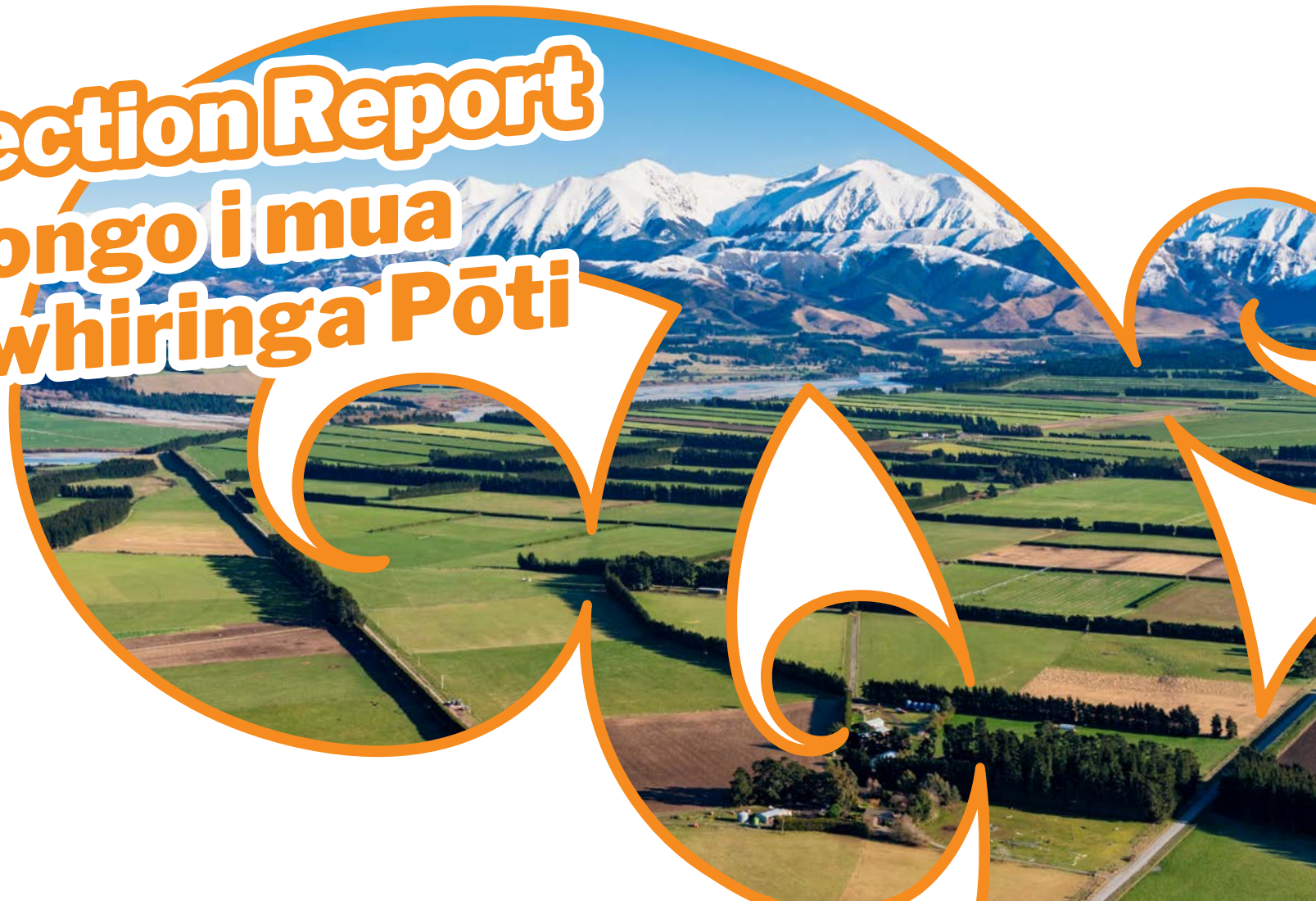


# Pre-election Report

## He pūrongo i mua i Te Kōwhiringa Pōti



# Contents | Ngā wāhanga o roto

1. Chief Executive foreword   Kupu Whakataki a te Manu Hautū .....	2
2. About Canterbury   Mō Waitaha.....	3
3. How local government works   Ngā mahi a Te Kāwanatanga-ā-rohe .....	5
4. About Environment Canterbury   Mō Te Kaunihera Taiao Ki Waitaha .....	8
5. What we do   Ā mātou mahi .....	12
6. How we do it   He pēhea te whakamahi .....	18
7. Challenges and opportunities   Ngā wero me ngā kōwhiringa .....	19
8. Our financial position   Tō mātou taukī pūtea .....	25
9. Find out more   Kimihia ētahi atu kōrero .....	28

## SECTION 1

# Kia ora and welcome from the Chief Executive | Kupu Whakataki a te Manu Hautū

Whether you are standing for Environment Canterbury/Te Kaunihera o Waitaha as a candidate or considering how you will vote as a resident, there are some important factors to consider ahead of this year's local government elections.

This pre-election report highlights the big issues we're facing. It offers a broad picture of Environment Canterbury's work and financial position. The report also outlines the great work we've been doing over the past three years to progress our commitments to the community and how we plan to tackle the issues facing our region.

Environment Canterbury's work has an impact on the air we breathe, the water we swim in, drink and use for other purposes, the places we gather kai or visit for recreation, our protection from floods and other natural hazards, and how easily we can move around the region. Considering the scope of our organisation's work, the role of the council is to sustainably manage our environmental impacts to ensure the region itself is fit for future generations to enjoy.

Elected Councillors make evidence-based decisions that balance our environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes

in order to meet our community's expectations and legal obligations.

Over the past three years, we've seen an incredible number of extreme weather events occur as a direct effect of climate change. We've seen record-breaking rainfall and subsequent flooding events. We've also seen droughts in the Waitaha/Canterbury region that have affected our community in a very different way.

We know that we need to be more prepared for such events and must look for more ways to increase our social and environmental resilience. We can, and must, take action to adapt to the climate emergency and prevent our situation from worsening.

We also know that the region is facing other challenges: biodiversity loss, flood recovery, and changing land use among many others. Significant government reforms across three areas (Future for Local Government, Three Waters, and Resource Management) will fundamentally alter and shape our work for many years to come. We believe that these challenges present an opportunity to be a true leader in social-environmental change for our communities.

