



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

I hereby give notice that the
Executive Committee Meeting
will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 3 August 2021
Time: 10.30am
Location: Council Chamber, Third Floor
Office of the Waitaki District Council
20 Thames Street, Oamaru

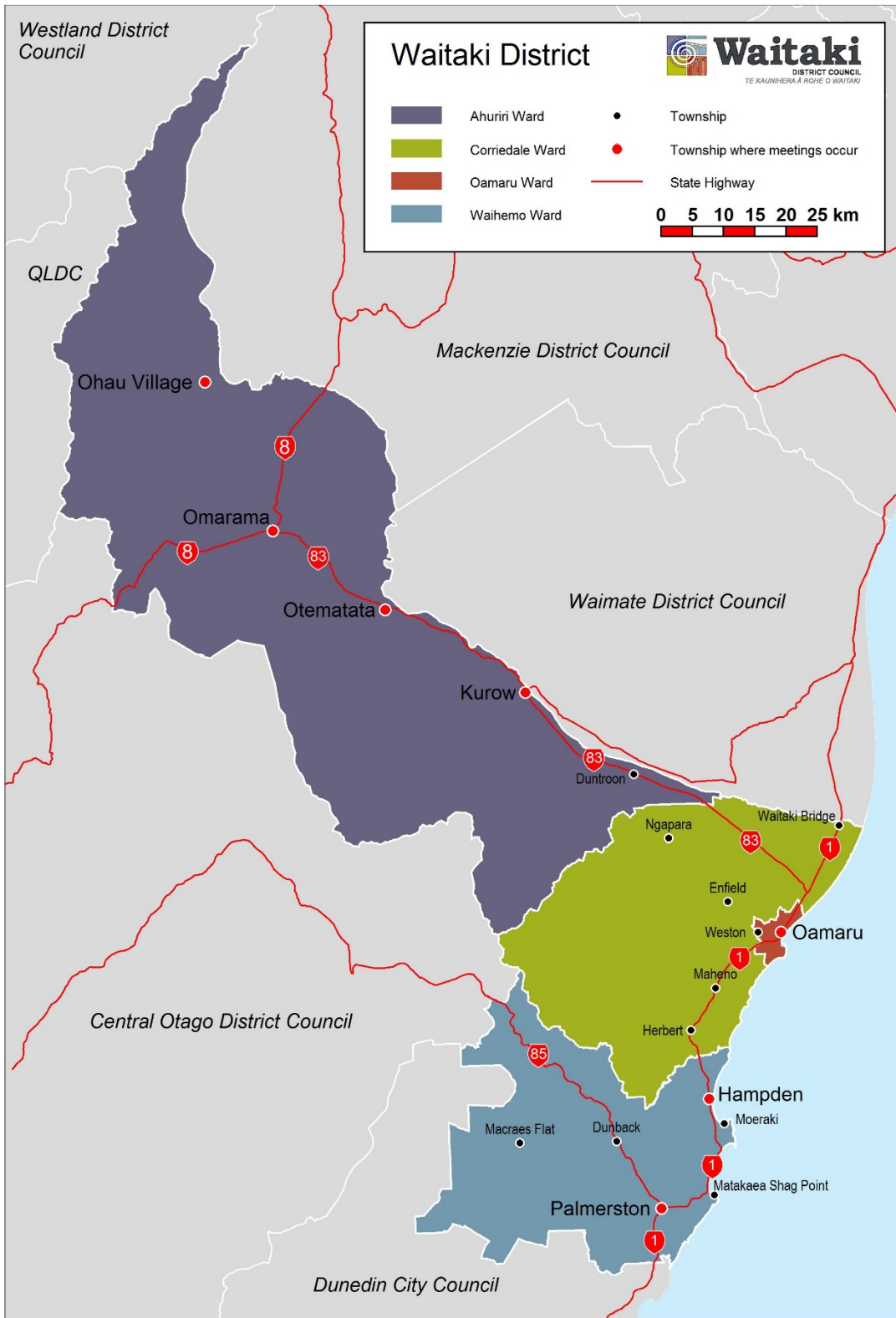
Agenda

Executive Committee Meeting 3 August 2021

Executive Committee Membership

Mayor Gary Kircher	Chair
Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale	Associate Chair
Cr Bill Kingan	Member
Cr Ross McRobie	Member
Cr Kelli Williams	Member
Cr Colin Wollstein	Member

Alex Parmley
Chief Executive



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Waitaki **THE BEST PLACE TO BE!**

Waitaki - Whenua taurikura

EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE AND PLACE TO THRIVE

Whakapuāwai takata, Whakapuāwai whenua

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

economic

PROSPEROUS DISTRICT

- Attractive to new opportunities
- Support local businesses
- Foster a diverse and resilient economy

social and cultural

STRONG COMMUNITIES

- Enable safe and healthy communities
- Connected, inclusive communities
- Promoting a greater voice for Waitaki
- Celebration of our community identity

environment

VALUED ENVIRONMENT

- Protecting our diverse landscapes and water bodies
- Meeting environmental and climate change challenges

QUALITY SERVICES

- Robust core infrastructure and services
- Community facilities and services we are proud of

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Providing high-quality core infrastructure and services
- Determining the best way to deliver 3-waters for the community
- Working with the community to respond to COVID-19 challenges
- Creating a District Plan that is fit for Waitaki's future
- Striving towards better Council performance
- Driving best value for rates

Ensuring we get core business done while delivering on our strategic priorities and achieving our community outcomes



Agenda Items

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- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

3.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 APRIL 2021

Author: Ainslee Hooper, Governance and Policy Advisor

Authoriser: Lisa Baillie, People and Culture Group Manager

Attachments: 1. **Public Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 6 April 2021**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Committee confirms the Public Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 6 April 2021, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

**OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIRD FLOOR,
OFFICE OF THE WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL, 20 THAMES STREET, OAMARU
ON TUESDAY, 6 APRIL 2021 AT 10.30AM**

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Kircher (Chair), Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale (Associate Chair), Cr Bill Kingan, Cr Ross McRobie, Cr Kelli Williams, Cr Colin Wollstein

IN ATTENDANCE: Fergus Power (Chief Executive)
Ainslee Hooper (Governance and Policy Advisor)

IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS:

Gerard Quinn (Economic Development Manager)

MEETING OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.30am and welcomed everyone present including those watching the livestream of the public session.

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

3.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2021

RESOLVED EC 2021/008

Moved: Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale
Seconded: Cr Ross McRobie

That the Executive Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 2 March 2021, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

L.1 Agenda Item L – Urgent Business:

The Chair explained the background to the urgent item of business (the Appointment of an Independent Member of the Performance, Audit and Risk Committee), and noted that it was being discussed in public excluded because the appointment details were still being finalised.

At the request of the Chair, the Governance Advisor read out the officer recommendation relating to the acceptance of the urgent business item, as required by legislation.

L.1 RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT LATE URGENT BUSINESS ITEM AS PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA ITEM 6.3

RESOLVED EC 2021/009

Moved: Cr Bill Kingan

Seconded: Cr Colin Wollstein

That the Executive Committee, pursuant to s.46A (7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and Clause 9.12 of the Waitaki District Council Standing Orders, agrees to accept the Late Urgent Business Item as Public Excluded Agenda Item 6.3 for consideration at this Executive Committee Meeting for the reasons stated below:

- (a) The item was not able to be included in the final agenda papers because the appointment recommendation had not been finalised at that time; and
- (b) The item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting because the appointment needs to be confirmed to facilitate the signing of an engagement agreement with the successful applicant who will then be able to attend the next meeting of the Performance, Audit and Risk Committee scheduled to be held on Tuesday 27 April 2021 as an independent member of the Committee with eligibility to participate as a member and to vote on matters before that meeting.

