

12 February 2024

Mayor Sam Broughton
Selwyn District Council
PO Box 90
ROLLESTON 7643

By email: sam.broughton@selwyn.govt.nz

Dear Sam

Te Kaha Opex Funding

I am writing on behalf of the Christchurch City Council to ask that Selwyn District Council consider receiving a proposal for a potential joint funding model to help cover operational expenses for Te Kaha, the new 30,000 seat arena currently under construction in Christchurch. This letter has also been sent to the Mayor of Waimakariri District and Chair of Environment Canterbury.

As you are well aware from our earlier conversations, the question of regional contributions towards funding either Te Kaha's build, operation or both have been ongoing for many years. But now that the City Council has committed to fund construction of this amazing new facility with significant support from the Crown, work is underway and on track for opening in mid-2026 as planned.

This will be a fantastic asset for Canterbury and will support our region to attract major cultural, commercial and sporting events for enjoyment by people from across the province.

The City Council accepts that we decided to build the stadium and will fund its construction. But it has always been clear that this facility will benefit the wider region and be enjoyed by many people from your own district.

Our council is keen to work with you on possible options for a joint funding model to support operational funding if your council would be willing to receive and consider such a proposal.

It is forecast that the operational cost of Te Kaha will be starting in financial year 2026/2027. Your Council already makes an annual contribution to the running of the Canterbury Museum and I would like to make an initial proposed approach that your council also consider a similar model for funding the operational costs of Te Kaha once this equally significant regional facility once it is opened.

I would be more than happy to discuss this with you further and our council can provide you with more information on what this proposal could look like and why we would encourage a public discussion.

To move forward, I would appreciate an indication from your council if you are willing to receive and consider such a proposal so that our staff can prepare and present options. This is not asking you to make a binding decision, only whether you would be willing to look at options further.

I hope your council is able to consider our offer and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PM' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phil Mauger
Mayor of Christchurch