



## Land group of activities

The land group of activities contributes to the following community outcomes:

- Business and farming activities do not harm the environment
- Rural land is mainly for farming and horticulture
- Recreational needs are met
- Water is in a healthy condition, clean and plentiful enough to support life
- Air, beaches and ocean and land are all in a healthy condition
- Environment, in general, is to be looked after

Environment Canterbury is responsible for controlling the use of land for the purpose of soil conservation and controlling land use for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing the quantity and quality of groundwater, surface water and coastal waters; and the maintenance and enhancement of aquatic ecosystems (Resource Management Act 1991). Environment Canterbury may develop regional parks (Local Government Act 2002). Environment Canterbury is the lead agency for this work and works in collaboration with land holders, industry groups, territorial authorities and other agencies.



## KEY ISSUES FOR 2009-19

### Impact of land use change

Canterbury is faced with rapid land use changes as a result of more intensive use of agricultural land and growth of the greater Christchurch metropolitan area. This growth threatens the availability of productive land and has impacts on water quality. In addition, the removal of shelter belts reduces the provision of shelter for animals. Managing land use requires a combination of working collaboratively with agencies and individuals, supported by a statutory framework. The greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy takes a long-term outlook and provides an integrated approach to issues such as future housing, development of activity centres, areas of new employment and the impact of land use on transportation networks.

### Impact of land management practices

Inappropriate land management practices can result in changes that are difficult to reverse. This includes loss of soil, and degradation of soil and water quality.

### Recreational demand

Environment Canterbury holds extensive areas of reserve and endowment land associated with its flood and erosion protection work. There is increasing demand for outdoor recreation and leisure opportunities, particularly biking and walking. This is placing increasing pressure on natural areas, such as Lake Tekapo, and destinations close to population centres, such as the lower Waimakariri and Ashley rivers.

>> Ashley/Rakahuri Regional Park.

>> Lake Tekapo Regional Park.

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## Effect on the four well-beings

Healthy land, clean water and maintaining the productivity of soils increases economic, environmental and social well-being.

Economic and environmental well-being is enhanced through maintaining soil quality and quantity.

Improving land management practices has benefits for environmental well-being, as a result of better water quality.

Allowing responsible use of land resources is essential for social and economic well-being.

Social and cultural well-being is enhanced through the provision of recreational opportunities at regional parks.

Co-ordinating urban development in the greater Christchurch metropolitan area has benefits for economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being.

Meeting the cost of complying with conditions for permitted and consented activities may adversely affect the economic well-being of some individuals and businesses.



SOCIAL



ECONOMIC



ENVIRONMENTAL



CULTURAL

## Involving the community

- Community Parks Advisory Groups for the Waimakariri River, Lake Tekapo and Ashley/Rakahuri Regional Parks, provide local input into park planning and ongoing management.
- Volunteer outdoor organisations take part in annual wilding conifer control days, in areas such as the Waimakariri Basin, the Rakaia and Ashburton gorges and the Mackenzie Basin.
- Landcare groups promote improved land use practices.
- The public made 73 submissions on the soils chapter of the proposed Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan.

## ACTIVITIES

### Priority over the next ten years

The focus for this group of activities is on implementing the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy, progressing the proposed Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan, and promoting sustainable land use practices. There is also a focus on regional parks.

### We will undertake the following activities:

- 1 **Strategy**  
Developing regional strategies for Environment Canterbury's contribution to community outcomes for land.
- 2 **Investigations**  
Investigating soils and land use practices.
- 3 **Planning and consents**  
Developing policy for managing land and monitoring policy implementation and effectiveness.
- 4 **Monitoring**  
Monitoring the impact of land management practices.
- 5 **Operations**  
Managing regional parks.
- 6 **Communicating, educating and advocating**  
Promoting sustainable land use.
- 7 **Regulating**  
Managing discharges onto or into land and ensuring compliance with resource consent conditions and the Resource Management Act 1991.

