



## Water quality, quantity and ecosystems group of activities

The water quality, quantity and ecosystems group of activities contributes to the following community outcomes:

- Water is in a healthy condition, clean and plentiful enough to support life
- Business and farming activities do not harm the environment
- Environment, in general, is to be looked after
- Native plants and animals can thrive
- Recreational needs are met
- A strong economy

Environment Canterbury is responsible for managing the region's water resource, including the flows and levels in any water body; control of taking, use, damming and diversion of water; the allocation of water and the control of discharges. In carrying out these functions, Environment Canterbury has a duty to gather information and undertake research on fresh water resources, and to monitor, report and make available information about the state of the whole or any part of the fresh water environment (Resource Management Act 1991). 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

### Environmental limits

While some of Canterbury's streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater are of high quality and are still largely in their natural state, in some places pressure from rural and urban land-use discharges, and increasing water demand, is placing stress on ground and surface water systems. There is conflict over the allocation of water for abstraction and maintenance or improvement of instream values and water quality. This has implications for ecosystems, business and primary industry, sources of drinking water, health and recreation, e.g. swimming. Safeguarding sources of mahinga kai and protection of wahi tapu and wahi taonga are important issues for tangata whenua and Maori. Environment Canterbury is required to set limits for both environmental flows and water quality.

>> [Funding for water management cost recovery.](#) Go to page 121.

### Regional economy

The regional economy is increasingly dependent on a reliable supply of water, driven by land use intensification and a variable climate.

### Water quality

Land use intensification and discharge of contaminants such as nitrates are affecting Canterbury's water quality in some areas. Protecting water quality requires a combination of management of urban and rural land use, stormwater, subdivision sediment control, wastewater and septic tanks.

### Partnerships

Successful water resource management requires Environment Canterbury to work in partnership with communities. This involves working collaboratively with land occupiers, territorial authorities, Government agencies and community groups to develop solutions to issues. This is underpinned by regulations.

### Integration of water resource management

There is a need to integrate management of groundwater, surface water, water quality, water quantity and land use. Otherwise, there is potential for isolated decisions to foreclose on protection or development options that could provide greater benefits to the wider community. The Canterbury Water Management Strategy is an important regional level partnership undertaken on behalf of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to develop an integrated approach to water management.

## Effect on the four well-beings

Reviewing environmental flows in rivers and groundwater enhances environmental well-being. However, this may have an adverse impact on reliability of supply for some existing consent holders affecting their economic well-being.

Clean and plentiful water increases social, cultural and environmental well-being. However, meeting the cost of complying with conditions for permitted and consented activities may adversely affect economic well-being.

Ensuring sufficient water is available to support healthy ecosystems increases environmental well-being. However, limitations on water allocations and restrictions during droughts may adversely affect economic well-being.



SOCIAL



ECONOMIC



ENVIRONMENTAL



CULTURAL

## Involving the community

- 1529 submissions were received on the water-related chapters of the proposed Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan.
- The Canterbury Water Management Strategy involves extensive consultation with the Canterbury community.
- Five cluster groups in the Rakaia-Selwyn Groundwater Zone provide ongoing input to the consent review process in their communities and have a role in a management framework for the zone.
- Integrated Catchment Management groups in six river catchments bring together landholders, local businesses, Government agencies, interest groups and other community members to identify issues and work in a collaborative way.
- Environmental flows community advisory groups are set up to provide local input into proposed variations to review environmental river flows.
- Monitoring recreational water quality at swimming sites involves working closely with territorial land authorities and public health authorities.

## ACTIVITIES

### Priority over the next 10 years

The priority for this group of activities is managing water resources where the water resource is approaching (or has exceeded) sustainable allocation limits or river and stream flows are below the minimum required for ecosystem health. The Canterbury Water Management Strategy is a key aspect of this, along with investigations and monitoring work. Processing consents are regulating, to ensure compliance with consent conditions, is also a high priority.

### We will undertake the following activities:

- 1 Strategy**  
Developing regional strategies for Environment Canterbury's contribution to community outcomes for water quality, quantity and ecosystems.
- 2 Investigations**  
Investigating water quality, quantity and ecosystem issues.
- 3 Planning and consents**  
Developing policy for managing water quality, quantity and ecosystems, and monitoring policy effectiveness and efficiency.
- 4 Monitoring**  
Measuring water quantity and water quality.
- 5 Communicating, educating and advocating**  
Informing the community and working with stakeholders to raise awareness of water quality and quantity issues.
- 6 Regulating**  
Ensuring compliance with resource consent conditions and the Resource Management Act 1991.

