

Central City Annual Update

Year to 30 June 2025

This report compiles data/insights on progress towards our [Central City Outcomes](#) looking at:

- long term progress and trends.
- recent projects to improve Central City vibrancy and liveability,
- the use of relevant Council grants and funding.

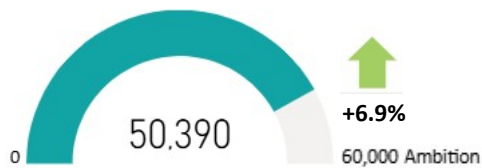
You can explore data in greater detail and find out more at www.ccc.govt.nz/our-progress/

Key Progress Measures

The Thriving Economic Heart of an International City

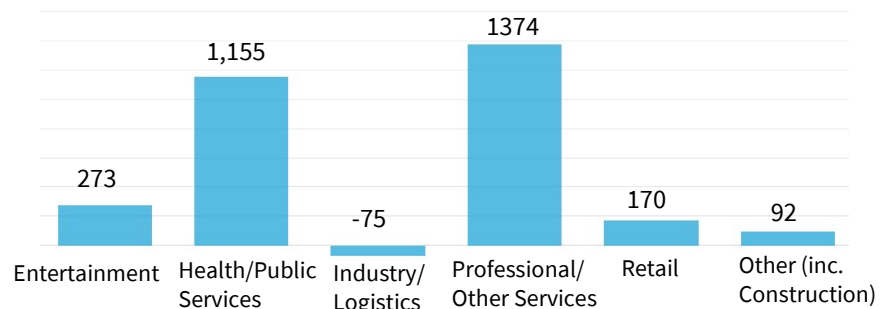
(See pages 2-5)

Employment growth ambition:
60,000 Central City employees by 2028.



With 3,270 new jobs added in 2023-24, growth is back on track to meet our 2028 ambition (see page 3).

Central City Job Growth by Sector (2023-24) (Source: StatsNZ, 2024)



Major progress was made on the remaining anchor projects (p. 5):

- The Court Theatre was fully delivered in May 2025, and has hosted several shows already.
- Major street improvements around Te Kaha were completed six months ahead of schedule.
- The stadium remains on track and on budget.
- Multiple 'superlot' developments on the East Frame underway.

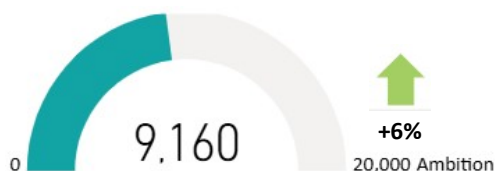


Lichfield Street public realm upgrades

Growing Liveable Central City Neighbourhoods

(See pages 6-7)

The Central City Residential Programme's ambition is to grow the **population** to 20,000 people by 2028.



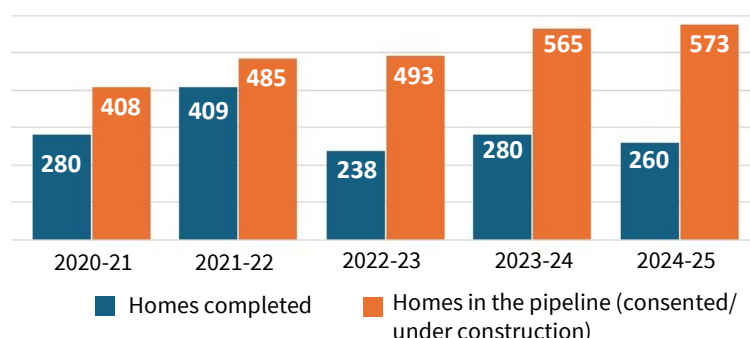
The most recent estimates show the population growing by 6% to 9,160 residents.

Housing delivery remained strong over the last year:

- 260 homes were delivered across the year, with the majority (170 homes) built in the first half of 2025.
- There is an active development pipeline. At 30 June 2025, 573 new homes were under development or consented.

Annual Growth in Central City Housing (from July to June)

(Source: CCC, 2025)



A Vibrant, People Focused Place Day and Night

(See pages 8-14)

- **Vacant Sites (p. 8-9):** The condition and use of vacant sites continues to improve. The City Vacant Differential Rate now applies to 25% of vacant sites in rateable zones, down from 33% 12 months ago.
- **Transport (p. 10)** — Footfall and bus patronage continue to increase at strong rates. Footfall has grown by 6% in 2025.
- **Central City Events (pg. 13)** - those produced/funded by Council and ChchNZ attracted over 600,000 total attendees, making up half of all event attendance across the entire city.



The Thriving Economic Heart of an International City Year to 30 June 2025

New Commercial and Residential Development

Resource consent applications received	Number	Building Consents Issued (by District Plan zone)	New Housing	Net New Homes	New Commercial Floorspace (sqm)
All Central City (Four Avenues) - excl. core City Centre Zone	88	City Centre Zone	108	108	20,013
City Centre Zone (core) only	30	Central City Mixed Use zones	50	50	8,394
		Central City Residential zone	96	83	10,053
		Other (Specific Purpose, Visitor Accommodation etc.)	98	95	38,994
TOTAL	118	TOTAL	352	336	77,453

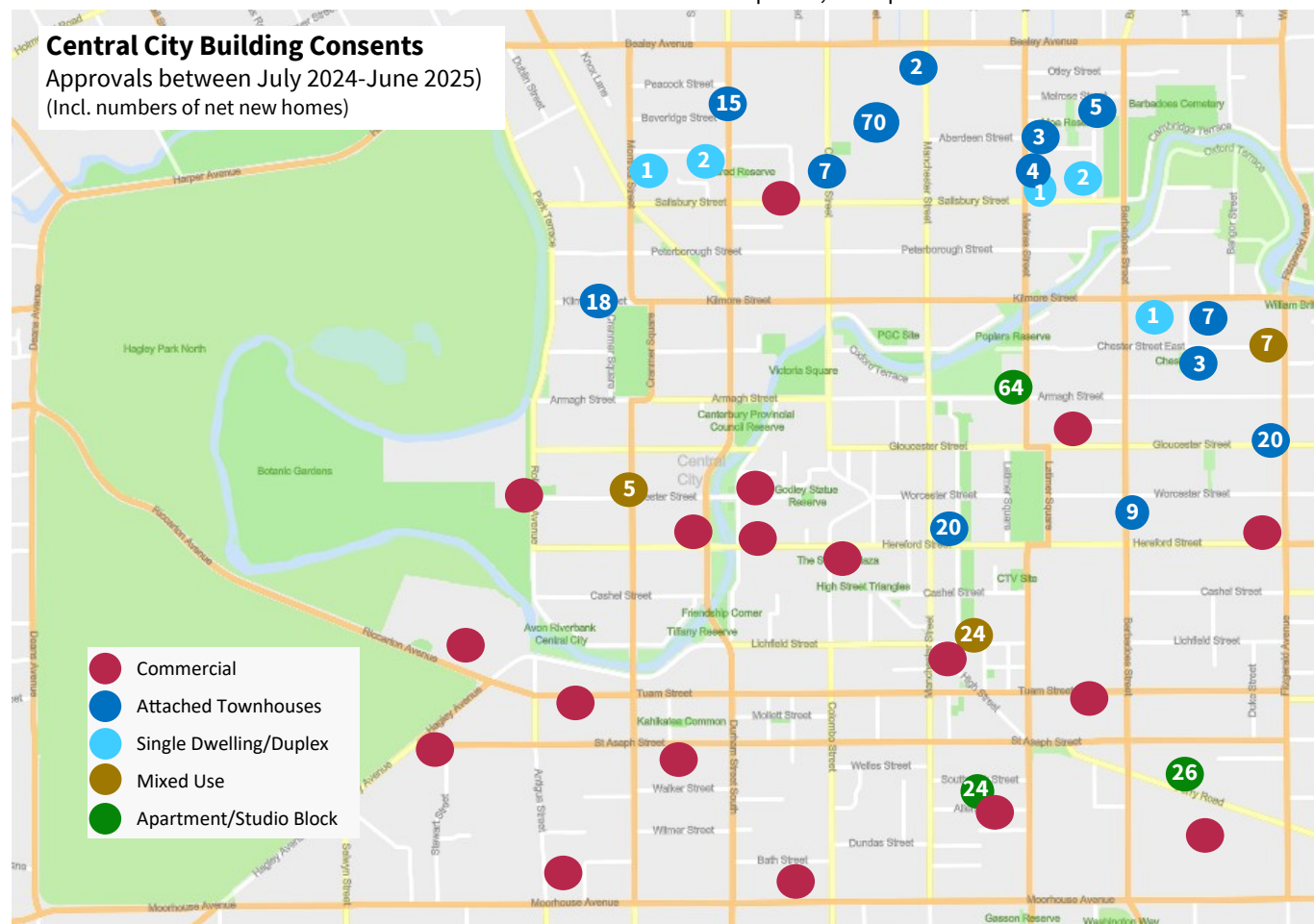
Resource consent application numbers have remained firm, in line with the average seen over the last six years. Significant applications have included:

