Open Spaces Strategy Review 2026

Summary of feedback

To support Deliberations on 28/04/2026

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Consultation (summary of feedback presented in this document)

We undertook consultation with the wider community from 4 March to 7 April 2026, alongside the Open Spaces Bylaw and the Brothel Location Bylaw. The feedback received through this period on the Open Spaces Strategy is summarised within this document.

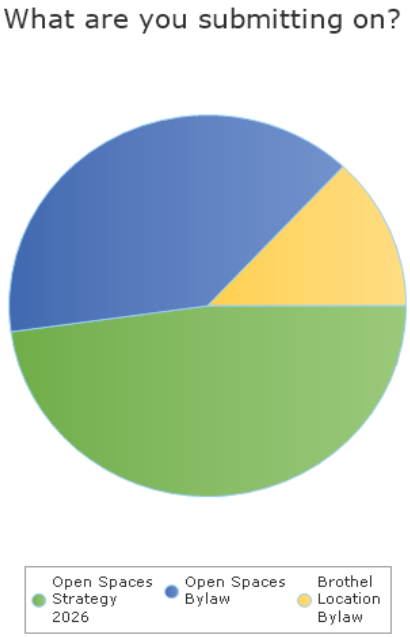
We received a total of 11 submissions, with 1 submitter indicating to speak at the hearing on 28 April. This now has changed as we have been advised that they do not intend to appear; however, have provided contact details should Council have any questions.

Open Spaces Strategy & Bylaw & Brothel Location Bylaw Review 2026

What are you submitting on?

If you want to provide feedback on all three proposals, please choose all three from the options.

	Number of people	%
Open Spaces Strategy 2026	11	47.83%
Open Spaces Bylaw	9	39.13%
Brothel Location Bylaw	3	13.04%
Total	**23**	



Open Spaces Strategy 2026

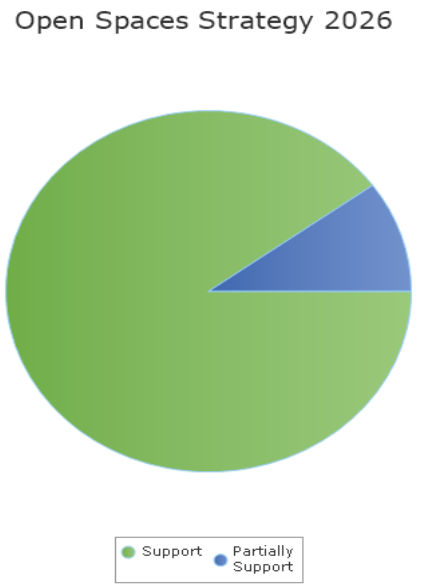
Vision:

Our vision for the future of Open Spaces in the district is:

“Resilient, inclusive open spaces that support community wellbeing, protect nature and heritage, and connect people across the Ashburton District"

1.1 Do you support this vision?

	Number of people	%
Support	9	90.00%
Partially Support	1	10.00%
Total	**10**	



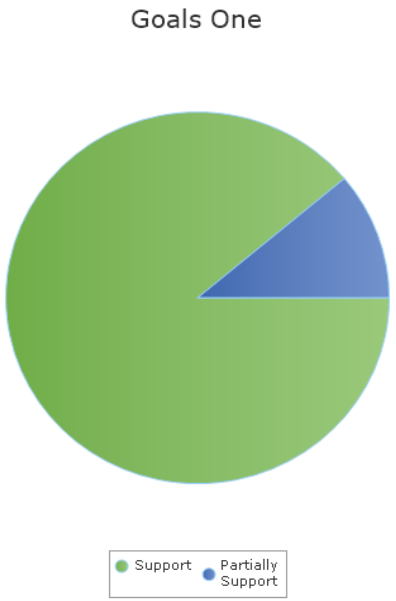
Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Support		
General		
10 - Bruce Leigh	I think we have great natural spaces that are underutilised due to no council inputs. These places are used by unsocial types fly-tippers unsocial vehicle use and events. We love the river areas, but they look so rough and undermaintained	Noted. Although note that the bulk of the land in the river areas is under ECans jurisdiction.
Partially Support		
General		
14 - Mike Prince	I very much support biodiversity enhancement but I see little value in maintaining old buildings that had their time and are now just reminders of good times that have moved on. I value museums and places where people can be educated about the past but not some old hall that needs a lot of money to restore and maintain it. ADC has made some good decisions lately.	Noted.

