

Coastal environment

*Environment Canterbury's role is as the lead agency for resource management and hazard management and regional marine oil spill response**



*Environment Canterbury responds to regional tier two oil spills. Maritime New Zealand responds to larger tier three oil spills.

>> Delivering on community outcomes

Desired outcomes

- Air, beaches and ocean and land are all in a healthy condition.
 - Recreational needs are met.
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- Business and farming activities do not harm the environment.
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- People feel safe at all times.

Progress this year

Water quality at 85% of monitored bathing beaches was satisfactory for swimming all or most of the time. The positive trend continues to rise.

Sixty-three resource consents were issued, with conditions to protect the environment. One hundred and eleven conditions were monitored for compliance. Three instances of significant non-compliance with resource consent conditions were found in the Coastal Marine Area or in Coastal Hazard Zones.

Twenty-two oil spills were responded to and remediated, with no long-term environmental impact.

There was no loss of residential or non-residential buildings due to coastal erosion during the year.

Effect on the four well-beings:



SOCIAL



ECONOMIC



ENVIRONMENTAL



CULTURAL

The cost of complying with consent conditions could negatively impact on the economic well-being of some individuals, however, this is offset by wider benefits to environmental well-being.

>> Highlights

Our annual programme, monitoring human activity and natural processes, continued along the whole Canterbury coastline, with highly populated areas, e.g. southern Pegasus Bay and the Timaru-Washdyke coast, being monitored more intensively.

We maintained a high level of readiness to deal with tier two oil spills, with ongoing training of response staff, maintenance of equipment and stores of dispersant.

We monitored wave climate at a deep water site and sea level at two coastal sites (Sumner Head and Timaru), in partnership with other agencies. We monitored water quality and biology at representative sites along the coast, including recreational water quality at bathing beaches.

>> We also . . .

- Issued 63 resource consents with conditions to protect coastal areas. Existing resource consents had their conditions monitored for compliance. Three were graded as having significant non-compliance.
- Responded to 41 calls about coastal water quality and oil spills on the 24-hour Pollution Hotline. All cases were investigated and clean-up and remedial action implemented as required.
- Won a case in the Court of Appeal over whether a ship owner could be prosecuted for an oil spill under the Resource Management Act, resulting in a \$62,000 fine.
- Supported coastcare groups in Akaroa Harbour, Lyttelton Harbour/Whakaraupo, Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai, Northern Pegasus Bay and South Canterbury.
- Provided resource material for schools and supported the Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai Trust.
- Undertook a baseline study of the bathymetry, soft sediments and biota of the seabed of the Upper Lyttelton Harbour.
- Facilitated the development of a non-statutory coastal management plan for Northern Pegasus Bay.
- Undertook bed levels surveys in the Brooklands Lagoon and Lower Styx River in response to community concerns regarding sedimentation.



Environment Canterbury acknowledges and thanks the volunteers who gather water samples for analysis from around the coast. This important work helps us to understand what is happening in the environment so we can manage it better. Also, the contribution made by members of community coast care groups on addressing coastal issues is greatly appreciated.

>> Levels of service This section reports on performance for 2007/08 against Annual Plan targets

1. Limiting the risk of damage from coastal hazards, to protect life and property

Measure

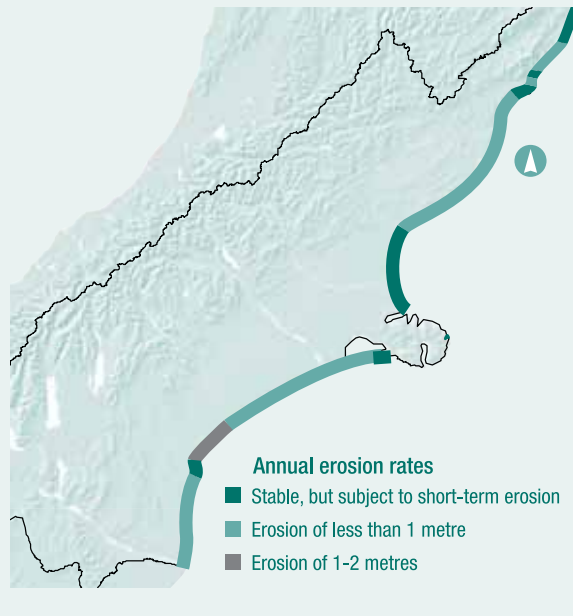
The amount of new development occurring within coastal hazard zones, other than that which is provided for in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan 2005.

Target 2007/08

No unplanned development.

Achieved

Coastal erosion hazards



Source: Regional Coastal Environment Plan 2005.

2. Improving the aquatic health of estuaries

Measure

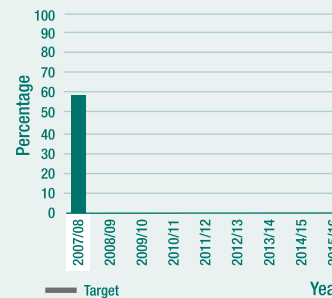
The percentage of water quality monitoring sites meeting water quality standards for the maintenance of aquatic ecosystems defined in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan 2005.¹

Target 2007/08

The percentage is increasing.

This is the first year this measure has been reported on, therefore, the percentage is the baseline for future years.

