



NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

BOARD PACK

for

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting

Wednesday, 22 July 2026

6:30 pm (NZST)

Held at:

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH

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AGENDA

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING



Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Date:	Wednesday, 22 July 2026
Time:	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (NZST)
Location:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members:	ALAN STRONG (Chair), ANDY TANNOCK, CHRIS BRANKIN, DAVE BARRON, NIAL COSTER, PHILLIP MUSSON, NICK MOODY
Attendees:	DEBBIE AMBLER, Lyndon Slater
Apologies:	Dave Coll

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Welcome by Chairman

6:30 pm (5 min)

ALAN STRONG

1.2 Karakia

6:35 pm (5 min)

CHRIS BRANKIN

Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tīhei mauri ora!

Translation:

Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land
Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.

1.3 Apologies

6:40 pm (5 min)

ALAN STRONG

1.4 Interests Register

6:45 pm (5 min)

ALAN STRONG

Supporting Documents:

1.4.a	Interests Register	6
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1.5 Council Time

6:50 pm (15 min)

ALAN STRONG

For Discussion

Council discussion about future risks and issues.

2. FOR DECISION

2.1 Confirm Minutes

7:05 pm (5 min)

ALAN STRONG

For Decision

Supporting Documents:

2.1.a	Minutes : NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING - 20 May 2026	7
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2.2 Muruwai Maimai Fund

7:10 pm (5 min)

ALAN STRONG

For Decision

Supporting Documents:

2.2.a	FOR DECISION - MURIWAI MAIMAI FUND.pdf	14
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2.3 Te Waihora Mai Mai Fund

7:15 pm (5 min)

ALAN STRONG

For Decision

Supporting Documents:

2.3.a	FOR DECISION - TE WAIHORA MAIMAI FUND.pdf	16
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3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 General Business

7:20 pm (10 min)

ALAN STRONG

For Discussion

General business from Council.

4. STANDARD REPORTS

4.1 Standard Reports

7:30 pm (15 min)

ALAN STRONG

For Noting

1. Chairmans' Report (verbal)

2. Operational Report
3. Finance Report
4. NZC Report (Verbal)
5. RMA Report
6. Health and Safety Report
7. Communications Report
8. Compliance Report
9. Updates from Sub-Committees of Council (verbal)

Supporting Documents:

4.1.a	OPERATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT - JULY 2026.pdf	18
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4.2 Action List

7:45 pm (10 min)

ALAN STRONG

Supporting Documents:

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5. PUBLIC SESSION

5.1 Public Session

7:55 pm (10 min)

ALAN STRONG

6. Close Meeting

6.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: No date for the next meeting has been set.

6.2 Move into Public Excluded Meeting

Interests Register

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL



As of: 22 Jul 2026

Person	Organisation	Active Interests	Notice Date
ALAN STRONG	N/A	No interest recorded	20 May 2026
ANDY TANNOCK	Gamebird Habitat Trust	Chair	13 Nov 2024
CHRIS BRANKIN	Ministry for the Environment	Staff member	13 Nov 2024
DAVE BARRON	Tallarook Dairies, Nectar Group	Owner of Nectar Group and Nectar Auckland. Not involved in Fish and Game service or support decisions. Nectar now offers its services free of charge to Fish & Game for service.	18 Feb 2026
DAVE COLL	N/A	No interest recorded	13 Nov 2024
NIAL COSTER	N/A	No interest recorded	13 Nov 2024
NICK MOODY	Environment Canterbury / Candidate for Labour Party	Councillor for Environment Canterbury / Labour Candidate for the Selwyn District	20 May 2026
PHILLIP MUSSON	Fonterra	Shareholder Fonterra and ECAN Selwyn River Liaison Committee	13 Nov 2024
	L2 Drainage Committee	Committee Member	26 Nov 2025

MINUTES (in Review)

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING



Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Date:	Wednesday, 20 May 2026
Time:	6:35 pm to 10:46 pm (NZST)
Location:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members:	ALAN STRONG (Chair), ANDY TANNOCK, DAVE BARRON, Dave Coll, NIAL COSTER, NICK MOODY, PHILLIP MUSSON
Attendees:	DEBBIE AMBLER, Lyndon Slater
Apologies:	CHRIS BRANKIN
Guests/Notes:	Cr's Musson and Tannock - attendance via zoom. Staff - E Craig, J Meecham. Public - L Burke, B Colgan, R Cosgrove (arrived 7.15pm)

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Welcome by Chairman

1.2 Karakia

In the absence of Cr Brankin, Cr Moody completed the Karakia.

1.3 Apologies

As noted.

1.4 Interests Register

Noted changes to interests -

Addition - Cr Moody - Candidate for the Selwyn District Labour Party

Deletion - Cr Strong - Amuri Irrigation Scheme

1.5 Council Time

1. Cr Moody - Access Database - licence holders are asked to report any access issues in this region to NCFG so they can be added to a live database on national access issues. Discussion followed on NCFG relationships with landowners, on Pastrol lease land and access. Noted that a draft submission to Parliament on access will be tabled at the next NZC meeting.
2. Cr Coster - Noted there was no progress on the Groynes development from the Christchurch City Council.
3. Noted the Trout Plan is still being worked.
4. Ryton Bay Access - Required further discussion with landowner.

5. Cr Strong - Central Plains Water (CPW) - Attended CPW board meeting to discuss collaborations on habitat and restoration and to work together on common ground. Fishing opportunities were briefly discussed. Recognised fish screen compliance / consents were out of date. Cr Strong stated he looked forward to the positive outcomes this collaboration will bring.
6. Cr Coster - in reply to his question on using drones to complete salmon counts, L Slater advised a trial would be undertaken, however the challenge of covering 43kms of waterways and how cost effective that would be was an issue.
7. Cr Barron - concerned of projected deficit for end of financial year and asked what was being done to reduce costs to meet budget.

2. FOR DECISION

2.1 Confirm Minutes

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting 18 Feb 2026, the minutes were confirmed as presented.

OWP & 2026/27 BUDGET MEETING 18 Mar 2026, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Minutes - 18th February 2026

The Minutes from 18 February 2026 meeting were confirmed.

Decision Date: 20 May 2026
Mover: Dave Coll
Seconder: DAVE BARRON
Outcome: Approved



Minutes - 18th March 2026

The Minutes from 18 March 2026 meeting were confirmed.

Decision Date: 20 May 2026
Mover: DAVE BARRON
Seconder: Dave Coll
Outcome: Approved

2.2 UPPER HURUNUI RIVER CONTROLLED FISHERY TRIAL

Prior to the implementation of the Designated Waters Licence, high levels of use resulted in conflicts between anglers, guides and landowners, leaving anglers feeling dissatisfied with their angling experience in the Upper Hurunui Controlled Fishery. A two-year trial to manage angling pressure was introduced on the north and south branches of the Hurunui.

Discussion on the booking system including programming issues experienced and the way some users monopolised it was raised. NCFG's was able to collect data from anglers over the past two years to allow more informed decisions to be made and if the current system should be kept or changed as per staff recommendations, followed.



South Branch Hurunui River

That Council accept the staff recommendation to return to the standard Designated Waters regulations and the Controlled Fishery be removed from the South Branch of the Hurunui River.

Cr's Moody and Barron were against.

Decision Date: 20 May 2026
Mover: Dave Coll
Seconder: NIALL COSTER
Outcome: Approved



North Branch of the Hurunui River

That the Controlled Fishery trial on the north branch, Hurunui River be extended for the 2026/27 season to allow for additional data collection.

However, the Controlled Fishery boundary be moved upstream to the swing bridge, and allow the section of the north branch below the swing bridge to return to standard Designated Waters regulations (removal of the Controlled Fishery below the swing bridge).

Cr's Musson and Barron against.

Decision Date: 20 May 2026
Mover: NIALL COSTER
Seconder: ANDY TANNOCK
Outcome: Approved

2.3 SEA-RUN SALMON SEVERE BAND MANAGEMENT

The Severe Band Management was seen as adding more tools to the Sea-Run Salmon Adaptive Management Strategy by adding more tiers in the severe band. Discussion on looking at each river as individual and region by region, rather than in the current combined format followed.

Cr Musson congratulated staff on a good paper.



Sea-Run Salmon Severe Band Management

Severe Band Management Tier	2-River Spawning Estimate	Proposed Regulations
Tier 1	400 – 800	One Fish Bag Limit
Tier 2	200 – 400	One Fish Bag Limit + Season Length Reduction: 1 February – 31 March
Tier 3	0 – 200	Season Closure

That Council adopt the recommendation that additional regulations be incorporated into the Adaptive Management Strategy to be referred to when the combined population estimates for the three-indicator rivers are within the “severe” band (less than 1,200 fish), based on Option A presented below, including:

- **Season Closure** of all North Canterbury sea-run salmon fisheries when the combined spawning population estimates in the Rakaia and Waimakairi rivers are below 200 fish total, which would remain in place for three consecutive seasons, after which:

If the combined estimates sit within a higher severe band tier for three consecutive seasons, that regulations follow whichever higher tier the population sits in (either Tier 1 or Tier 2) OR;

If the combined estimates sit within a higher management band (e.g., low, moderate) for three consecutive seasons (sustained population estimates in a higher management band would trigger moving to a higher season bag limit).

Cr Coll abstained.

Decision Date: 20 May 2026
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Second: NIALL COSTER
Outcome: Approved

2.4 2026-27 SEASON SEA-RUN SALMON SEASON BAG RECOMMENDATIONS

Council was advised the Salmon Management Plan was being reviewed to see if 'it was still fit for purpose'. Discussion on raising the bag limit to two and the impact it would have on licence sales followed.



2026-27 Season Sea-Run Salmon Season Bag Recommendations

That the sea-run salmon season bag limit for 2026/27 for the CSIFG and NCFG regions complies with the Threshold Management Strategy and be based on the final estimates of the combined Waimakariri, Rakaia and Rangitata rivers sea-run salmon spawning population size available no later than 23 June 2026, as follows;

- i. Combined spawning population size of less than 1,200 fish - retain 1 fish season bag limit;
- ii. If the spawning population increases above the severe threshold band to a higher band, retain the one fish bag limit for 3 consecutive years while in the higher band.

Cr Musson against.

Decision Date: 20 May 2026
Mover: DAVE BARRON
Second: NIALL COSTER
Outcome: Approved

3. FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 DRAFT COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY 2026-28

J Meecham outlined the NCFG Communications Strategy 2026- 2028 and stated this was a 'living document' and follows the national strategy. He stated that for the first time, NCFG was able to measure impacts on outgoing communications, which was a first.

Cr Barron congratulated J Meecham on raising greater awareness for stakeholders through all mediums of communications.

Point raised in J Meecham presentation -

1. Communication Pillars
 - i. Environment Advocacy and Education
 - ii. Wild Kai and Outdoor Traditions
 - iii. Access and Participation
 - iv. Restoration, Prevention and Risk Communications
2. To meet specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, timebound objectives.