Goal One:

Open spaces are welcoming, accessible, and safe, reflecting the diverse needs, cultures, ages, and abilities of our communities.

1.2 Do you support Goal One and its objectives in the strategy?

	Number of people	%
Support	8	88.89%
Partially Support	1	11.11%
Total	**9**	



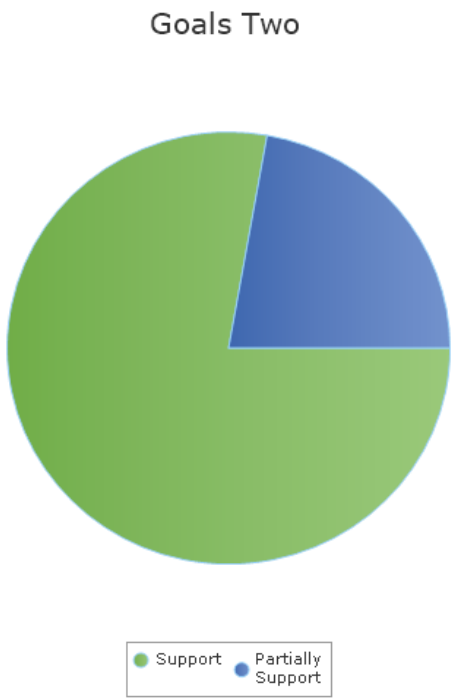
Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Support		
General		
14 - Mike Prince	If they are serving an actual need then they are purposeful and useful.	Noted.
Nuisance		
10 - Bruce Leigh	These areas are a better place for kiwis to get outdoors and close to town. Currently I have found myself met with intimidating behaviour in several of the areas we were looking to explore so for it to work it needs to be clear that the area is well managed and under control	Noted.
Partially Support		
General		
12 - David Eason	The words sound good, but the elephant in the room is not mentioned at all. This is of course the Council's strategy of closing community resources such as swimming pools and netball courts across the whole district and consolidating them at EA Networks. This of course harms the schools and community clubs which used and operated these facilities, as well as harming the general population with the reduction of children's swimming abilities due to schools now offering much reduced swimming programmes, if any. Swimming should be a basic ability that all people can do, especially as we are an island nation with spectacular rivers and beaches. Again, I like the wording in Goal One, especially "People first, Access for all", "remove barriers to access, support everyday use." But they lie in direct counter to what Ashburton Council has done with EA Networks and the planned consolidation of all the netball courts.	The closure of Tinwald Pool was consulted and resolved in the previous LTP process. The reference to netball court closures is unclear, as most netball courts in the district are located on private land rather than Council-owned land, and there are no known plans from private clubs to close or demolish their facilities.

Goal Two:

Open spaces protect, restore, and celebrate the Ashburton District's natural and cultural values.

1.3 Do you support Goal Two and its objectives in the strategy?

	Number of people	%
Support	7	77.78%
Partially Support	2	22.22%
Total	**9**	



Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Support		
General		
10 - Bruce Leigh	Some of the areas are out of control with weeds. And the work done around the area between the av and the bridge shows how beautiful the natural plants can be. So this is a must. Maybe some real explanation on who manages these areas as Ecan seem to be around but don't see them doing any weed control on either side of the river.	Noted.
Partially Support		
Bees, Water Races, and Native Planting		
12 - David Eason	Goal Two *sounds* good but given the backdrop of the Ashburton Council's war on bees, it sounds shallow and insincere. Bees play an important part to diversity, pollination and general health of the entire ecosystem. Beekeepers are struggling in part due to the ever-increasing monoculture cropping practices enacted by farmers; on top of this the Council has seen fit to remove much of the water race system, which is an important water source for bees and also an important food source given the wildflowers on the water race banks. On top of this, the Council has poisoned and removed much of the river vegetation especially willows, gorse, broom, which are all important bee food sources. Moving forward, two things are important: Firstly, maintain and support what remains of the water race system, and do not let it degrade further. Secondly, with your "native plantings", please consider bee health and incorporate "trees for bees" guidelines into your planting schedules.	Our current planting schedules include bee friendly plantings where necessary. During the 2024–34 Draft Long Term Plan consultation, Council sought feedback on the then-proposed key decision to exit the provision of the stockwater service. Around 1,200 submissions were received, with over 50 percent supporting Council's preferred option to exit the

