



# Venture Timaru

DISTRICT - ECONOMIC & TOURISM AGENCY

Dear <<First Name>>

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## South Canterbury Invited to be Part of Canterbury's Aerospace Future

South Canterbury businesses, innovators and community leaders are being invited to take part in a special **Aerospace Workshop** in Timaru on **Friday 5 September 2025**.

The event, hosted at **Fraser Park, Timaru**, will introduce the recently launched **Waitaha Canterbury Aerospace Strategy** to the South Canterbury community and explore how the district can position itself to play an active role in this fast-growing, globally connected industry.

The Waitaha Canterbury Aerospace Strategy sets out a bold vision for the region to be a **global leader in aerospace innovation by 2035**, harnessing our geographic advantages, technical expertise, and collaborative spirit to deliver cutting-edge solutions with positive environmental and economic impacts.

**Emma Renowden**, Aerospace Cluster Lead at ChristchurchNZ, says the workshop is an opportunity to ensure South Canterbury's strengths are part of the regional picture.

"South Canterbury has unique infrastructure, industry capabilities and skilled people that can contribute significantly to Canterbury's aerospace aspirations. We're excited to welcome Nigel Davenport onto the Canterbury Aerospace Leadership Group, representing South Canterbury, and to work together on connecting in to opportunities within this dynamic, high-growth sector."

The half-day workshop will cover the strategy's vision, priorities, and alignment with national aerospace ambitions, as well as identifying South Canterbury's unique assets and business capabilities.

**Venture Timaru Chief Executive Nigel Davenport** says South Canterbury has a strong track record in advanced manufacturing, logistics, and innovation — all highly relevant to aerospace.

"The aerospace industry is no longer something that happens somewhere else — it's here in Canterbury and it's growing fast. From sustainable propulsion systems to satellite-enabled data for agriculture, the opportunities are huge. It's important that our people and businesses are part of shaping and benefiting from this growth — and what an exciting industry to expose our youth to."

"Being part of the Canterbury Aerospace Leadership Group means South Canterbury has a seat at the table in planning for an industry that has the potential to be significantly transformative for our economy and our communities. With Richard Pearse at the foundation of our most innovative pioneers — taking to the sky is in our blood".

The **South Canterbury Aerospace Workshop** runs from **10:00am to 1:00pm** at Fraser Park, 328 Church Street, Timaru, and includes networking over lunch.

**Attendance is free**, but spaces are limited. To register, get in touch with **Venture Timaru**.

## Express interest in attending workshop

### Quarterly economic report shows agriculture-based boost for Timaru

Improved meat and dairy prices are a real positive for Timaru District in the latest economic quarterly report released this week, helping to keep the district's drop in GDP, at a slightly better level than the national figure.

In the 12 months to the end of June, Timaru District's GDP fell 0.6%, while nationally the GDP drop was 0.8%. The figures are contained in the economic report produced for Venture Timaru by Infometrics.

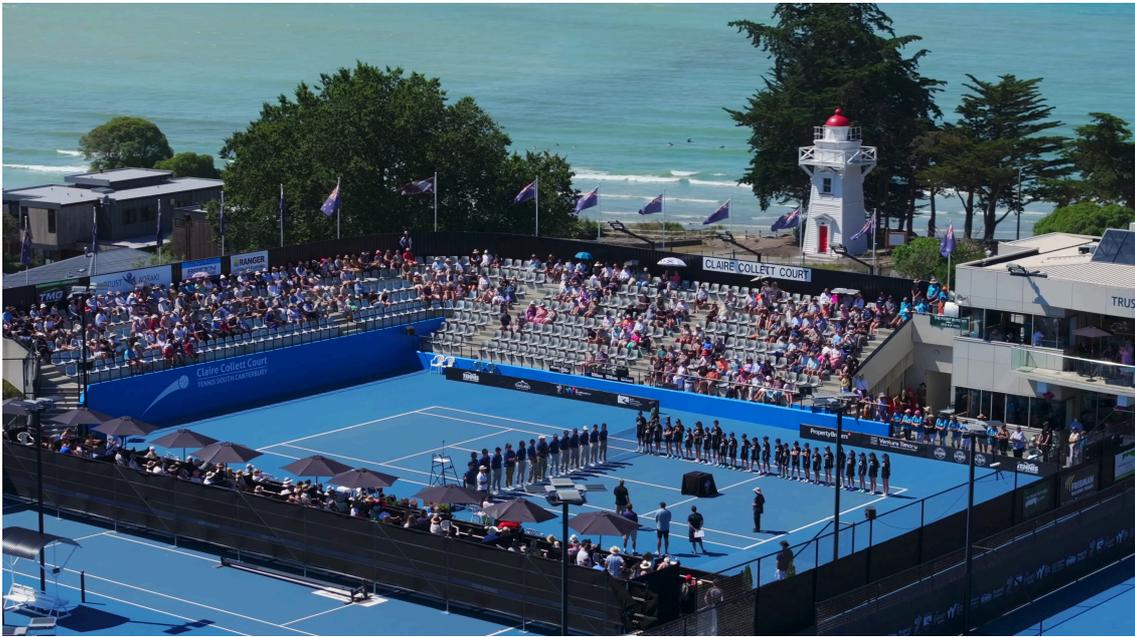
The report shows there was a 2% boost to agriculture GDP in the past year. Key factors for this are the record-high levels for the dairy payout and elevated meat prices for sheep and beef.