3.2 FEEDBACK ON DRAFT NZC PRIVACY POLICY



Feedback on Draft Privacy Policy

Advise NZC that NCFG Council support the draft Privacy Policy in its current form.

Decision Date: 20 May 2026
Mover: NIALL COSTER
Seconded: Dave Coll
Outcome: Approved



Draft NZC Privacy Policy

To draft NCFG Council response advising support in current form.

Due Date: 30 Jun 2026
Owner: Lyndon Slater

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 General Business

1. **National Access Database** - Question raised on possibility to have a web page where licence holders could submit directly on access issues.
2. **Health and Safety Committee** - Cr Musson to become Council Health and Safety Rep. In conjunction with Operations Manager, possibly attend monthly staff health and safety meetings.



National Access Database

To provide Council the NCFG list from the Access Issues database held by NZC.

Due Date: 15 Jul 2026
Owner: Lyndon Slater

Health and Safety Committee -

5. STANDARD REPORTS

5.1 Standard Reports

1. Chair's Report - Cr Strong advised he had -
 - i. Attended a Central Plains Water Board meeting
 - ii. Continued meeting with Cr Barron relating to governance issues
 - iii. Continued attendance as part of DoC's Working Group regarding the proposed future funding model for F&G
 - iv. Environmental Reforms - advised Council to make submissions in writing when presented to the Select Committee 16 June 2026.
2. Operational Report -
 - i. Creel Surveys - seeking another way to collect data - L Slater advised acoustic monitoring is in next financial budget

- ii. Fish releases in Lake Georgina - could be detrimental to relationship with landowner
- 3. RMA Report - light in content, requires review
- 4. Health & Safety Report - requires more information and documentation. L Slater advised a Maritime Audit had been carried out with good results.
- 5. Finance - L Slater advised confident that NCFG tracking well against budget.

5.2 Action List

Due Date	Action Title	Owner(s)
22 Jul 2025	Regulation Review of Lake Heron Status: Completed on 26 Feb 2026	ALAN STRONG
22 Jul 2025	Climate Change Status: On Hold	CHRIS BRANKIN
17 Sept 2025	HABITAT PROJECT - SELWYN BLACKWATER Status: On Hold	Lyndon Slater
26 Nov 2025	MOU with NZC Status: In Progress	CHRIS BRANKIN, DAVE BARRON
12 Dec 2025	Regulations Review - Use of Single Hooks Status: In Progress	Lyndon Slater
31 Jan 2026	Changing Policy on Regulation Setting Status: In Progress	ALAN STRONG
18 Feb 2026	Selwyn Huts Status: On Hold	ALAN STRONG
18 Mar 2026	Changes to Fish and Game Legislation Status: Completed on 17 Jul 2026	ALAN STRONG, Lyndon Slater
18 Mar 2026	Purpose and Priorities 2026-2027 Status: In Progress	Lyndon Slater
18 Mar 2026	Draft Communications & Engagement Strategy 2026-2028 Status: Completed on 17 Jul 2026	ALAN STRONG
18 Mar 2026	Dave Orr Paper on Fish Screens Status: Completed on 17 May 2026	Lyndon Slater
20 May 2026	2026/2027 Operational Work Plan Status: Completed on 14 May 2026	Lyndon Slater
20 May 2026	NZC Health and Safety Policy Status: Completed on 14 May 2026	Lyndon Slater

6. PUBLIC SESSION

6.1 Public Session

B Colgan - Impacts to salmon fish stock with forecasted El Nino

Concerns relating to the forecasted El Nino and the impact this would have on salmon fish stocks and what are the Council management plans regarding fish populations. He asked what can be done to continue the offensive when conditions are against salmon. Suggested a selective breeding programme to get salmon numbers up.

Notes in discussion -

- i. Council shared concerns, would like see fishery rebound
- ii. Adaptive Management Strategy adopted in 2016/17 in response to similar conditions during that period, need to stay the course
- iii. Not cost effective to restart hatcheries, legislative timeframes and re-consenting taking up to three years to complete if went down that course of action

- iv. Focus on what can be controlled, if needed, change traditional management methods which is part of the 10 Year Salmon Management Plan review
- v. Continue to enhance habitat

7. FOR INFORMATION PAPERS

7.1 Game Bird Reference Group Meeting Notes

7.2 2025-26 High Country Lakes Creel Survey Report

7.3 Controlled Fishery

7.4 Sea-Run Salmon Bag Limit Recommendation from Cawthron - Appendix Agenda 2.4

8. Close Meeting

8.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting - 22 Jul 2026, 6:30 pm

New Actions raised in this meeting

Item	Action Title	Owner(s)
3.2	Draft NZC Privacy Policy Due Date: 30 Jun 2026	Lyndon Slater
4.1	National Access Database Due Date: 15 Jul 2026	Lyndon Slater

8.2 Move into Public Excluded Meeting



Move Into Public Excluded Session

That the meeting move into public excluded at 10.10pm

Decision Date: 20 May 2026
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: Dave Coll
Outcome: Approved

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Muriwai Maimai Fund/JMP

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting – 22nd July 2026

Prepared By: Matthew Garrick

1. Kōrero taunaki - Summary of Considerations

a) Kaupapa - Purpose

To get Council support for paying the Fish and Game funding obligation for use of maimai at Muriwai Lagoon.

b) Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

Approve the 2025/2026 maimai fund payment of \$868.68 to the Muriwai Maimai Fund from budgeted income and/or a combination of general reserves as required.

2. Takenga mai – Background

The maimai management agreement has been active since April 2016, from which a procedure for managing game bird hunter maimais was established and agreed upon by NCFG for Muriwai.

Fish and Game has an obligation to pay into the maimai fund as outlined in legislation (Ngāi Tahu Treaty Settlement Act of 1998) to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to maintain hunter access.

3. Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations For Decision-Making

Fish and Game is obligated to pay half of the Game Bird licence fee (minus the Game Bird habitat stamp and GST) for the number of mapped maimai on the land to maintain hunter access.

The payment obligation for the 2025/2026 FY is $18 \times \$96.52 \times 0.5 = \mathbf{\$868.68}$

No Muriwai Management Plan projects were completed during 2025/2026.

The status of the Muriwai Maimai fund after this payment will be \$3,261.40.

End of Year Financial Contributions - August 2026

1.	Balance	
	Opening Bank Balance at 31 August 2024	\$2,392.72
	+ 2024/25 MMP Contribution from Fish and Game	\$868.68
	MMP Expenses for the Year	\$0.00
	TOTAL	\$3,261.40

4. Financial Considerations

☐ Nil
 ☒ Budgetary provision
 ☐ Unbudgeted

5. Risk

☒ Low
 ☐ Medium
 ☐ High
 ☐ Extreme

6. Strategic implications

The payment made to the maimai fund is a legislative obligation to maintain hunter access to Muriwai, failing to make this payment will have implications to hunter access to Muriwai.

Muriwai Mai Mai Map

Updated: 25 February 2025



Te Waihora Maimai Fund/JMP

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting – 22nd July 2026

Prepared By: Matthew Garrick

1. Kōrero taunaki - Summary of Considerations

a) Kaupapa - Purpose

To get Council support for paying the Fish and Game funding obligation for use of maimai at Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

b) Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

Approve the 2025/2026 maimai fund payment of \$13,802.36 to the Te Waihora Maimai Fund from budgeted income and/or a combination of general reserves as required.

2. Takena mai – Background

The maimai management agreement has been active since 1998, from which a procedure for managing game bird hunter maimais was established and agreed upon by NCFG for Te Waihora.

Fish and Game has an obligation to pay into the maimai fund as outlined in legislation (Ngāi Tahu Treaty Settlement Act of 1998) to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to maintain hunter access.

3. Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations For Decision-Making

Fish and Game is obligated to pay half of the Game Bird licence fee (minus the Game Bird habitat stamp and GST) for the number of mapped maimai on the land to maintain hunter access.

The total number of mapped maimai on the land is 286.



The payment obligation for the 2025/2026 FY is $286 \times \$96.52 \times 0.5 = \mathbf{\$13,802.36}$

During the 2025/2026 FY, Joint Management Plan projects included gravelling of parking areas, boat ramps, and vehicle access tracks around the lake (funded through unbudgeted income (HPAI/Southland Secondment). Additionally, staff applied and received a grant from ECan to remove derelict fencing from the lake margins.

The status of the Te Waihora maimai fund after this payment will be \$27,604.72

TE WAIHORA MAIMAI MANAGEMENT REPORT

End of Year Financial Contributions - August 2026

1.	Balance	
	Opening Bank Balance as at 31 August 2024	\$13,802.36
	+ 2025/26 JMP Contribution from Fish and Game	\$13,802.36
	JMP Expenses for the Year	\$0.00
	TOTAL	\$27,604.72

4. Financial Considerations

☒ Nil ☒ Budgetary provision ☐ Unbudgeted

5. Risk

☒ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High ☐ Extreme

6. Strategic implications

The payment made to the maimai fund is a legislative obligation to maintain hunter access to Te Waihora, failing to make this payment will have implications to hunter access to Te Waihora.

OPERATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting - 22 July 2026

Prepared By: NCFG Operational Staff

1. Kōrero taunaki - Summary of Considerations

a) Kaupapa – Purpose

To provide an update to the North Canterbury Fish & Game Council (NCFG) on work completed by staff from May 2026 to July 2026.

b) Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

That Council receives this report.

2. Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

This report is a summary of how staff are tracking with the operational work plan projects and activities and provides a high-level overview.

3. Takenga mai – Background

This report is provided to the council each meeting to provide insight on recent staff activity.

4. Kōrerorero – Discussion

OUTPUT AREA 1: SPORT FISH AND GAME BIRD SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Population Monitoring

Lake Coleridge Trout Tagging

Staff continued with the tagging programme at Lake Coleridge and should be completed by the end of July, Staff have tagged 70 trout to date.

Salmon Spawning Flights

Salmon spawning flights are now completed in the Rakaia and Waimakariri catchments. A full report will be presented at the September Council meeting.

Designated Waters & Controlled Fishery Trial

With the decision to make changes to the controlled fishery which is currently waiting on sign off from the Minister for Hunting and Fishing, the next phase will be actioning these changes. An article has been written for the upcoming Fish magazine about these changes.

Staff conducted the annual Designated Waters User Survey in June. The survey was delayed this year due to the Controlled Fishery consultation survey, to reduce survey fatigue amongst anglers. Staff are currently working on data analysis from this survey.

Harvest Assessment

Game Bird Harvest Surveys

Staff have conducted bi-weekly phone surveys throughout the game bird season.

Salmon Harvest Assessment

Sea-run salmon harvest estimates for the 25/26 season have calculated following the completion of calls of anglers that did not submit harvest cards.

Species Rescue

Staff completed the annual Amuri Salvage in the last week of May. Nothing irregular was found.

