

CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

Portfolio performance report

Ngā kaupapa nui mō te pūrongo mahinga

Third quarter report

1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022
(year-to-date)



Report number: R22/08

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Okains Bay

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

Local Government's mandated purpose is to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities. This framework and high-level outcome statements represent how the work of Environment Canterbury contributes to community wellbeing, intergenerational wellbeing and global sustainability goals. The framework includes:

- local government's four aspects of community wellbeing (environmental, cultural, social and economic wellbeing)
- Treasury's Living Standards four capitals (financial and physical, social, human and natural capital) for intergenerational wellbeing and
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, that capture three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental)



- Everyone can access information and participate in decision making to help shape the future of Canterbury
- Everyone has a sense of belonging/ tūrangawaewae and can enjoy the natural environment
- Communities are informed and know how they can act to contribute to a resilient and regenerating environment
- Different cultures and values are recognised and provided for

- People and goods can move safely and efficiently whilst reducing impact on the environment
- Communities are prepared and can recover from changes in the environment including floods and disasters
- Living and working environments are sustainable and contribute to healthy communities



- Ecosystems, landscapes and habitats are protected and enhanced, ki uta ki ta
- The quality of freshwater and coastal waters are protected and improved for community wellbeing
- Water quantity supports ecosystem health
- The intrinsic value of natural resources is recognised in their management and regeneration
- The economy is supported by appropriate infrastructure that protects people and assets
- There are opportunities for everyone to contribute to and benefit from a diverse, connected and thriving economy
- There are opportunities for everyone to understand and play their part in transitioning to a resilient low emissions economy



Introduction | He whakatakinga

I was pleased to see there was great interest in our consultation on the draft Annual Plan for 2022/23, in this last quarter.

We consulted on three topics throughout March, and although the ongoing effects of COVID-19 had an impact on us having in-person gatherings, staff, Council and the community all adapted to the need to focus on online engagement and we received a large number of submissions. Elected members were also kept busy getting out into the community and speaking with their constituents and community groups to encourage submissions. Having the opportunity to have a say and get involved in the process is vital to any democracy, so my thanks if you were one of the many who made a submission. Consultation closed in early April and staff are now processing and analysing the significant amount of feedback we received. Hearings (where members of the community who want to speak to their submission come and talk to the Council) are due to take place in late April before deliberations in May and a final decision in June.

COVID-19 has continued to have an impact on our operations, in particular on public transport usage during quarter three, with New Zealand being at the COVID-19 Red traffic light setting. Patronage levels were about 60 per cent of 2018/19 pre-COVID-19 levels for the same period year-to-date. With this in mind, it's good to know Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency have committed to providing financial support through fare underwriting at the normal financial assistance rate of 51% until June 2022. The cost of operating public transport has also increased this last quarter, due to rising fuel prices.

You will see that we have a new section in the report this quarter. We have elevated our reporting on the work we do with Ngāi Tahu. The relationship we have with mana whenua is central to all we do. You will find an update on the integrated planning framework we're working on in partnership with Papatipu Rūnanga, and the Ngāi Tahu Bill, among other topics on page 7.



Jenny Hughey
Chair, Environment Canterbury

Contents | Ngā wāhanga o roto

- 4 Summary information
- 6 Risks and issues
- 7 Our relationship with Ngāi Tahu
- 8 Our portfolios
- 9 Water and Land/Te Wai me Te Whenua
- 15 Biodiversity and Biosecurity/Te Rerenga Rauropi me Te Whakahaumarau Rauropi
- 21 Climate Change and Community Resilience/Te Whakamahanatanga o Te Ao me Te Aumangea o te Hapori
- 27 Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development/Te Pai o Te Hau Takiwā, Ngā Momo Waka, me Te Whanaketanga o Ngā Tāone
- 34 Regional and Strategic Leadership/Te Hautūtanga ā-Rohe, ā-Rautaki hoki

Summary information | He whakatakinga whakarāpopoto

This quarter we continued to be affected by COVID-19, with many staff absent due to illness, or unable to work as they were isolating or restricted in other ways. This affected the ability of our staff to carry out some of our work, and also impacted others that we work with. Despite these challenges, we have seen great mahi across the business and inter-agency collaboration.

One such collaboration stemmed from a large fire at Suttons Tools Ltd in Kaiapoi in the early hours of Sunday 30 January 2022. We were called to respond to a subsequent spill of an unknown quantity of oil. The response resulted in 2840 litres of oil being recovered from the Cam/Ruataniwha River, the Kaiapoi River and the Waimakariri River under the management of our Regional On-Scene Commander, Emma Parr. In addition to removing the oil, the response focused on rūnanga liaison, community communication and oiled wildlife rehabilitation. An integrated oil spill response framework was implemented, which enabled external partner agencies and internal stakeholders to work swiftly and effectively together to reduce the impact on the environment. For more on this, see page 21.

At the end of January, the majority of bus services affected by the national driver shortage returned to their normal timetables. This followed a period of eight weeks, where many routes across the network temporarily ran to a Saturday timetable.

In February, we raised the age for those eligible for the public transport child fare, taking it up to under-19. This means 18-year-olds are now eligible for child fares. Previously, when a young person turned 18, they ceased to be eligible for child fares regardless of whether they were still in school. This is one of a number of initiatives being implemented or considered to stimulate the public transport system.

One of the big milestones from quarter three was the launch of our public consultation on the draft Annual Plan for 2022/23.

We consulted on three topics throughout March and although the ongoing effects of COVID-19 had an impact on us having in-person gatherings, we were able to focus on online engagement, as well as providing information and materials to support direct engagement by our Council with community groups.

Another exciting development this last quarter was the renewal of our braided river joint funding agreement with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department of Conservation. Together we will deliver biodiversity outcomes for braided rivers across the region. This financial year, funds include support for predator control in the Upper Rakaia, bird islands and weed management in the Waiiau Toa/Clarence River, post-flood recovery of invertebrates in the Ashley River/Rakahuri and GPS tracking of coastal black-fronted terns.

Temporary repairs are now largely complete after the May/June 2021 flood event across Canterbury, but there have been several small to moderate flood events over the second half of the last quarter. While no major breakouts or significant damage were recorded, several of the previously repaired sites have required continued remedial work to reduce ongoing risk. You can see the list of flood damaged sites needing repairs and their live status at apps.canterburymaps.govt.nz/FloodRecovery.

This quarter we submitted on a number of three-waters-related discussion documents, including the proposed amendments to the Ministry for the Environment's improvements to drinking water standards consultation document. While the proposed amendments would strengthen and align national direction for protection and management of source water, we had concerns with some aspects of the proposal. We also supported the overall intent of Taumata Arowai's proposed drinking water rules and associated documents to lift performance of drinking water supplies so that all communities have access to safe drinking water every day. See page 9 for more on these submissions.





About this report

Our Long-Term Plan 2021-31 sets out our service priorities, work programmes and resource requirements for the next ten years. This performance report, for the third quarter of the financial year, describes our progress, achievements and challenges in delivering the work programmes set out for year one (2021/22) of our current Long-Term Plan.

It is prepared for the Regional and Strategic Leadership Committee of Council and for the community.

We report on activity by portfolio. There are five portfolios, and each portfolio section of this report includes information of activity by programme, and progress towards Levels of Service and key initiatives.

Where relevant, the performance report will also indicate key matters coming up over the next few months. This year, an overview of finances has been included in each portfolio section. Detailed financial reporting is received by the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee. We have also included portfolio risks and issues, and how we are mitigating those risks.

Where the status of a Level of Service or key initiative is 'at risk' or 'will not achieve', further information is provided in the programme information or a risk table.

Reporting structure 2021/22:

Quarter 1 – 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021

Quarter 2 – 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021

Quarter 3 – 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022

Annual Report – 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, full financial year (Annual Report 2021/22)

Risks and issues | Mōrearea me ngā Take

There are a number of risks and issues that affect our operations. We regularly review the status of these risks and have reported them here for transparency. These are the risks and issues that impact multiple portfolios. You will find additional portfolio-specific risks and issues at the end of each portfolio section.

Risks

Tuia partnership

While our Ngāi Tahu relationship is strong, both Environment Canterbury and Ngāi Tahu face a potential lack of capacity and capability to meet the challenges of central government and community expectations, in true partnership. If we find ourselves unable to engage with each other appropriately and in a timely manner, we risk delays in work programmes and a sub-optimal outcome for the region.

We will mitigate this risk by working collaboratively to continue to strengthen and build our ability to work effectively with each other. We will engage kanohi ki kanohi/ face to face when possible but, if that is not possible, alternative arrangements such as online tools can be used. This has been a successful approach in quarter three. We will place increased investment and development into our organisational response plan, Tuia Te Herenga, which will grow our internal capacity and ability to fulfil our obligations to Māori. We will also seek opportunities to support Papatipu Rūnanga capacity and capability growth.

Stakeholder/community relationships

If we do not maintain constructive relationships with key stakeholders (including District/City Councils, Zone Committees, industry groups, non-governmental organisations, urban and rural communities), then this could impact on our collaborative decision-making process, and delivery of strategic objectives. We will mitigate this by being clear about what we want to achieve and who we need to engage with and by ensuring we operate under the principles outlined in our Engagement, Significance and Māori Participation Policy.



Issues

Impacts of COVID-19 in the community

Widespread illness and absence from work is challenging our ability to deliver core functions and services and progress key pieces of work. This includes the ability to source supplies, find contractors, and engage with partners and key stakeholders.

We are mitigating this by developing business continuity plans for all parts of the organisation, including different ways of working for staff, to reduce the impact to the business. Some prioritisation of work is also necessary. A vaccination policy for staff and visitors has been adopted, with regular, clear communication to staff. Our response will evolve as advice from the Government is updated.

Work programme delivery

In addition to the impacts of COVID-19, our ability to deliver agreed work programmes is being affected by changing expectations (community and central government) and increasing costs. A tight labour market has presented challenges in retaining the skilled staff we have and recruitment for those we need.

We are mitigating this by continual review and revision of work programmes. Options for contracting out some work are investigated and used where appropriate and we are also continuing to explore ways to retain our talented staff.

Legislative and regulatory compliance

Uncertainty, for staff and the community, caused by recent and upcoming changes to key legislative and regulatory requirements is creating difficulties in planning and resource allocation and a lack of clarity about what is required now and what will be required in the future.

We are mitigating this by ensuring we take every opportunity to influence change, so the outcomes are informed by the interests and experiences in Canterbury. As noted above, we also regularly review our work programmes to ensure we take changing expectations into account, and we undertake targeted communication and engagement to support landholders and others to meet new requirements.

Our relationship with Ngāi Tahu | To mātau pātahitanga ki Ngāi Tahu

Our Ngāi Tahu partnership is central to all of our work. We have the Tuia Agreement with Ngā Papatipu Rūnanga and a Tuia programme of work, part of the Regional and Strategic leadership portfolio, which is about working together, shoulder to shoulder, across all of our activity to achieve better outcomes for everyone. It's about relationships, mutual respect, shared understanding and shared values. Working in partnership in this way means that we can create a sustainable environment for current and future generations – together.

Our shared vision is based on recognising the relationship between Ngāi Tahu, their ancestral land, and the fact it is inextricably affected by the work we do at Environment Canterbury.

Developing an integrated regulatory framework in partnership with Papatipu Rūnanga

We are continuing to progress the development of an integrated regulatory framework in partnership with Ngāi Tahu, taking a ki uta ki tai (mountains to sea) approach and involving the review of Canterbury's Regional Policy Statement, Regional Coastal Environment Plan and Land and Water Regional Plan. A wānanga was held with Councillors and Papatipu Rūnanga Chairs on 7 March, with the discussion focusing on what a genuine partnership could look like and how this could occur in the context of developing the integrated framework.

To support the framework, we are taking a multi-disciplinary approach to data collation and the identification of issues, involving Planning, Strategy, Science and Implementation staff. During March, a series of science and planning workshops were held to share key information and discuss issues across a range of topics, including, water (freshwater and coastal), wetlands, biodiversity, natural hazards and soil.

