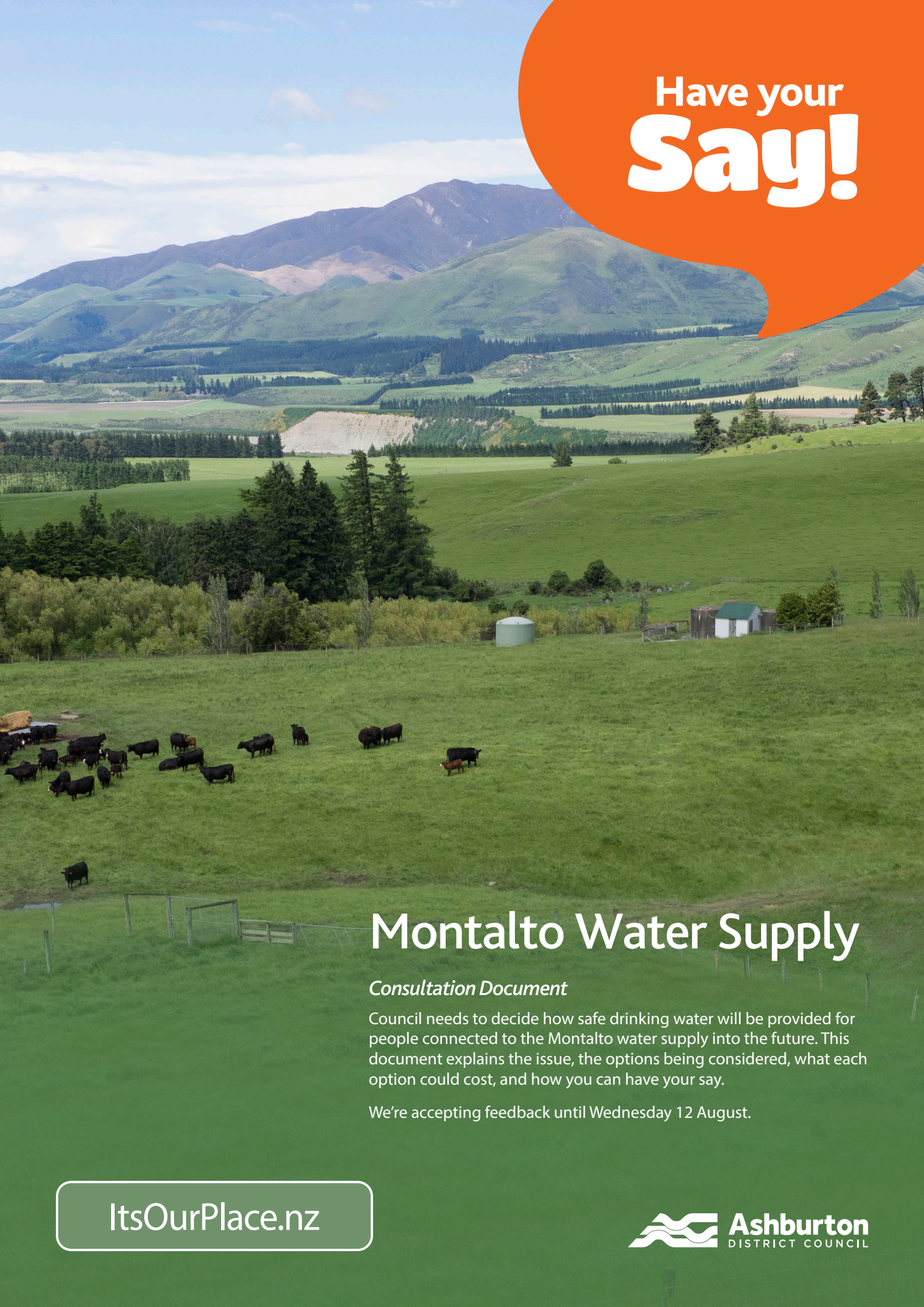




Have your
Say!

Montalto Water Supply

Consultation Document

Council needs to decide how safe drinking water will be provided for people connected to the Montalto water supply into the future. This document explains the issue, the options being considered, what each option could cost, and how you can have your say.

We're accepting feedback until Wednesday 12 August.

ItsOurPlace.nz

Why are we consulting?

Council must confirm a funded plan to bring the Montalto water supply up to current drinking water standards.

Taumata Arowai, New Zealand's drinking water regulator, has asked Council to address the scheme's non-compliance and develop an action plan.

The regulator considers Montalto to be a mixed-use rural supply. To begin moving toward compliance, the supply needs to have storage, end point treatment with filtration and UV disinfection.