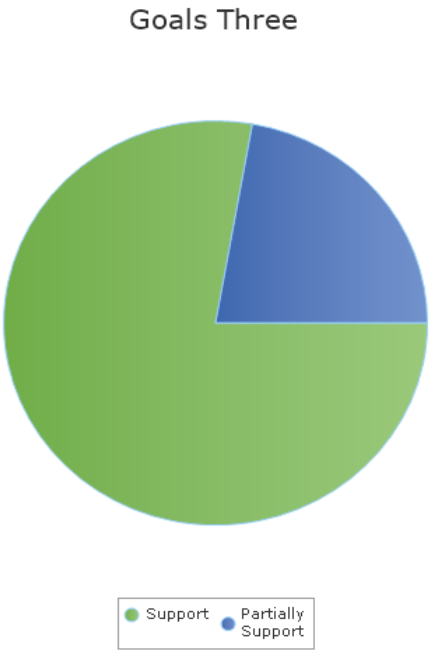
	The Ashburton Council has done huge damage to the beekeepers in the region and to the environment by its mistreatment of bees. It needs to reverse this.	service by 30 June 2027. Council formally approved this option on 23 May 2024. Council, through the establishment of the Stockwater Transition Working Group (STWG), is progressing its Stockwater Exit Transition Plan. This process involves consultation with the wider community and interested stakeholders regarding the closure of individual races. It is likely that some races with biodiversity and amenity values will remain open.

Goal Three:

Open spaces form a well-connected, and functional network across the district.

1.4 Do you support Goal Three and its objectives in the strategy?

	Number of people	%
Support	7	77.78%
Partially Support	2	22.22%
Total	**9**	



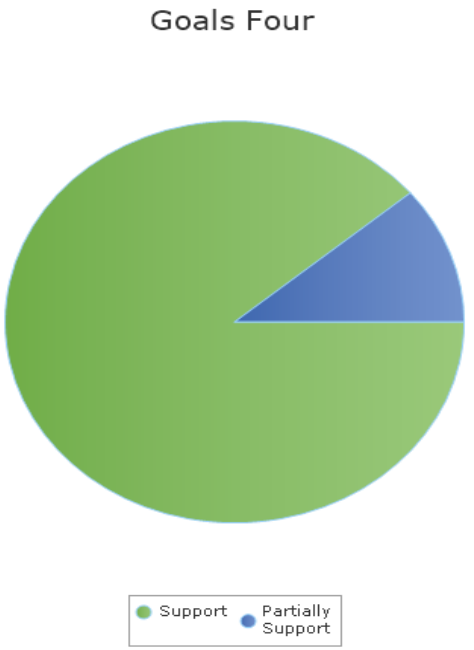
Submitter name	Submitter comments	Summary Staff comments
Support		
General		
10 - Bruce Leigh	Hhow awesome would it be to be able to bike to Methven or Hinds from Ashburton without being on the road. I know that's not probably possible but having that option or be able to explore the areas around Ashburton on foot or bike would be cool.	Noted. Improving walking and cycling connectivity is a key consideration in assessing new residential subdivisions.
Partially Support		
General		
8 - Debbie Woods	I would love to see the river trail heading West up the river bed towards the mountains	Noted The Hakatere Ashburton River Trail (HART) group are progressing this on the western side of the South branch upstream for several kilometres.

Goal Four:

Open spaces support long-term community wellbeing and resilience through adaptable design, sustainable management, and strong partnerships.

1.5 Do you support Goal Four and its objectives in the strategy?

	Number of people	%
Support	8	88.89%
Partially Support	1	11.11%
Total	**9**	



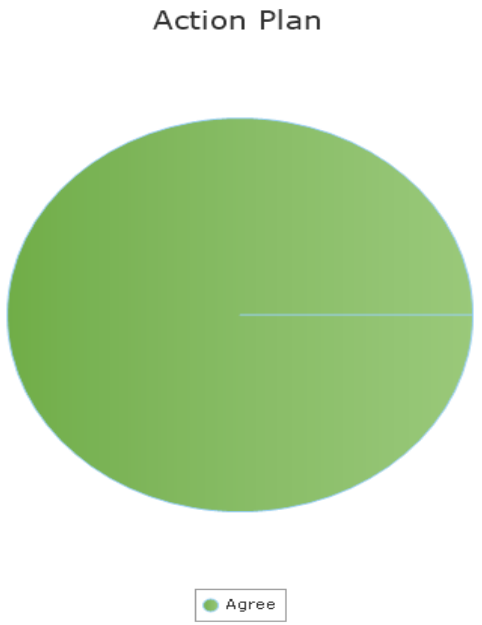
Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Support		
Nuisance		
10 - Bruce Leigh	I have friends who have long time issues with dirtbikes, 4WD and rubbish dumping, where they live. The area where they live is heavily used by cyclists, runners, dogs, horses, 4WDs dirtbikes, but there are zero control with the vehicles usually acting in unsocial manners regularly they say they are calling the police consistently. The area would thrive with better controls speed deterrents and amenities.	Noted. Primarily river corridor areas are administered by ECAN. HART trails are well used and the authority for control of antisocial behaviour is primarily the Police.

