



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

South Island Portfolio - Fortnightly Report

Fortnight ending:	21 July 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	REQ-0016556
Recipient		Action sought	
Hon James Meager Minister for the South Island		Note the contents of this report.	

Ministers' and Ministers' office comments

1. Portfolio Update

1.1 Portfolio priorities Cory Hagenaars, South Island Lead Advisor, Strategy, Planning and Performance, Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit (Kānoa)	Government Releases the Quarter Three Action Plan The Government has released its Quarter Three Action Plan (1 July – 30 September 2025), outlining 28 priority actions aimed at rebuilding the economy, easing the cost of living, and improving public services. Several of these initiatives present opportunities for the South Island and align with your South Island portfolio priorities. You may wish to initiate targeted engagement with relevant portfolio Ministers and regional stakeholders to ensure the South Island is well-positioned to benefit from these national initiatives. Key actions that will support priorities across the South Island include: • <i>Repealing the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration</i> which may unlock new investment in the South Island, supporting energy sector growth and regional gross domestic product. New Zealand has 18 sedimentary basins, 10 of which are in the South Island. Notably, the Canterbury Basin (approximately 360,000 km²) and the Great South Basin (around 130,000 km²) are among the largest and most geologically promising. These basins have been extensively studied and are now open to exploration following recent regulatory changes. This policy shift is expected to attract new exploration activity, stimulate regional development, and enhance energy security, particularly in regions such as Canterbury, Otago and Southland. • <i>Ratifying the New Zealand – United Arab Emirates (UAE) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement</i>, which will improve market access for key South Island exports such as dairy, meat, and horticulture. Based on information from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the UAE is one of New Zealand’s largest export markets in the Middle East, with goods and services exports totalling NZ\$1.15 billion in the year to September 2024. New Zealand’s key exports to the UAE include dairy, industrial products, meat, horticultural products and travel services. • <i>Launching a one-off Major Events Fund to boost international visitor growth</i>. While no specifics of the fund have been disclosed yet, we will provide further updates once decisions have been announced. The fund will have a national focus and could support tourism recovery and growth in South Island regions. • <i>Passing the Public Works (Critical Infrastructure) Amendment Bill to streamline land acquisition for major infrastructure projects</i>. This Bill streamlines land acquisition for major infrastructure projects by replacing court objections with a faster written submission process and offering financial incentives to landowners. It supports projects listed under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 and the Roads of National Significance programme, ensuring that once a project is approved, land can be secured more efficiently. For the South Island, this means quicker progress on key developments like transport upgrades and energy infrastructure, particularly in regions like Canterbury, Otago, and Southland, where there are major projects underway in these areas. Although the bill may reduce delays and boost local economies, it also limits legal recourse for landowners (though protected Māori land remains exempt from the accelerated process). • <i>Implementing the largest-ever annual funding increase for General Practitioner (GP) clinics as part of the Primary Care Action Plan</i>, which will improve access to primary care in South Island regions. As reported in the Otago Daily Times, parts of the South Island, including Canterbury and Southland, are among the most affected by GP shortages. Many clinics are turning away new patients due to staff shortages
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and high demand. For example, Gore Health Centre has been operating a waitlist since October 2024, with doctors managing up to 1,500 patients each and unable to take on more without risking burnout.

- *Opening the expression of interest for 120 nurse practitioner training places.* Nurse practitioners are a fast-growing workforce, with 859 registered as of December 2024, and over one-third working in primary health care. They can diagnose, prescribe, and manage complex care, complementing the work of GPs and often acting as lead carers. The training support includes funding for course fees, clinical supervision, study time, mentoring, and employer backfill costs. In conjunction with the increase in funding to GP clinics, this initiative is expected to also shorten wait times, improve access to care, and strengthen primary and community health services across New Zealand, including in South Island regions.