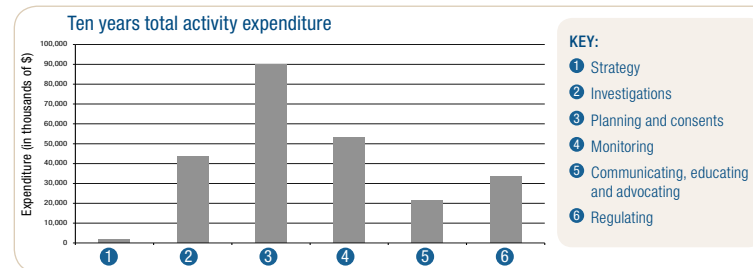
#### UNCERTAINTIES

#### ASSUMPTIONS

For 2009-19, the following is uncertain:

For 2009-19, it is assumed that:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a) The timing and final content of the National Environmental Standards for water, relating to measurement of water use, ecological flows and water levels, and on-site wastewater treatment.  | a) The National Environmental Standards, as proposed, will become operative in 2009/10.                                       |
| b) The number and complexity of resource consent applications for water, particularly in fully allocated catchments.   | b) The number and complexity of consent applications for water will continue at current levels.                               |
| c) The work needed to properly manage fully allocated catchments.  | c) Proposed increases in work programmes will be sufficient to manage fully allocated catchments.                             |
| d) The work that will be needed to implement the National Policy Statement on freshwater management.   | d) No provision has been made for additional work that could arise from a National Policy Statement on freshwater management. |
| e) Whether the estimated general rate:user pays split of 69:31 to fund water investigations and monitoring (starting in 2010/11) will change as a result of further community consultation and variations in planned work programmes in each year. | e) Provision has been made based on a general rate:user pays split of 69:31.  |



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

#### 1 Strategy

##### Year 2009/10 to 2011/12

- Contribute funds to support the Canterbury Water Management Strategy on behalf of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

#### 2 Investigations

##### Year 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Investigate surface water quality issues, including the effects of land use and management.
- Investigate groundwater quality issues, including the effects of land use and management.
- Investigate surface water issues needed to support development of flow regimes.
- Investigate water quality for Living Streams catchments and other community-based projects to benchmark water quality and assess the effectiveness of management initiatives.
- Investigate groundwater resources to characterise aquifers and develop/refine allocation limits, and investigate how seasonal variability in water levels can be reflected in how a groundwater zone is managed.

### 3 Planning and consents

#### Year 2009/10 to 2010/11

- Progress the water quality and quantity chapters of the Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan through the Environment Court.

#### Year 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Continue to review environmental flows on key rivers and streams in Canterbury.
- Ensure district and city plans give effect to regional policies for managing water quality and quantity.
- Work with communities to develop non-statutory catchment management plans.
- Implement groundwater management systems to address flows in lowland streams and provide certainty to existing users in the Rakaia-Selwyn area and other priority areas.
- Implement the National Environmental Standard on Human Drinking Water Sources.
- Process resource consent applications.
- Review resource consent applications.

### 4 Monitoring

#### Year 2009/10 to 2011/12

- Increase the surface water flow monitoring network to include more lowland streams, and extend the water quality network to include more urban streams, inland lakes and coastal lakes/lagoons.
- Continue to expand the groundwater monitoring systems particularly into South Canterbury.

#### Year 2008/9 to 2012/13

- Support the installation of water measuring devices by consent holders, and establish systems for receiving and reporting the water use data as mandated by consent conditions and the upcoming National Environmental Standard on Measurement of Water Takes.

#### Year 2008/9 to 2018/19

- Monitor groundwater levels, river flows and rainfall at representative sites.
- Monitor groundwater quality at representative sites.
- Monitor surface water quality at representative sites on rivers, lakes and tributaries.
- Monitor recreational water quality.
- Monitor aquatic ecosystem health at representative sites.
- Monitor water use.
- Publish results of monitoring programmes.
- Compile data for the Regional Environment Report.

### 5 Communicating, educating and advocating

#### Year 2009/10

- Work with the Primary Sector Water Partnership to establish an approach to address issues raised in the Regional Environmental Report.

#### Year 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Work with community groups to improve water quality by adopting the Living Streams approach, participation in Waterwatch and an improving urban waterway health programme.
- Provide the Waitaha Wai programme to schools, with those in Living Streams catchments being a priority.
- Provide information about water resources to resource users and other interested parties, particularly through the annual State of the Water Resource report.
- Respond to requests for information about water resources from the public, consultants, researchers and other interested parties.
- Work with consent holders on initiatives to improve water use efficiency as water measurement systems are established throughout the region.

