

Coastal environment

The sea and 800-kilometre coastline are important elements in the lifestyle of many people living in Canterbury.

Key issues for 2008/09

Coastal water quality: Coastal waters are highly valued for recreation, food gathering, cultural purposes, production from marine farming and as a wildlife habitat. Although the majority of the coastal marine area has high water quality, in some areas human activities have led to water quality problems arising from sewage disposal, siltation, run-off, oil spills, discharge of contaminants and other impacts of land use.

Pressure on the coastal environment: Development in the coastal marine area threatens the natural character of the coast, ecosystems and the main ports at Lyttelton and Timaru in servicing the region's agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Sensitive coastal environments are under increasing pressure from recreational use, including vehicle access, and require protection. Development of aquaculture requires regional councils to work in conjunction with central Government agencies.

Coastal hazards: There is a history of coastal erosion and sea water inundation along parts of the Canterbury coast, damaging property and threatening life.

» What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?

Environment Canterbury is inviting private plan changes to the Canterbury Regional Coastal Environment Plan, as required under aquaculture reform legislation.

The coast group of activities contributes to the following community outcomes:

- Air, beaches and ocean and land are all in a healthy condition
- Business and farming activities do not harm the environment
- People feel safe at all times
- Recreational needs are met

Environment Canterbury's role is as the lead agency for resource management and hazard management and as a joint lead agency for marine oil spill response.

Levels of service These services deliver Environment Canterbury's contribution to the community outcomes.

Uncertainties

For 2008/09, the following is uncertain:

- a) Impact of the review of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. It is possible additional work will be required to identify areas susceptible to coastal hazards as a result of climate change and sea level effects.

» What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?

This uncertainty did not exist when the LTCCP was adopted.

Assumptions

For 2008/09 it is assumed that:

- a) No additional funding is required as a result of the review of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

» What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?

This assumption was not required when the LTCCP was adopted.

1. Limiting the risk of damage from coastal hazards, to protect life and property

Measure

The amount of new development occurring within coastal hazard zones, other than that which is provided for in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan 2005.

Target

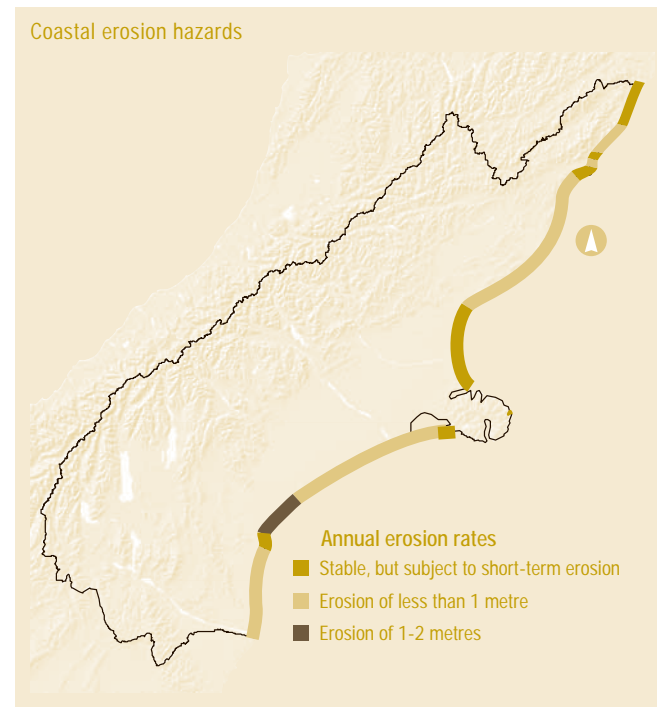
No unplanned development.

New development	
2003/04	None
2004/05	None
2005/06	None
2006/07	None
2007/08	Forecast: none
2008/09	Target: none
2009/10 to 2015/16	Target: none

Source: Environment Canterbury.

» What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?

The target was changed from "none" to avoid ambiguity.



2. Improving the aquatic health of estuaries

Measure

The percentage of water quality monitoring sites meeting water quality standards for the maintenance of aquatic ecosystems defined in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan 2005.

Target

The percentage is increasing.

Source: Environment Canterbury.

» What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?

This is a new measure and target proposed in the 2006-16 LTCCP. This work programme will start in 2007/08 and will produce base-line data against which future improvements in water quality can be compared.