CARRIED

4 MEMORANDUM REPORTS

4.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE FOR 6 APRIL 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The report, as circulated, informed the Executive Committee of the current activity being undertaken by the Economic Development (ED) team, comprised of the Economic Development Manager (EDM) and the Business Attraction and Recovery Manager (BARM).

Funding for the destination management strategy included a grant from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to Tourism Waitaki Limited.

After further discussion, it was requested that, with regard to the destination management strategy, elected members have the opportunity to discuss whether they support particular directions. This was noted and an undertaking was given that the matter would be raised with the governance group to ensure Council had earlier involvement.

ACTION: Economic Development Manager

There was discussion about how Mackenzie District had received around \$800k of funding to do its destination management plan and yet Waitaki had received around a 10th of that sum. When asked if there was an opportunity to go back to MBIE and ask for more funding, Mr Quinn advised that that had been discussed at the last project group meeting and it had been agreed that the project team could seek further funding from MBIE.

Mr Quinn was asked to check if there was a regional breakdown on the three-monthly Waitaki figures that could be included in future reports.

ACTION: Economic Development Manager

The Chair updated members of the public watching on the livestream by explaining that the meeting would soon go into public excluded to discuss the appointment of an independent member to the Performance, Audit and Risk Committee. Because the appointment negotiations had yet to be finalised, that agenda item needed to be taken in public excluded at this time. The Chair explained that the intention of having an independent member is to fulfil requirements of Audit New Zealand and also on a recommendation from the CouncilMARK process.

RESOLVED EC 2021/010

Moved: Cr Ross McRobie

Seconded: Cr Kelli Williams

That the Executive Committee receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

5 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED EC 2021/011

Moved: Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale

Seconded: Cr Colin Wollstein

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter 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 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	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
<p>6.1 - Public Excluded minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 2 March 2021</p>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>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</p> <p>s7(2)(c)(i) - 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</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>

	<p>to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	
<p>6.2 - Economic Manager's Update to Executive Committee PE</p>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>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</p> <p>s7(2)(c)(i) - 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 to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>
<p>6.3 - Appointment of Independent Member of the Performance, Audit and Risk Committee PE</p>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure</p>

	persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
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CARRIED

6 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION

The Public Excluded Minutes apply to this part of the meeting.

7 RESOLUTION TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLVED EC 2021/015

Moved: Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale
Seconded: Cr Colin Wollstein

That the Executive Committee resumes in open meeting and decisions made in the public excluded session are confirmed and made public as and when required and considered.

CARRIED

8 RELEASE OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED INFORMATION

In accordance with Waitaki District Council Standing Orders, and pursuant to resolutions in the public excluded session of the meeting, the Executive Committee decided to release the following previously public excluded information in the public minutes of this meeting:

6.1 PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2021

RESOLVED EC 2021/012

Moved: Cr Colin Wollstein
Seconded: Cr Bill Kingan

That the Executive Committee confirms the Public Excluded minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 2 March 2021, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

6.2 ECONOMIC MANAGER'S UPDATE TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PE

RESOLVED EC 2021/013

Moved: Cr Bill Kingan
Seconded: Cr Kelli Williams

That the Executive Committee receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

9 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed, at 11.18am.

TO BE CONFIRMED at the next Executive Committee Meeting, which is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 3 August 2021.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

UNCONFIRMED

4 MEMORANDUM REPORTS

4.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Author: Gerard Quinn, Economic Development Manager

Authoriser: Alex Parmley, Chief Executive

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Committee receives and notes the information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Economic Development Update is to keep the Executive Committee informed of economic development matters and activities within Council.

ECONOMIC SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Overview

The most current official economic performance figures are for the year ending March 2021. This Situation and Outlook section presents the position as of March 2021, with some more recent data and commentary sourced from local businesses in relevant sectors.

Waitaki's economic activity fell by 1.9% over the year to March 2021, according to Infometrics provisional GDP estimates – the district's growth was higher than that of the country overall, which shrank by 3%. Waitaki bounced back in the September and December 2020 quarters, but growth slowed a little in the March quarter – much the same as the national picture.

Waitaki has fared well throughout the pandemic, given the solid performance of the agriculture sector, and the flow-on effect into primary sector-related engineering and manufacturing businesses. The dairy industry (along with others) is subject to new legislation which seeks to mitigate the negative effects of intensive agriculture on the environment. These changes may potentially have a very significant impact on farm profitability going forward.

Those affected by the closure of the international border, such as retail, hospitality, and transport, have seen some job losses over the last year. Differences in the economic structures and support packages offered to various sectors and districts across the country explain why we are hearing reports of skill shortages at the same time as unemployment has risen.

Employment

Waitaki residents continue to experience steady employment growth, with recent growth led by the construction, health, manufacturing, and retail industries. Employment in Waitaki grew 1.0%, ahead of population growth of 0.5%, as indicated by health enrolments. Together, this indicates improved employment prospects for Waitaki residents, and likely explains Waitaki's car registrations and consumer spending outperforming the national trend.

Construction

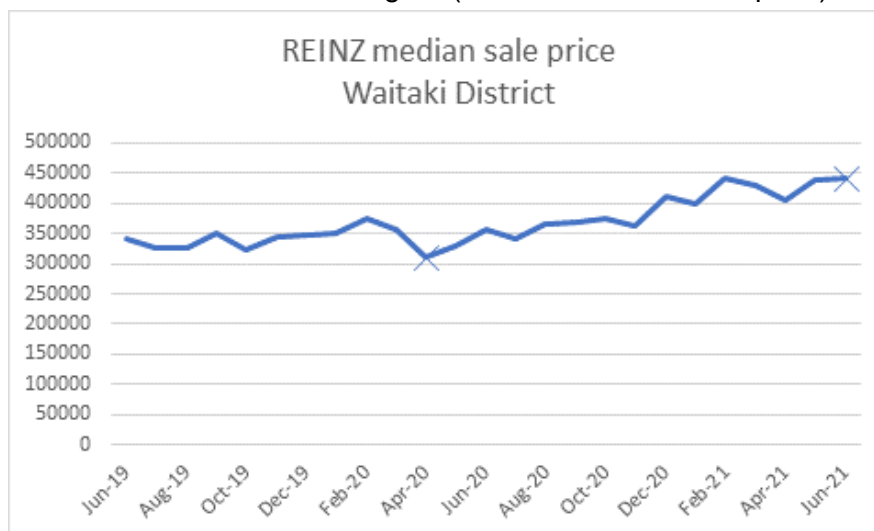
Residential buildings consents have eased a little in Waitaki, to 29 dwellings in the March 2021 quarter, still ahead of the district's long-term average. The loss of residential work will be offset by strong growth in non-residential consents, coming from a wide range of sectors. This should help to maintain construction industry workloads. Strong non-residential consents coupled with resilient commercial vehicle registrations indicate that Waitaki businesses are relatively confident about their futures.

Housing

Waitaki’s housing market remains very strong, spurred on by low interest rates and renewed interest in property investment nationally.

