

Corporate & democratic process



The corporate and democratic process group of activities contributes to the following community outcomes:

- Refer to community outcomes listed for all other groups of activities

Environment Canterbury is the lead agency for providing democratic and effective regional government (Local Government Act 2002, Local Electoral Act 2001, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, Resource Management Act 1991). It is also the lead agency for over-arching regional planning (Resource Management Act 1991).

KEY ISSUES FOR 2010/11

Increasing community engagement in decision-making

Experience has shown that engaging the community in decision-making processes produces the best long-term results that meet community needs. Engagement can range from involvement in council meetings and community consultation processes through to working collaboratively with communities, stakeholders, industries and other government agencies to develop policies and find local solutions to local issues.

Informing the community about decision-making

Environment Canterbury needs to be accountable to the community. There is a need to continue to explore, identify and make use of the most appropriate tools to continue keeping Environment Canterbury's diverse audiences up-to-date and informed.

Environmental leadership

Environment Canterbury has a key role to play in providing leadership for the long-term management of the region's natural resources. This relies on the continued development of a policy framework, via the Regional Policy Statement, and the provision of up-to-date information on which to base decision-making. An ongoing process is required to ensure Environment Canterbury's plans and policies are implemented and reviewed appropriately.

Stakeholder relationships

Environment Canterbury recognises the importance of having strong relationships with key partners and stakeholders. This includes Māori and tangata whenua and district and city councils. Working collaboratively to identify and develop solutions to resolve issues leads to better results for all parties.

Which key issues have changed since the 2009-19 LTCCP?

No change.



Effect on the four well-beings

Providing the community with opportunities to participate in council processes contributes to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being. There are no negative effects on well-being.

Involving the community

- The Canterbury community would normally elect a new council to govern Environment Canterbury every three years. However, the councillors have been replaced by commissioners and elections will not take place in 2010/11. Council elections will be reinstated by 2013 at the latest.
- People regularly make submissions on Environment Canterbury's Long Term Council Community Plans, Annual Plans and other key documents.
- Stakeholder agencies and interest groups are providing input into the review of each chapter of the Regional Policy Statement (the statement will go through a public consultation process).

What's changed above since the 2009-19 LTCCP?

Environment Canterbury's contract with the Chatham Islands Council to provide regional council functions, which ended in January 2009, has been renewed through to June 2012.

Opportunities to vote for councillors have been temporarily suspended by the Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Act 2010, but will be reinstated under the Act by 2013 at the latest.

UNCERTAINTIES

For 2010/11, the following is uncertain:

- a) There is some uncertainty about possible changes to the Local Government Act around future Long Term Council plans.
- b) It is currently uncertain how long the commissioners will remain in their role, but the Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Act 2010 provides for local elections to be reinstated by 2013 at the latest.

ASSUMPTIONS

For 2010/11, it is assumed that:

- a) These changes will not affect this Annual Plan.
- b) The commissioners will be in place over the life of this Annual Plan.



OUR ACTIVITIES

Priority in 2010/11

The main focus for this group of activities is ensuring representation of community interests in council decision-making processes.

WE WILL UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

Strategy

Developing regional strategies to ensure that Environment Canterbury achieves the community outcomes defined in the Corporate and democratic process portfolio.

Investigations

Investigating requests under the official information legislation.

Planning & consents

Developing policy that contributes to achievement of community outcomes and monitors progress.

Monitoring

Monitoring awareness of Environment Canterbury's functions, performance and key issues.

Operations

Undertaking work to meet Environment Canterbury's Corporate and democratic process responsibilities.

Communicating, educating & advocating

Communicating with, educating and influencing stakeholders and the public about regional issues and activities. Seeking feedback and input from the community and ratepayers in developing appropriate responses to issues of concern. Also promoting Environment Canterbury's functions and key decision-making.

Our work programmes in 2010/11

Strategy

- Develop strategy options to address issues identified in the Regional Environment Report and through other community consultation processes.
- Assess implementation and effectiveness of plans and strategies.
- Progress the review of the Regional Policy Statement.

Investigations

- Investigate official information requests.
- Respond to requests from the Ombudsmen.

Planning & consents

- Hold council, committee and area committee meetings.
- Work with the community and other local authorities in the region to ensure there is a collaborative governance approach to developing and achieving community outcomes.
- Adopt 2011/12 Annual Plan.

Monitoring

- Monitor residents' awareness and general satisfaction.
- Monitor residents' views on key issues.
- Include public feedback in work programme planning.

Operations

- Provide public access to Environment Canterbury archives.
- Provide regional council functions under contract to the Chatham Islands Council.

Communicating, educating & advocating

- Proactively ensure that the community is aware of significant regional issues and Environment Canterbury's response to those issues.
- Maintain relationships with key stakeholders and the community.
- Respond effectively to requests for information from the public.
- Provide access to information through the Environment Canterbury website and other channels.
- Report on Environment Canterbury's contribution to community outcomes.
- Encourage residents to undertake activities which enhance the region's natural and physical environment.
- Publish annual achievements and outputs through the annual report.
- Provide opportunities for community feedback on issues of concern.
- Have a presence at community events which provides channels for informing, educating and influencing the community.
- Provide education on environmental sustainability, including the support and co-ordination of the Enviroschools programme.

What work programmes have changed since the 2009-19 LTCCP?

No council elections will be held in 2010/11.