- Reinstatement of the 14-storey former Noahs/Rydges hotel (see pg. 9 for more information).
- Fletcher Living's development on Superlot 1, One Central - including 48 apartments and 16 townhouses.
- A 72-unit housing complex to be delivered by Growcott Freer at 888 Colombo Street.



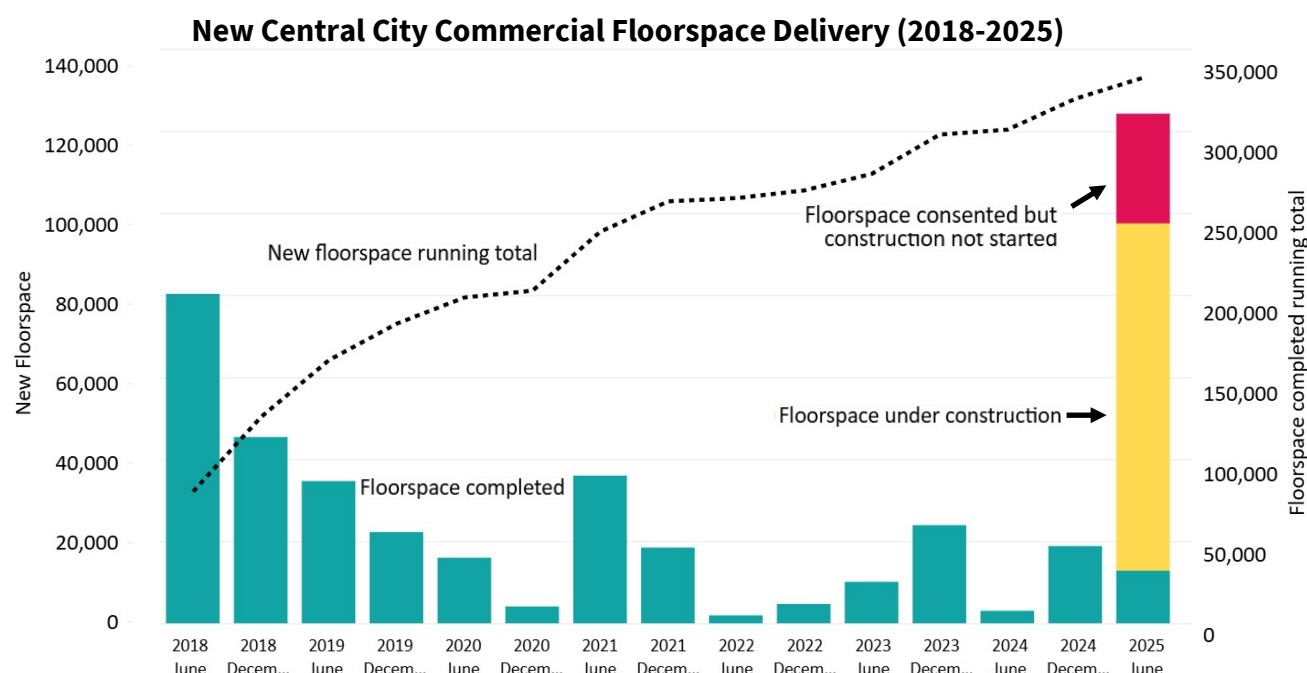
The below map shows **Building Consents** approved from July 2024 to June 2025. Net housing gain from any development is indicated on the map. Some large-scale developments have had their multiple consents bundled together as one on the map.

- 352 residential units were consented on a range of sites (net housing gain of 336 units).
- This strong rate of consenting is slightly above the five-year average.
- Most residential consents continue to be for attached townhouse complexes, and apartment blocks.



Floorspace Delivery

The below graphic shows total amount of new commercial floorspace delivered in the Central City since 2018, along with current projects that are under construction or consented as at June 2025.



31,664 sqm were delivered over the last 12 months (see blue bars), picking up well after a slow start to 2024. There is an active pipeline of construction underway (84,648 m²—see yellow bar) and a range of consents ready to deliver (see red bar).

Currently active projects include continuing works on the One New Zealand Stadium at Te Kaha, ongoing redevelopment of the Canterbury Museum, and the final stage of the new inpatient ward tower at Waipapa Christchurch Hospital. Private sector projects underway include the new office development at 107-109 Cambridge (adj. CCC building) and 200 High

Business and Employment Growth

Numbers of Central City employees and businesses are estimated yearly by StatsNZ. We track progress towards an ambition of 60,000 Central City employees by 2028.

Employment growth

During 2023/24, the Central City workforce broke through the 50,000 barrier and stood at 50,390 workers at February 2024*.

3,270 new employees led to 6.9% annual growth, putting the Central City back on track to having 60,000 employees by 2028, and making up ground lost during the pandemic.

Updated estimates for 2024/25 - available in October - are likely to show some slowdown in employment growth, reflecting wider macro-economic factors.

