

I hereby give notice that the Executive Committee Meeting

will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 24 May 2022

Time: 9.00am

Location: Council Chamber, Third Floor

Office of the Waitaki District Council

20 Thames Street, Oamaru

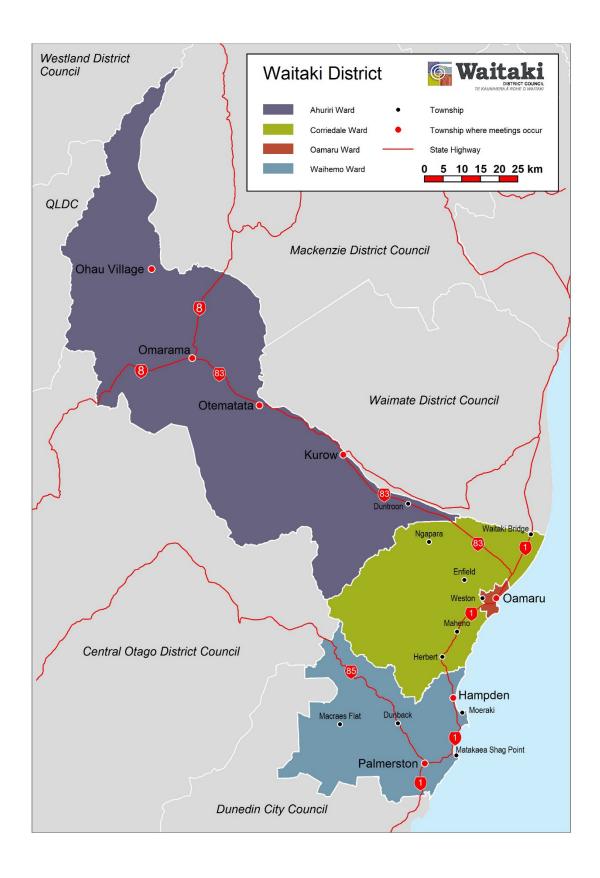
Agenda

Executive Committee Meeting 24 May 2022

Executive Committee Membership

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

Alex Parmley
Chief Executive







Attractive to new opportunities

Support local businesses

Foster a diverse and resilient economy

COMMONITY OUTCOME



Enable safe and healthy communities

Connected, inclusive communities

Promoting a greater voice for Waitaki

Celebration of our community identity

social and cultural QUALITY SERVICES

Robust core infrastructure and services

Community facilities and services we are proud of environment



Protecting our diverse landscapes and water bodies

Meeting environmental and climate change challenges

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Providing
highquality 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

Engagement with the community and partners Strategies, plans and partnerships

Long Term Plan and Annual Plan

Our service delivery approach

Monitoring and reporting on our progress



Agenda Items

1	Apologies		5
2	Declarations of Interest		
3	Confi	rmation of Previous Meeting Minutes	6
	3.1	Public Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 1 March 2022	6
4	Memo	orandum Reports	12
	4.1	Economic Development and Communications Update	12
5	Reso	lution to Exclude the Public	22
6	Publi	c Excluded Section	23
	6.1	Public Excluded Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 1 March 2022	23
7	Reso	lution to Return to the Public Meeting	23
8	Release of Public Excluded Information		23
9	Meeting Close		23

- 1 APOLOGIES
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

3.1 PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2022

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 1 March

2022

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Committee confirms the Public Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 1 March 2022, 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 AND VIA ZOOM VIDEO-CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY, 1 MARCH 2022 AT 9.00AM

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Kircher (Chair), Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale (Associate

Chair), Cr Bill Kingan, Cr Kelli Williams, and Cr Colin Wollstein

IN ATTENDANCE: Cr Jim Thomson

Alex Parmley (Chief Executive)

Ainslee Hooper (Governance and Policy Advisor) (except item 6.2)

IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS:

Melanie Jones (Business Attraction and Recovery Manager) (Public session

only)

MEETING OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.00am and welcomed everyone present.

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 15 NOVEMBER 2021

RESOLVED EC 2022/001

Moved: Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale

Seconded: Cr Colin Wollstein

That the Executive Committee confirms the Public Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2021, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

.CARRIED

4 MEMORANDUM REPORTS

4.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

The report, as circulated, sought to keep the Elected Members informed of economic development matters and activities within Council.

Business Attraction and Recovery Manager Melanie Jones summarised the report's highlights.