Key to our success over the past decade has been a focus on collaboration and relationships with Papatipu Rūnanga, industry, fellow Councils, stakeholders and the community. We have robust plans, solid implementation programmes, dedicated staff, and prudently managed finances. What drives us is our passion for protecting our natural environment and improving the social and environmental outcomes for the community.

In whatever way you choose, taking part in this year's election is your opportunity to help shape our beloved region's future.

I urge you to grasp this opportunity with both hands.

Dr. Stefanie Rixecker













CHIEF EXECUTIVE





SECTION 2

# About Canterbury | Mō Waitaha

	Population <b>649,800*</b>		<b>800 km</b> of coastline		Around <b>70%</b> of New Zealand's groundwater
	<b>226,806</b> households <i>(2018 Census)</i>		<b>11,620 km<sup>2</sup></b> of coastal marine area		<b>64%</b> of the country's irrigated land area
	Waitaha/Canterbury is within <b>Ngāi Tahu takiwā</b>		<b>21%</b> of New Zealand's highest quality soils		More than <b>4,700</b> lakes and tarns
	<b>45,000 km<sup>2</sup></b> New Zealand's largest region by land area		<b>19%</b> of the total area farmed in New Zealand		Over <b>78,000 km</b> of rivers and streams.

*\*Estimated resident population as at 30 June 2021. Source: Stats NZ*



Environment Canterbury is responsible for environmental, social, economic, and cultural outcomes in a 45,000 square kilometre area of the South Island, from north of Kaikōura to Waitaki in the south, and inland as far as the Southern Alps.

Canterbury is New Zealand's largest region by area and, with nearly 650,000 residents, is the country's second-most populous region, after Auckland.

The entire region falls with the tribal takiwā of Ngāi Tahu and, within their takiwā, Environment Canterbury holds a special relationship with 10 of the 18 Papatipu Rūnanga.

Our braided, alpine rivers are an iconic natural feature and internationally rare - 64 per cent of New Zealand's braided rivers are in Canterbury. Characterised by their multiple, shifting shingle channels and varying flows, they support many species, including rare and threatened species not found anywhere else.

The region's population is unevenly distributed across the 10 local authority areas, with 60 per cent of people living in Christchurch, and a substantial 82 per cent in Greater Christchurch (Christchurch City, Waimakariri and Selwyn Districts).

Prior to international travel restrictions due to COVID-19, net migration significantly contributed to Canterbury's population growth. In the year ended June 2020, estimated populations were up in all districts and cities in Canterbury. Overall, the region's population growth rate was 2.2 per cent, similar to the national growth rate of 2.1 per cent with 82 per cent of the population growth in Canterbury due to net migration.

**Canterbury's population has been projected to increase to 780,500 by 2048, with almost half of that growth (43 per cent) occurring up to 2028.**



## SECTION 3

# How local government works | Ngā mahi a Te Kāwanatanga-ā-rohe

## The role of the elected member

As an elected member of a council, you will be making a positive difference for people and communities for today and into the future.

People elected to sit on Council are responsible for representing their community and for the governance of the community. A further key responsibility is to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi.

Representing the community means to speak on behalf of individuals and organisations in your community, act in their best interests, and make decisions that consider the needs of both current and future generations. It is about ensuring all voices are heard and fostering a culture of inclusion and belonging.

Our Candidate Handbook tells you all you need to know about standing for election. You can find it on our website, [ecan.govt.nz/elections](http://ecan.govt.nz/elections) or order a copy from [elections@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:elections@ecan.govt.nz)

## Local government in New Zealand

Local government is how communities make decisions about how their towns, cities and regions work and how they develop in the future. It refers to the activities of organisations known as local authorities - city, regional and district councils, as well as community and local boards.

While Parliament is elected to deal with issues relevant to the whole of Aotearoa New Zealand, local government enables decision-making by and for, local communities.

There are 78 local, regional and unitary councils (also referred to as local authorities).

- 11 regional councils
- 61 territorial authorities
  - » 11 city councils
  - » 50 district councils
- Six unitary councils which are territorial authorities with regional council responsibilities.

Functions may vary from place to place as responsibilities can be transferred between territorial and regional councils. Many councils have established joint service delivery arrangements.

## **Services councils provide**

### **Regional councils**

These play a core role in the management of the natural resources of an area. This includes:

- biosecurity control (including pest control and harmful plants)
- resource management (quality of water, soil, coastal planning) including flood and river management
- public transport
- civil defence (natural disasters, marine oil spills)
- regional transport planning and passenger transport services.

### **City and district councils**

Responsibilities for city and district councils include:

- infrastructure services, such as local roads and the 'three waters' - waste water, storm water and drinking water
- town planning and resource management
- local regulatory services, such as building consenting, dog control and liquor licensing
- developing and maintaining parks, recreation and cultural facilities, libraries, art galleries, museums and cemeteries
- civil defence and emergency management
- economic development and tourism promotion
- supporting and promoting the arts and distinct cultures of the rohe.