### 6 Regulating

#### Year 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 quarterly.
- Provide a Pollution Hotline Response Service.
- Promote and enforce compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991.

# LEVELS OF SERVICE



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

Levels of Service	Community Outcomes					
	Water is in a healthy condition, clean and plentiful enough to support life	Business and farming activities do not harm the environment	Environment, in general, is to be looked after	Native plants and animals can thrive	Recreational needs are met	A strong economy
1 Implementing sustainable allocation limits for groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Setting sustainable environmental flows for key rivers and streams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Ensuring nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in groundwater meet New Zealand drinking water standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Safeguarding community drinking water supply bores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Improving recreational water quality at swimming sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Maintaining the ecosystem health of lakes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Improving the ecosystem health of lowland and foothill rivers and streams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Working with territorial authorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Authorising and monitoring the use of natural and physical resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

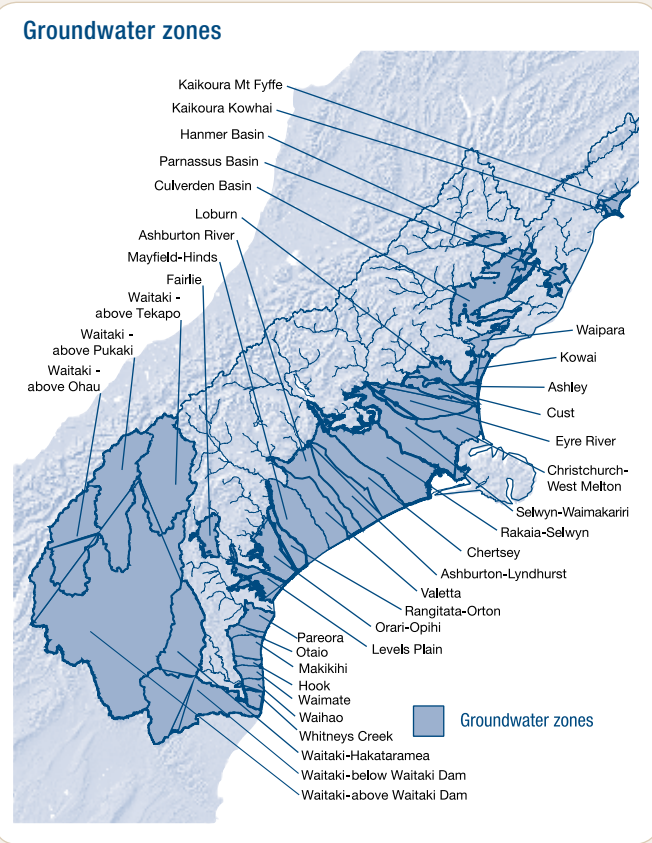
Environment Canterbury's contribution will be reported on each year in our annual report.

## OUR LEVELS OF SERVICE

### 1 Implementing sustainable allocation limits for groundwater

**MEASURE**  
The rate at which sustainable allocation limits<sup>1</sup> are implemented for groundwater zones.

**TARGET**  
One zone every two years.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Limits are set in the Proposed Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP, Variation 4, 2007).  
<sup>2</sup> Rakaia Selwyn by 2010/11.

## 2 Setting sustainable environmental flows for key rivers and streams

### MEASURE

The rate at which environmental flows are set on all key rivers and streams.

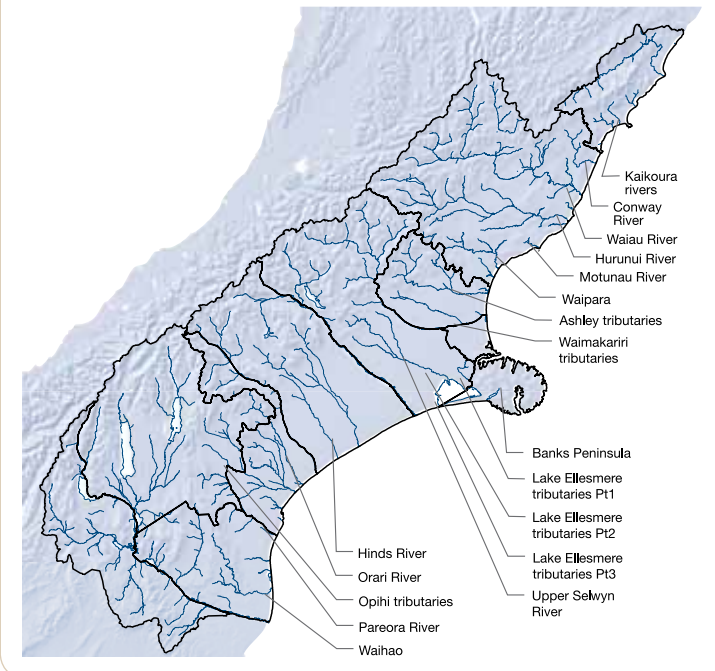
### TARGET

See table below.