In quarter three, we also continued to scope and procure (from internal and external experts) the programme of technical work required to support development of the integrated plan.



Information on the work on remodelling of the air noise contours for Christchurch International Airport is included on page 35.

A comprehensive work programme has been established for the development of freshwater-related science work, based on guidance provided in the National Policy Statement – Freshwater Management 2020, including work needed to ensure the integration of land and coastal issues. All technical reports received will remain in draft until we have had the opportunity to share these with our Ngāi Tahu partners, and the requirements for further technical work will be discussed as part of the partnership process.

Our commitment to working in partnership with Papatipu Rūnanga means taking the time to ensure we get it right. While there is a lot of progress being made, and high-quality work being undertaken, this could mean that targets relating to the timeframes for some Levels of Service are at risk. Those Levels of Service are: 4 (Partner with Papatipu Rūnanga and engage with the community to inform amendments to the regulatory framework), 22 (Partner with Ngāi Tahu, city and district councils, and the community to review the Regional Coastal Environment Plan to achieve

integrated management of the Canterbury coastal and marine area) and 34 (Provide and implement a Regional Policy Statement to achieve integrated management of natural and physical resources in Canterbury – in partnership with Ngāi Tahu and the Canterbury region's territorial authorities).

Ngāi Tahu Bill

The Ngāi Tahu Bill continues to progress through Parliament. Submissions have been heard by the Māori Affairs Committee, and we thank all of those who provided written or oral submissions for their engagement in this process. The Committee will consider all the submissions and is due to report back to Parliament by 8 June at the latest.

Once the Committee has reported back to Parliament, the Bill will progress to the Second Reading, Committee of the Whole, and Third Reading. If the Bill passes each of those steps, it will then be sent to the Governor-General for Royal Assent and will become law.

Portfolios

Environment Canterbury's work is structured into five portfolios:

**WATER AND LAND/
TE WAI ME TE WHENUA**



**BIODIVERSITY AND BIOSECURITY/
TE RERENGA RAUROI ME TE
WHAKAHAUMARU RAUROI**



**CLIMATE CHANGE AND
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE/
TE WHAKAMAHAHATANGA
O TE AO ME TE AUMANGEA
O TE HAPORI**



**AIR QUALITY, TRANSPORT AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT/TE PAI
O TE HAU TAKIWĀ, NGĀ MOMO
WAKA, ME TE WHANAKETANGA
O NGĀ TĀONE**



**REGIONAL AND STRATEGIC
LEADERSHIP/TE HAUTŪTANGA
Ā-ROHE, Ā-RAUTAKI HOKI**



The following pages include key points to note for the year-to-date by portfolio.

Water and Land | Te Wai me Te Whenua

We are partnering with Ngāi Tahu to improve outcomes for freshwater and empowering and engaging communities to deliver actions on the ground to implement national direction and meet Canterbury Water Management Strategy targets.

There are six programmes in this portfolio:

- Working together for healthy water and land
- Monitoring and understanding our environment
- Freshwater regulatory framework
- Healthy waterways actions
- Stewardship of water and land
- Freshwater resilience

Overview

We are building community engagement and action as a partner within the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS), accelerating regeneration of the natural environment through zone and regional delivery projects and campaigns, taking decisive action in freshwater management, innovative approaches and fostering relationships.

Working together for healthy water and land

Canterbury Water Management Zone Committees

With the 3-Year Action Plans in place for each of the Canterbury Water Management Zone Committees, they are now working through allocating the \$50,000 Action Plan budget available to each committee.

All the projects supported align with the Zone Committees' Action Plans, with a strong focus on supporting the establishment of catchment groups across the region. One example is the Hāpuku Catchment Collective, located a short distance up the coast from Kaikōura, on the south bank of the Hāpuku River. With \$25,000 provided to support the on-the-ground actions from the Kaikōura Zone Committee, this multi-year project will focus initially on engaging with landowners to address climbing vines, along with planning other actions for next financial year.

Another project is the community-led Waikirikiri/Selwyn River catchment group development, with Element Environmental Ltd conducting Interviews with stakeholders in February 2022. This provided useful insights into priorities and where they see the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee's engagement efforts could be best directed.

In the absence of a Zone Committee or similar in the Hurunui district at present, a proposal to utilise their Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Action Plan budget is also being prepared to support an established biodiversity project on the Hurunui and Waiau rivers for this financial year.



*Ka hāhā te tuna ki te roto
Ka hāhā te reo ki te kāinga
Ka hāhā te tangata ki te whenua*

*If the lake is full of eels
If the home resounds with language
The land will be inhabited with people.*

Levels of Service:



Three Waters

This quarter we submitted on a number of three waters-related discussion documents, including:

- the proposed amendments to Ministry for the Environment's 'Improving the protection of drinking-water sources: Proposed changes to the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water) Regulations 2007' consultation document. While we support the strengthening and alignment of national direction for protection and management of source water, we had concerns with some aspects of the proposal
- in support of the overall intent of Taumata Arowai's proposed drinking water rules and associated documents to lift performance of drinking water supplies so that all communities have access to safe drinking water every day.

The technical submission supported the alignment with Te Mana o te Wai and sought clarity over the role and responsibilities of regional councils, territorial authorities, Taumata Arowai and drinking water suppliers in the management of source water.

Monitoring and understanding our environment

The groundwater team has updated the Groundwater Quality module on the LAWA website. More information on this is included in the Data for Decision making programme update on page 7.

Our summer monitoring programmes on recreational water quality and ecosystem health are coming to a close, and our students have finished their summer contracts and returned to university. For our hydrology field teams, the summer has been wetter than usual, so they stepped back from some of the low-flow gaugings they normally do during the summer, and instead put more time into gauging high flows to help improve the accuracy of our flow rating curves.

Annual soil monitoring programmes progressed over the summer, and further fish surveys were completed in a study of the fish community in the Rakaia hāpua. Work is also well underway on new processes to collect, validate and store data on water use in the region.

Monitoring for potentially toxic cyanobacteria

The summertime contact-recreation monitoring programme has traditionally focused on monitoring for faecal indicator bacteria *E. coli* in rivers or *Enterococci* in coastal waters. This assesses the human health risk of becoming ill from ingesting or inhaling pathogens in recreational waters and remains an important component of the summertime monitoring programme.

However, monitoring for blooms of potentially toxic cyanobacteria in our rivers and lakes has become increasingly important and issuing of health warnings for toxic cyanobacteria blooms is now commonplace during summer in Canterbury. In the marine environment, shellfish warnings are issued by the Ministry of Primary Industries based on their monitoring.

Cyanobacteria are not restricted to Canterbury waters. Within the past year there have been warnings issued in the Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Nelson, Otago and Southland regions.

Cyanobacterial blooms in waterways pose a serious health risk to humans and animals. Management options for benthic cyanobacteria blooms are limited by both our current understanding of drivers and practical interventions available. As we can't monitor everywhere, a very important part of our management strategy is encouraging river users (eg dog owners) to know how to identify cyanobacterial blooms, with information and resources available on our website.



Cyanobacterial blooms in waterways pose a serious health risk to humans and animals

Health warnings in place for cyanobacterial blooms as at 31 March 2022, and listed on our website were:

- Waihao River at Bradshaws Road
- Waikirikiri/Selwyn River from Whitecliffs Domain down past Glentunnel
- Whakatipu/Twizel River at picnic area (upstream of State Highway 8)
- Lake Rotorua, near Kaikōura (long term health warning)
- Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere)
- Te Roto o Wairewa (Lake Forsyth)
- Pegasus Lake
- Springlands Reserve, on Quaifes Rd in Halswell (advisory only)

Freshwater regulatory framework

An update on the development of an integrated regulatory framework in partnership with Ngāi Tahu, which includes the freshwater regulatory framework and work to support it, can be found on page 7.

Healthy waterways actions

National Environmental Standards for Freshwater

The National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-FW) set requirements for carrying out certain activities that pose risks to freshwater and freshwater ecosystems. In quarter three, new information and guidance was provided via our website on Essential Freshwater topics including Freshwater Farm Plans, stock exclusion, agricultural intensification, feedlots, fish passage and more.

These webpages provide guidance on how to comply with the Essential Freshwater regulations with information on key dates, what reporting is required when, and advice on what requires a resource consent. These updates have been recognised across the country with Northland and Hawkes Bay Regional Councils asking for permission to use our work as a best-practice template to develop their own.

Several information and engagement campaigns are getting underway as part of implementing the NES-FW. These include synthetic nitrogen cap (NCap), with information distributed in late March, intensive winter grazing and wetlands.

Farm Environment Plan audits

Farm Environment Plan (FEP) auditing and associated compliance monitoring has partly resumed in areas where we have agreement with Papatipu Rūnanga on the interim approach following the review of the Overseer model (south of the Hurunui and north of the Rangitata rivers). Auditing was put on hold in 2021 following the Government's review of the Overseer nutrient management tool. An interim approach to FEP Auditing, that reduces reliance on the use of Overseer, has been developed and longer-term options will be considered through the ki uta ki tai integrated planning framework described on page 7.

However, the pause has impacted our ability to deliver the current approach to nutrient management in Canterbury, including consenting and compliance, and as a result we will not be able to meet Level of Service 9 (Enable resource users to implement Good Management Practices (GMP)) for 2021/22. There may also be flow-on effects for 2022/23 due to a large backlog of FEP audits.

We have also been working on the approach to the transition from current FEPs to Freshwater Farm Plans, which will be required as part of the Government's Essential Freshwater package. This includes engaging with the Ministry for the Environment on how this transition could occur in a Canterbury context.

Kaitiakitanga Mahinga Kai programme of work

In 2018, a review of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Kaitiakitanga targets with Papatipu Rūnanga identified concerns about the reduced number of mahinga kai sites, declining aquatic health and the need for 'action on the ground'. In response, additional kaitiakitanga targets were identified and a Tangata Whenua Facilitator - Kaitiakitanga Targets was employed to actively drive projects forward in partnership with rūnanga.

This involves working with rūnanga to identify sites they would like to see actively restored and/or protected, including freshwater mātaimitai and Fenton reserves, in recognition of their status as wāhi taonga and/or to support and be accessible to Papatipu Rūnanga for mahinga kai and resource gathering purposes. There is a target of 50 new projects to be identified by 2025 and 100 by 2030. Rūnanga are the decision makers on the environmental outcomes to be achieved and, wherever possible, rūnanga, as kaitiaki, are involved in the 'action on the ground.'

To support this work, through the Long-Term Plan, Councillors allocated \$600,000 over three years, as part of the Te Mana o Te Wai implementation fund.

Now, in 2022, working with eight Papatipu Rūnanga, four projects have completed significant investigation work (eg habitat investigation or toxicology testing), and 16 projects are being developed. Processes are being created

to ensure integration of projects with wider organisational workstreams and related initiatives.

One of the projects underway is the Ōtūwharekai Mātauranga Māori monitoring project, described below.

While this work is primarily driven by the CWMS Kaitiakitanga targets, this work has relevance to the delivery of Level of Service 5 in the Long-Term Plan: Partner with Papatipu Rūnanga and engage with the community to implement Government's Essential Freshwater package to improve freshwater outcomes.

We will be discussing this Level of Service and the Kaitiakitanga Mahinga Kai initiative with Papatipu Rūnanga in quarter four.

Ōtūwharekai – Ashburton Lakes

During quarter three, work has continued to improve our understanding of the environment of Ōtūwharekai through increased water quality monitoring, paired with collaboration and connection with other agencies and landholders to take on-the-ground action to minimise nutrient loss. Better understanding of this environment will support the actions needed to bring about positive change.

Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua are leading the delivery of a Cultural Health Assessment in the catchment and the development of Mātauranga Māori monitoring. Field work was undertaken in early March, involving people from several Papatipu Rūnanga, the Department of Conservation and us.



Weighing and measuring tuna at Ōtūwharekai



Electrofishing at the Lake Puna-a-Taka intake

Stewardship of water and land

This is a new programme for 2021/22, which includes looking for improvements in the way we measure and report the effectiveness of our work. A stocktake of the work we are currently doing in relation to monitoring and reporting was completed in quarter three and will inform the next steps. Targets for future years are being developed, to be included in Annual Plan 2022/23.