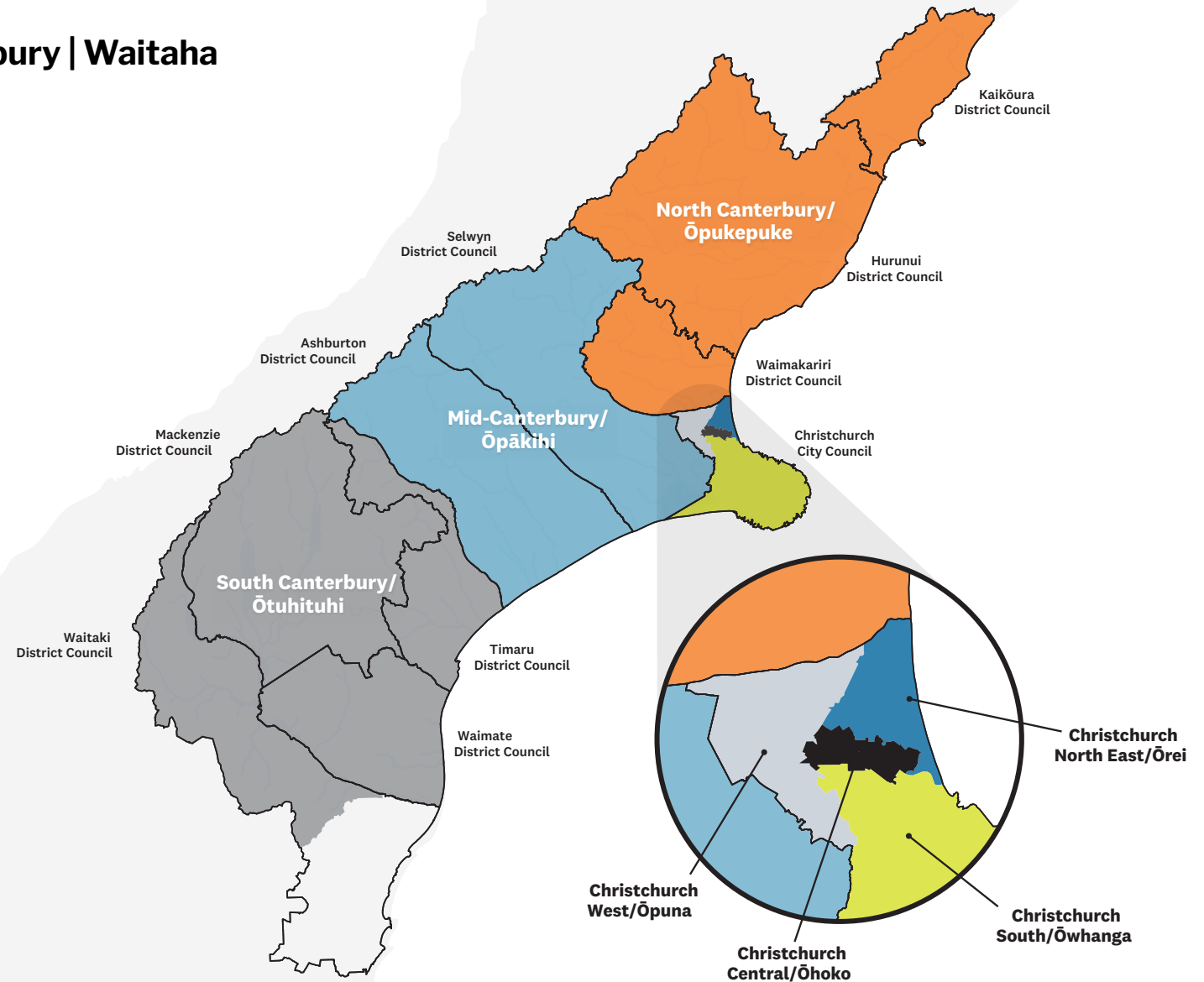
## Local government in Canterbury | Waitaha

There are 10 city or district councils in Canterbury/Waitaha.

- Kaikōura District Council
- Hurunui District Council
- Waimakariri District Council
- Christchurch City Council
- Selwyn District Council
- Ashburton District Council
- Timaru District Council
- Mackenzie District Council
- Waimate District Council
- Waitaki District Council.

In Canterbury/Waitaha there are 7 regional council constituencies.

- North Canterbury/Ōpukepuke
- Christchurch North East/Ōrei
- Christchurch West/Ōpuna
- Christchurch Central/Ōhoko
- Christchurch South/Ōwhanga
- Mid-Canterbury/Ōpākihi
- South Canterbury/Ōtuhituhi.





## SECTION 4

# About Environment Canterbury | Mō Te Kaunihera Taiao Ki Waitaha

We are the Canterbury Regional Council, known as Environment Canterbury/Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha.

## Our Vision and Purpose

**Taking action together to shape a thriving and resilient Canterbury, now and for future generations**

**Toitū te marae o Tāne,  
toitū te marae o Tangaroa, tōitu te iwi.**

*Protect and strengthen the realms of the land and sea,  
and they will protect and strengthen the people.*

## Our Values

### **People First | Manaakitanga**

Our people, customers, and community come first

### **Collaboration | Whanaungatanga**

Together works best

### **Can do | Māiatanga**

Be brave and make it happen

### **Integrity | Pononga**

Trust in us and our information

### **Stewardship | Kaitiakitanga**

Good decisions today for tomorrow

## Strategic Direction

Our Strategic Direction | Te Aronga Rautaki 2020–2023 was developed in the context of our changing climate, declining natural capital, changing demographics and increasing community expectations.





## Representation

The community elects 14 councillors across 7 constituencies. In addition, since September 2020, two Tumu Taiao have joined the Council table as mana whenua advisors.

The Canterbury Regional Council (Ngāi Tahu Representation) Bill is being considered by Parliament. This law change will provide for mana whenua representation by empowering Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to appoint up to two members of the Environment Canterbury Council with full decision-making powers.

## Responsibilities

We are responsible for managing natural resources including air, soil, water and land.

Our responsibilities include:

- regional planning, consenting and compliance to manage land use and water quality, soil, air, and the coastal environment
- hazard management and flood protection
- biodiversity and pest management
- public transport services
- marine pollution response and harbour navigation and safety
- regional parks
- civil defence
- environmental monitoring and reporting.

## Relationship with councils

Strong relationships with the region's city and district councils support the activities of the regional council.

## Our relationship with Ngāi Tahu

Our Ngāi Tahu partnership is central to all of our work.

We have the Tuia Agreement with 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 activities to achieve better outcomes for everyone. It's founded on 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 and their ancestral land, acknowledging the land is inextricably affected by the work we do at Environment Canterbury.

## Canterbury Mayoral Forum

The Mayors of the region's 10 territorial authorities and the Chair of Environment Canterbury come together as the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. As required by the Local Government Act 2002, the Forum develops and approves a triennial agreement following each local authority election to ensure that appropriate levels of communication, coordination and collaboration are maintained between local authorities within the region.

The next triennial agreement must be ratified by all member councils no later than 1 March 2023.

## Greater Christchurch Partnership

Environment Canterbury's Greater Christchurch partners are Christchurch City Council, Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

Priorities for the Partnership are decarbonising the transport system, increasing resilience to natural hazards and the effects of climate change, accelerating the provision of quality, affordable housing, and improving access to employment, education and services.

The Partnership is developing the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan, which is the first project delivered by the new Urban Growth Partnership for Greater Christchurch - the Whakawhanake Kāinga Committee. This is a partnership between Central government, mana whenua and local government to set the long-term direction for how Christchurch will grow and change in the future and to plan modern and resilient infrastructure ahead of predicted population growth.

## Outcomes

Local Government's mandated purpose is to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing 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).