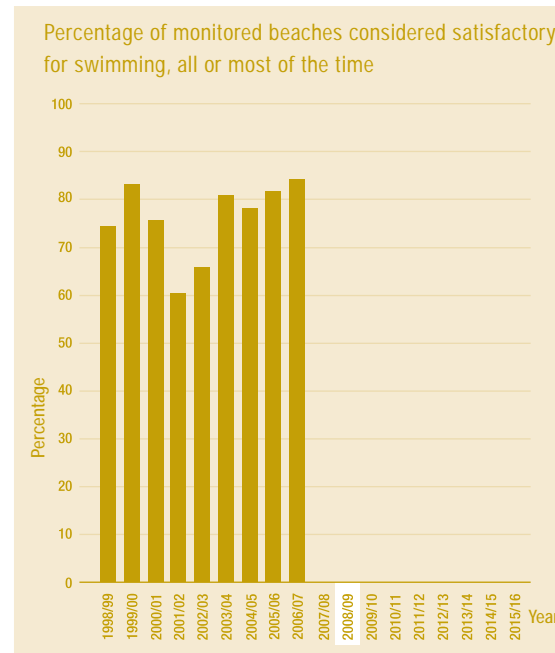
3. Improving water quality at swimming beaches

Measure

The percentage of monitored beaches complying with the Microbiological Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Freshwater Recreational Areas during the summer recreational season, all or most of the time.

Target

The percentage considered satisfactory for swimming, all or most of the time, is increasing.



Source: Environment Canterbury.

Note: Saline estuaries, such as Avon-Heathcote/Ihutai, are included in the above results. Estuaries that are predominantly freshwater, such as the Waimakariri and Ashley river mouths, are included in the Water quality, quantity and ecosystems group of activities.

» What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?

No change.

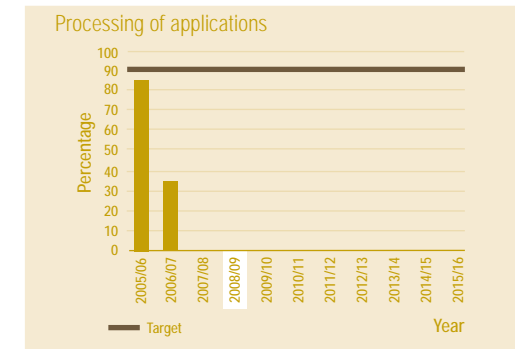
4. Authorising resource users to use natural and physical resources so that the environmental effects remain acceptable to the community

Measure 1

The percentage of resource consent applications processed in compliance with the statutory time frames set down in the Resource Management Act 1991.

Target

90%

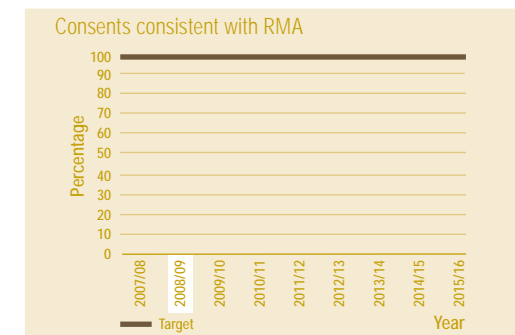


Measure 2

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

Target

100%¹

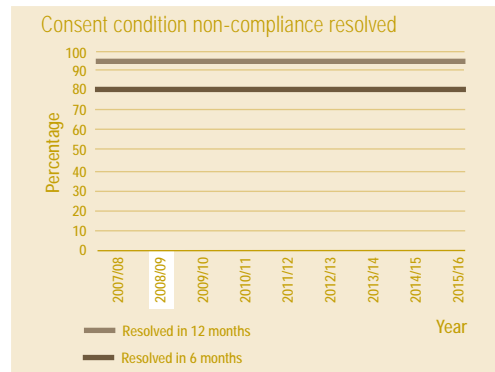


Measure 3

The percentage of significant or major non-compliance² with resource consent conditions resolved³ (no further action is required).

Target

- 80% are resolved in 6 months.¹
- 95% are resolved in 12 months.¹

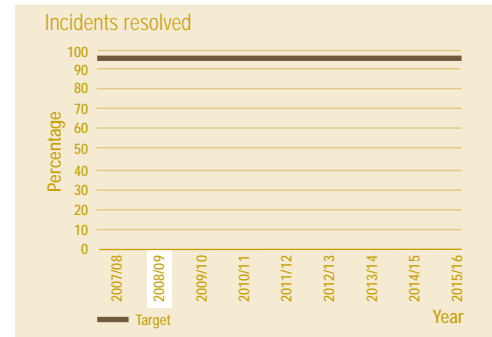


Measure 4

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

Target

95%



» What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?

The 2006-16 LTCCP proposed that additional measures and targets to more comprehensively reflect the contribution made by the level of service towards the community outcomes would be included in the 2007/08 Annual Plan. Measure 3 replaces measure 2 in the 2006-16 LTCCP and new measures 2 and 4 were added in the 2007/08 Annual Plan.

