



# Agenda

## Southland District Council

Wednesday, 10 June 2026, 11am  
Council Chamber, Level 2, 20 Don Street, Invercargill



Mayor  
Deputy mayor  
Councillors

Rob Scott  
Christine Menzies  
Jaspreet Boparai  
Don Byars  
Phil Dobson  
Paul Duffy  
Sarah Greaney  
Julie Keast  
Tom O'Brien  
Brian Somerville  
Jon Spraggon  
Michael Weusten  
Matt Wilson

# What is important to us?

Our strategic framework is a big picture of what Council is planning to achieve for our communities in the next three years.

## Council vision

Together, with our people, for our future. It's our Southland!

## Council mission

Working together for a better Southland.

## Our focus is

### Strategic priorities



**Connected and resilient communities** - we collaboratively engage with our partners and communities, along with investing in agile and sustainable practices, to support a vibrant and thriving Southland.



**Ease of doing business** - we transform the customer experience through partnership, technology and continuous improvement.



**Providing equity** - we enable all residents to be able to access the same services and tools as part of a fair society.



**Robust infrastructure** - we deliver innovative and sustainable community focused infrastructure and facilities for the future



**Thinking strategically and innovatively** - we look for solutions outside of the norm and are not afraid to do something that we have not done before, and we think long-term about the solutions we are providing, while having the flexibility and agility to change direction as necessary.

## Our goals for the LTP 2024-2034 are

### Outcomes



**Social** - communities that are connected and have an affordable and attractive lifestyle.



**Environmental** - communities committed to the protection of our land and water.



**Cultural** - communities with a sense of belonging for all.



**Economic** - communities with the infrastructure to grow.





1 Opening

The Mayor will open the meeting with a Karakia Timatanga.

2 Apologies

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

3 Leave of absence

At the close of the agenda no requests for leave of absence had been received.

4 Conflict of interest

Councillors are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a councillor and any private or other external interest they might have.

5 Additional agenda items

Any additions to the agenda must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

6 Confirmation of minutes

[Minutes](#) of the Council Meeting held on 13 May 2026.

Confidential Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 May 2026.

7 Public participation

Requests to speak should be made by midday of the day before the meeting. Further information is available on [www.southlanddc.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz) or phoning 0800 732 732.

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8.6	Notice of motion from Councillor Wilson SDC nitrates in drinking water - data sharing and increased monitoring for heightened-risk schemes	43

- 9 Public excluded reports
  - Exclusion of the public 47
  - 9.1 McGregor Park - possible land use consent application - unbudgeted expenditure request
  - 9.2 Rating sale process 2026/2027
- 10 Closure
  - The Mayor will close the meeting.

Summary of reports

	Report name	Purpose	Report type	Page
8.1	District Initiatives Fund allocations - March 2026 round	The purpose of this report is for Council to allocate funding for the March 2026 funding round of the District Initiatives Fund.	Decision	9
8.2	Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund allocations - March 2026 round	The purpose of this report is for Council to allocate funding for the March 2026 round of the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund.	Decision	17
8.3	Ohai Railway Fund March 2026 funding round - Unbudgeted expenditure	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council to allow unbudgeted grant expenditure by the Ohai Railway Fund Committee for the March 2026 round of funding allocations.	Decision	23
8.4	Southland District Heritage fund allocations - interim funding round March 2026	The purpose of this report is for Council to allocate funding for the Southland District Heritage fund March 2026 funding round. This is a one off interim funding round following the dissolution of the Southland Regional Heritage Committee (SRHC) and subsequently the Southland Regional Heritage Fund (SRHF).	Decision	29
8.5	Interpretation panels and construction of a kiosk at Menzies Ferry - Unbudgeted expenditure request	The purpose of this report is to endorse recommendations from the Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board that unbudgeted expenditure for interpretation panels and to construct a kiosk at Menzies Ferry be approved.	Decision	37
8.6	Notice of motion from Councillor Wilson SDC nitrates in drinking water - data sharing and increased monitoring for heightened-risk schemes	The purpose of this paper is to enable Councillor Wilson to move a notice of motion at the meeting.	Information	43



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## District Initiatives Fund allocations - March 2026 round

Record no: R/26/4/113560  
Author: Kathryn Cowie, Community liaison officer  
Approved by: Sam Marshall, Group manager customer and community wellbeing  
Report type: Decision

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### Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this report is for Council to allocate funding for the March 2026 funding round of the District Initiatives Fund.

### Staff recommendations

#### That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as being administrative but not significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and therefore not significant. The assessed level of significance indicates that the community is kept informed of the decisions made in this report, rather than engaged prior to this decision being made.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 for this decision, and as required under section 79 that, it does not need any more information, option assessments, costs and benefits analysis before making this decision.
- d) Receives applications from Central Southland Netball Centre, Miharo Murihiku Trust, Southern Cancer Society Trust, The South Island (Te Waipounamu) Branch of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of NZ, Southland Foundation, Waikawa Museum, Northern Southland Community Resource Centre Charitable Trust, and Kathryn McCully.
- e) approves a grant of \$3,500 to the Central Southland Netball Centre.
- f) approves a grant of \$4,500 to the Miharo Murihiku Trust.
- g) approves a grant of \$2,000 to the Southern Cancer Society Trust.
- h) approves a grant of \$2,000 to The South Island (Te Waipounamu) Branch of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of NZ.
- i) approves a grant of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Southland Foundation.
- j) approves a grant of \$3,500 to the Waikawa Musuem.
- k) approves a grant of \$4,000 to the Northern Southland Community Resource Centre Charitable Trust.
- l) approves a grant of \$3,497 to Kathryn McCully.

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## Executive summary

- 2 The Southland District Council District Initiatives Fund is available to groups and organisations to assist with a broad range of projects and initiatives in the Southland area. There are two funding rounds per year – one that closes on 30 September and one on 31 March.
- 3 A total of eight applications have been received for the March 2026 funding round. The amount of funding available for distribution for the 2025/2026 financial year is \$64,497 over the two rounds. \$37,500 was allocated in the September 2025 round, leaving a total of \$26,997 to allocate this round.
- 4 The total amount of requests for this round is \$59,044.
- 5 The full applications have been made available for councillors to view before the Council meeting, as well as a historical list of all District Initiatives Fund grants to date.

## Context

- 6 Southland District Council's community assistance activity seeks to contribute to a district of 'proud, connected communities that have an attractive and affordable lifestyle' by enabling Southland's communities to be desirable places to live, grow up, work, run a business, raise a family and enjoy a safe and satisfying life. Through providing financial assistance by way of grant funding, community groups and individuals are supported to undertake their desired activities.
- 7 The aim of the District Initiatives Fund is to support organisations, facilities, amenities, programmes, activities and events at a district level. For the purpose of this fund, the term 'district level' is defined as at least two community board areas.
- 8 The fund is advertised regularly to the community. Advertisements are placed fortnightly in the Express newspaper leading up to closing dates, and in each publication of the Southland District Council First Edition magazine. It is also advertised on the Southland District Council Facebook page, community board pages and other appropriate local pages. Intermittent radio advertising has also been done.
- 9 Applicants may apply at any time leading up to the closing dates on 31 March and 30 September each year.
- 10 For the 2025/2026 financial year, there is \$64,497 available for distribution through the District Initiatives Fund. This is to be allocated over two funding rounds. \$37,500 was allocated in September, leaving \$26,997 available for the March round.

## Criteria

- 11 The purpose of the Southland District Council District Initiatives Fund is to support the development and implementation of initiatives within the Southland District area that are at a scale that provide benefits to the district as a whole or are of benefit to at least two community board areas. This includes the following:
  - non council owned facilities and amenities
  - sport and recreational opportunities
  - community programmes, activities or events.