Net business growth

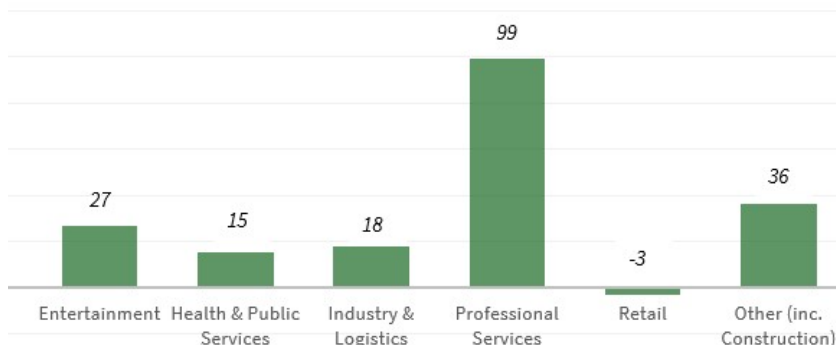
The Central City's appeal as a place to do business remains positive. In 2023/24, 186 new businesses were established.

Professional services is by far the fastest growing sector, with 99 new businesses and an 8.7% growth in employee numbers.

Central City Employment Growth (2000-2024*) Source: StatsNZ, 2024



Central City Business Growth (2023-2024*) (Source: StatsNZ, 2024)



* Note that annual StatsNZ employment and business data is provided in October each year.

The Thriving Economic Heart of an International City Year to 30 June 2025

Central City Spending

Overall, the country's economic downturn has persisted for longer than anticipated. Despite early signs of recovery at the end of 2024, cost-of-living struggles and a tough job market continued into 2025.

Central City spending has been affected: the total of \$1.25 billion spent with electronic cards over the last year is a 3% drop compared to the 12 months prior (see table to the right).

Consumers have had to be selective with their purchases, particularly cutting down on dining out, going to bars, and higher-end retail. These are all staples of the Central Christchurch economy.

While the economy is yet to fully recover, there is a sense among businesses and consumers that things will improve, with falling interest rates and stable inflation enabling more spending later in the year.

Spending in the Central City is tracked quarterly at www.ccc.govt.nz/our-progress/

At a Glance: Change in yearly spending

Electronic card spending in the Central City	Year-on-year change
TOTAL SPEND	-3%
<i>Greater Christchurch resident spend</i>	<i>-3.5%</i>
Total visitor spend	-1.9%
<i>Domestic visitor spend</i>	<i>-6.5%</i>
<i>International visitor spend</i>	<i>+4.7%</i>
<i>International visitor spend (excl. Australia)</i>	<i>+10.3%</i>

Visitor spending

Positively, international visitor spend continues to grow. This was largely due to markets outside Australia (e.g. US, China, India) growing by 10.3%.

Growth in international visitors has been consistently high since New Zealand's borders were re-opened in 2022. There is strong demand for travel to the South Island. Re-established and additional airline services have been announced by a number of operators. International arrivals at Christchurch Airport hit their highest levels (post-COVID) in December-January 2024/25.

Conversely, the proportion of domestic visitor spend has significantly fallen from its high levels seen in 2022–23, the period immediately following the pandemic.

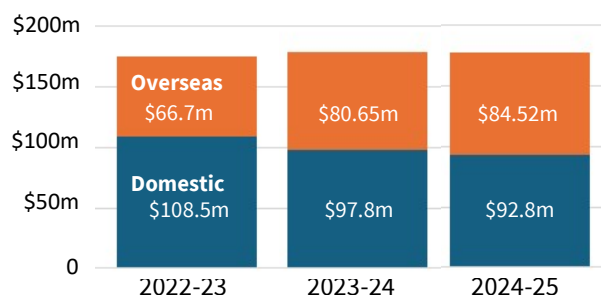
A combination of cost-of-living struggles and removal of COVID travel restrictions have affected this demographic particularly. New Zealanders have been taking opportunities to travel overseas post-COVID.

Unlike previous years, growth in international visitors was unable to compensate for less spending by other demographics.



Peak Season Visitor Spending (Oct–Mar)

(Source: Marketview, 2025)



Major events

Large-scale events help attract visitors and offer short-term spending boosts.

Key Central City events in the spring and summer included Electric Avenue, the World Buskers Festival, the five-day Black Caps vs England Test Match at Hagley Oval, and the Hot Spring Spas T20 Black Clash.

An estimated \$20.55m of visitor spend was brought into the Christchurch economy due to major events during the period, with many taking place at Central City venues.

Electric Avenue in particular attracted 75,000 total attendees and \$10.5m in visitor spending (highest from a Christchurch event in recent decades).

It is clear major events should continue to be prioritized to attract visitors and support Central City businesses, particularly while locals are more discerning with their purchases.

The delivery of One New Zealand Stadium at Te Kaha in 2026 will bring even more major events to the city centre, which is expected to boost the area's economy significantly.



The Thriving Economic Heart of an International City Year to 30 June 2025

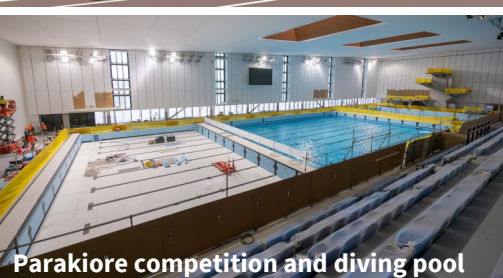
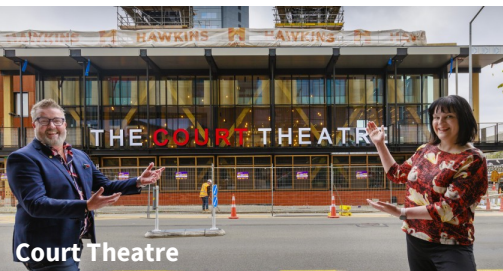
Major Development Progress

Major progress was made between July 2024 and June 2025:

- **One New Zealand Stadium at Te Kaha** - The stadium remains on budget and on track to open in April 2026. Regular updates are available at www.ccc.govt.nz/canterbury-arena.
 - In a major milestone, the first of 25,000 permanent seats was installed.
 - Roof installation, exterior wall cladding and external stairs are well underway. Internal fit-outs are progressing well.
 - At 30th June, upgrades to the streets and water network were close to completion—6 months ahead of schedule. The works have included:
 - Road resurfacing/paving, pipe upgrades and lane changes
 - Pedestrian focused upgrade of Lichfield Street west of Te Kaha.
- **Performing Arts Precinct**— This anchor project continues to take shape:
 - The Court Theatre was completed, and opened its doors for its first show on 3 May 2025.
 - Council voted in March 2025 for 129 Gloucester Street, near the theatre, to be developed into a carpark and public space. Planning is underway.
 - Council voted in December 2024 to make the Streets for People redesign of Gloucester Street permanent.
- **East Frame Residential Development**—Work continues across super-lots:
 - Fletcher Living's Carriage Quarter (offering 63 units in a mix of housing types) is complete and now fully sold, while Gloucester Green (120 units, 10 buildings) is in progress, with several buildings completed.
 - Future blocks from Fletcher Living are under development at Lichfield St, and Madras St by the Margaret Mahy Playground.
 - Williams Corp's Manchester Square—consisting of commercial spaces, apartment towers and townhouses - is well underway.
 - Peebles Group announced their 'Downtown' vision in May. Making use of the East Frame super-lot between Lichfield and Cashel Streets, it intends to deliver the Central City's largest mixed-use development to date including retail, hospitality, office and more than 80 apartments.
- **Parakiore** - Progress continues toward opening later in the year with the completion/advanced work on :
 - Competition and diving pools
 - 10,000 seat grandstand
 - Community courts space (basketball, netball, etc.)