#### UNCERTAINTIES

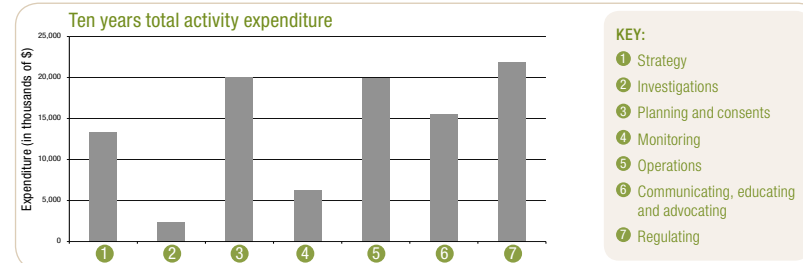
For 2009-19, the following is uncertain:

- a) The effect that the Emissions Trading Scheme and any increased uptake of the Afforestation Grants Scheme could have on land use in Canterbury.
- b) The extent to which the final National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management will place controls on land use development.
- c) The effectiveness of the Primary Sector Water Partnership.
- d) Whether actual population and household growth will match Statistics New Zealand projections underpinning Proposed Change Number 1 to the Regional Policy Statement (this relates to the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy).

#### ASSUMPTIONS

For 2009-19, it is assumed that:

- a) No provision has been made for additional work resulting from changed land use in response to the Emissions Trading Scheme and the Afforestation Grants Scheme.
- b) No provision has been for additional work arising from a National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management.
- c) That signatories to the Primary Sector Water Partnership will achieve their targets.
- d) Proposed Change Number 1 to the Regional Policy Statement is based on Statistics New Zealand's population and household projections.



### WORK PROGRAMMES FOR 2009/10 TO 2018/19:

#### 1 Strategy

##### Years 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Implement the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy in collaboration with the Selwyn and Waimakariri district and Christchurch City councils and the New Zealand Transport Agency.
- Respond to rural land issues.

#### 2 Investigations

##### Years 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Investigate soil quality and quantity.
- Monitor and report using the land management index for soil aggregate stability.<sup>1</sup>

#### 3 Planning and consents

##### Years 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Progress the beds and margins of lakes and rivers, wetlands and soil conservation chapters of the Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan through statutory processes.
- Ensure district and city plans give effect to regional policies for managing land.
- Process resource consents applications.
- Assess the implementation and effectiveness of the Regional Policy Statement.
- Continue input to the tenure review process.

#### 4 Monitoring

##### Years 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Monitor rural subdivision activity land use change.
- Monitor soil loss from wind erosion.
- Monitor hill country vegetation cover and bare land.
- Compile data for the Regional Environment Report.

<sup>1</sup> The land management index is a scale which predicts changes in soil health from the management history of a paddock.

## 5 Operations

### Years 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Operate and continue to develop the Waimakariri River and Tekapo Regional Parks.
- In partnership with other agencies, consider other park options on Environment Canterbury land, including Kaikoura.
- Enhance biodiversity on land within regional parks.

### Years 2010/11 to 2015/16

- Establish the Ashley/Rakahuri Regional Park.

## 6 Communicating, educating and advocating

### Year 2009/10

- Address issues raised in the Regional Environmental Report, in conjunction with the primary and industrial sectors, communities and local authorities.

### Years 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Work with community groups to encourage the adoption of sustainable land management practices.
- Work with community groups to improve land management practices affecting water quality in Living Streams catchments.
- Work with agricultural sectors on the integration of environmental management into farm and industry practices.
- Recognise outstanding examples of sustainable farming practice and water efficiency by supporting the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

## 7 Regulating

### Years 2009/10 to 2018/9

- Monitor prioritised resource consents, permitted activities and unauthorised activities for compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991.
- Report significant breaches of resource consents to council three times a year.
- Provide a Pollution Hotline Response Service.
- Promote and enforce compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991.
- Monitor Land Improvement Agreements for compliance with conditions.

# LEVELS OF SERVICE



## HOW ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY'S LEVELS OF SERVICE RELATE TO THE COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

### Community Outcomes

Levels of Service	Business and farming activities do not harm the environment	Rural land is mainly for farming and horticulture	Recreational needs are met	Water is in a healthy condition, clean and plentiful enough to support life	Air, beaches and ocean and land are all in a healthy condition	Environment, in general, is to be looked after
1 Providing open space leisure and recreation opportunities on council owned land			■		■	■
2 Contributing to the implementation and monitoring of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy	■	■	■	■	■	■
3 Collecting and providing soil quality and erosion information to enable sustainable land management	■				■	■
4 Working with territorial authorities	■	■	■	■	■	■
5 Working with land managers to achieve sustainable land management	■			■	■	■
6 Authorising and monitoring the use of natural and physical resources	■			■	■	■

Environment Canterbury's contribution will be reported on each year in our annual report.

