

NORTH CANTERBURY

MOVE ON UP

Located on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island, bordering Christchurch city, North Canterbury is a region that offers the ultimate work/lifestyle balance. With exciting jobs across all industries, excellent housing, schools, healthcare providers and infrastructure as well as all the recreation opportunities you could ask for, North Canterbury is the perfect place to move up in your career and life.

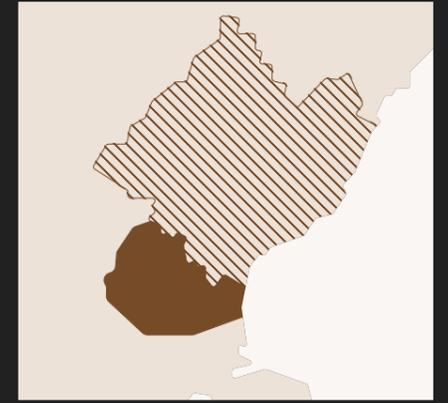
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▼ OHOKA FARMERS MARKET

# OUR TOWNS

North Canterbury is made up of the Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts.



● WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT  
● HURUNUI DISTRICT

▼ CONWAY LANE, RANGIORA



# LIVING HERE

▼ MT THOMAS, GLENTUI



Imagine life at a different pace. A life where work and home are minutes apart; where recreation opportunities are in every direction just waiting to be had; where small towns, rural villages and beachside settlements are filled with friendly people and humming little businesses ready to welcome you in. Imagine moving to North Canterbury.

Come for the snow-capped hills or the rolling surf; for the boutique shops or the epic trails; for the quality schools and affordable housing, lifestyle blocks and friendly towns. We are a growing community of doers, makers, dreamers, believers. We are townies, farmers, professionals, crafters, families, business owners. We are here for whānau, lifestyle, opportunity, a different pace.

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# 82,850

A POPULATION OF 82,850 SPREAD OVER 10,896KM<sup>2</sup>

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# -9%

RENT COSTS IN WAIMAKARIRI ARE 9% LOWER COMPARED TO AUCKLAND

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# -12%

AVERAGE RENT COSTS ARE 12% LOWER IN WAIMAKARIRI COMPARED TO NEW ZEALAND AVERAGE

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# +3.7%

HIGHER LEVEL NCEA ACHIEVEMENT COMPARED TO NEW ZEALAND AVERAGE

All statistics are accurate at time of printing, February 2023



## People and Culture

The North Canterbury region is home to 82,850 people (Statistics NZ population estimate). The large majority of these people live in the Waimakariri District (59,300 residents), with the remainder residing in the Hurunui District (12,800 residents).

The median age of North Canterbury residents is 42.9 years in the Waimakariri District and 43.6 years in the Hurunui District. The median age of New Zealand as a whole is 38 years.

The majority of North Canterbury residents identify themselves as European. Māori is the second largest ethnic group in the region, with just over 7% of the population identifying as Māori. Other ethnic groups identified in the North Canterbury region are Asian, Pacific peoples, Middle Eastern, Latin American and African; each represent less than 2% of the region's population. Of those residents born overseas, the most common birthplace is England.

English is the most common spoken language in the region, followed by te reo Māori. New Zealand Sign Language is used by less than one percent of the North Canterbury population. This correlates with the nationwide percentage of NZSL users.

### ▼ NORTH CANTERBURY WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL



## Recreation

North Cantabrians are an adventurous lot. We ski, we surf, we bike, hike and run. We swim, we boat, we fish and hunt. We shop, we day spa and enjoy world class local wine and food. We soak up all that life has to offer here in our corner of Aotearoa.

Whatever you're into, North Canterbury has a location, club, team or opportunity for you to indulge your favourite pastimes. Whether you're after expansive sandy beaches and extensive river networks, or stunning foothills trails and conservation areas, we've got you covered. Perhaps team sports, gyms and fitness challenges are more your thing? Plenty of that round here too! If you're all about winter, you're in luck: some of New Zealand's top ski fields are within an hour's drive, and we've also got the world renowned Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa to keep you toasty warm. Or maybe your weekends are spent getting out and exploring shops, markets, events and eateries? You've come to the right place: North Canterbury is all about boutique shopping, farmers markets, family-friendly events, world-class wineries and unforgettable local food. Ratchet your downtime up a notch with a move to North Canterbury.