12 The criteria for the District Initiatives Fund is as follows:

- there will be two funding rounds per year closing on 31 March and 30 September
- the aim of the fund is to support organisations, facilities, amenities, programmes, activities and events at a district level
- the fund is available to non profit community organisations and community groups regardless of their legal status
- applications must include the completed application form and any other supporting information
- the fund is a subsidy based scheme – applicants must contribute a reasonable amount towards the cost of the project
- level of assistance is based on the merit of the project and potential benefits to the community
- funding is not allocated retrospectively
- in the case where the applicant is based outside of the Southland district – the allocation is assessed on the proportion of members and/or beneficiaries from the district.

#### Discussion

13 A summary of the applications and staff recommendations for allocation are as follows:

Applications received	8
Total amount requested	\$59,044
Total amount available for distribution	\$26,997
Total recommendations for this round	\$22,997

#### **Application summaries:**

##### **1 Central Southland Netball Centre**

Request assistance towards costs to replace the outside stairs at the facility. The facility in Winton is the hub for central and western Southland netball, hockey and tennis and is also utilised by other groups that draw participation from all over the region such as the Wendy Frew netball clinics.

Total project cost	\$22,986
Amount requested	\$12,000
Recommendation	\$3,500

**2 Miharo Murihiku Trust**

Requests assistance towards the cost of Polyfest 2026 at ILT Stadium in Invercargill later this year. Almost three quarters of the schools in the Southland District were represented at the 2025 event, and over 50,000 spectators. This request is specifically for assistance with the event infrastructure, production costs, and volunteer coordination and support.

Total project cost	\$279,650
Amount requested	\$10,000
Recommendation	\$4,500

**3 Southern Cancer Society Trust**

Request assistance towards the operating costs for their Southland services.

Total project cost	\$419,113
Amount requested	\$5,000
Recommendation	\$2,000

**4 The South Island Branch of Muscular Dystrophy Association of NZ**

Request assistance towards the operating costs of their in-home fieldwork services and wages for staff assisting clients in the Southland District area.

Total project cost	\$17,738
Amount requested	\$3,000
Recommendation	\$2,000

**5 Southland Foundation**

For assistance towards the initial operating & administration costs of the foundation, while they are in the early stages of development.

Total project cost	\$274,048
Amount requested	\$5,000
Recommendation	To discuss

**6 Waikawa Museum**

For assistance towards the costs associated with building a new shed to house the Earwaker collection of petrified rocks that have been gifted to the museum by the family of the late John Earwaker. This is a significant collection for Southland and would complement other collections at Curio Bay etc.

Total project cost	\$45,000
Amount requested	\$10,000
Recommendation	\$3,500

**7 Northern Southland Community Resource Centre Charitable Trust**

Requests assistance towards the operational costs for the trust. The provide much needed community support in various ways to a fairly large portion of our district.

Total project cost	\$88,034
Amount requested	\$5,000
Recommendation	\$4,000

**8 Kathryn McCully**

Kathryn is organising a non profit exhibition and self guided tour of the late John McCulloch’s architecture around Southland in September. The application request is to assist with the production of maps and information boards.

Total project cost	\$13,794
Amount requested	\$9,044
Recommendation	\$3,497

Recommendations

14 The funding recommendations included in this report were made with the following considerations:

- amount of funding being requested
- amount of funding available for allocation
- total project cost
- scope of district benefit
- amount of self fundraising and self contribution
- funding sought from elsewhere.

Options

15 The following reasonably practicable options have been identified and assessed in this report:

Option 1 – Approve grants to applicants pursuant to the funding criteria.

Option 2 – Decline the applications.

Recommended option:

16 Approve grants to applicants pursuant to the funding criteria. By doing this we are supporting groups and organisations in our community to achieve projects or programmes that benefit our region.

Option 1 – Approve grants to applicants pursuant to the funding criteria

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support community groups to achieve projects and programmes that benefit Southland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there are no disadvantages.</li> </ul>

Option 2 – Decline the applications

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there will be more money in the District Initiatives Fund for the next funding round.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eligible groups and organisations may not be able to carry out their projects</li> <li>Council is not meeting its commitment to help fund community projects and initiatives.</li> </ul>

Legal considerations

- 17 There is no legal information that needs to be considered.

Strategic alignment

**Strategic direction**

- 18 The District Initiatives Fund is designed to support district wide projects that strengthen connected and resilient communities and deliver on the social and cultural outcomes outlined in the current Long Term Plan (LTP). By funding initiatives such as sports, recreation, health services, and community programmes, the Fund promotes wellbeing, fosters a sense of belonging, and enhances facilities that make the district attractive and liveable.
- 19 The funding decisions covered in this report reflect these objectives, ensuring that allocations contribute to the LTP vision of vibrant, connected communities with opportunities to thrive.

**Policy and plan consistency**

- 20 There are no inconsistencies identified.

Financial considerations

- 21 For the 2025/2026 financial year there is \$64,497 budgeted to distribute over the two funding rounds. \$37,500 was allocated in the September 2025 round, which leaves a total of \$26,997 to allocate for this funding round.
- 22 Requests for this round total \$59,044, with staff recommendations totalling \$22,997 for seven applications, and one application to be discussed.

Significance assessment

- 23 This decision has been assessed in accordance with Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy as having some importance or administrative and is not considered significant.
- 24 The allocation of these funds follows a guiding document endorsed by Council in July 2020, and the allocations are within the budgeted fund allowances. The decision provides minor positive impact on Council’s social and cultural community outcomes in terms of this policy and has no impact on the provisions of Council’s level of services. This decision is reversible but there would be some hurdles to do so. Allocations of grants do follow an accountability process, where applicants are required to submit a report detailing how the funds were spent and confirming that they were spent on the agreed purpose.
- 25 The assessed level of significance indicates that the community is kept informed of the decisions made in this report, rather than engaged prior to the decision being made.

Level	Likelihood of engagement
Some importance or administrative	Council is not likely to carry out any engagement.
Moderate importance	Council may choose whether it carries out engagement, which may be targeted to directly affected individuals or groups.
Significant	Council will engage with directly affected individuals and groups and wider community engagement is likely, unless there are reasons under policy not to.
Critical	Council will engage with directly affected individuals and groups and wider community engagement is highly likely, unless there are reasons under policy not to.

### Community views

- 26 In alignment with the significance assessment above, no community views have been sought in connection with this decision, however the community will be informed of Council's decision in upcoming reports to community boards.

### Climate change considerations

- 27 There are no climate change considerations relevant to this matter or decision.

### Risk and mitigations

- 28 There are no significant risks in relation to this matter or decision.  
29 Grants made, do follow an accountability process as detailed above.

### Next steps

- 30 Applicants will be advised of the outcome and payments made accordingly.

### Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.



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## Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund allocations - March 2026 round

Record no: R/26/4/113851  
Author: Kathryn Cowie, Community liaison officer  
Approved by: Sam Marshall, Group manager customer and community wellbeing  
Report type: Decision

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### Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this report is for Council to allocate funding for the March 2026 round of the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund.