Freshwater resilience

Partnership Programmes highlight – Whakaora Te Waihora

The Partnership Programmes team work hand in hand with Ngāi Tahu and stakeholders to deliver improvements in freshwater management, including programmes for Whakaraupō (Lyttelton Harbour), Te Mōkihi (Mackenzie), and Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere).

One of the new initiatives for Te Waihora is the Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project, which is a five-year project to restore the small sub-catchment of Te Waikēkēwai/Waikēkēwai Stream. The project is funded by us and the Government's Freshwater Improvement Fund, governed by the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group, co-managed by Te Taumutu Rūnanga and us, and led by Te Taumutu Rūnanga. The project will not only deliver improved outcomes for freshwater, mahinga kai and biodiversity, but also aims to be a template for projects under Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi, as the

leadership of mana whenua in all aspects of the project (from governance to delivery) will align with the principles of partnership, protection, and participation.

In March 2022 the project completed its recruitment phase, with three new staff employed by Te Taumutu Rūnanga. The new staff are a Co-Project Manager/Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa, a Land Management Advisor/Kaitohutohu Whenua, who will be working with the landholders in the project area, and a Biodiversity Advisor/Kaitohutohu Kanorau Koiora, who will lead the planting/biodiversity actions.



Te Repo Orariki located in the lower reaches of Te Waikākēwai/Waikākēwai Stream

Levels of service

Level of service update for quarter 3		Status Q1	Status Q2	Status Q3
1	Facilitate the Canterbury Water Management Strategy zone and regional committees to support achievement of the 2025 goals, in partnership with Ngāi Tahu and the Canterbury region's city and district councils	On track	On track	On track
2	Monitor and provide accurate and timely State of the Environment data for Canterbury, for use by decision-makers and the community	On track	On track	On track
3	Undertake targeted science research and investigations on matters relevant to policy development to inform Council and stakeholders	On track	On track	On track
4	Partner with Papatipu Rūnanga and engage with the community to inform amendments to the regulatory framework (to give effect to central government's Essential Freshwater package, achieving Te Mana o te Wai)	At risk	At risk	At risk
5	Partner with Papatipu Rūnanga and engage with the community to implement central government's Essential Freshwater package to improve freshwater outcomes	At risk	At risk	At risk
6	Increase community awareness and understanding of NPS FW and LWRP requirements	On track	On track	On track
7	Work with Ngāi Tahu, the community, industry, and the region's city and district councils to improve Three Waters, including urban water quality	On track	On track	On track
8	Work with Ngāi Tahu, the community, industry, and the region's city and district councils to improve Three Waters, including urban water quality	On track	On track	On track
9	Enable resource users to implement Good Management Practices (GMP)	At risk	At risk	Will not achieve
10	Monitor and review efficiency and effectiveness of land and water implementation programmes and campaigns	On track	On track	On track
11	Achieve improvements in freshwater outcomes through implementation and delivery of work programmes with partners and key agencies, where priorities are aligned	On track	On track	On track
12	Partner with others to ensure that regional water infrastructure contributes to outcomes sought through the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and central government's Essential Freshwater package, and improves resilience	On track	On track	On track

Achieved	On track	At risk	Will not achieve	Not started
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Key portfolio initiatives

	Status Q1	Status Q2	Status Q3
Working together for healthy water and land			
Ngāi Tahu partnership (Essential Freshwater) – partner with Papatipu Rūnanga to enable implementation of the Government’s Essential Freshwater package, including Te Mana o te Wai, and deliver improved freshwater outcomes	At risk	Achieved	Achieved
Water strategy initiatives – provide strategic advice to respond to national direction, support improvements to water and land management and promote, strengthen and empower the CWMS and collaborative arrangements	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
CWMS committees – facilitate the CWMS Regional and Zone committees to lead and support others to fulfil a range of roles and responsibilities	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Monitoring and understanding our environment			
Long-term monitoring – collect high quality data to appropriate monitoring standards covering key aspects of the water and land resource enabling us to track changes over time to support environmental decision making	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Water data – develop enhanced water data platforms, predictive modelling and visualisations to support evidence-based decision making for water management	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Science data management and reporting – ensure our data is of a high standard, fit for purpose and available to our teams, partners, stakeholders, customers and community to support key decisions	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Long-term future focused investigations, collaborative studies and advice – support long-term decision making and guide the future direction of our monitoring through investigations and studies	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Freshwater regulatory framework			
Region wide changes to deliver Essential Freshwater Package – review and amend our regulatory framework to give effect to the Government’s Essential Freshwater package, the Resource Management Act and our Regional Policy Statement	At risk	At risk	At risk
Ground and surface water science advice – provide science support and advice for the amendment of our regulatory framework to give effect to the Government’s Essential Freshwater package	At risk	At risk	At risk
Healthy waterways action			
Kaitiakitanga and mahinga kai implementation – deliver, in partnership with Papatipu Rūnanga, on-the-ground kaitiakitanga and mahinga kai projects in 10 priority catchments across the region	Achieved	At risk	At risk
Healthy rural waterways action – deliver behaviour change campaigns to implement the Government’s Essential Freshwater national regulations and standards alongside regional plan provisions and Audited Self-Management, Aggregated Consent Entities and Collectives	At risk	At risk	At risk
Catchment intervention & engagement – support implementation of catchment Good Management Practices (GMP) by landholders on-the-ground, respond to emerging environmental issues and deliver zone priority catchment projects	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Three Waters – implement work programmes to support the region’s city and district councils to improve Three Waters	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Stewardship of water and land			
Project effectiveness – monitor, collect data and review the delivery of our implementation work programmes to increase understanding and visibility of progress to inform future work programmes	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Freshwater resilience			
Partnership programmes – maintain constructive relationships with partners and stakeholders, working with and on behalf of the community through implementing catchment-based work programmes and projects	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Zone initiatives – deliver zone priority catchment projects	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

Achieved	On track	At risk	Will not achieve	Not started
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Risks

Description	Criticality	Mitigation
<p>Nutrient management tools</p> <p>The Government's review of the Overseer nutrient management tool says the tool does not provide reliable results for use in regulation. This has impacted Environment Canterbury's ability to deliver on the current approach to nutrient management in Canterbury, including consenting and compliance and means that we will not be able to achieve Level of Service 9 for 2021/22.</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interim solution to allow consent processing and Farm Environment Plan auditing to continue with less reliance on Overseer has been developed with mana whenua and stakeholders. FEP Auditing and associated compliance monitoring has resumed in areas where agreement with Papatipu Rūnanga on the interim approach has been concluded (south of the Hurunui and north of the Rangitata rivers). Longer-term solutions will be developed as part of the new planning framework.

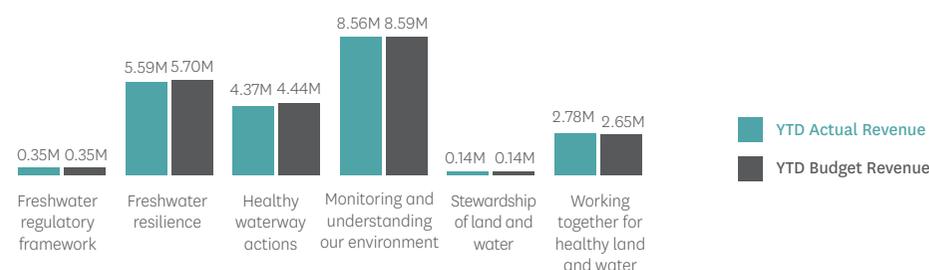
For cross-portfolio risks and issues, see page 6.

Portfolio finances

	Revenue	Expenditure	Surplus/Deficit
Actual	21.79M	25.12M	-3.33M
Budget	21.86M	25.70M	-3.84M
Variance	-0.06M	-0.58M	0.51M
% Var	-0.30%	-2.25%	

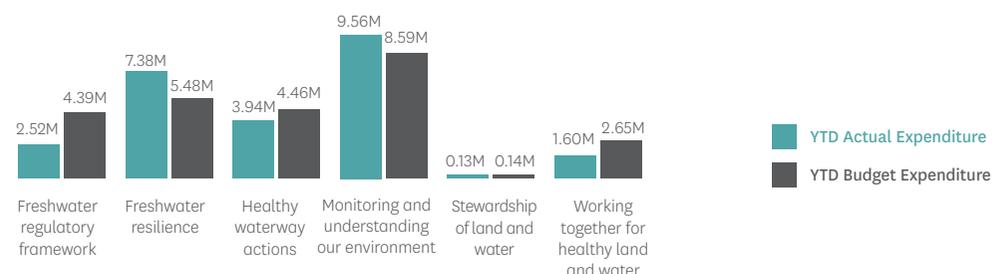
Revenue

Revenue is in line with budget.



Expenditure

COVID-19 related delays and recruitment challenges have impacted the portfolio overall. Freshwater regulatory framework continues to be underspent due to the portfolio delaying delivery of some work to enable the partnership approach with Ngāi Tahu to be built and to work through the significant implications of changes to freshwater management driven by Central Government; an uplift in delivery and expenditure is forecast in the final quarter. Zone committee action plan funding has been allocated and invoicing will occur in the final quarter. Accounting changes for water data and managed aquifer recharge continue to offset these underspends and bring the portfolio within budget.



Biodiversity and Biosecurity | Te Rerenga Rauropi me Te Whakahaumarū Rauropi

We play a significant role in ensuring a thriving and resilient Canterbury region based on a natural environment that supports cultural, physical and economic wellbeing for all.

There are five programmes in this portfolio:

- Leading and partnering for biodiversity outcomes
- Regional pest management
- Priority habitats and wetlands protection
- Braided river revival (Whakahaumanu Ngā Awa ā Pākihi)
- Me Uru Rākau

Overview

We will accelerate regeneration of the natural environment through implementing the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy; take decisive action for healthy freshwater, land and coastal ecosystems; build community engagement and action; and foster relationships through forging partnerships and alliances.

Leading and partnering for biodiversity

Canterbury biodiversity champions group

The Canterbury Biodiversity Champions Group (BioChamps), consisting of a Councillor from each of the Canterbury councils, met in March to discuss their respective biodiversity related annual plan proposals and the ways they can all support a shared regional approach to biodiversity in Canterbury. The BioChamps agree that their collective efforts are best focused on raising the profile and priority of biodiversity in their respective councils. They will do this by encouraging staff to work together, advocating for actions that increase biodiversity outcomes (e.g. reform, incentives, funding) and sharing information (including through spatial tools) to enable and encourage councils and communities to link up and support biodiversity. Further meetings will continue to identify the tangible steps to implement these agreed priorities.



The BioChamps agree that their collective efforts are best focused on raising the profile and priority of biodiversity in their respective councils

Manaaki whenua
Manaaki tangata
Haere whakamua

Care for the land
Care for people
Go forward!



Levels of Service:



Regional biodiversity monitoring framework

Work has started on the development of a regional biodiversity monitoring framework. This framework will help with the biodiversity monitoring we have to do and provide valuable information, to support biodiversity management and decision-making. We are developing options and cost estimates for broad scale monitoring that will provide a regional picture of biodiversity in Canterbury. We will also begin testing ways we can monitor specific sites that are being managed for biodiversity outcomes. This will tell us how effective management practices are and what works best for protecting biodiversity.

Regional pest management

Addressing concerns over increasing numbers of feral ungulates

We have been asked by various groups and members of the public to help with feral ungulate (deer, pig and goat) control after agencies and the community reported an increase in numbers. However, the legislative framework for feral ungulate management is complex. A recent meeting was held with various agencies to discuss roles, responsibilities and policy. The Department of Conservation is currently developing a strategic framework to address the increase in deer population. Once this framework is released, meetings will be held with stakeholders and communities to explore the feral ungulate issue, impacts on values (including biodiversity, economic and cultural values) and options for achieving outcomes at a local level.