“We live by the beach in Waikuku but my husband works in the city as an architect. It takes him a little over 30 minutes to drive to work,”

▲ JULIA WARREN, MAKE IT RAW, WAIKUKU

## ▼ KAYAKING DOWN THE KAIAPOI RIVER, WAIMAKARIRI



## Accessibility to the City

With Christchurch on our doorstep, North Canterbury is perfectly positioned for those who need easy access to the city. Whether it's a daily commute or an occasional jaunt, the new Northern Corridor motorway provides quick, easy and direct access to and from New Zealand's second largest city.

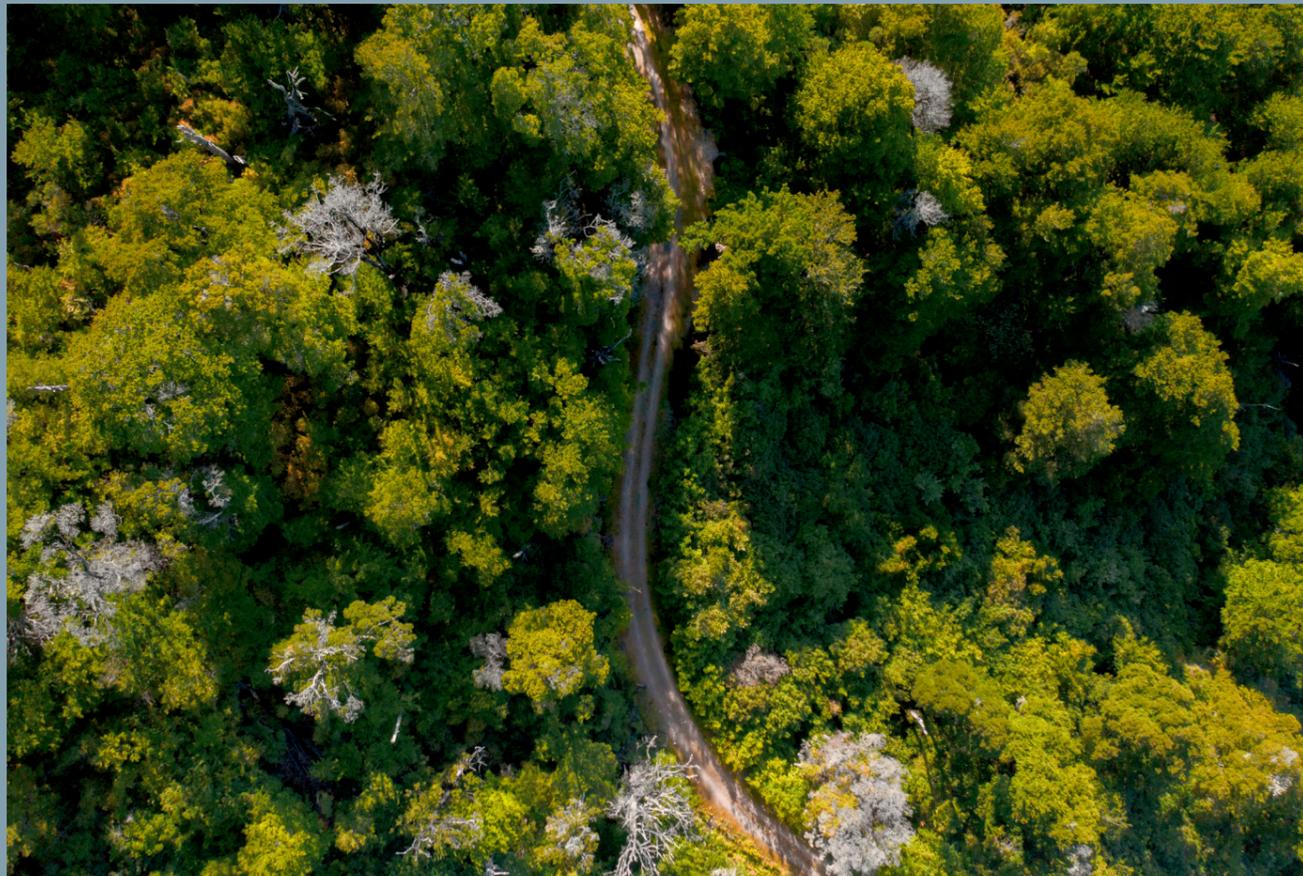
Christchurch's bus network incorporates a regular route out to Kaiapoi and Rangiora and back, while Park and Ride is another popular and affordable option for commuters travelling from Rangiora to central Christchurch.

