants, and affixing the Council's common seal to warrants. I hereby approve the attached warrants.

Nigel Bowen

Nigel Trainor

14/08/2026

Date

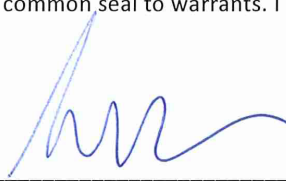
Name	Title	Unit
	Operational Support	CityCare
	Branch Manager	CityCare
	Operational Support	CityCare
	Drainage and Water Trainee	CityCare
	Drainage and Water Serviceman	CityCare
	Operational Support	CityCare
	Drainage and Water Serviceman	CityCare
	Operational Support	CityCare

#1857107



Approval of warrants

I, Nigel Trainor, Chief Executive of the Timaru District Council have delegated authority pursuant to clause 3.4 of the Timaru District Council delegations manual to appoint and authorise the Council Officers listed in the table below, and issue warrants to those Council Officers under the relevant legislation and the Council's bylaws, including delegating the exercise of powers under those warrants, and affixing the Council's common seal to warrants. I hereby approve the attached warrants.



 Nigel Bowen




 Nigel Trainor

31/08/2026

Date

Name	Title	Unit
	Food Verifier	Environmental Services

#1870710

8.4 Release of Public Excluded Items

Author: Jessica Kavanaugh, Democracy Services Lead

Authoriser: Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate

Recommendation

That Council notes the following public excluded items that have been released to the public:

1. Council - Item 13.2 - Section 17A Report - Venture Timaru -24 February 2026
2. Joint Shareholders Committee Item 9.1 Appointment of Joint Water Organisation Chairperson - 29.07.2026

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with an updated status of Public Excluded items released to the public.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This matter is assessed to be of low significance under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as there is no impact on the service provision, no decision to transfer ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from Council, and no deviation from the Long Term Plan.

Discussion

- 3 The following items have been released to the public and are available on the Timaru District Council website under the following links;
 - Council - Item 13.2 - Section 17A Report - Venture Timaru -24 February 2026
<https://www.timaru.govt.nz/council/council-and-committee-meetings/meeting-dates-calendar/council/2026/council-24.02.26>
 - Joint Shareholders Committee Item 9.1 Appointment of Joint Water Organisation Chairperson - 29.07.2026
<https://www.timaru.govt.nz/council/council-and-committee-meetings/meeting-dates-calendar/joint-shareholders-committee/2026/calling-extraordinary-joint-shareholder-committee-meeting-29.07.2026>

Attachments

Nil

8.5 Adoption of 2027 Meetings Calendar

Author: Jessica Kavanaugh, Democracy Services Lead

Authoriser: Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive the Adoption of 2027 Meetings Calendar Report; and
2. Adopt the proposed 2027 meetings calendar.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to approve the Council meetings' calendar for the 2027 calendar year.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This matter has been assessed as having low significance under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as it is a procedural matter with no financial implications.

Background

- 3 Under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), Council can adopt a schedule of meetings covering any future period the local authority considers appropriate. Pursuant to Clause 19, Section 7 of the LGA, Adoption of a schedule constitutes notification of every meeting on the schedule and may be amended.

Discussion

- 4 The draft 2027 meeting calendar is attached for Council's consideration. Historically, meetings of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) have been held on Thursdays and Fridays. The draft LGNZ calendar available at the time of preparation has been taken into account in developing the proposed 2027 meeting calendar.
- 5 The draft 2027 meetings calendar provides for monthly Council and Project and Procurement Committee meetings; Community Board meetings at six- to eight-week intervals, as scheduling allows; and Development and Growth Committee and Strategic Planning Committee meetings at eight-week intervals. The Audit and Risk Committee will meet quarterly. Meetings of other committees and subcommittees will be held in accordance with the meeting cycles specified in their establishment documents and terms of reference. Additional meetings may be required to meet legislative obligations, including the adoption of the 2027–37 Long Term Plan and the Annual Report.
- 6 The draft 2027 meetings calendar does not currently include provision for meetings of the Joint Shareholders Committee. The proposed meeting schedule will be presented to the Joint Shareholders Committee on 5 October 2026 and, once confirmed, will be incorporated into the meetings calendar and publicly notified.

Options and Preferred Option**Option One**

- 7 That Council adopt the 2027 meetings calendar as presented

Option Two

- 8 That Council adopt the 2027 meetings calendar with amendments as deemed necessary.

Consultation

- 9 No wider community consultation is required for the adoption of the 2027 meetings calendar. Notice of scheduled meetings will be published on the Timaru District Council website.
- 10 The definition of “public notice” in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) was repealed by the Regulatory Systems (Internal Affairs) Amendment Act 2026. Where LGOIMA requires a matter to be publicly notified, the definition in the Legislation Act 2019 now applies.
- 11 Accordingly, public notice of Council meetings may be given on the Council’s website and is no longer required to be published in a newspaper. However, the Timaru District Council will endeavour to advertise at least the following week’s meetings in The Courier.

Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

- 12 Local Government Act 2002
- 13 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Financial and Funding Implications

- 14 There are no direct financial implications for Council with adopting the 2027 meetings calendar.
- 15 However, the new calendar will result in a net reduction in staff time administering and report writing.

Other Considerations

- 16 There are no other considerations.

Attachments

1. **2027 Council Meeting Calendar DRAFT** [!\[\]\(40cbc30c2a5db001c566b99cb3cdaa69_img.jpg\)](#) 

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
m		1	1								1		m
t		2 Citizenship Ceremony	2 Hearings			1 Citizenship Ceremony					2 Citizenship Ceremony		t
w		3 Sister Cities	3			2			1		3 Sister Cities	1	w
t		4	4 Local Arts	1		3	1		2 Local Arts		4	2 Community Partnerships	t
f	1 New Year's Day	5	5	2		4	2		3	1	5	3	f
s	2 Day after New Year's	6 Waitangi Day	6	3	1	5	3		4	2	6	4	s
s	3	7	7	4 Daylight saving ends	2	6	4	1	5	3	7	5	s
m	4 Day after New Year's observed	8 Waitangi Day observed	8 Audit and Risk	5	3 Temuka CB	7 King's Birthday	5	2	6 Audit and Risk	4	8	6 Audit and Risk Temuka CB	m
t	5	9 Development Committee Projects and Procurement Committee Strategic Planning Committee	9 Projects and Procurement Committee (9.00am)	6 Citizenship Ceremony	4 Hearings Pleasant Point CB	8 Development Committee Projects and Procurement Committee Strategic Planning Committee	6	3 Citizenship Ceremony	7	5 Hearings	9 People, Performance and Appointments Committee Projects and Procurement Committee (11.00am)	7 Pleasant Point CB	t
w	6	10	10	7	5 Sister Cities Geraldine CB	9	7	4 Sister Cities	8	6	10	8 Geraldine CB	w
t	7	11	11	8	6	10	8	5	9	7	11	9	t
f	8	12	12	9	7	11	9	6	10	8	12	10	f
s	9	13	13	10	8	12	10	7	11	9	13	11	s
s	10	14	14	11	9	13	11	8	12	10	14	12	s
m	11	15 Downlands Temuka CB	15	12 Downlands	10	14 Audit and Risk	12	9	13	11 Audit and Risk - AR	15	13	m
t	12	16 People, Performance and Appointments Committee Workshop (10.30am) Pleasant Point CB	16 Workshop	13 Development Committee Projects and Procurement Committee Strategic Planning Committee	11 People, Performance and Appointments Committee Projects and Procurement Committee (11.00am)	15 Workshop	13	10 Development Committee Projects and Procurement Committee Strategic Planning Committee	14 People, Performance and Appointments Committee Projects and Procurement Committee (11.00am)	12 Development Committee Projects and Procurement Committee Strategic Planning Committee	16	14 Council	t
w	13	17 Geraldine CB	17	14	12	16	14	11	15	13	17	15	w
t	14	18	18 Youth Initiatives	15	13 AD Hally	17	15	12	16 Community Partnerships	14	18	16	t
f	15	19	19	16	14	18	16	13	17	15	19	17	f
s	16	20	20	17	15	19	17	14	18	16	20	18	s
s	17	21	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	21	19	s
m	18	22	22 Temuka CB	19	17	21 Downlands Temuka CB	19	16 Temuka CB	20	18 Temuka CB	22	20	m
t	19 Workshop	23 Council	23 Pleasant Point CB	20 Community Funding Workshop (12.30pm)	18 Council (LTP Hearings 9.00am)	22 Pleasant Point CB	20	17 Workshop Pleasant Point CB	21 Workshop	19 Community funding Workshop (12.30pm) Pleasant Point CB	23 Workshop	21	t
w	20	24	24 Geraldine CB	21	19 Council (LTP Hearings 9.00am)	23 Geraldine CB	21	18 Geraldine CB	22	20 Geraldine CB	24	22	w
t	21	25	25 Community Partnerships	22	20 Council (LTP Hearings 9.00am)	24 Community Partnerships	22	19	23 Youth Initiatives	21	25	23	t
f	22	26	26 Good Friday	23	21	25 Matariki	23	20	24	22	26	24	f
s	23	27	27	24	22	26	24	21	25	23	27	25 Christmas Day	s
s	24	28	28 Easter Sunday	25 ANZAC Day	23	27	25	22	26 Daylight savings starts	24	28	26 Boxing Day	s
m	25		29 Easter Monday	26 ANZAC Day observed	24	28	26	23	27 SC Anniversary	25 Labour Day	29	27 Christmas Day observed	m
t	26 Council		30 Council	27 Council	25 Council	29	27	24 Hearings	28 Council	26 Council	30 Council	28 Boxing Day observed	t
w	27		31	28	26	30 Council	28	25	29	27		29	w
t	28			29	27		29	26	30	28		30	t
f	29			30	28		30	27		29		31 New Year's Eve	f
s	30				29		31	28		30			s
s	31				30			29		31			s
m					31			30					m
t								31 Council					t

Group
Public Holidays – Office Closed
School Holidays
People and Performance and Appointments Committee (9.00am unless otherwise stated)
Citizenship Ceremony (10.00am and 12.00pm unless otherwise stated)
Council (10.30am unless otherwise stated)
Development and Growth Committee (9.00am)
Projects and Procurement Committee (11.30am unless otherwise stated)
Strategic Planning Committee (2.00pm)
Downlands (9.00am)
Community Boards – Pleasant Point CB (6.00pm), Temuka CB (5.00pm), Geraldine CB (6.30pm)
Audit and Risk Committee (9.00am)
Workshop (9.00am unless otherwise stated)
Local Arts Scheme Assessment Subcommittee (12.30pm)
Youth Initiatives Subcommittee (4pm)
Sister Cities (10.00am)
Community Funding Subcommittee (9.00am)
Community Partnerships (1.00pm)
Hearings (9.00am unless otherwise stated)
AD Hally (2.30pm)
Note: Hearings Committee, other subcommittees occur as required

8.6 Actions Register Update

Author: Jessica Kavanaugh, Democracy Services Lead

Authoriser: Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate

Recommendation

That the Council receives and notes the updates to the Actions Register.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the status of the action requests raised by councillors at previous Council meetings.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This matter is assessed to be of low significance under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as there is no impact on the service provision, no decision to transfer ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from Council, and no deviation from the Long Term Plan.

Discussion

- 3 The actions register is a record of actions requested by Councillors. It includes a status and comments section to update the Council on the progress of each item.
- 4 There are currently eight items on the actions register.
- 5 Eight items are marked as ongoing.
- 6 No items are marked as completed, to be proposed to be marked as removed at the next meeting.
- 7 No items are marked as removed to be taken off the list at the next meeting.

Attachments

1. **Council Actions Required** [↓](#) 

Information Requested from Councillors (Council)

Key ■ = Completed, for removal ■ = 60+ Days ■ = 90+ Days ■ = Removed

Information Requested	Investigate Small Trades				
Date Raised:	12 December 2023			Status:	Ongoing
Issue Owner	Chief Financial Officer, General Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Due Date:	4 th February 2025	Completed Date:	
Background: The Councillors requested a report on Trades: investigate the value of small trades outside of large contracts with the consideration to these being offered in-house. With an analysis of both procurement and spend on invoices under \$10k. - Are we getting competitive pricing with a preferred supplier. - Do we get to a level whereby in-house provision of the particular trade could be the better way forward. Update: Investigation is in progress and will return to council once complete. September 2024 Update: This is underway, working on electricians, plumbers, cleaners as a starting point. December 2024 Update: Further investigation is underway connected to the action above 'Investigate Suncontracting Across Council' and a report will be brought to Council on 4th February. January 2025 Update: Work has been completed and a business case being developed with outcome of investigation. This will come to Council for the 4th March 2025 meeting. Maintenance (Incl Building, Plumbing, Electrical and Painting) is now considered complete. February 2025 Update: A report on Plumbing, Electrical, Building and Painting requires further investigation for options post internal review and is anticipated to be presented with the other papers concerning maintenance at the next meeting. A report on cleaning will return to Council after further investigation. At a later date. March 2025/April 2025 Update: The investigation into small trades maintenance has highlighted that this is a process systems change. This will be managed via Councils JIRA system, all maintenance requests centralised and triaged across preferred contractor lists. Paper outlines next steps with an organisational review of contractors leading to a preferred contractors list. As noted the new process will allow the corrections to coding that is required, linked to PO's with the ability to better track requests and control maintenance spend across all departments.					

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May 2025 Update: Following the Council meeting 1 April 2025 a JIRA system will be implemented across Council in early May once all Tier 3 Managers have been able to input in to how the system will work for them and confirmed list of suppliers for their building maintenance works. This part of the investigate small trades is now considered closed and further reporting will be via the CFO and the Procurement Lead as they investigate further trades across Council operations.

June 2025 Update: Process implementation has stalled until the restructure is complete. A maintenance procurement plan is in development and will be bought to a Council in due course. Officers are currently reviewing cleaning service delivery.

July 2025 Update: There is opportunity for some efficiency gains. Options being explored include what can be delivered in-house, combination of activities into a larger maintenance contract or use of a pre-approved supplier panel. Business cases need to be developed for these options that will be done following the organisation restructure.