[Detailed updates](#) from Crown Infrastructure Delivery are on social media.

Te Kaha and surrounding street works



Other Significant Projects (selected)

Activity	Who	Estimated completion
Madras Square townhouse complex	Mike Greer Homes	Spring 2025
211 High Street	Anthony Leighs	End of 2025
Christchurch Hospital / Waipapa — Tower C	Health NZ / Te Whatu Ora	Autumn 2026
Library Chambers (107 Cambridge)	Warwick Todd Ltd.	Winter 2026
Wai-Ora - Christchurch Campus	University of Otago	2026
Noahs/Rydgges redevelopment	Mainland Capital/Russell Property Group	Winter 2027
Canterbury Museum redevelopment	The Canterbury Museum Trust	Mid-2029

(Dates above are based on direct or best available sources.)

Central City Residential Programme (Project 8011)

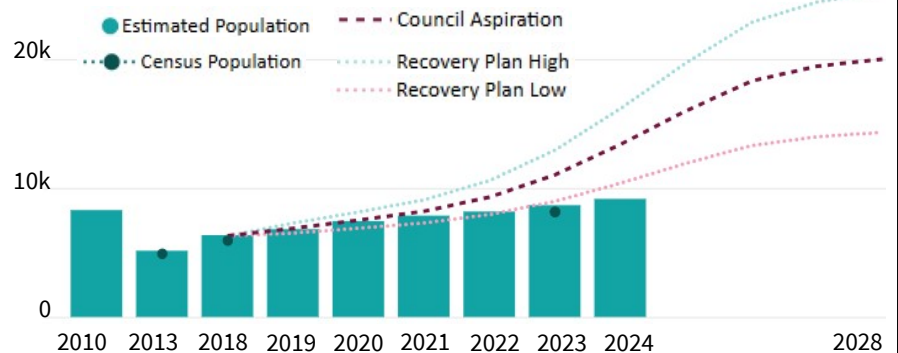
Population

The Central City's latest population estimate, rebased on 2023 Census data, was released in early 2025. These estimates help track progress towards Project 8011's ambition of 20,000 Central City residents.

9,160 people were estimated to live in the Central City (as at June 2024). This is an increase of over 800 compared to the pre-quake population. While progress to 20,000 residents is slow, there has been consistent growth of 4-6% p.a. since 2020.

Estimated, Actual and projected Central City population (2010-24)

Source: StatsNZ (2025)



Residential Completions and development activity

Housing development in the Central City was solid. Overall:

- 260 homes were completed over the last 12 months.
- 407 homes were under construction at 30 June 2025.
- 166 consented homes remain to be commenced.

260 completed homes is close to the average rate over the last seven years. The significant number of homes under construction is a strong marker for high housing delivery in the future.

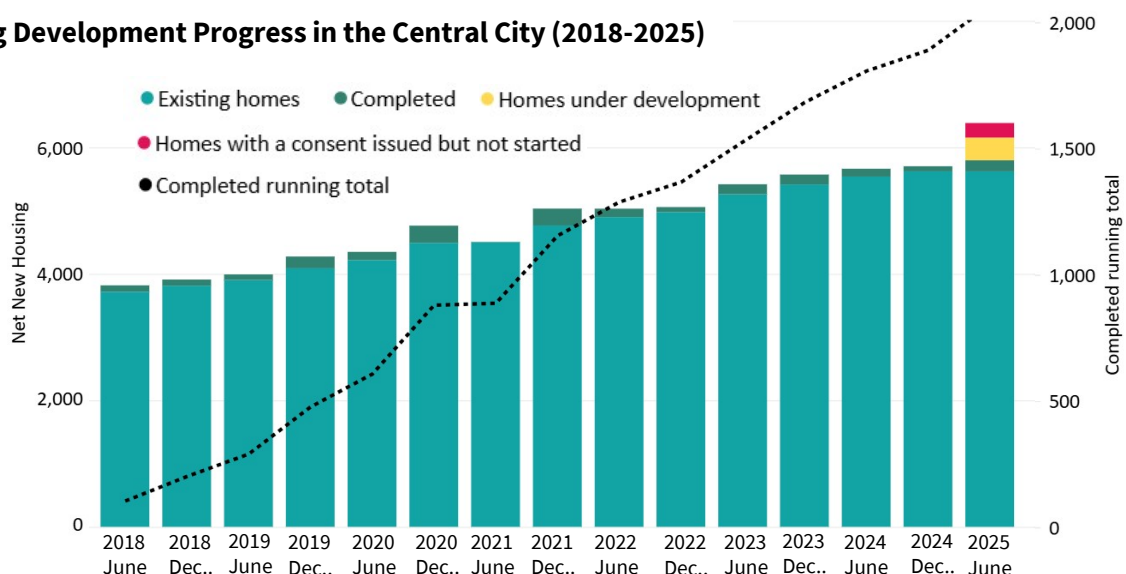
Large-scale, multi-unit developments on the East Frame's 'super-lots' have been vital in boosting the Central City's housing stock. Three of the thirteen super-lots remain to be developed, while another four are currently being developed (see right for example projects). Developing these lots will continue to support housing supply and population growth.

There's been a consistent increase in housing since June 2018 (see below graph), and over 2000 homes have been added to the total stock (over 66% growth). With a high number of homes in the pipeline, there's confidence in the demand for Central City living, and great potential for further growth.



Housing Development Progress in the Central City (2018-2025)

(CCC, 2025)



South-East Neighbourhoods



South-East Central Neighbourhood Plan

The South-East Central Neighbourhood Plan (SECNP) was adopted by the Council in August 2024. Key progress over the last 12 months includes:

- **Investigating new green spaces east of the stadium:** Land purchase investigations are underway to support development of the mid-block greenspaces that are outlined in the SECNP.
- **New homes:** South-East Central continues to grow with new homes being built across the neighbourhood. From 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025, 123 net new homes were granted a building consent. 116 new homes were constructed over the same period.

The South-East Central neighbourhood has room to accommodate even more residents. In the coming months, we will prepare advice for owners of key vacant and underutilised sites to offer support in shaping future developments.

- **Transport upgrades:** Streets have been upgraded around Te Kaha, making it a more pleasant place to visit.
- **Pedestrian safety improvements** are also planned for two intersections on Moorhouse Avenue and the St Asaph/Fitzgerald Avenue intersection. Work is underway on a detailed analysis to prioritise what other streets would benefit from funding in the next LTP, to deliver on the adopted SECNP.



Enliven Places Programme—Supporting South-East Central

The Enliven Places Programme delivers temporary projects that support numerous Central City priorities by activating and transforming underutilised areas into vibrant and welcoming public spaces.

In support of the South-East Central Neighbourhood Plan - particularly the goal for an improved public realm with temporary amenity improvements - the Programme progressed two temporary activation projects in the area.

- **Cashel Street:** Following public feedback for improved amenity on Cashel St east of Te Kaha, the programme delivered [temporary improvements on a low amenity](#) block between Barbadoes Street and Fitzgerald Avenue. Stage one (mural) was delivered in FY24, followed in FY25 by seating, trees and cycle stands to enhance vibrancy. With collaboration from Tagata Moana Trust, Elim Church and YCD, the project prioritised creating a community space with Tagata Moana students saying they wanted more communal spaces to hang out.
- **Welles Street planning:** Early engagement was completed with businesses and nearby residents in October 2024, with many great ideas shared that will inform a temporary, vibrant upgrade to the street. Design plans were prepared for a second round of consultation in July 2025.