Independent travellers can be in the CBD, Christchurch Hospital or Christchurch International Airport in well under an hour.

# MOVING HERE

Whilst we're a bit smug about the beauty and opportunity here in North Canterbury, we know that there's more to life than just the fun stuff. Here you'll find all the key info on important decisions like education, healthcare, housing and cost of living.

▼ MT THOMAS, GLENTUI



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## 2.4%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NATIONAL AVERAGE 3.4%)

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## 55%

OF OUR REGION'S POPULATION LIVE IN URBAN AREAS  
(83% NATIONAL AVERAGE)

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## 51%

LOWER CRIME RATE COMPARED TO AUCKLAND

All statistics are accurate at time of printing, February 2023

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## Education

North Canterbury boasts an excellent range of schooling and educational support options for your children at all ages and stages of their learning journey.

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### Preschools in North Canterbury

North Canterbury is very well equipped for preschoolers, with kindergartens, preschools, playcentres and play groups located throughout both districts.

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### Primary & Secondary Schools in North Canterbury

There are also 39 co-educational schools in North Canterbury including small rural primary schools, large high schools and area (composite) schools. View all North Canterbury schools on the [Education Counts](#) website.

With an incredible bus service, Christchurch's private schools are also accessible .

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### Tertiary Education & Vocational Training in North Canterbury

Whilst there are no long-term tertiary education providers in North Canterbury, a number of organisations offer vital stepping stones for school leavers aiming to take the next step in their learning journey:

- [Ara Institute of Canterbury and Te Pukenga](#) offers a selected range of computing courses through its Ara Connect community hub in Rangiora.
- [ComCol North Canterbury Youth Service](#) is a free youth coaching service that provides wrap-around support to 16 and 17 year olds seeking help with education, training and work-based learning.
- The Hurunui District Council is active in the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs initiative, placing 16-25 year olds into employment, education and training. Find out more [here](#).

North Canterbury's proximity to Christchurch (home to Canterbury University, Ara Institute of Canterbury and Te Pukenga, Lincoln University, and other specialised tertiary education providers) means many North Canterbury students choose to commute when undertaking tertiary study in the city. Excellent internet accessibility throughout much of North Canterbury also means remote learning is an option for many.

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## Healthcare

North Canterbury is well equipped to provide key health services to residents with a selection of general medical practices, hospitals, midwifery and maternity services, infant care and aged care services throughout both Waimakariri and Hurunui. The region's proximity to Christchurch means residents are also able to easily access the primary and specialist health services available there.

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### Doctors & Medical Centres in North Canterbury

There are approximately 16 general medical practices operating in North Canterbury, each offering a number of healthcare services, GP and nurse appointments.

Visit [Health Point](#) to find a GP in Waimakariri or Hurunui.

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### North Canterbury Hospitals

North Canterbury is home to three hospitals: Oxford Hospital, Waikari Hospital and Rangiora Health Hub.

Oxford and Waikari Hospitals are small hospitals offering beds for a range of medical needs including post-surgery care, palliative care and general medical care. Rangiora Health Hub is the largest hospital in North Canterbury. Opened in 2015 it houses a high quality maternity unit and a range of other outpatient and specialist services for the North Canterbury community.

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### Midwives, Maternity & Infant Care

There are a number of midwives either operating in, or willing to travel to, North Canterbury to provide midwifery support. Browse [findyourmidwife.co.nz](#) to find a local midwife.

For families with newborns, there are approximately 10 Plunket clinics throughout North Canterbury providing health support, classes and information to new parents. Mothers required to birth at Christchurch Women's Hospital for any reason can, in most cases, be transferred to Rangiora Health Hub for their postnatal care.

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### Aged Care in North Canterbury

Approximately 17% of the North Canterbury population is now aged over 65. The increase in North Canterbury's population, as well as the ageing of the existing population has seen a number of new retirement villages, rest homes and aged care facilities constructed in North Canterbury in recent years meaning our elderly residents are very well cared for.