09 September 2025 Council Meeting: It was requested to have a plan and timeline added to the outstanding actions.

September 2025 Update: Stage 1: A business case is being developed by the General Manager Assets and Infrastructure for Council Building maintenance services and facilities cleaning services with an assessment of options including, in house, contracted, hybrid or pre approved supplier panel with the intention of bringing it to Council in March 2026. This will form part of the LTP decisions and asset management plans prior to the next financial year. Stage 2 will be an implementation plan based on the decisions made.

November 2025 Update: A business case has been developed and demonstrates that there will be cost savings from providing maintenance related building services for Council parks and property facilities through having an in-house qualified builder. The business case has been reviewed and approved by the Acting CE and is in the implementation process. A further business case has been completed for the in-house delivery of the cleaning services for the remainder of the Municipal building, Timaru Library, Art Gallery and Museum. This has demonstrated cost savings and builds on current in-house cleaning service provision at the Municipal Council offices. A high level analysis of Cleaning services for Public Toilets, Halls and CBay has indicated no savings due to the Council employment provisions. This work is 7 days and involves shift work outside normal hours.

09 December 2025 Council Meeting: The General Manager Assets and Infrastructure advised that a business case is being prepared to bring maintenance services in-house, including a qualified builder to cover the Parks and Social Housing units. Alongside bringing cleaning in-house for Council facilities.

January 2026 Update: The business cases for an in-house builder and cleaning staff has been submitted to the Chief Executive for approval.

27 January 2026 Council Meeting: The Mayor will take this offline and speak with the Chief Executive regarding opportunities and how to progress with this action.

30 June 2026 Council meeting: The Chief Executive acknowledged a conversation with the Mayor was still required for this action item.

25 August 2026 Council Meeting: The Mayor advised that a further conversation with the Chief Executive was required.

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14 September 2026 update: The Chief Executive still needs to have a conversation with the Mayor.

Information Requested	Vertical Infrastructure Maintenance Report (Quarterly)				
Date Raised:	22 October 2024			Status:	Ongoing
Issue Owner:	Chief Executive/ General Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Due Date:	4 February 2025	Completed Date:	20/03/2025
Background: Councillors requested quarterly reporting on the status of Council owned vertical infrastructure, including community facilities, to allow for oversight on the sufficiency of budget allocated to operating costs. December 2024 Update: Report on progress will be presented to Council on 4 February 2025. January 2025 Update: The report is in draft pending discussion internally and will be reported on at the 4th March 2025 meeting. February 2025 Update: Officers are still waiting on information to be able to provide an accurate report to Council. It is anticipated to have this work ready to present at the 1 April meeting. March 2025/April 2025 Update: This information is included in the quarterly financials that come to Council. This action is also linked with the work that has been completed on Small trades and is being investigated to streamline and update an internal process for a procure to pay system that works with a preferred contractor list available in the Esker system. All requests for maintenance will go via a JIRA request and triaged so that only the preferred contractor list can be utilised, the correct coding is allocated to the request and department budgets. A procure to pay system will then allow for better auditing of the invoice as it tracks back through the financial system before payment is released. This action could be closed out. 01 April 2025 Council Meeting: it was confirmed this action remain open. May 2025 Update: Further reporting on this issue will be via the CFO in quarterly reports as normal that are brought to Council. 6 May 2025 Council Meeting: It is advised the commentary in the action is not what the councillors have requested. It is advised they want an update of vertical assets that do not have maintenance programmes, and what should be in budgets to maintain the buildings. June 2025 Update: This information has started to be gathered, but an indication of timeframe to provide to Council is not possible yet. This may take some time to work through but Council will be kept informed on progress.					

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3 June 2025 Council Meeting: Discussion included the vertical maintenance information could be presented in two to three months and the addition of Earthquake strengthening into this action, and the need to go through a prioritisation process.

July 2025 Update: This information is a key component of a property asset management plan that has yet to be prepared. This information gap is acknowledged and been considered as part of the organisation restructure to appropriately resource the data collation, analysis, options, forward programmes and preparation of the AMP. Given the quantum of the task this will be presented to Council early 2026 in preparation for the next Long Term Plan.

04 November 2025 Council Meeting Update: The General Manager Assets and Infrastructure advised that this is part of the asset management planning process and will be ready for the next Annual Plan.

09 December 2025 Council Meeting: The General Manager Assets and Infrastructure, advised that this will be included as part of the asset management plan for property and will be reported once the plan is complete early in the new year.

January 2026 Update: Works is progressing well on the Property assets register and entering data into the INFOR Asset management system.

27 January 2026 Council Meeting: Council requested officers provide a date of when the work will be completed and a report returned to Council.

March 2026 update: A draft asset inventory on land and buildings owned by Council has been prepared and is in the process of review and validation. At a high level Council owns 1,199 land parcels that includes parks and reserve land. The total area of land is 14,920 hectares being 5.46% of the total district land area. Based on the Quotable Value 2025 rating valuation the Land Value is \$968.38 million and the Capital Value is \$2.441 billion. The asset and condition data is being populated in INFOR asset management system. This system is also used by Waste and 3Waters. The data and analysis will inform the Asset Management Plans development with a draft expected to be completed in May 2026.

31 March 2026 Council Meeting: It was noted that Council has a large land ownership of rateable properties. It was requested that as part of this action, it is identified, which properties are returning an income, and which properties we are not returning an income and expenditure across those assets.

28 April 2026 Council Meeting: The General Manager Assets and Infrastructure provided a verbal update. It was noted that good progress had been made and Council could expect an update report at the 30 June 2026 Council Meeting.

June 2026 Update: A report will be presented to the July meeting. This report was deferred due to higher agenda priorities for the June meeting.

July 2026 Update: Following the Chief Executives review, further work has been requested before returning to Council with a completed report.

21 July 2026 Council Meeting: The Chief Executive advised a report will be presented to Council in September. It was requested to have this report in time to inform the Long Term Plan; also, a report with an update on the disposal of properties was requested.

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14 September 2026 update: The majority of this information will be produced as part of the AMP. No further updates will be provided.

Information Requested	Chrome Platers Building				
Date Raised:	19 November 2024			Status:	In Progress
Issue Owner	General Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Due Date:		Completed Date:	
Background: Transferred from Infrastructure Committee Actions Register as delegation sits with Commercial and Strategy Committee for matters relating to property. 18 February 2025 Meeting: It was asked that a brief be prepared, and meeting be arranged to be held with the Minister of the South Island/ Rangitata Member of Parliament to bring awareness to the situation and inform them of the history. March 2025 Update: A meeting has been scheduled with the local MP for the 19 March 2025. April 2025 Update: The Mayor and GM Property met with local MP James Meager to discuss 2 North Street. We were encouraged to put forward the Stage 4 application in full and ask for 100% funding and it would be supported. We were asked to copy MP James Meager into the response and he will follow it up once it's with MfE. Possibility that the Environmental Regulatory Manager will continue with this project. June 2025 Update: Currently in discussion with Ecan around requirements for bore holes and testing. The application was submitted on 13 June and is looking to seek 100% funding from MfE for site remediation. August 2025 Update: A decision on the funding application is anticipated on 21 August 2025. Not further update. 19 August 2025 Meeting: Councillors requested any updates on the funding application to be circulated once received. 24 November 2025: This action was moved from the previous Commercial and Strategy Committee Action Register to the Council Action Register 09 December 2025: Council Meeting: The General Manager Assets and Infrastructure, advised that the revised proposal was reconsidered, and the decision will be advised at a meeting next week.					

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January 2026 Update: Further discussions were held between Council Officers and Ministry of Environment Officers to determine a way forward in achieving a cost neutral solution for Council. Further information was requested by the Ministry including a review of the project costs, valuation of the land following remediation and waiver of waste levy and ETS costs by Government. A further meeting has been arranged for end of February 2026.

March 2026 Update: Applications for waste levy and ETS waivers for the disposal of demolition waste have been submitted to Government. Other potential cost reductions are being explored including Environment Canterbury waiving consenting fees and charges.

April 2026 Update: Negotiations with Ministry of Environment and ECan Officers is continuing and making progress. Costs are being reviewed and some reductions have been identified. The waiver of the Waste Levy and ETS charges is a critical cost reduction component.

Update 28 April 2026 Council Meeting: The General Manager Assets and Infrastructure provided a verbal update on the Waste Levy application, it was noted that it was required to be signed off by the minister. It was noted that the ETS required a legislative change, options are being discussed with Ministry for the Environment.

May 2026 Update: Negotiations are continuing with Ministry of the Environment regarding funding of this project. Costings are being reviewed. A report will be prepared for the June meeting.

June 2026 Update: An update report is on the 30 June agenda.

July 2026 Update: Meeting was held last Friday with consultants contractors and ecan to determine a way forward in regard to full remediation for the site. Costings and methodology are being developed. Workstream to be determined who takes over. AD email, folder called north street.

Aug 2026 Update: Work is progressing following the additional site testing undertaken in early August. The results of this testing have provided further information on the extent and nature of contamination and, as a result, the proposed remediation approach is being refined to ensure the preferred option is appropriate, clear and cost effective. A report is currently on track to be presented to Council in October, outlining the proposed way forward and associated financial implications. Regular liaison meetings are continuing with MCERT as the work progresses.

Information Requested	Repayment of Timaru District Council Holdings Limited (TDHL) Loans Report				
Date Raised:	31 March 2026			Status:	
Issue Owner	Chief Financial Officer	Due Date:		Completed Date:	
Background: Councillors requested that Council Officers bring a report to Council to facilitate the repayment of Debt from TDHL for consideration.					

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April 2026 Update: Officers are currently in the process of finding out what is required. The agreement states that 'The Borrower may prepay the whole of any Advance (or any part thereof) upon giving to the Council not less than 5 Business Days' prior notice in writing'. For TDH L to be able to borrow the funds required, the uncalled capital that TDC provides will need to be increased to cover this. Officers are in the process of finding out how this is to be done.

Update 28 April 2026 Council Meeting: Requested clarification in order to understanding the process and the effect on Council's credit rating. The Chief Financial Officer advised they had been in contact with Fitch Credit Ratings with guidance to come back to Council.

June 2026 Update: The advice received is being collated and a report should be expected to the July 2026 Council Meeting.

July 2026 Update: Further advice is being sought from Audit NZ. Once the advice has been obtained it will be incorporated into the report to return to Council.

August 2026 Update: This matter is being further discussed with Audit NZ when they are on site at the beginning of September for the 2025/26 Audit.

Information Requested	Rangitata Huts Holding Tank				
Date Raised:	28 April 2026			Status:	In progress
Issue Owner	GM Assets and Infrastructure	Due Date:		Completed Date:	
Background: During item 8.3 South Rangitata Reserve Management Plan: Receipt of Submissions and Hearings It was raised that Councillors would like to see a report returned to Council regarding the holding tank issues and options and what the associated costs are, including understanding government requirements regarding toilets to then look at funding options. This will be reported in conjunction with the Rangitata Reserve Management Plan deliberations at the 30 June meeting. June 2026 Update: This report will be presented following confirmation received on costings and consent requirements. Aug 2026 update: The report was presented to Council at the 21 July 2021 meeting with the resolution of the Mayor, CE, Cle Michelle Pye and Clr Scott Shannon to take offline and create sub committee to discuss the next steps that need to be taken. An officer has contacted the campground lessee to get camp site numbers, and the same officer has contacted NZMCA, they have replied wanting more information in regards to what the budget is, where the extra funding is coming from and the actual amount is being asked for. This request has been passed onto the R/Huts Campground working group, currently waiting on the answers from the group before replying to NZCMA.					

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14 September 2026 Update: A meeting with the Chief Executive, Councillor Scott Shannon and Councillor Michelle Pye is scheduled for 15 September. A further update will follow after the meeting; however, no response has yet been received from the Working Group.

Information Requested	Report on Investment Properties and Land and Buildings following completion of the review				
Date Raised:	26 May 2026			Status:	In progress
Issue Owner	Chief Financial Officer	Due Date:	September 2026	Completed Date:	
Background: During item 9.5 Draft Annual Plan 2026/27. Council requested a report with a high-level overview of investment properties and land and buildings once the review is complete and reclassifications have been made. June 2026 Update: The review is expected to be completed mid August as it is part of the Annual Report process. Due to report deadlines, officers anticipate this going to the September meeting.					

Information Requested	Commence Investigation of Future Options for the Rangitata Huts Settlement beyond the lease expiry of 2033 this triennium.				
Date Raised:	30 June 2026			Status:	New
Issue Owner	Acting General Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Due Date:		Completed Date:	
Background: During item 8.6 South Rangitata Reserve Management Plan - deliberations and adoption. Council requested an action that officers commence a work programme this triennium, with the objective of exploring options for and determining the future of the Rangitata Huts settlement beyond the current final lease expiry of 30 June 2033. July 2026 update: There has been no progress to regarding the future of the Rangitata Huts beyond the final lease expiry date, but meetings are planned in the near future.					

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Aug 2026 Update: Officers are aware of the requirement to commence a work programme by October 2028 and the associated delivery timeframes. At this stage, it is recommended that the project remain on the back burner until there is greater clarity around the reform pathway and the potential partnerships with other Councils who may have similar situations or relevant views.

14 September 2026 update: No investigation will be started until after the amalgamation.

Information Requested	Highfield Recreation Area project workshop to revisit the previous workstream.				
Date Raised:	30 June 2026			Status:	New
Issue Owner	Acting General Manager Assets and Infrastructure	Due Date:		Completed Date:	
Background: During item 8.11 Council Financial Performance Report to 31 May 2026. Council requested an action that the Highfield Recreation Area project workstream to be revisited through a workshop setting. Aug 2026 Update: Workshop has been planned with Council for November. 14 September 2026 Update: An update will be provided after the November workshop.					