### Staff recommendations

#### That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as being of some importance but not significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and therefore is not significant. The assessed level of significance indicates that the community is kept informed of the decisions made in this report, rather than engaged prior to this decision being made.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 for this decision, and as required under section 79 that, it does not need any more information, option assessments, costs and benefits analysis before making this decision.
- d) receives applications from Winton Football Club, Takitimu United Netball Club, Garston School, Hauroko Valley Primary School, Tokanui Netball Club, Te Anau Rugby Club, Riverton Athletics Club, Tokanui Junior Rugby Club, Central Southland College, Menzies College, Otautau Netball Club, Northern Southland College, Menzies College Netball Club.
- e) grants Winton Football Club \$175.
- f) grants Takitimu United Netball Club \$225
- g) grants Garston School \$275
- h) grants Hauroko Valley Primary School \$400
- i) grants Tokanui Netball Club \$450
- j) grants Te Anau Rugby Club \$600
- k) grants Riverton Athletics Club \$650
- l) grants Tokanui Junior Rugby Club \$650
- m) grants Central Southland College \$750
- n) grants Menzies College \$775
- o) grants Otautau Netball Club \$800

- p) grants Northern Southland College \$800
- q) grants Menzies College Netball Club \$825

#### Executive summary

- 2 Southland District Council administers funding on behalf of the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund. The purpose of this fund is to assist with transport expenses associated with participating in regular local sports competitions for youth aged five to 18.
- 3 A total of 13 applications have been received for this funding round, which closed on 31 March 2026. There is \$7,389 remaining to allocate for the 2025/2026 financial year.
- 4 Recommendations for allocation total \$7,375.

#### Context

- 5 The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund was established in 2003 by Sport NZ with the purpose being to help remove the barrier of cost to participation in regular sport for youth in rural communities.
- 6 The Rural Travel Fund is administered on Sport NZ's behalf by 35 eligible Territorial Authorities across Aotearoa.
- 7 Sports clubs and school based teams with young people between five and 18 years are eligible to apply for travel costs to regular sports competitions.
- 8 The fund is advertised regularly to the community. Advertisements are placed fortnightly in the Express newspaper leading up to closing dates, and in each publication of the Southland District Council (SDC) First Edition magazine. It is also advertised on the SDC Facebook page, community board pages and other appropriate local pages. Intermittent radio advertising has also been done.
- 9 Applicants may apply at any time leading up to the closing dates on 31 March and 30 September each year.

#### Application summary

Applications received	13
Funds available	\$7,389
Recommended total allocation	\$7,375

Organisation/Club	Estimated kilometres travelled over the season	Number's benefiting	Allocation amount
Winton Football Club	2,958	5	\$175.00
Takitimu United Netball Club	1,700	23	\$225.00
Garston School	3,000	24	\$275.00
Hauroko Valley Primary School	6,400	16	\$400.00
Tokanui Netball Club	7,154	25	\$450.00
Te Anau Rugby Club	7,200	125	\$600.00
Riverton Athletics Club	9,132	27	\$650.00
Tokanui Junior Rugby Club	9,500	40	\$650.00
Central Southland College	9,500	480	\$750.00
Menzies College	15,000	50	\$775.00
Otautau Netball Club	20,000	50	\$800.00
Northern Southland College	20,000	120	\$800.00
Menzies College Netball Club	25,200	59	\$800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$7,375</b>

## Discussion

- 10 Allocations have been made based on the estimated kilometres travelled by the club and school teams and members, and it has also been taken into account the number of people they indicated would benefit from a grant received. Applicants have completed this information in their application form.
- 11 It should be noted that there was some difficulty in allocating grants due to the limited funds available. It would also be useful to gather more information from applicants such as type and number of vehicles used so comparisons between clubs and schools are more accurate.
- 12 Staff have also been in contact with Sport NZ and those who administer the Gore rural travel fund to discuss methods for allocating the fund. In short, Sport NZ empower councils to allocate the funds as they see fit, as long as it is for the purpose intended, and each council seems to allocate funds differently, depending on their needs and applicants. There is no one formula that would suit all distributors of the fund.
- 13 Staff will continue discussions with the Gore administrators going forward, and potentially other councils as well to establish the best formula for allocating funds in our district, especially as in the current financial climate it would not be unexpected to have an increase in applications. The current annual amount (\$13,889) allocated to SDC is set until 2027/2028.

Options

14 The following reasonably practicable options have been identified and assessed in this report:

Option 1 – approve and allocate funding to the applicants

Option 2 – do not approve and allocate funding to the applicants

Recommended option:

15 Approve and allocate funding to the applicants. Approving the funding will assist youth in our communities to participate in regular sports competitions and will fulfill our obligations with Sport NZ.

Option 1 – approve and allocate funding to the applicants

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fulfil Southland District Council’s agreement to administer the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund on behalf of Sport NZ</li> <li>sports clubs and schools in the district receive financial assistance, hopefully removing barriers for youth to engage in sports activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there are no disadvantages.</li> </ul>

Option 2 – do not approve and allocate funding to the applicants

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there are no advantages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southland District Council would not fulfil its obligation to administer the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund as per the investment schedule</li> <li>some teams or individuals may miss out on participating in sports competitions if the cost to travel there is prohibitive.</li> </ul>

Legal considerations

16 The fund is administered in accordance with the Sport NZ/Southland District Council investment schedule, including terms and conditions, for 2024 - 2028.

Strategic alignment

**Strategic direction**

17 Allocation of the Sport NZ rural travel fund aligns with SDC’s strategic priorities of connected and resilient communities and providing equity to our residents, and our social outcomes as detailed in the Long Term Plan. By bridging transport gaps and reducing barriers to participation, it also supports Council’s broader transport objectives.

**Policy and plan consistency**

18 There are no inconsistencies identified.

## Financial considerations

- 19 Grants are covered by the funding provided by Sport NZ. The amount budgeted for distribution for the 2025/2026 financial year is \$13,889. Allocations for the September 2025 round totalled \$6,500, leaving \$7,389 remaining to grant for this funding round.
- 20 Recommendations for this round total \$7,375.
- 21 A copy of the financial report is below:

<b>Southland District Council Sport NZ As at 31 January 2026</b>			
<b>Summary</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	
Opening balance, 1 July 2025	45	45	
<b>Add:</b>			
Grants Received*	13,900	13,889	
Reversal Prior Year Commitments	4,150	-	
Interest**			
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,095</b>	<b>13,934</b>	
<b>Less:</b>			
Current Year Commitments	6,500	13,889	
Prior Year Commitments outstanding	450		
Prior Year Commitments Uplifted	3,700	-	
Advertising	-	-	
Grants not uplifted and cancelled/Refunds	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,650</b>	<b>13,889</b>	
<b>Funds Available for General Distribution</b>	<b>7,445</b>	<b>45</b>	
* Grants received includes all funding anticipated to be received during the financial year.			
** Interest earned for the period has not been included. The actual amount will not be known until the end of the financial year when interest is allocated across Council's investments (30 June 2026).			
<b>Prior Year Commitments</b>	<b>Committed</b>	<b>Uplifted</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Fiordland College	1,050	1,050	-
Riverton Athletic Club	800	800	-
Takitimu Primary School	800	800	-
Tokanui Netball Club	450		450
Mossburn School - Netball	1,050	1,050	-
	<b>4,150</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>450</b>
<b>Current Year Commitments</b>	<b>Committed</b>	<b>Uplifted</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Netball Fiordland	1,200	1,200	-
Fiordland Hockey Club	1,000	1,000	-
Winton Swimming Club	1,000	1,000	-
Te Anau Cricket Club	1,000	1,000	-
Menzies College	1,000	1,000	-
Fiordland Swimming Club	800	800	-
Te Anau Tennis Club	500	500	-
	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Refunds/Stale Cheques/Reversals</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### Significance assessment

- 22 This decision has been assessed in accordance with Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy as having some importance or administrative and is not considered significant.
- 23 Southland District Council are acting as the administrator to funds given by an external source (Sport NZ), the allocation of these funds follows the guidelines provided by Sport NZ and is consistent with past allocation decisions made by Council.
- 24 There is no cost to Council from this decision, and the allocation is within the budgeted fund allowances. This decision provides minor positive impact on Council’s social and cultural community outcomes, and it has minimal positive impacts on levels of service. Although sports teams are impacted in a moderate positive way, there is no impact to other groups and there are negligible levels of public interest. This decision is reversible but there are some hurdles to do so.
- 25 The assessed level of significance indicates that the community is kept informed of the decisions made in this report, rather than engaged prior to this decision being made.