## OUR LEVELS OF SERVICE

### 1 Providing open space leisure and recreation opportunities on council-owned land

#### MEASURE 1

Visitors' to McLeans Forest, in the Waimakariri River Regional Park, rating of the quality of their experience.

#### TARGET

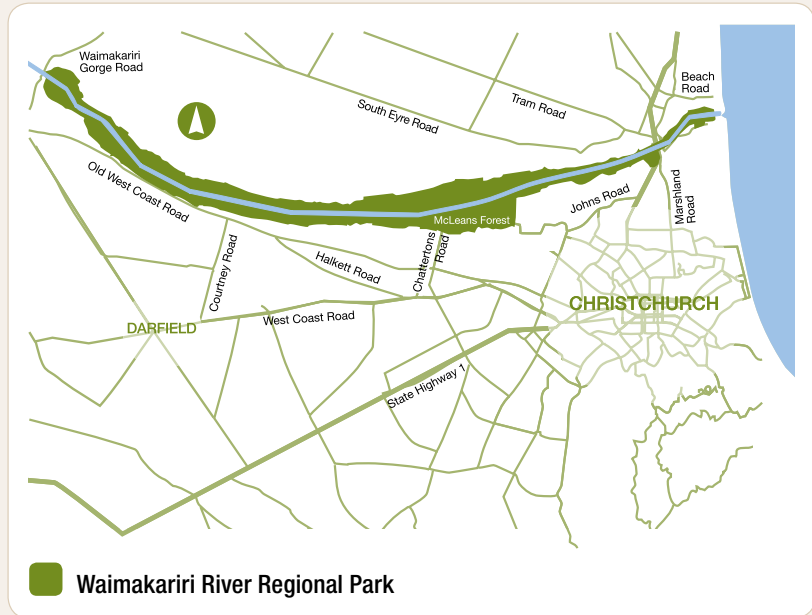
80% of visitors surveyed are satisfied or very satisfied (on a scale of very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, satisfied and very satisfied).

#### MEASURE 2

Families' rating of the suitability of the McLeans Forest mountain bike track for family riding.

#### TARGET

80% of families using the track, are satisfied or very satisfied (on a scale of very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, satisfied and very satisfied).



## 2 Contributing to the implementation and monitoring of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy

### MEASURE

Progress on implementing actions in the Greater Christchurch<sup>2</sup> Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2007, for which Environment Canterbury is the lead agency.

### TARGET

Actions are undertaken as set out in the table (on the right).

## 3 Collecting and providing soil quality and erosion information to enable sustainable land management

### MEASURE

The availability of soil quality and erosion information.

### TARGET

See table below.

Year information available	Soil quality factors <sup>3</sup>	% bare ground: hill and high country <sup>4</sup>	Protection from wind erosion <sup>5</sup>	Land cover and land use <sup>6</sup>
2009/10				
2010/11				
2011/12	✓	✓	✓	✓
2012/13				
2013/14				
2014/15	✓	✓	✓	
2015/16				
2016/17				✓
2017/18	✓	✓	✓	
2018/19				

<sup>2</sup> "Greater Christchurch" includes metropolitan Christchurch, parts of the Lyttelton basin, Banks Peninsula, and the Selwyn and Waimakariri Districts between the Ashley and Selwyn rivers adjacent to Christchurch city.

<sup>3</sup> Soil quality factors including organic carbon, aggregate stability, readily available nitrogen and fertility are monitored for Canterbury's major land uses across important soil groups.

<sup>4</sup> The percentage of the area of hill and high country land with more than 20% bare ground.

<sup>5</sup> The area receiving effective protection from wind erosion.

<sup>6</sup> Dependent on receiving data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Statistics New Zealand, and the Ministry for the Environment.

### Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy actions where Environment Canterbury is lead agency

Action	Timing
Publish sustainable and energy efficient housing design guides (6.4.4.1)	To be confirmed
Identify regionally strategic open space (6.5.3.2)	To be confirmed
Develop a basis for heritage strategy development (6.8.4.2)	To be confirmed
Develop a regional cultural heritage strategy (6.8.4.3)	To be confirmed
Establish a Tangata Whenua and Maori contact database. (6.7.4.4)	2006/07 – ongoing
Ensure the Regional Policy Statement addresses indigenous biodiversity and key habitats (6.11.4.1)	2007/08 – ongoing
Support the implementation of national and regional biodiversity strategies (6.11.4.2)	To be confirmed
Promote indigenous biodiversity and key habitat provisions in the NZ Coastal Policy Statement (6.11.4.3)	To be confirmed
Develop integrated approaches to water resource management (6.12.4.1)	To be confirmed
Educate about good land management practices (6.12.4.6)	2006/07 – ongoing
Provide information on sustainable planting, stream care and drought-tolerant landscaping (6.12.4.7)	To be confirmed
Promote low impact urban design (6.12.4.8)	To be confirmed
Provide incentives and mechanisms for efficient water use (6.12.4.9)	To be confirmed
Monitor and adaptively manage aquatic ecosystems (6.12.4.10)	To be confirmed
Develop policy in the Regional Policy Statement protecting regionally significant landscapes (6.13.4.1)	2007/08 – ongoing
Implement a Clean Heat strategy for Kaiapoi and Rangiora (6.14.4.2)	2007/08 – ongoing
Develop an industrial emissions programme (6.14.4.3)	2007/08 – under review
Use this strategy as a basis for Civil Defence Emergency Management planning (6.15.4.5)	2006/07 – ongoing
Ensure Christchurch International Airport has stormwater protection plans (6.21.4.3)	2007/08 – ongoing
Provide protection from flooding in identified growth areas, allowing for high groundwater zones (6.21.4.5)	Ongoing
Develop an implementation plan to give effect to the Regional Land Transport Strategy (6.26.4.2)	2006/07 – ongoing
Implement appropriate funding and cost sharing mechanisms for sub regional transport projects (6.26.4.3)	2006/07 – ongoing
Implement a Travel Demand Management Strategy and Action Plan for Greater Christchurch (6.26.4.4)	To be confirmed
Extend the public passenger transport strategy to include Greater Christchurch (6.26.4.8)	To be confirmed
Implement a sustainable energy strategy (6.27.4.1)	2006/07 – ongoing
With strategy partners, adopt and advocate energy efficiency standards (6.27.4.3)	To be confirmed
Establish a research and shared information protocol between growth management agencies (6.31.4.2)	2007/08 – ongoing
Provide in the Regional Policy Statement guidance on where growth and intensification will occur (6.33.4.2)	2006/07 – ongoing
Assess the area's vulnerability to change factors, particularly climate change (6.34.4.1)	At review

Note: for a full description, refer to the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy Action Plan.

## 4 Working with territorial authorities

### MEASURE

The percentage of reviewed district and city council plans that give effect to or are not inconsistent with regional policies for managing soil conservation.<sup>7</sup>

### TARGET

100% of reviewed plans (see table).

Note: Second generation plans will be developed by district and city councils by way of a plan review under section 79 of the Resource Management Act 1991. Environment Canterbury will review all second generation plans to ensure they give effect to the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS) or are not inconsistent with the Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan (PNRRP).

#### District and city council plans

Council	First plan operative	Review of plan commences
Ashburton District Plan	2001	2008
Waimate District Plan	2001	2011
Hurunui District Plan	2003	2013
Mackenzie District Plan	2004	2014
Waimakariri District Plan	2005	2015
Timaru District Plan	2005	2015
Waitaki District Plan	2005*	2015
Christchurch City Plan	2007*	2017
Selwyn District Plan	2007	2017
Kaikoura District Plan	2008	2018
Banks Peninsula District Plan	2009**	2019

\* operative in part

\*\* assumed operative date

## 5 Working with land managers to achieve sustainable land management

### MEASURE 1

The percentage of areas with identified soil quality and erosion issues that are being addressed by resource care, community or industry groups.

### TARGET

100%.

### MEASURE 2

The number of catchments involved in the Living Streams Programme.

### TARGET

The number is increasing.