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8.7 Long Term Plan 2027-37 Community Engagement Strategy**Author:** Rachel Leitch, Communications Team Leader**Authoriser:** Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate**Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Long Term Plan 2027-37 Community Engagement Strategy report; and
2. Endorses the proposed approach.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from Council on the proposed approach to Community Engagement for the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2027-37.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This report is considered as being of low significance when assessed against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
- 3 This is primarily because this report seeks endorsement of an engagement strategy, to inform future development of the engagement plan, but does not affect any content of the LTP.
- 4 Separately the LTP is considered of high significance, as a legal requirement under the Local Government Act 2002.

Background

- 5 Local government legislation places considerable importance on the quality of the relationship between council and their communities, with expectations around levels of engagement and consultation clearly defined in the legislation.
- 6 It increases the community's sense of ownership around decisions and goodwill toward the council. It also ensures the council is better informed and better able to implement its decisions without challenge.
- 7 The poor results of our citizens satisfaction survey emphasise the need for meaningful engagement with our communities.

Discussion

- 8 Local government legislation places considerable importance on the quality of the relationship between council and their communities, with expectations around levels of engagement and consultation clearly defined in the legislation.
- 9 It increases the community's sense of ownership around decisions and goodwill toward the council. It also ensures the council is better informed and better able to implement its decisions without challenge.

- 10 The poor results of our citizens satisfaction survey emphasise the need for meaningful engagement with our communities.

Engagement Plan Framework

- 11 To ensure we are responding directly to the needs of our communities, following are the proposed core components of the LTP community engagement plan:
 - 11.1 Purpose and objectives
 - 11.2 Stakeholder Mapping
 - 11.3 Iwi and Māori engagement
 - 11.4 Issues and content framing
 - 11.5 Channels and methods
 - 11.6 Timeline
 - 11.7 Analysis and reporting
 - 11.8 Evaluation.
- 12 Working with relevant Council officers and using the insights gained from the July 2026 Community Survey conducted by Key Research, will determine the content of each of the components of the plan.
- 13 Hosting the consultation document online and distributing the hard copy summary consultation document to the public through The Courier will continue to be the core activity of the consultation, as it is the most cost-effective option for getting the written materials to the widest audience possible.
- 14 The detail of any actions and approaches taken, particularly those outside the core requirements of the proposal document, will be designed as an appropriate response to the topics being discussed. (i.e. if we are talking about service level changes to a specific service, we will design the process to target those stakeholders in addition to the general public.)
- 15 Community survey results indicate that a smaller proportion of respondents felt they had influence over Council decision-making. To help build trust and support meaningful participation, elected members are expected to be available for face-to-face engagement opportunities, supported by Council officers. These opportunities may include meetings with specific interest-based groups relevant to the issues being considered.
- 16 The detailed engagement plan will be presented to Council's November 2026 meeting.

Options and Preferred Option

Option One

- 17 That Council endorse the proposed community engagement strategy for the Long Term Plan 2027-37.

Option Two

- 18 That Council request amendments to the proposed community engagement strategy prior to endorsement.

Consultation

- 19 No consultation is required for Council's endorsement of the proposed engagement strategy. Community engagement will be undertaken as part of the Long Term Plan 2027-37 process.

Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

20 Local Government Act 2002.

Financial and Funding Implications

21 There are no financial or funding implications directly associated with endorsing the proposed engagement strategy. Any future financial or funding implications will be identified through the detailed engagement plan, which is scheduled to be presented to Council at its November 2026 meeting.

Other Considerations

22 There are no other considerations identified.

Attachments

Nil

8.8 Significance and Engagement Policy - draft adoption

Author: Brendan Madley, Senior Policy Advisor

Authoriser: Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receive and note the *Significance and Engagement Policy – draft adoption* report;
2. Give draft approval to the Significance and Engagement Policy to enable it to proceed to consultation in 2027 (as part of the wider Long Term Plan consultation);
3. Approve for the policy to be reviewed by Audit New Zealand; and
4. Notes that Council will consider and deliberate feedback on the draft Significance and Engagement Policy, prior to adopting a final version of the policy to take effect from 1 July 2027.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek draft approval of the Significance and Engagement Policy, enabling it to proceed to Audit New Zealand review and public consultation.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This decisions sought in this report are considered as being of low significance when assessed against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. This is primarily because it seeks initial approval rather than a final Council decision, and public consultation is scheduled to occur as part of the wider Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation in 2027.

Background

- 3 Council is legislatively required to have a Significance and Engagement Policy under s 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).
- 4 This policy states the principles under which Council assesses the significance of any particular issue or proposal, and how it will engage with the community and tangata whenua.
- 5 The main levers available to Council are:
 - 5.1 How Council's relationship with Arowhenua is managed; and
 - 5.2 Which assets are considered strategic; and
 - 5.3 Which criteria are considered when assessing significance; and
 - 5.4 The principles and circumstances under which Council will, or will not, engage; and
 - 5.5 The internal Council process for which significance is assessed and reviewed.

- 6 The review of the policy forms part of the wider LTP work programme. A summary of the policy is published in the final, approved LTP document.
- 7 The Significance and Engagement Policy underwent a significant review for the 2024-34 LTP. This review has found that these changes remain largely fit-for-purpose, and therefore less significant amendments are recommended.
- 8 Council considered the current policy at a workshop on 17 August 2026. The draft policy incorporates guidance received at that time.

Discussion

Overview of material changes

- 9 The draft policy has been materially amended from the current policy as follows:
 - 9.1 Added content to Part 1, Section 2, p. 2 clarifying that elected members utilise feedback from consultation and engagement to inform their decision making, but as elected representatives have the autonomy to make decisions that are inconsistent with feedback received.
 - 9.2 Removed clause 4.1.1.2 p. 9, as this has been superseded by separate processes within Council.
 - 9.3 Amended clause 5.8 p. 9 to include, as part of the criteria for assessing significance “Consistency with approved plans, strategies and policies” the factor, “the level of impact that a proposal has on the ability of Council to deliver its statutory role and functions”.
 - 9.4 Added clauses 7.7 – 7.10 p. 12 to provide clearer guidance and operational consistency on submission requirements and how to manage late or offensive submissions.
 - 9.5 Amended Strategic Assets p. 13 to remove references to water supply and wastewater (as the policy would take effect from 1 July 2027, after these have transferred to the new water entity), and to include reference to Council’s shareholding in the new water entity.

Meeting the legislative requirements of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025

- 10 Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy is required to be updated to reflect its decisions under Local Water Done Well, and to meet the legislative requirements of the Local Government (Water Services Act) 2025 (LGWSA 2025).
- 11 The policy does the former by removing references to water supply and waste water, and inserting references to Council’s shareholdings in Central South Island Water Ltd. It is understood that Council will remain the water service provider for stormwater, and that stockwater is out of scope of the legislation.
- 12 Page 10 of the policy includes reference to inserting approved wording for meeting legislative requirements regarding significant contracts under the LGWSA 2025. This is a matter for a separate paper, which is intended to be considered at the October Council meeting. It is proposed that the wording approved in this report be automatically inserted into the draft Significance and Engagement Policy. At the time of writing this report, the proposed wording is yet to be finalised and the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport is yet to provide answers to a list of submitted questions.

Arowhenua initial feedback

- 13 Aoraki Environmental Consulting Ltd (AECL) were invited to provide initial feedback on behalf of Arowhenua.
- 14 *"AECL has reviewed the Policy and has no proposed amendments except for a minor change in Part 1 Section 5 to change reference to Kati Huirapa o Arowhenua to Kāti Huirapa ki Arowhenua."*
- 15 In light of recent elected member interest about how Council documents reference the Treaty of Waitangi/ Te Tiriti o Waitangi, AECL were asked to provide advice on its usage within the context of the Significance and Engagement Policy and the material implications of using either, or a hybrid approach.
- 16 Their feedback stated, *"it is noted the Significance and Engagement Policy is prepared under the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002. Section 4 of the LGA refers to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi not a version of the Treaty. So, using either Te Tiriti or the Treaty in the Policy would not have any material implications. It may be that Part 1 Section 5 reference "The Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi", however we do not have a preference."*

Other

- 17 It is proposed that the list of Strategic Assets p. 12 and 13 be visually reformatted to reflect the Groups of Activities, once these have been established by the Systems Improvement Bill currently before Parliament. This would be a non-material change.
- 18 The Systems Improvement Bill proposes to amend the purpose of local government, replacing providing for the "four wellbeings" with a more targeted focus on, for example, the provision of core infrastructure. Therefore, once this LTP's Strategic Direction and Community Outcomes have been finalised within this context, the list of Strategic Assets may need to be revisited.
- 19 Sector guidance on the possible impact of the Systems Improvement Bill on what might be considered Strategic Assets states: *"A council that substantially reviewed its outcomes and activities to meet the new purpose and definition of community outcomes might find there are some assets that might no longer be needed to meet those outcomes and hence might not be strategic assets."*

Options and Preferred Option

- 20 Option One: Give draft approval to the "Significance and Engagement Policy" (preferred).
- 21 This is the preferred option and supported by the policy review undertaken by officers.
- 22 Option Two: Amend the "Significance and Engagement Policy", prior to draft approval.
- 23 The advantages and disadvantages of amending the policy depend on the nature of the amendments made to the proposed policies. It may be necessary to delay approval to allow officers to undertake analysis of any proposed amendments.

Consultation

- 24 Public consultation is not required or appropriate for a draft approval of this policy.

- 25 As referenced earlier, AECL provided initial feedback on the policy, particularly section 1 part 5.

Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

- 26 Local Government Act 2002, especially s76AA – s87

Financial and Funding Implications

- 27 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

- 28 Consultation will be funded from existing budgets.

Other Considerations

- 29 There are no other considerations.

Attachments

1. Draft Significance and Engagement Policy - track changed relative to current policy [↓](#) 

Significance and Engagement Policy



Approved by: Timaru District Council

Date adopted: ~~1 July 2024~~ TBC

Review:	Every 3 years <u>aligned to the development and adoption of the Long Term Plan</u> , or as required This Policy does not cease to have effect because it is due for review, or being reviewed
Consultation:	Required as part of the Long Term Plan and <u>In accordance with</u> section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002

This document has been broken into two sections:

- Part 1: an overview to help the reader understand the wider context, and;
- Part 2: Council's policy on Significance and Engagement in accordance with statutory requirements.

Part 1: Overview

1. Context

For every decision Timaru District Council (Council) makes, whether big or small, we need to consider how important that decision is to our communities and how it might impact them. Sometimes we are already aware of people's views on a matter, or are very limited in our choices about a decision, but at other times, we need to hear your thoughts before we decide what to do, and at other times it may be appropriate that we collaborate with the community to reach a decision together, or empower the community to make decisions themselves.

Often when Council is making an important, or significant decision, the way we engage is set by legislation and there is a process we must follow, but other times we determine how to engage. When deciding how significant a decision is for our communities, we look at a number of factors, including:

- Who is affected by, or interested in the decision;
- What the costs will be, and;
- What the overall impact of the decision will be.

These factors are part of working out the best way to engage with our communities on the issue. Do we need to just tell the community it's happening? Do we need to ask the community for feedback on a draft proposal? Or will the best outcomes be reached if we involve the community every step of the way to design solutions to issues and make decisions?

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The Significance and Engagement Policy guides Council's assessment of the significance of matters and sets out how and when our communities can expect us to engage, before making a final decision on both significant and less significant matters.

2. Legislative Framework

Council, under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), is an organisation of representative democracy. The LGA gives Council authority to make decisions for, and on behalf of the community, and makes it accountable for those decisions through the election process.

Councils are also directed by the LGA to seek out and take account of community views in the process of decision-making.

One of the purposes of local government is "to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities".

Sections 76-83~~4~~ of the LGA provide a framework which applies to all decision-making processes, including the consideration of community views. For each decision, Council determines how those requirements apply.

Council's decision-making is further framed by other things, such as the requirements of government policy, technical matters and financial implications. These matters can also influence engagement on an issue (e.g., if there is only one, or very limited viable options, such as a specific change required by new legislation).

Some decisions of Council are made under legislation with specific consultation processes for plans, policies or other matters. Examples of these are District Plans under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and Reserve Management Plans under the Reserves Act 1977. For most other matters there is a prescribed consultation process and Council must follow the requirements of the LGA. These are explained in the following section.

Regardless of the level of significance, if the decision is about a matter that has a prescribed legal process, Council must follow that process. However this does not mean that Council is limited to only engaging in accordance with the legislation. Council can choose to undertake additional engagement activities to support the decision-making process if this is considered appropriate.

Any feedback received during a consultation will be considered by elected members and inform their decision making. It is noted that consultation results are not binding on elected members, unless the engagement has been explicitly designed as a binding public referendum. Elected members have the discretion to make decisions that they – collectively or by majority vote – believe are in the best interests of the Timaru District, consistent with the Declaration that they made upon entering office.

3. Local Government Act 2002 Consultation Requirement

Consultation is one of the ways we engage to find out about community views and preferences before making a decision. We consult on certain decisions because we recognise how important they are to our communities, or because we are required to by statute, or both.

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The LGA contains principles which guide consultation as well as some specific requirements. It refers to consultation in two different, but closely related ways: 'consultation' and the 'special consultative procedure' (SCP). As the name implies, the 'special consultative procedure' is a specific kind of consultation.

Section 82 and 82A Local Government Act

Section 82 of the LGA provides some overarching principles for consultation. This includes:

- Identify people who will be affected by, or have an interest in the decision;
- Provide them with reasonable access to relevant information in an appropriate format on the purpose and scope of the decision;
- Encourage people to give their views;
- Give people a reasonable opportunity to give their views in an appropriate way;
- Listen to, and consider those views, with an open mind, and;
- After the decision, provide access to the decision and any other relevant material.

Section 82A details some additional obligations if the consultation is a specific requirement under the LGA. Where this section applies Council also develops:

- A description of what we want to do and why;
- An analysis of the practical options (with advantages and disadvantages), and;
- A draft of the policy or relevant document (or details of the changes to any policy or document).