The outcomes Environment Canterbury strives to deliver are outlined in our Long-Term Plan 2021-31.



## SECTION 5

# What we do | Ā mātou mahi

The work of Environment Canterbury is reported under five portfolios.



**Water and Land |**  
**Te Wai me Te Whenua**



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



**Biodiversity and Biosecurity |**  
**Te Rerenga Rauropi me**  
**Te Whakahaumarau Rauropi**



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



**Climate Change and Community**  
**Resilience | Te Whakamahanatanga**  
**o Te Ao me Te Aumangea o te Hapori**

Each portfolio is made up of programmes that include specific activities, Levels of Service, performance measures and targets. We report against these quarterly and in our Annual Report.





## **Water and Land | Te Wai me Te Whenua**

We are building community engagement and action as a partner within the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, 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.

We will:

- partner with Ngāi Tahu and others to support regional leadership
- enable Papatipu Rūnanga and communities to lead and take responsibility for improving freshwater outcomes
- implement a robust regulatory framework with high levels of compliance to improve freshwater environments and facilitate land use diversification
- use information and tools to inform our work, share our progress and facilitate a better community understanding of freshwater.

### **Current work and progress**

Success will see us work with Papatipu Rūnanga to develop a ki uta ki tai/mountains to sea planning framework and continue to partner with Ngāi Tahu to improve outcomes for freshwater.

We will see immediate actions on the ground that will improve mahinga kai.

Alongside this, we will be reviewing and responding to the Government's proposals within this portfolio.

As a partner within the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS), we will:

- support Zone Committees to deliver on their action plans
- lead or support local initiatives, including the urgent action needed to restore and preserve Ashburton Lakes/Ōtuwharekai
- continue long-term monitoring of water quality and quantity across the region
- investigate how this data can be used to inform decision-making, measure progress and deliver on national requirements to improve management practices on farms.



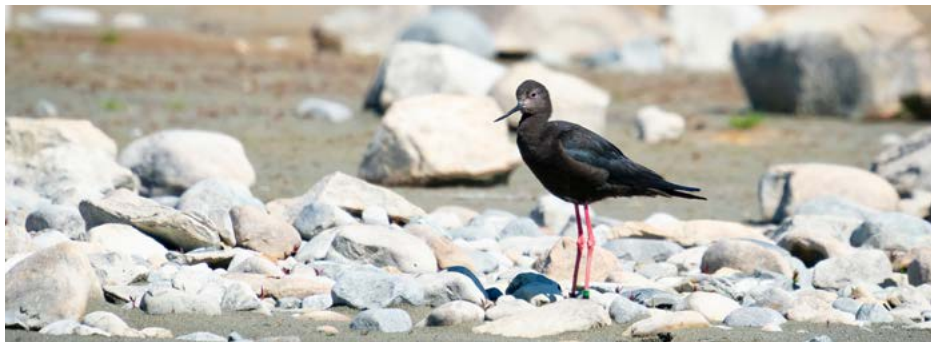


## **Biodiversity and Biosecurity | Te Rerenga Rauropi me Te Whakahaumarau Rauropi**

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.

We will:

- deliver on-the-ground action to protect, maintain and enhance priority landscapes and ecosystems across the region
- use knowledge (science, data, mātauranga Māori) and spatial tools to inform our work, show our progress, and facilitate community engagement and understanding of biodiversity and biosecurity
- engage with Ngāi Tahu and other strategic partners, such as community and landowners, to facilitate and deliver more effective and efficient outcomes for priority ecosystems
- lead transformational change across all of our work and our land.



### **Current work and progress**

By working to stop pests from establishing and also managing current pests, we are protecting mahinga kai, indigenous biodiversity and economic production.

With a boost in funding from the Jobs for Nature Programme and the National Wilding Conifer Control programme, we are making changes to our landscape through the large-scale removal of wilding conifers. Through the National Wallaby Control programme, we are restricting the spread of wallabies.

We have a region-wide focus on the protection of existing wetlands. We are starting to build awareness of their importance and our first step on this journey is to increase compliance and enforcement of the regulatory requirements relating to wetlands.

We will accelerate the regeneration of the natural environment this financial year by coordinating and supporting landscape-scale projects.

Success will see us:

- continue to work with Papatipu Rūnanga to develop ki uta ki tai river revival strategies for braided rivers, which maintain natural character and restore mauri
- support community projects in a priority catchment through the Me Uru Rākau programme.



## **Climate Change and Community Resilience | Te Whakamahanatangao Te Ao me Te Aumangea o te Hapori**

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.

We will:

- provide quality and timely information on natural and human-induced hazards
- manage infrastructure and services that reduce risks from natural hazards
- maintain contingency plans that enable communities to respond to and recover from shocks and stressors
- provide quality advice to decision-makers and communities to empower and enable assessments on difficult issues that affect people's lives.

### **Current work and progress**

We will continue to lead climate change resilience and help communities prepare for changes in the natural environment.

We do this by:

- reducing risks from natural hazards
- responding to emergencies in an effective way
- providing quality advice to decision-makers and communities.

Success will see us:

- respond to emergencies as the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group
- build region-wide resilience through alpine fault planning and the development of a Canterbury resilience strategy
- engage with the community on the impacts of climate change
- improve how climate change is built into our decision making
- understand the implications of national direction as we develop a Climate Change Action Plan for Canterbury
- continue working on flood protection and climate change resilience across six key river projects for the region.

The regionally significant flood in May 2021 and more recent severe weather in July 2022 impacted people and communities across the region. By fixing and restoring our flood protection infrastructure, this will protect land, homes, roads and bridges from future events.



## **Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development | Te Pai o TeHau Takiwā, Ngā Momo Waka, me Te Whanaketanga o Ngā Tāone**

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.

We will:

- advocate and influence in sectors that promote and improve healthy and sustainable living and working environments, such as the transport and home heating sectors
- foster relationships and drive alignment with our partners to underpin our leadership in sustainable, healthy community environments on behalf of our communities
- use data and evidence about sustainable and healthy communities to develop policy and prioritise our work, while taking account of cultural, social, economic, and environmental wellbeing
- use innovative technologies and tools in air quality, transport and urban development to enable communities to thrive.

### **Current work and progress**

We are delivering significant initiatives across all three programmes in this portfolio to:

- improve our public transport services and increase patronage
- provide safe multi-modal transport choices
- reduce transport and other harmful emissions
- prioritise sustainable and healthy living and working environments.