Backing Innovation to Grow South Island Aquaculture Exports

On 10 July 2025, Hon Todd McClay, Minister of/for Agriculture, and Trade and Investment, announced a \$0.45 million investment through the Primary Sector Growth Fund to support the development of specialised feed for New Zealand's King salmon, a move expected to significantly benefit South Island aquaculture exports.

The funding supports a \$1.20 million project, led by global aquafeed company Skretting, which will design feed tailored specifically for New Zealand's King salmon. This innovation is critical for the success of open ocean farming, where feed is the largest operational cost. By optimising feed for New Zealand's unique marine conditions, the initiative aims to reduce costs, improve sustainability, and boost farmgate returns.

The announcement aligns with the final resource consent for Blue Endeavour, New Zealand's first open ocean salmon farm, located off the Marlborough Sounds. Once operational, Blue Endeavour is expected to produce 10,000 tonnes of salmon annually, generating up to \$300.00 million in export revenue.

With 100 per cent of New Zealand's commercial salmon farming located in the South Island, the impact of this investment will be felt most strongly in regions such as:

- Marlborough Sounds, which accounts for 47 per cent of national production
- Southland, including Big Glory Bay and Stewart Island, contributing 32 per cent
- Canterbury, including Akaroa and the Mackenzie hydro canals, producing 21 per cent.

This investment directly supports regional producers and strengthens the South Island's role in high-value, low-impact food production. It also complements the launch of Invest New Zealand, which aims to attract global innovators to invest and grow in Aotearoa. This initiative represents a practical step toward doubling the value of New Zealand's exports over the next decade, backing science and technology to lift productivity and global competitiveness in the aquaculture sector. New Zealand salmon exports increased past \$200.00 million in 2024, with Salmon exports surging 20 per cent from the previous year. This was driven by strong demand for chilled and frozen products in key markets like the United States of America, and China.

Source: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/backing-innovation-grow-king-salmon-exports>

Investing in resilient, reliable infrastructure

On 3 July 2025, Hon Shane Jones, Minister for Regional Development, and Hon Mark Patterson, Associate Minister for Regional Development, announced more than \$56.00 million in funding through the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) to support three water resilience projects in rural Canterbury. The funding is aimed at improving long-term water security, supporting high-value land use, and enhancing climate resilience.

The projects include:

- Opuha Dam and Irrigation Scheme – Up to \$20.80 million for infrastructure upgrades to improve flood management, water quality, and seismic resilience.
- Balmoral Water Storage Facility (Amuri) – Up to \$20.00 million to construct a 10 million cubic metre storage pond for an existing irrigation scheme.
- Waimakariri Irrigation Scheme – Up to \$15.60 million to develop a large-scale water storage facility to improve year-round reliability.

These projects are expected to deliver regional economic benefits, strengthen climate resilience, and serve as models for sustainable rural infrastructure. Importantly, they will provide long-term benefits to the agriculture sector by enabling more reliable irrigation, supporting land use diversification, and improving productivity across a range of farming systems.

Source: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/water-resilience-boost-rural-canterbury>

Selwyn Sets Benchmark for Local Water Delivery

On 8 July 2025, Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Local Government, announced that Selwyn District has become the first council in New Zealand to launch its new water services entity, Selwyn Water, under the Coalition Government's Local Water Done Well policy. The policy aims to empower councils to deliver safe, affordable, and locally managed water services through transparent governance, community accountability, and scalable infrastructure solutions.

Selwyn District Council is the first to have its Water Services Delivery Plan approved by the Secretary for Local Government, Paul James, and to establish a water services council-controlled organisation (CCO). This plan ensures the delivery of safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water and wastewater services that meet health, quality, and environmental standards.

The Commerce Commission will monitor Selwyn Water's performance, particularly in managing projected price increases and ensuring capital investment targets are met. The entity is also expected to maintain fair infrastructure charges to support sustainable growth.