Environmental Flow Review Programme			
Key rivers or catchments	Community consultation and investigations	Notify Environmental Flow review	Set environmental flows
Kaikoura rivers	Completed	Completed	2009/10 (with PNRRP) <sup>3</sup>
Hurunui River	Completed	Completed	2009/10 (with PNRRP)
Waipara River	Completed	2009/10	2009/10
Motunau River	Completed	Completed	2009/10 (with PNRRP)
Lake Ellesmere tributaries Pt1, Pt2, Pt3 and upper Selwyn	Commenced 2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Conway River	Completed	Completed	2009/10 (with PNRRP)
Waihao River	Completed	Completed	2009/10 (with PNRRP)
Pareora River	Commenced 2008/09	2009/10	2009/10
Waiiau River	Begins 2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Ashley River tributaries	Commenced 2008/09	2010/11	2010/11
Waimakariri River tributaries	Commenced 2008/09	2010/11	2010/11
Orari River	Commenced 2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Hinds River	Begins 2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Banks Peninsula	Begins 2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Opihi River tributaries	Begins 2010/11	2011/12	2012/13

Source: Environment Canterbury.

### Location of key rivers and streams



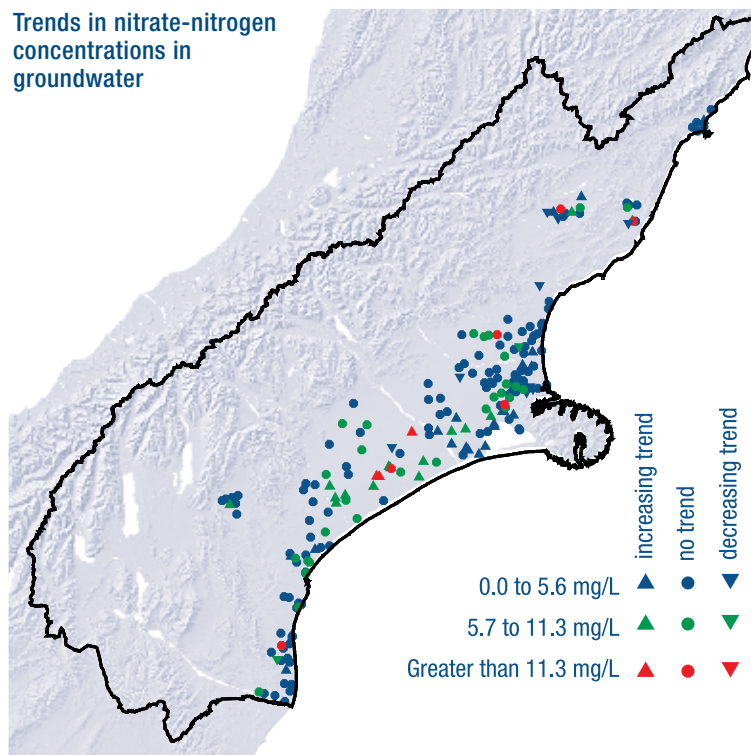
### 3 Ensuring nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in groundwater meet New Zealand drinking water standards

#### MEASURE

The percentage of monitored groundwater wells where nitrate-nitrogen concentrations are at or below the maximum acceptable value of 11.3 milligrams of nitrate per litre of water.<sup>4</sup>

#### TARGET

The percentage is increasing.



Source: Environment Canterbury.

### 4 Safeguarding community drinking water supply bores

#### MEASURE

The percentage of community drinking water supply bores that exceed half the maximum acceptable value of 11.3 milligrams of nitrate per litre of water where intervention assessments take place.

#### TARGET

100%.

	TREND 1998-2007			total
	increase	none	decrease	
<b>0 - 5.6 mg/L</b>	▲	●	▼	
number of sites	24	116	9	<b>149</b>
percentage of monitored sites	12%	57%	4%	<b>73%</b>
<b>5.7 - 11.3 mg/L</b>	▲	●	▼	
number of sites	15	30	2	<b>47</b>
percentage of monitored sites	7%	15%	1%	<b>23%</b>
<b>greater than 11.3 mg/L</b>	▲	●	▼	
number of sites	3	6	0	<b>9</b>
percentage of monitored sites	1%	3%	0%	<b>4%</b>
<b>total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>205</b>
	<b>20%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Environment Canterbury.