The Waitaki economy remains strong. However, volatility is coming through to financial markets. COVID is very dominant in the news and is starting to have a psychological impact on businesses especially hospitality where there are many cancellations (eg Alps2Ocean trail bookings are now delayed a year). Locally, there is some nervousness in the business community. Inflationary pressures are expected to continue, with the Ukraine situation pushing up prices, and food inflation adding to pressure on residents' income. Labour and skill shortages are even more of an issue now, with growing absenteeism across all sectors. Employee poaching is happening between businesses because of staff shortages. The minimum wage increase scheduled for the end of April will push prices up. The business survey has just been completed, and the results will be available around the middle of March.

More positively, unemployment is down. Waitaki's employment has grown, led by construction, retail, and health sectors. Job seeker numbers are high. The Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs initiative has employed 56 young people since it started, which is ahead of target. Dairy is very robust in the agriculture sector; the farm gate milk price has increased rapidly. As a result, farmers will be looking more profitable than last year, with \$65M forecasted to come into the economy, although that will be tempered by increased inflation prices and feed prices. Farmers are paying down debt and putting more into environmental issues.

The construction sector is very buoyant, with 30 new building consents in the December quarter. There are challenges finding builders, and timber supplies.

The housing market is expected to slow this year on the back of new bank lending legislation and inflationary pressures on households. House prices grew, but locally they are a little behind the average. Non-residential building consents are down. Some concerns around earthquake strengthening could be putting off investment in our older buildings.

Overall, spending is up and was very strong in December, pushed up by fuel prices.

Marketview data to the end of January shows a significant decline in the food and beverage sector; people are staying at home, there are fewer visitors, and prices are up.

The Neat Places campaign had recently finished. A review had identified that there had not been a great amount of traction from the campaign, but it was noted that during December and January, businesses were under the pump and short-staffed. Nevertheless, feedback on the campaign has been very good. The collaboration was helpful in raising business profiles, and 90% of those who responded said they would be prepared to contribute again. It is the first time an initiative of this nature has been implemented. Repeating the initiative is on hold until the Economic Development Strategy is available.

Regarding the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF), timing is under pressure because of supply and contractor shortages. MBIE has confirmed that funding will be carried over until the end of the year.

The Economic Development Strategy will provide a framework for the Destination Management Plan

The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark team is focused on engaging with the community. Activities have included planting days, working with the information centre to place more signage; and a beach clean-up at Kakanui. The team is also investigating opportunities to do more virtual education.

Congratulations were extended to the Geopark team for the work they have been doing in communities and with schools.

Regarding the Waitaki Destination Management consultation, it was noted that no submissions had been received and queried whether that was a good or bad sign. Ms Jones advised that the people she had been talking to had liked the plan and felt that they did not need to submit on it. Additional comments from elected members included that the plan was high level and provided great guidelines. The Governance Group had considered some other feedback at its meeting the previous day, including the principles around biodiversity.

Regarding the Communications team update, Ms Jones highlighted the incredibly busy workload since the beginning of the year. The team was also working closely with internal units within Council to find out what could be done to improve the service provided to the community from a communications perspective. In the months ahead, there was considerable work to do around the Annual Plan and local elections.

RESOLVED EC 2022/002

Moved: Cr Bill Kingan Seconded: Cr Kelli Williams

That the Executive Committee receives and notes the information.

CARRIED

The Chair thanked Mrs Jones for her report and noted that it will be important to have the economic development strategy in place to drive future work on economic development.

5 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED EC 2022/003

Moved: Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale

Seconded: Cr Kelli Williams

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
6.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2021	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural 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	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

	(including commercial and industrial negotiations)	
6.2 - Chief Executive Interim Performance Review PE	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural 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)	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

CARRIED

6 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION

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

7 RESOLUTION TO RETURN TO THE PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLVED EC 2022/006

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 agreed to release the following previously public excluded information under this agenda item in the Public Minutes of this meeting.

PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2021

RESOLVED EC 2022/004

Moved: Cr Colin Wollstein

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale

That the Executive Committee confirms the Public Excluded Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2021, as circulated, as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

9 MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed, at 9.55am.

TO BE CONFIRMED at the Executive Committee Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 24 May 2022.

CHAIRPERSON

4 MEMORANDUM REPORTS

4.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Author: Melanie Jones, Business Attraction and Recovery Manager

Authoriser: Alex Parmley, Chief Executive

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Committee receives and notes the information.

PURPOSE

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Project Update

The purpose of the Waitaki Economic Development Strategy review (the review) is to develop a clear and focused Economic Development Strategy (including the tourism sector) that is evidence-based and has the engagement and support of stakeholders. There are two key outcomes:

- 1. To produce an easily understood, evidence-based Economic Development Strategy (including tourism) for the district (ie not just a Council strategy), developed in partnership with stakeholders.
- 2. To identify and recommend fit-for-purpose and optimised arrangements to deliver the strategy that make the most effective and efficient use of the resources available.