Future partnership opportunities with neighbouring councils are a core consideration in Selwyn District Council's plan. These partnerships have the potential to deliver greater efficiencies, standardisation, and lower costs for consumers. Selwyn Water's constitution allows for expansion, enabling other councils to join and benefit from a regional water services CCO.

Recent population data released by Stats NZ confirms that Selwyn District remains the fastest-growing district in the country, with a 3.9 per cent increase in population in the 12 months to 30 June 2024 (3,200 new residents). Between 2018 and 2023, the District's population grew by 29 per cent, driven by urban expansion in Rolleston, Lincoln, and Prebbleton. This sustained growth highlights the critical importance of scalable and sustainable infrastructure, particularly in water services, to support community needs and future development.

	The establishment of Selwyn Water provides a scalable model for delivering compliant, affordable, and future-ready water services. It also lays the groundwork for regional collaboration and sets a precedent for reform under the Local Water Done Well framework.
1.2 General updates Cory Hagenaars, South Island Lead Advisor	South Island RIF Project List Following recent announcements by Hon Shane Jones, Minister for Regional Development, and Hon Mark Patterson, Associate Minister for Regional Development, total announced funding through the RIF for South Island projects has reached \$151.10 million as of July 2025. This investment supports a wide range of infrastructure initiatives aimed at enhancing regional resilience, productivity, and long-term growth. Projects span multiple sectors and locations across the South Island, with full details provided in Annex One – RIF Project List July 2025. Temporary Accommodation Service Activation – Top of the South Island The Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS) has been activated in response to recent displacement events affecting communities in the Top of the South Island. This activation follows localised flooding and infrastructure damage that has rendered a number of homes uninhabitable across parts of Nelson, Tasman, and Marlborough. TAS is now working with affected households to assess needs and provide interim housing solutions. This includes: • Coordinating short-term accommodation placements. • Supporting property owners with repairs and insurance navigation. • Liaising with local councils and Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups to ensure a coordinated response. TAS is a government-led service managed by MBIE. It is activated following emergencies where people are displaced from their homes and require temporary housing. TAS does not provide emergency shelter during the initial response phase (which is led by Civil Defence), but steps in once immediate safety needs are met and medium-term housing support is required. Key functions of TAS include: • Assessing housing needs and matching displaced residents with suitable temporary accommodation. • Facilitating access to rental properties, motels, or modular housing units. • Supporting recovery planning and transition back to permanent housing. • Working alongside insurers, local authorities, and welfare agencies. TAS operates under the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan and is typically activated following significant weather events, earthquakes, or other natural disasters. Households affected by the Tasman and Nelson severe weather who have a current, or expected future need for temporary accommodation, are encouraged to register via the TAS website: www.tas.mbie.govt.nz or email: TemporaryAccommServ@mbie.govt.nz or phone 0508 754 163. Source: https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/accommodation-support-tasman-and-nelson

1.3 Major events Kylie Hawker-Green, Manager Major Events, Economic Development & Tourism	Commercial Information [Redacted] Christchurch Supercars Round 2026 – date confirmation In May 2025, the Government confirmed a \$6.90 million Major Event Fund investment to support Supercars Championship rounds in Taupō and Christchurch from 2026 to 2028. The Christchurch event is also supported by ChristchurchNZ (cash and in-kind). On 25 June 2025, Supercars announced New Zealand dates for the 2026 events. The Christchurch event at Ruapuna Motorsport Park will be delivered 17 - 19 April 2026, following the Taupō event the preceding weekend 10 - 12 April 2026. Public sentiment has been largely positive, with strong support for the event in the South Island. Commercial Information [Redacted] Supercars is working with key stakeholders to ensure regional distinction and to maximise tourism impact. Major Events officials will continue to provide your office with updates on this event. Commercial Information [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]
1.4 Key messages/statistics and figures Privacy of natural persons Lead Domain Analyst, Data Service Delivery, Data, Insights and Intelligence, Corporate and Digital Shared Services	Tourism sector update MBIE has released the May 2025 data for the Tourism sector on accommodation, electronic card transactions, and international travel. The following are the key highlights of these releases for the South Island Accommodation Data Programme • In the year ending May 2025, there were 16.5 million guest nights in the South Island, down 1.3 per cent from last year. This represents 42 per cent of total guest nights in New Zealand, which is consistent with last year. • Otago had the most guest nights (6.2 million) in the South Island, though this is a decrease of 1.2 per cent from last year. • Canterbury is the only region to record an increase (up 0.4 per cent) to 5.7 million guest nights from last year. Source: https://teic.mbie.govt.nz/teiccategories/datareleases/adp/ Tourism Electronic Card Transactions