Level	Likelihood of engagement
Some importance or administrative	Council is not likely to carry out any engagement.
Moderate importance	Council may choose whether it carries out engagement, which may be targeted to directly affected individuals or groups.
Significant	Council will engage with directly affected individuals and groups and wider community engagement is likely, unless there are reasons under policy not to.
Critical	Council will engage with directly affected individuals and groups and wider community engagement is highly likely, unless there are reasons under policy not to.

### Community views

- 26 In alignment with the significance assessment above, no community views have been sought in connection with this decision, however the community will be informed of Council’s decision in upcoming reporting to community boards.
- 27 We know from feedback from applicants, that the fund subsidies are appreciated by sports and school based clubs within the district.

### Climate change considerations

- 28 There are no climate change considerations relevant to this matter or decision.

### Risk and mitigations

- 29 There are no significant risks in relation to this matter or decision.

### Next steps

- 30 Applicants will be advised of the outcome and payment of grants will be arranged.

### Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

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## Ohai Railway Fund March 2026 funding round - Unbudgeted expenditure

Record no: R/26/5/118794  
Author: Kathryn Cowie, Community liaison officer  
Approved by: Sam Marshall, Group manager customer and community wellbeing  
Report type: Decision

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### Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council to allow unbudgeted grant expenditure by the Ohai Railway Fund Committee for the March 2026 round of funding allocations.

### Staff recommendations

#### That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as being administrative but not significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and therefore not significant. The assessed level of significance indicates that the community is kept informed of the decisions made in this report, rather than engaged prior to this decision being made.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 for this decision, and as required under section 79 that, it does not need any more information, option assessments, costs and benefits analysis before making this decision.
- d) approves the unbudgeted expenditure of \$3,852 in Ohai Railway Fund grant allocations from the Ohai Railway Fund reserve.

### Executive summary

- 2 In the March 2026 funding round of the Ohai Railway Fund, the committee received four individual or tertiary applications, and five applications from organisations in the local community.
- 3 For the 2025/2026 financial year \$55,000 has been budgeted to be allocated via grants. \$8,700 was allocated in the September 2025 funding round, leaving \$46,300 remaining budget to allocate in the March 2026 round.
- 4 The total amount of requests received were \$48,898 from organisations, plus \$4,500 for individual grants if the committee allocated all as per the criteria.
- 5 The Ohai Railway Fund Committee decided to allocate the \$4,500 for the four individual grants, and \$45,652 for the organisations. The total amount allocated is \$50,152 for the March 2026 funding round, and \$58,852 for the 2025/2026 financial year.
- 6 As the allocation amount of \$58,852 exceeds the budgeted amount left to spend, \$3,852 will be funded from the reserve. This requires approval by Council.

## Context

7 The purpose of the Ohai Railway Fund is to provide grants for the benefits of the residents of the former Ohai Railway Board area.

8 Qualification and eligibility for grants are as follows:

### 9 **Individuals**

10 Grants for post secondary school or adult education assistance are to be allocated as follows:

- students who reside in the defined area
- non resident students who qualify under the eligibility criteria
- short courses (12 months or less) and reside in the defined area
- short courses (12 months or less) and the applicant is not a resident but qualifies under the eligibility criteria.

11 For those undertaking a recognised overseas opportunity the following policy applies:

- those who qualify under eligibility criteria reside in the defined area, and the length of the exchange is a minimum of seven months are entitled up to \$1,500
- those who qualify under eligibility criteria, reside in the defined area, and the length of the exchange is up to six months, are entitled up to \$1000
- those who qualify under eligibility criteria but do not reside in the defined area and:
  - (i) the length of the exchange is for a minimum of seven months are entitled to a maximum figure of \$1,000
  - (ii) the length of the exchange is up to six months, are entitled to a maximum figure of \$500.
- those allocated grant monies for international opportunities are not eligible to be considered for a post secondary school or adult education grant
- all allocations are subject to the discretion of the subcommittee.

### 12 **Organisations**

13 Eligible purposes:

- to facilitate employment opportunities
  - the development of:
    - community facilities, reserves and resources
    - recreational and leadership opportunities
    - community programmes, activities, events and charitable purposes
    - operating costs can be considered where they are incorporated into a specific project.
- NOTE: This is not to be interpreted as an offsetting of rates
- assistance may also be provided to individuals or groups taking part in events which reflect credit or provide benefit to the community
  - consideration may be given to projects aimed at providing public utilities

- transport – transport allowance may be considered for specific projects, but does not allow for transport to and from work or study
- assistance for other initiatives outside the above broad categories may be provided at the discretion of the subcommittee.

**14 Fund allocation criteria:**

- priority is given to assisting new venture and developments, particularly those which provide on going benefit
- the level of assistance should reflect the level of contribution from the applicant and the potential benefits
- priority may be given to applications where there are limited alternative means of raising funds
- priority may be given to supporting applicants whose opportunities are limited by difficult circumstances
- where projects are of equal merit levels, previous assistance may be considered when establishing priority
- all allocations are subject to the discretion of the subcommittee.

Discussion

- 15 In the March 2026 funding round, the Ohai Railway Committee received \$48,898 in organisation requests, and \$4,500 for individual applications.
- 16 The committee agreed to approve \$50,152 in funding for this round, subject to Council approval of the unbudgeted expenditure amount of \$3,852.

Options

- 17 The following reasonably practicable options have been identified and assessed in this report:
- Option 1 - approve the unbudgeted expenditure of \$3,852 in Ohai Railway Fund grant allocations from the Ohai Railway Fund reserve.
- Option 2 - do not approve the unbudgeted expenditure of \$3,852 in Ohai Railway Fund grant allocations from the Ohai Railway Fund reserve.

Recommended option:

- 18 Option 1 – to approve the unbudgeted expenditure of \$3,852 in Ohai Railway Fund grant allocations from the Ohai Railway Fund reserve.

Option 1 – to approve the unbudgeted expenditure of \$3,852 in Ohai Railway Fund grant allocations from the Ohai Railway Fund reserve.

<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Disadvantages</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the projects identified in the organisation applications approved by the committee will be able to proceed</li> <li>individuals who applied for assistance towards tertiary education costs or international opportunities will receive funds towards these costs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>none identified.</li> </ul>

Option 2 – to not approve the unbudgeted expenditure of \$3,852 in Ohai Railway Fund grant allocations from the Ohai Railway Fund reserve.

<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Disadvantages</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>none identified, the unbudgeted expenditure will not significantly reduce the reserve balance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>it may be perceived that the purpose of the Ohai Railway Fund is not being fulfilled</li> <li>the community projects or individual opportunities may not be able to proceed without funding assistance.</li> </ul>

Legal considerations

- 19 There is no legal information that needs to be considered.

Strategic alignment

**Strategic direction**

- 20 The purpose of the Ohai Railway Fund is to provide grants for the benefit of the residents of the former Ohai Railway Board area and delivers on the social and cultural outcomes outlined in the current Long Term Plan (LTP). By funding individuals for their education opportunities and initiatives such as sports, recreation, health services and community programmes, the fund promotes wellbeing, fosters a sense of belonging, and enhances facilities that make the area attractive and liveable.

- 21 The funding decisions covered in this report reflect these objectives, ensuring that allocations contribute to the LTP vision of vibrant, connected communities and opportunities to thrive.

**Policy and plan consistency**

- 22 There are no inconsistencies identified.