Council is currently conducting a trial at three households on the scheme to see if end point treatment of the water supplied by the current network is viable and it is showing positive results.

Each of the trial properties has a storage tank, pressure pump, and end point treatment consisting of an off-the-shelf domestic cartridge filtration setup (20 micron, 1 micron, and charcoal) and a domestic UV disinfection unit.

Any solution for the future needs to make drinking water safe and meet the law. It also needs to be affordable and fair about who pays.

What is the issue?

The current water supply at Montalto is not compliant with the Water Services Act 2021 and current Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules, and the following issues have been identified:

- There is no filtration
- The UV reactor is old and is not validated to current standards
- UV transmittance can be as low as 20%
- Chlorine dosing needs to be very high and disinfection is a by-product risk

The raw water can be poor quality, especially after heavy rain and because of this, the supply has been on a permanent boil water notice since 20 February 2018.

The pipe network is another major issue with no backflow prevention in place. The network consists of about 80km of pipes, was installed in the 1960s, and would need replacing if Council continued to rely on it for drinking water.

At the moment, the 34 connected properties pay the full cost of running the Montalto supply, as Montalto users are not part of the wider district water group.

The supply is used for both household water and stockwater, but only about 10 percent of the water supplied by the network is used by households. The rest is used mainly for livestock.

Council has looked at a range of options and wants your feedback before deciding.

We want to know which option you support and why.



What options are being considered?

Council is considering four options to address these issues.

- **Option 1: Upgrade existing scheme with end point treatment at each household**
- **Option 2: Build a new drinking water only scheme with end point treatment at each household**
- **Option 3: Households switch to rainwater tanks with end point treatment supported by council**  **PREFERRED OPTION**
- **Option 4: Each property chooses its own household water supply, not connected to the existing scheme**

Costs and Funding

The costs shown under each option are estimates for comparison purposes only. Final costs may change after design work, approvals and decisions are made.

Options 1, 2 and 3 also have two possible ways to pay for them.

Council has budgeted money in its Annual Plan 2026/27 for work on the Montalto scheme. Under the preferred option, this could help pay for rainwater storage tanks and treatment units at each house. The possible funding models are:

Funding Model A

Only Montalto water users pay for the option (this is the current approach).

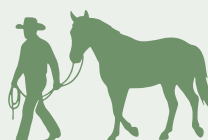
Funding Model B

Montalto joins the wider water group, and all group water ratepayers help pay.

This model would likely require a discussion with the wider community, and be consulted on as part of the Long Term Plan.

Have your
Say!

Submissions close Wednesday 12 August



Option 1

Upgrade existing scheme with end point treatment at each household

This option involves the installation of a raw water tank (where necessary), end point treatment units in homes and the installation of backflow protection on the existing scheme. This brings the scheme into Taumata Arowai compliance for Mixed-Use Rural Acceptable Solution (MUR-AS).

Council would look after the treatment units and replace parts like filter cartridges and UV lamps when needed.

The main concern with this option is that drinking water would still rely on the old network that will need to be fixed and/or replaced in the future. The cost of renewing the network is not included here.

Option 1: Upgrade existing scheme with end point treatment at each household			
Estimated costs			
Capital	\$1.4 million (+GST)		
Operational	Approximately \$167,720/annum		
	Targeted Water Rate	Area Water Rate	Group Water Rate
Funding Model A	\$3,361.55/annum (\$1,109.55 increase)	\$109.09/hectare (\$33.79 increase)	N/A
Funding Model B	N/A	N/A	\$866.34/annum (\$50.69 increase)
Advantages: Helps the scheme meet drinking water rules, once backflow risks are fixed.			
Disadvantages: Council would need to manage at least 34 treatment units. Drinking water would still rely on an old network that will need more work.			
Risks: There is also a risk that heavy rain could affect treatment performance.			

Option 2

Build a new drinking water only scheme with end point treatment at each household

This option would build a new, smaller network for drinking water only.

Treatment equipment would involve the installation of a raw water tank (where necessary) and end point treatment. This brings the scheme into Taumata Arowai compliance via the Small to Medium Networks Acceptable Solution (SMN-AS).

Council would look after the new drinking water network, treatment units and replace parts like filters and UV lamps when needed.

The old network could be used for stockwater only and managed by a landowner group.

This would give Council more control over drinking water, but it would cost much more to build.