	• In the year ending May 2025, domestic visitors spent \$3.40 billion in the South Island, down 4.6 per cent when compared to the same period last year. On the other hand, international visitors spent \$1.60 billion in the South Island, up 4.5 per cent from last year. • Only West Coast experienced a rise in domestic visitor spending in the year ending May 2025, up 2.0 per cent from last year. • Southland had the biggest increase in international visitor spending for the year ending May 2025, up 9.0 per cent from last year. Source: https://teic.mbie.govt.nz/teiccategories/datareleases/tects/ Note: This is an interim replacement for the Monthly Regional Tourism Estimates (MRTes, 2016 to 2020 series). International Travel • In the year ending May 2025, 879,500 international visitors arrived in the South Island, an increase of 13.0 per cent from last year. • More than half (51.0 per cent) of those visitors arrived in the Christchurch airport, which is consistent with last year. Source: https://teic.mbie.govt.nz/teiccategories/datareleases/it/
1.5 Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) Paul Barker Partnerships Director, Local Government, Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua	Otago Central Lakes City - Regional Deal Earlier this month the Government announced it had entered into memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with three regions - Auckland, Western Bay of Plenty, and Otago Central Lakes. The councils involved with the Otago Central Lakes MOU include Queenstown Lakes District Council, Central Otago District Council and Otago Regional Council. The intention is to agree the first deal by the end of 2025, with a further two deals expected in 2026. Negotiations [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] DIA have also provided an overview for the South Island councils and status of their water services delivery plans, see Annex Two.

2. Hon. James Meager - Upcoming Ministerial Items – Minister for the South Island

2.1 Upcoming Meetings, Events and Ministerial Visits

Event details	Event	Event Details
23/07/2025	Meeting with senior representatives from the nine South Island iwi (Online meeting)	You will be meeting with senior representatives from nine South Island iwi via Zoom. This meeting provides an opportunity for you to engage with iwi leaders to discuss your South Island portfolio and vision for the role, opportunities to engage with iwi to achieve shared aspirations, and the 'Together Te Taihu' partnership agreement between councils and iwi of the Te Taihu (top of the South Island) region. A briefing has been provided to your office (briefing REQ-0016214 refers).
23/07/2025	Meeting with representatives from Arable Food Industry Council and Foundation for Arable Research (Parliament, Wellington)	You will be meeting with representatives of the Arable Food Industry Council and Foundation for Arable Research in your office. You will be discussing the New Zealand Grown Grains initiative, which aims to enhance consumer awareness and industry uptake of New Zealand grown grains. The purpose of this meeting is to engage with key stakeholders in the South Island grain sector, understand the strategic goals of the certification trademark, and hear their perspective on the current challenges and opportunities in the industry. A briefing is being prepared for you.
24/07/2025	Meeting with the Mayors of the Southland Mayoral Forum (Parliament, Wellington)	You will be meeting with the Regional Council Chair of Environment Southland, the Mayor of Southland, the Mayor of Gore who is also the representative for Local Government New Zealand Zone at Parliament in G.011. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss projects significant to your portfolio priorities for Southland. You will be discussing current projects underway in Southland and the proposed merger of Southland councils. A briefing has been provided to your office (briefing REQ-0016726 refers).
31/07/2025	Meeting with representatives from Tourism Industry Aotearoa (Parliament, Wellington)	You will be meeting with representatives from Tourism Industry Aotearoa in your office.