There are broadly two different ways to monitor the housing market:

- 1) Looking at trends in what houses are selling for (ie REINZ median sale price)



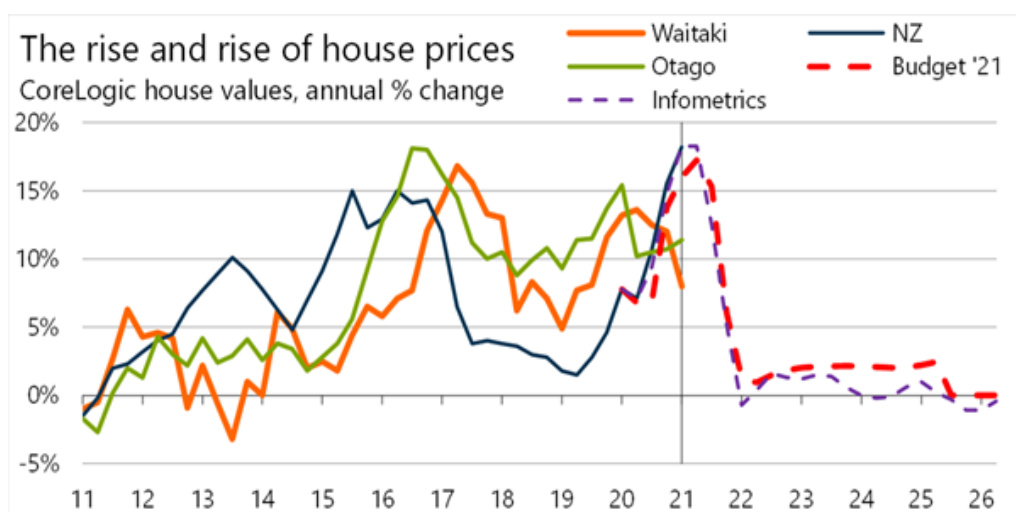
- 2) Looking at changes in the overall value of the housing stock. REINZ does this through its house price index, and Infometrics uses estimates from Core Logic that do the same thing.

The process involves comparing sale prices to previous estimates of house values, to see how much the market has moved.

The benefit of the second approach is that it controls for the composition of the market – for example, if a lot of executive homes are sold in Waitaki in April, and a lot of small townhouses in March, then the sale price approach will be skewed upwards for April and downwards for March. The second approach looks at those home sales, takes the trend, and applies it to the overall housing stock.

The average house value in Waitaki rose to \$412,000 in the March 2021 quarter, off the back of increased sale volumes. This suggests that a higher proportion of above-average priced houses have been sold in Waitaki

lately, skewing the median sale price.



Regulation changes targeted at property investors may slow house price growth, but it is too early to see this in the data at this time.

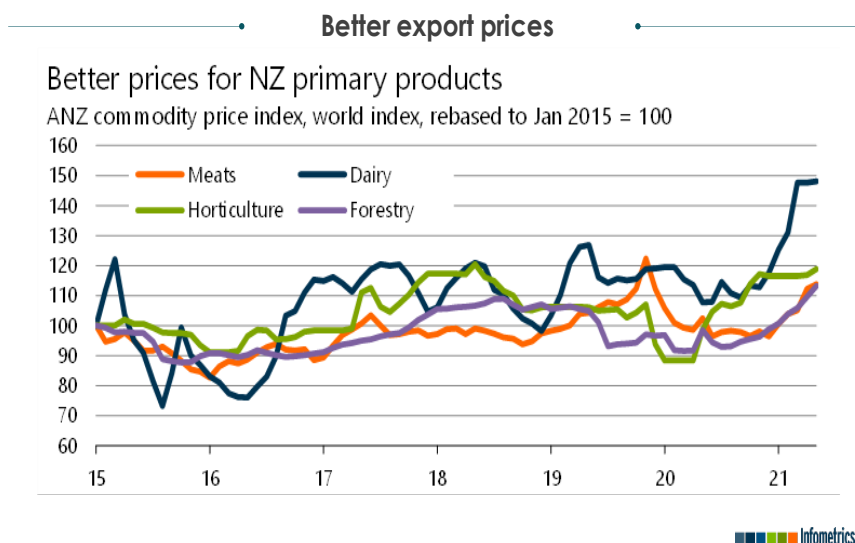
Real estate firms are reporting that stock levels are low, and that most properties are under offer soon after listing. There is constant buyer interest from all locations nationally across residential, commercial and land purchases. Residentially, some are looking at Ōamaru particularly as a lifestyle change – with changes to the way people work, there are a number who are able to work remotely. The new Healthy Homes and new notice regulations for rental properties has had a slight impact on the rental market by reducing rental stock and raising rents. The purchase price allocation regulations relate to the tax implications for sales of property that contains a mix of taxable and non-taxable property. Rentals remain hard to come by.

Bank lending is tighter than in the past. There is an increased demand for land, especially lifestyle plots. Commercial stock, particularly that on leasehold title, is moving more slowly, perhaps due to a lingering COVID-19 uncertainty over commercial nett returns. Economists are predicting a dramatic drop in the rate of house price increase over the next five years; some real estate agents expect a levelling or slight decrease in prices, others do not. An easing of house price escalation could be reinforced by the Reserve Bank concern over inflation already leading to shorter duration fixed mortgage rates creeping up. Mortgage rates are not anticipated to head back above pre-COVID levels again anytime soon, but even the lifts to date can severely dent the pockets of highly leveraged households.

Te Runaka o Moeraki wants to establish a pathway to home ownership for Kai Tahu whanau. The runaka's company, Moeraki Limited, is in the preliminary stages of developing affordable housing in the coastal village. The plan is to build three homes for Kai Tahu families to buy and live in. Ownership would be established through a shared equity scheme, previously trialled by Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu in other areas of the country.

Primary sector

Export prices have improved over the year. Local agricultural firms are still experiencing some skilled labour shortages. Support industries, such as engineering, are also looking for staff.



Visitor economy

The tourism industry experienced a strong domestic visitor surge after lockdown in 2020. However, this effect has become more muted over time, as destinations struggle to attract repeat visits. Waitaki has experienced this phenomenon – tourism expenditure was strong throughout the latter half of 2020, but in 2021 this surge has been restricted to traditional holiday periods.