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**Housing**

North Canterbury offers comparatively affordable housing compared to the rest of New Zealand. Average house prices in Waimakariri and Hurunui are \$712,755 (as at December 2022) and \$609,016 (as at December 2022). Renting is also relatively affordable compared to cities and other areas of New Zealand.

Real estate supply in North Canterbury has remained consistently high in recent years, offering an excellent range of choice to home buyers. Bare lifestyle blocks are also readily available in rural parts of the district, offering the opportunity to design and build a new home in a remote location.

North Canterbury is home to a large number of professional real estate agents who can connect you with the right property for your needs. Alternatively, you can browse homes for rent or purchase on [trademe.co.nz/a/property](https://trademe.co.nz/a/property) or [realestate.co.nz](https://realestate.co.nz).

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**Cost of living**

For information on cost of living in New Zealand, GST etc. visit [Immigration NZ](https://immigration.nz).

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**Climate**

The seasons in North Canterbury vary dramatically, with the climate heavily influenced by the Southern Alps to the west. Long dry spells can occur in summer with temperatures highest when hot dry northwesterlies blow over the plains. Summer temperatures are often cooled by a north-easterly sea breeze, and the typical maximum daytime summer air temperature ranges from 21°C to 32°C.

Snow is common in the mountain ranges during winter and the typical maximum daytime winter air temperature ranges from 7°C to 14°C.

An indication of North Canterbury's climate can be obtained from the weather stations in the area. However, the climate may be considerably different from these recorded values only a few kilometres away from the weather stations, due to the number of microclimates in the Canterbury area.

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**Travel & Transport**

Whilst large, the North Canterbury region is easy to get around, to and from, with quality infrastructure and public transport.

The Christchurch Northern Corridor was completed in 2020 and provides a four lane motorway and new cycle path between Christchurch and North Canterbury, reducing travel time, easing congestion and offering safe cycle commuting between the two destinations.

Christchurch's Metro Bus Network travels several times daily from Princess Margaret Hospital in south Christchurch, through the central city and via Belfast to Kaiapoi and Rangiora, and back again.

Major roads elsewhere in the region are well maintained, making travel between North Canterbury destinations safe and easy, especially for cyclists.

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**Support services and networks**

When you move to North Canterbury you will find an abundance of support services and networks to welcome you and help you settle. These include:

- [Newcomers Network](#)
- [Citizens Advice Bureau](#)
- [Kaiapoi i-SITE Visitor Centre](#)
- [Enterprise North Canterbury](#) (for business support)
- [District Libraries](#)

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**NZ Crime**

In international surveys, New Zealand is rated one of the most peaceful, least corrupt countries.

- New Zealand was second safest country out of 163 countries on the 2018 Global Peace Index.
- New Zealand's homicide rate is just 1.3 in every 100,000 people – the OECD average is 2.6.
- New Zealanders are considered to have very low access to small arms and light weapons (Economist Intelligence Unit).
- New Zealand is considered to have the sixth strongest human rights and rule of law in the world (Fund for Peace).

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**Political Stability**

New Zealand is:

- The 5th most politically stable country in the world (World Bank Political Stability Rankings)
- The 3rd least corrupt country in the world (Transparency International)
- The 6th least expensive country to start a business (The World Bank)
- The 4th least fragile country politically (Fund for Peace)
- The 10th happiest country (World Happiness Index)
- The 5th highest proportion of women in parliament (The World Bank)

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# OUR LIFESTYLE



WAIKUKU BEACH



It shouldn't come as any surprise that most of us live here because of the lifestyle it affords us. We have it all - beaches, mountains, shops and restaurants. But, more importantly, what we have is the time and resources to enjoy it. To learn more about our region's attractions check out [Visit Waimakariri](#) and [Visit Hurunui](#).



## Festivals & Events

For a relatively small region, we sure know how to throw a good event. We have everything from the coveted North Canterbury Wine & Food Festival to the Hanmer Fete, MainPower Light Festival and Canterbury Marathon. But this is just the start of it!



## Food & Drink

North Canterbury region is a foodbasket for New Zealand's food production and is internationally renowned for quality, traceability and origin. We are also spoiled for choice with a diverse range of eateries.

Learn more about our provenance brand, [MADE NORTH CANTERBURY](#) and discover what's grown, made, caught and reared in our stunning region.



## Sports & Recreation

North Cantabrians are an adventurous lot. We ski, we surf, we bike, hike and run. We swim, we boat, we fish and hunt.