In particular, we will implement a two-year trial of a new bus fare structure starting in February 2023 in the Greater Christchurch area to increase bus use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Success will see us:

- continue to operate core public transport services within the challenges of COVID-19
- advance the broader public transport work programme
- continue joint initiatives for Greater Christchurch 2050 and the Spatial Plan and start Urban Growth Partnership discussions
- investigate ways to improve the management of freight transport across the region and reduce emissions
- monitor air quality across eight designated airsheds in Canterbury and support communities if any issues arise.

To deliver this work and maintain ongoing operations, we work in partnership with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, the Greater Christchurch Partnership, Canterbury Regional Transport Committee, the South Island Regional Transport Committee, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, local councils and multiple other organisations throughout Canterbury.



## **Regional and Strategic Leadership | Te Hautūtangaā-Rohe, ā-Rautaki hoki**

Our priority is to continue to evolve our partnership with Ngāi Tahu by defining and agreeing the ātea, kawa and tangata (principles, roles, and responsibilities) as we deliver our core regulatory functions of planning, consenting and compliance monitoring, and enforcement.

We will continue to engage with the Government and others on significant reforms, including Three Waters, Resource Management and the Future for Local Government. A focus will be the development of an integrated regulatory framework in partnership with Ngāi Tahu to better manage environmental issues in the region. This framework will take a ki uta ki tai/mountains to sea approach and will involve an integrated review of the Regional Policy Statement, Regional Coastal Environment Plan and Land and Water Plan.

Other activities will include:

- a contestable funding round for the Waitaha Action to Impact Fund for community groups, with an increase in funding available following the success of the 2021/22 pilot
- increasing the number of Enviroschools in the region
- early engagement with Te Kōrari People's Panel in important regional issues
- working alongside the Christchurch Foundation on a new green philanthropy fund to support major environmental projects in the region.





## SECTION 6

# How we do it | He pēhea te whakamahi

## Summary of funding and reporting

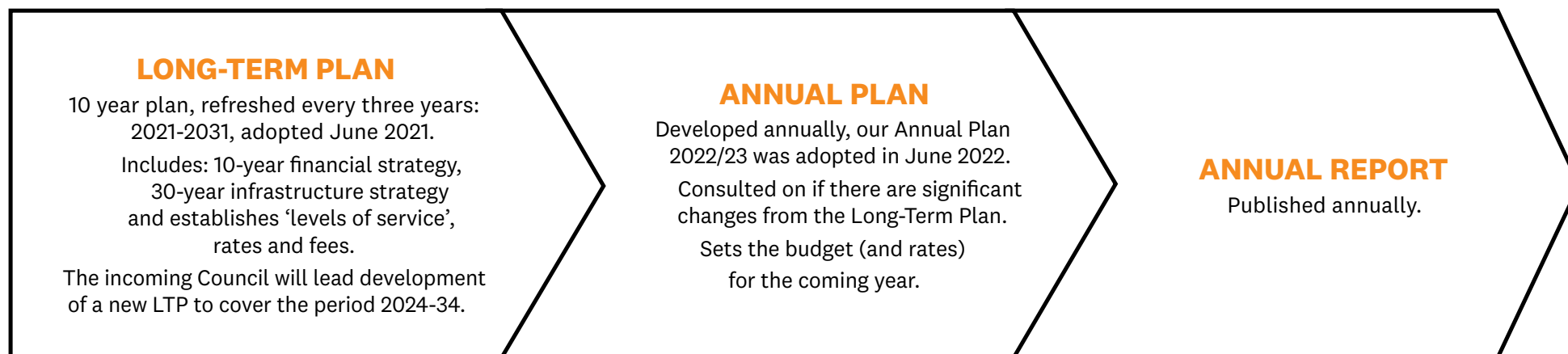
The Local Government Act 2002 prescribes planning and reporting requirements of local authorities, and processes of consultation and community engagement that local authorities must follow.

Local authorities work to a rolling 10-year planning cycle (the Long-Term Plan), consulted on and adopted every three years.

Within the Long-Term Plan cycle, local authorities develop and engage with the community on Annual Plans that set the budget (and rates) for the coming financial year.

Each local authority must have a 'significance and engagement policy' that describes how it decides whether a proposal is 'significant' and the consultation and engagement process it will follow.

Local authorities must also publish audited Annual Reports.



## Challenges and opportunities | Ngā wero me ngā kōwhiringa

While we're making progress in turning the vision of our Long-Term Plan into on-the-ground action, some of our activities have been impacted by the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, regionally significant flooding, and changes in Government legislation. In this section we outline our major projects over the next three years and summarise some of the opportunities and challenges we face.



### Population changes

Population growth (or decline), age structure and distribution (spread), and the changing number and type of households and families in our cities, towns and communities will affect:

- demand for local services and the willingness and ability of ratepayers to pay for them
- representation and participation in local democracy
- interactions between human activity and the natural environment.

In addition, improvements in life expectancy and decreases in birth rates result in a greater number of older people, and a higher median age (more older people than younger people).

This affects:

- the size of the workforce, including the availability of young people entering the workforce and expectations of 'working age'
- the kind of services needed – and the ability to pay for them
- local authorities' own workforce.



### COVID-19 pandemic

The region continues to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have all felt the impacts in the way we live, work and travel around the region and beyond. There is still much uncertainty, and longer-term effects on community wellbeing and makeup remain to be seen. In the short term, we have seen changes in immigration to the region and a competitive labour market.



### Climate emergency

We are already feeling the impact of the climate emergency with wild weather events like the May 2021 and July 2022 flooding, droughts and higher than normal temperatures. 2021 was New Zealand's warmest year on record. We expect ongoing impacts on the region, and we need to take action now to adapt and mitigate for the benefit of future generations.



## Regionally significant flooding

Our flood management network has been severely tested with significant weather events, notably the widespread flooding in May 2021 and a series of severe weather events in winter 2022. The aftermath of these events will determine much of our flood protection, land drainage and erosion control work in the coming years.



## Public transport

Our public transport network continues to face challenges. The number of people using bus services in Christchurch is 40 per cent lower than before the COVID pandemic. One direct impact of changes to immigration in the Covid environment has been bus driver shortages resulting in a temporary reduction in the frequency of buses on some routes during 2021.