<sup>7</sup> Soil conservation is defined (Resource Management Amendment Act 2003) as: "avoiding, remedying, or mitigating soil erosion and maintaining the physical, chemical and biological qualities of the soil".

Note: Loss of soil quality can result from: soil compaction, reduced organic matter, an imbalance in soil nutrients, a mismatch between soil pH in relation to land use, and changes to biological, chemical, and physical characteristics of a particular soil group. Soil quality thresholds for sustainable land management are being developed in association with the National Soil and Land Use Research Initiative and the regional council National Land Managers' Forum.



## 6 Authorising and monitoring the use of natural and physical resources

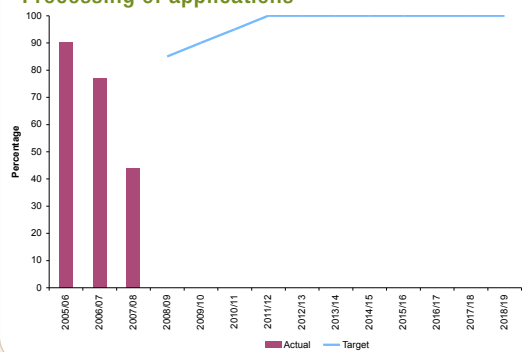
### MEASURE 1

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

#### TARGET

85%, increasing to 100% by 2011/12.<sup>8</sup>

#### Processing of applications



Source: Environment Canterbury.

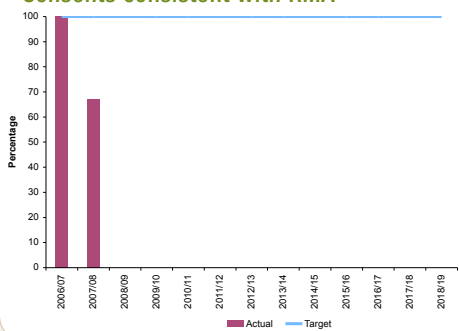
### MEASURE 2

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

#### TARGET

100%.<sup>9</sup>

#### Consents consistent with RMA



Source: Environment Canterbury.

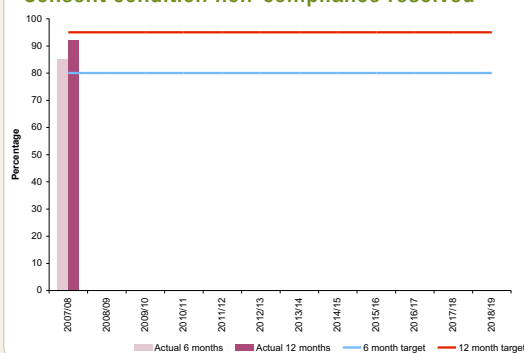
### MEASURE 3

The percentage of significant or major non-compliance<sup>10</sup> with land resource consent conditions resolved<sup>11</sup> (no further action is required).

#### TARGET

80% are resolved in six months.<sup>9</sup>  
95% are resolved in 12 months.<sup>9</sup>

#### Consent condition non-compliance resolved



Source: Environment Canterbury.

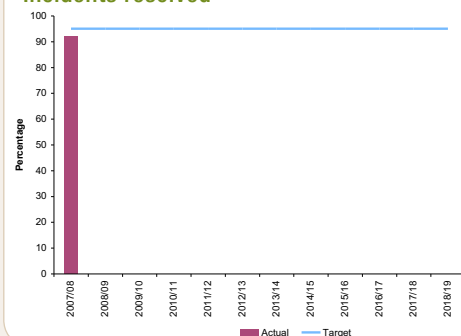
### MEASURE 4

The percentage of environmental incidents resolved (no further action is required) for land.

#### TARGET

95%.<sup>9</sup>

#### Incidents resolved



Source: Environment Canterbury.

<sup>8</sup> 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 in the past resulted in many consent applications across all portfolios not being able to be completed within statutory timeframes. Difficulties in recruiting staff have compounded the problem. Note that processing of notified consents is sometimes delayed by events outside Environment Canterbury's control. In the medium term we are aiming for 100%. Going forward, recent process improvements, coupled with expected reductions in demand of consents and improvements in recruitment, should result in significantly improved performance.

<sup>9</sup> For measures 2, 3 and 4 data collection started in 2007/08.