1.6 Do you agree with our draft action plan for the future of open spaces in the Ashburton District over the next 10 years?

See complete action plan from page 23-34 of the draft strategy.

Total number of responses: 7

	Number of people	%
Agree	7	100.00%
Total	**7**	



1.7 Are there any actions in the draft plan that you think we should prioritise?

See complete action plan from page 23-34 of the draft strategy. List the actions you think need prioritising.

Total number of responses: 5

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
11 - Sol Yezerski	**Question Comments**: no	
Flood Resilience		
1 - Vincent Brierly	**Question Comments**: Prioritising flood-resilient planting and sustainable land management would have the greatest impact, as these actions help protect open spaces, improve soil health, and support long-term environmental resilience. Efficient water use is also important for sustainability.	Council is currently leading this through the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy actions on nature-based solutions, which includes flood-resilient planting and sustainable land management. Flood-resilient plantings are being prioritised in riparian and river berm plantings.
General		
12 - David Eason	**Question Comments**: I *don't* think that "consulting with Iwi" should be a high priority, as Māori are a very small minority in this region. I think there certainly should be consultation with Māori and their opinion sought, and that opinion should be considered, but it should remain that: a valued opinion. It should not be "we have to satisfy Māori in all regards in order to proceed with anything." The weight of opinion of a very small number of people with a very small historical attachment to the	Noted.

	area should not be considered greater than - for instance - scientific theory with documented evidence. We need to prioritise reducing rates. They have gone up far too much far too often on grand white elephant schemes that ultimately harm the community.	
Nuisance		
10 - Bruce Leigh	**Question Comments**: Vehicle culture. A lot of these areas have bad vehicle culture. The lake hood the motorbike park and 4wdpark are prime examples. The activities inside those areas a fine. But the access to and from definitely need controlled a lot more. I have been run off the road around the lake by kids in 4WD doing skids and have been confronted by dirtbikes and 4WD along the river walk track. Dirtbike riders access the track off the walk tracks all bikes need to be trailered into the park with proof if asked. Kinda of like the boat numbers for lakes. I also can't see how a 4WD vehicle that's driven 16km through a river of around a 4WD track is deemed safe to be on a road afterwards. I am always worried when i see a 3-meter high 4WD vehicle covered in mud with the owner barely able to see out the window swerving over the roads	Noted. The authority responsible for vehicular (motorised) issues is the Police, not the Council
Promotion		
8 - Debbie Woods	**Question Comments**: I think more details/ Promotional material like maps etc need to be made to hand out as no I-site anymore and that information is always being asked for at council front counter	Noted.

1.8 Are there any other actions Council should be focusing on or including in the final strategy?

List any action/s you think is missing from the draft Open Spaces Strategy and should be included.

Total number of responses: 6

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
11 - Sol Yezerski	**Question Comments**: no	
Accessibility		
13 - Peter Kilgour	**Question Comments**: All footpaths in and around open spaces need to be in suitable condition for everybody, especially those with disabilities - like wheelchair operators and elderly on mobility scooters.	Noted.
General		
12 - David Eason	**Question Comments**: Trees for Bees, supporting small local communities as opposed to consolidating everything at EA Networks.	
Native Planting		
1 - Vincent Brierly	**Question Comments**: Council could also consider increasing shade and tree cover, supporting biodiversity through native planting, and improving	New subdivision plantings are typically natives. In addition, there are a number of native

