

Democratic process

Community representation is an important part of the democratic process and transparent running of the council.

Key issues for 2008/09

Reaching busy people, involving people in decision making: Experience has shown that engaging the community and involving people in decision-making processes produces the best long-term results. However, busy lifestyles mean that many people in the community find it difficult to participate in council processes. Opportunities provided include deputations to council meetings and public meetings. However, increasingly more innovative methods are having to be used to reach people, e.g. the Living Here newspaper, and the Canterbury Museum Living Canterbury display, so that people have access to good information to make decisions and act in the best interests of the environment.

Community representation: Environment Canterbury needs to be accountable to the community. Elected councillors provide a vital link with individuals and local communities. Consultation processes also provide the opportunity for communities to have input into policy development.

Stakeholder relationships: Environment Canterbury recognises the importance of having strong relationships with key stakeholder groups and organisations, including Maori and tangata whenua. Listening to stakeholders and working together to resolve issues leads to better results for all parties.

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

No change.

New council controlled organisation.

A new council controlled organisation (CCO) has been established to act as an interface with central government and to co-ordinate access to and disbursement of government funding - particularly the regional strategy fund. The CCO is jointly owned by Environment Canterbury, the Christchurch City Council and the Kaikoura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie and Waimate District Councils. Each council will hold a 10% share.

■ Refer to Appendix 7 on page 114 for more information.

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

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

Environment Canterbury's role is as the lead agency for democratic and effective regional government.

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

Uncertainties

For 2008/09 the following is uncertain:

- a) Environment Canterbury's current contract with the Chatham Islands Council to provide regional council functions ends in June 2008. A new contract is currently being negotiated.
- » What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?
No change.

Assumptions

For 2008/09 it is assumed that:

- a) for financial forecasts, the Chatham Islands Council contract will be renewed.
- » What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?
No change.

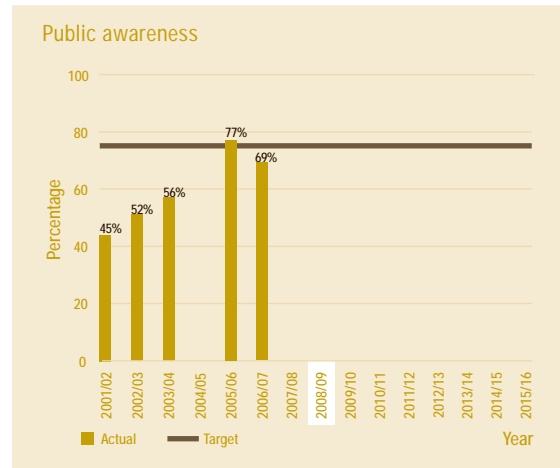
1. Providing environmental leadership

Measure

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

Target

75%



Source: Environment Canterbury two-yearly survey

- » What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?
No change.

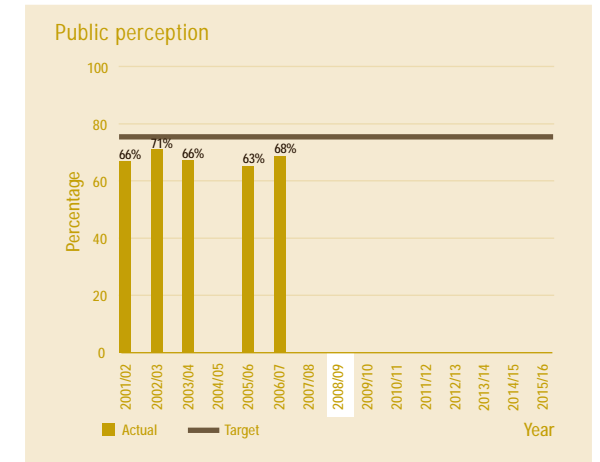
2. Providing value for money

Measure

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

Target

75%



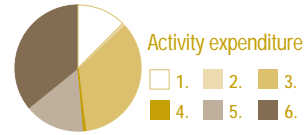
Source: Environment Canterbury two-yearly survey

- » What's changed since the 2006-16 LTCCP?
No change.

