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Acknowledgement and thanks to departing committee members

We held our last Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee meeting of the triennium on 8 August and with that we said goodbye to a number of members around our table.

On behalf of the Partnership, we would like to extend our thanks to the committee members who are stepping down from their roles. Their insight and commitment have been instrumental in shaping the work and direction of this committee.

Each members leadership and contribution have added value to the work of this committee. They have also brought a unique perspective and deep dedication to the kaupapa, and their contributions have helped create meaningful outcomes for our communities.

We are truly grateful for the time, energy, and wisdom they have shared with us. As they move on to new opportunities, we want to share that their efforts have left a lasting impact and will be remembered with deep appreciation.

We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

Departing committee members (Left to right pictured above):

- **Jane Huria** - Mana Whenua
- **Deputy Mayor Neville Atkinson** - Waimakariri District Council
- **Councillor Nicole Reid** - Selwyn District Council
- **Chair Craig Pauling** - Environment Canterbury
- **Councillor Vicky Southworth** - Environment Canterbury

With Local Body Elections just around the corner, the Partnership is preparing for briefing the incoming committee along with welcoming any new and existing members at the first meeting of the new triennium on 5 December 2025.



Independent Review of the Greater Christchurch Partnership

The Partnership has effectively been in place for 20 years. There have been significant changes over that period that will continue into the future. Its timely and healthy to review the Partnership to see if it is set up to succeed to meet the outcomes that Partners are seeking. An independent review of the Partnership, conducted by Martin Jenkins, was presented to the Committee on 8 August.

There is strong consensus across Partners on the importance of continuing collaborative sub-regional efforts, with particular emphasis on the value of previous success from the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan, Hui hui mai and as the Urban Growth Partnership (UGP).

Key messages from the Committee at this meeting:

1. **Strong consensus on the value of the Partnership** - Members reaffirmed the value of the Partnership as a unique forum uniting councils, mana whenua and government to guide Greater Christchurch's growth.
2. **Clarifying purpose, scope, and focus** - The Independent Review recommended sharpening the Partnership's focus to align with agreed priorities and government reforms.
3. **Rebuilding trust and strengthening relationships** - Active engagement from councillors, mayors, and communities is essential to build cohesion and enable collective action.
4. **Delivering on visionary plans through practical action** - The Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan and related plans have strong backing – the priority now is delivery through practical projects, especially in housing and infrastructure.
5. **Opportunities for clearer communication and coordinated advocacy by the Partnership** - Members want the Partnership to speak with one voice, strengthen advocacy to advance hared priorities, and improve communication with all partners.

The Committee agreed that the incoming Committee will consider the review's recommendations. The scoping of Phase 1 recommendations is to begin immediately under the guidance of the Chief Executives Advisory Group.

Read more detail about the [review findings and recommendations](#) in Item 8 of the agenda pack.

Work Programme Updates

[The Canterbury Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-35](#) was adopted by the Canterbury Regional Council on 30 July 2025.

The plan outlines the vision for public transport in Waitaha and key priority areas such as improving our environment, growing patronage, accessibility, innovation and technology, and affordability.

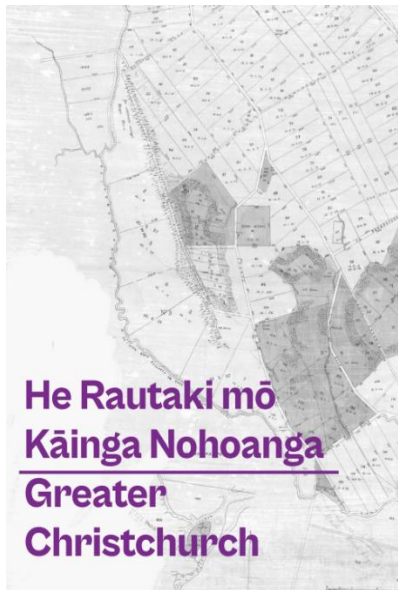
The plan also includes a new policy allowing passengers to travel with pets that will be under conditions specified in the Metro code of conduct. Council supported an amendment to the plan to permit small dogs on board as long as they are leashed and muzzled.

Staff will now work with partners on how the various conditions are applied. An implementation date and these specific rules for pet owners will be announced when ready.

GCP Residential Development and Housing Dashboard - To support the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD), the Partnership has developed a Residential Dashboard that tracks key indicators for housing development across the subregion. The dashboard has been shaped through collaboration with partner staff and is very near complete.

Once final it will be publicly available on our [website](#), updated quarterly, and included in the annual committee report.

Kāinga Nohoanga Strategy



The Committee received the Kāinga Nohoanga Strategy, a significant milestone in the partnership with mana whenua. Developed by Whitiora on behalf of Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, the strategy outlines a vision for enabling Māori-led housing and community development across Greater Christchurch. It highlights historical grievances, current barriers to development, and proposes a five-step implementation process.

