



AGENDA

Emergency Council Meeting Friday, 7 August 2026

Date Friday, 7 August 2026

Time 7:00 pm

Location Council Chamber
District Council Building
King George Place
Timaru

File Reference 1861345

Timaru District Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Emergency Council will be held in the Council Chamber, District Council Building, King George Place, Timaru, on Friday 7 August 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Council Members

Mayor Nigel Bowen (Chairperson), Cllrs 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 Apologies**
- 2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

3 Reports

3.1 Calling of Emergency Meeting

Author: Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate

Authoriser: Nigel Trainor, Chief Executive

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes that this is an emergency meeting for Council to consider amending a previous resolution (2026/131) to enable the lodgement of a submission to Central Government with a deadline of Sunday, 9 August 2026, and no other practicable meeting time before that deadline exists.
2. Notes that written notice of the time, place and general nature of business was given to members and the Chief Executive approximately 4 hours before this meeting.
3. Notes that each member present waived the requirement to be given the meeting notice at least 24 hours before the meeting and were content to proceed with the meeting.
4. Notes that the agenda and this notice could not be made publicly available at least 2 working days beforehand but was made public prior to the meeting.
5. Suspends the following standing orders 9.1 and 9.10 which require agendas to be circulated and distributed two days prior to a meeting.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to note the reasons for the calling of an emergency meeting and that due to external requirements, not all requirements of LGOIMA are able to be satisfied, and request that elected members present waive their requirement of notice.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This is a procedural matter and would be considered of low significance.

Discussion

LGOIMA Compliance

- 3 This meeting is called as an emergency meeting under clause 22A of Schedule 7, LGA 2002. Elected members are unavailable on 8 and 9 August, and no scheduled meeting falls before the Government's submission deadline of 9 August — there is no other opportunity for Council to consider this matter in time. The need for considering this report arises due to further discussions by the partnership councils concluding that the submission by the remaining group

of councils was significantly weakened from a territorial and environmental management perspective without the inclusion of the Ashburton district in the proposal.

- 4 Clause 22A(2) requires at least 24 hours' notice. Members received approximately 4.5 hours' notice. As all members are present, they are asked to formally waive this shortfall under clause 20(2) before substantive business proceeds.
- 5 LGOIMA requires the agenda to be publicly available at least 2 working days beforehand and requires public notice of meetings. Neither could be met in the time available. This does not invalidate the meeting, but officers must give public notice as soon as practicable. The agenda has been published prior to the meeting.
- 6 The underlying decision is a governance correction to a prior resolution, not an urgent matter in itself — the urgency comes from member availability against the Government's deadline, not the substance of the decision.
- 7 Noting the above waiver, and for completeness the resolutions seek the suspension of Standing Orders 9.1 and 9.10 that require agendas to be circulated and distributed 2 days before meetings. This requires at least 75 per cent of members present and voting to support that motion.

Attachments

Nil

3.2 Headstart Procedural Matter

Author: Brendan Madley, Senior Policy Advisor
Elliot Higbee, Legal Services Manager
Stephen Doran, General Manager Corporate

Authoriser: Nigel Trainor, Chief Executive

Recommendation

That Council

1. Suspends the following requirement of standing order 24.6: “The chief executive must give at least two clear working days’ notice of any meeting that will consider a revocation or alteration recommendation.”
2. Revokes resolution 2026/131: “The Council confirms that if a Council elects not to be part of this grouping, then the Council prefers to progress with the remaining willing partners.”
3. Reconfirms that that its preferred option is Option C: Mid-South Canterbury and North Otago Unitary Council consisting of the territorial and catchment areas of Timaru, Waitaki, Waimate, Mackenzie and Ashburton.
4. Notes that the following resolutions from the 31 July meeting continue to be in place.
 - (a) 2026/129: That Council 1: Receives and notes the report “Deliberations on future local governance in the Mid-South Canterbury / North Otago region under the Head Start Pathway” and 2 Confirms that its preferred option is: Option C Mid-South Canterbury and North Otago Unitary Council;
 - (b) 2026/130: That Council confirms that it prefers for the boundaries of any amalgamated council to be based on river catchments, and;
 - (c) 2026/132: That Council delegates authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive to jointly approve the material content of any outline proposal, from the same meeting item continue to be in place.

Purpose of Report

- 1 The primary purpose of this report is for Council to rescind its prior decision on its headstart proposal due to subsequent events and determine its preferred structural option for any outline proposal lodged under the Head Start Pathway.

Assessment of Significance

- 2 This issue is considered of very high significance as it will likely result in fundamental reform in the nature, scale and function of local government. Impacts include likely significant changes to representation and governance structures, service delivery arrangements and long-term financial sustainability.
- 3 Consequently, consultation has occurred with the public as detailed in the previous report in this agenda. It is acknowledged that this consultation has not been able to be conducted in a way that would normally be envisaged for a decision of this significance. This is because

Council has been constrained by the timeframe set by central government, and the information available within this timeframe.

- 4 Council is not making a final or conclusive decision at this meeting as to whether to amalgamate, with whom, or how this would impact levels of service. Further, any successful outline proposal will enter a Detailed Design phase, where central government has indicated that additional public consultation will occur.

Background

- 5 Government has invited councils to voluntarily submit outline proposals to reform the local government sector under the Head Start pathway by 9 August 2026.
- 6 Councils that do not submit a proposal, or are not part of a successful proposal, would enter the Backstop Pathway after the 2028 local elections.
- 7 Council resolved at the 31 July 2026 meeting that its preferred option was Option C Mid-South Canterbury and North Otago Unitary Council consisting of the territorial and catchment areas of Timaru, Waitaki, Waimate, Mackenzie and Ashburton.
- 8 The council also resolved that: "The Council confirms that if a Council elects not to be part of this grouping, then the Council prefers to progress with the remaining willing partners."
- 9 Subsequently to this decision, Ashburton was unable to reach a consensus or a majority on any of its headstart options and opted by a majority to enter the backstop process.
- 10 Further discussions by the partnership councils has indicated that the submission by the remaining group of councils was significantly weakened from a territorial and environmental management perspective without the inclusion of the Ashburton territory in the proposal.
- 11 This carried a significant risk of the proposal being turned down and all the councils entering the backstop process by default.
- 12 In light of Ashburton District Council's decision, this meeting has been called to revoke the resolution that the Council confirms that if a Council elects not to be part of this grouping, then the Council prefers to progress with the remaining willing partners.

Discussion

- 13 Under Standing Order 24.6 The council, on a recommendation in a report by the chairperson, chief executive, a committee or subcommittee, a subordinate decision-making body or a local or community board, may revoke or alter all or part of a resolution passed by a previous meeting.
- 14 In reflection of the short timeline officers are recommending that the requirement for the chief executive to give at least two clear working days' notice of any meeting that will consider a revocation or alteration recommendation is suspended.

Options and Preferred Option

- 15 The recommendation is that council revokes resolution 2026/131: The Council confirms that if a Council elects not to be part of this grouping, then the Council prefers to progress with the remaining willing partners.
- 16 The council can choose not to revoke this resolution, as it states a preference rather than a requirement, and continue with its head start proposal including Ashburton, but it is advised that the recommended option is a better procedure.

Consultation

17 Further to the formal consultation and hearing, discussion has been had with other councils.

Relevant Legislation, Council Policy and Plans

18 Council Standing Orders 2025

19 Local Government Act 2002

20 Local Government Meetings and Official Information Act 1987

Financial and Funding Implications

Other Considerations

21 None

Attachments

Nil