	accessibility and safety in parks. Adding more public toilets in key areas, such as places like George Glassy Park, would also help. If people have shade and access to toilets, they are more likely to stay longer, exercise, and use the spaces regularly.	biodiversity projects that have been completed, are underway or planned for Council reserves. In regard to public conveniences, Council has undertaken a condition, accessibility, safety and provision assessment of all facilities to inform our improvement programme The new Asset Management Plan, under construction, will include Provision maps and a guideline for gaps in provision, for the first time.
Pest Management		
14 - Mike Prince	**Question Comments**: I encourage objective 1.5 E and G to consider introducing regular youth competition in the minor sports such as volleyball and badminton. Both local high schools had at least a dozen volleyball teams between them in 2025 but no opportunity in our district for weekly competition so when they go to tournaments they underperform and are disadvantaged.	Noted. The strategy relates to Council's open spaces and not the type of sports and recreation such as volleyball.
	Objective 2.4 regarding pest and weed control has to include control of cats in the same manner dogs are controlled. Cats should not have the freedom to wander beyond their owners boundary. Any cat found uncontrolled should bring a fine on it's owner or be destroyed. Cats are the biggest risk to our indigenous wildlife accounting for over 90% of wildlife injuries (https://predatorfreenz.org/research/predators/cats-drive-predation-admissions-at-auckland-wildlife-hospital/). Cats should be licensed like dogs are with microchipping compulsory.	In relation to cats, the Council staff has completed an investigation on cat management options for the district, as recommended by the Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group. Elected Councillors will consider the cat management scenarios on the 20 May Council meeting, as part of the Keeping of Animals, Bees, and Poultry Bylaw review.

	Objective 2.4 must also address the weed plant problems in our riverbeds such as willow, broom and gorse as well as sycamores elsewhere. ADC should not be planting sycamores anywhere and should identify them as a major wilding pest along with many conifers and aim to remove them.	Acknowledge the weed problem (including sycamores) in our riverbeds but note weeds in the riverbed are under ECan jurisdiction. Council staff are not aware of any Council plantings involving sycamores and current activity removes them from our reserves where practicable.
Safety		
10 - Bruce Leigh	**Question Comments**: Better controls where vehicles and pedestrians are crossing paths. More of a presence in the areas as well.	Council staff regularly monitor these interface locations with a public safety lens.
Toilets, Shades,		
1 - Vincent Brierly	**Question Comments**: Council could also consider increasing shade and tree cover, supporting biodiversity through native planting, and improving accessibility and safety in parks. Adding more public toilets in key areas, such as places like George Glassy Park, would also help. If people have shade and access to toilets, they are more likely to stay longer, exercise, and use the spaces regularly.	See response above

1.9 Local Park and Reserve - Think about your local park or reserve and let us know, what improvements or changes would you like to see in future?

Mention name of the Park or Reserve with your comment.

Total number of responses: 8

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
13 - Peter Kilgour	**Question Comments**: See my opinion in 1.8	
Accessibility		
15 - Rebecca Kenny	**Question Comments**: in October 2025, i submitted a suggestion from the Ashburton Rangers unit (Girl Guiding New Zealand), after a discussion on advocacy, that the local playgrounds needed to be more inclusive and accessible for children with mobility issues. We would like to see playground equipment that is accessible for all and the surface area of the playgrounds be better suited for those with mobility issues. Our email only got a standard reply and the Ranger unit was disappointed not to hear anything further.	There are several playground projects currently underway that will result in better surfaces and improved access for children with mobility issues e.g. Ashburton Domain Playground Upgrade and the Strowan Fields Playground.
Ashburton Domain		
3 - Peter Clarke	**Question Comments**: Ashburton Domain a real asset to our town we just need to tighten up on dogs running loose there and owners not cleaning up after them	Noted
7 - Des Nunneley	**Question Comments**: Kids zooming at top speed on their scooters going to school using the Domain as a short cut. Riding on the grass making	Reserve Management Plans (Vol. 1; 3.3.2) contain direction on speed in Reserves. Some

	"burnout" marks on the grass and the path that others also enjoy. People who walk around the park cannot pick the flowers. It's a really sad reflection of respect that they can just do as they please.	motorised devices allow for access in reserves which might not be available to the user otherwise.
8 - Debbie Woods	**Question Comments**: I'd love to see Tinwald domain have some love spent on it like the domain. It's such a wonderful space but always looks a little run down or unloved in comparison to the Ashburton Domain	The management and development of the Tinwald Reserve is overseen by the Tinwald Reserve Board.
Awa Awa Rata Reserve		
14 - Mike Prince	**Question Comments**: Quicker response to fallen trees and damaged tracks around Awa Awa Rata Reserve. The restriction of planting rhododendrons in native areas such as beyond the chain gate. The control of vegetation, mainly rhododendrons and hook grass along the tracks with better signage location for track access. Consider a regular subsidy for trappers or supply them directly with lures - all trappers are giving up hours of their time as well as covering the costs of travel, trap purchases and lures.	It should be noted the bulk of the reserve including the hill tracks and associated signage are on Pudding Hill Reserve land administered by the Department of Conservation. Council does undertake some pest control on areas that it has jurisdiction over. The funding avenue for predator trapping is through the Council's biodiversity grants.
General		
10 - Bruce Leigh	**Question Comments**: More seats especially Digby park	Noted for when funding is available for Park Amenities.
Lake Hood		
9 – David West	**Question Comments**: **1. Introduction** I am a local resident and neighbour of Lake Hood, submitting on the Ashburton District Council's Draft Open Spaces Strategy 2026–2036. I	