Section 83 – the Special Consultative Procedure (SCP)

The SCP builds on the principles of section 82 of the LGA as well as detailing additional requirements, including developing a 'statement of proposal' (SOP). An SOP is a document that provides detailed information on what the proposal is about and how people can provide their feedback. Depending on what the consultation is about, for example a Long Term Plan or a bylaw, the exact content requirements are further prescribed in the LGA. In some cases it requires the development of a specific consultation document, such as that required for the LTP or Annual Plan (in certain circumstances). In addition to meeting the principles of section 82, Council will:

- Make the SOP publicly available;
- Allow feedback to be provided for a minimum of one month;
- Ensure people are given an opportunity to present their views to Council through spoken interaction (or using sign language).

4. What is 'consultation' and what is 'engagement'?

Often the two terms 'consultation' and 'engagement' are used interchangeably, however, this is not accurate. Consultation is just one of the engagement options available, depending on the matter. Because Council is required by the LGA to undertake consultation for a range of reasons, it has become an easily recognisable term and process, for both Council and the community.

Consultation generally is when we develop a proposal, often a draft policy or plan, and then ask for the public's views on the draft proposal. Council then considered these views before deciding on what the final policy or plan should say.

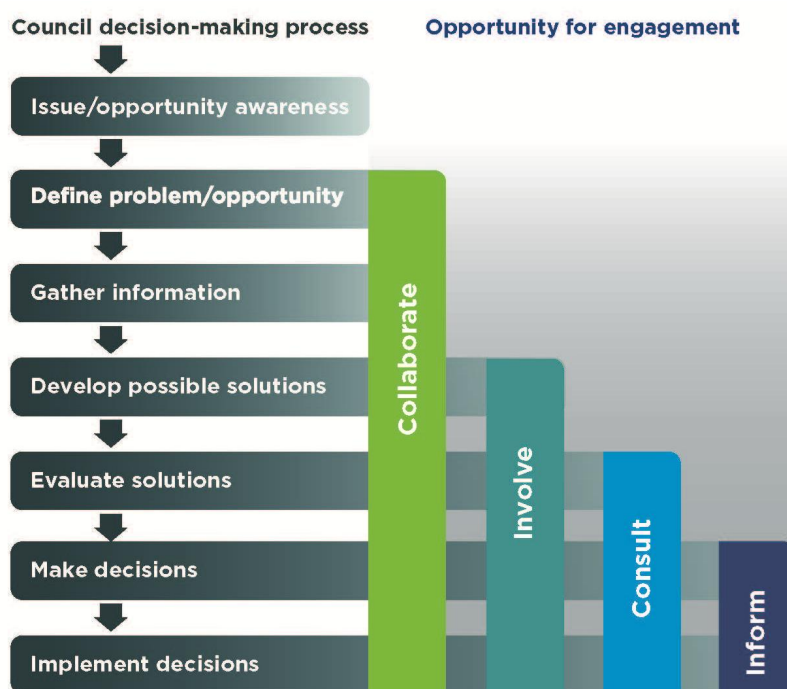
Most councils in New Zealand, including Timaru District Council, apply the principles developed by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) when talking about these matters.

The IAP2 developed the Spectrum of Public Participation to assist with the selection of the appropriate level of participation, or 'engagement' for the issues or problem. The graph below provides a summarized version of the Spectrum.



This means that engagement can range from letting the community know about the decisions, to supporting others to make their own decisions that Council then implements.

Another way of looking at the different types of engagement is to look at the steps in the decision-making process as an issue, proposal or decision progresses from development to final decision. The diagram below outlines the steps and the associated types of opportunities for participation.



The highest level of engagement, 'Empower' is not included in the above graph, nor in the flow-chart in Appendix B. This is because it is a non-standard engagement method that is generally used in exceptional circumstances, or outside of Council's formal decision-making process where Council's role is assisting others to make a decision. Often this kind of engagement is supported by Council through a framework of grants, advice and support.

Very occasionally, and in certain circumstances, Council may choose to empower the community to decide through a binding referendum. Council can also delegate decisions to a group of people, for example a reserve management committee, or by allowing for the establishment of a Business Improvement District.

5. Māori

The Council recognises [Kāti Huirapa ki Arowhenua](#) ~~Kati Huirapa o Arowhenua~~ holds manawhenua¹ status from the Rakaia to Waitaki rivers, including the Timaru District. As Crown partners under [the Treaty of Waitangi/](#) Te Tiriti o Waitangi ~~(the Treaty/ Te Tiriti)~~ the Timaru District Council recognises its obligations and responsibilities to enable manawhenua priorities and leadership.

Māori have a unique relationship with [all c](#)Councils through the Treaty ~~/ Te Tiriti of~~ Waitangi and supporting legislation. This relationship is reflected in the requirements of the LGA to recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to the principles of the Treaty ~~/ Te Tiriti of~~

¹ Those who exercise customary authority or Rakatirataka (Chieftainship, decision making rights)
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~~Waitangi~~ by maintaining or improving opportunities for Māori in local authority decision-making process.

The LGA requires Council to:

- Take into account Māori interests where any significant decisions are to be made affecting 'land or a body of water';
- Establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to council decision-making processes;
- Consider ways to foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to council decision-making processes;
- Put in place processes to consult with Māori; and
- Assist Māori to better participate generally in decision-making.

Aside from the legislative requirements, the Council appreciates that Māori perspectives may offer different views of local issues and is keen for those views to be included in its deliberations.

Council considers it important to further develop relationships with [Kāti Huirapa ki Arowhenua](#) ~~Kāti Huirapa o Arowhenua~~ (Arowhenua) who represent those who hold manawhenua within the Timaru District. In doing so, the Council acknowledges the role of Arowhenua as the manawhenua. The Council; however, encourage both formal and informal opportunities for developing a closer relationship with groups representing local Māori who are not manawhenua.

The Council will ensure all its significant policy and decision-making processes include opportunities for discussion with mana whenua, through their mandated representatives, at the earliest opportunity and before decisions are made; and endeavor to provide resources to help facilitate that engagement. The Council acknowledges that the involvement of manawhenua in the Council decision making process is not restricted to matters directly affecting the Arowhenua.

The Council will respect the views expressed on behalf of mana whenua and foster close collaboration at an operational level. Council will offer places for rūnunga representatives on Council Committees, ~~including the Environmental Services Committee, the Safer Communities Committee and the Local Arts Assessment Committee~~, and other bodies as appropriate, and seek regular engagement with manawhenua to discuss matters of common interest and foster general relationships. Opportunities are also considered for appointments on planning and resource consent hearing committees.

To assist in this commitment and extending this relationship, Council has signed a Service Level Agreement with Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Ltd (AECL). AECL is mandated by Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua to help advise councils and other agencies on issues of interest to Arowhenua Rūnunga, to facilitate consultation with Arowhenua Rūnunga, and to ensure timely and appropriate input into policy, plans and processes on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua.

The Mayor may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to formally recognise the relationship with AECL and the expectations of it. Council's Senior Management will also make themselves available to meet with Arowhenua.

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Part 2: Policy

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this policy is to:

- 1.1.1. Enable Council and its communities to identify the degree of significance attached to particular issues, proposals, assets, decisions and activities;
- 1.1.2. Provide clarity on how and when communities can expect to be engaged in the process of decision-making by Council;
- 1.1.3. Inform Council from the beginning of the decision-making process about the extent, form and type of any public engagement that is expected before a particular decision is made.

2. Background

- 2.1. Section 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires Council to have a policy on significance and engagement that sets out:
 - 2.1.1. The general approach Council takes to determining significance;
 - 2.1.2. The criteria and procedures used by Council in assessing the extent to which something is significant, or may have significant consequences; and
 - 2.1.3. How Council will respond to community preferences, and what the community can expect in terms of engagement on matters with different degrees of significance.
- 2.2. For further detail on the context, legislative framework and requirements, see the Introduction to Significance and Engagement attached to this policy.

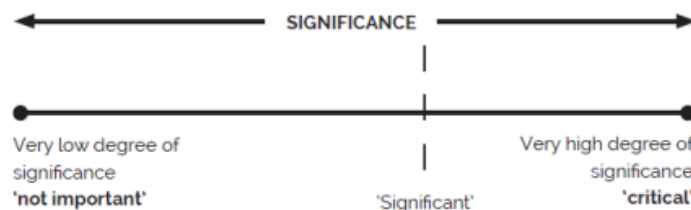
3. Definitions

- 3.1. Engagement: The process of informing and seeking information from the community to assist with Council decision-making. There is a continuum of community involvement ranging from "Inform" to "Empower" (refer to Part One of this policy and Appendix B).
- 3.2. Significance:² In relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter that concerns or is before Council, means the degree of importance of the issue, proposal, decision, or matter as assessed by Council in terms of its likely impact on, and likely consequences for, -
 - a) The current and future social, economic, environmental or cultural wellbeing of the district;
 - b) Any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the issue, proposal, decision, or matter:

² As defined in section 5 of the LGA.
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- c) The capacity of Council to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.

3.3. Significant:³ In relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter, means that the issue, proposal, decision or other matter has a high degree of significance. The significance will fall somewhere on a continuum from low to high. At some point, a matter will transition from being not significant to being significant. This point is matter-specific and dependent on its individual circumstances.



3.4. Strategic Asset:⁴ In relation to the assets held by Council, means an asset or group of assets that Council needs to retain in order to maintain Council's capacity to achieve or promote any outcome that Council determines to be important to the current or future wellbeing of the community; and includes –

- a) Any asset or group of assets listed as strategic assets in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy; and
- b) Any equity securities held by Council in a port company within the meaning of the Port Companies Act 1988.

3.5. Special Consultative Procedure: A defined and mandated form of public consultation set out in section 83 of the LGA.

4. Approach to Determining Significance

4.1. Council's approach to determining the degree of significance of an issue, proposal, decision, or other matter (the issue) will include:

4.1.1. The relevant Council officer undertaking an assessment of the issue in the earliest stages of a proposal against this Policy, which is reviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team;

4.1.1.1. The Chief Executive may request that the Corporate ~~and~~ ~~Communications~~ Group undertake a separate assessment of significance, for example when an issue/ proposal is deemed to potentially contain a significant unbudgeted expense or variance, a high level of risk, require a significant redistribution of funds between Council units, or significantly affect a level of service or delivery of another, already approved Council activity. ~~This will be aligned with the delegations contained Council's Delegations Manual.~~

³ As defined in section 5 of the LGA.

⁴ As defined in section 5 of the LGA, as it relates to Timaru District Council.

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~~4.1.1.2. Each report will receive a legal, financial and significance check as part of the review and approval process. The relevant aspects of each draft report are to be reviewed for legal content (by the Legal Services Manager or their appointed delegate), financial content (by the Chief Financial Officer or their appointed delegate), and assessment of significance (by the Group Manager Corporate and Communications or their appointed delegate).~~

- 4.1.2. All decision-making reports presented to Council will include a summary of the assessment of significance, and recommend a corresponding level of engagement.
- 4.1.3. Due consideration by Council of the assessment of significance and engagement prior to any resolution on an issue. Elected members can make their own significance assessment, and may resolve that any matter has a higher or lower level of significance than that assessed by officers.
- 4.1.4. Where decision-making authority has previously been delegated to a committee of Council, the Chief Executive, or a Council officer, a reassessment of significance will be carried out in instances when there is material change to any of the criteria listed in Part 2, Section 5. This includes consideration of whether the existing delegation continues to apply, or needs to be reconsidered by the delegator.

5. Criteria for Assessing Significance

- 5.1. Council will consider the following criteria when determining the degree of significance of an issue:
- 5.2. **Current and future impact on the community**, including the number of people affected by the issue/ proposal and the degree (including monetary cost to those affected) to which they might be affected;
- 5.3. **Impact on strategic assets**, being the effect of those assets listed in this policy on the purpose for which they are held by Council;
- 5.4. **Impact on levels of service**, being the expected degree to which Council's stated levels of service will be increased, decreased or affected;
- 5.5. **Extent of community interest**, being the level of community and media interest currently apparent, previously expressed or likely to be generated, and the extent to which the community holds united or divided views;
- 5.6. **Impact on manawhenua (Arowhenua Rūnanga)**, taking into account the relationship of Māori to their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wahi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga;
- 5.7. **Impact on Council's financial position**, including expected costs to Council, revenue streams, and limits as stated in Council's Financial Strategy;
- 5.8. **Consistency with approved plans, strategies and policies**, being the extent to which an issue or proposal is aligned or already provided for within Council's strategies, policies, and the current Long Term Plan or Annual Plan. By extension, this criteria will consider the level of impact that a proposal has on the ability of Council to deliver its statutory role and functions;

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5.9. **Impact on the environment**, including the expected impact of the issue or proposal on pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and the ability for these to be mitigated, and;

5.10. **Extent of risk**, including the level of financial, political, reputational, legal and health and safety risk the issue or proposal exposes Council to, and the expected level of difficulty to reverse the issue or proposal once a decision has been taken.

Note: any decision to alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of Council, and any decision to transfer ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from Council can only be made if provided for in a Long Term Plan, or as part of a Long Term Plan variation through the Annual Plan and consulted on accordingly.

[Insert approved wording: meeting Council's legislative requirements regarding significant contracts under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025.]

6. Engagement Principles

6.1. In considering the approach to engagement on any issue, Council will consider community preferences about engagement on decisions and will apply the following principles:

- 6.1.1. **Appropriateness** – Council will determine the appropriate level of engagement on a case-by-case basis, according to the degree of significance, and engagement will be tailored to meet the particular needs of each issue, budget considerations, the stakeholders involved and the context.
- 6.1.2. **Genuineness** – There is a genuine willingness on Council's behalf to engage with an open mind to ensure the community's views are included in the decision-making process.
- 6.1.3. **Timeliness** – Council will consider engagement early in the planning process to ensure the public can be involved in the decision-making process and to ensure sufficient time to allow genuine engagement. Timeframes for engagement can vary accordingly.
- 6.1.4. **Accessibility** – Council will provide reasonable access to engagement processes in a manner and format that is appropriate to people's needs. This will require varying methodologies, taking into account factors such as location, technology, social and cultural context.
- 6.1.5. **Information** – Council will provide relevant information to the issue under consideration, including options and consequences, in a manner that can be readily understood by interested or affected people.
- 6.1.6. **Diversity** – Council will endeavor to seek the views of a wide cross-section of the community, using the most appropriate ways of engaging with various representative groups in the community.
- 6.1.7. **Engaging with Māori** – Council will maintain and improve opportunities for iwi/Māori to contribute to Council's decision-making processes and will continue to work with iwi to refine and improve these processes.