## Financial considerations

- 23 The Ohai Railway Fund grant budget for the 2025/2026 financial year is \$55,000, to date \$8,700 has been allocated, leaving a balance of \$46,300 remaining.
- 24 The committee may allocate grants over this budgeted amount but require unbudgeted expenditure approval from Council to do this.
- 25 The committee wish to allocate \$50,152 in grants this round, bringing the total grants for the year to \$58,852. This requires unbudgeted expenditure of \$3,852 to be funded from the Ohai Railway Fund reserve.
- 26 The value of the reserve at 30 June 2025 was \$1.93 million, which the unbudgeted expenditure will be funded from.

## Significance assessment

- 27 This decision has been assessed in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy as having some importance or administrative and is not considered significant.
- 28 The allocation of these funds follows the Ohai Railway fund policy. The decision provides minor positive impact on Council's social and cultural community outcomes in terms of this policy and has no impact on the provisions of Council's level of services. This decision is reversible but there would be some hurdles to do so. Allocations of grants do follow an accountability process, where applicants are required to submit a report detailing how the funds were spent and confirming that they were spent on the agreed purpose.
- 29 The assessed level of significance indicates that the community is kept informed of the decisions made in this report, rather than engaged prior to the decision being made.

Level	Likelihood of engagement
Some importance or administrative	Council is not likely to carry out any engagement.
Moderate importance	Council may choose whether it carries out engagement, which may be targeted to directly affected individuals or groups.
Significant	Council will engage with directly affected individuals and groups and wider community engagement is likely, unless there are reasons under policy not to.
Critical	Council will engage with directly affected individuals and groups and wider community engagement is highly likely, unless there are reasons under policy not to.

## Community views

- 30 In alignment with the significance assessment above, no community views have been sought in connection with this decision, however the community will be informed of the committee's decision in upcoming community board reports and other Council communication channels.

## Climate change considerations

- 31 There are no climate change considerations relevant to this matter or decision.

#### Risk and mitigations

- 32 There are no significant risks in relation to this matter or decision.
- 33 Grants made, do follow an accountability process as detailed above.

#### Next steps

- 34 Applicants will be advised of the outcome and payments made accordingly.

#### Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

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## Southland District Heritage fund allocations - interim funding round March 2026

Record no: R/26/5/118317  
Author: Kathryn Cowie, Community liaison officer  
Approved by: Sam Marshall, Group manager customer and community wellbeing  
Report type: Decision

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### Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this report is for Council to allocate funding for the Southland District Heritage fund March 2026 funding round. This is a one off interim funding round following the dissolution of the Southland Regional Heritage Committee (SRHC) and subsequently the Southland Regional Heritage Fund (SRHF).

### Staff recommendations

#### That Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as being administrative but not significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and therefore not significant. The assessed level of significance indicates that the community is kept informed of the decisions made in this report, rather than engaged prior to this decision being made.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 for this decision, and as required under section 79 that, it does not need any more information, option assessments, costs and benefits analysis before making this decision.
- d) receives applications from Waikawa Museum, Heritage South Charitable Trust, Rakiura Heritage Trust, Colac Bay Progress League, Southland Steam Engine Club Incorporated., Otautau Museum Trust, Tuatapere & District Promotion Incorporated and Central Western Archives, Southern Steam Train Charitable Trust, The Invercargill Masonic Heritage Building Charitable Trust, Riverton Heritage Museum and Tourist Centre Trust, Southland Social Sciences Fair, Switzers Museum (Waikaia) Incorporated, Cycling Southland, Wyndham and Districts Historical Society, and Central Southland Vintage Machinery Club.
- e) approves a grant of \$7,000 to the Waikawa Museum
- f) approves a grant of up to \$1,500 to Heritage South Charitable Trust (\$300 per event in Southland District Council area)
- g) approves a grant of \$4,000 to Rakiura Heritage Trust
- h) approves a grant of \$950 to the Colac Bay Progress League
- i) approves a grant of \$5,000 to the Southland Steam Engine Club Incorporated.
- j) approves a grant of \$7,000 to the Otautau Museum Trust

- k) declines a grant of \$10,000 to the Tuatapere District Promotion Incorporated and Central Western Archives
- l) approves a grant of \$5,000 to the Southern Steam Train Charitable Trust
- m) declines a grant of \$75,000 to the Invercargill Masonic Heritage Building Charitable Trust
- n) approves a grant of \$10,000 to the Riverton Heritage Museum and Tourist Centre Trust
- o) declines a grant of \$2,000 to the Southland Social Sciences Fair
- p) approves a grant of \$1,100 to Switzers Museum (Waikaia) Incorporated
- q) declines a grant of \$15,780 to Cycling Southland
- r) approves a grant of \$3,178 to the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society
- s) approves a grant of \$5,000 to the Central Southland Vintage Machinery Club (for display items only, not building/capital works)

### Executive summary

- 2 Council made the decision in November 2025 to let the SRHC come to a natural end, following the expiry of the Heads of Agreement and entered a transition phase. As a result of the end of the SRHC it meant that the SRHF was no longer available to heritage organisations in Southland for their various projects.
- 3 Part of the transition phase includes a heritage service delivery review which is due to be completed by end of 10 October 2026.
- 4 In February 2026 Council decided to implement an interim funding round in this transition period to assist heritage organisations with projects, particularly as there had not been a SRHF round since March 2025.
- 5 The interim funding round was open mid February 2026 and closed on 31 March 2026, and \$50,000 was approved to distribute.
- 6 Fifteen applications were received with the total amount of requests being \$ 211,590. Recommendations from the advisory committee total \$49,728.
- 7 Copies of the applications have been made available to Councillors prior to this meeting.

### Context

- 8 One of the functions of the SRHC was to administer and allocate funding for the SRHF. The purpose of this fund was to provide grants for projects and initiatives which preserve, communicate and promote Southland's heritage and are significant in a regional context. There were two funding rounds per year in March and September. The funding rounds were administered by Great South, with advisors from each council providing joint recommendations for each applicant to the committee. The Southland District Council (SDC) Roving Museum Officer) has been the advisor for SDC for the past 19 years. The SRHF ceased with the dissolution of the SRHC.
- 9 There was no funding round in September 2025 due to the local body elections, and now with the SRHC dissolved, future funding is on hold, pending the outcome of the service delivery review.

- 10 Following discussion at the 26 November 2025 meeting, elected members (three) of the heritage working group expressed that they would be interested in staff investigating holding an alternative interim heritage funding round in March 2026, in case any heritage organisations had projects that required funding assistance, especially as there had been no funding round in September 2025.
- 11 Council approved an interim funding round at its February 11 2026 meeting, and agreed that up to \$50,000 to be made available from Council's Regional Heritage rate collected in the 2025/2026 financial year.
- 12 The purpose and criteria of the fund was to be based on the Southland Regional Heritage Fund purpose and criteria with an amended focus on organisations and projects benefiting the Southland District Council area.
- 13 An interim advisory group was to meet following the fund deadline to discuss and make recommendations for allocation. The advisory group was to be made up of Councillor Duffy, Councillor Menzies, the Southland District Council Roving Museum Officer and a member of the Community Leadership Team.

#### Discussion

- 14 The advisory group met on 28 April 2026 to discuss the applications and make recommendations for allocation. The applications and recommendations are summarised below.