Future focus on invasive organisms underway

The Biosecurity team has started investigating organisms that pose an emerging threat to Canterbury (including to environmental, economic and cultural values). This work is supported by a new role (Biodiversity Advisor – Invasive Organisms) and involves working collaboratively with external organisations and the community to identify and carry out risk/impact assessments for invasive organisms that are of limited occurrence or new to Canterbury. These assessments will inform surveillance and investigation activities, pest pathway management initiatives, and future pest management decisions.

Priority habitats and wetlands protection

Tārerekautuku/Yarrs Lagoon

Tārerekautuku/Yarrs Lagoon in the Selwyn district is one of the largest remaining freshwater wetlands in lowland Canterbury. The wetland is a significant area of native biodiversity, supporting a range of indigenous wetland plants including 'at risk' and locally uncommon species. It also provides habitat for native birds and invertebrates. A wetland restoration plan has been prepared to support and guide the four-year restoration project.

The project is led by Selwyn District Council, who have secured Ministry for the Environment funding, in partnership with the Tārerekautuku Yarrs Lagoon Landcare Group and with support and co-funding from Living Water (Department of Conservation and Fonterra) and Environment Canterbury. It is supported by Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Te Waihora Co-Governance group.

Managing wetlands as farm assets programme

The managing Wetlands as Farm Assets programme continues at the fourteen demonstration sites across the region, alongside our partner industry stakeholders. Operational works are underway at eight wetlands and completed at one, and actions planned at a further five. In addition, three further field days are planned for April and May, including a native seed propagation workshop for farmers.

Braided river revival/Whakahaumanu Ngā Awa ā Pākihi

Ashley River/Rakahuti Revival Strategy

We are working with Mahaanui Kurataiao and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga to progress the drafting of the Ashley River/Rakahuri Revival Strategy. The strategy will recognise the river as a wāhi taonga and provide a framework to work together to restore the ecological and riparian corridors of the river and to enhance the connections between people and the awa. Engagement with key stakeholders and the wider community will begin shortly.

We are also progressing components of the Rangiora Reach Master Plan process, which will form part of the wider Ashley River/Rakahuri Revival Strategy. Community engagement began through an online survey (March- April) to understand the community's values and existing use of the Rangiora Reach area. Community online meetings will be held on 7 April.



Ashley River/Rakahuri

Rakitata River Revival Strategy

A communications plan for Ko te Whakahaumanu o te Rakitata Awa/ Rakitata River Revival Strategy is being drafted. The purpose of the plan is 'to speak with one voice', initiate community conversations to build awareness of our work, develop trust and facilitate ongoing community engagement and support. Community engagement is currently planned for July 2022. On-ground actions have been accelerated by Climate Resilience COVID-19 Recovery and Jobs for Nature funding.

Joint funding agreement

We have worked with the Department of Conservation to renew our joint funding agreement to deliver biodiversity outcomes for braided rivers across the region. This financial year funds include support for predator control (Upper Rakaia), bird islands and weed management (Waiau Toa/ Clarence River), post-flood recovery of invertebrates in the Ashley River/Rakahuri and GPS tracking of coastal black-fronted terns.



Tarapirohe/black-fronted tern

Me Uru Rakau

Preparations were made with landowners, the community and industry for on-the-ground work scheduled for autumn in the Waiaiu Uwha proof-of-concept catchment. This work includes:

- protection of 140 hectares of indigenous bush and wetlands
- protection of indigenous bush and planting across 30 hectares
- riparian planting at 5 sites across Emu Plains
- planting and willow control at Countess Stream, Mouse Point in conjunction with Fonterra's Sustainable Catchment Fund.

Other sites are being scoped for inclusion in the future. This work is aligning with other workstreams in the catchment including Soil Conservation and Revegetation (S.C.A.R), Braided River Revival/Whakahaumanu Ngā Awa ā Pākihi, resilient river work at Waiaiu, Fonterra's Sustainable Catchment Fund and other community initiatives.

Development of a programme to monitor biodiversity and community engagement outcomes is progressing, as is consideration of how this programme can aid in promoting best practice, removing barriers, and creating pathways to support local projects. This includes considering how we secure ongoing quantities of eco-sourced plants and provide Me Uru Rākau with economies of scale.



We prepared for on-the-ground work that will take place with landowners, the community and industry during autumn in the Waiaiu Uwha proof-of-concept catchment

Levels of service

	Level of service update for quarter 3	Status Q1	Status Q2	Status Q3
13	Lead a shared regional approach to biodiversity in Canterbury			
14	Provide regional leadership to act early and work in partnership to protect indigenous biodiversity, economic production and mahinga kai from harm caused by declared pests and other invasive organisms			
15	Work with landowners, Ngāi Tahu, the community and agencies to protect, enhance and regenerate priority habitats including wetlands			
16	Partner with Ngāi Tahu, agencies, landowners and the community to maintain the natural character and restore the mauri of braided rivers, ki uta ki tai			
17	Engage communities to protect and regenerate priority ecological catchments			

Key portfolio initiatives

	Status Q1	Status Q2	Status Q3
Leading and partnering for biodiversity outcomes			
Revitalise the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy – coordinate a regional approach to biodiversity that identifies regional priorities, including marine ecosystems, and reflects the roles of all partners and stakeholders			
Regional biodiversity monitoring framework – establish a monitoring framework to report on progress in restoring and enhancing biodiversity through the use of spatial mapping and data visualisation			
Regional pest management			
Wallaby Control – a search and destroy wallaby eradication programme forming part of the National Wallaby Management Programme			
Wilding conifer control – a wilding conifer control programme forming part of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme			
Regional Pest Management – acting early and working in partnerships to protect indigenous biodiversity, economic production and mahinga kai from harm caused by pests			
Priority habitats and wetlands protection			
Priority habitat protection and regeneration – deliver on the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy and Canterbury Water Management Strategy criteria to protect and regenerate priority habitats and invest in creating corridors and linkages to connect these habitats			
Wetland awareness and compliance – make landowners aware of the ecological, environmental and cultural importance of wetlands, monitor resource consents for wetland-related activities and focus on compliance and enforcement of regulator			
Braided river revival/Whakahaumanu Ngā Awa ā Pākihi			
Braided river revival strategies – develop and implement braided river revival strategies for priority rivers with our partners			
Me Uru Rākau			
Me Uru Rākau – identify priority catchments and encourage communities to participate in local protection and regeneration projects by providing technical advice, resources and removing barriers			

Achieved	On track	At risk	Will not achieve	Not started
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Risks

Description	Criticality	Mitigation
<p>Use of herbicides near waterways</p> <p>Our waterways are vulnerable to harmful weed infestations. Herbicides are a vital tool for managing weeds at a landscape scale. Environment Canterbury is currently applying for renewal of our resource consent for use of herbicides near waterways. If Environment Canterbury does not clearly communicate intentions for use of herbicides and the benefits, then Environment Canterbury's renewal of consent for the use of herbicides near waterways may not be supported by the community.</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners and key stakeholders have been notified of the application by Environment Canterbury for renewal of resource consent for use of herbicides near waterways. An online hub has been established to notify the community of the application for resource consent renewal and includes the benefits of herbicide use, and the precautions taken to minimise risk. Information can be found at ecan.govt.nz/weedcontrol
<p>Sourcing plants</p> <p>If Environment Canterbury is unable to procure plants and plant guards required for delivery of projects within the Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio, then there is a risk of not being able to deliver on planned projects. Native plant nurseries are currently struggling to meet demand and Environment Canterbury requires a guaranteed supply.</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement procedures are in development to secure availability of plants at bulk rate prices Forecasting the number of plants required in future years is planned

Issues

Description	Criticality	Mitigation
<p>Compliance</p> <p>Some of Environment Canterbury's wetland restoration work and the work of others undertaking wetland work with funding from Environment Canterbury does not meet the Permitted Activity conditions of the vegetation clearance rules in the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater. These regulations have been in force since September 2020.</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government consulted on the 'managing our wetlands' regulations in September 2021 and we prepared a submission on the proposed amendments to the regulations Wetland management plans are prepared for Environment Canterbury led wetland restoration projects to manage risks of non-compliance with the current regulations

For cross-portfolio risks and issues, see page 6.

Portfolio finances

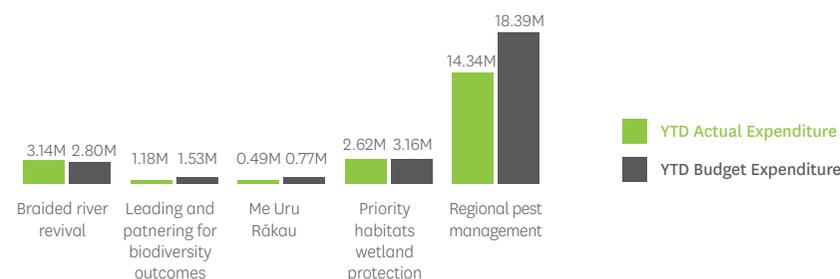
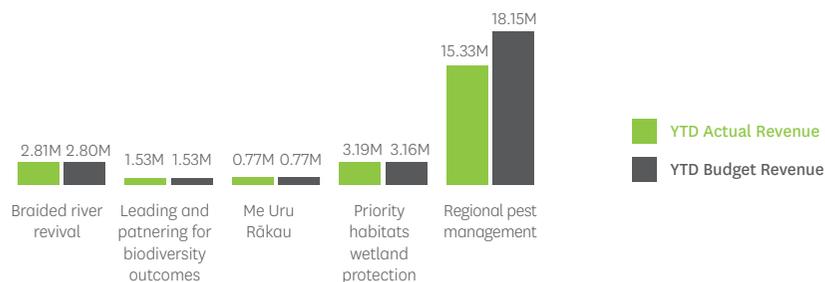
	Revenue	Expenditure	Surplus/Deficit
Actual	23.62M	21.76M	1.86M
Budget	26.40M	26.64M	-0.24M
Variance	-2.78M	-4.88M	2.10M
% Var	-10.53%	-18.32%	

Revenue

YTD National Funding received for the wilding programme is \$800k less than what was included in the Long-Term Plan (LTP). This was as a result of the national funding being confirmed after LTP was set. The same occurred with the wallaby programme with a \$460k difference. The lower than budgeted revenue is offset by lower than budgeted expenditure. The Wilding Conifer programme is currently expected to be on budget at year end in line with national funding received. For the National Wallaby programme, large scale high value projects are expected to commence in the winter months. Two risks associated with the timeliness could impact this. One; a consent application required to enable us to commence works associated with the 53km wallaby fence. Two; Ministry of Health process changes to poison applications and associated potential delays in turn around. These risks could result in some of the national Wallaby budget being carried forward to the next financial year. Staff are discussing with the Ministry of Primary Industries the carryover of this funding into 2022-23.

Expenditure

Braided River Revival is forecasting to exceed budget by FYE22, currently the total overspend (\$342k) for the programme is being constrained by underspends in some projects. Once funding of on the ground actions is met all current underspend will be used. The exception is Regional Parks Events & Engagement which has been significantly restricted due to COVID-19 restrictions. On the ground activity for Me Uru Rākau has lifted significantly this month and will continue for the next quarter. Most funds for Priority Habitats Wetland Protection are now fully allocated to projects which will be progressively delivered in the remaining quarter. The G&S fund for purchases of Environment Canterbury land for biodiversity has been underspent by \$633k in Priority Habitats Wetland Protection programme, while delegations are confirmed. In Regional Pest Management underspend excluding National programmes is \$1.0M. Significant underspends have occurred in pathway management, education and site led programs as a result of COVID-19 and delayed hires. We expect to reduce this underspend considerably in the next quarter. See left for Wallaby and Wilding Pine National Programme progress.



Climate Change and Community Resilience | Te Whaka-mahanatanga o Te Ao me Te Aumangea o te Hapori

We protect people, natural and built assets and the regional economy.

There are five programmes in this portfolio:

- Leading community resilience
- Managing coastal environment
- Climate change resilience
- Managing contaminated land, hazardous substances and waste
- Leading flood and river resilience

Overview

We will build community engagement and action, lead climate change resilience, take decisive action for healthy freshwater, land and coastal ecosystems, and help communities be well prepared for changes in the natural environment.