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- 6.1.8. **Feedback** – Council will provide information regarding the outcome of the decision-making process and the reasons for the decisions.

7. Engagement Processes

- 7.1. The degree of significance of an issue influences who is involved in the decision making process, and at what point they become involved. It also affects how much time and money Council will invest in exploring and evaluating options, and engaging with the community before making a decision.
- 7.2. Council will use the engagement spectrum to determine the most appropriate processes and methods for engagement with affected and interested communities on particular decisions or issues. This approach is based on the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) framework.
- 7.3. For matters determined to have a high degree of significance, Council will, at a minimum, consult with the community in accordance with the requirements of section 82 of the LGA, except for matters with another prescribed statutory consultation process. In those cases, Council will consult in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements. Council can choose, within its power, to engage on something where assessment under the policy does not indicate a high degree of significance.
- 7.4. An engagement plan, addressing Council's engagement principles, will be developed for proposals with a high degree of significance. Where an issue has been determined to have a lower degree of significance, Council must still decide what level of engagement with the community is appropriate.
- 7.5. The decision on the level of engagement for all issues will be informed by determining the level of significance as assessed against Council's stated criteria. In determining this, Council will consider:
- 7.5.1. The views of Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, and Council's commitments to engage with the same (refer to the "Māori" section of this policy in Part One);
 - 7.5.2. What, if any, aspect of the decision can change as a result of engagement due to the legislative, technical and operational aspects of the matter;
 - 7.5.3. The decision-making requirements of the LGA and any other relevant legislation;
 - 7.5.4. The characteristics of the interested or affected persons (e.g. geographically, or by interest, age or activity);
 - 7.5.5. The length of time the matter relates (e.g. is it a one off decision or a ten year strategy), and;
 - 7.5.6. Whether it is appropriate for Council to engage. The circumstances in which Council will not engage include:
 - 7.5.6.1. Where no viable alternative is deemed to be available, including where a decision is necessary to comply with the law;
 - 7.5.6.2. Emergency management activities during a declared State of Emergency;

- 7.5.6.3. Urgent matters where an immediate or quick response is required, including for the protection of life, property and the environment;
- 7.5.6.4. A commercially sensitive or confidential matter, including to protect the privacy of individuals;
- 7.5.6.5. Where Council deems that it already has a comprehensive understanding of the views and preference of the interested or affected persons, and;
- 7.5.6.6. Where the matter relates to a policy, strategy or plan that Council has already consulted on recently.

7.6. While the above criteria will assist in determining the level of engagement and who to engage with, these details are also informed by the specific situation. Just because a matter has a higher level of significance compared to another matter, it does not mean that a higher level of engagement is necessarily appropriate and vice versa.

7.7. Submissions made to Council during an engagement process are a public record. As such, they need to be made by a natural person(s), or a natural person(s) on behalf of an organisation. The submitter needs to provide their full first and last names.

7.8. Feedback provided via social media channels does not count as a submission, unless explicitly provided for as part of the consultation. A summary of social media sentiment may be provided to Council to help inform their decision making.

7.9. Submissions made in the form of petitions and/ or with multiple signatories, will be treated as one submission.

7.10. Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive (or whomever they might sub-delegate to), to determine:

7.10.1. How to manage any non-compliant or late submissions, with the general principle that late submissions should be included in meeting agendas and analysis where it is deemed practical to do so; and

~~7.6.~~ Whether any submission content should be redacted or rejected due to offensive or defamatory language.

~~7.7.7.11.~~ See Appendix A and Appendix B for additional information about how to apply engagement principles.

8. Strategic Assets

- 8.1. The LGA requires that Council identify and list the assets considered to be strategic assets (see Glossary).⁵
- 8.2. Any decision to transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the local authority must be explicitly provided for in a Long Term Plan, following community consultation.⁶ Note that this includes a Long Term Plan variation through the Annual Plan.

⁵ Section 76AA

⁶ Section 97 and 93E of the LGA

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8.3. Council considers the following assets, or groups of assets, to be strategic:

- 8.3.1. Council's ~~equity securities~~ shareholdings in Timaru District Holding Ltd;
- 8.3.2. Council's housing assets as a whole;
- 8.3.3. Council's c~~C~~ultural and l~~L~~earning f~~F~~acilities (Aigantighe Art Gallery, South Canterbury Museum, and Timaru, Temuka and Geraldine libraries) as a whole;
- 8.3.4. District cemeteries as a whole;
- 8.3.5. Parks facilities as a whole;
- 8.3.6. Recreational facilities as a whole;
- 8.3.7. Redruth Landfill;
- 8.3.8. Roding network as a whole;
- 8.3.9. Timaru Airport, ~~and;~~
- ~~8.3.10. Water supply, Wastewater and Stormwater networks as a whole, and;~~
- ~~8.3.10.~~ 8.3.11. Council's shareholdings in Central South Island Water Ltd.

8.4. To remove doubt, strategic assets as defined above are the assets as a whole entity and not the individual elements of that asset. The requirements of section 97 of the LGA are only triggered if the proposal relates to the asset as a whole, or where it would materially affect the nature and operation of the asset.

8.5. Nothing in this section precludes Council from engaging with the community when proposing the transfer of ownership or control of any other Council asset, through Long Term Plan consultation, or other mechanisms as determined by this policy.

Delegations, References and Revision History

Delegations

Identify here any delegations related to the policy for it to be operative or required as a result of the policy

Delegations Register Reference	Delegation
	While there are no specific delegations relating to this policy or its implementation, wherever decision-making ability has been delegated by Council to a committee or officer, the responsibility of assessing the significance of a decision or an issue, and the resulting engagement required accompanies this delegation.

References

Include here reference to any documents related to the policy (e.g. operating guidelines, procedures)

Document Reference	Title
www.iap2.org	International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) framework
Local Government Act 2002 (LGA)	Sections 76AA-8 3 <u>4</u> , 93E, 97

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Revision History					
Summary of the development and review of the policy					
Revision	Owner	Date Approved	Approval By	Next Review	Doc Ref
1	Strategy and Corporate Planning Manager	15 February 2021	Timaru District Council	September 2023	#1404319
2	Group Manager and Corporate Communications	1 July 2024	Timaru District Council	As part of the 2027-37 LTP	#1584635
<u>3</u>	<u>General Manager Corporate</u>	<u>TBC</u>	<u>Timaru District Council</u>	<u>As part of the 2030-40 LTP</u>	<u>TBC</u>

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Appendix A: Assessment of Significance

The below table is a tool intended to assist in assessing the significance of an issue/ proposal. The Corporate Planning, Strategy and Governance Group are available to assist Council staff with this process and determination.

Step 1. Apply each of the “Criteria” and their associated “Factors to consider” to the issue/ proposal in question. Determine whether, for each criterion, the issue/ proposal meets the “High”, “Medium” or “Low” level of significance. The examples given are intended to be illustrative and provide a guide, rather than be determinative.

Step 2. Determine an interim overall level of significance by considering the number of “High”, “Medium” and “Low” ratings. For example, visually, where does the centre of gravity appear to lie? Discussion with the Corporate ~~Planning, Strategy and Governance~~ Group is encouraged if there are a large number that are rated “High” (four or more of the nine criteria, for instance).

Step 3. Consider whether there are any extenuating circumstances that mean that one or more criteria require additional weighting (where it counts more than another criteria), and therefore the issue/ proposal requires a different overall assessment of significance. It is important to note that the criteria do not necessarily have to be equal. Take the example of managed retreat due to coastal erosion at Rangitata Huts. Whilst the number of people affected may be relatively low, the impact on them would be so significant (the cost and disruption of relocating homes and moving to a new community) that the “impact on community” criteria would be given additional weighting relative to the others.

Step 4. Determine what the final overall level of significance is. It may be “High”, “Medium” or “Low”, or a range such as “Low – Medium”.

It is important to use careful and professional judgement when assessing significance as it is, by its nature, subjective. It is not a prescriptive exercise, and any particular issue/ proposal needs to be considered on its merits and individual circumstances. What is significant for one type of Council activity may be less significant for another activity.

Criteria	Factors to consider	Examples may include		
		High	Medium	Low
Impact on community	What number of people are affected, and to what extent? What is the potential for the impact to be more significant or widespread than intended?	<i>More than 500 people affected. Daily lives impacted to a significant extent on an ongoing basis. Costs incurred are significant relative to means. E.g. Rangitata Huts managed retreat from coastal erosion</i>	<i>Less than 500 people affected. Daily lives impacted to some extent. Some costs incurred but are not significant. E.g. Road closed for a month to upgrade safety features</i>	<i>Less than 100 people affected. Negligible or low impact on daily lives. Costs incurred are nil or minor. E.g. expansion of Fresh Air Project on Stafford Street</i>
Impact on strategic assets	Does the proposal affect a Council strategic asset? If yes, how?	<i>Sale or transfer of a strategic assets. E.g. proposal to centralise or privatise water network and services</i>	<i>Partial sale or transfer of an entire strategic asset, or entire sale and transfer of a non-strategic asset of high to moderate value E.g. sale of current Timaru Library building if library services have relocated</i>	<i>Sale or transfer of a non-strategic asset of low value E.g. sale of a low-value building deemed surplus to requirements</i>
Impact on levels of service	Does the proposal affect Council's stated levels of service for a particular activity? If yes, does it increase or decrease the level of service?	<i>High impact on levels of service. A new service created or existing service removed. High number of people affected. Level of service affected for an extended period. E.g. Aorangi Stadium/ grounds/ unavailable for a year whilst new stadium constructed</i>	<i>Medium impact on levels of service. Levels of service increased or decreased, but not to a significant extent. Moderate number of people affected. Impact occurs for a relatively short duration. E.g. CBay closure for a month for renovation</i>	<i>Minor to nil impact on levels of service. Low number of people affected. Impact occurs for a short duration. E.g. upgrade to small-scale water scheme</i>

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Criteria	Factors to consider	Examples may include		
		High	Medium	Low
Extent of community interest	Do the community and/ or media have a current or likely future interest in what is proposed?	<i>Significant, known public or media interest. Likely to be a regional or national or regional “front page” issue, or have sustained social media coverage. E.g. building a new stadium</i>	<i>Moderate public or media interest. Likely to receive coverage in a local or community paper, or have short-term social media coverage. E.g. amendment to Dog Bylaw</i>	<i>Low to no public or media interest. Not likely to feature in traditional media. Social media coverage likely to be minor to nil. E.g. amending Backflow Prevention Policy schedules</i>
Impact on manawhenua (Arowhenua)	Is the issue of interest to, or will affect, Arowhenua, and, if so, to what extent?	<i>Yes/ High. Relates to a body of water, land or taonga that Arowhenua have an interest in. E.g. District Plan review</i>	<i>Some interest, but not to a high or specific extent. E.g. Climate Change Policy</i>	<i>No special interest. E.g. Local Alcohol Policy</i>
Impact on Council’s financial position	How does the proposal affect Council’s reserves, rates, fees and charges or debt? What is the unbudgeted expense, or variance from a prior approval?	<i>Significant impact on Council’s finances. Could impact Council’s debt cap. High unbudgeted cost or variance. E.g. extent of provision for, or revaluing of assets leading to increases in, depreciation</i>	<i>Moderate impact on Council’s finances. Medium impact on reserves, rates, fees and charges or debt overall. E.g. Fraser Park grant</i>	<i>Low to negligible impact on overall finances. Proposal able to be met within existing budgets. E.g. CPI-indexed change to existing contract</i>

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Criteria	Factors to consider	Examples may include		
		High	Medium	Low
Consistency with approved plans, strategies and policies	Is the proposal aligned with Council's current plans, as articulated in the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan? Is it consistent with existing strategies and policies? If no, what is the difference? <u>What level of impact does the proposal have on the ability of Council to deliver its statutory role and functions?</u>	<i>High degree of inconsistency with Council plans, strategies, and policies. A response to an unexpected issue or opportunity. Community has not been previously consulted. E.g. urgent upgrade of Temuka residential water supply due to presence of asbestos</i>	<i>A moderate degree of inconsistency with Council plans, strategies, and policies. Perhaps an extension of a previous proposal. Community has been consulted on the broad topic within the past five years. E.g. extending the scope of the proposed Heritage Facility</i>	<i>Consistent with existing Council plans, strategies, and policies. "Business as Usual". The community is deemed to have a good understanding of the issue/s and options. E.g. upgrading CBD footpath tiles</i>
Impact on the environment	How does the proposal affect pollution in the natural environment, e.g. impact on waterways or habitats? Is the proposal consistent with Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals? Can any negative impacts be mitigated?	<i>High pollution likelihood/ risk. Not consistent with Council's GHG reduction goals, e.g. a high increase in emissions relative to another option. Difficult or expensive to mitigate. E.g. Introduction of waste incinerator at Redruth</i>	<i>Reasonable likelihood of pollution occurring. A medium degree of inconsistency with Council's GHG reduction goals. Mitigation options are available but potentially expensive. E.g. large sealed area created for vehicle parking on a former playing field</i>	<i>No impact, or reduction of pollution. No impact, or reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Mitigation options are available, affordable, and effective. E.g. increased buffer capacity for sewerage ponds to reduce frequency of local discharges into rivers after rainstorms</i>