Regulations

Staff have been collecting hunter preference data during harvest calls regarding proposed game bird regulation changes. Consultation on proposed changes will be initiated in August.

Species Management and Control

Staff have responded to queries, evaluated, and processed applications for game bird control permits and sports fish licensing permits.

Game bird Control

During the 2025-2026 financial Year 71 control/disturbance permits have been issued (25 for pukeko, 18 for black swans, 25 for paradise ducks, and 4 for mallards). An additional three permits have been issued for cultural harvest of paradise shelduck and black swan (birds and/or eggs).

Sports fish Control

Financial year-to-date, 10 sports fishing permits/special licences have been issued (one event licence [Take a Kid Fishing], one competition licence [South Island clubs fishing competition], one display permit [Willowbank Wildlife Reserve], two out-of-season permits [coarse angling at Lake Roto Kohatu], two special licences for netting/trapping [ecological contractors], and two electric fishing permits [ecological contractors]) and one special licence for an impaired angler.

OUTPUT AREA 2: HABITAT PROTECTION, MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT

Statutory Planning Process

For a more detailed overview of the RMA advocacy and planning work done to represent the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process, see the separate RMA Report.

Research

Staff have been sending band reports to hunters that have harvested banded mallards. So far sixteen bands have been reported, with a recovery from as far north as Culverden to south to Tarras, Otago. Staff have stored locations of all reported bands in a spatial database to support future research.

OUTPUT AREA 3: PARTICIPATION

Increase Participation

Take a Kid Fishing

Staff continue to engage with the Take a Kid Fishing Trust in preparation for the 2026 event. A total of 695 rainbow trout will be supplied from the Nelson/Marlborough hatchery. The event will take place on 27 September 2026.

Social Media

Social media has continued to serve as a primary communication channel between staff and licence holders throughout the year. Engagement metrics have remained strong. For further information and detailed statistics, please refer to the "Communication Report."

Angler & Hunter Education

Staff have confirmed a Woman's Introduction to Fly Fishing Course which will take place in September this year. The course has a \$100 fee for 20 attending participants to offset costs. The Press is confirmed to attend for promotional purposes.

Staff have promoted the new Hunting Knowledge Hub on the Fish & Game website. Developed collaboratively by staff nationwide, this resource offers valuable information for both new hunters and more experienced participants seeking to expand their knowledge. There will be a Fishing Knowledge Hub launched prior to the new fishing season.

In addition, North Canterbury staff will contribute in the development of new national Fish & Game "how-to" video series for social media and YouTube. It is anticipated that local rivers and lakes will feature in this content, with regional staff involved in

presenting practical guidance for anglers. This represents an exciting opportunity to showcase our region.

Staff have organised a support day with a youth group being run by the Hurunui District Council and will accompany them to Lake Taylor. There they will be taught to fish and be given a presentation on Fish and Game by staff.

Satisfaction Surveys

Stepping Stone Fisheries

Surveys of stepping stone fisheries in the Christchurch area are ongoing.

Access

Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere

Staff received approximately a \$9,000 grant from ECan for cleaning up the margins of Te Waihora – with work planned as soon as weather allows.

Signage

Staff completed updates/repairs to access signage across the region where necessary.

Newsletters

Ezines

Bi-weekly hunting reports have now continued for the gamebird season.

For a more detailed breakdown, please refer to the separate “Communications Report”.

Website

Staff have completed the 2025/26 Lake Creel Surveys page for the website. This page will be supported by promotion through social media channels in the coming weeks.

Magazine Supplements

Staff have completed writing supplements for the 2026 Fishing Magazine, regional sections alongside one staff member writing a feature article.

Client Relations

Club Relations

Staff met with two members of the Canterbury Fly Fishing Club regarding the Women's Fly-Fishing Course. They have requested the opportunity to speak during this event, we have recommended a female member of the club to speak with the permission of the two hosts of the course.

Media Relations

Staff continue to provide comment to media when requested. We have had some good articles published into local media as of late and expect more to come with local media coverage of the woman's fly-fishing course too.

OUTPUT AREA 4: PUBLIC INTERFACE

Liaison

Public & Media Liaison

Staff continue to respond to queries from licence holders, members of the public, and media. Staff also provided information to Councillors for Official Information Act requests.

Statutory Liaison

Staff met with members of the River Engineering team from Environment Canterbury (ECan) to discuss Annual River works planning in the region and ensure that any works would have minimal impacts on sports fish and gamebirds.

OUTPUT AREA 5: COMPLIANCE

See separate Compliance report for an overview of compliance activities over the last reporting period.

OUTPUT AREA 6: LICENCING

Licence production/distribution

Staff continue to oversee the sale of licences in the region, specifically around game bird ones which have been the most popular recently, We have also ensure that all address changes are worked into the system properly so that all hunters and anglers get their licences posted to their correct mailing address.

Agent Servicing

Staff have ensured that all licence agents are well prepared for any questions throughout the game bird season & during the winter fishing season.

OUTPUT AREA 7: COUNCIL

Staff have prepared papers for Councils consideration for 22 July Meeting.

OUTPUT AREA 8: PLANNING AND REPORTING

OUTPUT AREA 9: ADMINISTRATION

National Liaison

Staff are participating in a re-write of the National Game Bird Nuisance Policy. Staff are actively participating in national planning and policy drafting for HPAI preparedness.

Staff have provided NZC with a report on the impact of the changes to the family licence on family licence sales. Staff have also assisted with the production of graphs using NZC licence and budget data to support the national budgeting process.

Staff training

One staff member completed a cyber security training day.

FINANCE REPORT

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting - 22 July 2026

Prepared By: Debbie Ambler

1. Kōrero taunaki - Summary of Considerations

a) Kaupapa - Purpose

To inform Council of the financial performance and position, using an accounting cash basis. It documents income and expenditure against the current year's annual budget. This Report covers the year to date to 16 July 2026.

b) Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

That the Finance Report be accepted.

2. Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

- c)** The 25/26 Budget used in this Report is \$1,074,183. This is made up of baseline funding of \$1,035,183, with the addition of approved use from reserves of \$39,000. A depreciation budget (\$105,996), levy payments (\$545,060) and Eyed charges (\$65,183) that are outside the normal budgeting process have been added to the bottom line of the budget.

d) Table 1A – Performance Overview (new Report)

Summarises

Income and Expenses

Profit and Loss (year to date and month end)

Balance Sheet

Bank Accounts

Cash Balance

e) Table 1B – Summary of Licence Revenue

Licence sales are received by two methods – Public Online (paid to NCFG monthly) and Agency Online (paid to NCFG on a bi-monthly basis). This table breaks down and compares major category licence sales only.

f) Table 2 – Cash Position (new Report)

Summarises Cash In v Cash Out

Net Cash Flow

g) Table 3 – Manual Journal Report

A new Report required by the Auditors for Council approval showing all manual journals completed for the reporting period.

h) Table 4 – Asset Replacement Fund

Shows assets brought and sold during the financial year and the balance of the Fund.

3. Kōrerorero – Discussion

- I. Total income year to date is down 7.93% compared to last financial year. Differences affecting this loss are in the amount of income received from Other Income with different projects undertaken in each financial year. However total income (including licence income) year to date is at 111% against budget. This is due to unbudgeted income from HPAI Project and secondment to Southland.
- II. Due to tightening on spending from staff, expenses are down by 9.79% against the same period last financial year. Spending sits at 85% of budget.
- III. Licence sales income year to date is at 98% of budget, however we are currently down 4.9% on fish sales and 5.7% on game sales. Approximately \$47,953 down compared to last financial year.
- IV. We have received the 'final burst' of income in licence sales in early July. So, due to **normal cashflow trends**, we are now having to draw down from the 20% Minimum Cash Reserve account.
- V. In June to meet cashflow we have had to draw down \$75,000. Looking forward at cashflow to September 2026, we will possibly need to draw down and use this Reserve completely.
- VI. An approach has been made to NZC requesting a top-up of Reserves. This is currently being considered.
- VII. A request to delay the final Levy payment for this financial year (due to be paid in September 2026) to November 2026 (when NCFG receive their first real cash injection for the year) has been verbally agreed to by NZC.
- VIII. Once we catch up on our levy payments and going forward these payments will be paid monthly instead of quarterly to assist cashflow.
- IX. NCFG's major expenses for this period are through the annual salmon spawning count flights.

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- IX. NCFG's major expenses for this period are through the annual salmon spawning count flights.

Performance overview

Monthly (FY YTD) ending on 16 Jul 2026

TABLE 1A

Income 1.89M Total Sep 2025 to Jul 2026 Down 7.93% 2.05M Total Sep 2024 to Jul 2025 600K 400K 200K 0 Sep 2025 Jul 2026 Current Prior		Expenses 1.55M Total Sep 2025 to Jul 2026 Down 9.79% 1.71M Total Sep 2024 to Jul 2025 400K 200K 0 Sep 2025 Jul 2026 Current Prior		Profit and loss 344,944 Profit/loss Sep 2025 to Jul 2026 200K 100K 0 -100K -200K Sep 2025 Jul 2026 Profit Loss		Summarised Profit and Loss Accounts Sep 2025 - Jul 2026 <table><tr><td>Trading Income</td><td>1.72M</td></tr><tr><td>Cost of Sales</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Gross Profit</td><td>1.72M</td></tr><tr><td>Other Income</td><td>166,306</td></tr><tr><td>Operating Expenses</td><td>1.55M</td></tr><tr><td>Net Profit/Loss</td><td>344,944</td></tr></table>		Trading Income	1.72M	Cost of Sales	0	Gross Profit	1.72M	Other Income	166,306	Operating Expenses	1.55M	Net Profit/Loss	344,944								
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Net Profit/Loss	344,944																										
Summarised Balance Sheet Accounts Jul 2026 <table><tr><td>Assets</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Bank Accounts</td><td>511,750</td></tr><tr><td>Current Assets (Excluding Cash)</td><td>2,821</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Current Assets</td><td>2,63M</td></tr><tr><td>Total Assets</td><td>3.15M</td></tr><tr><td>Liabilities</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Current Liabilities</td><td>114,331</td></tr><tr><td>Long-Term Liabilities</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Total Liabilities</td><td>114,331</td></tr><tr><td>Net Assets</td><td>3.03M</td></tr><tr><td>Total Equity</td><td>3.03M</td></tr></table>		Assets		Bank Accounts	511,750	Current Assets (Excluding Cash)	2,821	Non-Current Assets	2,63M	Total Assets	3.15M	Liabilities		Current Liabilities	114,331	Long-Term Liabilities	0	Total Liabilities	114,331	Net Assets	3.03M	Total Equity	3.03M	Bank accounts 511,750 Accounts balance Jul 2026 20% Minimum ... Income / Expe... Rakala Reserve Habitat Restora... Other		Cash balance 510,409 Balance at Jul 2026 Down 4.00% 531,654 Balance at Jul 2025 1M 800K 600K 400K 200K 0 Sep 2025 Jul 2026 Current Prior	
Assets																											
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TABLE 1B- LICENCE REVENUE

