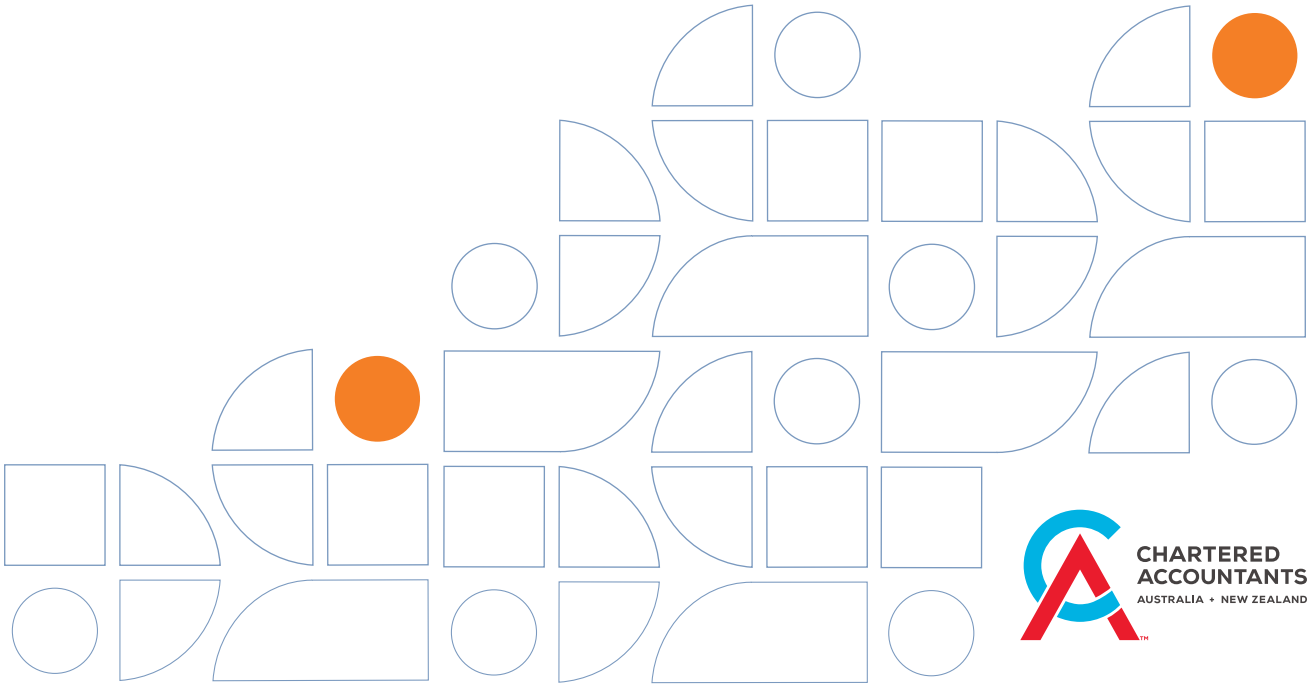
FOUNDRY 5OSIX
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS + BUSINESS ADVISORS

2026 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Venture Timaru Ltd



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND

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Entity Information

Venture Timaru
For the year ended 30 June 2026

ENTITY INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

Legal Name of Entity

Venture Timaru Limited (Venture Timaru)

Entity Type and Legal Basis

The Company is incorporated in New Zealand under the Companies Act 1993. The Company is wholly owned by Timaru District Council.

Registration Number

2515190

Entity's Purpose or Mission

The primary objective of the Company is to facilitate and support smart, sustainable economic development and to deliver tourism and business services for the district.

Entity Structure and Governance

The Company has five Directors who oversee the governance of the Company, a Chief Executive who is responsible for the day-to-day operations and reporting to the Directors, and seven staff who support the Chief Executive in delivering the Company's objectives. The Directors are appointed by Timaru District Council.

The Company does not have any separate operating units, divisions or branches and does not have any subsidiaries or other controlled entities for financial reporting purposes.

Main Sources of Entity's Cash and Resources

Operating grants received from Timaru District Council and government agencies are the primary sources of funding.

Physical Address

119 Stafford Street, Timaru, 7910

Postal Address

PO Box 560, Timaru, 7940

Approval of Financial Report

Venture Timaru
For the year ended 30 June 2026

The Directors are pleased to present the approved financial report including the historical financial statements of Venture Timaru Limited for year ended 30 June 2026.