Project Status

The final draft of the Waitaki Economic Development strategy is complete and will be presented to Council on 7 June for adoption prior to engagement with key businesses and stakeholders.

Project Timeline overview

Polis Consulting Group appointed	8 December 2021
Stakeholder Engagement – Qualitative research	9 February – 18 February 2022
Initiative Prioritisation workshop	15 February 2022
Council workshop 1 on general direction	22 February 2022
Council workshop 2 on draft strategy & action plan	29 March 2022
Quantitative analysis including GDP Wellbeing Modelling	April 2022
Council workshop 3 on draft delivery arrangements *	19 April 2022
Council workshop 3 on draft, implementation priorities, governance, and organisation implications	3 May 2022
Final draft Economic Development strategy adoption	7 June 2022
Receipt of Final delivery arrangements report and support materials	By end June 2022
Business and key Partner engagement	Post 7 June 2022

^{*}Workshop 3 delayed due to COVID 19 impacting across Polis team

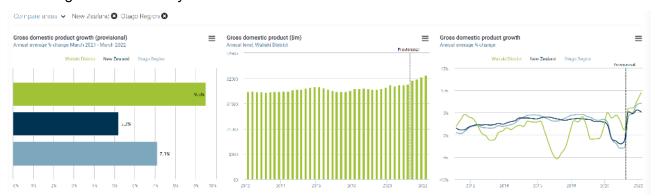
WAITAKI DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

The Waitaki Economic Development strategy provides the context and framework for the Waitaki Destination Management Plan. Stafford Consulting has been appointed by Tourism Waitaki to develop the Plan following approval of the draft Waitaki Destination Management strategy in January 2021. Work is due to be completed by the end of May 2022 and will include recommendations on new product development opportunities to enhance the visitor experience in the district.

WAITAKI ECONOMIC SITUATION AND OUTLOOK OVERVIEW

Waitaki's economy grew by a strong 9.5% in the year to March 2022 according to Infometrics provisional GDP estimates well ahead of the national rate (+5.2%) and Otago Region (+7.1%). This strong result was driven by comparison with a weak March 2021 year and strong underlying growth driven by the primary sector and the flow on effect to manufacturing, engineering, and other supporting services.

Waitaki's GDP in the March 2022 quarter was 8.2% higher than the March 2021 quarter – among the strongest in the country.



The dairy sector continues to be robust with high global dairy prices boosting the dairy payout to an estimated \$9.30/KgMS. Waitaki dairy farmer revenues are expected to increase by \$64 million for the 2021/2 season to \$401 million. However, this increase will be offset by rising input costs – particularly feed, fuel, and fertilizer. Nationally the total dairy pay-out is expected to be up by over \$2.8 billion (19%) from last season.

While GDP growth has been strong, key challenges are impacting both business and consumer confidence. Cost of living is the greatest concern for households with inflation hitting a 30 year high of 6.9% in March 2022. Food and fuel prices have soared, and higher interest rates are adding cost pressures to household budgets.

Border restrictions have made it difficult for businesses to find workers and materials. Global challenges have led to supply chain disruptions, increased shipping costs and reduced stock availability. The outlook remains volatile, and costs are rising across sectors.

Waitaki's population growth has been flat over the past year and growth nationally is projected to remain muted. With borders opening, younger talent is likely to seek overseas experiences and lower living costs while entry requirements for migrant workers have been tightened.

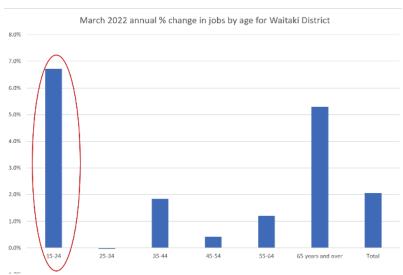
Unemployment is at a record low, but across the country there is intense pressure to find and retain skilled workers. Poaching amongst businesses is on the rise and wage increases accelerating. High levels of absenteeism due to COVID19 and Omicron illness have exacerbated staff shortages.

Employment

Employment of Waitaki residents was up 2.0% over the year to March 2022, led by construction, manufacturing, and health with an average of 10,553 people employed. The average unemployment rate in Waitaki was 2.8% in March 2022 (compared to 3.4% nationally) down from 4.4% 12 months

earlier. The number of Jobseeker recipients decreased by 5.6% supported by the tight labour market. An average of 646 people received a Jobseeker Support benefit in the 12 months to March 2022.