In 2021, we supported the Living Wage for all Canterbury bus drivers and, even so, labour shortages and recruitment are ongoing issues. We are introducing new electric vehicles into our bus fleets and improving services while balancing costs as we strive to increase the number of bus users.

There will be a two-year trial of new bus fares for Greater Christchurch, beginning in February 2023. For existing Zones 1, 2 and 3, this will comprise a \$1 targeted flat fare for those aged under 25, tertiary students, Total Mobility card holders and Community Services Card holders, with a \$2 flat fare for everyone else. The ferry service will offer a targeted flat fare of \$2 for the groups noted above and a \$4 fare for everyone else.



## Changes in Government legislation

A programme of Government reforms, including resource management reform, Three Waters and the Future for Local Government, will impact on the work we do.

Some changes have already been introduced and we are developing a framework to implement the Government's Essential Freshwater package. The package prescribes new limits for farming activities and for water quality standards, and embeds the concept of Te Mana o te Wai - the mana of the water. Alongside this work we will be reviewing the Regional Policy Statement and Coastal Plan for 2024 and responding to Three Waters and resource management reforms.



## Resource Management

The Government is repealing the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and replacing it with new legislation:

- the Natural and Built Environments Act, which will be the main replacement for the RMA
- the Strategic Planning Act, which will require councils, iwi/Māori and central government agencies to develop 30-year regional spatial plans
- the Climate Change Adaptation Act, which deals with the legal and technical matters associated with climate change adaptation and managed retreat.



## Future for Local Government

An independent panel is reviewing the 30-year-old system of local governance. The Future for Local Government reform could rebalance the roles and funding models of central and local government. This review represents a significant opportunity to create a local governance and democracy system that will effectively respond to a changing New Zealand. The panel is developing a draft report, due to go to the Minister in October. The draft report and recommendations will be issued for public consultation before a final report is prepared.



## Three Waters

The Government's Three Waters Reform is about changing how New Zealand's stormwater, drinking water and wastewater services are delivered. The reform proposes shifting the delivery of three waters services to four new entities that can borrow enough to fund New Zealand's current and future water infrastructure upgrades. Water assets will remain publicly owned by councils, who will play a key role in the entities' governance and priority-setting processes.

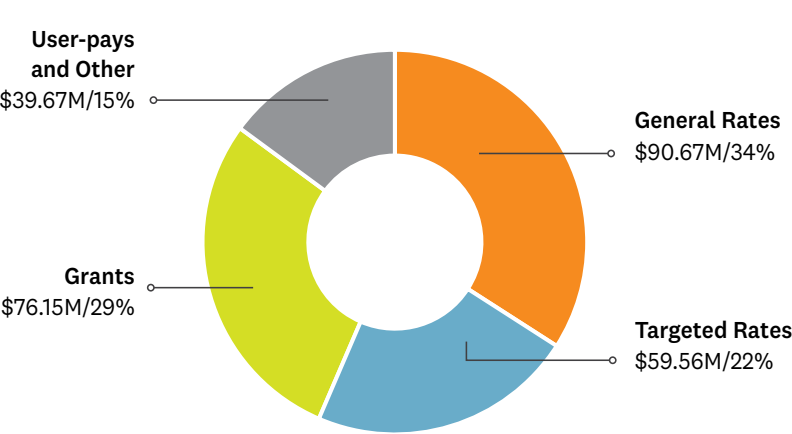
A new water regulator, Taumata Arowai is responsible for drinking water quality and making sure water suppliers meet standards. We are working with Taumata Arowai to understand how the changes will impact on our role, particularly protecting drinking water sources and monitoring wastewater and stormwater networks.

# Our financial position | Tō mātou taukī pūtea

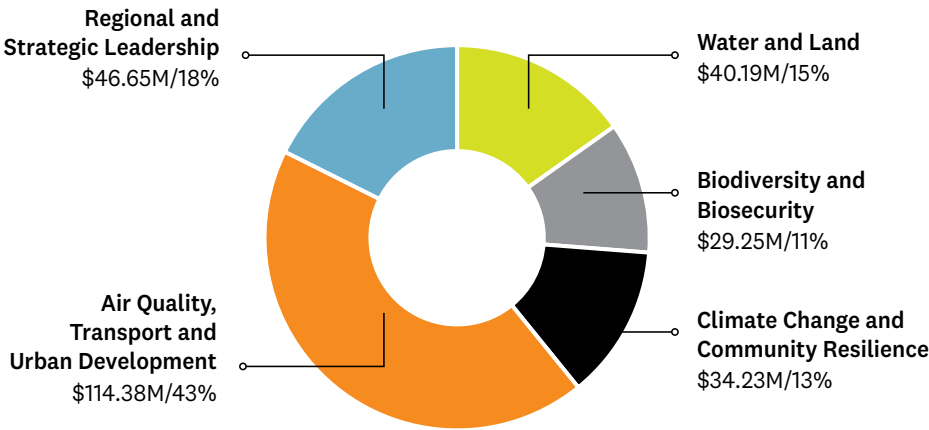
## Money matters

The annual operating budget of Environment Canterbury is about \$266 million (for 2022/23). Our income comes from general rates, targeted rates (either by function or geographical area), user-pays (such as bus fares or consent applications) and grants. Government grants associated with public transport are a significant part of our annual revenue.

### Our sources of income



### How our money is spent





## Financial Strategy Overview

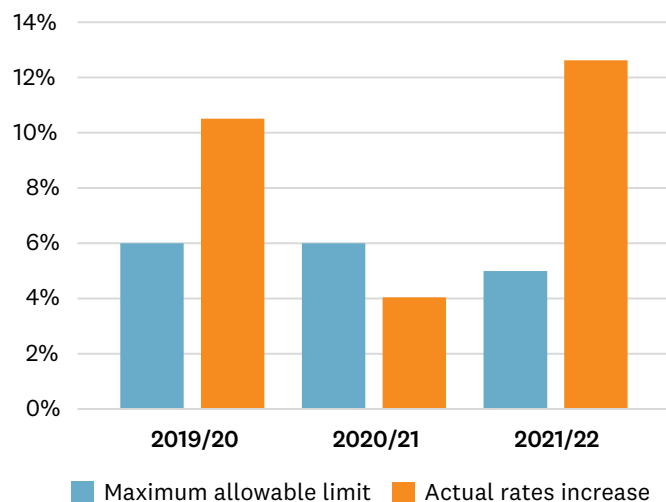
Environment Canterbury's Financial Strategy 2021-2031 forms part of the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031. It outlines how we manage our finances and the considerations taken into account when forming a long-term plan.