APPROVED



Logan Hanifin

Chair

Date 23/9/26



Allan Booth

Board Member

Date 23/9/26

Statement of Financial Performance

Venture Timaru
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	NOTES	2026	2025	SOI 2025/26
Revenue				
Funding from local government	1	1,398,408	1,500,736	1,465,000
Funding from central government	2	62,550	216,995	26,500
Service delivery contracts from central government	3	132,110	352,776	132,000
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	4	23,661	51,346	22,000
Other revenue	4	73,021	73,637	16,800
Total Revenue		**1,689,750**	**2,195,490**	**1,662,300**
Expenses				
Employee related costs	5	701,002	686,119	683,134
Economic development - administration and overhead costs	6	366,415	359,805	317,500
Tourism administration and overheads	6	327,951	291,107	288,000
Grants	6	238,550	316,995	245,000
Other programmes administration and overheads	6	141,610	482,897	132,000
Provision for tax	7	-	16,445	-
Total Expenses		**1,775,528**	**2,153,368**	**1,665,634**
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		**(85,778)**	**42,122**	**(3,334)**

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These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Independent Auditor's Report and accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position

Venture Timaru Limited
As at 30 June 2026

	Notes	30 Jun 2026	30 Jun 2025	SOI 30 Jun 2026
Assets				
Current Assets				
Bank accounts	8	170,311	220,211	302,000
Debtors and prepayments	9	36,730	91,048	115,677
Other current assets	10	30,945	33,368	0
Short term investments	11	417,845	612,646	203,000
Total Current Assets		**655,831**	**957,273**	**620,677**
Non-Current Assets				
Property, Plant and Equipment	12	35,452	29,404	40,000
Intangible Assets	13	23,600	77	0
Total Non-Current Assets		**59,052**	**29,482**	**40,000**
Total Assets		**714,883**	**986,755**	**660,677**
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and accrued expenses	14	73,392	109,156	30,000
Employee costs payable	15	67,265	63,953	60,000
Funding unallocated	16	77,993	231,635	0
Total Current Liabilities		**218,650**	**404,744**	**90,000**
Total Liabilities		**218,650**	**404,744**	**90,000**
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		**496,233**	**582,011**	**570,677**
Accumulated Funds				
Issued Capital	17	260,077	260,077	260,077
Equity	17	236,156	321,934	310,600
Total Accumulated Funds		**496,233**	**582,011**	**570,677**

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Independent Auditor's Report and accompanying notes.

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Statement of Cash Flows

Venture Timaru Limited
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025	SOI 2026
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Funding from local government	1,433,620	1,583,939	1,446,800
Funding from central government	36,050	243,495	0
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	26,306	49,965	14,000
Other revenue	78,309	54,687	42,000
GST	226	(45,746)	(32,000)
Employee related payments	(689,321)	(702,005)	(717,000)
Grants	(238,550)	(316,995)	(245,000)
Administration and overhead payments	(841,893)	(1,146,376)	(800,000)
Income Tax	3,044	(26,855)	(6,000)
Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities	**(192,209)**	**(305,890)**	**(297,200)**
Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities			
Receipts from sale of property, plant and equipment	7,235	250	7,000
Receipts from sale of investments	207,963	425,275	422,000
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	(59,726)	0	(48,100)
Interest on investments	(13,162)	(211,243)	0
Total Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	**142,310**	**214,282**	**380,900**
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	**(49,900)**	**(91,608)**	**83,700**
Bank Accounts and Cash			
Opening cash	220,211	311,819	218,300
Net change in cash for period	(49,900)	(91,608)	83,700
Closing cash	170,311	220,211	302,000

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Independent Auditor's Report and accompanying notes.

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Statement of Accounting Policies

Venture Timaru
For the year ended 30 June 2026

ACCOUNTING POLICIES APPLIED

Basis of Preparation

Venture Timaru Ltd is permitted by law to apply the Tier 3 Public Sector Entities (Tier 3 (PS) Standard) and has elected to do so. A PS may apply the standard if it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses less than or equal to $5,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

The financial statements are presented in NZ dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The entity is registered for GST. All amounts are stated exclusive of goods and services tax (GST) except for accounts payable and accounts receivable which are stated inclusive of GST.

Income Tax

Income Tax is accounted for using the taxes payable method. As a result, no allowance is made for deferred tax. Tax expense includes the current tax liability.

Bank Accounts and Short Term Deposits

Bank accounts and short term deposits in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise bank balances and short term deposits with original maturities of 90 days or less. These are measured at the amount held.

Property Plant & Equipment

Venture Timaru has elected not to revalue any of its classes of Property, Plant and Equipment after initial recognition. Plant & Equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is recognised using a diminishing value method over the estimated useful lives. Depreciation rates are between 10% and 50%.

Intangible Assets

Capitalised website costs are recorded at cost less accumulated amortisation. Amortisation is recognised using a diminishing value method of 50% over the estimated useful life.

Revenue

Grants
Grants are recognised as revenue when they become receivable if there are no documented expectations over use. If there is such documentation, the grants are initially recorded as grants received in advance and recognised as revenue when conditions of the grant are satisfied.
Service Delivery
Revenue from the sale of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the services delivered at balance date as a percentage of the total services to be provided.