Leading community resilience

Washdyke Waitarakao

As part of the Long-Term Plan 2021-31, funding was made available to further the work of the Waitarakao Working Group to fulfil priorities and expectations for the Waitarakao catchment. The working group is seeking feedback from Environment Canterbury, Timaru District Council Councillors, and Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua on the vision, purpose, and scope of options to be explored with stakeholders and community in the development of a Waitarakao Strategy, and the formation of a Waitarakao Steering Group to provide project oversight. This feedback will then inform the development of a community engagement plan, with engagement to begin later this year.

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan

The review of the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group Plan, which was to have commenced by now, has been delayed impacting Level of Service target 19.2. The CDEM Group had been waiting for new emergency management legislation to come into effect before starting the review, but as this has now been postponed until early next year, we will proceed with commencing the review in quarter four.

Managing the coastal environment

Kaiapoi oil spill response

Following a large fire at Suttons Tools Ltd in Kaiapoi in the early hours of Sunday 30 January 2022, we were called on to respond to a subsequent spill of an unknown quantity of oil. This was an integrated response, where 2840 litres of oil

Arohanui ki te tangata,
tētahi ki tētahi

Caring for the people with
respect and good faith



Levels of
Service:



was recovered from the Cam/Ruataniwha River, the Kaiapoi River and the Waimakariri River under the management of our Regional On-Scene Commander, Emma Parr.

A tier two oil spill response was declared in accordance with Maritime New Zealand protocols, as oil was likely to reach the coastal marine area without immediate action to contain and recover it. In addition to removing the oil, the response focused on rūnanga liaison, community communication and oiled wildlife rehabilitation. Within three days, the only oil visible on impacted waterways was a sheen of approximately one micron thick, totaling approximately three litres. Four rehabilitated NZ scaup were released after three weeks, and community use of the river returned to normal. The use of the integrated oil spill response framework helped external partner agencies and internal stakeholders work swiftly and effectively together to reduce the impact on the environment.



Four scap are released into their natural habitat after impacts of the Kaiapoi oil spill

Work on the coast

We continue to build an accurate picture of existing activities within the coastal area and their level of compliance. We have:

- Surveyed boat maintenance areas
- Started surveying marine structures, boatsheds and slipways
- Planned the survey of sea defences and wharves/jetties.

This information is being added to our Geographic Information System (GIS) layers and will help inform the review of the Regional Coastal Environment Plan. Check out our website data.ecan.govt.nz for more on this.

We are preparing a Coastal Response Plan that will mean any response to a significant incident within the coastal area (ship grounding, dangerous goods, non-oil pollution or anything away from the shore) will be managed in an integrated manner with other maritime agencies and stakeholders.

Coastal Planning Review

An update on the development of an integrated regulatory framework in partnership with Ngāi Tahu, which includes the coastal planning review and work to support it, can be found on page 7. While good progress was made in the first half of the financial year, it is recognised that there are challenges that will impact on our ability to achieve Level of Service 22 this year.

Climate change resilience

Regional climate change risk assessment

In 2020 we commissioned a Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment which helped us get a better understanding of the priority of climate change risks. The assessment also outlined opportunities for the Canterbury region that will ultimately inform our climate change action plan. The Canterbury Mayoral Forum approved the report on 19 November 2021 and released it on their website, February 2022.

We are now beginning the next steps with Papatipu Rūnanga, local authorities and our wider communities to consider the urgency of the risks identified in the report. We also need to understand localised impacts of climate change and will begin working on climate action planning.

It's Time, Canterbury

The It's Time, Canterbury campaign is in phase two. This involves engagement with territorial authorities to continue to develop awareness of climate change through ongoing messaging and content that is relevant to their local communities. The conversation is around climate change risks, but more importantly the impacts and opportunities in local communities, where it is relevant to people's lives and livelihoods.

To help continue to build community awareness, more engaging content is being created, including graphics/infographics, videos and imagery. Dr Fiona Shanahun, Environment Canterbury's Chief Scientist, is the face of a new video that sets the scene for climate change in the region and new visual elements have been incorporated to help tell the story.

A refreshed It's time, Canterbury e-newsletter went out to over 430 subscribers at the beginning of March, featuring streamlined content focusing on Canterbury/Waitaha first and foremost. This edition had the highest open rate at over 50% and feedback on the refreshed look and content has been very positive. Check it out at itstimecanterbury.co.nz



A refreshed It's time, Canterbury e-newsletter went out to over 430 subscribers at the beginning of March

Managing contaminated land, hazardous substances and waste

Remediation of historic landfill site in south Christchurch

The Ministry for the Environment has approved a Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund (CSRF) grant for the remediation of an historical landfill site in south Christchurch. We have now been able to offer formal agreements with the property owners to progress the work on the former landfill site under the CSRF. We continue to discuss with landowners the final scope for the development of individual remediation action plans for each property.

Once complete, we will then move into the soil removal phase of the remediation, as well as progressing the necessary consent applications.

Leading flood and river resilience

Flood recovery

The May/June 2021 flood was a significant event across Canterbury. Temporary repairs are now largely complete but a number of rivers will remain vulnerable to future flood events for a number of years until vegetation is able to be re-established. There have been several small to moderate flood events over the second half of the last quarter. While no major breakouts or significant damage has been recorded, several of the previously repaired damage sites have required continued remedial work to reduce ongoing risk.

Contracts have been awarded and work is underway on several major stopbank replacements, specifically:

- South Branch Ashburton at Blacks Road
- Waihi River at Hawke Road
- North Ashburton at Thompsons Track
- Orari River at Inglis Road
- Orari River at SH79

The list of flood damaged sites needing repairs and their live status can be accessed on our website:

apps.canterburymaps.govt.nz/FloodRecovery



One of the three sections of stopbank replaced on the Waihi River at Hawke Road. The previous (destroyed) stopbank alignment is indicated by the dashed yellow line

Climate resilience programme – COVID-19 funded projects

The climate resilience programme is progressing well with two of the six projects now complete.

One of the projects currently underway is the Ashley River/Rakahuri protection and fairway management project. The Ashley River/Rakahuri is a key feature of the North Canterbury landscape. It poses a major flood risk to the local community living on its floodplain. For this project we are removing exotic vegetation (willow and brush weeds) along a 21-kilometre section of the river (about 670 hectares) between Ashley Gorge and the Okuku River confluence, and in the Okuku River.

The Rangitata 2019 flood recovery project is scheduled to run until December 2023 and has several workstreams. A number of flood events over the past few months have tested the repair works and minor repairs to the newly built infrastructure have been necessary.

Peel Forest landfill works have been completed, including the creation of a channel to guide the river away from the landfill. A large, sacrificial gravel embankment has also been constructed in front of the terrace where the landfill is located. The bank is approximately 250m long and 5m high, constructed of river gravel extracted from the central island directly opposite the site. This site has been financed in partnership with Timaru District Council (TDC) and is a temporary solution to increase safety of the landfill while TDC work on a long-term solution.



Peel Forest landfill works: site visit prior to commencement



Completed works included the first round of planting

The 'Make It Safe' work, primarily within the rating district area, are also nearing completion this quarter. Much of the physical work has been finalised, with spraying and pole planting to follow later in the year.

Scheme reviews

Due to competing priorities from the May/June 2021 flood, completion of the scheme reviews in accordance with the Infrastructure Strategy is not on track which impacts Level of Service 26.2.

32 general enquiries about natural hazards

34 land information requests

90 flood hazard assessments

Levels of service

	Level of service update for quarter 3	Status Q1	Status Q2	Status Q3
18	Provide information and advisory services that enable people to understand natural hazard risks and make informed decisions	Green	Green	Green
19	Enable the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group	Green	Green	Orange
20	Enable safe navigation for vessels throughout the Canterbury region	Green	Green	Green
21	Provide coastal environment monitoring, response planning and advisory services to enable informed decision making	Green	Green	Green
22	Partner with Ngāi Tahu, city and district councils, and the community to review the Regional Coastal Environment Plan to achieve integrated management of the Canterbury coastal and marine area	Green	Green	Orange
23	Raise awareness of how the community can be part of adapting to climate change	Orange	Orange	Green
24	Identify and monitor contaminated land	Green	Green	Green
25	Partner with the Canterbury region's city and district councils to progress waste minimisation	Green	Green	Green
26	Maintain flood protection and drainage infrastructure to agreed standards, while considering broader outcomes	Green	Orange	Red
27	Provide flood alerts and warnings when trigger levels are exceeded	Green	Green	Green

Key portfolio initiatives

	Status Q1	Status Q2	Status Q3
Leading community resilience			
Development of a strategy for Washdyke – a strategy to further the work of the Waitarakao Working Group to fulfil aspirations for the Waitarakao catchment	Green	Green	Green
CDEM Group Plan Review – review of the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group plan to ensure effective response and recovery from emergencies by the community	Green	Green	Orange
Managing coastal environment			
Hydrographic survey of Banks Peninsula – the hydrographic survey of Banks Peninsula by LINZ is being utilised by Environment Canterbury and the Department of Conservation to assist in the management of the subtidal environment off Banks Peninsula	Green	Green	Green
Coastal Plan Review – review of the Canterbury Regional Coastal Environmental Plan to ensure our regulatory framework in the coastal environment protects and safeguards our precious coastal environment	Green	Green	Orange
Climate change resilience			
Develop climate change action plan in collaboration with the community – engagement with partners and community to agree how actions to adapt and build resilience may be managed and funded	Orange	Orange	Green
Managing contaminated land, hazardous substances and waste			
Regional legacy land fill climate change risk assessment – identify and monitor contaminated land, as required by the Resource Management Act 1991; Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996; and Local Government Act 2002	Green	Green	Green
Leading flood resilience			
May/June 2021 flood recovery programme – flood recovery programme resulting from the May/June 2021 flood event	Green	Green	Green
Climate resilience programme – COVID-19 funded projects – build and maintain infrastructure to control flooding, as required by the Soil Conservation and River Control Act 1941	Green	Green	Green

Achieved	On track	At risk	Will not achieve	Not started
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Due to the Government's Emissions Reduction Plan being delayed until May 2022, and the National Adaptation Plan also being delayed until August 2022, Level of Service target 23.3 will now 'not be measured' which means that the measurable aspects are now on track.

Risks

Description	Criticality	Mitigation
<p>Funding flood protection infrastructure</p> <p>The 30 year Infrastructure Strategy and Long Term Plan sets out future funding for flood protection infrastructure. If that future funding does not adequately reflect the investment required to upgrade flood protection infrastructure to manage climate change risk, then we may not be in a position to provide the level of protection requested by our communities over the long term.</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 30 year Infrastructure Strategy is reviewed every 3 years as part of the Long-Term Plan process. This provides an opportunity to update funding requirements as investigations are completed and decisions are made. Staff will be undertaking an options assessment to identify potential funding required and options.
<p>Mitigation of vulnerable landfill sites</p> <p>The National Landfill Risk Assessment and Risk Screening project will identify vulnerable landfill sites across the country. If action to identify and mitigate the risk of vulnerable landfills in our region is not completed then there will be substantive reputational risk for Environment Canterbury as well as risks to the environment.</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validation of the Tonkin & Taylor model and detailed assessment of identified highly vulnerable sites to commence in 2021/22 due to the real risk of flooding or coastal erosion causing landfill contents to spill into the environments Site visits have been occurring to make sure we understand how the model works.