<sup>4</sup> Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand 2005 (Revised 2008), Wellington: Ministry of Health. October 2008. Groundwater is the receiving environment for a number of contaminants from natural and human activities on the land. An indicator of the general state of groundwater quality is the presence of nitrogen because of grazing animals, fertiliser use, septage disposal and other waste disposal which contribute nitrogen.

### 5 Improving recreational water quality at swimming sites

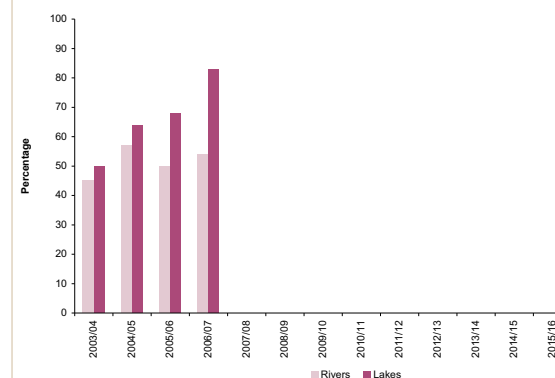
#### MEASURE

The percentage of monitored swimming sites at rivers and lakes that are suitable for contact recreation, all or most of the time.

#### TARGET

The percentage is increasing.

#### Percentage of swimming sites at lakes and rivers graded as suitable for contact recreation



Source: Environment Canterbury.

Note: A site is considered suitable for contact recreation when it receives a "Suitability For Contact Recreation Grade" of fair, good or very good, as defined in the Microbiological Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Freshwater Recreational Areas (2003). 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.

Recreational swimming water quality results are published on the Environment Canterbury website.

Estuaries that are predominantly freshwater, such as the Waimakariri and Ashley river mouths, are included in this group of activities. Saline estuaries, such as Avon-Heathcote/Ihutai, are included in the Coastal environment group of activities.

## 6 Maintaining the ecosystem health of lakes

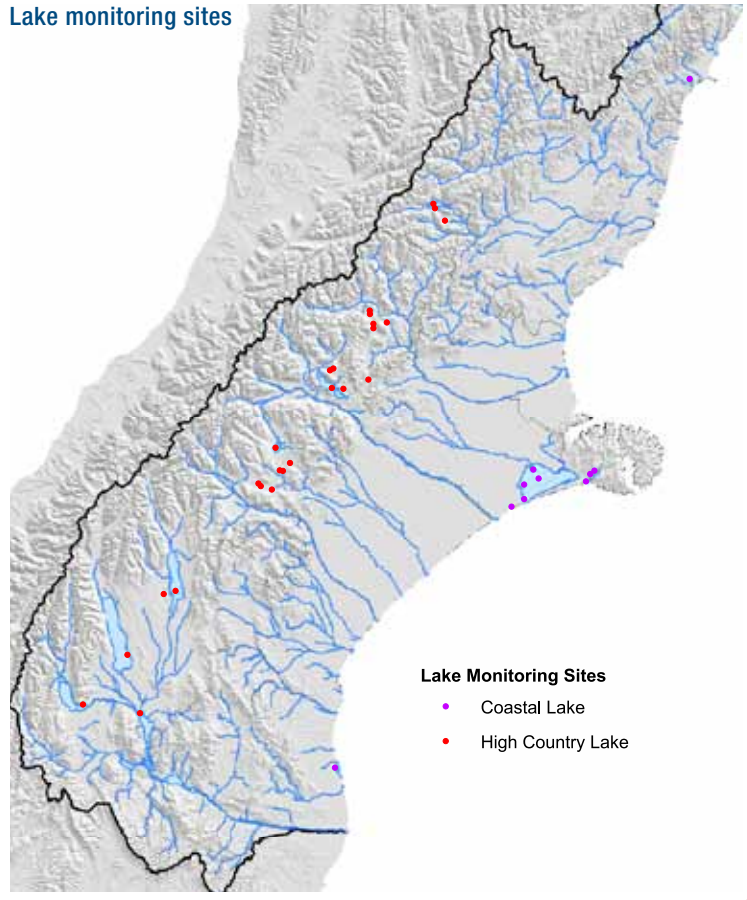
### MEASURE

The percentage of coastal and high country lakes monitored recording an improved trophic state.<sup>5</sup>

### TARGET

The percentage is increasing.