Interest

Interest is recognised on the accrual basis.

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Employee Remuneration

Wages, salaries and annual leave are recognised as an expense as staff provide services and become entitled to wages, salaries and leave entitlements.

Employee benefits

Defined contribution Scheme - Kiwi Saver. Contributions to defined pension schemes are charged to the income statement in the year to which they relate. A provision is recognised for the amount expected to be paid for outstanding annual leave balances if the company has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past services provided by the employee and the obligation can be estimated reliably. Non vesting benefits such as sick leave are not recognised.

Marketing, Administration and Overhead

These costs are recognised as an expense when the related service has been received.

Lease Payments

Lease payments are recognised as an expense on the straight line basis over the lease term.

Debtors and accrued revenue

Debtors are originally recorded at the amount owed.

Prepayments

Prepayments are recorded when the payment is made and are measured at the amount paid that relates to future services that Venture Timaru will receive.

Once benefit is received, the prepayment (or a portion of it) is transferred from Prepayments and recorded as an expense.

Investments

Investments comprise investment in term deposits with banks. These deposits are recorded at cost.

Creditor & Accrued Expenses

Recorded at the amount of cash required to settle those liabilities. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Employee Costs Payable

A liability for employee costs payable is recorded when an employee has earned the entitlement. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken at balance date.

Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue (grants) is initially recorded at the amount received. As documented expectations over use are met, the deferred revenue is reduced and revenue is recorded.

Ability to Continue Operating

The company has sufficient liquidity and solvency to continue as going concern. The Board of Directors considers that the company has sufficient working capital and appropriate funding from Timaru District Council for a period of at least 12 months from the date the financial statements are approved.

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Budget Figures

The budgeted figures are derived from the Statement of Intent (SOI) and the adopted annual budget as approved by the Board at the beginning of the financial year. The budget figures have been prepared in accordance with Tier 3 standards, using accounting policies that are consistent with those adopted by the Board in preparing this performance report.

Tier 2 PBE accounting standards applied

Venture Timaru has not applied any Tier 2 accounting standards in preparing its performance report.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

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Notes to the Performance Report

Venture Timaru
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
1. Funding from local government		
Local government	1,398,408	1,500,736
Total Funding from local government	**1,398,408**	**1,500,736**

	2026	2025
2. Funding from central government		
My Next Move	26,500	145,000
Regional Events Fund	36,050	71,995
Total Funding from central government	**62,550**	**216,995**

	2026	2025
3. Service delivery contracts from central government		
Regional Apprenticeship Initiative	132,110	352,776
Total Service delivery contracts from central government	**132,110**	**352,776**

	2026	2025
4. Investment and other revenue		
Investment income	23,661	51,346
Other revenue	73,021	73,637
Total Investment and other revenue	**96,682**	**124,983**

	2026	2025
5. Employee Related Costs		
Salaries & wages	683,059	682,721
Other employee- related costs	17,944	3,397
Total Employee Related Costs	**701,002**	**686,119**

	2026	2025
6. Other expenses		
Administration & Overhead	599,460	566,030
Audit fees	13,095	12,522
Directors fees	62,000	64,295
Depreciation	15,779	7,987
Amortisation	4,032	77
Grants - MESF	202,500	245,000
Grants - REF	36,050	71,995
Other Programme - Regional Apprenticeship Initiative	132,110	352,776
Other Programme - My Next Move	9,500	48,344

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Other Programme Expenses	-	81,777
Total Other expenses	**1,074,526**	**1,450,804**

	2026	2025

7. Relationship between income tax expense and accounting

Surplus (Deficit) before tax		
Surplus (Deficit) before tax	(85,778)	58,567
Total Surplus (Deficit) before tax	**(85,778)**	**58,567**
Tax Adjustments		
Non-deductible entertainment	3,271	3,580
Less last year's HP not taken within 63 days	(27,348)	(30,765)
Add back this year's HP not taken within 63 days	38,708	27,348
Total Tax Adjustments	**14,631**	**163**
Surplus (Deficit) after tax	(71,147)	58,730
Tax at 28%	-	16,444

	2026	2025

8. Cash and short-term deposits

Cash on hand	100	100
Cheque & Call Account	170,211	220,111
Total Cash and short-term deposits	**170,311**	**220,211**

	2026	2025

9. Debtors and prepayments

Debtors	-	27,025
Accrued income	5,791	8,435
Prepayments	30,939	55,588
Total Debtors and prepayments	**36,730**	**91,048**

	2026	2025

10. Other current assets

Tax Refund	-	10,410
GST	23,580	22,958
RWT Deductions	7,366	-
Total Other current assets	**30,945**	**33,368**