Providing career pathways for young people will be important if the aim is to retain them in the district. This is a key goal of the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs initiative. Latest StatsNZ data provides encouraging results for the positive impact of this programme, showing a 7% (+107) increase in jobs year on year in the 15–24-year-old age group in Waitaki. ~60 young people have been employed through this initiative.



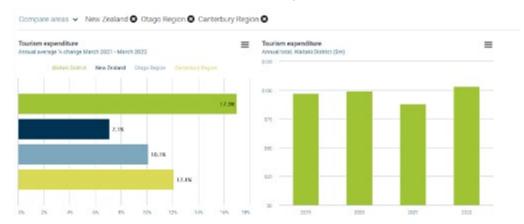
StatsNZ March Employment data

Consumer spending

Waitaki consumer spending grew by 7.8% in the year to March 2022, only slightly ahead of consumer price inflation of 6.9% suggesting that retail sale volumes are broadly steady. Spend nationally increased by 6.1%.

Visitor economy

Tourism expenditure in Waitaki increased more dramatically, up 17.0% from \$88 million to \$103 million for the year to March 2022 on the back of increased domestic travellers. Waitaki grew 8% in the March 2022 quarter versus a 6% decline nationally in the same period.



Waitaki has benefitted from significant investment by Tourism New Zealand in their autumn promotional campaign. Clay Cliffs and Ōmārama Hot Tubs have been profiled in the TV campaign and a number of local businesses have been featured in the social media campaign run in conjunction with Neatplaces. The campaign is ensuring Waitaki is top of mind for New Zealanders as a great place to visit.

Anecdotally, local businesses are reporting increased visitation from neighbouring districts for shopping trips and girls' weekend breaks. Recent retail refurbishments and location shifts (Design Federation, Inc Design, Mrs Hyde) are supporting renewed vibrancy in the Ōamaru CBD.



Housing

Waitaki's house sales volumes have fallen sharply (-14.8%) in the year to March 2022 compared with -9.3% nationally. House value growth has started to slow down, with 15.8% growth in Waitaki between March 2021 and March 2022 which is lower than in New Zealand (17.7%). The district's average house value was \$489,476 this quarter compared to \$1,035,216 in New Zealand and \$958,466 in Otago Region.

Construction

Rising house values have spurred on construction, with residential building consents increasing 51.9% over the past year. 36 dwellings were consented this quarter compared to 29 in the same quarter last year. Residential construction costs have increased ~16% over the last year and with on-going labour and material shortages, Developers' risk not being able to sell for the costs they need to cover.

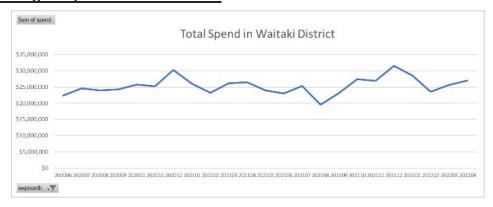
Non residential

Non-residential building consents to the value of \$17.9 million were issued in Waitaki over the year to March 2022 (-28.1% year on year). Consents are now sitting just below the district's long-term average of \$20 million. Nationally, consents grew by 13.6% over the same period with most build types showing strong growth, except for hotel consents.

Commercial vehicle registrations

The number of commercial vehicles registered in the Waitaki District increased by 37.9% in the year to March 2022 (compared to 35.3% nationally). Purchasing decisions are being brought forward ahead of new fees on higher emitting vehicles.

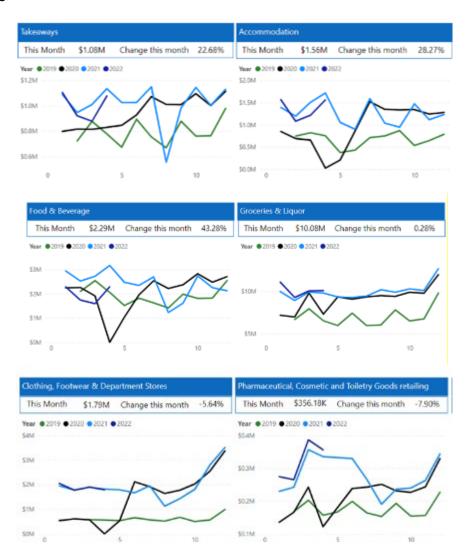
Consumer Spending to April 2022- Marketview



Electronic card consumer spending in the Waitaki district, as measured by Marketview, increased by 5.3%% in April 2022 versus March 2022 to \$26.9 million. \$16.9 million of the total spend was from Waitaki locals. Encouragingly, spend from the North Island and International visitors showed strong month on month increases albeit from a low base (International spend was up 51% and Auckland + 46.5%). The strongest growth month on month was in the Food & Beverage and Accommodation sectors (+43.3% and +28.3% respectively) reflective of the increase in tourism spend.