	welcome Council's initiative to review and refresh the 2016 strategy, and I strongly support the vision of "resilient, inclusive open spaces that support community wellbeing, protect nature and heritage, and connect people across the Ashburton District. " Lake Hood is New Zealand's largest inland man-made lake and one of the Ashburton District's most significant open space assets. As a resident who lives alongside and regularly uses Lake Hood, I have a direct and ongoing interest in how the lake and its surrounding reserve are managed, developed, and protected over the next decade. I could only find little reference to Lake Hood in the draft. Three outdoor adventure spaces two referencing Lake Hood middle, Lake Hood South. I am not sure what that means. This submission addresses four inter-related themes: water quality and ecology; recreation and public access; amenity and landscaping; and infrastructure and facilities. **2. Water Quality and Ecology** **Current Context** Lake Hood and its surrounding waterways are ecologically sensitive environments. The lake's water quality directly determines whether it can be safely enjoyed for swimming, kayaking, and other water-based recreation — and whether it supports the native birds and aquatic life that make it so valued by the community. In recent years, concerns about algal blooms, nutrient loading from surrounding land uses, and broader freshwater health have been well documented across Canterbury. **What the Strategy Should Include** I ask Council to ensure the Open Spaces Strategy 2026–2036 specifically addresses Lake Hood's water quality by including the following: • A commitment to regular, publicly reported water quality monitoring at Lake Hood, including nutrient levels, E. coli, and cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), with results made available on Council's website. • Collaboration with Environment Canterbury (ECan) to align lake management with the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan and	Refers to areas of land owned by Council on the south side of Lake Hood (Lake Hood South) and the peninsula that amongst other things contains the rowing clubrooms. (Lake Hood Middle). • Environment Canterbury's water quality monitoring results are published on Council's website. Water quality information for Lake

	any freshwater farm plan obligations applicable to surrounding landowners. • Prioritisation of native riparian planting along the lake margins and connecting waterways to reduce nutrient run-off, improve water clarity, and support biodiversity corridors as envisaged under Goal Two of the draft strategy. • A commitment to water management, lake flushing and long term access to clean water and protection of same. • A pest and weed management plan for the Lake Hood reserve that targets invasive aquatic and terrestrial species, consistent with the strategy 's "nature positive" principle. • Recognition of Lake Hood as a key biodiversity node within the district's open space network, with explicit objectives for enhancing wetland habitat and native bird populations (including wading birds and waterfowl already present on the lake). Achieving and maintaining good ecological health at Lake Hood is the foundation on which all other goals — recreation, amenity, and infrastructure — ultimately depend. **3. Recreation and Public Access** **Current Context** Lake Hood is already a popular destination for boating, rowing, kayaking, paddleboarding, swimming, fishing, walking, and picnicking. However, the current level of formal support for these activities — in terms of access infrastructure, signage, and managed entry points — does not always reflect the lake's potential or the growing demand from both local residents and visitors. **What the Strategy Should Include**	Hood is also publicly available on LAWA's website. • To support biodiversity corridors, active riparian and flood mitigation planting undertaken by the Environment Canterbury and the Council along the Ashburton River attributing to the Lake Hood is ongoing. Sediment runoff planting sits outside the scope of Open Space Strategy biodiversity goal. • Council is currently obtaining advice on long term lake management matters from Professor Susie Wood of Lincoln University. This work includes a PhD research project to understand the hydrodynamics and internal nutrient loading on cyanobacterial bloom dynamics in Lake Hood. This research will assist Council with decisions on effective lake management options. Officers intend that any future commitments, including funding commitments, will form part of the Long Term Plan 2027-37 consultation, deliberations and decisions.