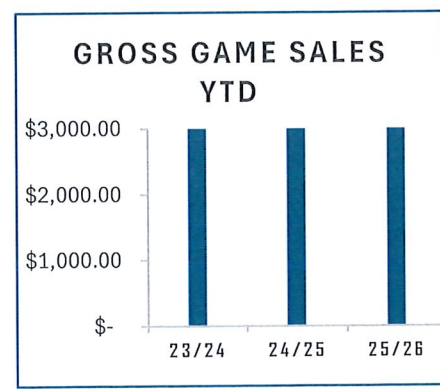
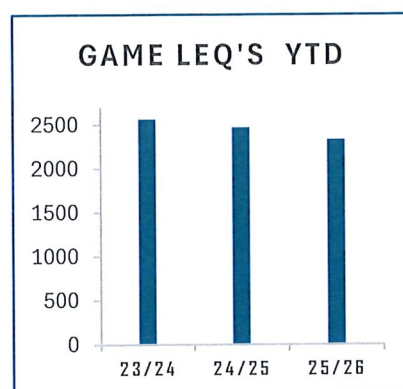
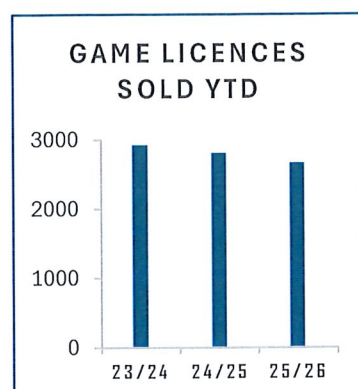
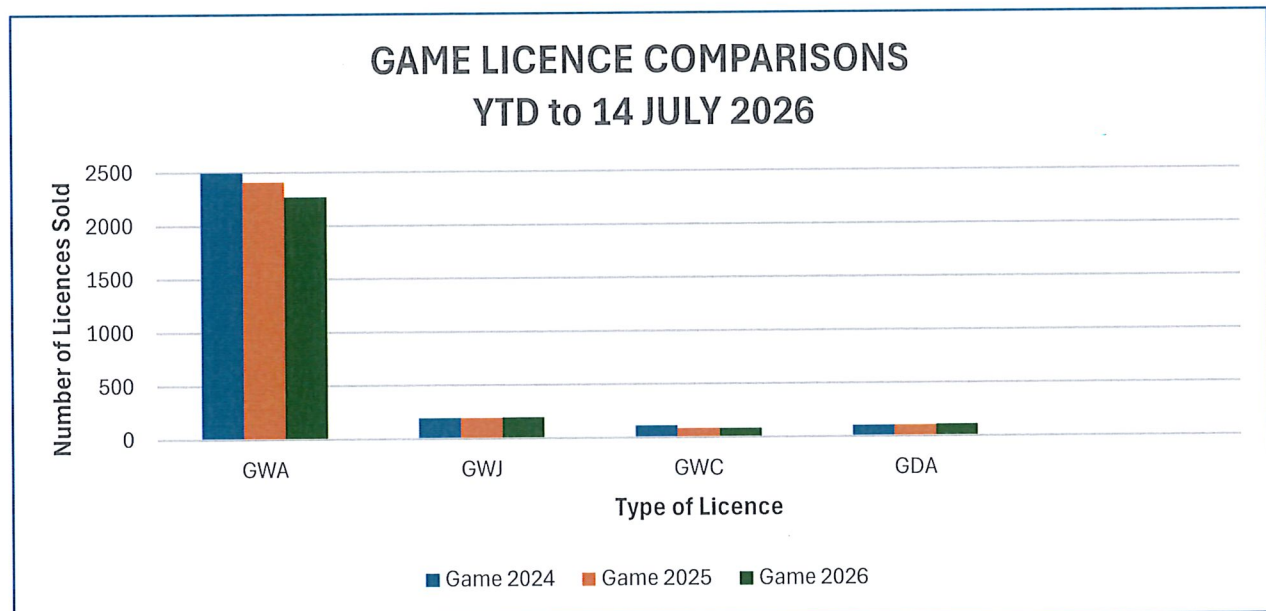
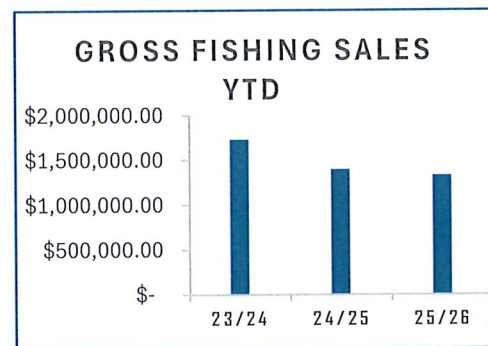
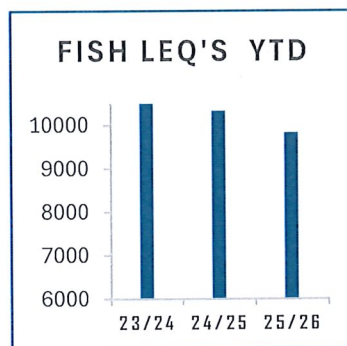
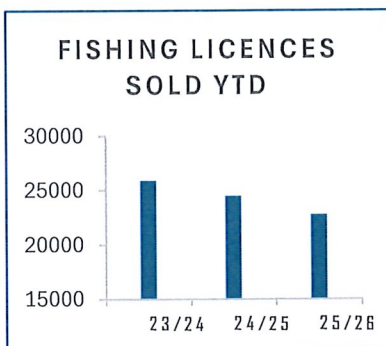
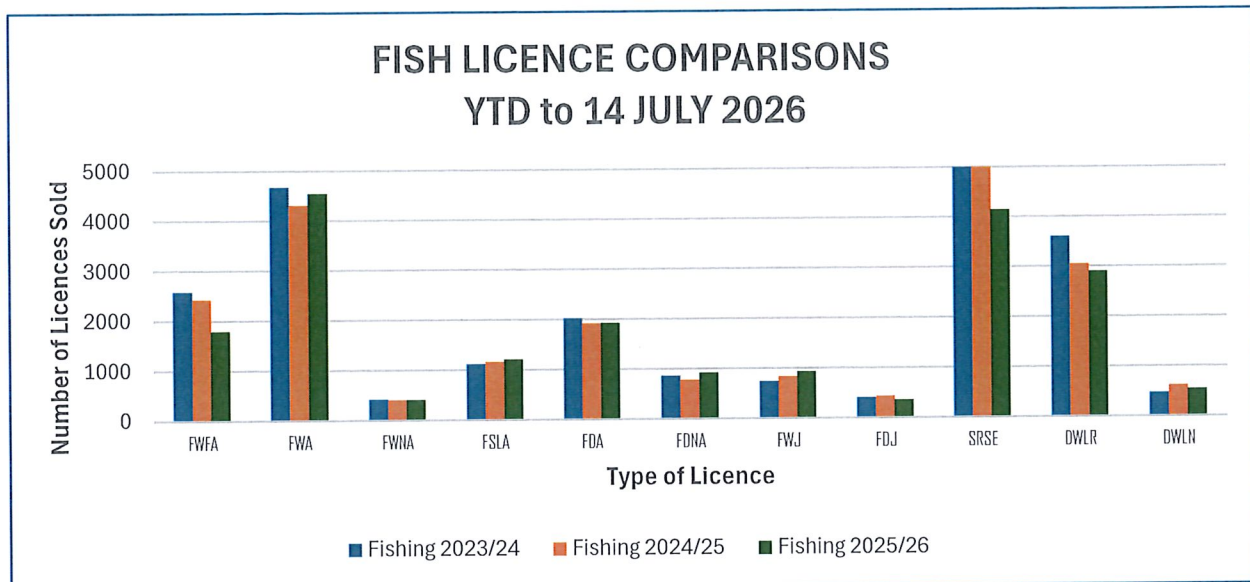


TABLE 2

Performance overview

Monthly (FY YTD) ending on 16 Jul 2026

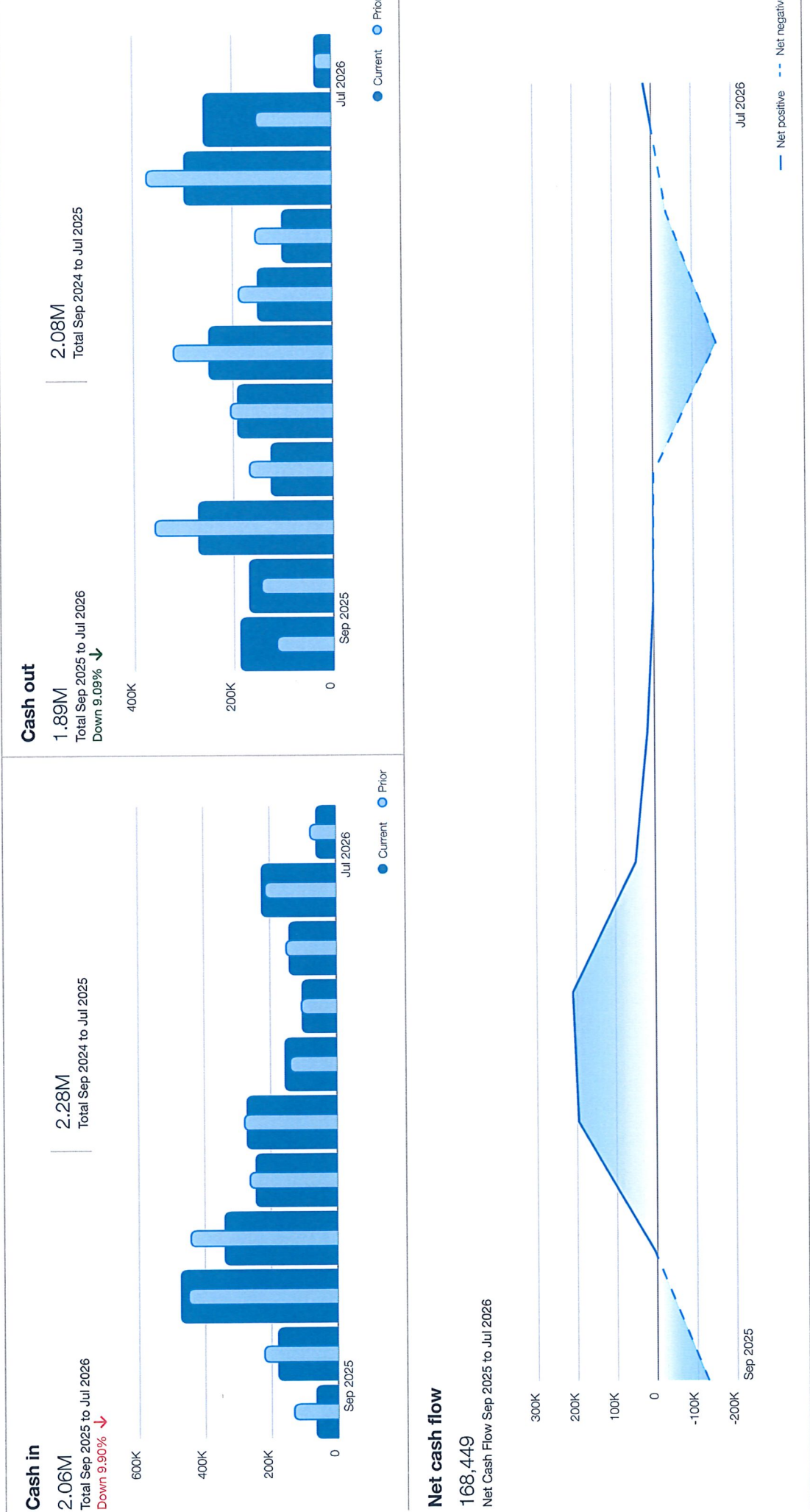


TABLE 3

Journal Report

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council For the period 1 May 2026 to 14 June 2026