Option 2: Build a new drinking water only scheme with end point treatment at each household			
Estimated costs			
Capital	\$6.9 million (+GST)		
Operational	\$95,000/annum		
	Targeted Water Rate	Area Water Rate	Group Water Rate
Funding Model A	\$32,895.53/annum (\$30,643.53 increase)	Nil	N/A
Funding Model B	N/A	N/A	\$901.42/annum (\$85.77 increase)
Advantages: Creates a new drinking water network that is easier to control and protect. The old network could still be used for stockwater and operated by a landowner group.			
Disadvantages: This is the most expensive option to build. Council would still need to manage at least 34 treatment units.			
Risks: Treatment units may still be affected when raw water quality is poor after heavy rain.			

Option 3



PREFERRED OPTION

Households switch to rainwater tanks with end point treatment supported by council

This option would use roof-collected rainwater for household drinking water. Each home would have a 25,000 litre rainwater tank and treatment equipment to make the water safe to drink.

Homes would be disconnected from the current Montalto scheme for drinking water. The scheme could then become stockwater only.

The Montalto scheme would no longer be a public drinking water supply. Council could transfer the water take consent to a local Montalto group for stockwater use.

Council would still look after the treatment units and help manage water if tanks run low, like tankering in water in a drought. This would need to be defined in more detail and discussed with the community.

Council prefers this option because it has a lower set-up cost than most other options and reduces reliance on the old network.

The drinking water supply could only be formally closed after the required legal process, including a referendum. Council has been trialling end point treatment units at three households connected to the current supply. Those property owners will be able to share feedback on how the trial has worked.

Existing budget from Council's Annual Plan 2026/27 could help pay for rainwater storage tanks and treatment units at each house.



PREFERRED OPTION

Option 3: Households switch to rainwater tanks with end point treatment supported by council			
Estimated costs			
Capital	\$500,000		
Operational	\$50,000/annum		
	Targeted Water Rate	Area Water Rate	Group Water Rate
Funding Model A	\$7,265.22/annum (\$5,013.22 increase)	Nil	N/A
Funding Model B	N/A	N/A	\$832.89/annum (\$17.24 increase)
Advantages: Lower set-up cost than most other options, and reduces reliance on the old network. The stockwater system could be managed by a landowner group. This is Council's preferred option.			
Disadvantages: Some landowners may not support rainwater collection and tanks. Council would still manage treatment units and help with tankered water if tanks run low.			
Risks: Closing the drinking water supply would need a legal process, including a referendum.			

What is end point treatment?

End point treatment happens at each property, before you turn on the tap in your kitchen or bathroom. It involves cartridge filtration and disinfection by UV lamp.

Here's what it looks like in the three properties that have been trialling end point treatment while still connected to the current supply.



Option 4

Each property chooses its own household water supply, not connected to the existing scheme

Under this option, each property would arrange and pay for its own drinking water supply, and would be required to disconnect their dwellings or other buildings from the scheme. Council would not manage treatment units.

The current drinking water supply would need to be formally closed through the legal process, including a referendum.

The old network could become stockwater only and be managed by a landowner group.

Estimated Council cost: About \$30,000 plus GST. This amount being the costs associated with completion of a water scheme closure process. This excludes any costs that individual property owners will incur directly in the establishment of a suitable potable supply for their property.

Estimated yearly Council running cost: \$0, because Council would no longer run the Montalto drinking water supply.

The main risk is that water quality could be different from property to property.

Option 4: Each property chooses its own household water supply, not connected to the existing scheme			
Estimated costs for Council			
Capital	\$30,000 (to close the scheme)		
Operational	\$0		
	Targeted Water Rate	Area Water Rate	Group Water Rate
Funding Model A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Funding Model B	N/A	N/A	N/A
<p>Advantages: This has the lowest cost to Council, as each property could choose the water supply that works best for them. Council would no longer manage the water scheme or manage household treatment units.</p>			
<p>Disadvantages: Water quality could be different from property to property. Each property would need to pay for its own potable water supply.</p>			
<p>Risks: Closing the drinking water supply would need a legal process, including a referendum.</p>			