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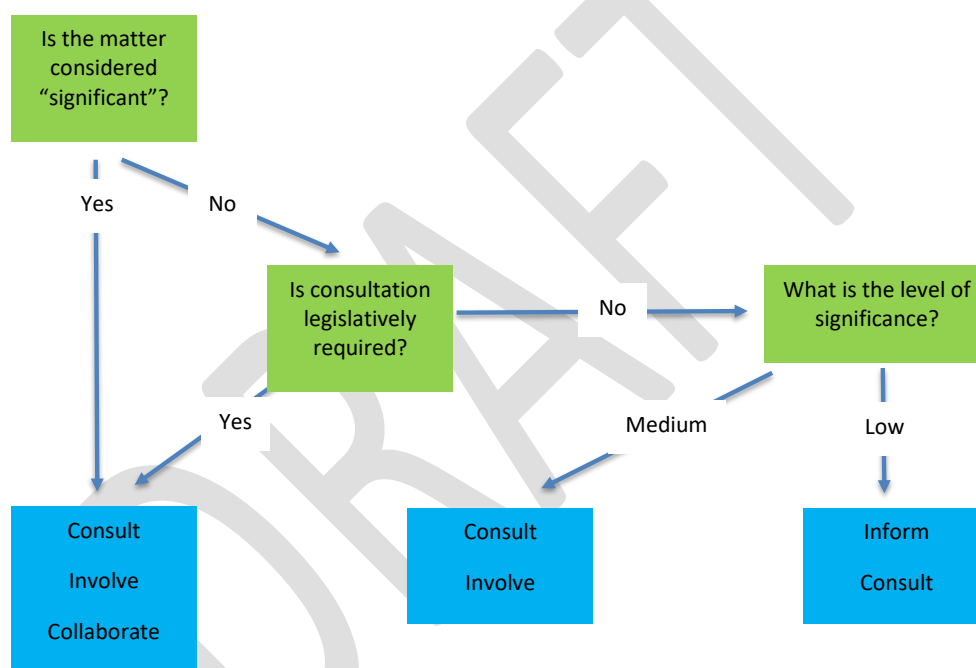
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Criteria	Factors to consider	Examples may include		
		High	Medium	Low
Extent of risk	What is the overall level of risk (financial, political, reputational, legal, health and safety, etc) of what is proposed? Could the decision be reversed, and how easily? How well understood are possible adverse effects and unintended consequences?	<i>Significant risks are present. There is a low, or expensive, degree of reversibility. Adverse effects and unintended consequences have not been considered to a meaningful extent. E.g. deferral of infrastructure projects which may lead to non-compliance with national standards</i>	<i>Some risk, but this is not deemed to be significant. Adverse effects and unintended consequences are well-scoped and can be mitigated. E.g. decision to proceed to detailed design for the Theatre Royal</i>	<i>Minor to negligible risk, or a potential opportunity. The decision to be made is not determinative, i.e. there is the opportunity for changes to be made. Adverse effects and unintended consequences are well understood. E.g. change to operational PPE</i>

Appendix B: Identification of Engagement Method

Once a degree of significance has been assessed, it is then necessary to use this determination to identify the appropriate corresponding engagement method.

The flow-chart and table below assist to determine what types of engagement methods may be suitable for any particular matter. These should be actioned in conjunction with the Engagement Processes section earlier in this policy. Further, where the issue or proposal is of significance to Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, refer to the “Māori” section in part one of this policy.



	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
What does it involve	One-way communication providing balanced and objective information to assist understanding about something that is going to happen or has happened.	Two-way communications designed to obtain public feedback about ideas on rationale, alternatives, and proposals to inform final decision making.	Participatory process designed to ensure that concerns and aspirations are understood and considered prior to decision-making.	Working together to develop understanding of all issues and interests to work out alternatives and identify preferred solutions.	The final decision making is in the hands of the public.
Types of issues that we might use this for	Annual Report, Infrastructure upgrades, Water restrictions.	Rates review, Bylaw reviews, Local Alcohol Policy.	District Plan, Long Term Plan, Infrastructure projects, policy development.	Representation Review, Canterbury Water Management Strategy, significant capital projects, matters of significant community interest.	Local body elections; when central government that mandate a local referendum; matters deemed to have exceptional community interest.
Tools Council might use	Websites, information flyers, advertising, public notices, media releases, newsletters, Council Noticeboard.	Formal submissions and hearings consultation processes, informal meetings, focus groups, surveys, expos, roadshows.	Workshops, Focus groups, Community Boards, Youth Councils, Public meetings, surveys.	Multi stakeholder process, Joint Committees, face to face liaison, working parties.	Referendums, local group involvement, advisory groups, citizens panels, participatory budgeting.
When the community can expect to be involved	Council would generally advise the community once a decision is made.	Council would generally advise the community once a draft decision is made and would generally provide the community with up to four weeks to participate and respond.	Council would generally involve the community at the refining state of the options.	Council would generally involve the community at the start to scope the issue, again after information has been collected and again when options are being considered.	As a non-standard engagement method, the point at which the community would become involved is situation-specific.

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8.9 Temporary Road Closure Applications - Section 342 and Schedule 10, Clause 11(e) LGA

Author: Glencarol Kruger, Executive Assistant Assets & Infrastructure, Land Transport

Authoriser: Susannah Ratahi, General Manager Land Transport / Acting General Manager Parks and Property

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1 Receives and notes the report *Temporary Road Closure Applications - Section 342 and Schedule 10, Clause 11(e) LGA*;
- 2 Approve the temporary road closure application(s) listed in the table in Section 7 of this report, under Section 342 and Schedule 10, Clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, including all conditions proposed by officers and;
- 3 Approve that traffic management for the application(s) listed in the table in Section 8 of this report be funded from the Community Events and Programmes budget.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's approval of temporary road closure application(s), as per Section 342 and Schedule 10, Clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This matter is deemed to be of **low significance** under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as the process is in accordance with legislation and Council policies. However, it should be acknowledged that due to the nature of, and volumes of visitors expected at the event(s) proposed, there is likely to be community interest.

Background

- 3 Under Section 342 and Schedule 10, Clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974 Council (or a Committee of the whole) may close any road or part of a road to all traffic or any specified type of traffic (including pedestrian traffic) for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 31 days in any year for any exhibition, fair, show, market, concert, film-making, race or other sporting event, or public function. This is provided that no road may be closed for these purposes if that closure would, in the opinion of the council, be likely to impede traffic unreasonably.
- 4 Council officers operate a temporary road closure application process that enables organisations in the Timaru District to apply for temporary road closures for their events.
- 5 All applications are assessed against key criteria, including event type/activities planned, temporary traffic management arrangements, and impact on stakeholders.
- 6 Council budgets allow for funding of traffic management for community events, and the following classification system is used to determine whether events are eligible for this funding and where responsibility for costs is held.

	Commercial Events	Community Events
Definition	Where the primary activity is the sale or marketing of goods or services	Where the primary activity is entertainment, recreation, celebration or commemoration
Responsibility for preparation of temporary traffic management plan (including associated costs).	Event	Council and/or Council's contractor
Responsibility for implementing temporary traffic management plan (including associated costs)	Event	Council and/or Council's contractor

Discussion

- 7 The following temporary road closure application(s) have been assessed by Council officers and require a decision on approval by Council. Records of application assessment, including full Council officer recommendations, are included as Attachment 1.

Event Name / Organisation	Event type	Event date and traffic management set up/pack down times	Proposed closure area	Officer recommendation
Seafarers Service	Community	18 October 2026 from 9:15am to 10.00am	Perth Street from King George Place roundabout to Church Street roundabout. Sophia Street from Perth Street to the Royal Arcade	Recommended
Community Benefit:		The event provides an opportunity for the community to reflect on Timaru's maritime heritage, pay tribute to those who served at sea, and ensure these important stories and traditions are passed on to future generations.		

Event Name / Organisation	Event type	Event date and traffic management set up/pack down times	Proposed closure area	Officer recommendation
Twilight Night Market	Community	20 November 2026 from 17:00pm to 20:30pm.	Stafford Street from Port Loop Road to George Street. Strathallan Street from Stafford Street to The Terrace.	Recommended
Community Benefit:		This is an event which showcases local entertainment and businesses and encourages the community to support local businesses in the lead up to the Christmas period.		

Event Name / Organisation	Event type	Event date and traffic management set up/pack down times	Proposed closure area	Officer recommendation
Cycling Criterium	Community	26 December 2026 from 16:00pm to 22:00pm	Sophia Street (Elizabeth Street to King George Place) Perth Street (from King George Place to Church Street) Church Street (Church Street roundabout to Bank Street) Bank Street (Church Street to Sophia Street) King George Place (Barnard Street to Latter Street)	Recommended
Community Benefit:		Community event that brings spectators to the CBD.		

Options and Preferred Option

8 Option one (Preferred option) is that the Council;

- 8.1 Approve the application(s) for the above events listed in section 7 for temporary road closure, under Section 342 and Schedule 10, Clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, including all conditions proposed by officers.
- 8.2 Approve that traffic management for the road closure application(s) listed in the table below be funded from the Community Events and Programmes Budget.
- 8.3 This option incurs some cost to Council as outlined in the Financial Implications section below. These costs are within available budgets.

Event Name	Cost to prepare temporary traffic management plan	Cost to implement temporary traffic management plan	Total cost incurred by Council
Seafarers Service	\$522.00+GST	\$ 1,263.00+GST	\$1,785.00+GST
Twilight Night Market	\$450.00+GST	\$ 1,979.00+GST	\$2,429.00+GST
Cycling Criterium	\$0	\$0	\$0
Comment			

9 Option two: is that Council;

- 9.1 Approves the temporary road closure applications as per Option 1, under Section 342 and Schedule 10, Clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, with additional conditions to be advised by the Committee.
- 9.2 This option incurs some cost to Council as outlined in the Financial Implications section below.

10 Option three: is that Council;

- 10.1 Advises alternate decisions to approve and/or decline the temporary road closure applications under Section 342 and Schedule 10, Clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974, including advising any additional conditions if applicable.

- 10.2 This option may result in the proposed event or events being unable to proceed as planned and cancelled.

Consultation

- 11 Under the Local Government Act 1974, Schedule 10, Council is required to:
- 11.1 Publicly notify the intent to temporarily close roads for events
 - 11.2 Publicly notify Council/Committee decisions to temporarily close roads for events
 - 11.3 Consult with NZ Police and New Zealand Transport Agency prior to approving temporary road closures for events.
- 12 Council officers have undertaken requirements 11.1) and 11.3) for all applications considered in this report.
- 13 The attached application review records outline feedback received from NZ Police and New Zealand Transport Agency (Attachment 1).
- 14 The temporary road closure application process requires applicants to produce a communications plan advising how they intend to communicate with key stakeholders and people impacted by the event.
- 15 Communications plans for all applications considered in this report have been received and approved by Council officers.
- 16 Implementation of these plans is noted as a condition of approval should the temporary road closure proceed.
- 17 Council officers would further notify emergency services of confirmed closures.

Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

- 18 Local Government Act 1974
- 19 Timaru District Council Long Term Plan 2024-34

Financial and Funding Implications

- 20 Council has an approved Land Transport Community Events and Programmes budget of \$90,000 (excluding GST) for the current financial year within the Land Transport Activity, which provides funding for traffic management for community events.
- 21 The following costs would be incurred by Council if these events were approved to proceed (all costs are estimates and exclude GST):

Event Name	Cost to prepare temporary traffic management plan	Cost to implement temporary traffic management plan	Total cost incurred by Council
Seafarers Service	\$522.00+GST	\$ 1,263.00+GST	\$1,785.00+GST
Twilight Night Market	\$450.00+GST	\$ 1,979.00+GST	\$2,429.00+GST
Cycling Criterium	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL (for approval in this paper)	\$4,214+GST		
Previously approved	\$15,681.00 + GST		

Cost to date (If all approved)	\$19,895 + GST
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Other Considerations

- 22 Council officers consider that temporary road closure presents some reputational, financial and health and safety risks to Council, however, these are mitigated by the proposed conditions of road closure including planned communications activity, provision of insurance cover and compliance with relevant regulations, legislation and bylaws respectively.

Attachments

Nil

8.10 Stock Crossing – River Road and Main Waitohi Road – Policy Exemption Request

Author: Susannah Ratahi, General Manager Land Transport / Acting General Manager Parks and Property

Authoriser: Nigel Trainor, Chief Executive

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1 Receives and notes the Cattle Stop and Stock Underpass Report River Road and Main Waitohi Road;
- 2 Approves the installation of a stock underpass at approximately RP6.395 on Main Waitohi Road, with a minimum structure length of approximately 9.3m, subject to all required engineering approvals and statutory consents;
- 3 Approves an exemption from Clause 3 of the Stock Underpass Policy to allow the Main Waitohi Road underpass structure to extend approximately 9.3m within the approximately 20m legal road reserve, rather than the full width of the road reserve;
- 4 Approves the existing at-grade stock crossing at approximately RP5.260 on River Road continuing as an interim arrangement until Council considers a revised stock-crossing policy;
- 5 Defers consideration of a permanent double cattle-stop crossing on River Road until the Aoraki Roding Collaboration review has informed consistent regional guidance and a revised Council policy; and
- 6 Notes that the Aoraki Roding Collaboration will review stock underpasses and other stock-crossing treatments, including double cattle stops, deer grids and managed at-grade crossings.

Notes that:

- 7 No Council or NZTA funding contribution is being requested for the installation;
- 8 All investigation, design, consenting, legal, construction, traffic-management, inspection, maintenance, renewal, alteration, removal, reinstatement and ongoing liability costs associated with either crossing remain the responsibility of the landowner;
- 9 The River Road crossing is used by up to 1,400 cows in two to three mobs, twice daily at approximately 6.00am and 2.00pm, for most of the year, with each crossing taking approximately 30 to 60 minutes, and must be actively controlled at both road approaches whenever stock are on the road; and
- 10 All required resource consents, building consents, corridor access approvals and legal agreements must be obtained before construction, or installation work commences.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for a stock underpass on Main Waitohi Road that does not fully comply with the current Stock Underpass Policy, and to seek direction

on the existing River Road at-grade stock crossing while consistent regional guidance and a revised Council policy are developed.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This matter is considered to be of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. It relates to site-specific infrastructure and operational approvals on low-volume rural roads and does not materially alter Council's strategic direction or financial position.
- 3 The decision does not commit Council or NZTA to funding the works. All costs and liabilities would remain with the landowner under the relevant approvals and legal agreements.
- 4 The decision has potential policy and precedent implications because the proposed Main Waitohi Road underpass would be shorter than the legal road reserve and the applicant seeks a permanent double cattle-stop treatment on River Road. Those implications are addressed by limiting the current approval to the Main Waitohi Road site and deferring the permanent River Road treatment until the sub-regional review and Council policy process are complete.