	2026	2025

11. Investments

Term Deposits (current)		
Opening Balance	612,646	825,275
Purchased		

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	2026	2025
BNZ Term Deposit 30	6,993	4,683
ASB Term Deposit 89	-	7,963
BNZ Term Deposit 31	6,169	200,000
Total Purchased	**13,162**	**212,646**
Disposed		
BNZ Term Deposit 25	-	425,275
ASB Term Deposit 89	207,963	-
Total Disposed	**207,963**	**425,275**
Total Term Deposits (current)	**417,845**	**612,646**
Total Investments	**417,845**	**612,646**

12. Property, Plant and Equipment

	2026	2025
Office Fit-out		
Opening Balance	8,442	9,465
Purchases (Disposals)	20,944	-
Depreciation	(7,671)	(1,023)
Total Office Fit-out	**21,715**	**8,442**
Furniture and Fittings		
Opening Balance	13,242	15,266
Purchases (Disposals)	103	-
Depreciation	(2,435)	(2,024)
Total Furniture and Fittings	**10,909**	**13,242**
Plant and Equipment		
Opening Balance	3,407	4,259
Purchases (Disposals)	(1,614)	-
Depreciation	(1,793)	(852)
Total Plant and Equipment	**-**	**3,407**
Computers		
Opening Balance	4,314	8,904
Purchases (Disposals)	2,394	(502)
Depreciation	(3,880)	(4,088)
Total Computers	**2,828**	**4,314**
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	**35,452**	**29,404**

13. Intangible Assets

	2026	2025
Website		
Opening Balance	77	155
Purchases (Disposals)	27,555	-

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Amortisation	(4,032)	(77)
Total Website	**23,600**	**77**
Total Intangible Assets	**23,600**	**77**

14. Creditors & accrued expenses

	2026	2025
Creditors	21,516	41,354
Accrued expenses	28,446	39,887
Other current liabilities	23,430	27,915
Total Creditors & accrued expenses	**73,392**	**109,156**

15. Employee costs payable

	2026	2025
Accrued salaries & wages	28,556	26,217
Annual leave	38,708	37,736
Total Employee costs payable	**67,265**	**63,953**

16. Funding unallocated

	2026	2025
Council funding	77,993	44,982
Central government funding	-	158,610
Other deferred revenue	-	28,043
Total Funding unallocated	**77,993**	**231,635**

- Cruise sector funding from Timaru District Council, $26,027 unspent in the 2025/26 year and carried forward to be utilised in the 2026/27 year.
- Major Events Support Funding provided by Timaru District Council, $42,500 unallocated in the 2025/26 year and carried forward to be allocated in the 2026/27 year.
- Inner and Near City Living project funding provided by Timaru District Council, $9,465 unspent in the 2025/26 year carried forward to be utilised in the 2026/27 year.

17. Accumulated Funds

	2026	2025
Accumulated Funds		
Issued capital		
Opening Balance	260,077	260,077
Total Issued capital	**260,077**	**260,077**
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)		
Opening Balance	321,934	279,812

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	2026	2025
Current year earnings (deficit)	(85,778)	42,122
Total Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	**236,156**	**321,934**
Total Accumulated Funds	**496,233**	**582,011**
Total Accumulated Funds	**496,233**	**582,011**

18. Leases

The company leases office premises, motor vehicles and equipment.

	2026	2025
Commitments to lease or rent assets		
Explanation and timing		
Less than one year	60,225	67,052
Between one and five years	145,044	188,787
Over five years	-	12,564

19. Directors Remuneration

S Scott is a Timaru District Councillor.
The directors received received the following remuneration during the year:

	2026	2025	
T Howey	$10,909	T Howey	$10,454
A Brien (Resigned)	$-	A Brien (Resigned)	$8,750
S Scott	$10,909	S Scott	$10,454
E McNaught	$12,909	E McNaught	$11,455
A Booth	$10,909	A Booth	$10,455
L Hanifin (Chair)	$16,364	L Hanifin (Chair)	$12,727
	$62,000		**$64,295**

20. Related Party Transactions

		2026	2025
Description of Related Party Transaction	Description of Transaction	Value of Transaction	Value of Transaction
Timaru District Council - Shareholder	Economic Grant	$752,000	$745,000
Timaru District Council - Shareholder	Tourism Grant	$408,000	$408,000
Timaru District Council - Shareholder	Events Support	$245,000	$245,000
Timaru District Holdings	Rent - Payment	$28,037	$-
Timaru District Holdings	Rates - Payment	$3,035	$-
Timaru District Holdings	Insurance - Payment	$1,827	$-

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Timaru District Holdings	Deed of Lease - Payment	$1,188	$-
Bayhill Development Ltd - Director	Carparking	$-	$7,728
Aoraki Multicultural Council - Director	CBD City/Town Events	$-	$4,000
Aoraki Multicultural Council - Director	Major Events Support Fund	$10,000	$10,000
Matariki - Director	Major Events Support Fund	$10,000	$10,000
Timaru District Council	Cruise Ship Support	$26,420	$60,000
Timaru District Council	Accounts Payable	$-	$2,458
Timaru District Council	Accounts Receivable	$-	$2,530
Timaru District Council	Active Transport	$-	$23,639
Timaru District Council	CBD City/Town Events	$3,500	$50,000

21. Imputation credit account

Imputation credits available to shareholders at 31 March 2026 $143,581 (Last year: 138,245).