Consumer Spending

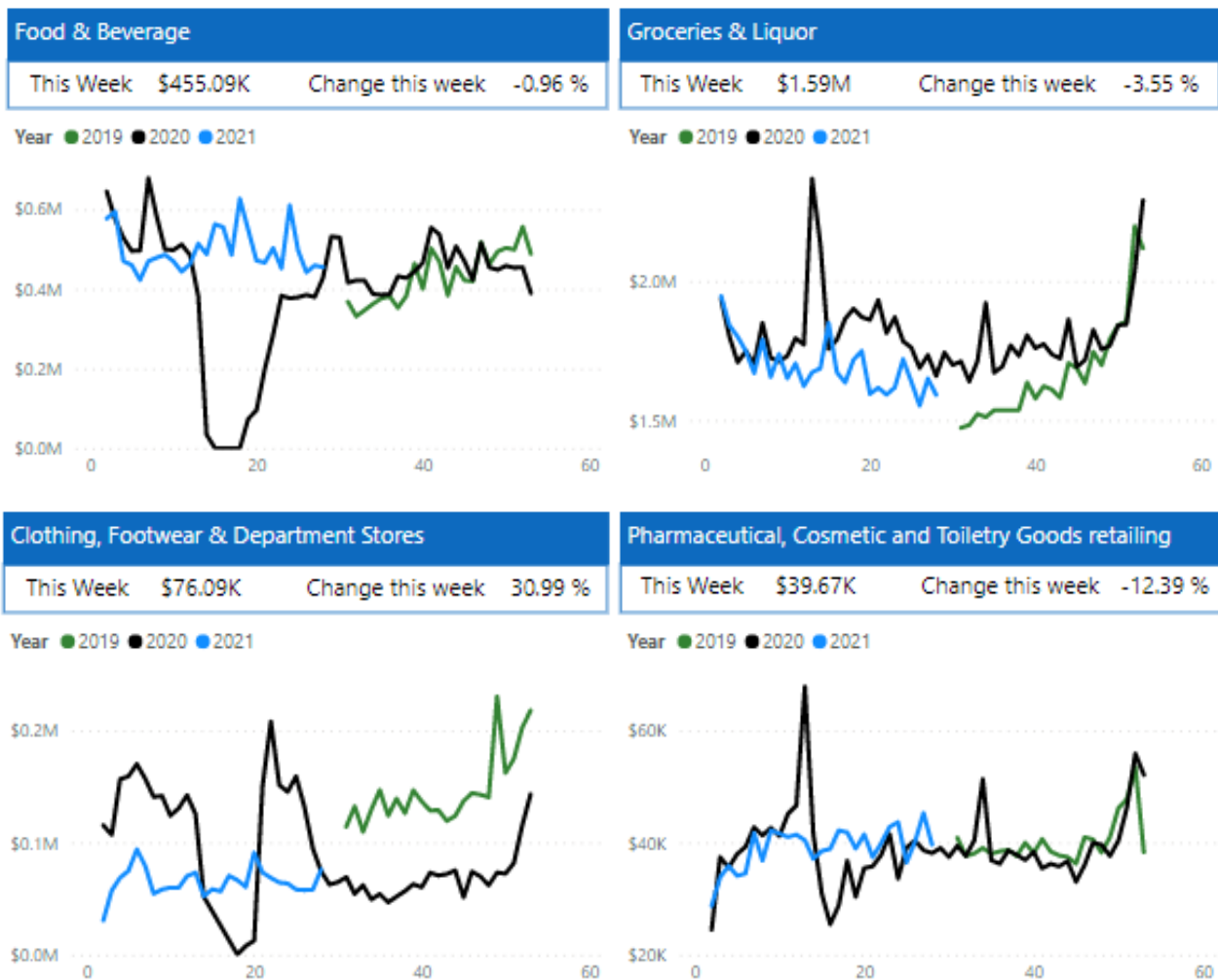
Electronic card consumer spending in the Waitaki district, as measured by Marketview, decreased by 1.4% over the whole year to March 2021 compared to the previous year. This compares with a decrease of 3.8% in New Zealand. Our latest data, comparing expenditure between the years to end of June, shows that Waitaki has bounced back a little and is up 7.9% overall in 2020.

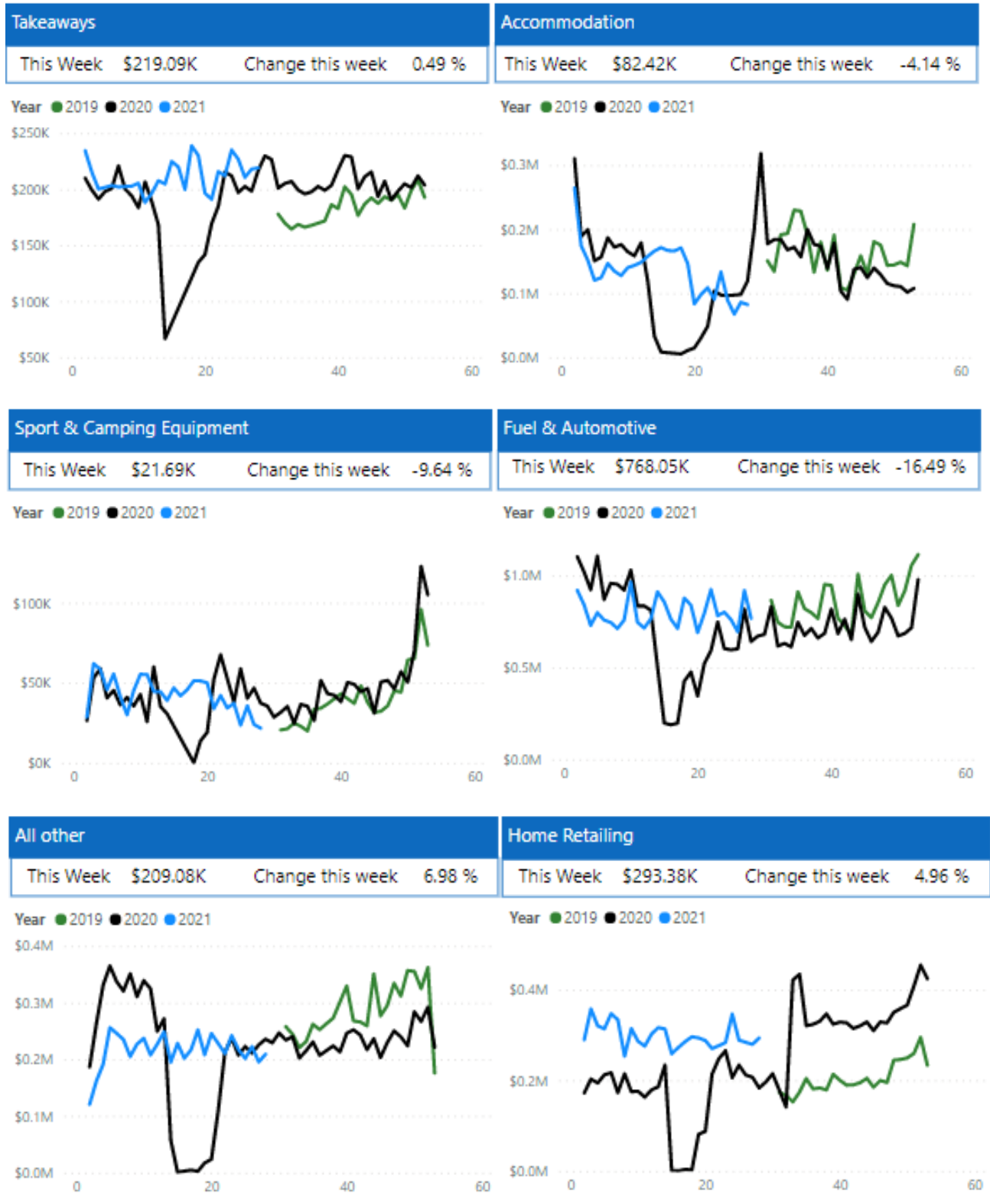
In the graphs below, the green line is 2019 (a pre-COVID-19 baseline), the black line is 2020 (a COVID-19 year), and the blue line is 2021 (current conditions). To get back to pre-COVID patterns, the green line and the blue line would meet.

The store types which are currently below baseline pre-COVID spend are Accommodation; and Clothing, Footwear and Department stores.

Roughly on par with 2019 are Fuel and Automotive; Sports and Camping Equipment; Pharmaceuticals, Cosmetic and Toiletry retailing; and All Other.