Monitoring sites in the Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai with dissolved oxygen saturation greater than 80%



Source: Environment Canterbury.

Note: Percentage of sites scoring better than 80% in all samples at all times.

What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?

This is a new measure and target proposed in the 2006-16 LTCCP. This work programme commenced in 2007/08 and will be used as base-line data against which future improvements in water quality can be compared.

¹ The percentage of dissolved oxygen (DO) is one of a number of water quality parameters used as a measure of the maintenance of aquatic ecosystems. Sampling of DO is primarily only undertaken in the Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai and in 2007/08 took place at 12 monitoring sites. DO is essential for aquatic animals including fish and invertebrates and if the recorded DO saturation is lower than 80% there is the potential for marine life to be affected.

3. Improving water quality at swimming beaches

Measure

The percentage of monitored beaches complying with the Microbiological Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Freshwater Recreational Areas during the summer recreational season, all or most of the time.

Target 2007/08

The percentage considered satisfactory for swimming, all or most of the time, is increasing.¹

Achieved (85%)

Percentage of monitored beaches considered satisfactory for swimming, all or most of the time



Source: Environment Canterbury.

Note: Saline estuaries, such as Avon-Heathcote/Ihuta, are included in the above results. Estuaries that are predominantly freshwater, such as the Waimakariri and Ashley river mouths, are included in the water quality, quantity and ecosystems group of activities.

4. Authorising resource users to use natural and physical resources so that the environmental effects remain acceptable to the community

Measure 1

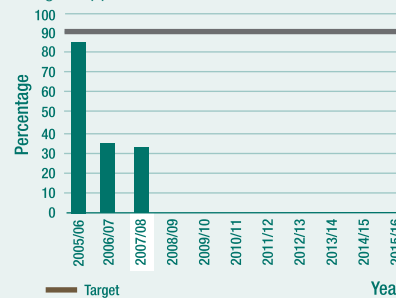
The percentage of resource consent applications processed in compliance with the statutory timeframes set down in the Resource Management Act 1991.

Target 2007/08

90%

Continued high demand for consents from water, dairy and subdivision related activities, coupled with increased numbers of notifications and hearings in water resource constrained areas, and some large individual applications, has resulted in many consent applications across all portfolios not being able to be completed within statutory timeframes. *Not achieved (32%).*

Processing of applications



Source: Resource Management Act Database.

Measure 2

The percentage of resource consents consistent with Resource Management Act 1991 requirements, including proposed and operative regional plan requirements.

Target 2007/08

100%

Due to the small sample size of coastal environment resource consents audited, the data collected was not adequate to determine a result.

Consents consistent with RMA



Source: External audit of sample of issued consents.

¹ Results were reassessed in 2006/07 in line with "Microbiological Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Freshwater Recreational Areas (2003)". A site is considered suitable for contact recreation when it receives a "Suitability For Contact Recreation Grade" of fair, good or very good. Previous results included only the good or very good categories. Grading is reassessed at the end of each summer bathing season, based on the most recent five years' individual sample results as well as an assessment of risk factors. This gives a grade that reflects likely water quality at any time, not just when samples were collected. It allows for occasional exceedence of single sample trigger values, such as after heavy rain, at otherwise good quality sites.

>> Financial summary

Measure 3

The percentage of significant or major non-compliance¹ with resource consent conditions resolved.

Target 2007/08

80% are resolved in six months
95% are resolved in 12 months

No non-compliances were able to be resolved as all instances related to off-site marine farms where a legislative change is required before resolution is possible. *Not achieved.*

Consent conditions - non-compliance resolved



Measure 4

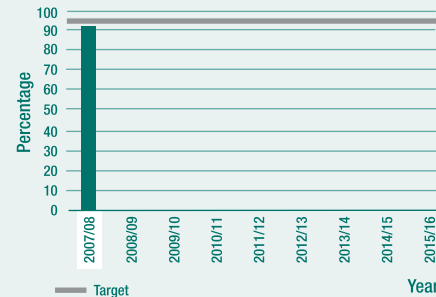
The percentage of environmental incidents resolved.

Target 2007/08

95%

The result is close to target (93%) and represents 79 resolved incidents. *Not achieved.*

Incidents resolved



What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?

The 2006-16 LTCCP proposed that additional measures and targets to more comprehensively reflect the contribution made by the level of service towards the community outcomes would be included in the 2007/08 Annual Plan. Measure 3 replaces measure 2 in the 2006-16 LTCCP and new measures 2 and 4 have been added.

¹ Significant non-compliance means there have been moderate, serious or persistent adverse environmental effects. This also includes repeated minor non-compliance with nil or short-term adverse environmental effects, and unauthorised activities.

\$000	Actual 2007/08	Budget 2007/08	Actual 2006/07
Total Expenditure	1,704	1,833	1,424
<i>Funded by:</i>			
General rates	1,500	1,500	1,352
Targeted rates	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-
User pays and other	275	292	173
Total Funding	1,775	1,792	1,525
Reserves Increase/(Decrease)	71	(41)	101

Some of the planned work on aquaculture legislation has been delayed until next year as has part of the programme for the Avon/Heathcote Estuary. Additional advocacy work has been required for the Pegasus non statutory plan.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure associated with this group of activities was funded from general funds and included as depreciation expense.

