

Submission Theme	Activity	Officer Comment
<p>Relationship, partnership and engagement with mana whenua across:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic Partnership 2. Water 3. Spacial Planning and Infrastructure 4. Governance Appointments 5. Procurement 	<p>Governance</p> <p>Drainage and Water</p> <p>District Planning</p> <p>Policy</p>	<p>These decisions sit with Council. The below officer comments do not address requests related to appointments or engagement at a Governance level.</p> <p>Water –Officers are committed to engaging with our partner, Mackenzie District Council, and Te Runanga o Arowhenua on actively ensuring we maintain a collaborative working relationship with mana whenua in the development of the Water Organisations Water Services Strategy. Council’s current Stormwater Management Plans are an example of the District wide benefits this collaborative partnership enables.</p> <p>Spatial Planning and Infrastructure - Spatial Planning is awaiting confirmation of the specific legislation. At a regional level the inclusion of mana whenua in this work has been identified as a key consideration for those who are leading and establishing the project. At a local level the discussion document about a Timaru District focussed exercise tabled at the Development & Growth Committee identified mana whenua engagement and involvement as a workstream.</p> <p>Procurement – Council recently undertook a review of its Procurement Policy, and adopted the current version on 24 February 2026. The next review is planned for 2032 however due to the reform environment this could be brought forward. Officers welcome engagement with mana whenua in this process.</p>
<p>Affordability of rates, prioritisation of core infrastructure services and Central Government reform.</p>	<p>Governance</p>	<p>Officers note the feedback.</p>

Submission Theme	Activity	Officer Comment
<p>Maintenance, improvement and development of the rural road network</p>	<p>Roading and Footpaths</p>	<p>Officers acknowledge the importance of rural roads to residents and the challenges associated with living on unsealed roads, particularly where access to services, schools, and freight movements relies on private vehicle use. While requests for additional rural road sealing are understood, Council does not currently have funding allocated within the Long-Term Plan for expansion of the sealed rural road network.</p> <p>In relation to Oakwood Road specifically, officers note that sealing works would likely represent a high cost per kilometre due to the constrained road reserve width, existing utility service locations, topography, culvert upgrades, and stormwater management requirements associated with increasing sealed surface runoff.</p> <p>Officers also note that delivering additional rural road sealing would require either additional Council funding, reduced levels of service, or deferred investment elsewhere within the transport network. Given current funding constraints, the lack of NZTA subsidy available for such activities, and wider affordability pressures across the district, any expansion of the sealed rural road network would require Council to carefully consider overall affordability and network-wide trade-offs.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, officers recognise the concerns raised regarding the importance of reliable rural access for residents living outside urban areas.</p>

Submission Theme	Activity	Officer Comment
Investment in and safety of active transport networks	Roothing and Footpaths	<p>Officers acknowledge the importance of safe and accessible walking and cycling infrastructure and note that significant progress has recently been achieved through external Better Off Funding, which has enabled delivery of several larger shared path projects across the district, including the Geraldine–Woodbury and Temuka–Arowhenua connections.</p> <p>In addition to larger capital projects, Council continues to seek opportunities to improve active transport outcomes as part of routine renewals and maintenance activities. This includes incorporating shared path connections, kerb crossing improvements, and drop-down treatments where practical during kerb and channel renewal projects. Officers note however that renewal programmes remain relatively modest in scale due to wider affordability constraints and limited available co-funding.</p> <p>Council also notes that NZTA funding assistance for wayfinding and signage improvements is currently limited, which constrains the scale and pace of delivery for these types of enhancements. Notwithstanding this, officers continue to work towards incremental improvements aligned with the Onwards: Timaru District Active Transport Strategy.</p> <p>In relation to maintenance matters, officers respond to customer requests and Snap Send Solve reports relating to debris, glass, and other detritus across the transport network, including cycle lanes and shared paths, as part of normal operational activities.</p> <p>Officers also note that additional bike parking facilities were recently installed as part of the Strathallan Corner upgrade project. Further opportunities to incorporate bike parking into future community facility upgrades will continue to be considered where appropriate.</p>