The Committee agreed to support a collaborative workshop with the incoming Committee to shape the next phase of delivery, with oversight from the Chief Executives Advisory Group.



Submission made: Supporting sustainable housing growth

The Committee endorsed a joint submission to the Ministry for the Environment in response to the Government's Going for Housing Growth Discussion Paper. The submission advocates for strong regional spatial planning, meaningful involvement of mana whenua, and improved infrastructure funding tools.

It also calls for protections against leapfrog development and urban sprawl and highlights Greater Christchurch's unique position as New Zealand's second-largest urban centre. The submission reflects the Partnership's strategic priorities and builds on the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan and Joint Housing Action Plan.

Read the [GCP submission on the Going for Housing Growth Discussion Paper](#)

New look, same mission: Website update complete!

The [Greater Christchurch Partnership](#) website has recently undergone a comprehensive update and refresh.

The revised site features an enhanced layout, streamlined navigation, search functionality and updated content to better support users in accessing key information and resources.

Now the website is launched we are hoping to bring these future newsletters to you via an e-newsletter direct to your email and these are available on our [news page](#)

Haere mai, new committee member



GCP welcomes Tania Wati as one of three mana whenua governors on the committee, replacing Jane Huria.

Tania is not new to the partnership and has a long history in several different roles. We welcome her knowledge, experience and participation at the governance table.

Tania joined the committee for its August meeting and was welcomed by standing members.

Greater Christchurch Transport Plan Resources

We're pleased to share with you a range of resources for the [Greater Christchurch Transport Plan](#) available on our website. These all help to tell the story of our unified strategy for the future of transport to deliver the 30-year vision of the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan.

In addition to the [transport plan](#) itself, we have developed a [Greater Christchurch Transport Plan Overview - A summary of the plan's purpose, principles, direction and actions](#).

Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee Meeting Summary 8 August 2025

The Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee met on [Friday, 8 August 2025](#) to discuss strategic initiatives shaping the future of Greater Christchurch. Here's a summary of the key decisions and updates:

Secretariat update - The Secretariat provided a comprehensive update on recent activities. Notably, the Greater Christchurch Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project is as nationally significant and included in Te Waihanga's draft National Infrastructure Plan. Progress continues on the Public Transport Futures Programme, with route reviews and network planning underway. A new Residential Development and Housing Dashboard is nearing completion to support monitoring under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development. The [Greater Christchurch Partnership website](#) has been refreshed, and planning is underway for the 2026 governance calendar in coordination with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

[He Rautaki mō Kāinga Nohoanga - Greater Christchurch - Kāinga Nohoanga Strategy](#) - The purpose of this report presented the He Rautaki mō Kāinga Nohoanga - Greater Christchurch to the Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee (GCPC). Additionally, the report sought the Committee's direction for partner staff to explore opportunities for collective support in implementing the Strategy.

[Partnership submission on the Government's Going for Housing Growth Discussion Paper](#) - This item presented the proposed submission for the Greater Christchurch Partnership submission on the Going for Housing Growth Discussion Paper to the Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee for endorsement.

[Greater Christchurch Partnership Review - Independent Findings](#) - This report presented the findings of the independent review of the Greater Christchurch Partnership. The review was conducted in accordance with the Terms of Reference approved at the March Committee meeting and examines the partnerships form, function and focus. Its aim was to ensure the Partnership remains fit for purpose and well-positioned to meet future needs.

Briefing to the Incoming Committee - The Committee approved a detailed briefing for incoming members, to be presented at the first meeting in December 2025. The briefing outlines the Partnership's purpose, structure, strategic context, and key documents, including the Spatial Plan, Kāinga Nohoanga Strategy, and Independent Review. It also recommends appointing an Interim Chair and sets out proposed meeting dates for 2026. The briefing aims to ensure a smooth transition and continued momentum in delivering the Partnership's work programme.

Information Workshop - Canterbury Regional Council (ECan) Councillor Peter Scott also presented to the Committee on his endorsed motion to progress foundational work on a jointly governed body for public transport operations and infrastructure in Christchurch.

View the [full agenda](#) for the meeting to review the reports in detail or the [meeting notes for resolutions and decisions](#). Please contact the secretariat@greaterchristchurch.org.nz for any questions you may have.

Celebrating progress!

Over the past quarter the Partnership has successfully endorsed:

- ✓ Partnership submission on the Government's Going for Housing Growth Discussion Paper.
- ✓ The Canterbury Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-35 was adopted by the Canterbury Regional Council.

The Partnership wishes to thank all its dedicated contributors, without your collaborative effort, hard work and support we would not be able to achieve these great milestones for the communities of Greater Christchurch.

Want to find out more?

Agendas, minutes and recordings for Greater Christchurch Partnership are available at <https://greaterchristchurch.org.nz/meetings/>

For further information on the Greater Christchurch Partnership visit www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz or contact secretariat@greaterchristchurch.org.nz



**Greater Christchurch
Partnership**

Te Tira Tū Tahi
One Group, Standing Together