		This meeting is an introductory meeting to discuss tourism topics around your portfolio. Key topics include Tourism 2050: a <i>blueprint for impact</i>, Tourism growth roadmap, Milford opportunities project, aviation connectivity and conservation reform. A briefing is being prepared for you.
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2.2 Upcoming Briefings and Aides Memoire

Due to MO	Tracking Number	Product
22/07/2025	REQ-0017771	Meeting with representatives from Arable Food Industry Council and Foundation for Arable Research, 23 July 2025
28/07/2025	REQ-0017164	Meeting with representatives from Tourism Industry Aotearoa, 31 July 2025
07/08/2025	REQ-0017173	Comments on the Draft National Infrastructure Plan

2.3 Ministerial correspondence received

New items are indicated in **red**.

Due date	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request
07/08/2025	JMITC-3	Hon Chris Bishop (Minister for Transport)	Writes asking for feedback on the Draft National Infrastructure Plan.

2.4 Official Information Act requests received

There are no new Official information Act requests.

2.5 Meeting advice requested

There are no outstanding Meeting advice requests.

Annex One – South Island RIF Project List July 2025

Region	Title	Project Description	Approved Funding	Announced Date
Canterbury	Environment Canterbury - Rangitata Flood and Resilience #2	To increase flood resilience in Rangitata including investigations, land purchasing, stopbanks, rock, planting, wetlands, diversions and river works.	\$1.8 m	May-24
Canterbury	Environment Canterbury - Structure Upgrades / Adaptation Works	To upgrade and adapt critical and aged flood protection infrastructure including investigations, monitoring, capital upgrades and fish passage enhancements across Kaiapoi, Ashley/Rakahuri, Waimakariri, Ashburton, Orari, Saltwater creek, and Waimate.	\$1.5 m	May-24
Canterbury	Environment Canterbury - Waitarakao / Washdyke / Seadown Works	To upgrade the stopbank and drainage network, including investigations, consenting, drain relocation and retreat, stopbank rebuild, wetland creation and enhancement, and planting which will protect the Timaru waste water treatment plant, large industrial area, roading infrastructure and private land.	\$2.4 m	May-24
Canterbury	Opuha Dam and Irrigation Scheme	To upgrade the Opuha Dam and irrigation scheme to ensure the longevity of this crucial asset for South Canterbury.	\$20.8 m	Jul-25
Canterbury	The Balmoral Water Storage Facility	To construct a new 10Mm3 water storage facility, upgrade the existing fish screen and race modifications.	\$20.0 m	Jul-25
Canterbury	Waimakariri Irrigation Scheme Upgrade	To construct two water storage ponds, with a combined capacity of 8.2 million cubic metres, to store excess water diverted from the Waimakariri River during high flow or low scheme demand.	\$15.6 m	Jul-25
Otago	Otago Regional Council - West Taieri Resilience Upgrade	To complete reconstruction for the remaining length of the floodbank, including associated asset renewals, up to three bridges, and further improvements to work completed previously on Stages 1-4 of the Contour Channel, protecting 7300 hectares of farmland and the Dunedin Airport.	\$5.4 m	May-24
Otago	Southern Link Logistics Park Mosgiel - Stage 1	To construct stage one of the Southern Link Logistics Park which is a 40 hectare site including warehousing and container facilities.	\$8.2 m	May-25
Southland	Environment Southland - Aparima Catchment Flood Protection Upgrade	To improve resilience of the current assets protecting the Otautau community, returning to design standard, improving the flood plain capacity and hydraulic efficiency of the river system.	\$0.3 m	May-24
Southland	Environment Southland - Oreti River Catchment Flood Protection Upgrade	To improve the resilience of the current assets, returning to design standard, improving the flood plain capacity and hydraulic efficiency of the river system.	\$3.0 m	May-24

