



**PUBLIC
COUNCILLOR BRIEFING**

AGENDA & SUPPORTING MATERIAL

**Commencing at 1.00pm
Wednesday 10 September 2025
Council Chambers**

This meeting will be livestreamed

MEETING	PUBLIC COUNCILLOR BRIEFING		
Date	Wednesday 10 September 2025	Time	Commences at 1.00pm
Location	Council Chambers		
AGENDA			
1.00pm – 2.00pm	CWMS – DOCUMENT 1	Ecan – Jamie Grant, Cameron Smith, Murray Griffin, Steven Bragg and Cr Craig Pauling,	

Memo

Date	August 2025
To	Environment Canterbury Councillors
CC	Stefanie Rixecker, Chief Executive
From	Cam Smith, Senior Strategy Manager, Environment Canterbury

This memo provides updates to Council on:

1. The discharge of all Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Water Zone Committees in Canterbury, as joint committees of Council, at the end of the Council triennium in October 2025.
2. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's review of Water Zone Committees which concluded on 30 May 2025.
3. Progress towards establishing new local leadership groups for freshwater management for the 2025-2028 Council triennium.

1. The Discharge of all CWMS Water Zone Committees at the end of the Council triennium – October 2025

The discharge of the water zone committees aligns with the recommendations endorsed at the 30 May Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) meeting following the review of zone committees initiated by the Mayoral Forum.

In accordance with clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, the water zone committees listed below shall be discharged at the conclusion of the 2022-2025 triennial term of Councils.

Water Zone Committees:

- Ashburton
- Banks Peninsula
- Christchurch – West Melton
- Kaikōura
- Lower Waitaki – South Coastal Canterbury
- Ōrāri – Temuka – Ōpihi – Pareora
- Selwyn – Waihora
- Upper Waitaki
- Waimakariri
- Noting: the Hurunui Waiau Uwha Water Zone Committee was discharged in 2021.

To enable water zone committees to continue to meet and advance their 2021-2024 Action Plans (supporting the implementation of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy), the term of all CWMS Water Zone Committee members was extended to 30 June 2025. This

timing enabled committees to continue to operate until the conclusion of the CMF zone committee review (30 May 2025) and aligned with the end of 2024/25 financial year.

Consequently, water zone committees curtailed their meeting engagements in May/June of this year, with honoraria payments to community and Rūnanga representatives concluding at 30 June 2025.

From 1 July 2025, water zone committees across Canterbury are no longer meeting and their discharge will coincide with the conclusion of the current Council triennium in October 2025.

2. Canterbury Mayoral Forum Water Zone Committee Review 2024 – 2025

Background

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum initiated a review of CWMS zone committees that started in early 2024 and was led by Environment Canterbury. Work included engagements with all zone committees, Mayors, Rūnanga representatives, and a Mayoral Forum Working Group consisting of Mayors (Black, Bowen, Mackle, Mauger/Cotter, Munro), Rūnanga Chairs (Dardanelle McLean-Smith, Rik Tainui) and Environment Canterbury (Chair Pauling).

The Review's first stage was completed in November 2024 when the Mayoral Forum endorsed a [technical report](#) outlining key findings and steps to refine a potential replacement model of local leadership groups.

Outcome of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting on 30 May 2025

Environment Canterbury Chair Craig Pauling presented a final report on the Review to the Mayoral Forum. This report was submitted on behalf of the Mayoral Forum Working Group and represented the result of 18 months of consultation and collaborative work, which demonstrated wide-ranging views on how to best ensure local freshwater leadership into the future.

The Mayoral Forum endorsed the following recommendations from the Working Group:

- The establishment of eight local leadership groups.
- These groups will connect councils and mana whenua at leadership level to prioritise, align, and recommend actions that support integrated catchment management.
- Groups will have flexibility to locally determine wider (community) membership or engagement.
- Collaborative agreements are the default structure, with options to (re)establish joint committees or Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements where preferred.
- Groups will meet 4-6 times annually, guided by an adjustable work programme.

Further details are available in the agenda and unconfirmed minutes of the 30 May Canterbury Mayoral Forum meeting via the [Mayoral Forum's website](#).