If you can't find it in nature, you can find it out our new state-of-the-art sports & recreation stadium. MainPower Stadium has sports courts, a fitness facility, changing rooms, coaching & meeting spaces, and seating for up to 500 spectators

Whatever you're into, North Canterbury has it. Find out more on our website.



## Retail/Shopping

We are known for our stunning boutique shops. Whether you're looking for clothing, footwear, jewellery, homewares or gifts, North Canterbury has everything you're after. You rarely need to leave the region to get what you need.

# WORKING HERE

There are jobs in North Canterbury across all industries – from manufacturing to hospitality, retail to healthcare, agriculture to IT and everything in between.

## Find a Job

Finding work in North Canterbury doesn't need to be hard. We've put together an [online resource](#) to help you learn more about our key industries and where to find the job of your dreams.

## Work visas

If you're hoping to make the move to New Zealand and wish to settle in North Canterbury, then the Immigration New Zealand website should be your first port of call. You will need to find out whether you are eligible for a work visa. Eligibility is based on factors such as whether your skills match a shortage in New Zealand, how long you want to stay, and your age, work experience and qualifications.

“Living in North Canterbury has allowed me to work from home and I couldn't be happier. I've finally got enough space to grow and raise my own food.”

▲ JEN POMEROY, THE MODERN MESS, AMBERLEY



## Agriculture

North Canterbury is an abundant food basket and is internationally renowned for agricultural quality, traceability and provenance. North Canterbury's agricultural industry involves mixed farming, incorporating cropping, wool and livestock production as well as dairy, fruit and vegetable production and viticulture. We have an array of niche producers growing and producing products such as hemp, seeds, honey, olives, nuts and truffles. Home to excellent growing conditions, affordable land and abundant agricultural resources, North Canterbury is a natural choice for people looking to work in the agricultural sector. Whilst a lot of North Canterbury products are exported, we are spoilt for choice with many farmers' markets scattered around the region. We are also fortunate to have our own provenance brand, **MADE NORTH CANTEBURY**, which champions our food and beverage producers, reflecting our region's pride and commitment to quality and authenticity.

## Hospitality

North Canterbury is home to a bustling hospitality sector, with plentiful restaurants, cafes, bars, pubs, cellar doors and visitor experiences throughout the region. The friendly North Canterbury locals know a thing or two about providing exceptional customer service and a memorable hospitality experience to the many residents and visitors that dine, drink and visit here every day. Within our award-winning dining establishments, top-notch eateries, internationally-renowned wineries and friendly bars you'll discover teams of world-class chefs and bakers, knowledgeable sommeliers and professional front of house staff who live for the lifestyle that North Canterbury delivers in spades.

### ▼ MAINLAND HEMP, NORTH CANTERBURY



▼ NATURAL NEW ZEALAND HONEY LTD, OKUKU

## Manufacturing

North Canterbury is a hub of manufacturing. You'll find producers, makers and crafters manufacturing their wares from all corners of our region. From food and beverage production to IT equipment and building supplies, North Canterbury manufacturers are turning out world-class products while relishing all the incredible lifestyle benefits on offer here in our thriving little corner of the globe.

## Professional Services

North Canterbury is the base for an enormous array of professional service providers. From lawyers and accountants to architects and engineers to marketing professionals and business coaches, there are experts across a range of fields who choose to live and work here in North Canterbury. With a dedicated local clientele and New Zealand's second largest city just minutes up the road, North Canterbury is the ideal place to further your professional services career.