Broadly, we aim to maximise return on investments, minimise risk, hold reserves at our policy level and keep rates affordable.

The financial strategy in the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 sets financial limits. Compliance against these limits for the last three years to the end of 2021/22 is demonstrated in the graphs on this page.

### Rates increases from year to year

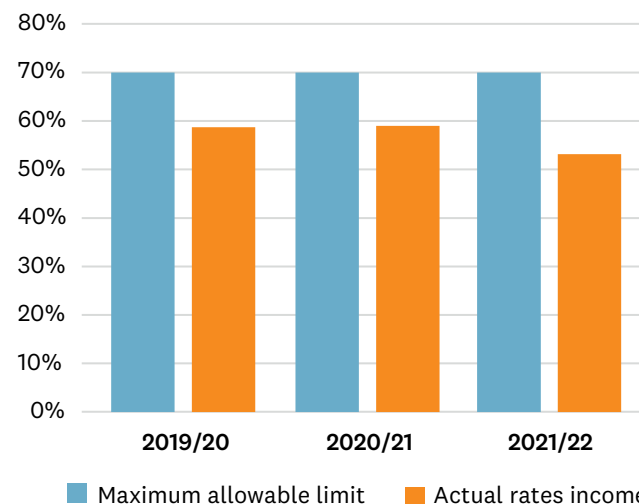
In 2022/23, the total revenue from rates will increase by 16.2 per cent which does not meet our rates affordability benchmark of 5 per cent.



*This measure assesses whether the rates increase is greater than maximum allowable limit noted in the long-term plan*

### Rates as a percentage of total income

In 2022/23, rates will be 56 per cent of total income. The measure sets a limit of 70 per cent.

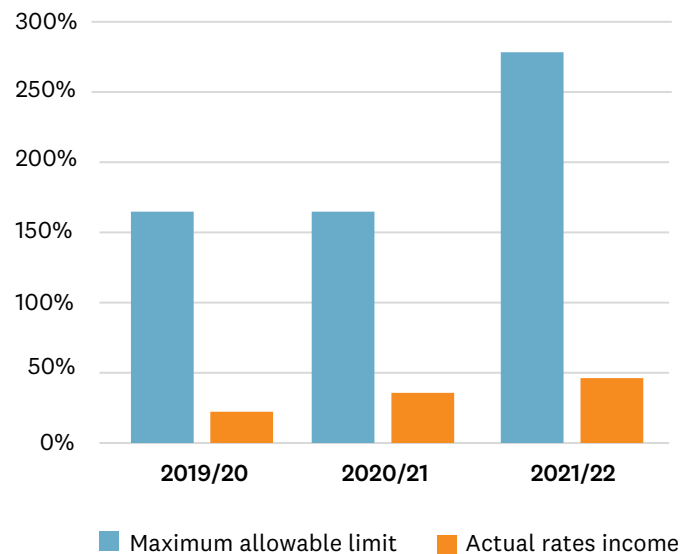


*This measure ensures that rates do not exceed 70 per cent of total income.*



### Debt affordability

In 2022/23, our debt level will be 56 per cent. The measure set a limit of 280 per cent of total rates revenue.



*This measure ensures that debt levels stay below 280 per cent (2021/22 onwards) of total rates income.*

### Returns on investment

Environment Canterbury does not rely heavily on investment income from treasury and equity investments as these contribute only a very small percentage of revenue collected.

# Our financial Position | Tō mātou taukī pūtea

The Council's net worth is about \$1,121 million. Net worth is total assets less total liabilities. Due to our high level of assets to liabilities, we are able to access low-cost borrowing which means we can fund capital projects as required.

## Assets

The Council's total assets are worth about \$1,230 million. The majority of the assets are flood protection infrastructure such as stopbanks and planting, with the remainder made up of property, plant and equipment.

## Liabilities

The Council's total liabilities are worth about \$109 million, which include borrowings and other liabilities including trade payables.

	Actual	Actual	LTP *	Annual Plan	LTP *	LTP *	LTP *
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>57,815</b>	<b>70,765</b>	<b>44,537</b>	<b>51,736</b>	<b>35,438</b>	<b>38,271</b>	<b>40,328</b>
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>1,129,671</b>	<b>1,130,953</b>	<b>1,185,075</b>	<b>1,234,548</b>	<b>1,251,502</b>	<b>1,291,448</b>	<b>1,334,688</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,187,486</b>	<b>1,201,718</b>	<b>1,229,612</b>	<b>1,286,284</b>	<b>1,286,940</b>	<b>1,329,719</b>	<b>1,375,016</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>							
Borrowings	11,015	17,011	250	250	250	250	250
Other	25,590	37,137	23,362	37,799	24,200	24,774	25,342
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>36,605</b>	<b>54,148</b>	<b>23,612</b>	<b>38,049</b>	<b>24,450</b>	<b>25,024</b>	<b>25,592</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>							
<b>Borrowings</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>84,418</b>	<b>84,369</b>	<b>84,430</b>	<b>80,762</b>	<b>76,383</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>798</b>
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>44,281</b>	<b>46,794</b>	<b>85,190</b>	<b>85,728</b>	<b>85,215</b>	<b>81,555</b>	<b>77,181</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>80,886</b>	<b>100,942</b>	<b>108,802</b>	<b>123,777</b>	<b>109,665</b>	<b>106,579</b>	<b>102,773</b>
<b>Total equity/net assets</b>	<b>1,106,600</b>	<b>1,100,776</b>	<b>1,120,810</b>	<b>1,162,507</b>	<b>1,177,275</b>	<b>1,223,140</b>	<b>1,272,243</b>

\*These figures are taken from the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan as the Council's Annual Report for 2021/22 was not completed at the time this report was compiled.

## Funding impact statement

### Our expenditure and how we fund it

This table shows how we fund our operating and capital expenditure. The annual plan for 2022/23 has a 16.2 per cent rates increase. Future rates levels will be determined in each Annual/Long-Term Plan.