#### Application Summary

Total funds for distribution	\$50,000
Total number of applications	15
Total amount of funding requested	\$211,590
Total amount of recommendations	\$49,728

1.	WAIKAWA MUSEUM	
	Requests assistance towards the costs of building a facility to house the John Earwaker collection of petrified rocks.	
	Total project cost	\$45,000
	Amount requested	\$10,000
	<b>Recommended Allocation</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>

2.	HERITAGE SOUTH CHARITABLE TRUST	
	Requests assistance towards the costs of Southland Heritage Month 2027 – promotion, planning and implementation.	
	Total project cost	\$31,281
	Amount requested	\$10,899
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>\$300 per event in Southland District Council area (up to \$1,500 total)</b>

3.	RAKIURA HERITAGE TRUST	
	Requests assistance towards the production of an oral history book which captures the oral histories recorded by Toi Rakiura in 2006 and 2024. Currently the histories can only have a limited display at the museum – this is a way for families and those interested to have all the information available to them in one place.	
	Total project cost	\$9,074
	Amount requested	\$4,000
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>

4.	COLAC BAY PROGRESS LEAGUE	
	Event celebrating 125 of the Colac Bay Rifles Volunteer Hall, acknowledging the history of the hall and why it was built.	
	Total project cost	\$2,825
	Amount requested	\$950
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>\$950</b>

5.	SOUTHLAND STEAM ENGINE CLUB INCORPORATED	
	Requests assistance towards installing heavy duty opening doors on the Mill shed that houses their wooden mills and club rides trailer.	
	Total project cost	\$14,876
	Amount requested	\$10,000
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>

6.	OTAUTAU MUSEUM TRUST	
	Requests assistance towards building an outside shelter to house a butcher's carriage and other forestry wheels. The shelter will protect the heritage items and allow the public to be able to view them.	
	Total project cost	\$19,500
	Amount requested	\$17,500
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>

7.	TUATAPERE & DISTRICT PROMOTION INC AND CENTRAL WESTERN ARCHIVES	
	Requests assistance towards the cost to purchase more digital storage as the current system is full.	
	Total project cost	\$10,017
	Amount requested	\$10,000
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>Defer to future funding round as digital storage is part of the review process</b>

8.	SOUTHERN STEAM TRAIN CHARITABLE TRUST	
	Requests assistance towards the Makarewa Junction Heritage Railway project – establishing a permanent heritage railway operation at Makarewa Junction – leasing 6km of the Ohai branch line from KiwiRail, leasing a portion of the former Makarewa freezing work site and constructing a building to house the locomotives and carriages and the acquisition and restoration of three 1910/1920s heritage carriages.	
	Total project cost	\$600,000
	Amount requested	\$15,000
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>\$5,000 (towards restoration aspect of the project)</b>

9.	THE INVERCARGILL MASONIC HERITAGE BUILDING CHARITABLE TRUST	
	Requests assistance towards the “Fate of the Winds” project – a publicly accessible database that aims to locate, preserve, and share the stories of ships, crews and passengers who journeyed across oceans to Southern New Zealand following first documented Maori-non Maori contact in 1773.	
	Total project cost	\$1,440,000
	Amount requested	\$75,000
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>Nil</b>

10.	RIVERTON HERITAGE MUSEUM AND TOURIST CENTRE TRUST	
	Requests assistance towards the purchase of photography equipment so they can digitise their collections utilising volunteers, avoiding the cost of contracted photographers and backlogs of artefacts.	
	Total project cost	\$16,183
	Amount requested	\$16,183
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

11.	SOUTHLAND SOCIAL SCIENCES FAIR	
	Requests assistance towards the costs for the 2026 Southland Social Sciences fair in June.	
	Total project cost	\$9,908
	Amount requested	\$2,000
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>Nil</b>

12.	SWITZERS MUSEUM (WAIKAIA) INCORPORATED.	
	Requests assistance towards the cost of purchasing two new plinths for the museum to display items that are currently in storage.	
	Total project cost	\$1,100
	Amount requested	\$1,100
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>\$1,100</b>

13.	CYCLING SOUTHLAND	
	Requests assistance towards the cost of the heritage trail around the perimeter of the velodrome at Stadium Southland.	
	Total project cost	\$15,780 (this particular stage of the trail)
	Amount requested	\$15,780
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>Nil (but defer to future funding round and check the profiles are Southland District Council people)</b>

14.	WYNDHAM AND DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY	
	Requests assistance towards the cost of digitising 500 unframed photographs in the museum collection. This work will be done by CW Archives in Tuatapere. The digital images will then be uploaded to eHive by our volunteers.	
	Total project cost	\$3,712
	Amount requested	\$3,178
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>\$3,178</b>

15.	CENTRAL SOUTHLAND VINTAGE MACHINERY CLUB	
	Requests assistance towards the cost of constructing a new building to house our collection of tractors, machinery and implements. The current set up is very crowded and makes it difficult for the public to view.	
	Total project cost	\$169,170
	Amount requested	\$20,000
	<b>Recommended allocation</b>	<b>\$5,000 (but to go towards display items/materials not building costs)</b>

### Options

15 The following reasonably practicable options have been identified and assessed in this report:

Option 1 – approve and allocate funding to applicants pursuant to the funding criteria.

Option 2 – decline the applications.

Recommended option:

16 Approve and allocate funding pursuant to the funding criteria.

Option 1 – approve and allocate funding pursuant to the funding criteria

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>groups will be able to progress or complete their projects.</li> <li>Southland District Council will be seen to continue to support the heritage sector following the dissolution of the SRHC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>none identified.</li> </ul>

Option 2 – decline the applications

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• groups may not be able to complete their projects or lack of funding may be detrimental to their progress and outcomes</li> <li>• Southland District Council will not be seen to support the heritage sector in Southland.</li> </ul>

Legal considerations

- 17 There is no legal information that needs to be considered.

Strategic alignment

**Strategic direction**

- 18 The Southland District Heritage fund supports projects and initiatives which preserve, communicate and promote Southland’s heritage, and delivers on the cultural outcomes outlined in the current Long Term Plan (LTP).
- 19 The funding decisions covered in this report reflect these objectives, ensuring that allocations contribute to the LTP vision of vibrant, connected communities and opportunities to thrive.

**Policy and plan consistency**

- 20 There are no inconsistencies identified.

Financial considerations

- 21 Southland District Council collects the district heritage rate to support funding Regional Heritage (Southland Regional Heritage Committee).
- 22 The Regional Heritage rate collected in 2025/2026 was \$732,926 excluding GST. Up to the end of November, \$267,932 was paid to the SRHC, the balance of the district heritage rate collected this year of \$464,994 will be ringfenced and held in a heritage reserve to be spent on heritage services as was intended when the rate was collected.
- 23 The interim funding round has \$50,000 to distribute. Council may allocate more than this amount, but it will require a resolution to approve the additional funds.
- 24 Fifteen applications were received with the total amount of requests being \$ 211,590. Recommendations from the advisory committee total \$49,728.

Significance assessment

- 25 This decision has been assessed in accordance with Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy as having some importance or administrative and is not considered significant.
- 26 The allocation of these funds follows typical allocation procedures, and any allocations are within the budgeted fund allowances. Any decisions provide minor positive impact on Council’s social and cultural community outcomes in terms of this policy and has no impact on the provisions of Council’s level of services. Any decisions would be reversible but there would be some hurdles to do so. Allocations of grants do follow an accountability process, where applicants are required to submit a report detailing how the funds were spent and confirming that they were spent on the agreed purpose.

- 27 The assessed level of significance indicates that the community is kept informed of the decisions made in this report, rather than engaged prior to the decision being made.

Level	Likelihood of engagement
Some importance or administrative	Council is not likely to carry out any engagement.
Moderate importance	Council may choose whether it carries out engagement, which may be targeted to directly affected individuals or groups.
Significant	Council will engage with directly affected individuals and groups and wider community engagement is likely, unless there are reasons under policy not to.
Critical	Council will engage with directly affected individuals and groups and wider community engagement is highly likely, unless there are reasons under policy not to.

#### Community views

- 28 In alignment with the significance assessment above, no community views have been sought in connection with this decision, however the community will be informed of Council's decision in appropriate channels for community funding.

#### Climate change considerations

- 29 There are no climate change considerations relevant to this matter or decision.

#### Risk and mitigations

- 30 There are no significant risks in relation to this matter or decision.  
31 Grants made, do follow an accountability process as detailed above.