	I ask Council to include the following in the strategy's action plan relating to recreation and public access at Lake Hood: • A formal assessment of current and future recreation demand at Lake Hood, including both water-based and land-based activities, to inform future capital investment decisions. • Improved and clearly marked public access points around the lake perimeter, ensuring equitable access for people of all ages and abilities in line with the strategy's "Access for All" principle. • Development of a continuous walking and cycling trail around the lake's perimeter, connecting to the wider district trail network and to the township of Ashburton, as part of Goal Three (a Connected and Functional Open Space Network). • Clear management rules and signage for water-based recreation to balance different user groups (motorised boats, rowers, kayakers, swimmers) and to maintain safety, particularly given anticipated population growth to 44,800 residents by 2053. • Consideration of a managed swimming area with appropriate safety infrastructure, given that informal swimming already occurs at Lake Hood and the lake's flat, sheltered water makes it a natural asset for this purpose. • Retained and expanded off-leash dog exercise areas around the lake, with appropriate signage and waste facilities, acknowledging the importance of dog friendly open space to the wellbeing of local residents.	• There is a significant area of Council owned land that is zoned 'Recreation' in the Aquatic Park Zone chapter of the Ashburton District Plan. Officers acknowledge the submitter's suggestions for improved recreation and public access and note these all require funding to implement. Officers intend to have funding discussions in relation to Lake Hood as part of the Long Term Plan 2027-37 consultation, deliberations and decisions. • Environment Canterbury's Harbourmaster Office is responsible for navigation safety on Lake Hood under its Navigational Safety Bylaw 2016. • Officers continuously liaise with the Harbourmaster with regard to navigational safety matters on Lake Hood. • Dog exercise areas are addressed in Council's Dog Control Bylaw. This Bylaw is currently under review and public consultation is intended to occur on the Bylaw in due course.

	4. Amenity and Landscaping **Current Context** The aesthetic quality of Lake Hood's foreshore — its plantings, grass areas, viewing points, and general presentation — has a direct bearing on the wellbeing of residents, the attractiveness of surrounding properties, and the district's broader tourism appeal. Targeted landscaping investment can also deliver significant ecological co-benefits, particularly through riparian planting. **What the Strategy Should Include** I ask Council to commit to the following amenity and landscaping priorities for Lake Hood in the strategy: • A landscape masterplan for the Lake Hood reserve that balances amenity, ecology, and recreational use, developed with input from the local community and consistent with the strategy's "Local Identity and Heritage" principle. • Expansion of native and low-maintenance planting along the lake 's margins and in reserve areas, with a preference for species with cultural significance to Ngai Tahu and species appropriate to the Canterbury environment. • Provision and maintenance of shaded rest areas, seating, and picnic facilities at key vantage points around the lake to encourage use and improve the visitor experience for all age groups, particularly older residents given the district 's median age of 40.1 years. • Attention to the visual interface between the Lake Hood reserve and surrounding residential development, ensuring that landscaping buffers and planting screens maintain the amenity of both public and private spaces. • A commitment to maintaining the high-quality presentation of the Lake Hood foreshore to a standard consistent with the Ashburton Domain 's Four-Star Garden of Significance recognition.	• Officers acknowledge the submitter's suggestions for improved amenity and landscaping and note these all require funding to implement. Officers intend to have funding discussions in relation to Lake Hood as part of the Long Term Plan 2027-37 consultation, deliberations and decisions.

	5. Infrastructure and Facilities **Current Context** Good-quality, well-maintained infrastructure is essential to making Lake Hood genuinely accessible and enjoyable for the whole community. While some facilities exist, there are gaps that limit the lake's usefulness as a recreational destination and create practical barriers, particularly for families, older people, and people with disabilities. **What the Strategy Should Include** I ask Council to include the following infrastructure priorities for Lake Hood in the strategy's ten-year action plan: • Upgrade and expansion of public toilet and changing facilities at Lake Hood to a standard that supports year-round recreational use and is appropriate for a destination of the lake's size and visitor numbers. • Improved carparking provision at key access points, including accessible spaces compliant with current standards, recognising that Lake Hood attracts visitors from across the district and beyond. • Investment in pathway surfacing around the lake perimeter to a standard suitable for use by pushchairs, wheelchairs, and cyclists in all weather conditions, delivering on the strategy's "Safety by Design" and "Access for All" principles. • Installation of interpretive signage and information panels that tell the story of Lake Hood — its history, ecology, recreational opportunities, and cultural significance — enhancing the visitor experience and building community connection to the lake. • Adequate lighting along key pathways and access routes to the lake to ensure safety after dark and extend the useable hours of the reserve through shorter autumn and winter days. • A long-term asset management plan for Lake Hood infrastructure that applies the strategy's "Value Over Time" principle, ensuring assets	• Officers acknowledge the submitter's suggestions for improved infrastructure and facilities and note these all require funding to implement. Officers intend to have funding discussions in relation to Lake Hood as part of the Long Term Plan 2027-37 consultation, deliberations and decisions.