Groceries & Liquor and Fuel & Automotive were the highest spend sectors at \$16.23 million accounting for 60% of total spend. Spend on Fuel & Automotive has increased by 23% vs April 2021 reflecting the high price of petrol. Food costs are estimated to have increased 6.8% over the last year.

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.





EVENTS ECONOMY

Tourism Waitaki (TW) has received \$183,000 funding from the Government's Regional Events Fund to drive out-of-region visitation and economic benefit. The Events Advisory Board received four applications in the first round; one was successful, one was declined and two were withdrawn. The Board has acknowledged the hard work done by volunteers to organise events and the contribution they make to the district's identity and the local economy. However, applications received had a lack of planning documentation (budgets, Health & Safety, marketing plans etc) impacting their ability to receive funding. The Board is now planning to hold a workshop - possibly early August - to upskill event planners, help grow their event and increase organisers' ability to benefit when the next round of funding is released.

The successful applicant proposed a two-day, farmer run, South Island Dairy Event (SIDE). This will take place on 8 and 9 June at the Ōamaru Opera House and will bring the farming community together for networking, workshops and thought stimulation through industry experts.

WAITAKI WHITESTONE GEOPARK

A UNESCO evaluation mission is scheduled for the beginning of July 2022 and is an important part of the Trust's aim to become New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark. The visit will formally begin with an opening ceremony and Pōwhiri at Te Rūnaka o Moeraki marae.

Work continues to build towards long term financial sustainability. In May, OceanaGold renewed its sponsorship with a two-year, \$40,000 agreement which will primarily support community engagement and ongoing education by Sasha Morriss, the Geopark's geologist and educator.

Work continues in the community. In collaboration with the team at the Forrester Gallery, the Geopark has developed online and in-person education programmes for local schools linked to *Earth: caught in stone* exhibition currently showing. The Lion Foundation has also funded transport costs for schools attending the education programme.

The Geopark public talk series has continued virtually due to high COVID-19 cases in the community. In March, virtual geosite tours were offered using Virtual Waitaki's platform and virtual tours. The public talk series will return to the street from June. Another Beach Clean Up for World Ocean Day is also being organised for June.



Waitaki Girls Students visiting the Earth: caught in stone exhibition: OceanaGold renewing its sponsorship.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM UPDATE

The communications team continues to ensure residents, ratepayers and businesses are kept informed about local and national issues and activities impacting the community.

Recent work includes:

Consultation projects

- Forrester Heights Consultation and public engagement support, including consultation document design, advertorial design, filming vox pops, engagement stall at the Farmers Market.
- Annual Plan consultation support, including consultation document design, advertising, media releases.
- Design of collateral and video production for the District Plan Review.
- Spatial Plan summary document.

National campaigns

• Election Vote 22 campaign - photography, video, and design for votelocal.co.nz 'What do you stand for' campaign to encourage candidates to stand for LG elections.

Local and Community campaigns

- Anzac Day event support, promotion, video, and live streaming
- Support for live streaming of Council Meetings
- Autumn School Holiday entertainment guide
- Design and promotion for Council venues 'Welcome back' campaign
- General communication on Council services and activities including newsletters, roading projects, promotion of library and community events and grants (heritage and biodiversity fund).
- Support for the Alps 2 Ocean (A2O) website, social media promotion.
- Otago Gets Ready support emergency messaging alerts campaign.

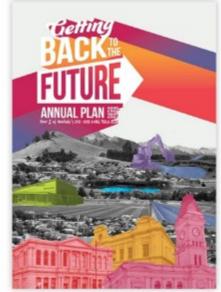
Future work will include:

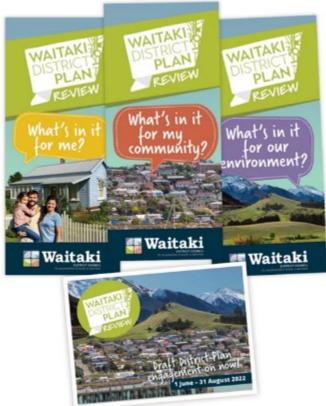
- Work on the Pre-election report and Election communication campaign
- Annual Plan document design
- Draft District Plan public engagement
- Waste minimisation promotion

Council's Communications Specialist, Lisa Scott, left the team on 12 May and interviews for the successor will take place later in the month. A new team member provides the opportunity to ensure the team are well resourced to support today's communication and technology needs.

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









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
6.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 1 March 2022	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural 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)	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

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