#### Lake monitoring sites



<sup>5</sup> Trophic state is a measure used to report on the nutrient status of lakes in New Zealand, generally using indicators of nitrogen, phosphorus, algal biomass, and visual clarity.

## 7 Improving the ecosystem health of foothill and lowland rivers and streams

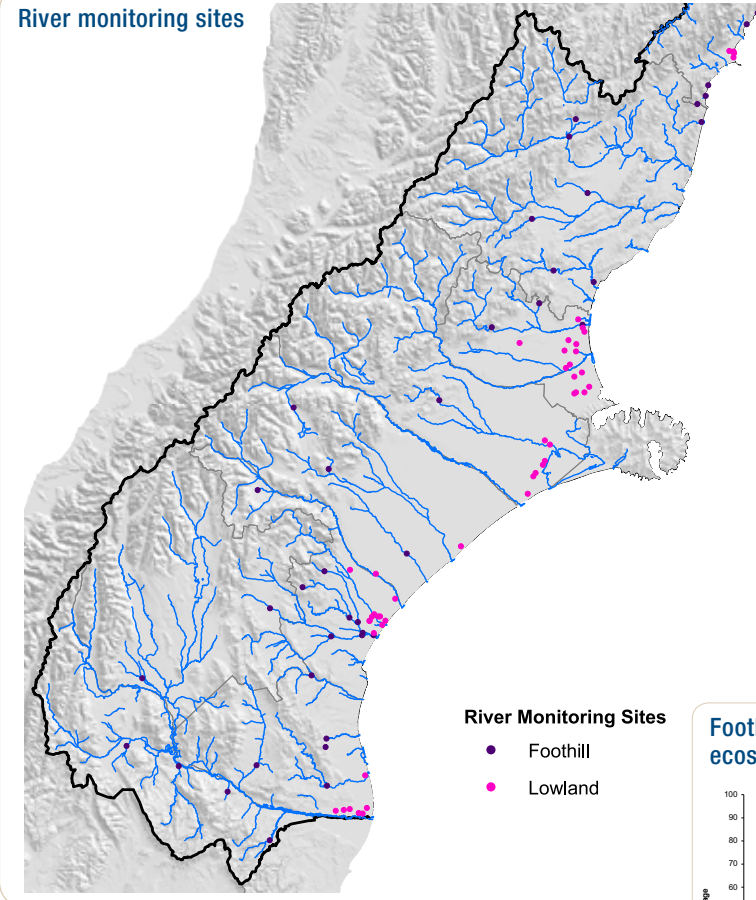
### MEASURE

The percentage of rivers and streams monitored recording fair, good or very good biotic and habitat health (on a scale of very poor, poor, fair, good, and very good).

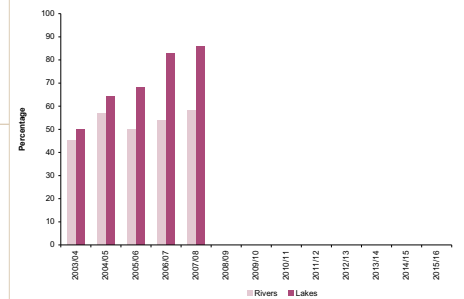
### TARGET

The percentage is increasing.

#### River monitoring sites



#### Foothill and lowland river and stream ecosystem health



Source: Environment Canterbury.

## 8 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 water.

### 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

<sup>6</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>7</sup> For measures 2 and 3 data collection started in 2007/08.

<sup>8</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>9</sup> Means re-assessed as Grade 1 – Fully complying or Grade 2 – Minor non-compliance – nil or minor short-term adverse environmental effects.

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

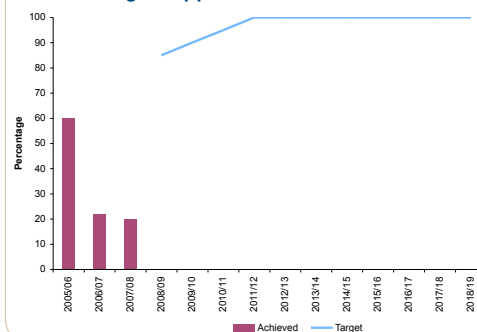
### MEASURE 1

The percentage of freshwater 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>6</sup>

#### Processing of applications



Source: Resource Management Act database.