	are maintained, renewed, or replaced on a planned basis to avoid deterioration and unexpected capital expenditure. **6. Strategic Alignment and Broader Comments** I broadly support the four goals and ten principles set out in the Draft Open Spaces Strategy 2026–2036. Lake Hood is well-positioned to contribute to all four goals: as an inclusive, accessible, and safe open space (Goal One); as a site for positive ecological and cultural outcomes (Goal Two); as a node in a connected and functional open space network (Goal Three); and as a resource that supports long-term community wellbeing and resilience (Goal Four). I note that the strategy's population growth projections — from 36,100 residents in 2023 to 44,800 by 2053 — will place increasing pressure on existing open spaces including Lake Hood. I urge Council to ensure that the strategy's action plan is adequately resourced through the Long-Term Plan 2024–34 and future Annual Plans, and that Lake Hood is identified as a priority investment location given its scale, uniqueness, and the density of residential development in its catchment. I also encourage Council to establish a community reference group or liaison mechanism for Lake Hood that provides ongoing input into management decisions, consistent with the strategy's "Partnership and Kaitiakitaka" principle. **7. Summary of Requests** In summary, I ask that the final Open Spaces Strategy 2026–2036 specifically address Lake Hood by: • Including Lake Hood as a named priority location within the strategy 's action plan. • Committing to regular, publicly reported water quality monitoring and active ecological management of the lake and its margins.	• Officers acknowledge the submitter's comments and note that officers intend to have funding discussions in relation to Lake Hood as part of the Long Term Plan 2027-37 consultation, deliberations and decisions.

	• Planning for a continuous perimeter walking and cycling trail connecting to the wider district network. • Investing in upgraded and accessible public facilities including toilets, carparking, and Lake water enhancement . • Developing a landscape masterplan for the reserve that prioritises native planting, ecological resilience, and community amenity. • Establishing a community engagement mechanism for ongoing input into Lake Hood management.	

1.10 Cemeteries - What improvements or changes would you like to see in your local cemetery in the future?

Mention name of the Cemetery with your comment.

Total number of responses: 2

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
13 - Peter Kilgour	**Question Comments**: See my opinion in 1.8	Noted.
General		
3 - Peter Clarke	**Question Comments**: They look fine well looked after as well	Noted.

1.11 Public Conveniences - What improvements or changes would you like to see in public conveniences across the district in the future?

Mention name of the Area or Location with your comment.

Total number of responses: 3

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
4 - Rachel Eaton	**Question Comments**:	
Nuisance		
10 - Bruce Leigh	**Question Comments**: less intimidation from the vehicle users. Lake Hood, lake camp, motorbike and 4WD park,	
Toilets		
3 - Peter Clarke	**Question Comments**: Tourist should pay for there use or at least leave them tidy after use main street ones in particular	• Some new toilets in the District have been constructed with co-funding from the central government Tourism Infrastructure Fund. e.g. new facilities at Rakaia Salmon site, Awa Awa Rata Reserve, Rakaia Gorge, Taylors Stream Reserve and Bowyers Stream Reserve were all funded with significant contributions from this fund.

1.12 Do you have any other comments or feedback?

Total number of responses: 2

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
3 - Peter Clarke	**Question Comments**: As always our roads need repairs in a number of areas	Noted.
General		
10 - Bruce Leigh	**Question Comments**: I think a lot more can be done in a lot of areas particularly along the sides of the rivers. I think there is a real underutilised goldmine there. To have camping all along there to jump on the campervan tourist market. Tidy access would draw in better and higher grade users. NZ has had lessons in these areas and i think Ashburton can learn from this and create a unique tourist opportunity. Where the tourist can park up at multiple points across the river. Hike or hire a bike to explore the area to the beach, the hills or lakes Ashburton can be the hub to all the areas in mid canterbury with minimal input as most of areas are there but used as dumps and hoon areas.	Council does provide riverside areas for picnics and camping e.g. Bowyers Stream and Taylors Stream Reserves. There are also Council campgrounds adjacent to the Rakaia and Rangitata Rivers, Additional areas could be investigated as funds allow and providing the land is owned by Council. On other river corridor lands administered by ECAN, residents can request ECAN provide riverside park amenities like it does in the Waimakariri catchment.

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Underline