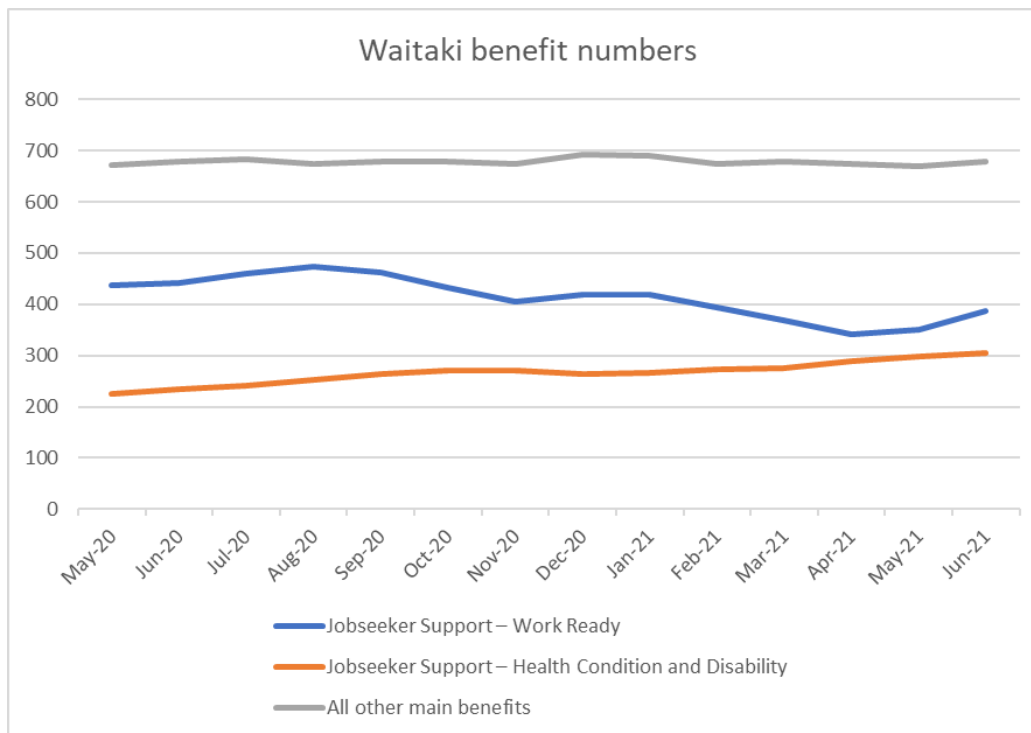
Above the 2019 baseline are Food and Beverage; Groceries and Liquor; Home Retailing; and Takeaways.





Benefit Support

The following table shows that the number of people receiving Jobseeker Support and COVID-19 Income Relief payments has dropped since its peak in August 2020.



SUPPORT AND STIMULUS FUND (SSF)

No new applications have been submitted to the SSF since May 2021. Most projects have been completed. A status report on the Fund and its constituent projects will be provided to the Council meeting of 10 August 2021.

The Economic Development (ED) team is setting up a pilot user group of local businesses to develop the most effective ways to use the collateral developed in the Virtual Waitaki project, which has assembled a set of stunning 360 degree imagery of the district to be used as a promotional tool by local businesses and agencies.

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (TIF)

Council received \$505k funding from the TIF for three projects:

- carpark, viewing area and signage and toilets at Elephant Rocks
- resealing of the carpark by the Ōamaru Blue Penguin Colony
- Duntroon road safety measures near the new public toilet site.

A project team of Council officers from the Economic Development, Roding, Property and Waters teams will complete the final project design and implement the projects. A phase of deeper engagement with and involvement of relevant landowners has commenced. All projects are due to be completed by March 2022.

INFRASTRUCTURE ACCELERATION FUND (IAF)

The Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF) is part of the Government's \$3.8 billion Housing Acceleration Fund announced in March 2021. The IAF is a contestable fund, of at least \$1 billion, which is designed to allocate funding to infrastructure projects that unlock housing development in the short- to medium-term and enable a meaningful contribution to housing outcomes in areas of need. The IAF will be administered by Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities.

To be eligible, infrastructure projects must be for new or upgraded infrastructure for:

- transport (including local roading, state highways, public transport infrastructure, footpaths and cycleways),
- Three Waters (water supply, wastewater and stormwater)
- flood-management infrastructure.

Projects must also be mainly for the purpose of building new or additional houses in the short- to medium-term.

Government's information on the fund includes a statement: *"We will be seeking co-investment and contributions from Councils. Councils are also expected to play their part in support of growth and infrastructure, including through the implementation of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development."*

Council officers will seek to identify projects which meet the criteria of the IAF and investigate ways to collaborate with or support applicants and projects.

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

The ED team is collaborating with Tourism Waitaki in progressing the Waitaki Destination Management Strategy. Workshops have been held with resident groups from Otematata, Waihemo, Ōmārama Duntroon and a Heritage and Culture interest group as well as a Newcomers and Migrants group in Ōamaru. Iwi are providing input separately.

The outcomes from these workshops are now being analysed, and the results will be posted on the Tourism Waitaki (TW) website. Ongoing communication and consultation will be cognisant of upcoming District Plan and Spatial Plan consultations. At that 23 August group meeting, Lincoln University will present and discuss research it has conducted related to the current and future visitor economy for the district. Topics include food, wine and agritourism; the future of (electric) drive tourism; and outdoor recreation.

The Group will also be provided with a draft 'strategic themes and experiences' framework, which will inform the Strategy and resulting Action Plan. The draft Strategy is due in September.

The ED team has also met with Mackenzie District Council's ED team about a range of economic and destination management topics (such as vision development, community engagement, future trends, wellbeing approaches etc.), looking for synergies and information exchange across plans.

The eight Otago / Southland regional tourism organisations (RTOs) (of which TW is one) met in Ōamaru on 27 July to discuss how they might collaborate on MBIE projects in the future and how funding for such projects can be used in a collaborative way.

UNDERSTANDING OUR BUSINESSES AND EVENTS ECONOMY

Retailers and Service Providers

The ED team is now analysing the results of a Retailers and Service Providers survey, which will give the team a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by that sector and identify ways in which Council might be able to assist them.

Early results show that 85% of the 45 responding businesses describe themselves as resilient or highly resilient at this time, and 50% have plans to expand in the future and broaden their offer.

Flexible working and consumer confidence are the most relevant issues mentioned. Online sales levels are low, with most businesses relying on word of mouth to promote trade and their businesses. However, many are keen to invest in new digital tools to boost e-commerce and marketing reach.

The survey results also suggest that events significantly impact 20% of responding businesses. Following on from that, the ED team has started to examine which are the district's 'hero' events and what they mean for Waitaki – ie do they bring positive economic and social value for the community?

Wine sector

Ostler Wines has been brought by the Lindis Group, a luxury hospitality company which has three lodges in New Zealand, including the Lindis Lodge in the Ahuriri Valley. It also has a wine business, Paroa Bay Winery, with its own luxury lodge in Northland. The Lindis Group Managing Director William Hudson said the intention was to take the Ostler Caroline's pinot noir — which has won six consecutive gold medals at the London International Wine Challenge — and "polish the diamond". The ED team will re-engage with the Waitaki wine sector in September, picking up on early exploratory work done pre-COVID-19.

Events

The ED team is using the term 'Hero events' to describe events which profile the district; support our identity; reduce seasonality and bring social and economic value'. The first event to be considered was the Fire and Steam / Steampunk Festival weekend. Four other events have currently been defined as hero events which merit evaluation and will be supported by the ED team – Harbour Street Jazz and Blues Festival (March); Victorian Heritage Festival (November); Waitaki Arts Festival/Meet the Maker (October).

