5 for our future

Kia Rima mō te Anamata

Have your Say!

If we invest in **water-based leisure**, where should it be?



Learn more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

We want your feedback on this and other key decisions in our draft Long Term Plan

Ashburton DISTRICT COUNCIL

If we invest in **water-based leisure**, where should it be?

Over recent years, we've received requests from the community for various water-based leisure facilities.

At the same time, the Tinwald Pool also requires significant repairs, more people using it, and reliable staffing to continue running.

Each of the four projects we've explored is expected to cost around $3M (slightly more for hydroslides) and while we'd like to complete them all, we can really only afford to proceed with one. Or we can do nothing.

We'd like to know which option you prefer.



OPTION 1

Refurbishing Tinwald Pool

The Tinwald Pool would be repaired and relined with a full replacement of the underlying pipes and water treatment plant. The rebuild only upgrades the pool itself, no work is included in the budget to renovate the changing rooms, facility entrance or lifeguard facilities.

The project would ensure the facility meets NZ standards for pool design and water quality, and include the installation of new commercial filtration equipment, accessible entry ramps, and the separation of the childrens' pool from the main pool.

Like with all renovation projects, the cost is an estimate and there could be unknown costs uncovered once work begins.

What will it cost?

- Project cost: Approximately $3 million *(loan funded)*
- An extra $26 each year on rates from 2026, slowly decreasing over a 20-year period.

- ✓ Responds to requests of the community and retains Tinwald Pool for use.
- ✓ The facility is brought up to modern New Zealand pool safety and water quality standards.
- ✓ Provides an alternative pool option when EA Networks Centre is closed for maintenance.
- ✓ Public swimming options *(in summer)* are available in different locations around Ashburton.
- ✓ Some income is generated by pool entrance fees.
- ✗ Cost to repair does not include an upgrade to other parts of the facility.
- ✗ High cost for fairly limited usage.
- ✗ Highest operating cost per opening hours of all the options.
- ✗ Would not solve the lifeguard shortage issue.

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OPTION 2

Creating a new waterplay area at Ashburton Domain

The Ashburton Domain paddling pool is starting to show its age and we've had requests for an upgrade.

Under this option the children's paddling pool would be rebuilt closer to the playground area and include a new paddling pool, a splash deck and other waterplay features.

This project is part of the Ashburton Domain Development Plan that was adopted in 2020.

If this option isn't picked, the current paddling pool will be used in the short to medium term, and the project could be revisited in the next Long Term Plan.

What will it cost?

- Project cost: Approximately $3 million *(loan funded)*
- An extra $25 on rates each year from Year 3 2026, slowly decreasing over a 20-year period.

- ✓ Remains a free activity and therefore has less barriers to use than the other options.
- ✓ Does not require lifeguards and is not restricted by opening hours.
- ✓ Enhances current paddling pool offering to also include a splash deck and other water activities.
- ✓ Able to be modernised and future proofed.
- ✓ Helps progress the Ashburton Domain Development Plan.
- ✓ Responds to the requests of the community for an upgraded paddling pool.
- ✗ Tinwald Pool would be closed.
- ✗ Does not appeal to a broader age range.
- ✗ May be deemed unnecessary given the current pool could continue to operate in the short-medium term.

You can read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz



Conceptual image for illustrative purposes only.

OPTION 3

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

Building an outdoor pool at EA Networks Centre

A new outdoor pool with a sheltered and landscaped area suitable for picnics would be built at EA Networks Centre. The pool would likely include an integrated child splash area and beach-style entry, as well as outdoor spaces to relax.

Locating the outdoor pool at EA Networks Centre would make lifeguarding the pool easier and cheaper to run than at Tinwald. It is envisioned that the lifeguards would rotate through the area.

Our recent Recreation Facility Utilisation Study also showed that the swim school at EA Networks Centre has reached capacity. This option could help ease this issue, but only during summer months.

What will it cost?

- Project cost: Approximately $3 million *(loan funded)*
- An extra $25 each year on rates from 2026, slowly decreasing over a 20-year period.

- ✓ Longer opening hours than Tinwald Pool due to the flexibility provided by lifeguards already stationed at EA Networks Centre.
- ✓ Lower operating costs than Tinwald Pool in relation to opening hours due to less lifeguards being required.
- ✓ Would be designed and built to the latest pool standards.
- ✓ Customers would be able to utilise other EA Networks Centre facilities.
- ✓ Provides an alternative pool option when the indoor pool is closed for maintenance.
- ✓ Some income would be generated by pool entrance fees.
- ✓ Could help swim school capacity issues at EA Networks Centre during summer.
- ✗ Tinwald Pool would be closed.
- ✗ Wouldn't solve swim school capacity issues during the colder months.

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Conceptual image for illustrative purposes only.



OPTION 4

Building a hydroslide at EA Networks Centre

A hydroslide would be added to the current indoor pool at the EA Networks Centre. Initially one slide would be constructed, with the option of adding a second slide in the future.

As entry to the hydroslide would be ticketed, this option is likely to generate more income that the other options and have a lower impact on rates.

We would explore the possibility of entering into a joint venture with a third party to help save costs. This would open up the opportunity to install two slides instead of one straight away.

What will it cost?

- Project cost: Approximately $3.5 million (loan funded)
- An extra $22 each year on rates from 2026, slowly decreasing over a 20-year period.