Options cost summary

Option	Funding Model A: If Montalto users pay	Funding Model B: If costs are shared across the wider water group	Summary
<p>Option 1: Upgrade existing scheme with end point treatment at each household.</p> <p>Set-up cost: About \$1.4 million plus GST.</p>	<p>\$3,361.55/annum per household connection (+\$1,109.55)</p> <p>\$109.09/hectare (+\$33.79)</p> <p>Ave 150Ha property: \$19,773.80 (+\$6,527.08) per annum</p>	<p>About \$866.34 a year for each Montalto group water ratepayer. Increase to the group scheme by \$50.69 per user</p>	<p>Lower set up cost than Option 2, but higher yearly running costs.</p>
<p>Option 2: Build a new drinking water only scheme with end point treatment at each household.</p> <p>Set-up cost: about \$6.9 million plus GST.</p>	<p>\$32,895.53/annum per household connection (+\$30,643.53)</p> <p>\$Nil/hectare (-\$75.43)</p> <p>Ave 150Ha property: \$32,895.53 (+19,648.81) per annum</p>	<p>About \$901.42 a year for each Montalto group water ratepayer. Increase to the group scheme by \$85.77</p>	<p>Most expensive option to build.</p>
<p>Option 3: Households switch to rainwater tanks with end point treatment supported by council.</p> <p>Set-up cost: about \$500,000 plus GST.</p> <p> PREFERRED OPTION</p>	<p>\$7,265.22/annum (+\$5,013.22)</p> <p>\$Nil/hectare (-\$75.43)</p> <p>Ave 150Ha property: \$7,265.22 (-\$5,981.50) per annum</p>	<p>About \$832.89 a year for each Montalto group water ratepayer. Increase to the group scheme by \$17.24</p>	<p>Council's preferred option funded through Model A. Lower set-up cost and less reliance on the old network.</p>
<p>Option 4: Each property chooses its own household water supply, not connected to the existing supply.</p> <p>Set-up cost: about \$30,000 plus GST.</p>	<p>Not funded through the Montalto scheme. Each property would pay its own costs.</p>	<p>Not funded through the wider water group.</p>	<p>Lowest cost to Council, but each property would need to arrange and pay for its own drinking water supply.</p>

Have your
Say!

Submissions close Wednesday 12 August



What happens next?

A meeting with the Montalto water supply community is scheduled for 3 August, 2pm at 353 Hinds Gorge Road. Council will contact Montalto households directly with details about the meeting.

After feedback closes, Council will read all submissions and consider what people have said before making a decision.

If you ask to speak to Council, you may be able to present your views at a hearing.

Feedback period



Wednesday 22 July - Wednesday 12 August 2026

Hearings/public forum



Wednesday 2 September 2026

Final decision



Wednesday 2 September 2026



What's the best for our community? Let us know!

Submissions close Wednesday 12 August

Fill out the attached short survey and return it via:



FREEPOST
Ashburton District Council
Freepost 230444
Ashburton 7740



IN PERSON
Drop it off at:
Ashburton District Council
2 Baring Square East

You can also provide feedback:



ONLINE
ItsOurPlace.nz



EMAIL
submissions@adc.govt.nz



The easiest way to
provide your feedback
is online at

ItsOurPlace.nz

Future of Montalto Water Supply

Your feedback will help Council understand what matters most to the community. Tell us which option you support, any concerns you have, and anything else Council should consider. The easiest way to give feedback is at itsourplace.nz

1 Which option to you prefer most?

Please rank all options in order of preference, with 1 being your most preferred option and 4 being your least preferred option

- ☐ **Option 1: Upgrade existing scheme with end point treatment at each household and gradually renew existing network**
- ☐ **Option 2: Build a new drinking water only scheme with end point treatment at each household**
- ☐ **Option 3: Households switch to rainwater tanks with end point treatment supported by council**  **COUNCIL'S PREFERRED OPTION**
- ☐ **Option 4: Each property chooses its own household water supply, not connected to the existing network**

Please tell us why you support your most preferred option:

2 Based on your preferred option, which funding model do you support?

- ☐ **Funding Model A: Only Montalto water users pay**
- ☐ **Funding Model B: Costs are shared across the wider water group**
- ☐ **Don't know**

Please explain your answer:

3 What concerns do you have about the options?

Please tell us about any risks, costs or practical issues Council should consider:

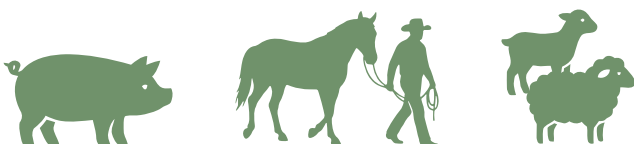
4 Further comments

Do you have any further comments you'd like to make?



Have more to say?

Feel free to attach additional pages to your submission.
You can also provide your feedback online at itsourplace.nz



Submissions close Wednesday 12 August



YOUR DETAILS

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Address (optional):

Phone:

Email:

Do you wish to present in support of your submission at the hearing?

(if no boxes are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard)

☐

Yes: The hearing is expected to be held in Hine Paaka (*Council Chamber*) on 2 September 2026. Please note that hearings will be live-streamed to our online channels.

If yes, do you wish to present: ☐ In Person ☐ Virtually

☐

No: I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered.

Please note that submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website, including names of submitters (but not contact details). Find out more at ashburtondc.govt.nz/privacy

Submissions presented in the form of a petition or accompanied by multiple signatures will be processed as a single submission.



Learn more and share
your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