The team will use the initial assessment of the Fire and Steam / Steampunk Festival weekend to develop a standard questionnaire and approach that can be utilised for all hero events. The final survey template will be made available for other event organisers to use or tailor to their needs. Broader learnings linked to infrastructure needs etc will be collated so a repository of information and learnings is built over time for key stakeholders.

TW has received funding from the Government's Regional Events Fund to drive out-of-region visitation and economic benefit to help compensate for some of the shortfall created by lack of international visitors. An Advisory Board is being established which will be develop an events strategy and allocate funding. It is hoped that learnings from the ED team's assessments and future events can inform this work.

Work across these business surveys, events and Destination Management workshops has increasingly shown how interrelated a number of Council strategies and activities are. The ED team believes greater effectiveness will eventuate if those strategies share an understanding of our identity – how we see ourselves and how we want others to see and interact with us.

Heritage and Culture

On 12 August, the ED team will participate in an initial Culture and Heritage workshop to explore how the district can best leverage Council's cultural and heritage assets for social, cultural and economic gain. Learnings from the recent Heritage and Culture focus group have been shared.

The team is also working with a range of stakeholders, including the Ōamaru Opera House, to effectively integrate the Meet the Maker artisan trail into the Waitaki Arts Festival.

Business Connections

The EDM hosted a Business After Five with key Council staff and some local businesses in which Brad Olsen, Senior Economist with Infometrics, outlined the Waitaki district's recent economic situation and outlook. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive – informative and enjoyable with requests for further sessions. The EDM will be addressing the Ōamaru Lions group in July to share and gather thoughts on the local economy.

WAITAKI WHITESTONE GEOPARK UPDATE

The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust is preparing to socialise its recently developed strategy with Council and the wider community. This strategy pivots the primary driving focus of the Geopark from serving visitors to delivering community-based outcomes with a focus on education. A new logo has been co-designed with iwi.

The Trust is extremely grateful to Council for funding received in the latest Long Term Plan. The Trust reports that it will now be able to progress significant signage and education projects throughout the district. The Trust has an application to the Otago Community Trust and Department of Internal Affairs to seek more funding to leverage the funding provided by Council.

The 'Geopark Trail' through the Ōamaru Public Gardens was launched on 12 July. The trail is sponsored by Network Waitaki. Locals and visitors are equipped with a free map of the Ōamaru Public Gardens and are encouraged to have a fun time exploring, discovering, and learning in the Gardens. The trail introduces people to basic map reading skills; geological history through local rock identification, formation, and usage; local social history that is reflected in the Ōamaru Gardens; and active engagement with the environment.



The Trust has been approached by the English Riviera Geopark in South Devon to investigate the possibility of the Waitaki Geopark participating in an international project called "Green Space, Dark Skies". It is part of a wider UK project, called Festival UK 2022, in which 10 different projects have been funded. This project is one of them and is run by an outdoor arts organisation company called Walk the Plank.

The overarching aim of the project is to connect people to the landscape / outdoors so that more people feel they want to act as a guardian of the natural world. Another aim is to reduce barriers, such as race, class, or disability, to access landscape. The project will organise a range of events in natural places with people holding wireless programmable lights and creating a light and music show at those places. It is likely to have major exposure through television broadcasting in the UK.

The English Riviera Geopark has been specifically approached to propose a project that will bring an international dimension to 'Green Space, Dark Skies', from an established Geopark to an aspiring one, from one side of the world to another. International technology provider Siemens is supplying the technology for the project.

OTAGO REGIONAL SKILLS LEADERSHIP GROUP

The interim Otago Regional Skills Leadership Group (iRSLG), of which the EDM is Deputy Chair, had a focus last year on providing on-the-ground labour market intelligence to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and Ministers regarding the shifts in labour market dynamic as a result of COVID-19. It was one of the region's voices providing information on local collaborative solutions to issues such as the shortage of horticultural workers in Central Otago; lack of safety workers in Otago ski fields etc; and advocating to Government to allow seasonal migrant workers into the country.

Through the iRSLG, the EDM has commissioned Professor Natalie Jackson to undertake a demographic and labour force study of Otago, down to territorial authority (TA) and key industry level. The picture to be painted covers:

Demographic Overview

1. Size, growth rates, and projected growth (past and projected)
2. Components of change (contribution of migration and natural increase to pop change)
3. Net Migration by source (internal/international)
4. Net Migration by age
5. Age structure and functional age groups with focus on prime working age population, labour supply pool, ratios of labour market entrants and exits (past and projected)
6. Key demographic indicators from (items 1-5) for Otago region relative to other South Island regions (eg ranked in terms of net migration, labour supply pool, labour market ratios)
7. Movers and Stayers (where to, where from)

Labour Force (+ selected Industries/Occupations)

8. Change in labour force (LF) status (Full-Time, Part Time, Unemployed, Not in the LF) by age/sex
9. Industrial/occupational change (up to 3-digit level) and key indicators for Otago's largest industries/occupations
10. Change in employment (Full-Time, Part-Time) for selected industries/occupations
11. Change in age structures, average age, entry: exit ratios etc for selected industries/occupations
12. Employment by TA of location (as in items 8-11) versus TA of residence – any implications
13. Movers and Stayers by selected industry/occupation (where to, where from, by TA)

Supply/Demand (Labour Force and selected industries only)

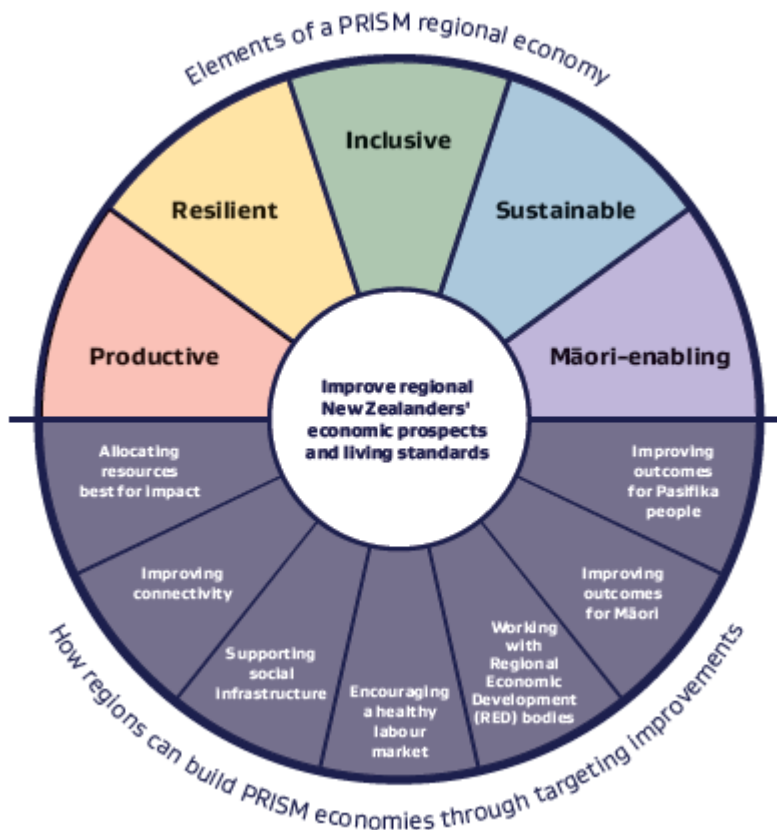
14. How does labour supply compare with employment demand at (eg) 0.5%, 1% and 1.5% increase per annum?