Vacant Sites Programme - www.ccc.govt.nz/vacantsites

Since 2020, the **Vacant Sites Programme** has monitored Central City vacant land, tracking development and interim uses.

By understanding owner intentions, staff can support development, encourage temporary uses, or ensure sites are well maintained to present the Central City positively.

The Programme is a Council-wide collaboration, with consenting teams, case managers, urban designers and technical experts helping owners plan and deliver projects or approved temporary uses.

The graphic to the right shows the amount of vacant land has declined steadily since 2018. In the last year, vacant sites in the City Core area remained constant at 11.6ha.

While construction began on a number of sites, this was offset by demolition of the old Dentistry School on Antigua St.

Encouraging temporary uses and amenity improvements on vacant Central City sites remains important for enhancing the city's image. As the city fills out, unmanaged or unconsented sites become even more prominent.

The graphic to the right shows the mix of vacant site uses over time. Temporary carparking is still a dominant use, but site improvement projects in key locations help mask vacant sites and add transitional spaces for people to enjoy.

Over the past year, construction-support activity has concluded on several sites in the city core. Owners of these sites are now considering their options.

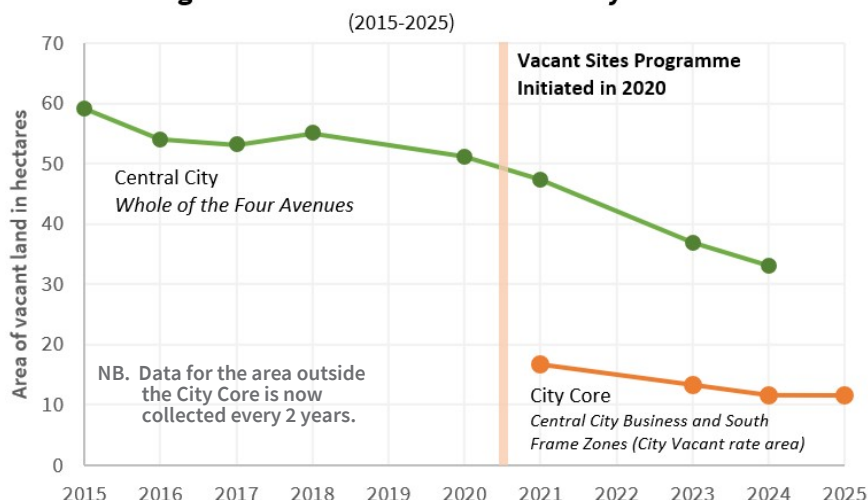
The **City Vacant Differential rate**¹ policy, introduced in 2022, offers a financial incentive for temporary uses of vacant sites, along with a rate remission for owners who improve their site's amenity.

The adjacent table, and map on the next page, show how the rate has been applied to Central City vacant sites in recent years.

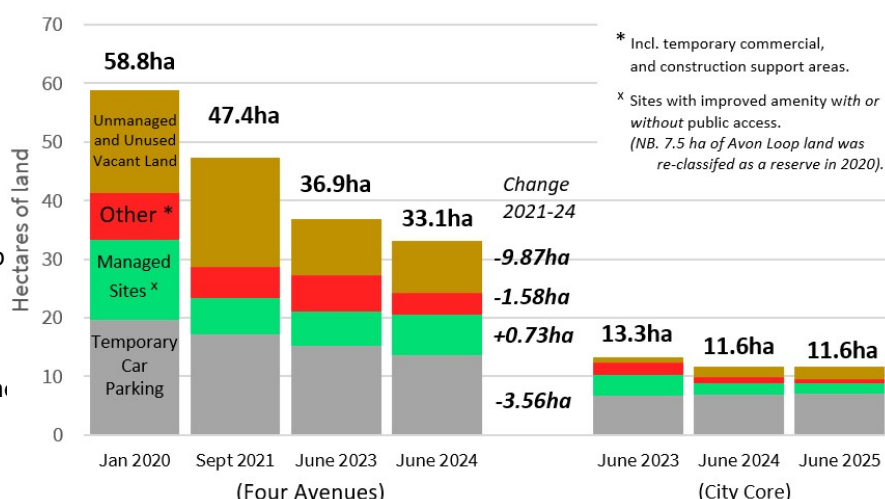
Since 2021, there has been a consistent fall in the number of sites liable for this rating.

During the year, collaboration with the Resource Consent monitoring team saw several non-compliant temporary car parks meet their resource consent conditions and become exempt for the first time. Meanwhile, temporary commercial uses and construction support sites have declined, reflecting the growth in permanent premises and completed construction projects in the City Core.

Change in the Area of Vacant Central City Land



Change in Uses of Vacant Central City Land (2020-2025)



City Vacant Differential Rating (CVDR): Central City sites 2025/26

	2021 (Pre-CVDR)	2022 Rating	2023 Rating	2024 Rating	2025 Rating	Change since 2021
Number of Rating Units in Scope	212	197	186	188	180	-32
Exempted Rating Units	65	92	75	101	108	+43
- Under Construction	12	14	12	18	11	
- Consented/Implemented Temp parking	33	57	40	65	85	
- Other Consented/Permitted Temp uses	20	21	23	18	12	
Remissions – Improved, maintained sites (Not in temporary use, but with or without public access)	16	20	27	24	25	+9
Liable Rating Units	131	79	81	63	47	-84
- Unconsented car parking	84	27	22	8	21	
- Non-compliant car parking	(not assessed)	(not assessed)	31	34	13	
- Unimproved sites	47	52	28	21	13	

¹ In the Central City, the City Vacant rate is applied in the City Centre and Central City Mixed Use (South Frame) District Plan Zones.

Vacant Sites Programme (cont.)

