

Matters for Decision – Council Meeting Summary News March 25th, 2026

(Kaikōura District Council Meeting, 25 March 2026)

Below is a brief summary of some key decisions from the Council meeting held on the 25th of March 2026. You can read the full reports online in our agenda:

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

At the 25 March 2026 Council meeting, Councillors considered and made decisions on the following matters as set out in the Council agenda and associated reports.

1. Adoption of the Signs Bylaw 2026 (*Agenda page 26*)

Council was asked to adopt the final version of the Signs Bylaw 2026, incorporating amendments directed by Council following the hearings and deliberations held on 4 March 2026.

The report outlined:

- Changes made in response to public submissions and Council direction
- Updated rules for portable signs, sponsorship and naming-rights signs, mobile commercial units, airport signage, subdivisions, and education facilities
- A revised exemption pathway
- Updated monitoring and enforcement provisions
- Repeal of the previous Signs Bylaw

Outcome

Council adopted the Signs Bylaw 2026 with some further minor amendments in line with the agreed deliberation outcomes. The adopted bylaw is scheduled to come into effect on 1 April 2026.

2. Wakatu Quay Stage 1 Close-Out Report (*Agenda page 60*)

Council was asked to approve the close-out report for Stage 1 of the Wakatu Quay development, delivered as part of the Kaikōura Marine Development Programme.

The report:

- Confirmed completion of Stage 1 works
- Documented delivery against the MBIE funding agreement
- Identified economic, community, and infrastructure outcomes achieved
- Noted that the completed public infrastructure provides a foundation for future site activation
- Confirmed there are no ongoing financial implications associated with the close-out

Outcome

Council approved the Wakatu Quay Stage 1 Close-Out Report and noted that it will be submitted to MBIE as confirmation that the agreed outcomes and objectives have been met for the completion of this stage of the project.

3. Adoption of the Local Governance Statement 2025–2028 (*Agenda page 78*)

Council was asked to adopt the Local Governance Statement for the 2025–2028 triennium, as required under section 40 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The statement includes information on:

- Council functions, responsibilities, and activities
- Governance structures, committees, and delegations
- Electoral and representation arrangements
- Meeting processes and consultation requirements
- Council's processes for engagement with Māori
- Public access to information and engagement with Council

Outcome

Council adopted the Local Governance Statement 2025–2028. The statement will be made publicly available in accordance with legislative requirements.

4. Updates to the Delegations Manual (*Agenda page 97*)

Council was asked to consider and approve changes to the Delegations Manual relating to food safety, health, and alcohol regulatory functions.

The report recommended:

- Establishing a formally delegated Deputy Chairperson role for the District Licensing Committee
- Updating and clarifying statutory delegations to align with current legislation and operational practice
- Ensuring decisions made under the relevant Acts remain procedurally valid and legally compliant

Outcome

Council approved the proposed updates to the Delegations Manual, including the establishment and appointment of a Deputy Chairperson of the District Licensing Committee.