

Waste, hazardous substances & contaminated sites



The waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites group of activities contributes to the following community outcomes:

- Environment, in general, is to be looked after
- Business and farming activities do not harm the environment

Environment Canterbury is responsible for managing the discharge of contaminants to the environment and the investigation of land for the purposes of identifying and monitoring contaminated land (Resource Management Act 1991). Environment Canterbury contributes to preventing and mitigating any adverse effects of waste and specific hazardous substances (Resource Management Act 1991). As a regional council it also has the ability to enforce the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. Environment Canterbury is the lead agency for managing the discharge of contaminants to the environment and, as a joint lead agency, works collaboratively with territorial authorities, property owners and businesses on the management of hazardous substances.

KEY ISSUES FOR 2010/11

Hazardous substances¹ & contamination

The inappropriate storage, use and transport of hazardous substances can lead to the contamination of soil, water and air and can significantly affect human health. Where sites are contaminated, there is a need for them to be identified and cleaned up. In some cases there is a need to take steps to prevent contamination from being spread.

Waste

The rate at which waste is generated is increasing at unsustainable levels. Poor management and disposal of hazardous waste including illegal dumping, can lead to the contamination of soil, water and air, and can significantly affect human health.

Pollution response

Hazardous substance and waste spillage can have an impact on the environment and human health. A prompt and efficient response system is essential.

Industry contribution

Industry can play a significant role in reducing risks to the environment through the correct use, storage and transportation of waste and hazardous substances.

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

There is increasing evidence that the illegal disposal of waste is occurring on private land on a scale that has adverse consequences for the environment.

¹ Hazardous substances can include substances that have one of the following properties: explosiveness, flammability, a capacity to oxidise, corrosiveness, or toxicity (including chronic toxicity, with or without bioaccumulation).



Effect on the four well-beings

Cleaner air, land and water results in increased social and environmental well-being. However, meeting the cost of complying with conditions for permitted and consented activities may have a negative effect on the economic well-being of the community.

Involving the community

- The Canterbury Waste Joint Committee, comprised of representatives from Environment Canterbury and district and city councils, develops regional waste minimisation initiatives and improves the management of hazardous waste.

UNCERTAINTIES	ASSUMPTIONS
For 2010/11, the following is uncertain:	For 2010/11, it is assumed that:
a) The quantity of unwanted and out-of-date agrichemicals remaining within Canterbury.	a) That sufficient provision has been made to collect all unwanted and out-of-date agrichemicals by 2014.
b) Whether a national product stewardship programme will be established to collect unwanted agrichemicals.	b) A national production stewardship programme will be established by 2012, replacing the current targeted agrichemical collection.
c) How much work will be required to implement the National Environmental Standard for contaminated land due to be released in 2011.	c) No provision has been made for additional work arising from a National Environmental Standard for contaminated land.
<i>Which uncertainties have changed since the 2009-19 LTCCP?</i> <i>No change.</i>	<i>Which assumptions have changed since the 2009-19 LTCCP?</i> <i>No change.</i>

OUR ACTIVITIES

Priority in 2010/11

The focus for this group of activities is on **working with businesses and landowners to promote better use and storage of hazardous substances and waste, and management of contaminated sites.**

WE WILL UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

Investigations

Investigating issues related to waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites.

Planning & consents

Developing policy and managing waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites, assessing policy implementation and effectiveness and processing resource consent applications.

Monitoring

Collecting information on waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites.

Operations

Providing services to the community to manage specific wastes, and to encourage the investigation and clean-up of contaminated land.

Communicating, educating & advocating

Providing education and training and advocacy in relation to waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites.

Regulating

Managing discharges of contaminants into or onto land or water, or to use land to store hazardous substances through a combination of statutory and non-statutory approaches.

Our work programmes in 2010/11

Investigations

- Investigate potentially contaminated sites.
- Investigate new hazardous waste initiatives in conjunction with territorial authorities.