DATE	JOURNAL ID	ACCOUNT CODE	ACCOUNT	DEBIT	CREDIT	POSTED DATE	POSTED BY
ID 63047 To record sale proceeds of LAP975 - Manual							
5 Jun 2026	63047	4970	Miscellaneous Income	17,400.00	-	9 Jul 2026	Debbie Ambler
5 Jun 2026	63047	6010	Vehicles	-	17,400.00	9 Jul 2026	Debbie Ambler
Total				17,400.00	17,400.00		
ID 62833 To Balance Reserves as at 31 MAY 26 - Manual							
31 May 2026	62833	8000a	Transfer to and from Reserves	-	14,482.83	2 Jun 2026	Debbie Ambler
31 May 2026	62833	8001-13	20 Minimum Cash Reserve	-	410.20	2 Jun 2026	Debbie Ambler
31 May 2026	62833	8001-14	Habitat Protection Revenue	15,006.05	-	2 Jun 2026	Debbie Ambler
31 May 2026	62833	8001-1	Asset Replacement Funding	-	3.16	2 Jun 2026	Debbie Ambler
31 May 2026	62833	8001-11	Murawal (Coopers Lagoon) Mai Mai Reserve	-	3.41	2 Jun 2026	Debbie Ambler
31 May 2026	62833	8001-5	Rakaia Fund Reserve	-	106.45	2 Jun 2026	Debbie Ambler
Total				15,006.05	15,006.05		
ID 62832 Accrue Annual Leave to 31 MAY 26 - Manual							
31 May 2026	62832	1911	Staff Salaries	42,126.91	-	2 Jun 2026	Debbie Ambler
31 May 2026	62832	7006	Employee Entitlements	-	42,126.91	2 Jun 2026	Debbie Ambler
Total				42,126.91	42,126.91		
ID 62831 Reversal: Accrue Annual Leave to 31 MAY 26 - Manual							
1 Jun 2026	62831	1911	Staff Salaries	-	42,126.91	2 Jun 2026	Debbie Ambler
1 Jun 2026	62831	7006	Employee Entitlements	42,126.91	-	2 Jun 2026	Debbie Ambler
Total				42,126.91	42,126.91		
ID 62683 Reversal: Accrue Annual Leave to 30 APR 26 - Manual							
1 May 2026	62683	1911	Staff Salaries	-	42,104.07	19 May 2026	Debbie Ambler
1 May 2026	62683	7006	Employee Entitlements	42,104.07	-	19 May 2026	Debbie Ambler
Total				42,104.07	42,104.07		
Total				158,763.94	158,763.94		

ASSET REPLACEMENT FUND TO 31 AUGUST 2026

TABLE 4

For the period 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026

Date	Description	INCOME	EXPENSE	Running Total
	Opening Balance	\$ 16,572.12		
	Plus Budget Approval	\$ 20,000.00		
		\$ 36,572.12		
6004 - Plant & Equipment	Cost of Asset	Income	Expense	
		\$ -	\$ -	
		\$ -	\$ -	
Total 6004 - Plant & Equipment		\$ -	\$ -	
6008 - Office Equipment				
		\$ -	\$ -	
		\$ -	\$ -	
Total 6008 - Office Equipment		\$ -	\$ -	
6010 - Vehicles & Boats				
	Sale of trailer 56S53	\$ 756.52	\$ -	
	Purchase of RUH728	\$ -	\$ 37,000.00	
	Sale of LAP975	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	
		\$ -	\$ -	
Total 6010 - Vehicles & Boats		\$ 17,756.52	\$ 54,000.00	
	Interest Received	\$ 24.63		
		\$ 54,353.27	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 353.27

RMA REPORT

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting - 22 July 2026

Prepared By: Caleb Ryder

1. Kōrero taunaki - Summary of Considerations

a) Kaupapa - Purpose

This report has been prepared for Council to summarise key RMA activities undertaken by the North Canterbury Fish and Game (NCFG) team throughout the period mid-May to July 2026.

2. Takenga mai – Background

As the statutory management agency for sports fish and game birds, we are required to consider Legislation, the RMA, local plans, regional plans, and National Policy Statements that is applicable to our Region.

3. Kōrerorero – Discussion

All resource consent applications lodged with the regional council are presented weekly to affected parties, including NCFG, to assess whether these are relevant to us. If relevant, we provide feedback to Regional Councils and where necessary propose these be publicly notified.

Through the period May - July we have received and assessed **149** resource consent applications, of which **85** (57%) were relevant to the North Canterbury region, with the remainder shared between Nelson/Marlborough and Central South Island regions.

Only applications that are relevant to the North Canterbury region are reported on below.

Financial year-to-date, a total of **517** resource consent applications have been assessed for North Canterbury region.

The most common were discharge permits (>50%) (s15).

Staff assisted Earth Sciences New Zealand (ESNZ) formerly known as NIWA with the capture of torrent fish through electric fishing the Harper diversion. While doing this staff took the opportunity to tag seven Rainbow trout which ties into the project to determine whether trout in Lake Coleridge can get upstream of the Harper Control gates.

With the Lake Coleridge power scheme coming up for reconsenting, any work staff can do with other agencies involved would be beneficial.

Staff met with a member of the Canterbury Coarse Fishing Club regarding the Woodend Bypass Project. Due to this project being of regional significance and going through the Fast Track Process we are limited in our ability to influence it.

However, in response to the comments submitted on the project by staff the applicant, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), has indicated that Fish Passage will be maintained between the affected gravel and sands pond and the other ponds present. These Ponds are designated coarse fisheries in the North Canterbury region, contain Perch and Tench and are fished by a small number of Coarse anglers.

4. Financial Considerations

☒ Nil ☐ Budgetary provision ☐ Unbudgeted

5. Risk

☒ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High ☐ Extreme

Health & Safety Report

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting - 22 July 2026

Prepared By: Harry Graham-Samson

1. Kōrero taunaki - Summary of Considerations

a) Kaupapa – Purpose

This report has been prepared for the Council to provide a summary for health and safety across North Canterbury Fish and Game.

b) Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

That Council receives this report.

2. Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

Health and safety performance for the reporting period remains satisfactory, with no serious harm incidents reported and controls operating as intended. Key risks relate to field activities, and public interaction and continue to be actively managed through established procedures.

The Council is asked to **note the report** and the continued adequacy of current health and safety controls

3. Takenga mai – Background

This report provides a summary of:

- a. Any significant health & safety incidents for the months reported and any recent updates on the past incidents.
- b. Any near-miss events and subsequent follow-up actions.
- c. Any new health & safety risks/hazards.
- d. Health & safety performance, inclusive of contract work and staff training.
- e. Any other health and safety related matters arising since the last council meeting.

4. **Kōrerorero – Discussion**

The table below summarises the reporting statistics for this period (February – May).

Further information regarding context and follow up process is captured in a register.

Lost time injuries this period	Lost time injuries this year	Incidents this period	Incidents this year	Near Miss Events this period	Near miss events this year	New Hazards reported this period	New Hazards reported this year
0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2

This dataset continues to build over time particularly as our work programme grows and the health and safety reporting culture is ingrained into our work ethos.

Near Miss and Incident Events

None detected.

New Hazard Identified

None detected.

H&S improvements

Hazardous goods store has been reviewed to ensure compliance with regulations.

The new vehicle that Fish & Game has purchased has got new safety features for staff when operating the vehicle.

Mango Health and Safety Management system

Operations are transitioning from our current manual H&S management systems to dedicated software to centralise these processes. Mango is a cloud-based health and safety management system that centralises all health and safety information in one platform. The system is used to record and manage incidents, hazards, risks, corrective actions, audits, and inspections, and provides real-time visibility of health and safety performance through dashboards and reporting tools. Mango facilitates structured workflows, automated alerts, and escalation where actions are overdue, helping ensure issues are identified, tracked, and closed out.

Additionally the system functions as a document and register management system, maintaining live hazard registers, safety plans, procedures, and contractor records in a single, controlled location. Reporting tools provide improved management and governance-level oversight, supporting assurance that health and safety risks are being actively monitored and managed.

5. **Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations For Decision-Making**

There are no decisions required from this report.

6. Financial Considerations

☒ Nil ☐ Budgetary provision ☐ Unbudgeted

7. Risk

☒ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High ☐ Extreme

8. Legislative Implications

This policy will enable us to do our work in a more consistent manner.

9. Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

10. Risks and Mitigations

11. Consultation

12. Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next Actions

Monthly dedicated health and safety meetings are being held as well as health and safety being the first agenda item discussed at Monday meetings.

Health and Safety Catch-Up Update

On 1 July 2026, the Chair of the NCF&G Council's Health and Safety Committee met with Lyndon for a catch-up on North Canterbury Fish & Game's health and safety processes.

During the meeting, we went through several processes that have been implemented since the NZC audit of NCF&G health and safety. I requested that a copy of the audit be sent to all current councillors.

We discussed Job Safety Analyses (JSAs), and I requested to see the JSA for the helicopter salmon flight that had taken place the day before. This was quickly produced, and I was shown where all JSAs are stored.

We then discussed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including how many were currently in place. I was informed that there were approximately six, including major procedures such as electric fishing and drift dives. From my experience as a farmer, it appeared that a number of more general SOPs may still be missing.

Lyndon explained that the expectation was that NZC staff would provide further SOPs, as developing these would require significant staff time and the same procedures would likely be needed by other regions as well.

I was also shown the new NZC recording system pilot and the communication system used while staff are still on duty and working in the field. The system monitors staff until they clock off duty. If a staff member does not check in at the required time, alerts are raised with staff and managers.

Recommendation

That North Canterbury Council write to NZFGC to ask whether a set of generic Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) could be purchased or provided for common activities, including vehicle use, off-road work, and power tools.

This would reduce the amount of staff time required to develop these documents internally and would support greater consistency across regions.