3. Progress towards establishing new local leadership groups for freshwater management for the 2025-2028 Council triennium

Details of Local Leadership Groups

The proposed new groups will consist of core membership of Territorial Authorities, Mana Whenua and the Regional Council. It is proposed they operate in eight hydrologically connected catchments.

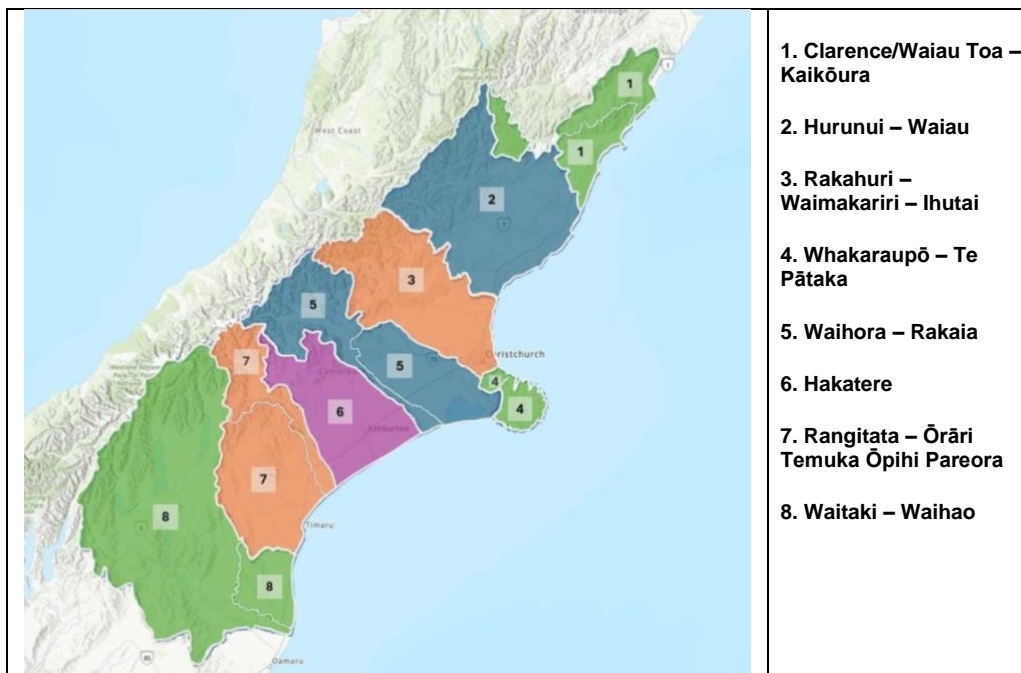
The proposed leadership groups' core purpose is to connect councils and mana whenua at the governance level to support collaborative and strategic integrated catchment management.

Their proposed primary function is to prioritise, align, and recommend relevant actions in connection with communities and interest groups, guided by work programmes that align with councils' Long-Term and Annual Plan cycles.

Through council engagements and work of the Working Group, it was made clear that local flexibility and ongoing connection with communities is critical. The developed model balances a level of regional consistency with the ability to tweak aspects to meet local needs. This includes flexibility for each group to determine how it includes, or connects to, community representation.

Indicative Scale of Local Leadership Group Catchment areas

Map 1 below – outlines indicative boundaries for each of the eight local leadership groups. Upcoming discussions in each area will clarify whether refinement of the geographic boundaries is required to ensure they best meet local needs.



These catchments align with natural catchment boundaries and capture where the water flows, from the mountain to the sea. Upcoming discussions in each area will clarify if refinement of these geographic boundaries is required to ensure they best meet local needs.

Next steps

Initial engagement with all Councils and Papatipu Rūnanga is being arranged from July to September 2025 to introduce this local leadership group approach in advance of the pending Local Government elections. Following local body elections in October 2025 it is intended the newly elected Councils, in conjunction with Rūnanga Executives, will determine their local leadership group's preferred structure, approach, and membership for the next Council triennium (2025 – 2028).

This is an opportunity to reinvigorate the collaborative spirit of the CWMS and shape how Territorial Authorities, Regional Council, and Mana Whenua work together with our communities and partners to improve freshwater outcomes, building on the achievements of water zone committees.