	Actual	Actual	LTP *	Annual Plan	LTP *	LTP *	LTP *
	2019/20 \$000	2020/21 \$000	2021/22 \$000	2022/23 \$000	2023/24 \$000	2024/25 \$000	2025/26 \$000
<b>Sources of operating funding</b>							
<b>Cash provided from:</b>							
General rate, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	69,724	73,027	81,247	90,672	106,071	107,092	108,690
Targeted rates	42,690	43,260	47,986	59,555	54,513	58,586	60,779
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	45,478	69,265	70,828	76,152	52,139	47,529	50,685
Fees and charges	31,841	33,717	39,904	35,550	42,231	46,253	47,250
Interest and dividends from investments	627	589	451	581	693	738	737
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	2,171	2,044	2,664	3,593	889	903	917
<b>Total Operating funding</b>	<b>192,531</b>	<b>221,902</b>	<b>243,080</b>	<b>266,103</b>	<b>256,536</b>	<b>261,101</b>	<b>269,058</b>
<b>Applications of operating funding</b>							
Payments to staff and suppliers	180,071	218,615	234,659	254,557	240,222	244,438	252,723
Finance costs	1,306	1,217	1,457	1,728	1,514	1,531	1,462
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total applications of operating funding</b>	<b>181,377</b>	<b>219,832</b>	<b>236,116</b>	<b>256,285</b>	<b>241,736</b>	<b>245,969</b>	<b>254,185</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) of operating funding</b>	<b>11,154</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>6,964</b>	<b>9,818</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>15,132</b>	<b>14,873</b>

\*These figures are taken from the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan as the Council's Annual Report for 2021/22 was not completed at the time this report was compiled.

## Funding impact statement

### Continued

	Actual	Actual	LTP *	Annual Plan	LTP *	LTP *	LTP *
	2019/20 \$000	2020/21 \$000	2021/22 \$000	2022/23 \$000	2023/24 \$000	2024/25 \$000	2025/26 \$000
<b>Sources of capital funding</b>							
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	-	1,203	-	-	-	-	-
Development and financial contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in debt	16,015	8,996	20,525	11,958	675	(3,668)	(4,379)
Gross proceeds from sales of assets	380	203	5,208	2,676	1,306	1,327	1,418
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total sources of capital funding</b>	<b>16,395</b>	<b>10,402</b>	<b>25,733</b>	<b>14,633</b>	<b>1,981</b>	<b>(2,341)</b>	<b>(2,961)</b>
<b>Application of capital funding</b>							
<b>Capital expenditure</b>							
To meet additional demand	-	3,358	8,984	6,934	334	332	341
To improve the level of service	4,407	8,485	23,689	19,403	15,651	5,826	5,751
To replace existing assets	8,525	2,833	8,920	14,386	4,208	3,334	3,731
Increase/(decrease) in reserves	1,924	(3,104)	11,454	(16,271)	4,292	45,866	49,102
Increase/(decrease) in investments	12,693	900	(20,350)	-	(7,704)	(42,567)	(47,013)
<b>Total applications of capital funding</b>	<b>27,549</b>	<b>12,472</b>	<b>32,697</b>	<b>24,451</b>	<b>16,781</b>	<b>12,791</b>	<b>11,912</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) of capital funding</b>	<b>(11,154)</b>	<b>(2,070)</b>	<b>(6,964)</b>	<b>(9,818)</b>	<b>(14,800)</b>	<b>(15,132)</b>	<b>(14,873)</b>
<b>Funding balance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

\*These figures are taken from the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan as the Council's Annual Report for 2021/22 was not completed at the time this report was compiled.



## SECTION 9

# Find out more | Kimihia ētahi atu kōrero

## Our website

Environment Canterbury's website is [ecan.govt.nz](https://ecan.govt.nz)

There you will find information about:

- Our portfolios of work from the menu on the Home page - Your region (Your environment, and Living in Canterbury)
- Canterbury's water
- Plans, strategies and bylaws
- Our Long-Term Plan and Annual Plans
- Annual and quarterly reporting
- Our leadership team.

## Key plans and strategies

### Long-Term Plan 2021-31

[ecan.govt.nz/long-term-plans](https://ecan.govt.nz/long-term-plans)

### Annual Plan 2022/23

[ecan.govt.nz/annual-plans](https://ecan.govt.nz/annual-plans)

## Tuia Relationship

### Working with Ngāi Tahu

[ecan.govt.nz/your-region/our-partnership](https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/our-partnership)

### Ngāi Tahu representation

[ecan.govt.nz/about/your-council/our-team/tuma-taiao/mana-whenua-representation](https://ecan.govt.nz/about/your-council/our-team/tuma-taiao/mana-whenua-representation)

## Canterbury Mayoral Forum

[canterburymayors.org.nz](https://canterburymayors.org.nz)

## Greater Christchurch Partnership

[greaterchristchurch.org.nz](https://greaterchristchurch.org.nz)

## Plans, strategies, and bylaws

On this section of our website you will find information on the following:

- Canterbury Regional Policy Statement
- Canterbury Air Regional Plan
- Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan
- Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Canterbury Region
- Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan

[ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws](https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws)

## Key legislation

You can read and download legislation from [legislation.govt.nz](https://legislation.govt.nz)

The relevant legislation includes:

- Local Government Act 2002
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Local Electoral Act 2001
- Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- Biosecurity Act 1993
- Land Transport Management Act 2003
- Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

## Reforms in Local Government New Zealand

[lgnz.co.nz/reforms](https://lgnz.co.nz/reforms)

## Election 2022 key dates

- 15 July 2022 - Candidate nominations open and roll opens for public inspection
- 12 August 2022 - Candidate nominations close at 12 noon
- 16 - 21 September 2022 - Voting documents delivered, voting opens
- 8 October 2022 - Voting closes at 12 noon
- 13-19 October 2022 - Official results declared and advertised.

## Information for candidates

A candidate information booklet for the 2022 election is available on the Environment Canterbury website. Nomination forms are available online.

If you are enrolled as a Parliamentary elector, you will automatically be placed on your district or city council's electoral roll as a residential elector. If you need to enrol or update existing name or address details on the Parliamentary electoral roll, you can do so at any Post Shop, online at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) or by phoning 0800 36 76 56.

Further election-related documents and links are available on our website.

### Anthony Morton, Electoral Officer

electionz.com Ltd,

PO Box 3138,

CHRISTCHURCH.

Phone: 0800 666 048

Email: [ecan@electionz.com](mailto:ecan@electionz.com)

Contact: For further information, email [elections@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:elections@ecan.govt.nz)