#### Next steps

- 32 Applicants will be advised of the outcome and payments made accordingly.

#### Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

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## Interpretation panels and construction of a kiosk at Menzies Ferry - Unbudgeted expenditure request

Record no: R/26/4/109725  
Author: Karen Purdue, Community partnership leader  
Approved by: Sam Marshall, Group manager customer and community wellbeing  
Report type: Decision

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### Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this report is to endorse recommendations from the Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board that unbudgeted expenditure for interpretation panels and to construct a kiosk at Menzies Ferry be approved.

### Staff recommendations

#### That the Council:

- a) notes the information contained in the report.
- b) notes that the matter or decision in this report is assessed as being of some importance but not significant based on Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and therefore is not considered significant. The assessed level of significance indicates that the community is kept informed of the decisions made in this report, rather than engaged prior to this decision being made.
- c) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with Section 79 of the act determines that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.
- d) approve the unbudgeted expenditure of \$1,660 plus GST for interpretation panels funded from the Menzies Ferry Hall Reserve.
- e) approve the unbudgeted expenditure of \$3,120.45 plus GST for a grant to the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society towards construction of a kiosk at Menzies Ferry funded from the Menzies Ferry Hall Reserve.

### Executive summary

- 2 Staff received a request from the Menzies Ferry Noticeboard Group to look at funding options for interpretation panels and a kiosk on Council land beside the Menzies Ferry war memorial.
- 3 An application to construct form was submitted and approved in March 2023 and it was indicated at that time that the Menzies Ferry Hall reserve could be used for funding this project.
- 4 It should be noted that the Menzies Ferry Noticeboard Group is a volunteer group and the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society has agreed to be the holder of funds for this community-led project.
- 5 The project entails the construction of a kiosk and production of interpretation panels.
- 6 Staff have received a quote of \$1,660 plus GST for the interpretation panels and a quote of \$6,320.45 plus GST for construction of the kiosk, a total of \$7,980.45 plus GST.

- 7 On behalf of the group, the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society applied for, and were successful, in obtaining grants to the value of \$3,200 towards the construction of the kiosk.
- 8 At the Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board meeting held on the 26 April a recommendation was made to Council to approve unbudgeted expenditure for the balance amount of \$4,780.45 plus GST to be funded from the Menzies Ferry Hall reserve which at 30 June 2025 had a balance of \$9,133 and the forecasted balance is \$9,315 as at 30 June 2026.

### Context

- 9 In 2012, the future of the Menzies Ferry Hall was raised by the Hall Committee as it was rarely used and faced ongoing costs of management and maintenance.
- 10 In due course the Hall Committee determined that there was no justification to retain the property other than the war memorial. A subdivision was undertaken in 2017 to define the war memorial and therefore allow the potential disposal of the hall and the balance of the land.
- 11 In May 2019, community consultation was undertaken via a letter drop to all ratepayers within the Menzies Ferry Hall Rating Boundary providing an opportunity for objections to the disposal. No objections were received.
- 12 In June 2019 Council received a letter from the Menzies Ferry Hall committee that they were in agreement with a proposal to close the Menzies Ferry Hall.
- 13 In 2023, staff received a request from the Menzies Ferry Noticeboard Group to look at funding options for interpretation panels and an interpretation kiosk on Council land beside the Menzies Ferry War Memorial. The intention being to share the history of the Menzies Ferry area for future generations.
- 14 An application to construct form was submitted for the project and approved in March 2023 and it was indicated at that time that the Menzies Ferry Hall reserve could be used for funding this project.
- 15 The Menzies Ferry Noticeboard Group have collaborated with our communications team to compile the research and design of the interpretation panels and have also contributed volunteer labour towards this project, in conjunction with Menzies College students, who assisted with the concreting of a pathway and general cleanup at the site.
- 16 It should be noted that the Menzies Ferry Noticeboard Group is a volunteer group and the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society has agreed to be the holder of funds for this community-led project.
- 17 To undertake the work, staff have received a quote of \$1,660 plus GST for the interpretation panels and a quote of \$6,320.45 plus GST for construction of the kiosk, a total of \$7,980.45 plus GST.
- 18 On behalf of the group, the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society applied for, and were successful, in obtaining grants to the value of \$3,200 towards the construction of the kiosk.
- 19 At the Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board meeting held on the 26 April 2026 a recommendation was made to Council to approve unbudgeted expenditure of \$4,780.45 to be funded from the Menzies Ferry Hall reserve which at 30 June 2025 had a balance of \$9,133 and the forecasted balance is \$9,315 as at 30 June 2026.

## Discussion

- 20 Staff received an application to construct and a request from the Menzies Ferry Noticeboard Group to look at funding options for interpretation panels and an interpretation kiosk in 2023.
- 21 It should be noted that the Menzies Ferry Noticeboard Group is a volunteer group and the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society has agreed to be the holder of funds for this community-led project.
- 22 Staff have received quotes of \$1,660 plus GST for the interpretation panels and a quote for \$6,320.45 plus GST for construction of the kiosk, a total of \$ 7,980.45 plus GST.
- 23 On behalf of the group, the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society applied for, and were successful, in obtaining grants to the value of \$3,200 towards the construction of the kiosk.
- 24 The Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board has recommended that Council approve unbudgeted expenditure of \$4,780.45, to be funded from the Menzies Ferry Hall reserve. The reserve had a balance at 30 June 2025 of \$9,133 and the forecasted balance is \$ 9,315 as at 30 June 2026.

## Options

- 25 The following reasonably practicable options have been identified and assessed in this report:
- Option 1 – Council approves unbudgeted expenditure of \$4,780.45 plus GST for interpretation panels and to construct a kiosk at Menzies Ferry.
- Option 2 – Council does not approve unbudgeted expenditure of \$4,780.45 plus GST for interpretation panels and to construct a kiosk at Menzies Ferry.

### Recommended option:

- 26 Option 1 – Council approves unbudgeted expenditure of \$4,780.45 plus GST for interpretation panels and to construct a kiosk at Menzies Ferry.

Option 1 – Council approves unbudgeted expenditure of \$ 4,780.45 plus GST for interpretation panels and to construct a kiosk at Menzies Ferry.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the history of the Menzies Ferry area will be preserved for future generations</li> <li>• the Menzies Ferry Hall reserve will be used in the Menzies Ferry area</li> <li>• Council will be supporting the recommendation of the Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there will be less funds available in the reserve.</li> </ul>

Option 2 – Council does not approve unbudgeted expenditure of \$ 4,780.45 plus GST for interpretation panels and to construct a kiosk at Menzies Ferry.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there will be more funds available in the reserve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the work will not be completed and there may be a negative response from the Menzies Ferry community</li> <li>the history of the area may not easily be available for future generations.</li> <li>The Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board may feel unsupported by the Council decision.</li> </ul>

### Legal considerations

- 27 There are no legal considerations.

### Strategic alignment

#### Strategic direction

- 28 This work aligns with Councils social, cultural and economic values as outlined in the community resources section of the Long-Term Plan and the Waihōpai Toetoe Community Boards vision of:
- valuing generational continuity
  - valuing strong community spirit.

With the outcome of:

- our communities having the opportunity to celebrate their history and heritage
- our community is connected and engaged.

#### Policy and plan consistency

- 29 Staff have not identified any inconsistencies with Council’s policies or plans.

### Financial considerations

- 30 Staff have received quotes of \$1,660 plus GST for the interpretation panels and a quote for \$6,320.45 plus GST for construction of the kiosk, a total of \$7,980.45 plus GST.
- 31 On behalf of the group, the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society applied for, and were successful, in obtaining grants to the value of \$3,200 towards the construction of the kiosk.
- 32 There is no budget available for the work and at the Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board meeting held on the 26 May 2026, a recommendation was made to Council that the balance of \$4,780.45 plus GST be funded from the Menzies Ferry Hall reserve which at 30 June 2025 had a balance of \$9,133 and the forecasted balance is \$9,315 as at 30 June 2026.