22. Budget Variances

The major variances in the actual year end deficit of ($85,778) versus the original SOI budget ($3,334) are a direct result of non-recurring one-off costs, met from reserves, associated with

- shift of premises being cost of asset write offs (former premises) , new premise fit out etc… and associated increased depreciation. (Oct/Nov 2025),
- depreciation associated with the Tourism & Economic Development website updates (Q1/Q2 2026),
- progression and finalisation of Towards 2050 plan and associated data portal (Q2 2026)
- organisational restructure (q2 2026).

23. Contingencies

No contingent assets or liabilities exist at balance date for Venture Timaru Limited (Last year: Nil).

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VENTURE TIMARU

STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE

For the year ended 30 June 2026

1. Purpose and Basis of Preparation

This Statement of Service Performance (SSP) reports Venture Timaru's actual non-financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2026 against the Prioritised Operational Activities and associated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Operational Success Indicators set out in the Venture Timaru Statement of Intent 2025/26 (approved by the Board and provided to Timaru District Council), as required under section 64(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.

This SSP forms part of Venture Timaru's Annual Report, prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1993, the Local Government Act 2002, and the Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting — Accrual (Public Sector) Tier 3 standard elected by Venture Timaru, which requires a Statement of Service Performance alongside the Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Financial Position. The Performance Report as a whole is subject to annual audit by the Auditor-General (or an appointed auditor acting under the Public Audit Act 2001), consistent with Office of the Auditor-General expectations that public entities' performance information is fairly presented, comparable year-on-year, and that any significant variances between planned and actual performance are clearly explained.

In line with Office of the Auditor-General good-practice expectations for service performance reporting, this SSP should, for each Prioritised Operational Activity and KPI:

- Report the actual level of service achieved against the 2025/26 target;
- Show the prior year's (2024/25) result for comparability, where available;
- Explain any significant variance between target and actual performance, including the reasons for it and any corrective action planned or taken; and
- Be balanced and fair — reporting shortfalls as well as achievements.

2. Service Performance — Prioritised Operational Activities 2025/26

Venture Timaru's annual **Operational Objectives** are delivered through five Prioritised Operational Activity groupings. Actual performance against each associated KPI / Operational Success Indicator for 2025/26 is reported below.

1. Attract & Assist New Business to the District

Prioritised Operational Activities (2025/26):

- Identify and progress "new to district" business opportunities & referral sources
- Encourage existing businesses to act as advocates in the "Make Timaru Your Business" campaign
- Refresh and re-launch the 2025 business attraction campaign in January 2026

KPI / Operational Success Indicator (2025/26 Target)	2025/26 Actual Result	Achieved (Fully / Partially / Not Achieved)
Engage with a minimum of an average of 10 new businesses or referral sources per month	**205** engagements with new business and referral sources (approx. 17 per month)	Achieved

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Maintain a database of active new businesses and referral sources, including actions taken and to be taken	Browser based Hubspot CRM was implemented September 2025 and is now well embedded within Venture Timaru operations across all Economic and Tourism engagements.	Achieved

COMMENTARY:

In the year to 30 June, Venture Timaru identified, sourced, managed and introduced a broad range of "new to district" business opportunities across sectors such as energy, food production, education, transport, technology, tourism, hospitality, recreation, and property development.

Venture Timaru actively seeks out new business opportunities through a variety of channels, including the ongoing Make Timaru Your Business campaign and proactive engagement with its extensive referral network at local, regional, and national levels.

Venture Timaru's role in this work is to identify opportunities, engage with prospective investors and businesses, and help connect them with relevant local people, businesses, agencies, and organisations.

This role included facilitating introductions and supporting engagement with a board range of parties – for example Arowhenua, NZ Trade and Enterprise, Invest NZ, Timaru District Holdings, Land Information New Zealand, along with a range of other local and national representatives and stakeholders.

Through the course of 2025/26 year Venture Timaru had 205 engagements to progress these new business opportunities which as at 30 June 2026 saw 32 live opportunities at various stages of progression.

