

Matters for Decision – Council Meeting Summary News May 27th, 2026

(Kaikōura District Council Meeting, 27 May 2026)

Below is a brief summary of some key decisions from the Council meeting held on the 27th of May 2026. You can read the full reports online in our agenda:

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

At the 27 May 2026 Council meeting, Councillors considered and made decisions on the following matters as set out in the Council agenda and associated reports.

1. Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027 (Agenda page 19)

Council was asked to review the draft Annual Plan for 2026/2027 and provide feedback before final adoption in June.

The report outlined:

- Alignment with Year 3 of the Long-Term Plan 2024–2034, with no significant changes to service levels or strategic direction
- Transfer of three waters services to Kaikōura Hurunui Water Services Ltd from 1 July 2026
- Financial overview including:
 - Total revenue of approximately \$28.6 million
 - Operating expenditure of approximately \$20.2 million
 - Forecast surplus of approximately \$8.3 million
 - Capital expenditure of approximately \$12.9 million
- A proposed rates increase of 3.8% (excluding water), with overall impact of around 6.3% including water charges
- Key infrastructure and community projects, including IAF transport and flood projects, roading renewals, and community facility upgrades
- Key risks including cost pressures, capital delivery delays, and ongoing government reform
- Recommendation to include a roading contingency of approximately \$115,000 to manage fuel price volatility

Outcome

Council received the report and provided feedback on the draft Annual Plan, including consideration of rates, charges, and the proposed roading contingency. The final plan will be presented for adoption in June 2026.

2. Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026/2027 (Agenda page 23)

Council was asked to review the draft Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2026/2027 financial year.

The report outlined:

- Predominantly inflationary increases (generally 2–6%) across most fees
- Targeted increases, including:
 - Dangerous dog registration increasing from \$100 to \$150
 - Effluent disposal fees increasing from \$90/m³ to \$125/m³
- Updates to staff charge-out rates for technical and managerial roles
- Removal of the fast-track LIM service
- Increased development contributions to support growth-related infrastructure
- No increase to pensioner housing rents
- Adjustments reflecting cost pressures, regulatory changes, and cost recovery principles

Outcome

Council received the report and reviewed the proposed changes. Feedback will be incorporated into the final Schedule of Fees and Charges for adoption in June 2026.

3. Procurement Policy Alignment with UNSC Resolution 2334 (Agenda page 29)

Council was asked to consider whether to amend its procurement policy to exclude companies linked to Israeli settlement activity, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334.

The report outlined:

- Background to the proposal raised by members of the public
- The intent of UNSC Resolution 2334 and New Zealand's position
- Potential benefits of adopting an ethical procurement approach
- Risks associated with implementing the policy, including:
 - Moving beyond Council's local governance role into geopolitical matters
 - Reduced flexibility and competition in procurement
 - Practical challenges in monitoring and compliance
- Advice from central government that the resolution does not require procurement restrictions

Decision and Next Steps

Council resolved to accept the recommendation and not adopt a procurement policy that would prohibit purchases from Israeli companies identified by the United Nations

Human Rights Council as being involved in activities related to settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

However, Council has directed Kaikōura District Council officials to develop a procurement policy that more broadly incorporates environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations. This work is to be undertaken in collaboration with the community members who presented the proposal to Council and will be brought back to Council for consideration at a future meeting.

Council was recommended to reject the proposed policy change and maintain its current procurement approach focused on value, fairness, and legal compliance.

4. Parking Strategy – Relief from On-Site Parking Requirements (Agenda page 36)

Council was asked to consider a draft policy to guide how on-site parking requirements are applied for new developments.

The report outlined:

- A proposed framework to allow reductions in required on-site parking where unused on-street parking is available
- Division of the township into 80 “parking blocks” with different categories:
 - Green: up to 60% relief
 - White: up to 30% relief
 - Red and Orange: no relief unless further review is undertaken
- A consistent and data-driven approach to assessing parking demand and availability
- Recognition that allocations of on-street parking are notional and do not guarantee availability
- Consideration of safety, aesthetics, and community impacts
- Potential impacts of future local government reform, which may remove the ability to require minimum parking standards

Outcome

Council considered the proposed approach and options to either adopt the policy or proceed with community consultation through the Special Consultative Procedure before finalising the framework.