Issues

Description	Criticality	Mitigation
<p>Natural hazard risk roles and responsibilities</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities for natural hazard risk management are unclear (NZ wide, and in Canterbury)</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The natural hazards risk reduction working group is being reformed and will provide direction in this space. We are working with CCC specifically on a shared understanding of responsibilities for rivers, drains and coastal protection in Christchurch city. This work may help to inform region wide responsibilities.
<p>Hazards risk management framework</p> <p>There is no hazards risk management framework which can lead to a lack of awareness across Environment Canterbury of discreet pieces of work being undertaken by different sections and programmes.</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance from central govt on a nationwide approach and National Policy Statement may be coming as part of the new National Planning Framework under Resource Management reforms. People across Environment Canterbury are meeting regularly to connect the various natural hazard workstreams across portfolios

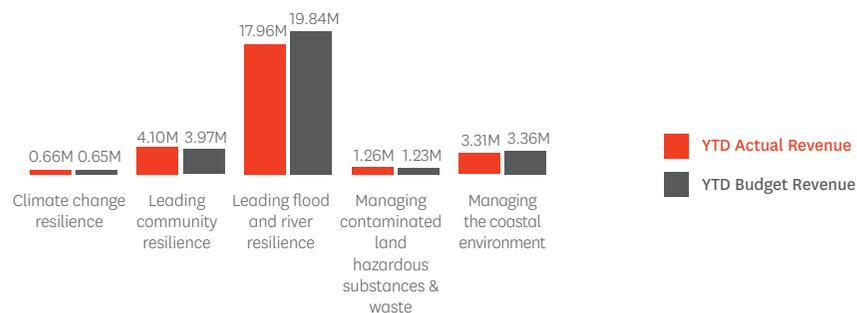
For cross-portfolio risks and issues, see page 6.

Portfolio finances

	Revenue	Expenditure	Surplus/Deficit
Actual	27.29M	22.62M	4.66M
Budget	29.05M	24.32M	4.73M
Variance	-1.77M	-1.70M	-0.07M
% Var	-6.08%	-6.99%	

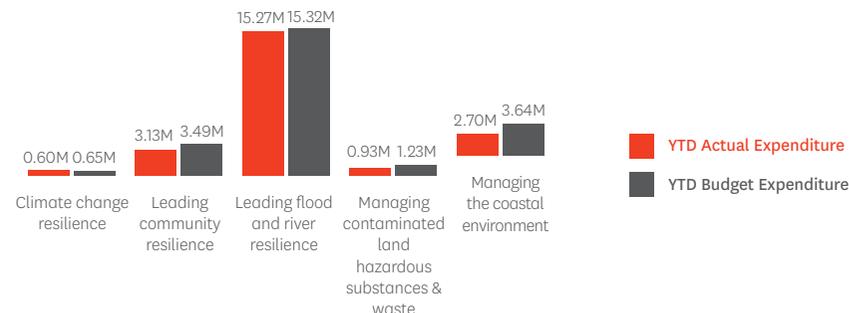
Revenue

The Leading Flood and River Resilience programme is under budget by \$1.9m. This is mainly due to the Shovel-Ready (COVID-19) projects tracking behind budget. While the contracting of these projects is proceeding well, the projects can only realise revenue as contracted work is completed. Several of these contracts will deliver work over the coming 18 months – with deliverables recognised over both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years. The full year revenue for the portfolio will be above budget through unbudgeted recovery of flooding expenditure from the National Emergency Management Agency and other on-the-ground projects receiving unbudgeted funding from other partner organisations.



Expenditure

The Managing the Coastal Environment programme is under budget \$941k. This is primarily due to the review of the Coastal Plan being delayed and \$551k under budget. Whilst the work on this is now underway, it will not be completed within the financial year and the forecast underspend will be carried forward to 2022/23. The Leading Community Resilience programme is \$359k under budget due to resources in the CDEM Group being diverted to the May 2021 flood response, and the COVID-19 resurgence causing delays with starting planned projects. Some natural hazards risk reduction projects have also not yet been invoiced. Expenditure for this programme will increase in the next few months and the programme is expected to be close to the forecast at the end of the financial year. The Leading Flood and River Resilience programme is currently only \$53k under budget with various overspends and underspends offsetting each other. We are expecting this programme to be in line with the forecast overspend.



Air Quality, Transport & Urban Development | Te Pai o Te Hau Takiwā, Ngā Momo Waka, me Te Whanaketanga o Ngā Tāone

We influence how people live, work and travel in Canterbury now and into the future.

There are three programmes in this portfolio:

- Clean air
- Transforming public transport
- Integrating urban land use, and regional transport

Overview

We are prioritising sustainable and healthy living and working environments; connecting communities with a safe multi-modal transport network; and ensuring this enhances social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing now and in the future.

Clean air

Monitoring and reporting Canterbury's air quality

We monitor air quality across eight designated airsheds in accordance with the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (NESAQ). We report the concentrations of pollutants and the number of days when the NESAQ thresholds are exceeded.

The only NESAQ pollutant that exceeds the threshold in Canterbury is PM¹⁰ (particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter). PM¹⁰ consists of both 'fine' and 'coarse' particles. Fine particles (PM^{2.5}) are mainly from combustion sources (wood burners, motor vehicle exhausts and industrial boilers) and can get deep into our lungs and cause health issues for some people. Coarse particles (PM^{10-2.5}) are mainly from dust and marine aerosols.

For quarter three, there were three PM¹⁰ exceedances across our eight airsheds – all of which were in the Washdyke airshed. We are continuing to work with Timaru District Council and industry to find ways to address this issue.

The Canterbury Air Regional Plan aims to reduce overall concentrations of PM^{2.5} in clean air zones so that by 2030 those concentrations do not exceed the limits set. As such, we also monitor PM^{2.5} levels in these clean air zones. There were no PM^{2.5} exceedances across our eight airsheds in quarter three.

Working together to reduce odour in Washdyke and North Timaru

Over the summer months we encouraged residents in the Washdyke and North Timaru areas to use the Smelt-it app to report offensive or objectionable odours. Using Smelt-It

Ko ngā pae tawhiti whāia kia tata
Ko ngā pae tata whakamaua
kia tina

The potential for tomorrow
depends on what we do today



Levels of
Service:



allows our staff to view complaints quickly and visually, via a map, and also have an extra level of detail compared to a regular odour complaint, including more information about the impact the smell is having on people.

Smelt-it was first introduced in Timaru last summer as part of a project to identify problem odours and partner with businesses to reduce odour emissions. This resulted in two main emitters in the Washdyke area undertaking agreed actions and changes to their processes to reduce odours being emitted from their sites. The reporting of smells this summer is critical to determine if the actions they have taken has reduced the odour to an acceptable level or if further action is required by these two businesses and any other businesses emitting odours beyond their boundaries.

Subsidies scheme review

Our subsidies scheme helps households with limited means, in areas prone to air pollution, to transition from non-compliant to a compliant form of home heating, with no repayment required. The intended review of the scheme in 2021/22 to improve customer service and administrative efficiency has been put on hold whilst we await the outcome of other work already underway for the Clean Air programme which may impact the subsidies scheme.

Transforming public transport

Metro bus services return to regular weekday timetables

On 31 January, the majority of bus services affected by the driver shortage returned to their normal timetables. This followed a period of eight weeks, where many routes across the network temporarily ran to a Saturday timetable due to a national driver shortage. The change to the timetable was necessary to reduce the number of cancellations and provide a more reliable service for customers.

The only service that continues to operate on a reduced timetable is the Orbiter which is running every 15 minutes. We are working with Go Bus who operate this service to bring the Orbiter back to its regular 10-minute weekday frequency once driver staffing levels allow.



From Monday 31 January, the majority of bus services affected by the driver shortage returned to their normal timetables

Child fare age raised to Under 19

In February, we raised the public transport child fare age to under-19 – meaning 18-year-olds are now eligible for child fares. Previously, when a young person turned 18, they ceased to be eligible for child fares regardless of whether they were still in school. The change was introduced prior to the commencement of the 2022 school year, so students could start to take advantage of the reduced travel costs available to them.

This is one of a number of initiatives being implemented or considered to stimulate the Greater Christchurch public transport system. Additional funding to cover the costs of raising the child fare age was confirmed in our Long-Term Plan 2021-31.

Public Transport Futures investment programme

In December 2020, the Greater Christchurch councils, along with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, endorsed the Public Transport Futures Programme business case. This business case sets out a staged package of improvements to the Greater Christchurch public transport system to lift its performance over the next 10 years. The main aims of the programme are to:

- Improve journey time and reliability of public transport services relative to private vehicles
- Improve public transport services to and from the highly populated/growth areas and key destinations across Greater Christchurch
- Reduce barriers to the update of public transport in Greater Christchurch.

Good progress has been made since elements of this were incorporated into our Long-Term Plan 2021-31, with the following initiatives either implemented, in progress, or being planned or investigated:

Improvements implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waimakariri Express Service • Lincoln Express Services (two services) • Route 3 service enhancements (10-minute frequency on weekdays) • Real Time Information System (now available on the fleet, on-street and at the inter-change) • Under 19 child fares
Improvements in progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routes 17 and 28 service enhancements • Fare Review
Improvements being planned or investigated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lincoln Express Services (one further service) • Route 7 service enhancements • Real Time Information System: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headway Management to reduce bus bunching • Intersection Priority to improve journey times and reliability

Proposed service enhancements to routes 17 and 28

In quarter three, we continued our work on the service review of bus routes 17 and 28 as part of the Public Transport Futures investment programme. Using the feedback gained from just on 700 responses received during the community consultation period in quarter two, we prepared a full report with recommendations for service improvements to present to Council in April. We also started to prepare a business case to secure funding from Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency for the recommended service improvements. Subject to Council's approval and Waka Kotahi funding approval, the next phase of this project will be to purchase new vehicles and work with our operator on plans to implement the service changes.

Community consultation on changing the bus fare structure

As part of the 2022/23 Annual Plan process, in March we consulted with the community on three potential new fare options to stimulate usage of the Greater Christchurch public transport system. The three options, which would be trialled over a two-year period are:

- Option 1: Fare-free travel when using a Metrocard, for under 25s, students, Total Mobility and Community Services card holders across all zones
- Option 2: Flat \$2 Metrocard fares for adults and \$1.20 for children and tertiary students across zones 1, 2 and 3
- Option 3: Current fares with a tertiary student concession: Tertiary students would pay the equivalent of a child fare when paying by Metrocard (e.g. \$1.50 for Zone 1).

We received a significant amount of feedback on the proposed options, and are now processing and analysing the feedback. This will be a primary focus of the Public Transport team in the next few months to help support the Council to reach a decision on the different fare options as part of the 2022/23 Annual Plan process, which concludes in June.

Waka Kotahi approves funding until June 2024 for Timaru MyWay service trial

During the quarter, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency approved funding for an extension of the Timaru MyWay service trial until mid-2024. A total of \$1.8 million will be provided over three years from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024 from the National Land Transport Fund. This funding equates to 51% of the difference between the cost of the service and fare revenue. The remaining 49% is funded through a targeted urban Timaru rate.

Patronage of the MyWay service is consistently strong, with around 6,100 regular customers and 500 - 600 passengers per day on weekdays. The service has grown the use of public transport in Timaru by 30%, as well as providing a marked increase in accessibility for customers.



Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has approved funding for an extension of the Timaru MyWay service trial until mid-2024

Public transport and Total Mobility satisfaction levels remain high

In quarter three, we received the final summary report from independent research company Research First confirming that 96% of passengers in Greater Christchurch, and 97% of passengers in Timaru, reported they were satisfied, or better, with the overall public transport service. This was one of the key findings from the annual [Metro Users Survey](#) conducted between August to November 2021 via on-bus (or on-ferry) surveys with passengers. In total 2,200 surveys were completed in Greater Christchurch and Timaru.

Research was also conducted between August to October 2021 via telephone surveys with customers of the [Total Mobility](#) service. A total of 381 surveys were completed across Canterbury with one of the key findings of the survey confirming that 96% of customers were satisfied, or better, with the Total Mobility service.

The survey results mean that the following two public transport Levels of Service targets have been achieved for the year:

- 29.1c: Ensure ≥95% of passengers are satisfied or better with the overall service, and
- 29.2a: Ensure ≥95% of registered customers are satisfied or better with the service they receive when they engage with a Total Mobility provider

Key public transport challenges in quarter three

COVID-19 continued to have a severe impact on public transport usage during quarter three, with New Zealand being at a COVID-19 Red traffic light setting. Patronage levels were about 60 per cent of 2018/19 pre-COVID-19 levels for the same period year-to-date. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency have committed to providing financial support through fare underwriting at the normal financial assistance rate of 51% until June 2022, but have not made any commitments beyond this date.