Annex One – South Island RIF Project List July 2025

Southland	Environment Southland - Te Anau Basin Catchment Flood Management Upgrade	To improve the resilience of the current assets, returning to design standard, improving the flood plain capacity and hydraulic efficiency of the river system.	\$0.3 m	May-24
Southland	Ocean Beach - Aquaculture Centre of Excellence	To improve infrastructure capacity at Ocean Beach supporting several commercial aquaculture companies, including increased tank capacity for seawater storage, improvement of biosecurity facilities, upgrading electrical capacity, improvement of roading infrastructure, landscaping and fencing.	\$2.2 m	Nov-24
Southland	Rakiura Stewart Island Renewable Energy Project	To install renewable energy generation infrastructure to compliment current electricity supplied through diesel generators, to an alternative electricity source likely to include solar/wind generation and battery storage.	\$15.4 m	Jun-25
Te Taihū/Top of the South	Marlborough District Council - Lower Wairau Flood Capacity Upgrade	To upgrade over 9km of stopbanks along the Lower Wairau, which is home to an historic Pā site and Māori land, featuring houses and businesses that are disproportionately affected by flooding.	\$3.6 m	May-24
Te Taihū/Top of the South	Marlborough District Council - Wairau River Flood Protection Scheme	To undertake stopbank retreat and realignment work, construction of new intermediate groynes, rock edge protection at the Waihopai/Wairau confluence, and upgrade of a critical Waihopai stopbank that overtopped in the 2021 flood event.	\$2.9 m	May-24
Te Taihū/Top of the South	Marlborough Sounds Marine Access - Havelock	The project establishes a fit for purpose marine transport channel and berthage infrastructure to effectively service the aquaculture industry and the resilience need of Marlborough Sounds residents, businesses and communities.	\$9.9 m	Mar-25
Te Taihū/Top of the South	Nelson City Council - Maitai Flood Management Project	To construct flood management infrastructure including rebuild of an existing reinforced concrete intake with connecting culvert upgrade, drainage diversion including intake and discharge structures, flood wall upgrade and approximately 350m of stopbank including potential localised realignment of existing stopbank, riverbank benching and road raising.	\$5.4 m	May-24
Te Taihū/Top of the South	Nelson City Council - Nelson Floods Repairs / Flood Risk Protection	To upgrade resilience infrastructure including approximately 50m of stream bank retaining works, stream culvert upgrades, localised stream channel improvements, secondary flowpath diversion works, drainage diversion to new wetland, raising a section of Athol Street to protect residential property, and realigning a section of the stopbank upstream of Glen Road.	\$3.6 m	May-24

Annex One – South Island RIF Project List July 2025

Te Tauihu/Top of the South	Tasman District Council - Lower Motueka River Stopbank Refurbishment	To refurbish the Lower Motueka River stopbanks bringing the stopbank network up to a well-maintained condition, including placement of an extra width of compacted clay to the river side of the stopbank and lifting the height of the stopbank to provide protection to an acceptable level and increasing the crest width to allow for safe maintenance vehicle access along the stopbanks, protecting approximately 1,400 hectares of fertile and productive land that surrounds Motueka which houses orchards, homes, farms, and other businesses.	\$6.6 m	May-24
Te Tauihu/Top of the South	Tasman District Council - Peach Island Stopbank Repair	To repair vulnerable sections of stopbanks protecting Peach Island along the Motueka River and complete upgrade work necessary to safely maintain these stopbanks on an ongoing basis, protecting approximately 170 hectares of fertile and productive land, and approximately 15 homes and ancillary structures.	\$0.9 m	May-24
West Coast	Greymouth Port Infrastructure	To complete resilience and commercial partnership initiatives at Greymouth Port including replacement of the existing berths and wharf along with the loading facility at Blaketown Lagoon, purchase of depth sounding equipment, upgrade of Richmond Wharf, rail strengthening and improvements, upgrade of Richmond Quay including the port electrical reticulation system, and flood wall relocation in partnership with Westland Mineral Sands.	\$2.3 m	Mar-25
West Coast	Hokitika Airport Redevelopment	To upgrade Hokitika Airport installing navigation lighting, replace the chipseal tarmac with bitumen, and lengthen runway starter extensions available for take-off.	\$9.8 m	Mar-25
West Coast	West Coast Regional Council - Stopbank - Waiho River Northside Havill Wall Extension and Southside Protection	To increase and maintain protection on the Waiho River on a "Hold the Line" basis.	\$6.0 m	May-24
West Coast	Westport Harbour Infrastructure	To complete resilience and commercial partnership initiatives at Westport Port including expansion of the pontoon facility, upgrade of The Fisherman Wharf, installation of a roll-on/roll-off facility, upgrade of the Kawatiri dredge, and wharf infrastructure, partnering with Westland Mineral Sands.	\$3.2 m	Mar-25

