

**MINUTES OF CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
HELD AT THE CARTERTON EVENTS CENTRE, 50 HOLLOWAY ST, CARTERTON  
ON WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 8:30 AM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Steve Cretney, Deputy Mayor Grace Ayling, Cr Brian Deller, Cr Lou Newman, Cr Steve Laurence, Cr Steve Gallon, Cr Jane Burns, Cr Simon Casey, Cr Rachel Round

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Solitaire Robertson (Group Manager Planning and Regulatory), Marc Ferguson (Chief Financial Officer), Lawrence Stephenson (Group Manager Infrastructure), Geri Brooking (Group Manager People and Corporate), Glenda Seville (Group Manager Community and Facilities), Marcus Anselm (Communications and Engagement Manager), Serah Pettigrew (Democratic Services Officer)

## **1 REPORTS**

### **1.1 WORKSHOP – ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN**

#### **1.2 PURPOSE**

**Environmental scan workshop overview** An environmental scan workshop was conducted to the newly elected council with an updated view of the Council's operating environment, serving as foundation knowledge for strategic planning and Long Term Plan direction setting.

**District demographic and economic profile** Key statistics were reviewed showing Carterton's balanced urban-rural split, ageing population with significant dependency ratios, modest population growth projections over the next decade, and strong civic engagement levels compared to national averages.

**Economic indicators and employment trends** The district's economy was analysed, highlighting goods-producing and primary industries as key sectors, a 4% employment decline, manufacturing job increases, and tourism spending of \$26.3 million with predominantly domestic visitors comprising 87.5% of the market.

**Infrastructure and service considerations** Water supply challenges, stormwater management limitations, transport network vulnerabilities including State Highway 2 dependencies, and the need for emergency access route planning were discussed as critical infrastructure considerations.

**Housing affordability and connectivity** Housing remains relatively affordable compared to national averages at 4.7 times household income, whilst broadband connectivity varies significantly between urban and rural areas, potentially creating barriers for digital service access.

**Group Exercise** The councillors participated in a facilitated exercise to analyse the current environmental factors that may have an influence or impact on the council's future planning and direction. These included political, economic, social, technological, legal, and environmental factors. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were also examined.

The feedback will be collated by officers and included in the planning and development of the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan.