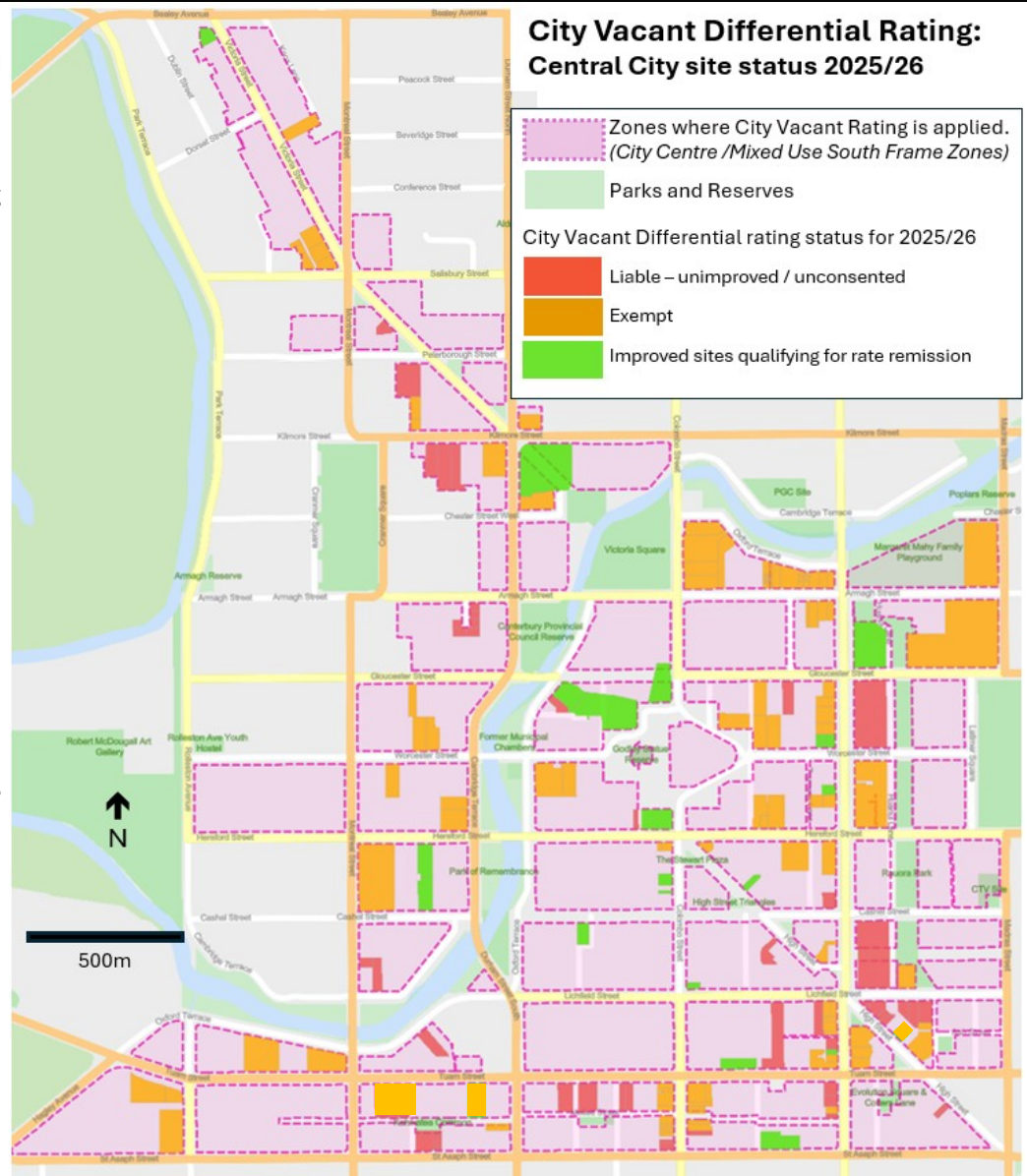
This map shows the 11.6ha of vacant and underutilised land in the city core. The coloured blocks show the City Vacant Rate status of each site.

Over the last year, car parking on the former Catholic Precinct (between Armagh Street and Oxford Terrace) was improved by Mainland Parking to comply with consent conditions. They also re-established planting and infrastructure on sites along Worcester Boulevard.

In total, only 34 (28.5%) of the 119 sites used for temporary car parking are liable for the City Vacant Rate.

Other significant liable sites include two unimproved super lots within the East Frame (adj. Manchester Street).

Both were up for sale over the last year with the southern site (between Cashel and Lichfield) now being master-planned for the Peebles Group 'Downtown' development project.



Barrier Sites Programme - www.ccc.govt.nz/barrier-sites

At 30th June 2025, 12 properties remain on the published Barrier Sites list.

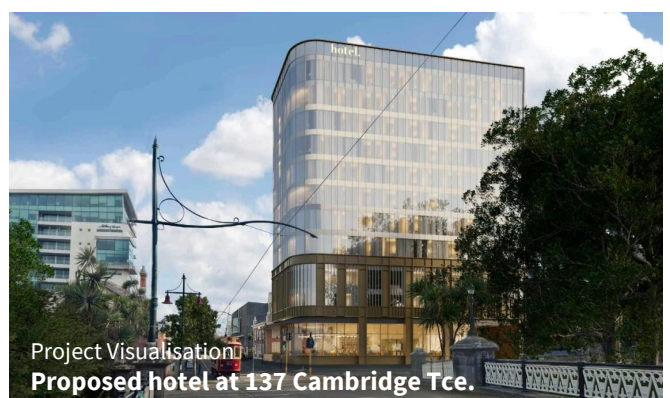
There are no current intentions for the properties at **119 Armagh Street** (former 'PWC building'), **205 Manchester Street** (former Blue Jean Cuisine) and **161 Hereford Street** (Hereford Suites).

Two sites have been removed since 1 July 2024:

- **112–114 Manchester Street** (former Two Fat Indians building) which has been demolished by the owner.
- **214 Tuam Street** (former Odeon Theatre) has been partially demolished and supported by bracing. The owners, Environment Canterbury, voted to sell the building and adjacent vacant land in June.

Notable progress has been made on:

- **170 Oxford Terrace** (Former Noahs/Ryldges): With a resource consent granted, work on reinstating the hotel is underway. It is expected to become operational in 2027.
- **137 Cambridge Terrace** (former Harley Chambers): The Council issued a resource consent in December 2024 for the heritage listed building to be demolished, and for an 11-storey hotel to be constructed on the site.



Transport and Pedestrian Activity

Key priorities for the Central City's regeneration as an accessible city include:

- Growing the level of activity during the day and into the night,
- Ensuring people enjoy hassle free travel to, from and within the area.

Footfall

Various methods are used to track where and how people are travelling to and within the centre, and how much activity is taking place. The chart to the right tracks average **footfall** over time at monitored sites throughout the Central City.

Footfall follows a seasonal pattern, but there has been consistent growth for the last four years, during both cold seasons and summer peaks (November—March, see yellow bars on the graph).

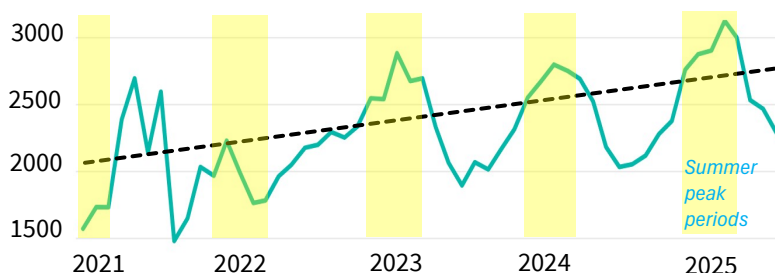
In the first six months of 2025, average footfall was 6% higher than the same period last year. A new peak level was recorded during the World Buskers Festival, and activity during other key events (Electric Avenue etc.) exceeded levels seen in previous years.