While the closure of the Alliance Smithfield plant is being attributed to a rise in unemployment, up to 4.3%, the economists also report that the plant closure is not having a detrimental impact on other economic measures for the district. For instance, commercial vehicle registrations are up 6.3%, suggesting that businesses see a positive future in the coming year.

In housing, Timaru's average house value rose just 0.3% in the period, while nationally there was a drop of 0.6%. Residential building consents slipped 4.5%, with 38 new dwellings consented this quarter, below the long-term average. But non-residential building consents rose 15%, helping to shore up construction workloads.

## Read the full economic report

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## Successful applicants for 2025-2026 Major Events Support Fund

We are pleased to announce that the following events have been successful in gaining support through the 2025-2026 Major Events Support Fund.

The thirteen successful applicants were:

- Caroline Bay Rock & Hop
- The Harcourts Geraldine Festival
- Caroline Bay Carnival
- World Tennis Tour: Timaru
- Midlands PSA & District Open
- Seaside Festival
- Multicultural Aoraki Festival
- Brews on the Bay
- Timaru Festival of Roses
- Matariki Night Market
- The Coastal
- Fraser Park Event
- Art in Motion

The decision regarding the applications is made by the board of Venture Timaru. One of the key criteria for consideration, is for events that stimulate our economy and attract out-of-region visitors to the district. These visitors fill our motels and hotels, and they spend money at hospitality businesses and in our urban centres. Depending on the event, the daily spend of these out-of-town visitors is estimated to range from \$350 - \$370 per day, which can have a big impact for our businesses.

The Major Events Support Fund provides funding for medium to large events held in the Timaru District. The fund is administered for the Timaru District Council by Venture Timaru.



## SCOFF gears up for year six, extending time

Excitement is building for SCOFF (South Canterbury Outstanding Food Festival) which is gearing up for its sixth year in September, with this year's festival bigger than ever, now running over a 17-day period, including three weekends.

Since its inception in 2020, SCOFF has evolved into one of the South Island's premium food festivals, encompassing Timaru, Temuka, Geraldine, Waimate and Mackenzie districts.

Celebrating the best of South Canterbury's artisan producers, growers, and culinary talent, SCOFF transforms the region into a dining destination. Over the festival period, participating eateries unveil bespoke SCOFF specials, each designed to hero locally sourced ingredients. From pasture-raised meats, high country salmon to botanical gins and the iconic offerings of Barker's of Geraldine, the festival is a true expression of place, passion, and provenance.

SCOFF is an initiative of Venture Timaru, supported by Mackenzie District Council, Waimate District Council and Hospitality NZ. This year, we're thrilled to welcome 100% Pure NZ Honey to our key partners group that helps make the festival happen.

While SCOFF is well supported by locals, the event is working to attract more out-of-region visitors in 2025. To do this, the festival has teamed up with local accommodation providers to offer exclusive SCOFF & Stay packages, and Air New Zealand is supporting with Grabaseat deals, with the direct flight from Wellington.



## New for 2025 – Raw Sisters are coming to town

As a pre-SCOFF special this year, a special cooking demonstration will be held with Canterbury celebratory foodies the Two Raw Sisters.

The special demonstration is taking place on Wednesday 27 August at Timaru's Ara Institute of Canterbury - and is fully sold out. Joining the SCOFF team for the event are fabulous local producers 100% Pure Honey, Chopped Butchery, High Country Salmon, Barker's of Geraldine and River T Wines.

Raw Sisters Rosa and Margot will be inspiring the scoffers attending by preparing two special recipes featuring South Canterbury ingredients and sharing their food story and food tips.

**Find out more about SCOFF**



**Timaru District Walk  
& Bike Trail Guide**



**Timaru District  
Official Visitor Guide**



**Timaru Circuit Map**

## Tourism brochures available for free downloads

We have a selection of fantastic tourism brochures available on our website, including the highly popular Timaru District Walk and Bike Trail Guide, which was produced in partnership with Timaru District Council.

We encourage you to take a look and share with your colleagues and any visitors who may be coming to the region. Take a look [here](#).

Ngā mihi nui

**Nigel Davenport**

Kaiwhakahaere Matua / Chief Executive



2 Sefton Street East | PO Box 560 | Timaru | New Zealand  
ddi: [+64 3 687 2738](tel:+6436872738) | p: [+64 3 687 2682](tel:+6436872682) |  
email: [nigel@venturetimaru.nz](mailto:nigel@venturetimaru.nz) [www.venturetimaru.nz](http://www.venturetimaru.nz)



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