Public transport operational costs will also have been impacted with rising fuel prices in quarter three. This will be reflected in future Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency index rates which we use to determine our operator contract payments. This will also impact the costs of running the Total Mobility service.

The National Ticketing System project has experienced delays within the procurement process, putting delivery timelines at risk.

Integrating urban land use, and regional transport

Reducing transport sector emissions in Canterbury

Reducing transport sector emissions is one of the six key themes of the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee's forward work programme which was approved in November 2021 to support the strategic direction of the Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-31. As an initial step, the Committee has commissioned research into Cantabrian's attitudes and perceptions on reducing transport sector emissions. It is hoped that this will provide valuable insight into which approaches are most applicable to Canterbury which will assist in future work and in regional advocacy. The research included a region-wide representative survey, an online community forum and a literature review. Fieldwork has now been concluded and the project has moved into a data analysis and report write-up phase. The findings will be presented to the May 2022 meeting of the Regional Transport Committee.

South Island freight summit

The South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs group and the South Island Governance Group hosted a South Island freight summit on 28 March 2022. The meeting was well-attended by elected representatives from across the South Island. Attendees heard from a broad cross-section of key freight sector stakeholders on the issues and opportunities facing the sector, including Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport, Ngāi Tahu Holdings, Lyttelton Port Company, KiwiRail, Hiringa Energy, Pacifica Shipping, Wareing Group and Sorted Logistics.

The summit has provided a strong foundation for further collaboration and advocacy on South Island freight movement, including contributing to the development of a National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy and discussions on freight efficiency and decarbonisation.



A South Island freight summit in March 2022 provided a strong foundation for further collaboration and advocacy on South Island freight movement

Considering how Greater Christchurch could grow and change in the future

In quarter three, the Greater Christchurch Partnership continued to deliver the high-level work programme to develop a new spatial plan for Greater Christchurch as agreed by the Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee and Partner Councils during mid-2021. The initial phases of work focused on building the evidence base and strategic context that will underpin and guide the development of the spatial plan. With these phases of work now largely complete, the focus has shifted to developing and evaluating potential future urban form options for Greater Christchurch. This work will consider how changes in Greater Christchurch's urban form – broadly meaning where we live, work and play, and how we get around – can assist in achieving our collective aspirations for the future. It will also consider options for Mass Rapid Transit in Greater Christchurch.

Creating a single transport plan and investment programme for Greater Christchurch

In March 2022, the Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee agreed to scope the development of a single transport plan and associated transport investment programme for Greater Christchurch. This decision reflected the opportunity that exists to develop a Greater Christchurch transport plan and transport investment programme concurrently with the Greater Christchurch spatial plan to clearly articulate a 'one plan' approach and to give effect to the strategic direction for transport from the spatial plan. Work has started on scoping this project, including considering how it can build on the significant amount of transport planning and investment that has already been undertaken for Greater Christchurch.

Levels of service

	Level of service update for quarter 3	Status Q1	Status Q2	Status Q3
28	Support communities across Canterbury to improve air quality	On track	On track	On track
29	Deliver quality, cost effective public transport service that meets the needs of the community and results in increased patronage	On track	At risk	On track
30	Support well-functioning transport networks and urban environments across the region	On track	On track	On track

Key portfolio initiatives

	Status Q1	Status Q2	Status Q3
Clean air			
Subsidies scheme review - redesign the subsidies scheme to improve customer service and other community outcomes	On track	At risk	Will not achieve
Transforming public transport			
Fare Policy review - complete a Fare Policy review and consult with the community via the Annual Plan 2022-23 process	On track	On track	On track
MyWay Timaru implementation - continue the trial of the MyWay on-demand bus services in Timaru, subject to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency funding support	At risk	On track	On track
National Ticketing System - implement a new public transport national ticketing solution in Canterbury in partnership with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency	At risk	On track	At risk
Public Transport Futures implementation - implement service improvements identified in the Public Transport Futures business case, supported and co-ordinated across multiple partners	At risk	On track	On track
Real Time Information System - operationalise a Real Time Information System for public transport in Christchurch	On track	On track	On track
Regional Public Transport Plan update - review and update the Regional Public Transport Plan 2018-28	Not started	Not started	On track
Under 19 child fares - implement a child fare rate for under 19-year-olds in Canterbury as agreed in the Long-Term Plan 2021-31	On track	On track	On track
Zero emissions fleet replacement - order and implement new zero emissions vehicles for the fleet to reduce the emissions profile	On track	On track	On track
Integrating urban land use, and regional transport			
Greater Christchurch 2050 - develop a plan for Greater Christchurch that describes the kind of place we want for our future generations and the actions we need to take to make it happen	On track	On track	On track
Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan - develop a spatial plan for Greater Christchurch that sets the strategic direction for where and how Greater Christchurch will grow and change in the future	On track	On track	On track
Greater Christchurch Urban Growth Partnership - establish a Greater Christchurch Urban Growth Partnership between central government, local government and iwi	On track	On track	On track
Canterbury Regional Transport Committee work programme - develop and implement a work programme to achieve the objectives of the Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-31	On track	On track	On track

Environment Canterbury contributes to the initiatives of the Greater Christchurch Partnership and Regional Transport Committee in partnership with the other members.

Achieved	On track	At risk	Will not achieve	Not started
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Risks

Description	Criticality	Mitigation
<p>Public and regional transport funding constraints</p> <p>If Environment Canterbury receives insufficient funding from the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) to match the local share then we will be unable to progress all the initiatives identified in the Long-Term Plan 2021-31.</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on funding requests and provide further information for key initiatives where required Keep informed of the judicial review which has been brought against Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency by a transport advocacy group, Movement, on the adoption of the National Land Transport Plan 2021-24
<p>Public and regional transport legislative changes</p> <p>If the high rate of legislative reviews and changes continues then this will have a significant impact on the ability to deliver the work programme, funding sources and service delivery. This includes initiatives around national ticketing, national fleet management and a national decarbonisation strategy.</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to work collaboratively across the organisation to ensure efficiencies in resources and commitments Develop stronger external working relationships and collaborative joint working models
<p>Clean Air programme resourcing levels</p> <p>If there are a shortage of staff to deliver the Clean Air programme, which is a virtual team, then this will impact the ability to deliver the initiatives identified in the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 and lead to declining outcomes for the community.</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three positions filled (Programme Lead, Science team leader and Science team member) One Air Implementation Officer role advertised but not filled, so currently being readvertised Another Air Implementation Officer role to be filled in the next financial year

Issues

Description	Criticality	Mitigation
<p>Public transport fare revenue</p> <p>COVID-19 continues to have a severe impact on public transport patronage and fare revenue. Public transport reserves are having to be used to cover Environment Canterbury's 49 per cent portion of the fare revenue loss in 2021/22.</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use reserves but maintain Public Transport Reserve Policy levels Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency have confirmed fare underwriting at the normal financial assistance rate of 51 per cent until June 2022 Consider reducing services to reduce cost Review impact on rates through the Annual Plan 2022/23 deliberations process
<p>Public transport driver retention</p> <p>The shortage of public transport drivers remains an issue for our operators despite recent improvements in retention rates. We are working proactively with our operators to respond to this issue.</p>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent changes to driver base remuneration have had a positive impact on driver retention rates and attracting new drivers Investigate other short, medium and long-term options to address the risk, including interventions that may assist in making public transport a more attractive vocation Manage service delivery to maintain a reliable service

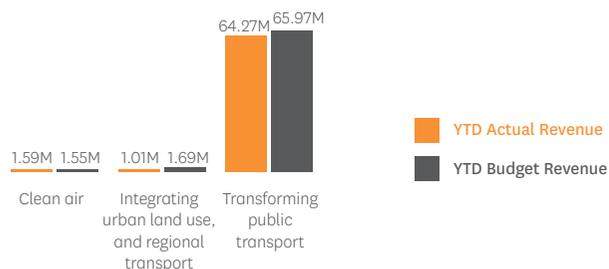
For cross-portfolio risks and issues, see page 6.

Portfolio finances

	Revenue	Expenditure	Surplus/Deficit
Actual	66.86M	69.63M	-2.76M
Budget	69.21M	70.10M	-0.89M
Variance	-2.35M	-0.47M	-1.88M
% Var	-3.40%	-0.68%	

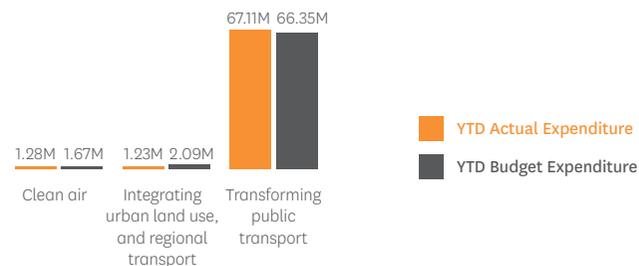
Revenue

The Transforming Public Transport programme is \$1.7m under budget. This is mainly due to fare revenue being \$2.4m below budget as a result of COVID-19 disruptions. Waka Kotahi funds 51% of the fare revenue shortfall. There is also less grant funding being received than budgeted for IT projects and systems (including the Real Time Information and National Ticketing systems) as a result of project delays. Grant funding for the Territorial Authorities infrastructure claims is \$686k over budget matching the expenditure. The Integrating Urban Land Use & Regional Transport programme is \$743k under budget. Waka Kotahi grant revenue is forecast to increase as expenditure increases over the next few months. Environment Canterbury has received the Territorial Authorities' contributions for the Greater Christchurch 2050 and Spatial Plan projects and the revenue is recognised when expenditure occurs. We are forecasting this portfolio to be lower than budget at the year-end.



Expenditure

The Transforming Public Transport programme is \$767k over budget mainly due to \$1.6m higher than expected operating expenses for the bus services resulting from the Waka Kotahi NZTA index adjustment and unbudgeted bus driver living wages. Waka Kotahi funds 51% of this. Infrastructure claims from Territorial Authorities are \$687k over budget but this is 100% funded by Waka Kotahi. Expenditure for IT projects and systems is \$593k under budget due to delays in the implementation to the RTI system and the National Ticketing system procurement process. The Integrating Urban Land Use & Regional Transport programme is \$853k under budget. This is due to underspend across all key partnership programmes as it has taken longer than expected to progress key projects. Programme expenditure will increase before year-end, but the programme will remain underspent. As Environment Canterbury is acting as a banker for the Greater Christchurch Partnership, budget carry overs to 2022/23 have been agreed for the Greater Christchurch 2050 and Spatial Plan projects. We are forecasting this portfolio to be over budget at the year-end.



Regional and Strategic Leadership | Te Hautūtanga ā-Rohe, ā-Rautaki hoki

We will address themes that span our activities and focus on what we want to achieve over the next 10 years.

There are six programmes in this portfolio:

- Tuia partnership
- Engagement and influence
- Leading regional planning, consents and compliance
- Investing for the future
- Data for decision making
- Governance and advisory services

Overview

We will foster relationships and engage with communities to build a better understanding of our work and increase participation in decision making for the region.

Tuia partnership

Our Ngāi Tahu partnership is central to our work and our internal Tuia programme is about working together, shoulder to shoulder, across all of our work programmes to achieve better outcomes for everyone.

More information about our Tuia partnership work programme is included on page 7.

Engagement and influence

We launched our public consultation on the draft Annual Plan on 2 March. The engagement activity included region-wide promotion and targeted releases of information to districts based on topics relevant to those areas. The ongoing effects of COVID-19 on gatherings has led us to focus on online engagement, as well as providing information and materials to support direct engagement by Council with community groups. Consultation closes 3 April.

The Youth Rōpū has welcomed 11 new members this year and elected an executive committee to be chaired by Colter Carson. The Rōpū's first focus for 2022 is enabling youth engagement with the Annual Plan, which they are doing through a youth-focused social media campaign, engagement events including a 'submission party' at the University of Canterbury, and through utilising their networks and those of the Youth Engagement and Education Team. Members of the Rōpū have attended the first of their monthly catch-ups with Councillors and presented to the Regional and Strategic Leadership Committee meeting on 31 March.