Planning & consents

- Ensure city and district plans give effect to regional policies for managing waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites. Work collaboratively with territorial authorities during District Plan amendments to ensure alignment with regional policy.
- Process resource consent applications.

Monitoring

- Audit contaminated site reports.
- Collect and collate data on waste and hazardous substances.
- Compile data for the Regional Environment Report.

Operations

- Implement the Canterbury Targeted Agrichemical Collection Programme.

Communicating, educating & advocating

- Maintain a database of contaminated and potentially contaminated land, and make it available to the public through information requests, LIM and PIMs.
- Raise awareness of contaminated site issues and management.
- Raise awareness of hazardous substances and waste issues and management.
- Encourage businesses to implement the Pollution Prevention Guide.

Regulating

- Advise on, and monitor compliance with, requirements of the Resource Management Act including resource consent conditions.
- Investigate breaches of the Resource Management Act, including resource consent conditions, facilitate appropriate steps to remedy or mitigate adverse effects, and take enforcement action where required.
- Report significant breaches of the Resource Management Act to council three times a year.
- Provide a Pollution Hotline Response Service.

What's changed in our work programmes since the 2009-19 LTCCP?

Funding for local waste exchanges has been discontinued.

OUR LEVELS OF SERVICE

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

Levels of Service	Community Outcomes	
	Environment, in general, is to be looked after	Business and farming activities do not harm the environment
1 Providing advice on preventing pollution from industrial and commercial sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Removing and disposing of existing unwanted agrichemicals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Identifying contaminated sites and encouraging those with responsibility for the contamination to remediate or mitigate the effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Providing accurate information about the risks of exposure to contaminated land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Working with territorial authorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Authorising and monitoring the use of natural and physical resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1 Providing advice on preventing pollution from industrial & commercial sites

Measure

The number of sites that receive a site assessment and guidance on pollution prevention each year.

Target

See table.

Note: It is estimated that there are 7000 industrial sites in Christchurch alone that would benefit from this region-wide programme. Initially, priority will be given to businesses that handle or produce significant quantities of hazardous substances as these pose the greatest risk to the environment.

This programme was expanded in 2005/06 and again in 2006/07. The number of businesses that will be assisted in each year is estimated. The targets will be reviewed in the light of experience and updated if required.

NUMBER OF BUSINESS SITES		
2006/07	Actual	236
2007/08	Actual	200
2008/09	Actual	269
2009/10	Target	320
2010/11	Target	320*

Source: Environment Canterbury records.

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

*Proposed increase in communications and monitoring activities (1 staff position) was removed from the budget, therefore the target for 2010/11 has been reduced from 400 to 320 site visits.

2 Removing & disposing of existing unwanted agrichemicals

Measure

The number of territorial authorities that have completed the Canterbury Targeted Agrichemical Collection programme.

Target

See table.

Note: This programme started in 2003/04 and is planned for completion in 2013/14.

Banks Peninsula is now part of the Christchurch City Council. Targets are:

NUMBER OF TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAMME		
2006/07	Actual	7
2007/08	Actual	10
2008/09	Actual	10
2009/10	Target	9
2010/11	Target	9

Source: Environment Canterbury records.

③ Identifying contaminated sites & encouraging remediation or mitigation of the effects

Measure 1

The number of territorial authorities where all land with activities listed on the Hazardous Activities and Industries List (HAIL) has been identified, and registered on the Listed Land Use Register and screened for risk.

Target

See table.

NUMBER OF TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES		
2006/07	Actual	0
2007/08	Actual	1
2008/09	Actual	3
2009/10	Target	3
2010/11	Target	4

Source: Environment Canterbury records.

Measure 2

The percentage of contaminated sites identified as having an impact on the environment that are remediated.

Target

The percentage is increasing.

④ Providing accurate information about the risks of exposure to contaminated land

Measure

The availability of up-to-date information on Environment Canterbury's website answering frequently asked questions about exposure to contaminated land.

Target

Information is updated six-monthly and is available at all times.

⑤ 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 waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites.

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 partially operative Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP), or the associated variations and plan changes.