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 and 'Policy making and planning' has been renamed 'Planning and consents'. 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.

Review of the Regional Policy Statement has been accelerated, funded by some staff reallocation between projects and from other Groups of Activities.

1. Strategy

This activity develops regional strategies for Environment Canterbury's contribution to community outcomes for democratic process.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

- Evaluate strategy options for addressing issues identified in the Regional Environment Report.
- Evaluate implementation of plans and strategies.
- Evaluate effectiveness of plans and strategies.
- Progress the review of the Regional policy Statement.

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

2. Investigations

This activity investigates requests under the official information legislation.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

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

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

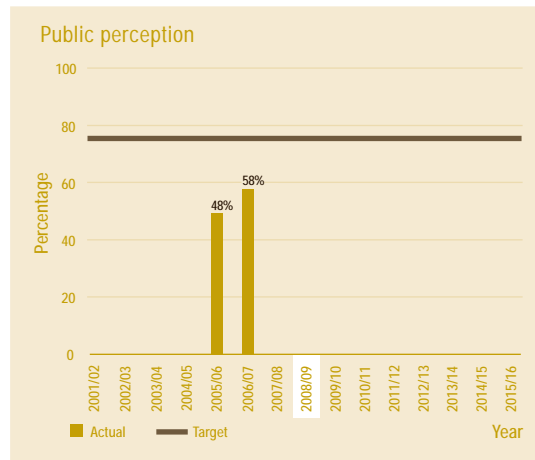
3. Making decisions that reflect the best interests of the community

Measure

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

Target

75%



Source: Environment Canterbury two-yearly survey

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

No change.

3. Planning and consents

This activity develops policy for contributing to community outcomes and monitors progress.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

- Hold council, committee and area committee meetings.
- Adopt the 2009-19 Long-Term Council Community Plan.

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

4. Monitoring

This activity monitors awareness of Environment Canterbury's functions and performance.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

- Monitor residents' awareness and general satisfaction (note: next biennial survey will be done in 2009/10).

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

5. Operations

This activity undertakes work to meet Environment Canterbury's democratic process responsibilities.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

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

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

6. Communicating, educating and advocating

This activity informs stakeholders and the public about regional issues and promotes Environment Canterbury's functions.

What we plan to do

Year 2008/09

- Ensure the community is aware of significant regional issues and Environment Canterbury's response to those issues.
- Maintain relationships with key stakeholders and the community.
- Respond to requests for information from the public.
- Provide access to information through the Environment Canterbury website.
- Provide exhibits at the Canterbury Museum and at key A and P shows and other similar events that provide channels for issues and actions promoted by the council.
- Report annually on Environment Canterbury's contribution to community outcomes.

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

Financial summary

\$ in thousands	Annual Report 2006/07	Annual Plan 2007/08	LTCCP 2008/09	Annual Plan 2008/09
Operating Revenue				
General rates	6,674	6,469	6,729	6,007
Targeted rates	-	-	-	-
Statutory charges/User pays	636	748	710	947
Grants	-	1	1	1
Interest	36	49	44	73
Total Operating Revenue	7,346	7,267	7,484	7,028
Operating Expenditure				
Expenditure	6,384	7,548	7,486	7,397
Interest	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	104	116	105	16
Total Operating Expenditure	6,488	7,664	7,591	7,413
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	858	(397)	(107)	(385)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) transferred to/from Reserve	858	(397)	(107)	(385)

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

General rates funded operational expenditure has reduced as a result of transferring some costs into overheads.

Increased statutory charges/user pays revenue relates to work undertaken for the Chatham Islands Council, funded by the Government.

■ Refer to Appendix 5 for an update on the proposal for Uniform Annual General Charges.