▲ WILSON FAMILY, MOUNT THOMAS FOREST CONSERVATION AREA

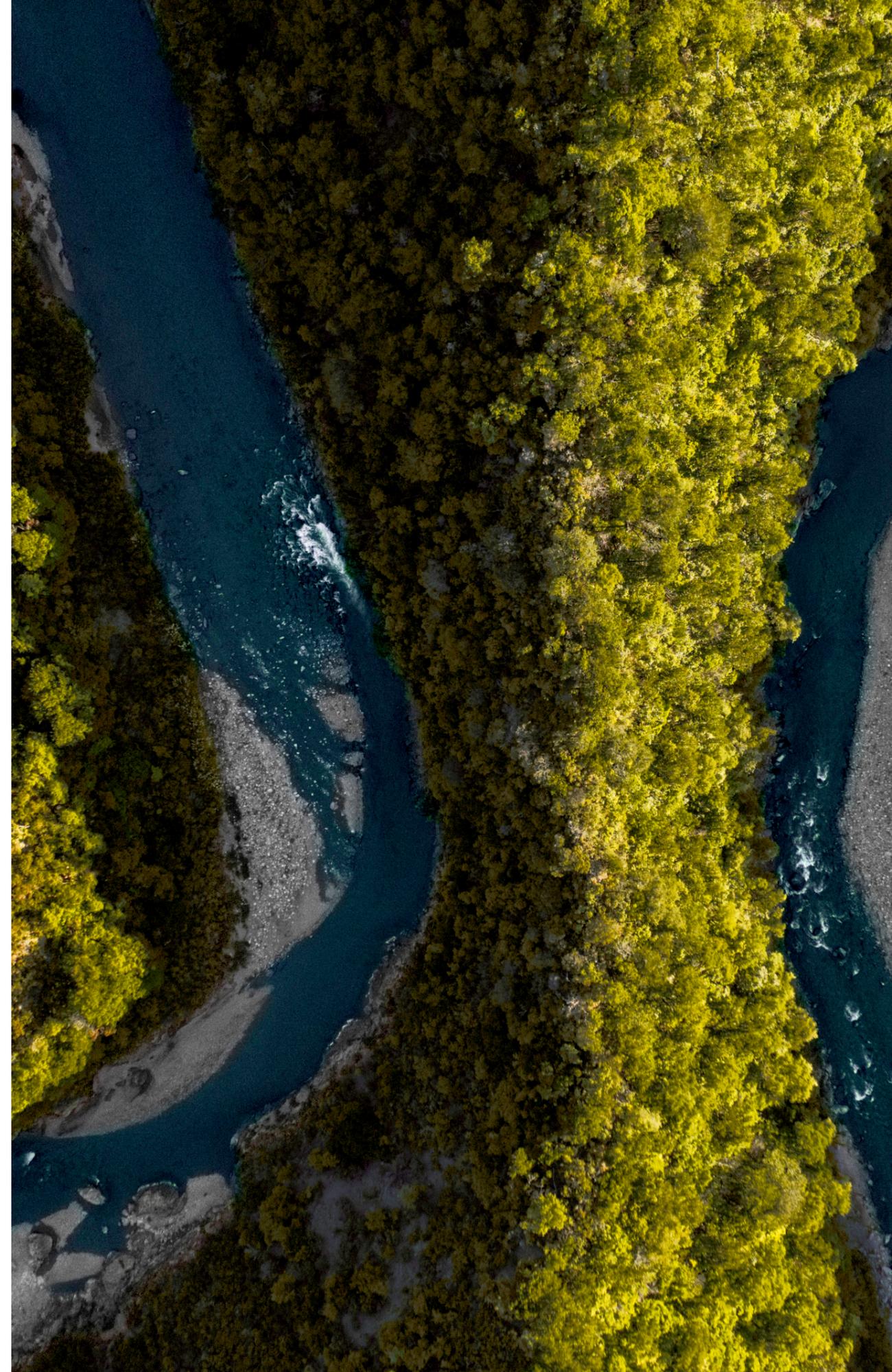
**North Canterbury Councils**

We are proud of our progressive and people-focussed councils. Waimakariri and Hurunui District Councils are large employers in our region and, with their competitive wages and investment in professional development, have become coveted places to work.

**Health and Education**

With a growing population, North Canterbury needs a growing number of health and education professionals. As well as a large number of general medical practices, pharmacies, dental clinics, midwifery teams and physiotherapy practices, North Canterbury is home to several large-scale retirement villages and aged care facilities requiring specialist staff.

With over XX schools throughout the Waimakariri and Hurunui Districts, North Canterbury has plenty of opportunity for primary, secondary, special needs and tertiary educators looking to move on up in their lifestyle and career.



▼ ASHLEY RAKAHURI GORGE

# CONTACT US

▼ TE KOHANGA WETLAND

P 03 327 5729  
W [northcanterbury.co.nz](http://northcanterbury.co.nz)  
E [alissa@enterprisenc.co.nz](mailto:alissa@enterprisenc.co.nz)

c/o Enterprise North Canterbury  
143 Williams Street, Kaiapoi,  
North Canterbury

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