DISTRICT & CITY COUNCIL PLANS		
District plan	First plan operative	Review of plan commences
Ashburton District Plan	2001	2008
Waimate District Plan	2001	2011

⑥ Authorising & monitoring the use of natural & physical resources

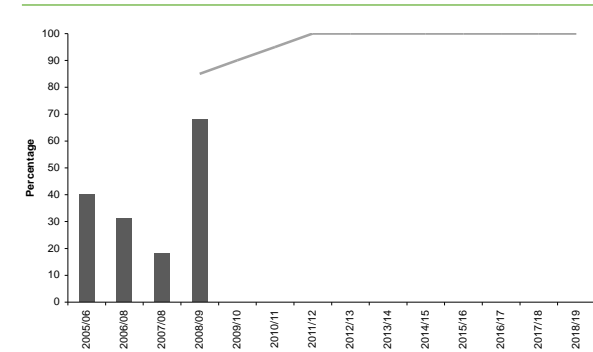
Measure 1

The percentage of discharge permits or land use resource consent applications processed in compliance with the statutory time frame set down in the Resource Management Act 1991 for waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites.

Target

100%.

PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS



Source: Environment Canterbury Resource Management Act database.

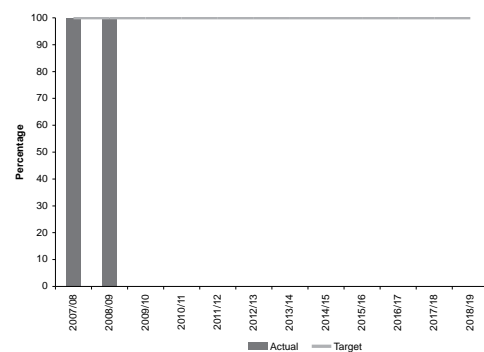
Measure 2

The percentage of discharge permits or land use resource consents consistent with Resource Management Act 1991 requirements, including proposed and operative regional plan requirements for waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites.

Target

100%.¹

CONSENTS CONSISTENT WITH RMA



Source: External audit of sample of issued consents.

Measure 3

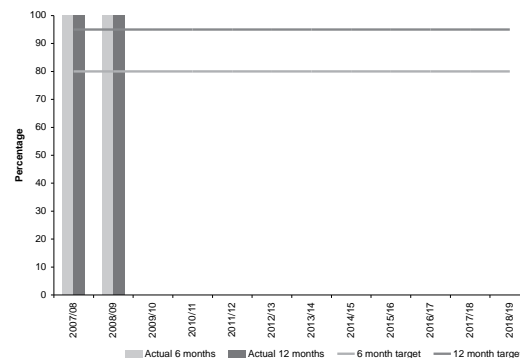
The percentage of significant or major non-compliance² with discharge permits or land use resource consent conditions resolved³ (no further action is required) for waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites.

Target

80% are resolved in six months.¹

95% are resolved in 12 months.¹

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 waste, hazardous substances and contaminated sites.

Target

95%.¹

Note: Data has not specifically been recorded against this portfolio, as these environmental incidents are reported under the air, land, water and coastal portfolios at this time.

¹ For measures 2, 3 and 4 data collection started in 2007/08.

² 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.

³ Means re-assessed as Grade 1 – Fully complying or Grade 2 – Minor non-compliance – nil or minor short-term adverse environmental effects.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

\$000	Annual Report 2008/09	Annual Plan 2009/10	LTCCP 2010/11	Annual Plan 2010/11
Total Expenditure	1,836	2,021	2,350	1,775
<i>Funded by:</i>				
General rates	1,538	1,799	2,140	1,560
Targeted rates	-	-	-	-
User pays/Other	130	105	109	100
Grants	266	103	86	107
Interest	11	14	15	8
Total Income	1,945	2,021	2,350	1,775
Reserves Increase/(Decrease)	110	-	-	-

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?

Planned site visits in relation to pollution prevention have been reduced from 400 to 320 reducing the general rate funding required. Expenditure in relation to regional sites investigations is now being held at 2009/10 levels.