### Significance assessment

- 33 After assessing this against the Significance and Engagement Policy 2024 it is determined to be of some importance (external).

Level	Likelihood of engagement
Some importance or administrative	Council is not likely to carry out any engagement.
Moderate importance	Council may choose whether it carries out engagement, which may be targeted to directly affected individuals or groups.
Significant	Council will engage with directly affected individuals and groups and wider community engagement is likely, unless there are reasons under policy not to.
Critical	Council will engage with directly affected individuals and groups and wider community engagement is highly likely, unless there are reasons under policy not to.

### Community views

- 34 Staff are not seeking community views however, it should be noted that the Menzies Ferry Noticeboard group have led this project and have the support of the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society. The Waihōpai Toetoe Community Board have supported this approach.

### Climate change considerations

- 35 There are no climate change considerations relevant to this matter or decision.

### Risk and mitigations

- 36 The risk is determined as being minor and it would be about the Council's reputational risk if the work did not proceed.

### Next steps

- 37 Advise the Menzies Ferry Noticeboard group that the funds have been sent to the Wyndham and Districts Historical Society.

### Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.



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## Notice of motion from Councillor Wilson SDC nitrates in drinking water - data sharing and increased monitoring for heightened-risk schemes

Record no: R/26/6/123740  
Author: Fiona Dunlop, Committee advisor  
Approved by: Cameron McIntosh, Chief executive  
Report type: Information

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### Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to enable Councillor Wilson to move a notice of motion at the meeting.

### Motion

That the Southland District Council:

- a) Notes that while all Council-managed reticulated water schemes consistently operate within statutory national compliance limits, internal data shows some schemes have crossed the regulatory half-Maximum Acceptable Value (half-MAV) threshold of 5.65 mg/L, requiring increased internal testing frequencies under Taumata Arowai guidelines.
- b) Agrees to continually release up to date nitrate testing through a public-facing portal on the Council website, funded by existing Three Waters operational monitoring budget
- c) Requests the Chief Executive to investigate increased monitoring options for schemes identified >half-MAV threshold, including continuous real-time testing to be considered in the LTP.

### Attachments

- A Notice of Motion from Councillor Wilson [↓](#)

**From:** [Cr Matt Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Fiona Dunlop](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NOTICE OF MOTION: SDC NITRATES IN DRINKING WATER – DATA SHARING AND INCREASED MONITORING FOR HEIGHTENED-RISK SCHEMES  
**Date:** Friday, 5 June 2026 2:24:45 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[ATT00001.png](#)

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**Cr Matt Wilson**  
**Councillor**  
**Southland District Council**  
PO Box 903  
Invercargill 9840  
P: 0800 732 732  
[www.southlanddc.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz)

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**From:** Cr Matt Wilson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 June 2026 3:37 pm  
**To:** Cameron McIntosh <[Cameron.McIntosh@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Cameron.McIntosh@southlanddc.govt.nz)>; Rob Scott <[Rob.Scott@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Rob.Scott@southlanddc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: NOTICE OF MOTION: SDC NITRATES IN DRINKING WATER – DATA SHARING AND INCREASED MONITORING FOR HEIGHTENED-RISK SCHEMES

Hi Rob and Cameron,

Following the information from last week's workshop, please find attached my amended Notice of motion.

I have edited some of the recommendations and context to reflect the work staff have undertaken.

Cheers  
-matt

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**From:** Cr Matt Wilson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 May 2026 11:52 am  
**To:** Cameron McIntosh <[Cameron.McIntosh@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Cameron.McIntosh@southlanddc.govt.nz)>; Rob Scott <[Rob.Scott@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Rob.Scott@southlanddc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: SDC NITRATES IN DRINKING WATER – DATA SHARING AND INCREASED MONITORING FOR HEIGHTENED-RISK SCHEMES

**TO:** The Chief Executive and Mayor, Southland District Council  
**FROM:** Councillor Matt Wilson  
**DATE:** 26 May 2026

**NOTICE OF MOTION: SDC NITRATES IN DRINKING WATER – DATA SHARING AND INCREASED MONITORING FOR HEIGHTENED-RISK SCHEMES**

I hereby give notice that at the next ordinary meeting of the Southland District Council, I will move the following motion:

### Recommendations

That the Southland District Council:

- **a. Notes** that while all Council-managed reticulated water schemes consistently operate within statutory national compliance limits, internal data shows some schemes have crossed the regulatory half-Maximum Acceptable Value (half-MAV) threshold of 5.65 mg/L, requiring increased internal testing frequencies under Taumata Arowai guidelines.
- **b. Agrees** to continually release up to date nitrate testing through a public-facing portal on the Council website, funded by existing Three Waters operational monitoring budget
- **c. Requests** the Chief Executive to investigate increased monitoring options for schemes identified >half-MAV threshold, including continuous real-time testing to be considered in the LTP.

### Background and Reasons

- **The Southland Nitrate Context:** Regional monitoring confirms widespread and deteriorating nitrate levels across Southland's groundwater networks, with certain "hot spots" receiving national media attention and causing significant local concern. While SDC's reticulated water remains legally compliant, particular sources have regularly crossed the half-MAV trigger (5.65 mg/L), mandating increased internal monitoring. These
- **Timeline and Procedural Context:** Following the release of the Environment Southland Nitrogen Contamination in Southland Groundwater technical report, elected members were provided with internal test results from SDC schemes. At Council's March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, during the Management Report (R/26/2/4100) staff informally agreed to look into a public data dashboard and subsequent email correspondence and council workshop discussion has indicated this is progressing. Given there is an elevated level of community interest, a resolution from the Council table formalises the agreement to continually release this data for the public.
- **Precedent:** Other councils experiencing similar issues (Selwyn District Council and Gore District Council) have already successfully established public-facing water data portals and nitrate dashboards. Their implementation proves that publishing this information is practical, low-cost, and highly effective at managing public transparency.
- **Data Transparency :** Because Council already collects the water data, publishing it openly is a logical, low-cost extension of basic customer service. Open datasets utilize existing data to eliminate local speculation, build public confidence, and constructively add to the continued discussion and research.
- **Personal Choice in Health:** While the historic legal statutory MAV (11.3 mg/L) determines the compliance safety threshold, there remains public debate regarding emerging international and national studies showing increased public health risks at lower thresholds, including reproductive risks during pregnancy. Providing clear up

to date data allows individuals - including expectant parents to make their own proactive, informed choices whether to source alternative supply.

- **Local Lead Solutions:** Currently in some affected areas, locally lead initiatives are investigating providing alternative water to vulnerable groups, including bottled or reverse osmosis and ION filtered water. Council has opportunity to support this in many ways, including sharing of data, communication channels and water infrastructure advice.
- **Financial:** Setting up the data interface utilises the compliance data Council already handles, meaning the immediate rollout can be efficiently absorbed by the existing operational monitoring budget. Looking into more advanced, continuous real-time monitoring represents future asset management, making the Long-Term Plan (LTP) the fiscally responsible home for that infrastructure debate and community consultation.



**Councillor Matt Wilson**

*Mararoa Waimea Ward, Southland District Council*

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 Exclusion of the public: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
 

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## Recommendation

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

9.1 McGregor Park - possible land use consent application - unbudgeted expenditure request

9.2 Rating sale process 2026/2027

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
McGregor Park - possible land use consent application - unbudgeted expenditure request	<p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.
Rating sale process 2026/2027	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.</p> <p>To protect the privacy of the ratepayer.</p>	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.