<sup>10</sup> Mean non-compliance assessed as Grade 3 – Significant non-compliance or repeated minor non-compliance – moderate adverse environmental effects, or Grade 4 – Major and/or persistent non-compliance – serious or persistent adverse environmental effects.

<sup>11</sup> Means re-assessed as Grade 1 – Fully complying or Grade 2 – Minor non-compliance – nil or minor short-term adverse environmental effects.

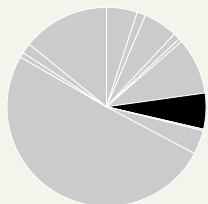
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Asset management and capital expenditure

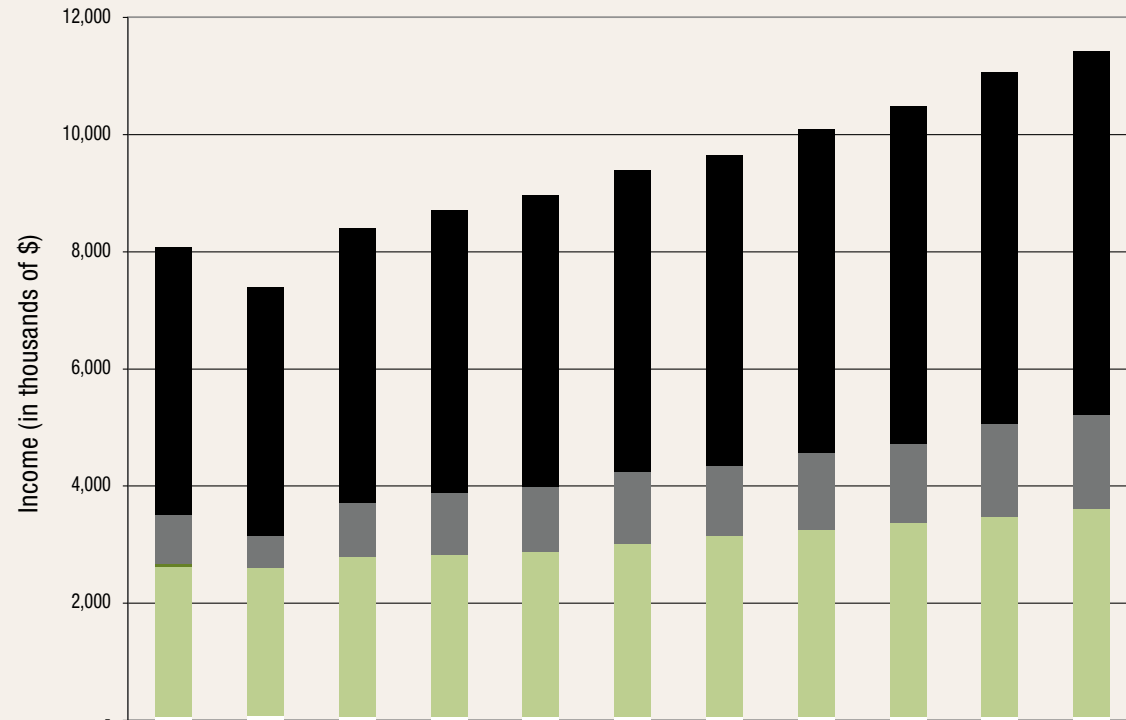
See Appendix 3 for information on assets involved in this group of activities.

## How this work is funded

For more information on source of funds and rationale for selection, see: 2009 Funding and Financial Policies, Long Term Council Community Plan Part B.



Ten years total expenditure, all 13 groups of activities  
KEY: ■ This group of activities