Source: Environment Canterbury.

¹ For measures 2, 3 and 4 no historic data are available. Data collection has started in 2007/08.

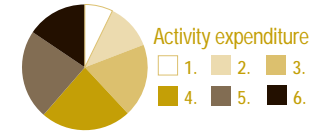
² Means non-compliance assessed as Grade 3 - Significant non-compliance or repeated minor non-compliance - moderate adverse environmental effects, or Grade 4 - Major and/or persistent non-compliance - serious or persistent adverse environmental effects.

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

Activities

What we plan to do

Work programmes for 2008/09 are set out below.



» Variation from 2006-16 LTCCP

Changes have been made to Activity headings: a new activity 'Strategy' has been added, 'Policy making and planning' has been renamed 'Planning and consents' and 'Regulating and enforcing' has been renamed 'Regulating'. These changes better reflect the way the Council's responsibilities are organised internally and delivered to the community. Items listed under the headings 'what we plan to do' that are affected by these new arrangements have been moved to their new activity.

In 'Monitoring', the report on the State of the Environment is to be completed in 2007/08.

1. Strategy

This activity develops regional strategies for Environment Canterbury's contribution to community outcomes for coastal environment.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

- Evaluate strategy options for addressing issues identified in the Regional Environment Report.
- Develop a framework for aquaculture management.

» This work has no identified significant negative effects on community well-being.

2. Investigations

This activity investigates coastal environmental issues.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

- Investigate coastal erosion and inundation.
- Investigate causes of water quality effects.

» This work has no identified significant negative effects on community well-being.

3. Planning and consents

This activity develops policy for managing the coastal environment and monitors policy effectiveness and efficiency.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

- Ensure consistency between district and city plans and regional policies for managing the coastal environment.
- Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the Regional Coastal Environment Plan.
- Process private plan changes to the Regional Coastal Environment Plan, if any.
- Process resource consents applications.
- ~~Review resource consents where appropriate.~~

■ Refer to Appendix 4 for information on options considered.

» This work has no identified significant negative effects on community well-being.

4. Monitoring

This activity monitors the impact of human activity and natural processes on the coastal environment.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

- Monitor ecosystem health.
- Monitor chemical and biological water quality.
- Monitor recreational water quality.
- Monitor the impact of land use on the coastal environment.
- Monitor access to and along the coastal marine area.
- Monitor coastal hazards.
- Monitor the wave climate.
- Publish results of monitoring programmes.
- ~~Report on the state of the environment.~~

» This work has no identified significant negative effects on community well-being.

5. Communicating, educating and advocating

This activity encourages communities to protect and enhance the coastal environment.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

- Support coastcare groups in Akaroa Harbour, Lyttelton Harbour/Whakaraupo, Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai, Northern Pegasus Bay and South Canterbury.
- Support new coastcare groups where their objectives contribute to Environment Canterbury's outcomes.
- Provide resource material for schools.
- Support the Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai Trust.

» This work has no identified significant negative effects on community well-being.

6. Regulating

This activity manages discharges into the coastal marine area and ensures compliance with resource consent conditions and the Resource Management Act 1991.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

- Monitor prioritised resource consents, permitted activities and unauthorised activities for compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991.
- Report significant breaches of resource consents to council quarterly.
- Provide a 24-hour Pollution Hotline response service.
- Promote and enforce compliance with the Resource Management Act 1991.

» Meeting the cost of complying with conditions for permitted and consented activities may have a significant negative effect on the economic well-being of the community. However, this is outweighed by increased social well-being arising from employment opportunities due to development in the coastal marine area and increased environmental well-being as a result of healthy beaches and oceans.

Financial summary

\$ in thousands	Annual Report 2006/07	Annual Plan 2007/08	LTCCP 2008/09	Annual Plan 2008/09
Operating Revenue				
General rates	1,352	1,500	1,504	1,556
Targeted rates	-	-	-	-
Statutory charges/User pays	168	281	295	338
Grants	-	-	-	99
Interest	5	11	10	19
Total Operating Revenue	1,525	1,792	1,809	2,012
Operating Expenditure				
Expenditure	1,424	1,833	1,807	2,050
Interest	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	2	1
Total Operating Expenditure	1,424	1,833	1,809	2,051
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	101	(41)	-	(39)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) transferred to/from Reserve	101	(41)	-	(39)

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure associated with this group of activities is funded from general funds and included as depreciation expense.

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

Funding and Financial Policies

2006/16 LTCCP Part B

Pages 3-33

» Variation from 2006-16 LTCCP
No significant change.