

Council meeting 26th February 2025 – Summary News:

Below is a brief summary of the decisions from the Council meeting held on the 26th of March 2025. You can read the full reports online in our agenda:

<https://www.kaikoura.govt.nz/council/meetings-calendar-agendas-minutes>

Proposed New Traffic and Parking Bylaw:

A new draft Bylaw has been prepared for public feedback and comment before being finalised. The new Bylaw has to be operative by 1 December 2025. The new draft Bylaw includes minor changes and updates to address specific issues or to update certain provisions. A new register of parking and traffic control maps that reliably reflect the restrictions that are in place has also been produced to accompany the Bylaw. Several changes to road marking have also been considered to improve safety.

Outcome:

At the Council meeting on the 26 June 2024, Council resolved in accordance with the recommendation. A formal Public Consultation will take place mid-April 2025 with a view to have the final Bylaw approved by the end of June.

Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) Lever:

Quotable values (QV) which is a New Zealand agency providing updated property values to Council carried out a property revaluation in the latter half of 2024. This revaluation was undertaken after Council had adopted its Long Term Plan and Funding and undertaken a rates review. This revaluation saw the property values for residential properties increase substantially in comparison to other sectors e.g. Commercial and Rural/Farming.

Of concern is that the lower valued properties have increased the most as part of this valuation and means that, percentage wise, the change in general rates will have a significant impact on these properties. This is also the sector most likely to be considered at risk from an affordability consideration. Several options were presented for how Council could consider the level of the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) as a lever to provide some marginal relief to lower capital value properties.

Outcome:

Council unanimously supported Option 1 to reduce the UAGC percentage rate in the draft annual plan as a lever to try to give some marginal rates relief on lower capital value properties.

Re-adjournment of item for Decision:

Request for Road Closure and Exchange at 1695 Puhi Puhi Road – NR McArthur (2007) Investment Trust:

A request has been made by NR McArthur (2007) Investment Trust to have an area of paper road stopped and to exchange some land which would allow for the road corridor to continue.

An application for road exchange was received on 15th January 2025. Initial discussion occurred with Te Runanga o Kaikōura and Herenga a Nuku (Walking Access Commission) and the feedback at the staff level included:

- Ensuring that esplanade provisions still apply once the road is closed
- Ensuring the road stopping will not limit access to conservation land. In order to progress any road stopping Council must pass a resolution to instigate the road-closing procedure and Council must follow the statutory process as set out in Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act.

The application was left on the table from the February Council meeting. At the February meeting Councillors requested a site visit before making a decision. An opportunity for a site visit was provided and taken up by some Councillors.

Outcome:

The report was reconsidered and approved at today's meeting, with Councillor Diver in opposition. It should be noted the approval by the Council is the start of the formal public road stopping process and an opportunity will be provided for members of the public to make a submission on the application.