(\$000)	2008/09 Annual Plan	2009/10 LTCCP	2010/11 LTCCP	2011/12 LTCCP	2012/13 LTCCP	2013/14 LTCCP	2014/15 LTCCP	2015/16 LTCCP	2016/17 LTCCP	2017/18 LTCCP	2018/19 LTCCP
Interest	68	71	73	68	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
User Pays/Other	2,553	2,538	2,729	2,757	2,808	2,944	3,080	3,185	3,300	3,421	3,544
Grants	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Targeted Rates	835	546	909	1,073	1,120	1,230	1,210	1,316	1,366	1,577	1,599
General Rates	4,564	4,242	4,687	4,813	4,968	5,155	5,301	5,528	5,769	5,993	6,211
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,075</b>	<b>7,397</b>	<b>8,398</b>	<b>8,711</b>	<b>8,959</b>	<b>9,392</b>	<b>9,654</b>	<b>10,092</b>	<b>10,498</b>	<b>11,054</b>	<b>11,417</b>
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>8,008</b>	<b>8,039</b>	<b>8,768</b>	<b>9,080</b>	<b>9,326</b>	<b>9,755</b>	<b>10,015</b>	<b>10,450</b>	<b>10,852</b>	<b>11,404</b>	<b>11,761</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>(642)</b>	<b>(370)</b>	<b>(369)</b>	<b>(367)</b>	<b>(363)</b>	<b>(361)</b>	<b>(358)</b>	<b>(354)</b>	<b>(350)</b>	<b>(344)</b>
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>(67)</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>344</b>

# Ashley/Rakahuri Regional Park What the Council decided

## THE DRAFT 2009-19 LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN PROPOSED:

- That the Ashley/Rakahuri Regional Park is established in 2010/11.
- That this is funded from the existing rating district, with contributions from a regional general rate and a targeted rate levied over Waimakariri District and Christchurch City ratepayers, less Banks Peninsula.

## BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

A regional park covering 1420 hectares from the confluence of the Okuku River to the estuary will be established for the lower reaches of the Ashley/Rakahuri River, using land that Environment Canterbury owns for flood protection purposes. The Lower Ashley River is an important regional recreation destination for people primarily from Christchurch and North Canterbury, a taonga for Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga, a key breeding site for threatened native braided river birds, a priority for protection in the Biodiversity Strategy for the Canterbury region and a regionally significant sport fishery. The park will cater for the increasing recreation needs of this area while protecting and enhancing natural and biodiversity values. The park will include tracks for mountain biking, walking and trail bikes, plus improvements in river access for fishing and other water-based recreation. Development will start during 2010/11 and take five years, costing approximately \$170,000 annually. Some existing funding is available from river control budgets (\$25,000), with the balance to be funded from a targeted rate levied over Waimakariri District and Christchurch City (85%, \$123,250), and a regional general rate contribution (15%, \$21,750). After the park development is completed, provision has been made to manage costs at a level required to cover ongoing maintenance.

## COUNCIL'S DECISION

This proposal was adopted in full, with the intention to promote management of the Ashley Estuary in ways that are compatible with the objectives of the regional park.

## WHAT THE SUBMITTERS TOLD US

Most submissions were in support of the establishment of a regional park and the funding policy. Submissions supported protecting natural values, including biodiversity, and providing a diverse range of recreational opportunities for all to enjoy.



**Proposed Regional Park**

# Lake Tekapo Regional Park What the Council decided

## THE DRAFT 2009-19 LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN PROPOSED:

That the Lake Tekapo Regional Park be funded from a mix of 60% regional general rates and 40% fixed targeted rates per rating unit over the Mackenzie and Timaru districts.

## BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

Environment Canterbury approved the establishment of the Lake Tekapo Regional Park in February 2008. The new 165-hectare park, located in a mixed conifer forest, will cater for walking, mountain biking and picnicking and provide access to the lake for water-based activities. Natural values and biodiversity will also be protected and enhanced.

The underlying status of the land is as a soil conservation reserve managed by Environment Canterbury. Work associated with the soil conservation programme will continue to be funded from regional general rates. With the increase in recreation opportunities and with the large numbers of visitors, the draft Long Term Council Community Plan proposed that the park be funded 60% from general rates over the whole region (includes the ongoing cost of managing the soil conservation reserve) and 40% from a uniform annual charge over the Mackenzie and Timaru Districts.

## COUNCIL'S DECISION

This proposal was adopted in full, with the fixed targeted rate applying to the Mackenzie, Timaru, Waimate and Ashburton districts.

## WHAT THE SUBMITTERS TOLD US

There was support for a funding proposal for the Tekapo Regional Park (based on a mix of 60% regional general rates and 40% fixed targeted rate over the Mackenzie and Timaru districts). In response to submitters' concerns, the area covered by the targeted rate has been extended to cover Waimate and Ashburton districts. The rate will amount to less than \$1 annually per rateable property.



**Regional Park**