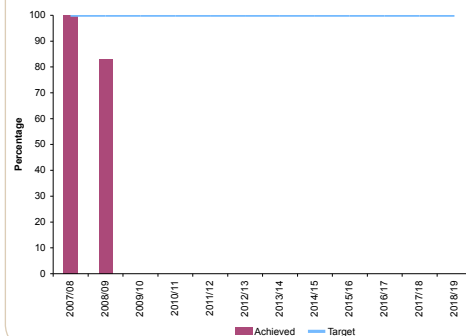
### MEASURE 2

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

### TARGET

100%.<sup>7</sup>

#### Consents consistent with RMA



Source: External audit of sample of issued consents.

### MEASURE 3

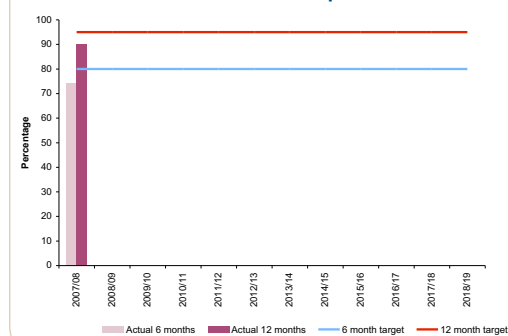
The percentage of significant or major non-compliance<sup>8</sup> with freshwater resource consent conditions resolved<sup>9</sup> (no further action is required).

### TARGET

80% are resolved in six months.<sup>7</sup>

95% are resolved in 12 months.<sup>7</sup>

#### Consent condition non-compliance resolved



Source: External audit of sample of issued consents.

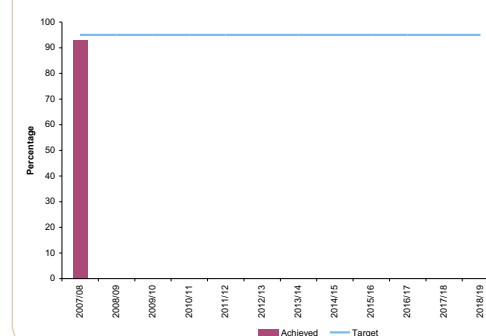
### MEASURE 4

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

### TARGET

95%.<sup>7</sup>

#### Incidents resolved



Source: External audit of sample of issued consents.

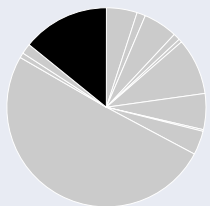
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Asset management and capital expenditure

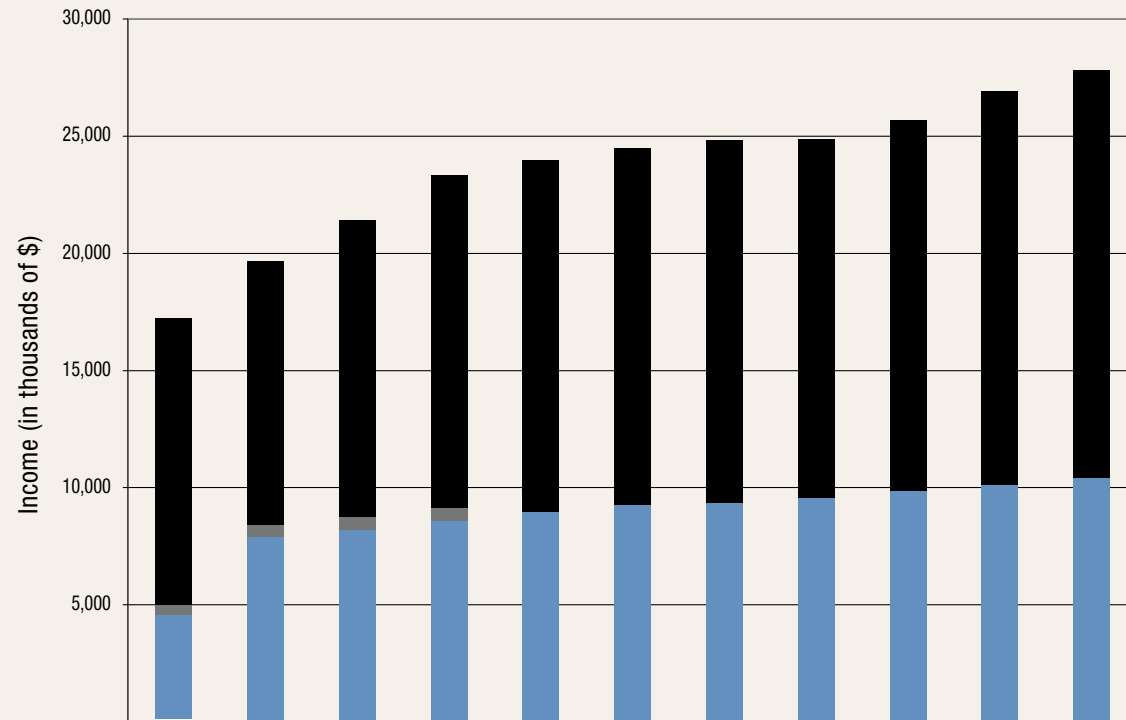
See Appendix 3 for information on assets involved in this group of activities.