Total \$151.0 million

Annex Two – South Island Councils and Status of their Water Services Delivery Plans (as at 17 July)

Council	WSDP Status/DIA Engagement
West Coast (Buller, Westland and Grey)	Buller decision is expected 30 July. Westland decision is expected 24 July, Grey decision is expected 16 July.
Hurunui and Kaikōura	Both committed to a multi-council CCO in May, but councils have not yet approved a draft WSDP.
Timaru	Timaru was working with Waimate and McKenzie but both these councils have decided to go alone. Unless Timaru can find other council partners it will need to pursue either an in-house or single council or, CCO (most likely).
Mackenzie	Recently Council resolved to not progress a grouping with Timaru and will progress an in-house model. Free and frank opinions [REDACTED] DIA has written to the council requesting a draft plan by 31 July. Free and frank opinions [REDACTED]
Southern Water Done Well (Clutha District, Gore, Central Otago District and Waitaki District)	Comments on the draft WSDP were provided to the group on 26 June. On 10 July Clutha and Central Otago confirmed their intentions to join/form the group. On 14 July 2025, Gore District Council resolved to stay in the regional model, which now includes three councils. Recently Waitaki decided to go alone. DIA has written requesting further information Free and frank opinions [REDACTED]
Marlborough	On 7 July Marlborough committed to a single council CCO.
Tasman	Tasman District Council has resolved to continue progressing an in-house business unit as its preferred option. A draft plan has been received and considered and feedback provided to the Council. The Council has been advised of a number of areas where further work is needed before the final Plan is submitted.
Nelson	Nelson City Council is committed to in-house business unit. Feedback on the draft plan was sent to Council on 11 July.
Waimakariri	The final plan was received 19 June. DIA expects to provide a decision on/around 23 July.
Christchurch	Christchurch City Council decided to adopt an in-house model in June.
Selwyn	WSDP was approved on 4 July for a single council CCO which has been stood up.
Ashburton	Ashburton has decided to adopt an in-house model on 21 May.
Waimate	Waimate has committed to an in-house model. Free and frank opinions [REDACTED]
Dunedin	Dunedin City Council has resolved to continue progressing an in-house model. Two partial draft plans have been received and feedback has been provided to the Council on both.
Queenstown	A decision on the preferred model is expected 31 July.

Annex Two – South Island Councils and Status of their Water Services Delivery Plans (as at 17 July)

Southland	Southland District Council has resolved to continue progressing an in-house model. A draft plan was received 11 July. DIA plans to provide feedback on/around 25 July.
Invercargill	Invercargill City Council has resolved to continue progressing an in-house business unit. DIA provided feedback on the Council's draft plan on 11 July.
Chatham Islands	Watercare is assisting the Council to develop its WSDP. Community consultation is expected to start the first week of August 2025.