Central City Pedestrian Footfall

Monthly averages across surveyed sites (2021-2025)

Source: CCC (2025)



Public Transport Use

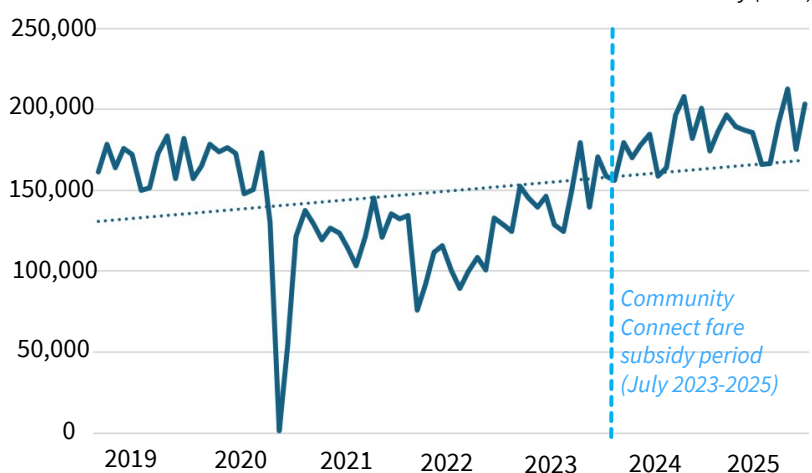
Bus usage is tracked through various channels. The graph to the right shows the number of trips taken from the Bus Interchange, from 2018 to 2025.

The effect of COVID-19 is clear, with activity dipping from 2020 to early 2022. But since then, annual patronage has grown to 2.2 million, exceeding pre-COVID levels by 11%.

The Government's Community Connect fare subsidy from 2023-2024, and continued cheap fares afterwards, may have encouraged more bus use. It remains to be seen how increased bus fares starting from July will impact people's travel choices.

Central City Bus Interchange: Monthly Patronage (2018-2025)

Source: Environment Canterbury (2025)



Perceived travel quality

Perceptions on the ease of Central City travelling are tracked yearly.

Perceptions on cycling have markedly improved since 2021. Improvements to city-wide cycle infrastructure have made it more viable to cycle to and within the city centre.

Perceptions on walking within the Central City are positive and have slightly improved, while driving is largely seen as more difficult.

Key issues making it difficult for drivers are the 30 km/h speed limit, roadworks, road closures, and availability/cost of parking.

At a Glance:

Change in perceived ease of travel (compared to 2021)

Travel within the Central City

Travel mode	% of positive ratings (vs 2021)
Bicycle	75% (+5.5%)
Car	27% (-3%)
Walking	81.4% (+2.5%)

Travel to the Central City

Travel mode	% of positive ratings (vs 2021)
Bicycle	77.4% (+12.2%)
Car	48.2% (-8.6%)
Walking	53.3% (-6.2%)

Source: CCC (2025)

A Vibrant, People Focused Place Day and Night

Year to 30 June 2025

Enliven Places Programme — www.ccc.govt.nz/enliven-places-programme

The Enliven Places Programme delivers temporary projects that support numerous Central City priorities by activating and transforming underutilised areas into vibrant and welcoming public spaces.

See page 7 for the Programme's projects in support of the South-East Central Neighbourhood Plan.

The Programme's other work in FY25:

'Light up the City'

The Enliven Places programme delivered two creative lighting projects to enhance amenity and activation, supporting the [Central City Action Plan's](#) goal to 'Light up the City'.

- **Guthrey Lane lighting** - Catenary lighting now brightens the east/west portion of Guthrey Lane - a private laneway - as part of a collaborative arrangement with the owner. The lighting enhances the pedestrian link between the Guthrey Centre and Riverside, and complements existing catenary lighting in surrounding laneways.
- **Gobos (new location and design discs)** - The programme's gobo collection was updated, continuing to activate the Central City after dark with creative footpath projections.

'High Street in Motion' was installed in winter 2025, enhancing the night-time walking experience and celebrating High Street's history as a key transport route in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

The gobo projectors were relocated to High St at key intersections to complement recent streetscape improvements. They will remain in place for the near future.



Gobo Projections
(Manchester/High)



Dahlias sculpture
(Colombo/Lichfield)

Maintenance

- Keeping our projects and assets around the city looking their best is an important part of the Programme. This includes maintaining/watering our moveable planters, responding to tagging of creative murals, and check-ins across multiple sites that feature our temporary installations.
- Recent work has included strengthening of the Dahlias sculpture at 662 Colombo Street. This long-standing Enliven Places installation had the flower heads reinforced to extend their life by another two years.

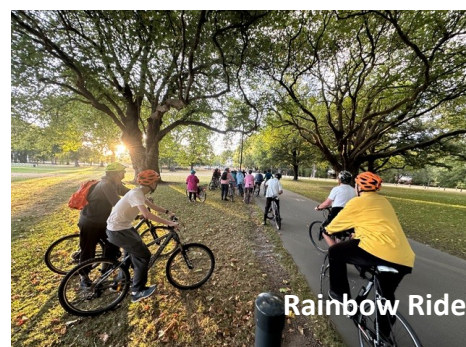
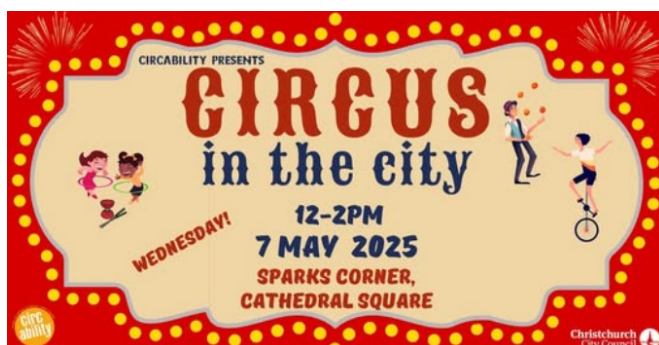
Temporary Site Activation: Enliven Places Rates Incentive

The **Enliven Places Rates Incentive for Property Owners** supported three Central City sites in this reporting period, including a new LiVS-licence for Flying Nun Records in the BNZ Centre. www.ccc.govt.nz/rates-incentive

Budget 2024/2025 (city-wide): \$35,000 **Credited this period (Central City):** \$15,600 **Balance 30 June 2025:** \$19,400

Contestable Funding

The **Place Partnership Fund** was 99% allocated this financial year. It supported seven initiatives in the Central City, including organisational costs for Life in Vacant Spaces and Te Pūtahi. The Fund also supported events Rainbow Ride and Circability's free public programme series.



Rainbow Ride

Central City Noise Programme

A package of non-regulatory noise initiatives in the Central City was approved in April 2023, focusing on providing noise education and advice to the public. All the originally approved initiatives are now complete. Work over the last year involved educating the public on successfully managing noise issues in mixed-use areas.

- Identity building**— A Neat Places advertising campaign was delivered for the 'St Asaph Block', a transitioning mixed-use neighbourhood. The block was promoted as a vibrant mixed-use area with an established evening economy, potentially reducing surprises and tensions between new residents and established businesses.
- Education:** The Council noise webpages ([Sound in the Central City](#)) were completed and are now live. Links to the pages were sent to all evening entertainment businesses within the Central City. The webpages offer advice on noise management and links to useful acoustic resources, for potential Central City residents, businesses in mixed-use areas, and housing developers.

Plan Change 21 (Central City Noise) is now the main focus of the Council's noise work.

Requests for public feedback on the proposed Plan Change were distributed in June 2025 and further work has continued since. Officers are reporting to Council on 10 September about seeking exemptions from the government's Plan Stop legislation (relating to the Council's plan change programme), which would otherwise affect the development of PC21.

Any additional non-regulatory initiatives would likely involve targeted, site-specific actions (e.g. acoustic assessments and/or insulation), which would need additional funding through either the FY27 Annual Plan or the next LTP.