## 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	151	128	108	108	111	111	111	111	111	111	111
User Pays/Other	4,410	5,629	8,110	8,492	8,854	9,142	9,212	9,473	9,745	10,023	10,315
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Targeted Rates	431	515	533	545	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Rates	12,233	13,428	12,657	14,177	14,977	15,207	15,505	15,294	15,823	16,800	17,398
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>17,225</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>21,408</b>	<b>23,322</b>	<b>23,942</b>	<b>24,460</b>	<b>24,828</b>	<b>24,878</b>	<b>25,679</b>	<b>26,934</b>	<b>27,824</b>
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>17,697</b>	<b>19,990</b>	<b>21,408</b>	<b>23,322</b>	<b>23,942</b>	<b>24,460</b>	<b>24,828</b>	<b>24,878</b>	<b>25,679</b>	<b>26,934</b>	<b>27,824</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(472)</b>	<b>(290)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

# Funding for Water Management Cost Recovery

## What the Council decided

### THE DRAFT 2009-19 LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN PROPOSED THAT FUNDING FOR WATER INVESTIGATIONS AND MONITORING (2009/10 \$7.1M) IS FUNDED AS FOLLOWS:

- Basic water resource management costs for monitoring and investigations are funded 100% from general rates (\$4.9M).
- Additional costs for monitoring and investigations are funded 100% from consent holders (\$2.2M).

For 2009/10 approximately 70% of these costs (\$4.9M) would be funded by general rates and 30% (\$2.2M) from consent holders.

The proposed split recognises that most of the benefits accrue to the wider regional community, but that a portion of the costs should be funded by resource users in recognition that they are driving additional work requirements.

### BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

Increasing pressure on use of the region's water resources, particularly for irrigation, has led to an increase in the amount of work required to manage the resource sustainably. While direct costs associated with individual resource consents are paid for by the consent holder, the growing demand for water is such that significantly more investigation and monitoring work, to a more exacting standard, is now required to manage the overall water resource.

In addition, there is also greater pressure on water quality due to the increase in abstractions, intensification of rural and urban land use, and an increase in consents to discharge water to land or waterways – this includes discharges of effluent and by-products from industrial processes.

Currently, all investigations and monitoring work is funded 100% from general rates levied across all ratepayers in Canterbury.

When looking at how it funds different work programmes, Environment Canterbury is required to consider how the benefits are distributed between the community as a whole, parts of the community, and individuals. It must also take into account the extent to which the actions of particular individuals or a group cause Environment Canterbury to undertake additional work.<sup>10</sup> In this instance, the increase in demand for water is driving the additional work required.

Two funding options were considered:

1. Continuing with the status quo, i.e. 100% general rate funding.
2. Keeping significant general rate funding, and attributing some costs to resource consent holders.

If option 2 were chosen, Environment Canterbury would establish 10 water management accountability zones with representation from local interests. See the map in Appendix 5, page 175.

In reviewing the funding options, two main types of beneficiaries of water investigations and monitoring work have been identified – the wider community and individual consent holders.

### COUNCIL'S DECISION

The council adopted the funding policy for recovering water management costs from consent holders via Section 36 RMA charges, but agreed to defer implementation of charges for water management cost recovery for 12 months to allow time to consult further with stakeholders and consent holders.

### WHAT THE SUBMITTERS TOLD US

Over half of the submissions related to water management cost recovery. Of the 360 submissions, 320 were opposed to seeking \$2.2M from consent holders to pay for 31% of the council's water resource investigations and monitoring work (previously 100% was paid for under general rates across all ratepayers). The proposal, in response to increasing pressure on water resources, drew widespread opposition from irrigators, as well as hydro-electricity generators, Federated Farmers and three district councils.

Because of the number of submitters who raised concerns around the details of the proposal, the Council decided to defer water management cost recovery for 12 months to allow more time for consultation with stakeholders. In the meantime, this work will continue to be funded by general rates.

<sup>10</sup> Local Government Act 2002