2. Support Existing Business to Innovate and Grow

Prioritised Operational Activities (2025/26):

- Engage with existing businesses — assisting with introductions, barrier removal and progressing expansion plans
- Identify strategic risks to existing business and facilitate escalation/mitigation where possible
- Implement a more targeted survey format to help identify business support priorities

KPI / Operational Success Indicator (2025/26 Target)	2025/26 Actual Result	Achieved (Fully / Partially / Not Achieved)
Maintain a database of all existing business engagement — minimum an average of 20 per month	**412** engagements with existing business have been undertaken. Of these **241** related to Economic Development matters and **171** Tourism & Visitor	Achieved
Value-add assistance provided to local business	**26** growth opportunities identified and progressed **88** connections/introductions made and enablement actions taken **22** capability building support activities undertaken	Achieved
Risks identified, with mitigation and escalation action undertaken	**9** risks & challenges identified and support provided	Achieved

COMMENTARY:

Activity undertaken during the reporting period reflects a broad mix of relationship management, collaboration, and strategic development work. A significant share of engagement was focused on supporting existing businesses, alongside regular interaction with partners and sector stakeholders to help identify needs, share intelligence, and progress opportunities across the region.

The engagement mix also shows the importance of collective and ecosystem-based activity. Facilitated cluster meetings (Business Connections Groups, CBD Group, Aerospace Steering Group and the Networkers) and partner

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discussions created space for coordination, information-sharing, and alignment across organizations, while sector-focused engagement helped strengthen connections with key industries and contributors.

Together, these activities supported both immediate business needs and wider regional collaboration.

In addition, the engagement profile included strategic conversations linked to future planning (Towards 2050 Aspirational Plan and Development and Growth Committee attendance) , as well as engagement with funding and investment-related stakeholders.

Overall, the pattern of activity highlights an approach that balances direct business support with partnership-building and longer-term economic development priorities.

3. Promote the District as a "Destination of Choice"

Prioritised Operational Activities (2025/26):

- Further develop the existing event offering and attract new in/out-of-season events
- Implement the Cruise Strategy, including development of 3+ new visitor offerings
- Attract new-to-district "niche sized" national meetings & conferences

KPI / Operational Success Indicator (2025/26 Target)	2025/26 Actual Result	Achieved (Fully / Partially / Not Achieved)
Event ROI: Economic Benefit for every $ invested via the Major Events Fund — target $1 : $25	The Return on Investment for 4 ticketed events all exceeded the targeted $1:$25 and ranged from $1:$25.20 to > $1:$100 (*2024/25 result – ROI for 4 x ticketed events ranged from $1:$22.88 to $1:$75.14)*	Achieved
Number of new events and conferences secured	5 x New events	Achieved
Cruise Sector Economic Benefit / ROI	A formal ROI on Cruise sector benefit has not been undertaken as of 30 June 2026 as we await 2025/26 season economic performance data from Cruise NZ.	Ongoing

COMMENTARY:

Event ROI can only be calculated for those events that are ticketed. These events, as reported on, all met and exceeded the targeted return of $25 of economic benefit for every $1 of Major Events Support Fund invested.

New events supported and attracted this past year include Crusaders v Highlanders Rugby, Matatu v Poua rugby and Art in Motion, Midlands Aoraki (PSA) Challenger international squash tournament and Gintastic.

Venture Timaru actively pursues new sporting events and business meetings and conferences however remain somewhat impeded by the lack of a 4 to 4.5 star 100-120 room hotel. We are actively engaging on bringing this much needed asset to Timaru and look forward to some real progress this coming year.

We also facilitated the application of South Island Masters Games to the Governments Major Event and Tourism Funding package which saw them successful in obtaining $75,000 (to compliment committed Major Events Support Funding of $25,000) to attract Australian competitors to their Sept 2026 tournament where they celebrate 25 years.

The 2025/26 cruise season saw 14 ship visits with notably Timaru being the only port of call in NZ that saw ship visit numbers increase. A similar level of visits are already pre-booked for 2026/27 and 2027/28 seasons.

There is a strong Focus on getting operators “trade ready” so they can work with inbound operators for selling their products and also getting more operators Qualmark rated to access more support from Tourism NZ through campaigns and media famils. Venture Timaru have now supported 12 local operators obtain Qualmark Certification

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(6 activity operators – most recent Big Rock Adventures – Geraldine based Canyoning experience) and 6 accommodation providers. For businesses, Qualmark certification builds trust with visitors, strengthens brand reputation, improves operational practices, and provides a competitive advantage in both domestic and international markets. For the Timaru District, a strong base of Qualmark-accredited operators enhances the destination's overall reputation, ensures consistent visitor experiences, supports sustainable tourism practices, and helps attract higher-value travellers who seek quality-assured experiences.

Among the new tourism operators and offerings supported in the last year were Alpaca Walks NZ, Holme Station Homestead, The Sea Breeze and Bonnie Day Brewery & Tap Room.