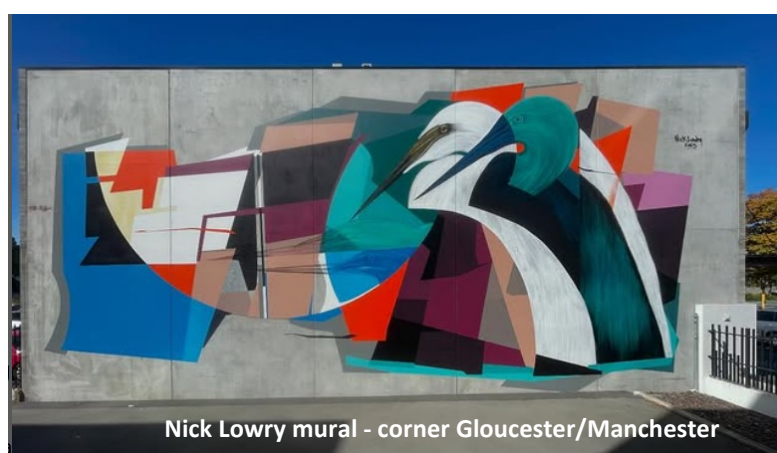
Flare Ōtautahi Street Art Festival—Central City



The Flare Street Art Festival in February—March 2025 (supported by Christchurch City Council, ChristchurchNZ and others) had a social media reach of 600,000+ and an estimated media reach of 16.9 million.

15 murals were delivered in the Central City and 250m of hoardings were painted, empowering 65 artists.

New Zealand's tallest mural was painted by local artist Jacob Yikes over 13 storeys (55 metres) at the Distinction Hotel (see bottom left photo).



A Vibrant, People-Focused Place Day and Night

Year to 30 June 2025

Events Programme

Christchurch delivered a vibrant calendar of events across the Central City, including those funded and/or produced by the Council.

Tirama Mai 2025 featured a refreshed indoor-outdoor format across Christchurch Art Gallery and the Arts Centre, sparking new creative collaborations for future years.

Summer highlights included Mitre10 Sparks, which raised \$5,300 for Rānui House; Anthony Harper Summer Theatre, which earned a 99.3% satisfaction rating, and Summer Sundays, which extended its programme and was consistently packed out.

The Events Production Team delivered a series of popular events including Go Live Festival, Kite Day, and KidsFest, and supported ANZAC Day commemorations alongside the Civic and International Relations team.

The Event Partnerships Team issued 102 event permits for the central city, bringing over 545,000 attendees into town through a diverse mix of funded and community-led events—including major cultural festivals such as WORD, Polyfest, and the Happy Chinese NY Festival.



Event Name	Event Date	Anticipated Attendance	Actual Attendance	Funded or Produced
Asian Arts Festival	July	3,000	3,855	CCC Funded
WORD Christchurch Festival	August	15,000	18,782	CCC Funded
NZ International Film Festival	August	7,400	8,383	CCC Funded
Big Band Festival	October	12,000	8,839	CCC Funded
ISCC Diwali 2024	October	25,000	15,000	CCC Funded
Latin Street Festival	November	2,500	3,350	CCC Funded
Tuhono Kapa Haka Festival	November	4,500	5,197	CCC Funded
SCAPE	Nov-Feb	500,000	105,840	CCC Funded
Happy Chinese NY Festival	February	30,000	50,000	CCC Funded
Canterbury Polyfest	March	20,000	30,000	CCC Funded
Christchurch Marathon	April	7,000	7,015	CCC Funded
Holi Festival	April	7,000	7,000	CCC Funded
Open Christchurch	May	9,000	11,886	CCC Funded
Go Live Festival	17 th August	1,650	1,650	CCC Produced
Tirama Mai 25	26–30 June 2025	70,000	Approx 100,000	CCC Produced
Summer Theatre	9-26 January (Wed-Sun)	6000	10,000	CCC Produced
Summer Sundays	2nd, 9th, 16 th February	5,000	5,000	CCC Produced
Mitre 10 Sparks	8 February	12,000	24,000	CCC Produced
ANZAC Day Dawn Service	25 April	6000	6,000	CCC Produced
T20 Black Clash	18 January	N/A	8,900	ChchNZ
World Buskers Festival	24 January—2 February	N/A	97,000	ChchNZ
Electric Avenue	21, 22 February	N/A	75,000	ChchNZ
PSA NZ Squash Open	4 March 2025	N/A	2,600	ChchNZ
T20 International Cricket	16 March 2025	N/A	12,500	ChchNZ

A Vibrant, People-Focused Place Day and Night

Year to 30 June 2025

Marketing and Promotion

The Council's marketing team continues its digital first approach to promote Council events, fulfilling sustainability and climate commitments.

We focussed on the planning and promotion of both our summer and winter events—Sparks, Kite Day, Summer Sundays, Summer Theatre, Tiramā Mai, Winter Fireworks, Go Live Festival and more.

The What's On webpage was viewed 1,626,304 times between 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. This is a 68.7% increase year on year. Our digital 'always-on' approach on Google and Facebook significantly contributed to the year-on-year traffic increase, as well as KidsFest moving onto the What's On website.

We also work closely with the ChchNZ marketing and events team to push and promote our events across their channels: **Pockets of Awesome** and **Ōtautahi Christchurch**.

Our social media followings are constantly increasing highlighting strong demand to know what's happening in Ōtautahi.



What's on Facebook: 39,600 followers (12.7% YoY growth)

What's on Instagram: 9,550 followers (25.33% YoY growth)

CCC TikTok: 3,717 followers (15.8% YoY growth)

What's On EDM: 13,862 subscribers (5.2% YOY growth)

Smart Christchurch Programme

Innovation Expo 2024

- The yearly Innovation Expo, held at Te Pae Convention Centre, attracted over 10,000 attendees. It featured 71 exhibits, 39 speakers, and eight workshops. Over 91% of attendees reported high satisfaction.
- The expo showcased cutting-edge tech across AI, robotics, smart cities, sustainability, resilience and more. It also included a dedicated Local Government workshop and a bespoke schools programme.
- InnoBiz**, a business-focused programme, was debuted—highlighting how innovation is driving growth, efficiency and resilience in sectors across Christchurch and beyond.
- InnoBiz sessions included presentations on digital twins, AI-driven business acceleration, sustainable energy, and the future of Te Kaha.

Pedestrian and Micro-Mobility Counters

- Smart Christchurch expanded the number of pedestrian counting sensors in the Central City, from 22 to 38. Work was completed in June.
- The new 3rd generation sensors are solar-powered, and along with pedestrian counts can also track cycle and scooter activity.
- The [pedestrian count dashboard and map](#) is online. An update including the recently installed sensors will be available in a few months.

Christchurch Free Wi-Fi (Enable and Christchurch City Council)

- Three years on from launching free Wi-Fi, we still see a steady increase in users. Over the last 12 months, total users increased to 171,479—a 6.1% increase compared to the previous year.

SmartView

- The [Smartview website](#) pulls together a range of data from public and private organisations for the public to easily access.
- The third version of Smartview launched last year, attracting 7,200 users per month over the reporting period.