Background

- 5 Council has received a request from the adjacent landowner for permanent stock-crossing arrangements on River Road and Main Waitohi Road to support farm operations.
- 6 On River Road, the applicant proposes a permanent at-grade crossing comprising double HN-HO load-rated cattle stops with concrete pavement between them. The existing crossing is at approximately RP5.260 on an unsealed rural road. A 2025 traffic count recorded approximately 37 vehicles per day.
- 7 River Road has a 100km/h speed environment and remains a public road used by the local community and visitors, including for access towards water-supply assets and the Richard Pearse memorial area.
- 8 On Main Waitohi Road, the applicant originally proposed a 6.2m box-culvert underpass formed from four 1.55m box units, with safety barriers and shoulder protection. The proposed location is approximately RP6.395. The road has an approximately 5m sealed carriageway, carries approximately 107 vehicles per day, last counted June 2021, and has a 100km/h speed environment. A single-lane bridge at approximately RP6.350 has an approximately 3.7m traffic lane.
- 9 Clause 3 of Council's current Stock Underpass Policy requires stock underpasses to be constructed beneath the entire road reserve, with entrances located within private property boundaries, unless specific approval is granted by Council. The legal road reserve at the proposed Main Waitohi Road site is approximately 20m wide.
- 10 Officers initially discussed a 14m underpass with the applicant, which was met with a counter offer of approximately 7.7m constructed width from the applicant. Subsequent discussions with neighbouring councils identified approximately 9.3m, comprising six 1.55m box units, as the smallest stock-underpass length permitted by a neighbouring authority. This provides a relevant regional benchmark and is greater than the applicant's original 6.2m proposal.
- 11 The applicant wishes to commence construction before Christmas 2026. This programme does not allow sufficient time to complete the Aoraki Roding Collaboration review, prepare revised Council policy and obtain Council adoption before a permanent River Road treatment would need approval.

- 12 The applicant has confirmed that the River Road crossing serves up to 1,400 cows in two to three mobs. Stock cross twice daily, at approximately 6.00am and 2.00pm, throughout the year except June and early July. Each crossing takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes, depending on mob size.

Discussion

- 13 The information provided about herd size, frequency and duration gives Council a clearer understanding of the River Road operation. The road may be occupied by stock for 30 to 60 minutes twice each day for most of the year.
- 14 Although River Road carries a low volume of traffic, the frequency and duration of stock movements increase the likelihood that a road user will encounter the operation. The 100km/h speed environment and the road's use for community and visitor access reinforce the need for effective controls and advance warning.
- 15 An underpass provides the strongest long-term safety outcome because it separates stock from traffic. It would also avoid permanent cattle-stop infrastructure in the carriageway and reduce the potential for potholing, rough approaches, drainage issues, inspection requirements and recurring road-maintenance costs.
- 16 The applicant has advised that an underpass costs more to install and has ongoing costs associated with pumping water and maintaining a surface suitable for cattle. These are relevant private costs. They must, however, be weighed against Council's responsibility to protect the road reserve, maintain safe and reliable public access, and avoid transferring recurring maintenance or liability costs to ratepayers and road users.
- 17 Officers have discussed stock-crossing arrangements with other councils through the Aoraki Rooding Collaboration. Permanent cattle-stop crossings have generally been allowed only in constrained circumstances, such as dead end roads. Furthermore, there was much discussion that a cattle-stop installation A does not remove the need for the crossing to be actively supervised while cattle are on the road.
- 18 Experience in other districts also indicates that at-grade installations can create ongoing maintenance issues. On an unsealed road, the approaches and transitions require careful design to reduce potholing, rutting, loose material and drainage problems.
- 19 The existing River Road at-grade crossing is already permitted and may continue under its current arrangements while the policy review is completed. No additional approval or site-specific operating plan is proposed for that existing activity. The landowner's existing responsibilities, including supervising stock while they are on the road and leaving the road in a safe condition, continue to apply.
- 20 For Main Waitohi Road, a minimum 9.3m underpass would align with the benchmark identified through neighbouring-council discussions. It would be wider than the applicant's original 6.2m proposal and a possible 7.75m, five-box arrangement, while remaining shorter than the full road reserve width required by the current policy.
- 21 The intent of the full-road-reserve policy requirement is to preserve Council's ability to use the legal corridor for future road widening, drainage, utilities and other public works. The risk created by a shorter structure can be managed through detailed engineering review and a legal agreement requiring the landowner to extend, alter, remove or reinstate the structure at their cost if the wider road reserve is required in future.

- 22 The Aoraki Roding Collaboration has agreed to review stock underpasses, double cattle-stop crossings, deer gates and managed at-grade crossings. The review is intended to establish consistent guidance on appropriate locations, minimum design requirements, operational controls, legal instruments, ownership and maintenance responsibilities.
- 23 That work is expected to support a more enabling and consistent Council policy. It will not be completed in time to meet the applicant's preferred construction programme. Council can progress approval for the Main Waitohi Road underpass now while deferring a decision on permanent River Road infrastructure, without changing the existing permitted at-grade crossing arrangements.
- 24 Regardless of the option selected, all costs associated with any new crossing infrastructure and all related ownership, maintenance and liability obligations should rest with the landowner and be secured through an appropriate legal instrument for occupation of the road reserve.
- 25 As the proposal departs from the adopted policy position, staff consider it appropriate for Council to make the decision on whether an exemption should be granted in this instance.

Options and Preferred Option

- 26 Option 1 is to require minimum 9.3m stock underpasses on both Main Waitohi Road and River Road. This provides the strongest safety and network outcome by separating stock from traffic at both locations and avoiding permanent cattle-stop infrastructure in the carriageway. It is likely to allow the Main Waitohi Road approval process to progress promptly, but the applicant estimates that an underpass would cost approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000 more than the cattle-stop treatment at each applicable crossing point. This estimate has not been independently verified.
- 27 Option 2 is to approve a minimum 9.3m stock underpass on Main Waitohi Road and allow the existing River Road at-grade crossing to continue until the regional guidance is completed and Council adopts a revised policy. Consideration of a permanent River Road cattle-stop treatment would be deferred. This is the preferred option because it provides a practical path for the Main Waitohi Road work, applies stronger regional underpass dimensions than originally proposed, and avoids making a permanent River Road decision ahead of the policy review. Its risks require operating controls and active management whenever stock are crossing.
- 28 Option 3 is to approve a 7.75m Main Waitohi Road underpass, comprising five 1.55m box units, and approve the permanent double cattle-stop crossing on River Road based on the Waimate, with modifications for the River Road environment and continued access for other road users. This most closely reflects the applicant's preferred lower-cost outcome. It is not recommended because the underpass would be below the 9.3m benchmark identified through neighbouring-council discussions, and the River Road installation would create permanent at-grade safety, precedent and maintenance risks before consistent guidance is available.
- 29 Option 4 is to decline both proposals unless they meet the current Stock Underpass Policy, including the requirement for an underpass beneath the full legal road reserve. This would maintain strict consistency with current policy and preserve maximum future flexibility in the road corridor. It would materially increase the applicant's costs and may result in no new infrastructure proceeding, with at-grade stock movements continuing.

Consultation

- 30 No formal public consultation has been undertaken or is considered necessary due to the low significance and site-specific nature of the proposal.
- 31 Further information has been obtained from the applicant on herd size, crossing frequency, seasonal use and crossing duration. The applicant supports greater consistency between local authorities in the treatment of stock crossings.
- 32 Consultation has been undertaken through the Aoraki Roothing Collaboration with neighbouring road-controlling authorities. Those discussions informed the 9.3m underpass benchmark, the assessment of permanent cattle-stop crossings and the decision to develop consistent regional guidance.
- 33 Internal consultation has been undertaken with relevant Land Transport staff regarding operational and corridor management considerations.

Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

- 34 Local Government Act 2002.
- 35 Land Transport Act 1998.
- 36 Local Government Act 1974.
- 37 Building Act 2004.
- 38 Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004.
- 39 Resource Management Act 1991.
- 40 Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.
- 41 Stock Underpass Policy.

Financial and Funding Implications

- 42 No Council or NZTA funding contribution is being requested for the proposed stock underpass.
- 43 All costs associated with the design, consenting, construction, maintenance, inspection, renewal, alteration, or removal of the structure will remain the responsibility of the landowner.
- 44 The applicant has indicated that the difference between a cattle-stop treatment and an underpass may be approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000 per applicable crossing point. This is an indicative applicant estimate and has not been independently verified by Council.
- 45 Any administrative, engineering, legal, or corridor management costs associated with processing the application and associated approvals will be recovered in accordance with Council's Fees and Charges Schedule where applicable.

Other Considerations

- 46 Should approval be granted, the applicant will still be required to obtain:
 - 46.1 a Services Consent and/or Corridor Access approval;
 - 46.2 a Licence to Occupy, Deed of Grant, lease, or other legal agreement as required by Council;
 - 46.3 all required building and resource consents; and

46.4 any other approvals identified through detailed design review.

- 47 The legal agreement should record ownership, inspection, access, maintenance, renewal, liability, insurance, alteration, removal and reinstatement responsibilities, including Council's right to require changes at the landowner's cost if the road reserve is needed for future public works.
- 48 Detailed design must address structural capacity, carriageway and shoulder width, sight distance, safety barriers, drainage, flooding and water management, constructability, traffic management, unsealed-road transitions and safe access for inspection and maintenance.
- 49 Any future proposal to install permanent cattle-stop or other infrastructure within the River Road legal road reserve should be considered against the revised policy and any regional guidance adopted following the Aoraki Roding Collaboration review.
- 50 All future maintenance, inspections, renewal, and liability associated with the structure will remain the responsibility of the landowner.

Attachments

1. **Waimate District Council Cattle Stop Stock Crossing Layout Diagram**  

Diagram 1

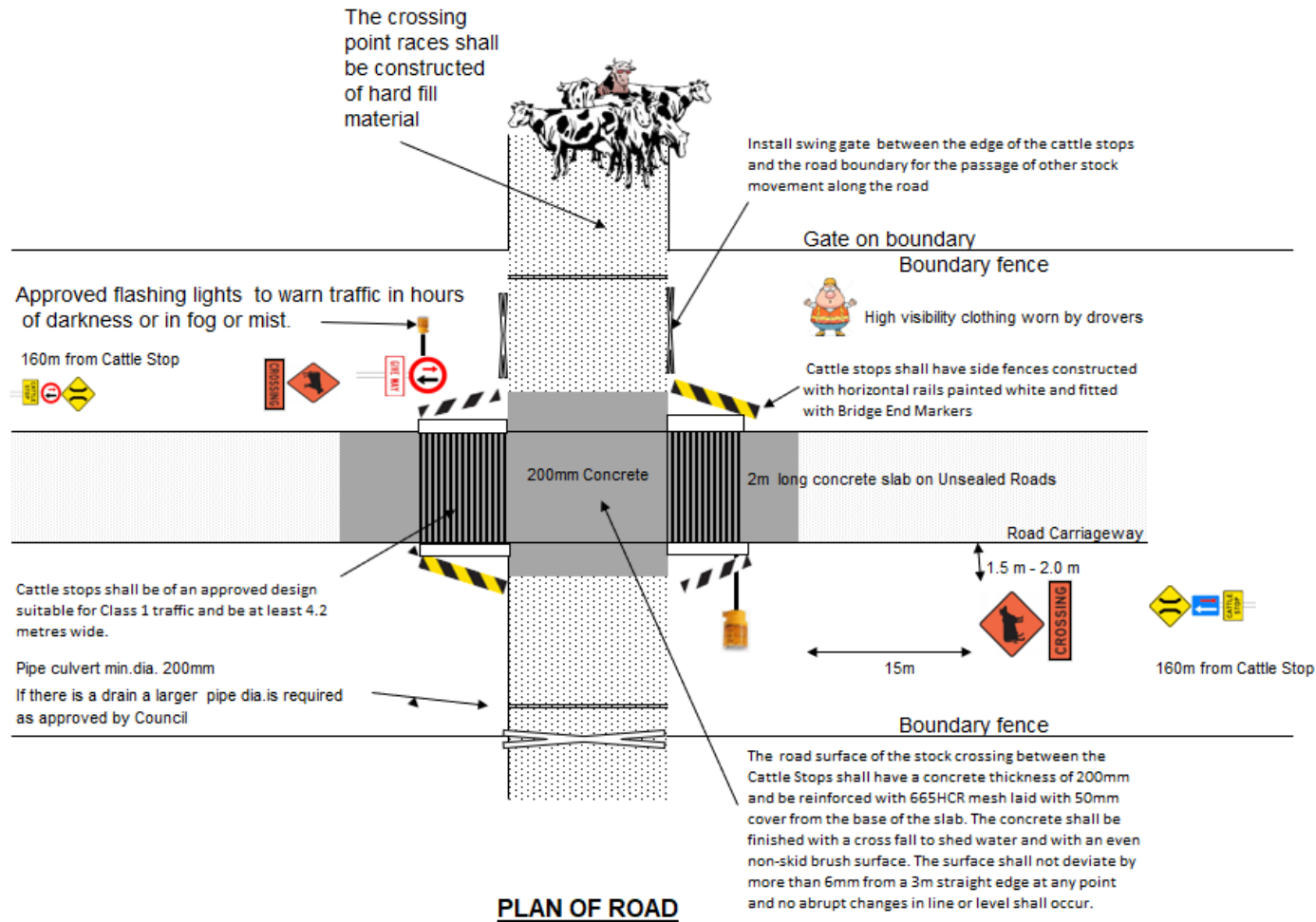
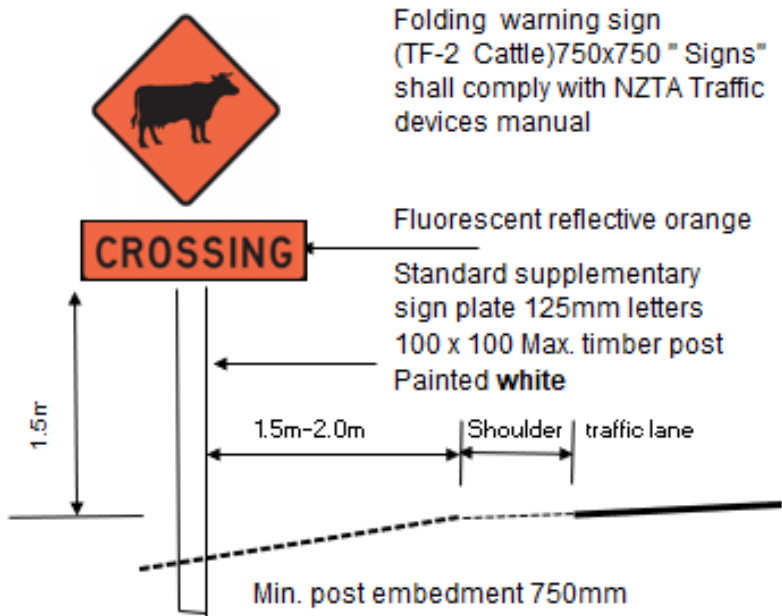