4. Assist Business to Attract, Develop & Maintain a Skilled Workforce

Prioritised Operational Activities (2025/26):

- Amplify activity to "Expose, Educate & Excite" our future workforce on local career pathways (MyNextMove student transition initiative)
- Progress the possibility of an Education Hub in Timaru, supported by a variety of providers
- Help facilitate improved alignment of local training delivery with the needs of local industry

KPI / Operational Success Indicator (2025/26 Target)	2025/26 Actual Result	Achieved (Fully / Partially / Not Achieved)
Minimum 6 workforce initiatives to inform, retain, grow or attract talent to the District	N/A – refer commentary	Not Progressed
20 pathway events, minimum 3,500 students and 150 local businesses engaged	N/A – refer commentary *(2024/25 result 14 events, supporting 1700+ students involving 96 local businesses)*	Not Progressed
Successful transitions of students into local employment	N/A – refer commentary	Not Progressed

COMMENTARY:

Following completion and submission of our 2025.26 Statement of Intent to Council, the central government funding for the VT resource allocated to this workstream was discontinued by the Ministry for Social Development – effective 30th June 2025.

A small amount of funding was provided to Venture Timaru by Ministry of Education while it explored all alternative funding options to continue this service.

Ongoing funding was unable to be secured and the workstream and resource ceased in September 2025

It was agreed with Council during the strategic review of all VT operations (Nov-Feb) that going forward VT would take a less direct role in facilitating workforce engagements but be more participatory.

5. Facilitate New Investment in Infrastructure & Community Assets

Prioritised Operational Activities (2025/26):

- Assist with identifying and enhancing key connectivity infrastructure assets within the district (airport / port / transport & logistics)
- Elevate district advocacy on regional energy, housing and economic development strategies
- Foster Central Government relationships to attract new investment supporting local initiatives and prioritised projects

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KPI / Operational Success Indicator (2025/26 Target)	2025/26 Actual Result	Achieved (Fully / Partially / Not Achieved)
$ value of new-to-district investment secured — central government and private	Venture Timaru had aligned involvement in helping secure Regional Investment Fund $2.84m and Major Events and Tourism Fund $75,000). *(2024/25 result - $20.80m Regional Investment Fund).*	Achieved
Number of facilitated investment and development introductions made, and assistance given	**88** connections/introductions made and enablement actions taken	Achieved

Commentary

Over 2025/26, Venture Timaru progressed a sustained engagement with Invest New Zealand to position South Canterbury within the renewable energy sector to actively encourage acceleration of additional generation and access for us locally. This 15-month body of work culminated in South Canterbury being named one of only six nationally identified "Advantaged Zones" for infrastructure & data centre deployment in Invest New Zealand's Data and AI Infrastructure sector document (2026), recognising the district's grid capacity, renewable generation and backhaul fibre connectivity.

To convert this national profile into investment-ready opportunities, Venture Timaru is developing the South Canterbury Renewable Energy Investment Prospectus, a standalone regional document designed to sit alongside and reinforce Invest New Zealand's global pitch, providing prospective investors & developers with the granular detail needed to progress from global interest to committed capital.

This work forms part of a broader investment-attraction programme during the year, which included direct engagement with prospective investors across the renewable energy and bioprocessing sectors, ongoing dialogue with regional generators and grid infrastructure providers on pipeline projects, and a public advocacy campaign directed at central government highlighting South Canterbury's roading, grid and investment-promotion needs as the region's renewable energy and data infrastructure and profile grows.

Together, these activities demonstrate Venture Timaru's role in translating national-level investment signals into a coordinated, regionally specific offer capable of attracting sustained capital investment into the Timaru District.

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3. District-Wide Monitoring Indicators

These broader monitoring indicators track district-wide economic wellbeing and are reported alongside, but are not solely attributable to, Venture Timaru's activities. **Better than NZ**/**Worse than NZ**

District-Wide Monitoring Indicator	2025/26 Result	2024/25 Result
GDP Contribution (Timaru District v New Zealand)	**Timaru +2.0%** NZ +1.7%	Timaru -0.6% NZ -0.8%
Unemployment Rate (Timaru District v New Zealand)	**Timaru 3.7%** NZ 5.4%	Timaru 4.3% NZ 5.0%
Housing Affordability	**Timaru 4.2x** NZ 6.5x	Timaru 4.7x NZ 6.5x
Consumer Spend (compared to prior period)	**Timaru +3.4%** NZ +0.6%	Timaru + 0.1% NZ - 1.7%
Visitor Spend (compared to prior period)	**Timaru +4.7%** NZ +4.6%	Timaru - 2.5% NZ 0.0%
GDP per Filled Job	**Timaru $162,343**** NZ $164,084** *** March 2026*	Timaru $160,028** NZ 161,827** *** March 2025*

4. Towards 2050 — Progress Update

Progress against the Towards 2050 community-wide plan milestones identified in the Statement of Intent 2025/26.