This study may show that the challenges for Otago extend beyond COVID-19 border-related worker shortages and are a factor of our ageing-driven demographics.

In September, the interim RSLGs will be replaced by permanent RSLGs. Whereas iRSLGs were very COVID-19 response-focused, the permanent groups will have a broader role and a longer-term focus on identifying and supporting better ways of meeting future skills and workforce needs in regions. Full membership will be announced by the Minister of Social Development and Employment, the Hon Carmel Sepuloni, shortly. The Co-Chairs for the Otago RSLG are Karen Coutts (Wellington-based independent Director, Moeraki representative to TRoNT) and Laura Black (Director, Methodist Mission Southern, Deputy Chair Otago Museum).

PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT BECOMES KĀNOA – ORED PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

The Provincial Development Unit of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has been renamed Kānoa – Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit. Its main purpose is to work with regional partners to identify possible projects for funding and help them to develop investment proposals. Rather than considering proposals from a wide range of individual projects, the fund will support those which the regions themselves believe will help them build a stronger economy. As such, Kānoa is working closely with the Otago Regional Economic Development (ORED) group to build the strategic partnership capability of the region to gather some consensus on what the region’s priorities are. ORED is organising a forum in September for regional stakeholders to discuss how such a consensus might be reached. Prior to this, a programme of relationship building with all Otago iwi is being undertaken, under the guidance of Jeanette Wikaira, Dunedin City Council’s Manahautū (General Manager, Māori, Partnerships and Policy).



Proposals will be assessed against the fund’s eligibility criteria and the five PRISM pillars – Productive, Resilient, Inclusive, Sustainable and Māori enabling. Regions do not need to focus on every PRISM element and opportunity area. They can use the framework to prioritise factors that are most important and relevant to them and identify how to achieve results.

To achieve these outcomes, Kānoa will administer the new Regional Strategic Partnership Fund (RSPF). The Regional Strategic Partnership Fund (RSPF) is a \$200 million fund to support regions to make steps towards achieving their potential, through partnering with regions to develop regionally-specific projects that support improved economic outcomes. Initially, it will allocate up to \$60 million for small-scale economic and business development projects; up to \$40 million to create productive whenua Māori assets and accelerate Māori economic aspirations; and up to \$80 million for company level investments in sectors already established in regions, improving their comparative and competitive advantages. Commercial projects will be supported through equity or loans. As a guideline, commercial and quasi-commercial projects will require 50% co-funding. Non-commercial projects will generally require 20% co-funding.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The communications team has had a busy year. Since July 2020, it has:

- Supplied a new Council website. Stage 1 has been completed with content migration presenting current functionality but with significant improvements to the design and to search functions. Council departments are being trained as website editors so that they can update relevant content faster. Stage 2 will see customers able to access more online forms and services via the website and to have better search functions.
- Produced over 250 individual pieces of design work (not including photography and video).
- Provided over 90 videos for Council meetings, projects updates, campaigns and consultations, community engagements and events.
- Run District Plan Review pre-engagement, Harbour Plan, Long Term Plan consultations and other community campaigns, eg waste minimisation and biodiversity promotion.
- Placed over 200 print advertisements for public notices, consultation, public engagement, and events.
- Provided event support for over 40 community- and Council-run events and public engagement sessions.
- Provided public Information Management support in two major Civil Defence Emergencies and aftermath recovery.
- Supplied ongoing community and business information relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recent work has included:

- Long Term Plan – finishing up the major consultation process by posting the finalised documents to the Council website. A post-campaign review with Council teams and the Communications Portfolio will be scheduled to identify any process improvements for future campaigns.
- District Plan Review – maintaining public awareness and interest via monthly newsletters while the review is paused.
- Freedom Camping Bylaw Review – consultation was launched at the start of July through print, social media, and radio channels. This consultation will close on 2 August.
- Plastic Free July campaign – running a month-long waste minimisation campaign featuring a community competition, media release, social media posts, advertisements in press and on radio. Local businesses have been invited to join the campaign. A finale event has been scheduled for 7 August.
- Communications and collateral for Waitaki Lakes camping season and Otematata Boat Harbour Zoning.
- Winter School Holiday Programme – brochure was designed, and activities were promoted.
- Nesting Gulls – updated, red-billed gull's brochure/media release/website details in consultation with Department of Conservation and Council's Regulatory team.
- Council Brand style guide – refreshed to match the new website.
- Review of communications channels – to ensure that the channels being used are cost-effective.

Work coming up soon includes:

- Conservation Awareness week – 4-12 September
- Te reo Māori staff induction brochure
- ‘Virtual Waitaki’ launch in August – a Support and Stimulus Fund (SSF) project to provide promotional collateral to Waitaki businesses
- Promoting our new Events page and calendar to the community and encouraging people to list their events on the Council website
- Design and promotional support for Waitaki Arts Festival and ‘Meet the Maker’
- Support for Sports and Events Centre community campaign
- Communications about the Labour Weekend liquor ban at Loch Laird
- Next phase of the website project – optimisation of online forms.

Sample outputs from the Communications Team are provided on the following pages.



Ōhau Fire

A fire raged toward Lake Ōhau village in the early hours of Sunday October 4, spreading fast into nearby conservation land, farms and mountainsides. After a heroic battle called 'the battle of the stumps', the residents evacuated quickly, taking only the clothes on their backs. Miraculously, given the intensity of the blaze, there was no loss of life.

At least 300 sheep and lambs were killed by the fire and fences destroyed. Homes outside the village were also destroyed or damaged.

By late afternoon on Sunday the fire was burning over 1600 hectares. By the time it was brought under control 7 days later it had destroyed 48 buildings and burnt through over 5000ha of the Mackenzie Basin. Fire crews from all around the South Island came to fight it, and 12 helicopters were involved.

A week later, residents were now beginning to return to what was left of their homes: sites where a concrete pad supported the charred remains of a stove, built bed frame, head pump, sofa, glass mirrors, satellite dish, chimney, water tanks, trailers and cars.

The smell of burning still hangs in the air, and throughout the village roofing metal and corrugated iron remains twisted and blowing in the wind. And in between... Reports untouched by that storm, highlighting the randomness of this event, Otago Principal Rural Fire Officer Graeme Hill said it was the worst fire in terms of property damage he had seen in his 40-year career.

The Barn At Kilin 882 owner Deayne Revine said the fire was "like a bomb had gone off".
"It was devastating... an absolute war zone".
An emotional Mr Revine described seeing metal twisted by the heat of the fire and cars that looked like they had had a Molotov cocktail thrown inside them.
There was so little left of some homes they were "unrecognisable", he said. Despite the "humors and hardships", he and co-owner Hugh Spence had been "unbelievably relieved" after finding Gladys the lamb and Coco the cat alive after "a mid-Zoo" onto their property with a fire engine driver.
"We drove through our property in fear, fighting desperately wanting to see the devastation to our home and land, but tried to just focus on the mission of rescuing our pets".
Gladys was found after bleating in response to 'Felix' calls, after which she quickly downed 2 litres of milk formula.

How you can help

If you'd like to donate to supporting those affected by the Ōhau Fires, the official bank account for the Ōhau Fire Mayoral Relief Fund for Waitaki is: **0204 222 4444**. Bank details: **0204 222 4444**. Bank details: **0204 222 4444**.