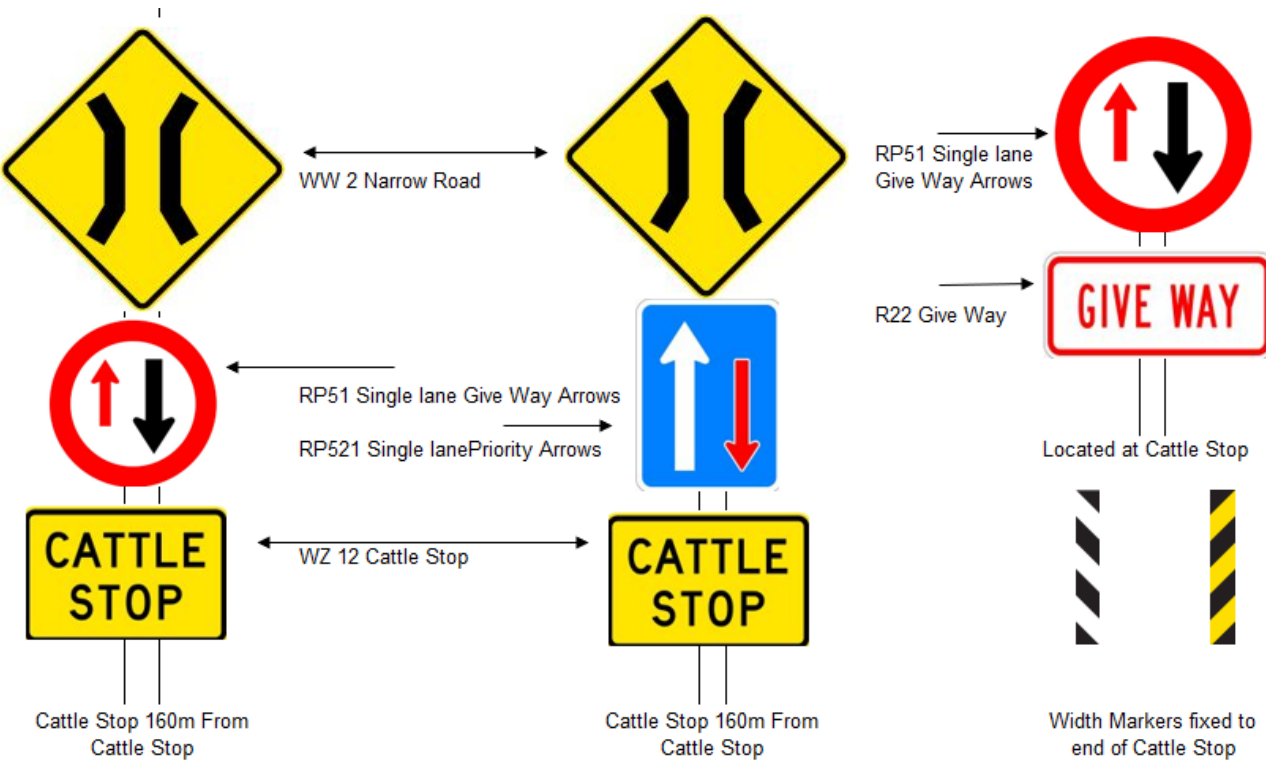
Diagram 2

Stock Crossing Cattle Stop Detail



Folding Cattle Warning Sign Detail

Diagram 3



Warning sign 600 X 600 " Signs" shall comply with NZTA Traffic devices manual
Signs shall be located so that they are clearly visible to an approaching driver for a distance of 120m

Single Lane Cattle Stop Warning Signs

8.11 Draft Letter of Expectations 2027/28 - Timaru District Holdings Limited**Author:** Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate**Authoriser:** Nigel Trainor, Chief Executive**Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the *Draft Letter of Expectations 2027/28 - Timaru District Holdings Limited* report;
2. Receives and notes the draft Letter of Expectations for Timaru District Holdings Limited 2027/28; and
3. Delegates to the Mayor to make any non-material changes to the document prior to signing and formal issuing to THDL.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present the draft Letter of Expectations (LoE) for Timaru District Holdings Limited (TDHL) for adoption and issue.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This matter is assessed as being of low significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as it relates to shareholder governance arrangements and does not in itself create or amend policy, expenditure commitments, or service levels.

Background

- 3 Timaru District Holdings Limited (TDHL) is a Council Controlled Trading Organisation (CCTO) wholly owned by Timaru District Council. TDHL acts as Council's commercial investment arm and is responsible for the management and oversight of Council's investment interests, including shareholdings in Alpine Energy Limited and PrimePort Timaru Limited. TDHL's core purpose is to manage and grow Council's investment portfolio while providing sustainable returns to the shareholder.
- 4 Under the Local Government Act 2002, Council is responsible for setting expectations and monitoring the performance of its Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) and CCTOs.
- 5 One of the principal shareholder governance mechanisms available to Council is the annual Letter of Expectations.

Discussion

- 6 A Letter of Expectations is a formal communication from Council, as shareholder, to the Board of a CCO or CCTO setting out the outcomes, priorities, and areas of focus that Council would like reflected in the organisation's planning and operations.

- 7 The Letter of Expectations does not replace the Board's governance role nor direct operational decision-making. Rather, it provides strategic guidance on the Council's priorities and expectations as owner and shareholder.
- 8 The Letter of Expectations is a key input into the development of the THDL's Statement of Intent (SOI), which subsequently establishes the agreed objectives, performance measures, and reporting expectations for the coming year.
- 9 The letter was considered by the Strategic Planning Committee on 8 September and committee feedback was included in this version.

Why is the Letter of Expectations important?

- 10 Effective shareholder oversight of CCOs relies on clarity of purpose and a common understanding of strategic priorities.
- 11 The Letter of Expectations is an important governance tool because it:
 - Communicates Council's strategic priorities to the Board.
 - Provides transparency regarding shareholder expectations.
 - Supports alignment between Council outcomes and CCO activities.
 - Assists the Board in preparing a Statement of Intent that reflects both commercial objectives and broader community interests.
 - Creates a basis for ongoing performance monitoring and accountability.
- 12 Without a clear Letter of Expectations there is a greater risk of misalignment between Council's objectives and the priorities reflected in the Statement of Intent.
- 13 The tabled draft Letter of Expectations has been prepared to provide strategic direction to TDHL for the development of its next Statement of Intent.
- 14 Committee feedback is sought to ensure the final Letter appropriately reflects Council's expectations before it is issued to the TDHL Board.

Options and Preferred Option

- 15 Council can choose to accept the letter attached for signature by the Mayor and issue to TDHL.
- 16 Council can delegate to the mayor to make any non-material changes to the letter prior to signing and issuing to TDHL.
- 17 The committee can chose to not accept the letter and have it brought back to a meeting at a later date with any material changes included.

Consultation

- 18 No consultation is required at this time.

Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

- 19 Local Government Act 2002
- 20 Timaru District Holdings Limited Statement of Intent 2026/2027

Financial and Funding Implications

- 21 While there are no direct financial implications arising from consideration of the draft Letter of Expectations, the Letter and the objectives that it sets out may inform future priorities and activities reflected in TDHL's Statement of Intent and may change the amount of dividend paid by the company to council.

Other Considerations

- 22 None

Attachments

1. Draft Letter of Expectations - Timaru District Holdings Limited 2027/28 [!\[\]\(1858918f943bbe38598499eaf0d4874f_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(0dd6a51253c21ef1044ba92b470eaaa0_img.jpg\)](#)



1st October 2026

Timaru District Holdings Limited
PO Box 178
Timaru 7940

Dear Mark

Letter of Expectation - Council Controlled Organisations: Timaru District Holdings Ltd (TDHL)

This letter has been prepared by the Timaru District Council. Its purpose is to set out our expectations, and in doing so define what success looks like from our perspective. It is intended that this letter will help you with preparation of your Statement of Intent (SOI), which must fully comply with Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002.

a) STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND LEADERSHIP

Strategy

TDHL is expected to maintain:

- a clear and unambiguous statement on the purpose and strategic intent which aligns with the Strategic Direction and Long-Term Plan of Council;
- a medium-to-long-term strategic outlook (5-10 years) outlining planned initiatives, investment priorities and growth opportunities;
- a defined process for exploring and undertaking growth for the organisation.

Governance and Leadership

- Council expects TDHL to demonstrate and promote the highest standards of governance and leadership both internally and with entities they hold shares in.

b) PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE AND COMMERCIAL DISCIPLINE

TDHL is expected to maintain and grow a portfolio that is fit for purpose and actively managed to ensure long-term ratepayer value through strong financial returns.

Council expects TDHL to:

- develop a dividend policy, acceptable to Council, which delivers **consistent and reliable** returns to Council that are sustainable for TDHL;
- achieve **portfolio-wide return on equity** targets;

- in consultation with Council prepare an investment framework outlining the proportion, if any, of TDHL's capital that could appropriately be allocated to strategic or economic development investments to meet Council's desire to support economic development in our district;
- maintain **commercial rigour** across all investments, leases, and subsidiaries;
- have a group (Council, TDHL, VT) mindset around **efficiencies** recognising the ratepayer is the funder and beneficiary across all organisations.

c) ALPINE ENERGY DIVESTMENT

Council expects TDHL to provide regular updates on the Alpine Energy divestment. Council also expects TDHL to provide a proposal including advice and recommendations for the ownership, investment and management of funds received from any sales process.

d) LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

With Local Government Reform being a priority for TDC over the next two years the opportunities for land development and management in the Timaru District needs to be considered. Council requests that TDHL draft a strategy for land holdings owned by Council and TDHL outlining how we maximise returns and development opportunities. This strategy is to include an option for TDHL managing all Council owned commercial property.

It would also be useful for TDHL to clearly articulate the role TDHL could play within a larger or differently structured local government entity and the value of the model.

e) STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS

TDHL is viewed as an integral part of Council and so the manner in which it conducts its business and manages relationships reflects directly on Council itself. We therefore expect TDHL to:

- proactively engage with Council on matters of significance and substance on a no surprises basis;
- provide quarterly reports including a Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Cashflows with a written update from the Chief Executive and/or Chairperson highlighting material variances, risks and progress towards expectations;
- provide an annual report compliant with group financial reporting, policy and practice;
- exhibit best practice business standards and culture through being an active shareholder, good landlord and responsible corporate citizen;
- manage key external relationships in a proactive and positive manner that enhances the reputation of itself and Council;
- work closely at an executive level, and ensure the strategic alignment, with Council and other CCOs;
- at all times be mindful of TDHL's reputation and how TDHL's actions directly reflect on Council.

f) RISK MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

TDHL is expected to proactively identify, assess and manage all significant strategic and operational risks including but not limited to health, safety and wellbeing, natural hazards, climate change and other regulatory changes. TDHL must maintain full compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements at all times.

In terms of next steps, this Letter of Expectation forms the basis for the development of your Statement of Intent for the year ending 30 June 2028. It would be useful to Council for you to provide a timeline of expected delivery of reports relating to the Alpine Energy Divestment, Land Holding Strategy and Local Government Reform. Draft Statements of Intent are due to be delivered to Council on or before 31 March 2027. As noted, your Statement of Intent should comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 (schedules 8 and 64).

We look forward to receiving this information. Should Council's expectations in this matter not be sufficiently clear, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can better clarify this position.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Bowen
Mayor

e. nigel.bowen@timdc.govt.nz
p. 027 622 1111

9 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

10 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

11 Public Forum Items Requiring Consideration

12 Exclusion of Public

Recommendation

That the public be excluded from—

- *(a)the whole of the proceedings of this meeting; or
- *(b)the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely,—

12.1 Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 August 2026

12.2 Temuka Camp Ground Divestment

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

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Plain English Reason
12.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 August 2026 Matters dealt with in these minutes: 13.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 July 2026 13.2 - Geraldine Motorcamp new lease 13.3 - Expiration of Caroline Tearooms Lease 10.4 - Development Opportunity Feasibility Report 13.5 - Proposed District Plan - Bidwill Trust Hospital Appeal 13.6 - Budget Re-allocation - Unplanned works in association with subdivision development	Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.	The public excluded minutes of the meeting held on 25 August 2026 are considered confidential pursuant to the provisions of the LGOIMA Act of 1987. The specific provisions of the Act that relate to these minutes can be found in the open minutes of the meeting held on 25 August 2026.
12.2 - Temuka Camp Ground Divestment	s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely	To protect commercially sensitive information

	unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	
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*I also move that [name of person or persons] be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of [specify]. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because [specify]

.

*Delete if inapplicable.

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

- “(4)Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof)—
 - (a)shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
 - (b)shall form part of the minutes of the local authority.”