Communications Report

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting - 22 July 2026

Prepared By: Jackson Meecham

1. Kōrero taunaki - Summary of Considerations

a) Kaupapa - Purpose

To update and provide the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council (NCFGC) with data and information regarding our regional and joint national communication.

b) Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

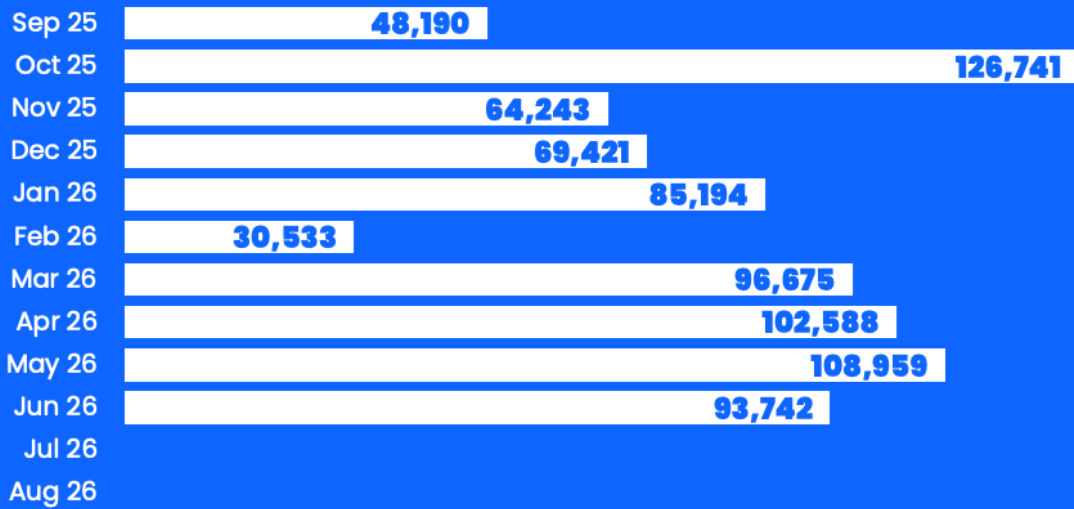
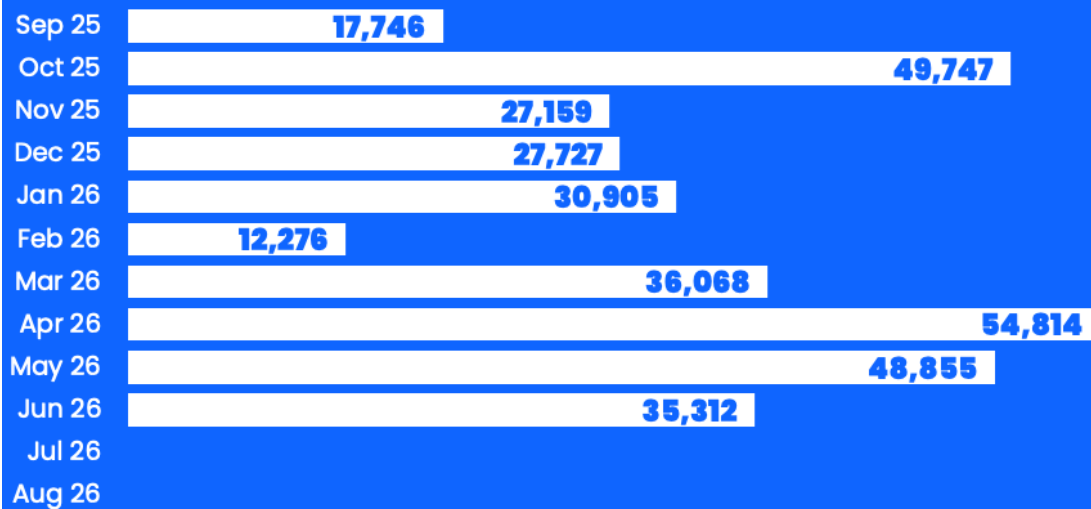
For Council to receive this report

2. Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

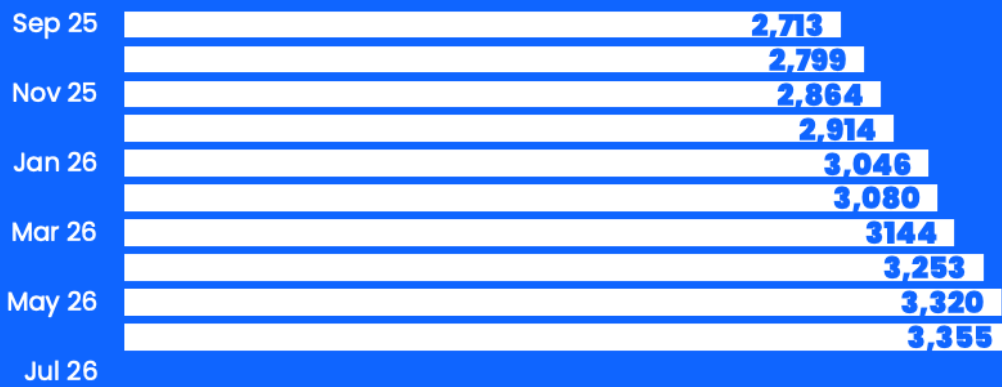
Council will continue to receive regular Communications Reports at each meeting, providing updates on progress, including current financial year performance metrics and recent communication activity since the previous report.

3. Takenga mai – Background

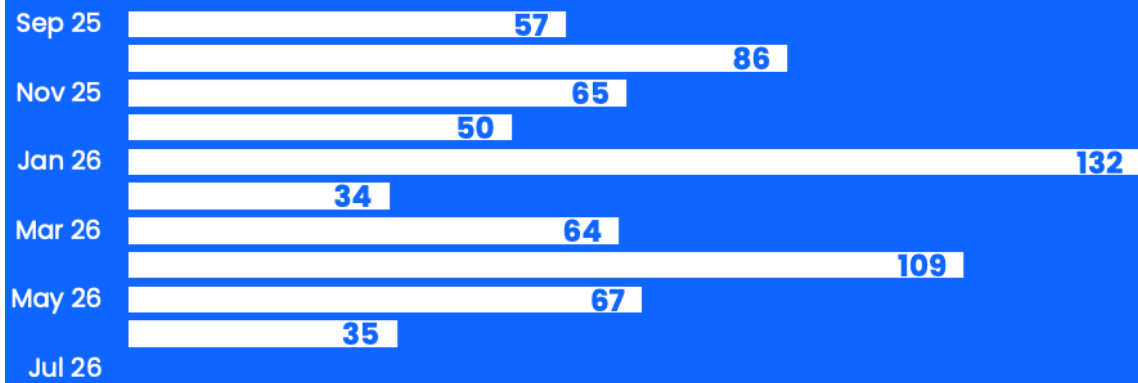
All statistics and information contained in this report were collected on Monday, 6 July 2026. As these figures are subject to change, numbers may vary between the time of data collection and the Council meeting.

-Facebook-**Facebook: Views****Facebook: Individual Viewers**

Facebook: Total Followers

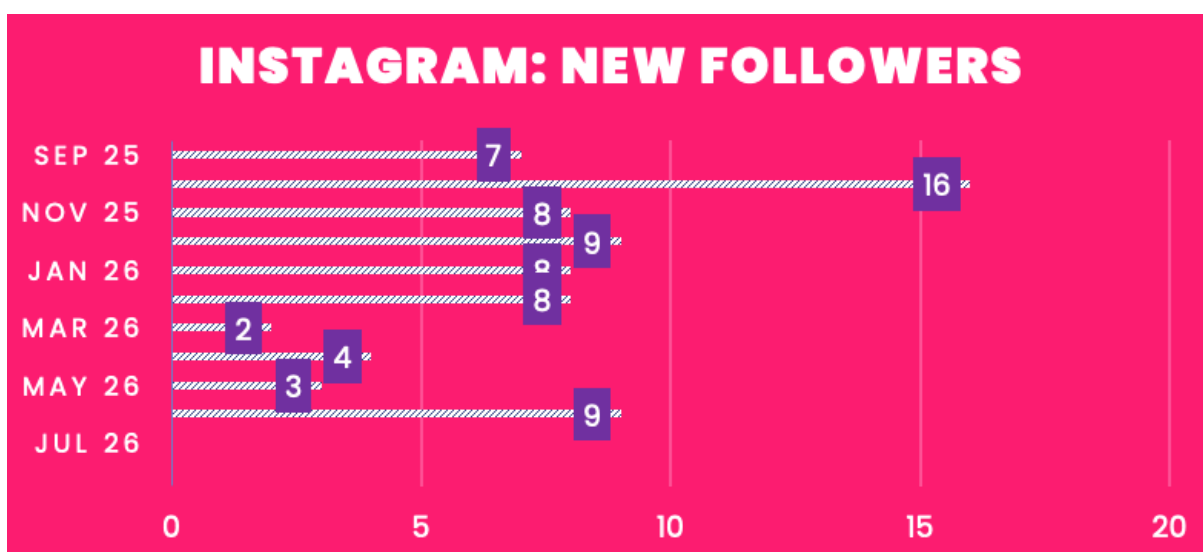
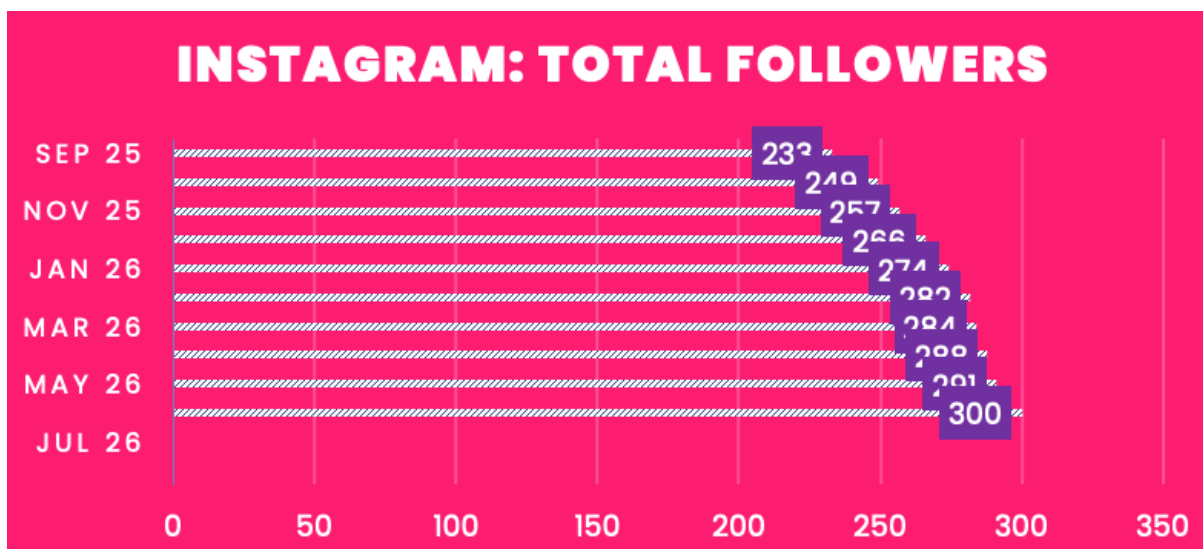
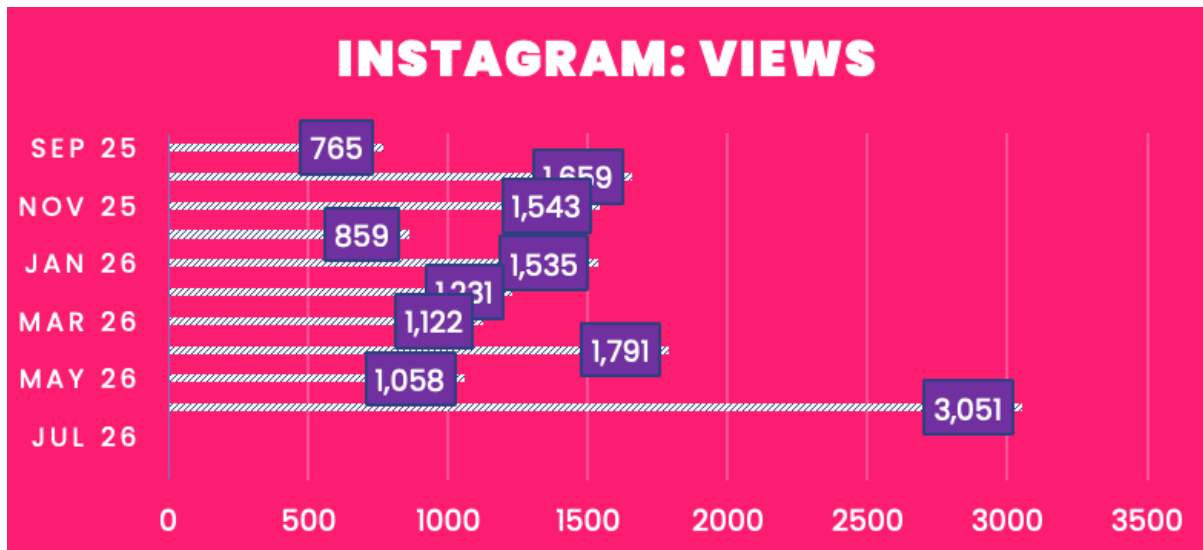