Waitaki District Council would like to thank the many people who have supported the relief fund. Thank you to the Red Cross who were at our headquarters to offer their psychological first aid. Thanks to all the people who came from far and wide to staff our Cool Down Emergency Centre and the FENZ Incident Management Team.

Finally and most importantly - enormous thanks to the crews at EMT and as our first fire responders by your incredible work.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

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Raffle tickets will be on sale until 21 October, available from Otago Opera House, Riverside Larder, Ross's General Store and Waitaki District Council. Many local businesses are also running their own fundraising initiatives - support them in any way you can.

ARTS ON TOUR NEW ZEALAND PRESENTS

HOPETOUN BROWN

and the Genius of Finn Scholes!

**FUNDRAISING CONCERT
ŌHAU FIRE MAYORAL RELIEF FUND**

TUES 20 OCT, 7.30pm OAMARU OPERA HOUSE

RAFFLE - EPIC PRIZES! LIGHT SUPPER

TICKETS \$25 (+FEE). oamaruoperahouse.co.nz

AVAILABLE FROM OAMARU OPERA HOUSE - 03 433 0770

creative www.aotiz.co.nz

ŌHAU RECOVERY

NEWSLETTER 20 - 29 JANUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER 14 - 22 OCTOBER 2020

Message from Mayor

Hi everyone,

Great! A new year and another emergency for Waitaki this time flooding. As has been mentioned in the previous newsletter, perhaps the next one may be a plague of locusts! By now most of you have received a copy and a follow-up letter regarding our decision on possible rates for the 2021 calendar. We have weighed up the different situations involved, and will continue to work on the final amount of raising the relief fund. If you think we made the wrong decision, please let us know as soon as possible. Another issue that has been raised has been the surveying of property boundaries for relief purposes. We have managed to get a representative group of people to survey the boundaries of their properties. We have also received feedback from the relief fund as well, and a lot of you have currently going through the council's process to claim from the Ōhau Relief Fund, or from Council's Disaster by other sources. There are some expenses that we can claim from both, and that may time before they are confirmed. However, we are currently going through the current process of you as soon as possible, to ensure that you are not left out of the relief fund. I am sorry my wife and I visited the village surrounding area on the 15th of June, and the changes that had occurred since.

Council news

Council this week visited a relief fund. It is a relief fund that has been established to help the public and to help the relief fund. It is a relief fund that has been established to help the public and to help the relief fund. It is a relief fund that has been established to help the public and to help the relief fund.

Waitaki **Emergency Management Waitaki**

Lake Ōhau Fire October 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some answers to questions you may have

This F&Q sheet is for residents and property owners affected by the Lake Ōhau Fires. While the information here was correct at time of publishing, it is subject to change without notice.

Note: Although this F&Q is designed to be helpful it is not a complete discussion for a solicitor or legal advice. It may not cover important issues that affect you. Depending on your situation, you may wish to contact us for further information or advice.

Q: Do I need to book an appointment to visit the Ōhau Village site?

A: No. You no longer need to make a booking to visit the site. Please bring your ID to the control point. Access hours for residents and property owners are between 10am and 3pm daily. If you're concerned about the site being closed due to adverse weather conditions you can email ohau@waitaki.govt.nz.

Q: Why do I need to have a safety briefing every time I visit the Ōhau Village site?

A: Due to the work ongoing on site, the site changes. For example large machinery used to demolish buildings being a safety risk. These briefings are needed to keep everyone as safe as possible when visiting or carrying out work at the village.

Please ensure you wear appropriate clothing and footwear if you are visiting your property in the fire zone either inside or outside the village, whether it has been damaged or not. We recommend dust masks, protective glasses and sensible footwear. There is a lot of ash and many hazards. At the throughout we have safety glasses and masks for those who would like them.

WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

ŌHAU VILLAGE Access Control Point

Waitaki **Emergency Management Waitaki**

Travel with a COVID kit

- ✓ sanitiser
- ✓ soap
- ✓ face covering

MAKE SUMMER UNSTOPPABLE

Ōhau Village Access Control Point

A vibrant blue poster for 'Oamaru's Friendly Bay Family Fun Day' presented by the Waitaki District Council & Harcourts. The event is on Saturday 13 March 2021 from 11 AM - 3 PM. It features live music, food stalls, and various activities for children like sand castles, inflatables, beach digging, and popi face art. A large pink flamingo is the central graphic. Logos for Breakthrough, Harcourts, and Waitaki are at the bottom.

A dark-themed poster for 'New Year's Eve Party at the Harbour' on Thursday 31 Dec 2020. The party starts from 6 PM onwards with live music, entertainment, and a kids zone. It is free for attendees. Logos for OTAGO, SCOTTS, and Waitaki are included.

A light green poster for the 'Mayoral Christmas Function' hosted by Mayor Gary and Mayress Sally Kincher. The event is on Tuesday Dec 15 from 5:30 - 7 PM at the Del Mar Restaurant. A circular logo at the bottom says 'Waitaki WE LAKE IT! (WE LAKE IT A LOT)' with an image of a lake and mountains.

A colorful poster for 'Waitaki Lakes Holiday Bike Trail' from Tuesday 5 to Sunday 17 January 2021. It features illustrations of people on bicycles and a pink ribbon. Logos for the Lakes, Waikato, and Waitaki are at the bottom.

A poster for 'Oamaru Little Bluey Bike Trail' running from Saturday 26 Sept to Sunday 11 Oct. It features the character Bluey on a bicycle. Logos for Waikato and Waitaki are at the bottom.

A central poster titled 'Here's what's happening...' listing various community events. Events include Harbour Street Collective Cafe, Oamaru Public Library, Oamaru Repertory Theatre, and others. Each event includes dates, times, and contact information.

A poster titled 'What to do in Oamaru Autumn School Holiday Entertainment Guide' for April 17 - May 2 2021. It lists various entertainment options for school holidays, including museums, galleries, and outdoor activities. Logos for Waitaki and other local organizations are at the bottom.

A poster for 'Change of Plan Waitaki District Plan Review'. It features a large 'Change of Plan' text and an illustration of a landscape with a bridge and buildings. The slogan 'Re-writing the rulebook for land use in Waitaki' is prominent.

A poster for 'Oamaru 2021 Dog Expo' at A&P Showgrounds on Saturday 23 Jan from 10 am - 2 pm. It features a dachshund wearing sunglasses and a hat.

A poster with the slogan 'IT WOULD BE A BIT RUFF'. It features a small dog's face and text that says 'IF YOU FORGOT TO REGISTER YOUR DOG BY 1st JULY'.

A poster with the slogan 'WE LIKE BIG MUTTS AND WE CAN NOT LIE'. It features a large dog's face and text that says '(REGISTER THEM BY 1st JULY)'.

A yellow and black poster for 'Road Safety Week' from 17-23 May. The slogan is 'ROAD TO ZERO ANY CRASH IS ONE TOO MANY'.



5 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter 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 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	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
<p>6.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 6 April 2021</p>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>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</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p> <p>s7(2)(j) - the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>

6 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION

7 RESOLUTION TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Committee resumes in open meeting and decisions made in public excluded session are confirmed and made public as and when required and considered.

8 RELEASE OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED INFORMATION

In accordance with Waitaki District Council Standing Orders, and pursuant to resolutions in the public excluded session of the meeting, any previously public excluded information that the Executive Committee decides to release will be included under this agenda item in the Public Minutes of this meeting.

9 MEETING CLOSE