Seaweek was well supported this year, despite many changes to the calendar due to COVID-19 restrictions. We supported beach clean-ups from Kaikōura to Timaru and helped promote and run other events including an ephemeral art competition.

Ki te kāhore te whakakitena
Ka ngaro te iwi

Without foresight and vision
the people will be lost



Levels of
Service:





Environment Canterbury Youth Rōpū in the Council Chambers during their first hui for 2022



Timaru Boys' High agricultural science students working with Environment Canterbury staff to learn about water quality

Submissions to Central Government

We continue to engage with Government on proposed changes to policy and legislation. Details of our submissions relating to drinking water can be found on page 9. Other engagement included submissions on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Te Ara Paerangi-Future Pathways green paper and the Ministry for the Environment's Improving our Environmental Reporting System, along with continuing targeted engagement on the future of the Resource Management system.

On 31 March, we hosted the independent panel that is reviewing the system of local governance in New Zealand.

Participation in Council decision making

Our Council is committed to increasing participation by citizens and groups in decision-making processes. There are many channels for contributing to and informing Council decision-making including formal consultation, such as the Annual Plan consultation noted above, and more informal engagement with the community and sector groups.

Council can also hear directly from the community at their public meetings through a public forum, where an individual or group can speak directly to Council about matters of interest to them; a deputation, where an individual or group can speak to a matter on the Council's meeting agenda; or a petition, where an individual or group presents to Council a petition signed by 20 or more people. With an increased number of standing committees, there are now more opportunities for people to participate in the decision-making process in one of these ways.

Public forums, deputations and petitions

For the period 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022.

(Any committee not listed did not receive any requests for public forum, deputations, or petitions during this time period.)

	Public forums	Deputations	Petitions
Council	16	6	1
Natural Environment Committee	-	1	-
Catchment Sub-committee	-	1	-
Transport and Urban Development	1	-	-
Climate Change Action Committee	4	-	-

Leading regional planning, consenting and compliance

Regional Policy Statement review

As part of the work to support the integrated planning framework described on page 7, in particular the review of the Regional Policy Statement, Christchurch International Airport Ltd has remodelled the air noise contours for Christchurch International Airport. An expert panel was appointed in March to peer review the inputs, assumptions, and outcomes of the remodelling of the air noise contours. During quarter three staff also began a policy review of the planning framework that currently manages development within the 50dBA Ldn air noise contour¹. Both the technical review of the noise contours and the review of the current policy will inform the integrated planning framework. This work can also contribute to the development of the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan (see page 30).

Consenting

In quarter three, a backlog of consent applications developed, as the planning team was impacted by absences as a result of COVID-19, and a period of high staff turnover in a tight recruitment market. External suppliers, who can

usually assist with clearing backlogs, were in a similar position. This means the consent timeframe compliance target of Level of Service 35 (Deliver efficient and effective consenting and compliance monitoring and enforcement services) is at risk of not being achieved. Unfortunately, the team's ability to provide pre-application advice has also been affected. A response plan is underway.

Compliance monitoring and enforcement

The capacity of field staff to undertake compliance monitoring and incident response has been impacted by COVID-19, meaning that work has to be strictly prioritised. This may also impact our ability to achieve targets associated with Level of Service 35. However, serious or potentially serious pollution incidents always take priority. One example was our response to the Kaiapoi oil spill in late January and early February, described on page 21. Our staff responding were well supported by colleagues, Maritime New Zealand, Waimakariri District Council and local rūnanga. It was a well-integrated and collaborative effort.

Investing for the future

Work to support annual planning and reporting is included in the Investing for the future programme. The public consultation process for our draft Annual Plan 2022/23 is included on page 34. This programme of work also includes Council's decision to pursue philanthropic funding to support environmental action in the region.

Data for decision making

Canterbury maps – Three Waters & District Planning Zones regional data update

Three Waters and District Planning Zones data have previously been scattered across several datasets. It is often out of date and not regionally standardised. From quarter three, these datasets were consolidated from Canterbury's territorial authorities into single regional datasets and will be automatically updated monthly. Access to this information about nodes and pipelines for water supply, stormwater and wastewater across Canterbury is valuable for any organisation working in the areas of three waters

and district planning, as these datasets form part of the building blocks in determining aspects such as risk, which is important for decision making.

Groundwater

Working closely with colleagues from other councils, our groundwater team has contributed to the update of the Groundwater Quality module on the [Land Air Water Aotearoa \(LAWA\) website](#), with new data released in acknowledgement of World Water Day on 22 March. This aims to draw attention to the precious resource of freshwater stored under the ground, and used as a source of drinking water, for food production and contributing over three quarters of the water in our rivers and streams.



A staff member measures field parameters (pH, temperature and electrical conductivity) before collecting a groundwater sample

We maintain a large network of groundwater quality monitoring sites throughout the region. LAWA displays test results from approximately 350 wells that are sampled annually. Of those, 125 of the wells are sampled quarterly and four are sampled monthly. Information on state and trend is available on the LAWA website.

Most groundwater in Aotearoa is of very good quality, but contamination from E. coli and nitrate does occur. Over the past decade, nitrate concentrations have been fairly stable at the national level. Within Canterbury we have seen worsening trends in nitrate concentrations at many of our sampling sites. Generally, the wells with higher

nitrate concentrations are found in areas of intensive animal grazing or horticultural production. Currently, seawater intrusion is not a widespread problem, but ongoing monitoring is important with pressures such as sea level rise, drought, and human use that may contribute to salinization of groundwater.

Governance and advisory services

Three new members will contribute valuable knowledge to assist the Climate Change Action Committee in decision making on climate change in Canterbury. Professor Anita Wreford and Professor Shaun Ogilvie have been appointed as expert independent members on climate change, and Erana Riddell will contribute to the committee with an intergenerational voice.

The committee was established by Council in April 2021 to provide effective and transparent leadership on climate change and ensure a climate resilient future for the Canterbury region. In addition to the new independent members, the committee is made up of the full Council and Tumu Taiao.

The independent members are appointed until the Local Government election on 8 October 2022.

Official requests for information

For the year-to-date, we have received 197 official requests for information, up from 161 at the same time last year. During the third quarter, all statutory timeframes were met. The deadlines were not fully met in quarter one due to a system error that has now been fixed. Unfortunately, the delays in quarter one means that we will not achieve one of the targets for Level of Service 40. The other target for this level of service, which relates to Council meetings, is on track.

Levels of service

	Level of service update for quarter 3	Status Q1	Status Q2	Status Q3
31	Work in partnership with Ngāi Tahu toward outcomes that are in the iwi, hapū and regional interest			
32	Enrich community participation in regional decision making and action			
33	Work in partnership with territorial authorities to promote coordination and collaboration			
34	Provide and implement a Regional Policy Statement to achieve integrated management of natural and physical resources in Canterbury – in partnership with Ngāi Tahu and the Canterbury region’s territorial authorities			
35	Deliver efficient and effective consenting and compliance monitoring and enforcement services to achieve the sustainable management of natural resources as set out in the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)			
36	Provide high-quality, accessible Long-Term Plan, Annual Plans, and Annual Reports that set our Council’s strategic vision and how we are delivering on it			
37	Ensure we are an organisation with the capability and willingness to repay its debts			
38	Invest in activities that deliver agreed climate change outcomes (Environment Canterbury-led and/or collaborative activities embedded across all portfolios)			
39	Collect, maintain and share quality-assured data for mana whenua, the community, businesses, and policy and law makers to use			
40	Provide robust and transparent governance processes that allow community participation <i>(red status is for Target 40.2 only - Respond to 100% of official information requests within statutory timeframes)</i>			

Key portfolio initiatives

	Status Q1	Status Q2	Status Q3
Tuia partnership			
Tuia Te Herenga – ensuring Environment Canterbury has the capacity and capability to address the challenges and opportunities arising from central government reforms and meet Papatipu Rūnanga expectations of our Tuia relationship			
Engagement and influence			
Responding to Government direction – advocacy and submissions on issues of regional importance to inform decision makers and influence central government to achieve improved outcomes for Canterbury			
Improved community engagement – broadening our collaborative engagement to enrich participation in regional decision making			
Leading regional planning, consenting and compliance			
Regional Policy Statement review – to ensure our plans are relevant for our communities and give effect to national direction			
Delivering responsive regulatory services – to sustainably manage our natural resources, including response to dust and odour issues			
Investing for the future			
Investigating new funding mechanisms – to help address legacy environmental issues			
Governance and advisory services			
Implementing refreshed committee structure – robust and transparent governance processes that allow community participation (also contributes to participatory democracy)			

Achieved	On track	At risk	Will not achieve	Not started
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Risks

Description	Criticality	Mitigation
<p>Compliance, monitoring and enforcement activities</p> <p>If the range of regulatory interventions and actions we utilise are not actioned in a fair, consistent, and transparent way, then that may result in a lack of community buy-in, affect compliance rates, and impact our ability to build and maintain collaborative relationships with stakeholders.</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of all compliance field staff in enforcement and investigation skills, to a nationally recognised level, to effectively deliver Resource Management Act compliance in accordance with our internal guidelines, which are aligned to the Ministry for the Environment's national guidelines Management of the impacts of COVID-19 on the programme of work. While the volume of work may reduce, the quality should be maintained.

Issues

Description	Criticality	Mitigation
<p>Consenting</p> <p>A backlog of consent applications has developed, due to the impact of COVID-19, and a period of high staff turnover. The consent timeframe compliance target of Level of Service 35 is at risk of not being achieved.</p>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A financial analysis has informed the development of a response plan. The pre-application advice has temporarily been suspended.

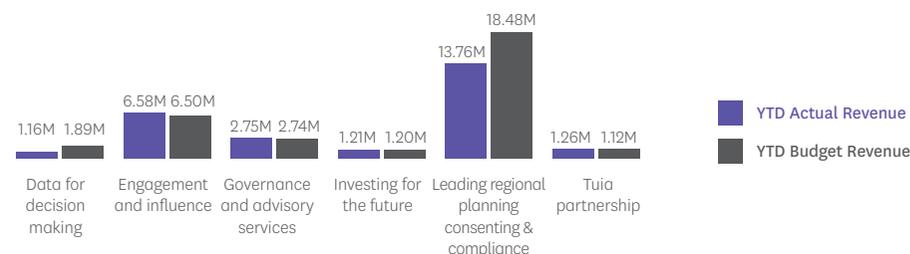
For cross-portfolio risks and issues, see page 6.

Portfolio finances

	Revenue	Expenditure	Surplus/Deficit
Actual	26.72M	26.11M	0.61M
Budget	31.92M	32.71M	-0.78M
Variance	-5.20M	-6.60M	1.39M
% Var	-16.30%	-20.18%	

Revenue

Overall the portfolio revenue is \$5.2m lower than budgeted, partly due to anticipated revenue from user pays services, such as consent application processing and compliance monitoring, being less than forecast. Impacts of COVID-19 has also reduced our ability to recover costs. In the Data for Decision Making programme, revenue is more than \$700k lower than expected for this time of year due to rescheduling of partner contributions to later in the year. This will be made up before the end of the financial year.



Expenditure

Expenditure is \$6.6m lower than budgeted across the portfolio, with a large underspend of \$4.7m in the Leading Regional Planning, Consenting and Compliance programme. This relates largely to user pays services and is the result of a similar variance in user pays revenue. Due to the impacts of COVID-19 there may be a temporary reduction in service delivery. The processing of the consent application backlog and discounting of charges on delayed consents will mean some additional unrecoverable costs will be incurred. Other budgets are also underspent, and are unlikely to be fully back on track by year end. This is due to delays in filling vacancies and impacts of COVID-19, for example, on our ability to hold events and undertake face-to-face engagement activities. In the Governance and Advisory Services programme, there is also an underspend that in part relates to a discretionary fund for urgent, unexpected projects that has not been needed so far this year.