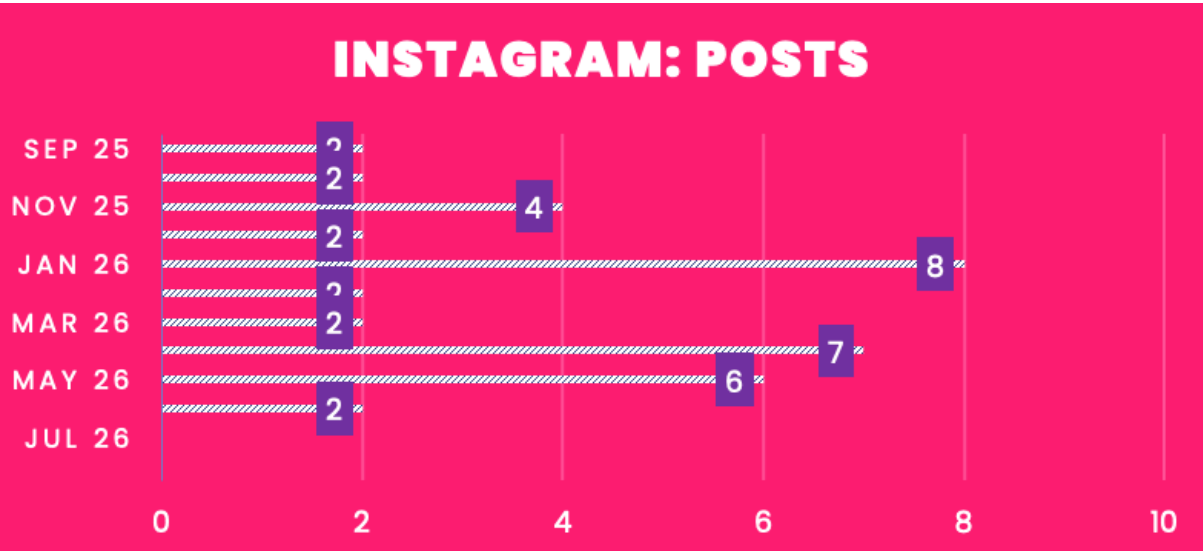
Facebook: New Followers



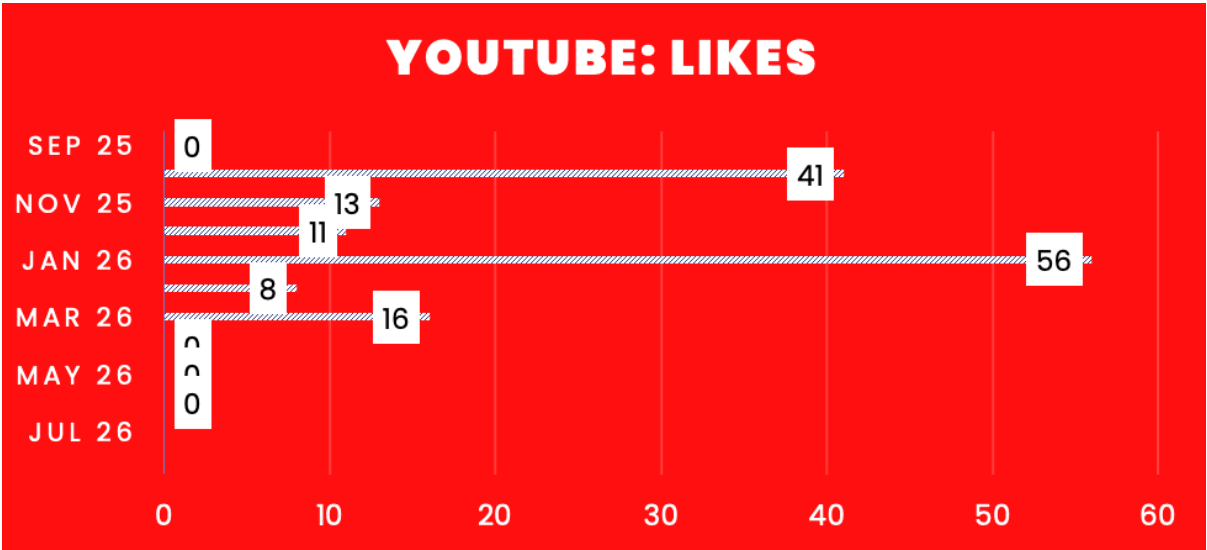
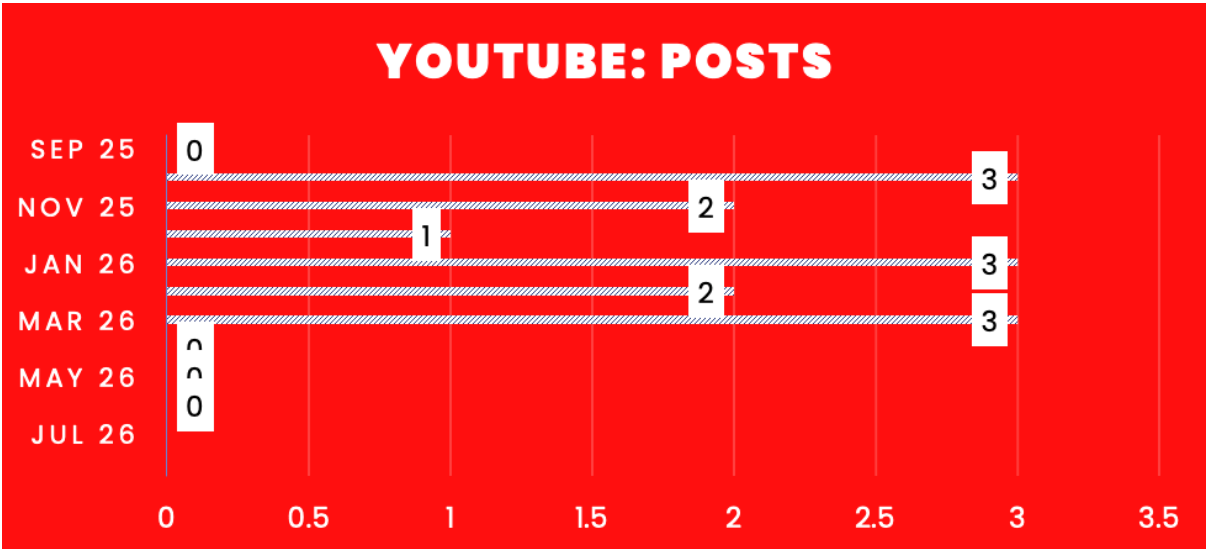
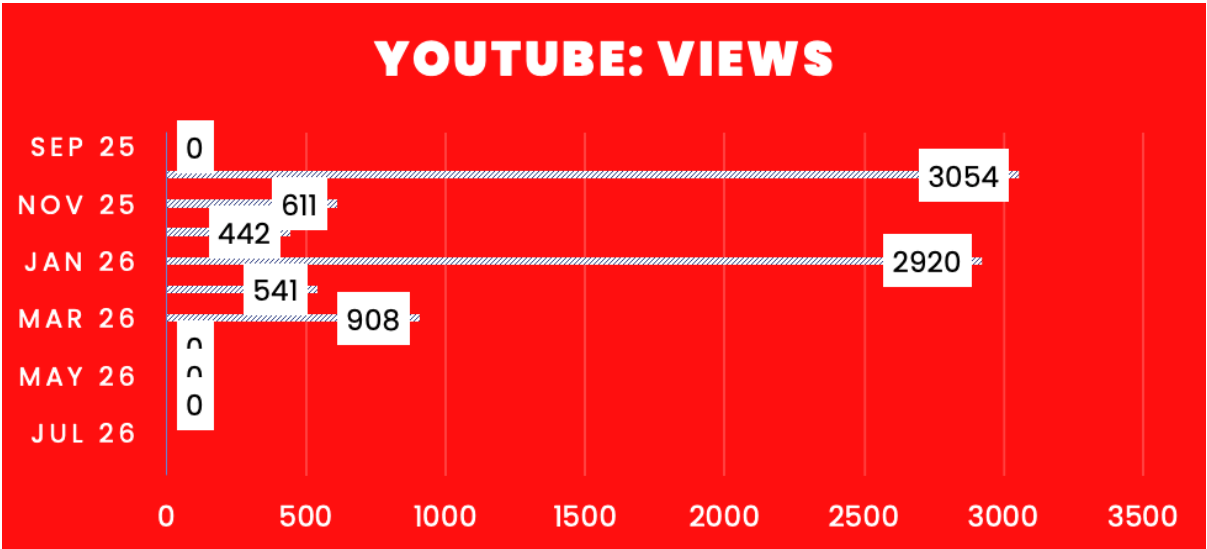
Facebook: Posts