OUR LEVELS OF SERVICE

How Environment Canterbury's levels of service relate to the community outcomes

Refer to community outcomes listed for all other groups of activities

Levels of Service	Community Outcomes
1 Providing environmental leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Providing value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Making decisions that reflect the best interests of the community	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Providing customer service	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Raising awareness and understanding of Canterbury's natural resource issues	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environment Canterbury's contribution will be reported on each year in our Annual Report.

1 Providing environmental leadership

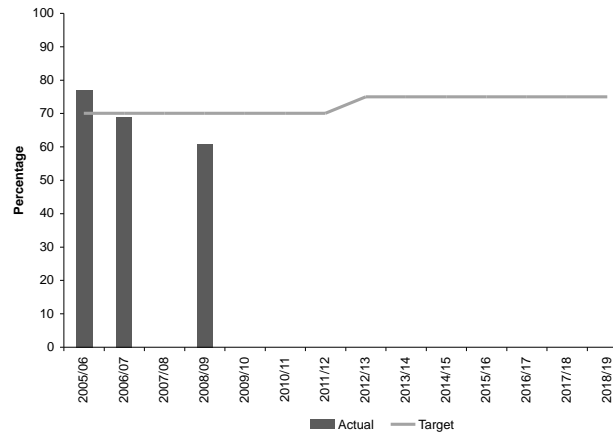
Measure 1

Percentage of the community who consider Environment Canterbury to be the lead agency in environmental management in the region.

Target

70%.

PUBLIC AWARENESS



Source: Environment Canterbury two-yearly survey.

Measure 2

The availability of information about the effectiveness of Environment Canterbury's regional policy statement and regional plan(s).

Target

See table.

REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT & PLANS	Year findings reported
Land and Vegetation Management Regional Plan Part I and II 1997	2010/11
Land and Vegetation Management Regional Plan Part IV 2005	2010/11
Waimakariri River Regional Plan 2004	2010/11
Opihi River Regional Plan 2000	2010/11

② Providing value for money

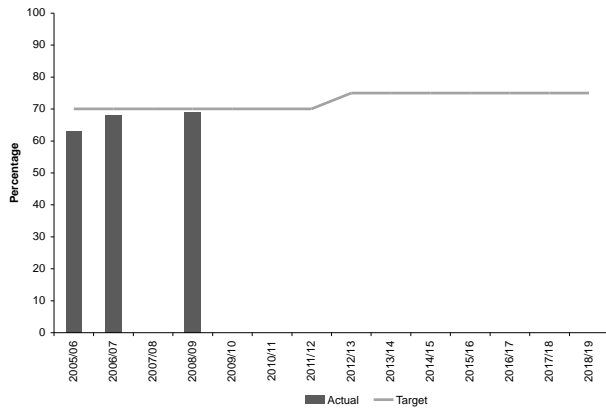
Measure

Percentage of the community who feel they get good value for money spent by Environment Canterbury.

Target

70%.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION



Source: Environment Canterbury two-yearly survey.

③ Making decisions that reflect the best interests of the community

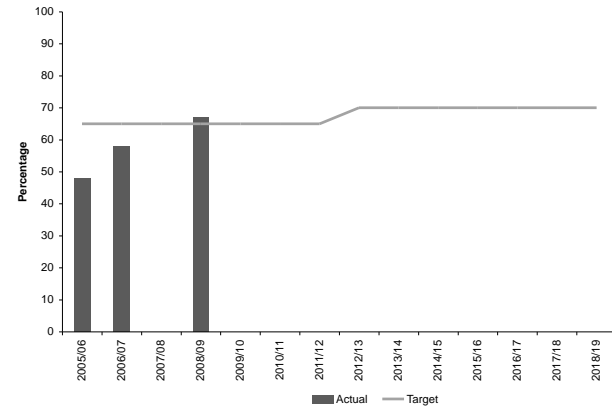
Measure

Percentage of the community who say they have faith that decisions made by Environment Canterbury represent the best interests of the community.

Target

65%.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION



Source: Environment Canterbury two-yearly survey.

④ Providing customer service

Measure

Percentage of people using Environment Canterbury's Customer Services Call Centre who are satisfied with the service received.

Target

90% of customers rate the service as good or very good (on a scale of very poor, poor, fair, good and very good).¹

⑤ Raising awareness & understanding of Canterbury's natural resource issues

Measure

Participants' rating of the success of sustainability education programmes in raising awareness and understanding of Canterbury's natural resource issues.

Target

95% of participants rate the programmes' success as good, very good or excellent (on a scale of dreadful, very poor, poor, good, very good and excellent).¹

¹ These targets were introduced in 2009/10 so no previous data is available.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

\$'000	Annual Report 2008/09	Annual Plan 2009/10	LTCCP 2010/11	Annual Plan 2010/11
Total Expenditure	6,865	8,235	8,708	8,856
<i>Funded by:</i>				
General rates	6,356	7,099	7,529	7,761
Targeted rates	-	-	-	-
User pays/Other	606	992	1,032	971
Grants	41	83	84	69
Interest	40	61	63	35
Total Income	7,043	8,235	8,708	8,836
Reserves Increase/(Decrease)	178	-	-	(20)

Asset management & capital expenditure

There are no significant assets involved in this group of activities.

How this work is funded

For more information on source of funds and rationale for selection, see:

- Funding and Financial Policies 2009, Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-19 Part B.
- Rating information on pages 99-110.

What's changed in this financial summary since the 2009-19 LTCCP?

Strategic initiatives are now included within the corporate and democratic process group of activities where previously this work was allocated across all the groups of activities transferring the cost and associated general rate funding to this group of activities.