- ✓ Available for use all year round.
- ✓ Meets the requests for more activities for young people within the district.
- ✓ Is likely to generate more income that the other options due to ticket sales.
- ✓ Council could enter into a joint venture with a private party to save costs and renew the slide periodically.
- ✗ Tinwald Pool would be closed.
- ✗ Depending on the design, this option may not be able to be used by young children (*e.g. under 5s*).
- ✗ Depending on design features, this option could be the most expensive option.

You can read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

OPTION 5

Do nothing (status quo)

Under this option, we would not invest in a new water-based leisure option and Tinwald pool would be permanently closed.

What will it cost?

Project cost: $0

There would be no additional cost for ratepayers.

- Ongoing operating costs would be minimal *(only the existing Ashburton Domain paddling pool).*
- No additional debt.
- Tinwald Pool would be closed.
- Does not meet community requests for more recreation options for young people, an upgraded paddling pool, or to save the Tinwald Pool.

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What does the Council think?

The Council prefers OPTION 3

We think a new outdoor pool at EA Networks Centre would provide our community a fun, modern water leisure facility for a similar cost to the other options, while being more efficient to operate.

But which option do you support?

Have your Say!

The easiest way to share your feedback is at ***ItsOurPlace.nz***

Feedback closes Sunday 28 April

Frequently Asked Questions

Do we need to spend the allocated $3 million?

No, the $3 million doesn't have to be spent, which is why we've included Option 5: Do nothing. Tinwald Pool would be closed under this option.

Would an outdoor pool at the EA Networks Centre remain open during winter?

No, given the climate in Canterbury, it wouldn't be feasible to operate the outdoor pool over winter. However, it could be open for longer hours and a longer season than Tinwald Pool.

Why can't Tinwald Pool be turned over to the community to look after?

Because Tinwald Pool is located on Council land, we're legally responsible for complying with health and safety regulations. We would need to have full confidence that risks such as water quality, water safety, environmental and other operational matters were being managed well. Community pools in smaller towns around the district manage these risks through a membership system which includes members assisting with daily duties, but in larger urban towns, this model has a high degree of risk and often becomes problematic.

Did the Council get money from the Government to fix Tinwald Pool?

Council received a grant from the "Better Off" fund to undertake investigation and develop a scope of work for the repairs. This report was completed last year and can be found with the supporting information for this topic at ***ItsOurPlace.nz***

Why does it cost so much to fix Tinwald Pool?

For the pool to meet the New Zealand Standards for pool design and water quality, it requires significant work, both above and below ground, to improve circulation as well as a commercial plant to support water treatment and filtration.

Why do these facilities cost so much to operate?

The operating costs include power, water treatment and loan payments (with interest) for the construction costs. For the outdoor pools, they also include the costs of staffing with lifeguards. For the outdoor pools and hydroslide, a portion of the operating costs would be offset by income.

Will any of the options make money?

All public aquatic facilities are subsidised by rates to some degree, but provide value through the recreational, social and health benefits they offer the community.

Compared with the other projects, a hydroslide would operate year-round and generate extra income through user fees, but is still not guaranteed to "break even."

As the costs for aquatic facilities and pools are largely fixed, their success is dependent on customers making use of the facility.

Why is Tinwald Pool not the Council's preferred option?

We could invest a significant amount into rebuilding the Tinwald Pool but continue to have a relatively small number of people visiting each season. Finding enough lifeguards to ensure the pool can open consistently over summer has also been challenging over recent years, especially once university students return to their studies.

Building a new, modern outdoor pool at the EA Networks Centre is the preferred option due to the benefits co-location would offer such as longer opening hours, a higher standard of facilites *(for example, the changing rooms, café and spa)*, and the need to have one less lifeguard operating the pool, all for a similar project cost.

However, no decision has been made yet and we need to hear which option you prefer.

Want to look at this topic in more detail?

Check out the consultation document.

OUR LONG TERM PLAN

The draft Long Term Plan provides a roadmap for the projects and services we intend to deliver over the next 10 years.

It lets you know what we'll be doing, how much it will cost and how we intend to pay for it.

We have five key decisions that we think are important, but we welcome your feedback on any part of the plan. This is your chance to help define the priorities of our district and it's important that everyone has their say.

5 for our future

Our Place | Our Plan

Scan the QR code to view the consultation document.

ItsOurPlace.nz



Community Events

Learn more about the topics in the Long Term Plan, ask questions and chat with councillors at these upcoming events.

Saturday Sausage Sizzles

10am-2pm

Visit any time between 10am-2pm, grab a free sausage and chat to us about the Long Term Plan.

Sat 6 April	Tinwald Pool
Sat 13 April	Baring Square East, Ashburton
Sat 20 April	Methven iHub

We'll also be popping up elsewhere around the district, check ***ItsOurPlace.nz*** for an event near you.

Community Meetings

7pm-8pm

Thu 4 April	Rakaia Community Centre
Hosted by the Rakaia Community Association	
Tue 9 April	Mount Somers War Memorial Hall
Mon 15 April	Hinds Community Centre
This meeting will focus on the key stockwater decision	
Tue 16 April	Ashburton Library
This meeting will be livestreamed on Facebook & YouTube	
Wed 17 April	Mt Hutt Memorial Hall