Towards 2050 Milestone (per SOI 2025/26)	Status 2025/26
Key stakeholder identification and engagement	Completed March 2026
Draft Towards 2050 plan developed	Completed April 2026
Towards 2050 plan finalised and implementation commenced	Completed June 2026
Collation of existing plans and strategies from business and organisations, aligned to key Towards 2050 milestones (ongoing)	Ongoing
Identification of priority industries and enabling factors for transformational economic growth	Completed June 2026

COMMENTARY

Towards 2050 has successfully moved from concept to a draft long-term district vision. The initial economic modelling challenged the district to think beyond incremental growth and demonstrated the opportunity available if Timaru adopts a more ambitious pathway. Following extensive engagement with more than 300 stakeholders, feedback has been incorporated into a full draft plan, structured around three shared aspirations (People, Place, Prosperity), six transformational pillars, and a set of 5-year and 25-year priorities beneath each. The plan is now progressing through final review and refinement, supported by economic and business dynamics analysis and a district-wide SWOT assessment.

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Towards 2050 Milestone (per SOI 2025/26)	Status 2025/26
A key addition since the initial concept stage is the "Five in Five" — five transformational initiatives (Washdyke Industrial Hub, an Innovation & Advanced Manufacturing Collective, an Ara Educational Hub, a Hotel/mixed-use accommodation development, and CBD & Town Centre Revitalisation) that translate the plan's long-term aspirations into detailed, accountable five-year delivery pathways involving Council, Venture Timaru, industry, education and community partners. Governance of Towards 2050 is now transitioning to Timaru District Council, which will assume oversight responsibility for the plan going forward; this handover is currently underway. Venture Timaru will remain closely and actively involved, retaining lead responsibility for the economic development and tourism elements of the plan, including business attraction, investment facilitation and the delivery of relevant Five in Five initiatives. The next phase is to convert the shared aspirations into measurable priorities and coordinated actions — under this refreshed governance model — that position Timaru District for sustained economic prosperity, improved productivity, stronger communities and an enviable quality of life through to 2050 and beyond.	

5. Changes to Performance Measure I the year to 30 June 2026

In developing its 2025/26 Statement of Intent, Venture Timaru reviewed its performance measures to ensure they align with the organisation's strategic priorities, including business attraction, workforce development, tourism outcomes, investment facilitation, and the Towards 2050 initiative.

As part of this review, new and enhanced measures were introduced relating to business engagement, investment attraction, workforce initiatives, event and cruise sector economic impact, and progress towards the district's long-term development goals.

Some measures reported in the prior year have been refined, consolidated, or removed where they related to specific projects or activities, and were no longer considered the most meaningful indicators of Venture Timaru's performance.

The revised performance framework is intended to provide a clearer focus on outcomes and Venture Timaru's contribution to sustainable economic growth and prosperity across the Timaru District.

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The Audit Office
Te Mana Arotake

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of Venture Timaru Limited's financial statements and performance information for the year ended 30 June 2026

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Venture Timaru Limited (the Company). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Sam Naylor using the staff and resources of Nexia Audit Christchurch, to carry out the audit of the financial statements and performance information on his behalf.

Opinion

We have audited:

- the financial statements of Venture Timaru Limited that comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the statement of financial performance and statement of cash flow for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include material accounting policy information and other explanatory information on pages 5 to 16; and
- the performance information that consists of the statement of performance for the year ended 30 June 2026 on pages 17 to 23.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the Venture Timaru Limited present fairly, in all material respects its financial position as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Tier 3 (PS) Standard.
- the performance information accurately reports, in all material respects, the Company's actual performance compared against the performance targets and other measures adopted for the year ended 30 June 2026, and has been prepared, in material respects, in accordance with section 68 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act).

Basis for our opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Responsibilities of the auditor* section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the financial statements and performance information

The Board of Directors is responsible on behalf of the Company for preparing financial statements that are fairly presented and comply with Tier 3 (PS) Standard. The Board of Directors is also responsible for preparing the performance information contained in the statement of performance of the Company in accordance with the Act.

The Board of Directors is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare financial statements and performance information that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements and performance information the Board of Directors is responsible on behalf of the Company for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. The Board of Directors is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of Directors' responsibilities arise from the Local Government Act 2002.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements and performance information

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and performance information, as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers, taken on the basis of these financial statements and performance information.

For the budget information reported in the financial statements and performance information, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the Company's statement of intent and the adopted annual budget.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements and performance information.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and performance information, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors.

- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Board of Directors and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the information we audited or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance information, including the disclosures, and assess whether the performance information achieves its statutory purpose of enabling the Company's readers to judge the actual performance of the Company or against its objectives in its statement of intent.

We communicate with the Board of Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

Other Information

The Board of Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all of the information included in the performance report other than the financial statements and the performance information consisting of statement of performance, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements and the performance information does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements and the performance information, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and performance information or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1: *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand)* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Company.



Sam Naylor
Nexia Audit Christchurch
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Christchurch, New Zealand
23 September 2026