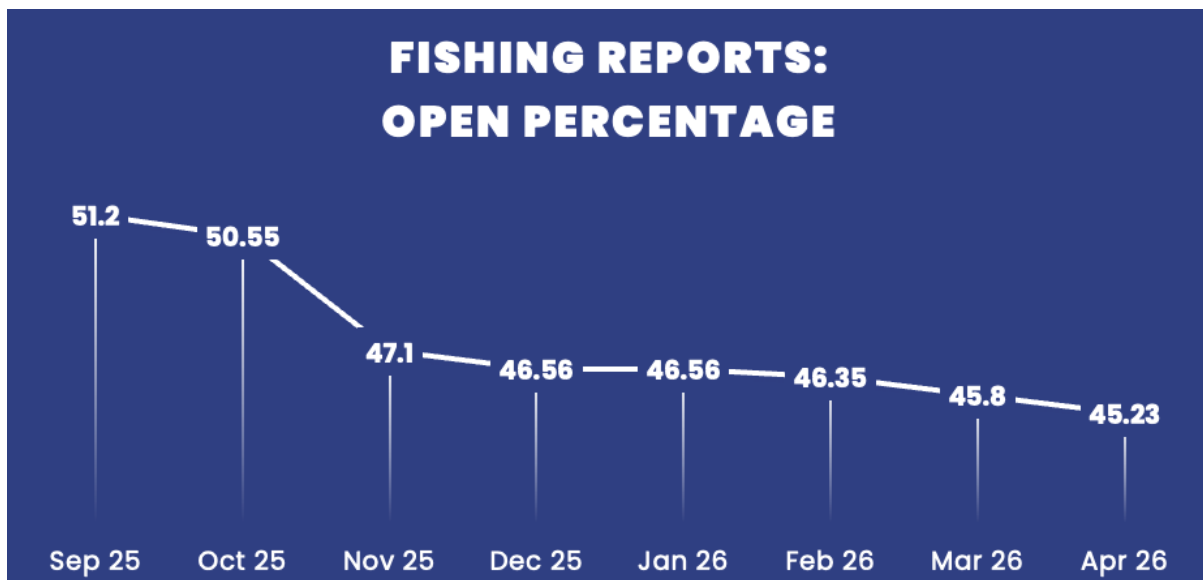


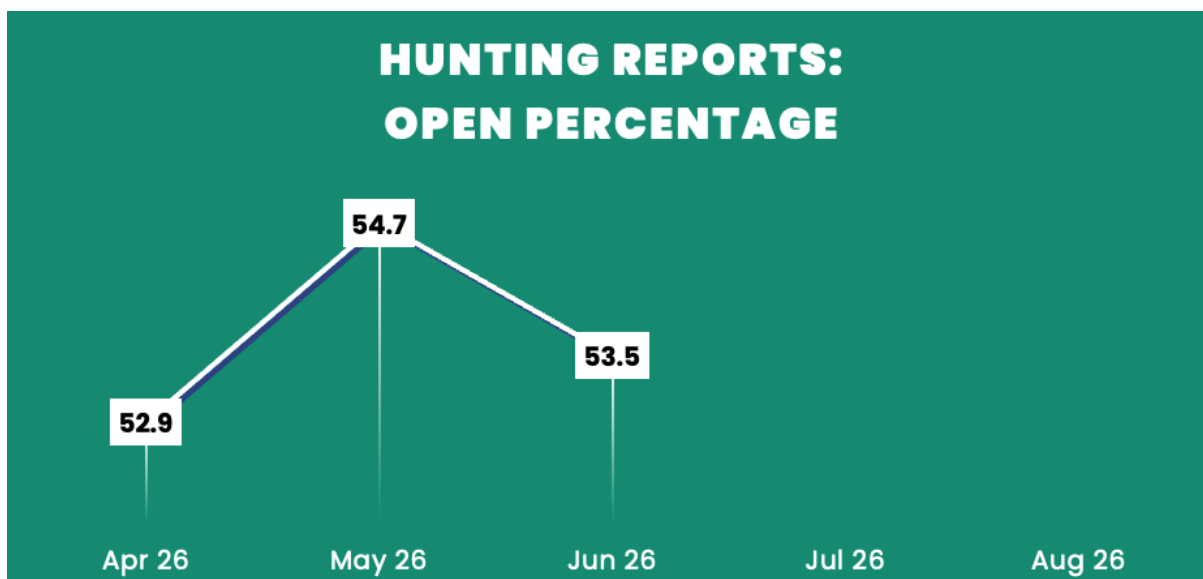
-Instagram-



-YouTube-



-Fishing Reports-

-Hunting Reports-**4. Kōrerorero – Discussion**

Communications activity has continued across Facebook, Instagram, and regional hunting reports in line with the Communications and Engagement Strategy. Regular reporting on channel performance provides an indication of audience reach and engagement, while helping identify opportunities to improve future content and communications activity. Communications will continue to focus on delivering relevant information to licence holders, stakeholders, and the wider public. While a lower number of posts have been posted over this last month, we have continued to have a high reach and consistent number of viewers on our main Facebook channel.

5. Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga - Considerations For Decision-Making

n/a

6. Financial Considerations

☒ Nil ☐ Budgetary provision ☐ Unbudgeted

7. Risk

☒ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High ☐ Extreme

8. Legislative Implications

n/a

9. Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

n/a

10. Policy Implications

n/a

11. Risks and Mitigations

n/a

12. Consultation

n/a

13. Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next Actions

Continue working to the C&E Strategy.

Compliance Report

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting - 22 July 2026

Prepared By: Caleb Ryder

1. Kōrero taunaki - Summary of Considerations

a) Kaupapa - Purpose

Provide an update on compliance activities for the 2025/2026 fishing season and a summary of the 2026 gamebird opening weekend offence outcomes.

2. Takenga mai – Background

Compliance is one of the Council's five priorities and has been a key focus of staff from the commencement of the 2025/26 Fishing and the 2026 Game Bird season.

3. Kōrerorero – Discussion

Staff and volunteers have, to date, completed catchment-based targeted ranging, based on data from the 2021/22 National Angler Survey to gauge angler usage on our lakes and rivers in the North Canterbury Region.

1068 anglers have been checked across 23 locations (refer Table 1) as of the 7th of July. **Note:** that these checks do not include licence numbers gathered as part of competitions or event entries.

Table 1: Number of fishing licence checks across catchments in the North Canterbury region

Catchment	No of Licence Checks	No of Offenders
Rakaia	504	3
Waimakariri	495	3
Hurunui	10	0
Waiau	7	3
Ashley	20	0
Ellesmere	32	2
Total	1068	11

Overall, the non-compliance rate for North Canterbury was 1% of all anglers checked, and this aligns with New Zealand Fish and Game Councils maximum 5% non-compliance target.

11 fishing offences and 11 offenders have been detected with most being resolved through diversion or formal warning letters. We are currently waiting an outcome from a court case that is result of offending during the 2024/2025 Gamebird season.

85 gamebird hunters have been checked over the gamebird hunting season across private ponds, public lakes and public riverbeds.

Gamebird opening weekend offences

All offences encountered over gamebird opening weekend have now been dealt with via diversion and formal warning letters.

Pheasant weekends

Staff checked 21 hunters over both pheasant weekends to date and are pleased to report that no offending has been observed. These encounters have represented a good opportunity to engage with passionate upland gamebird hunters and determine where the hunting activity for pheasants is concentrated.

4. Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next Actions

Honorary Ranger team

We have one new honorary ranger who has rejoined the North Canterbury team after spending the last three years with Otago Fish and Game. This brings our honorary ranger team to 13.

Ranger Training

Staff will be holding a ranger training day in September in preparation for the 2026/27 fishing season. This training is a key component of the honorary ranger program and typically covers any regulation changes and acts as a refresher for best practice when dealing with offending anglers.

Action List

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL



As of: 22 Jul 2026

Climate Change

On Hold

Cr Brankin to organise and lead a workshop via Teams.

Due Date: 22 Jul 2025

Owner: CHRIS BRANKIN

Meeting: 21 May 2025 NCFG COUNCIL MEETING, 3.1 General Business

Latest Update:

Waiting for latest salmon research to come in before progressing.

DEBBIE AMBLER | 27 Nov 2025

HABITAT PROJECT - SELWYN BLACKWATER

On Hold

To revisit Selwyn Blackwater submission to investigate what protections would need to be in place for the level of funding being sought.

Due Date: 17 Sept 2025

Owner: Lyndon Slater

Meeting: 23 Jul 2025 Council Meeting, 2.3 Selwyn Blackwater Habitat Project

Latest Update:

Currently seeking funding of \$65,000 which is required to get the QEII Covenant.

DEBBIE AMBLER | 27 Nov 2025

MOU with NZC

In Progress

That a more specific document be furthered through legal channels on the restructure of NCFG as outlined in the MOU with NZC.

Due Date: 26 Nov 2025

Owners: CHRIS BRANKIN, DAVE BARRON

Meeting: 17 Sept 2025 North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting, 2.4 MOU with NZC

Regulations Review - Use of Single Hooks

In Progress

That when considering fishing methods during the 2026/27 fishing regulations review, consideration be given to the use of single hooks. Staff to provide a recommendation to Council at the appropriate timing,

Due Date: 12 Dec 2025

Owner: Lyndon Slater

Meeting: 17 Sept 2025 North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting, 1.3 Council Time

Changing Policy on Regulation Setting

In Progress

That the topic of 'Changing Policy' in relation to setting dates for regulations be put on agenda for the Strategic Planning Workshop being held in late January 2026.

Due Date: 31 Jan 2026

Owner: ALAN STRONG
Meeting: 26 Nov 2025 NCFG Council Meeting, 2.4 Game Bird Regulations - 2026 Game Bird Season Dates

Latest Update:

move to 2026 workshop

ALAN STRONG | 17 May 2026

Selwyn Huts

On Hold

That an independent person who lives close to Te Waihora be asked to talk to Council to give his perspective about the Selwyn Huts situation.

Due Date: 18 Feb 2026
Owner: ALAN STRONG
Meeting: 26 Nov 2025 NCFG Council Meeting, 1.5 Council Time

Purpose and Priorities 2026-2027

In Progress

As part of the Operational Work Plan, key performance indicators be set for staff to achieve and measure Council's aspirations.

Due Date: 18 Mar 2026
Owner: Lyndon Slater
Meeting: 18 Feb 2026 North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting, 2.4 Confirm Purpose and Priorities Document for 2026-2027

National Access Database

In Progress

To provide Council the NCFG list from the Access Issues database held by NZC.

Due Date: 15 Jul 2026
Owner: Lyndon Slater
Meeting: 20 May 2026 NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING, 4.1 General Business