



# Community Outcomes



# COMMUNITY OUTCOMES EXPLAINED

## What are the region's community outcomes?

These are the outcomes that the Canterbury community has decided are a priority in terms of the present and future social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the community.

Environment Canterbury, with other organisations and groups, is involved in helping to achieve or influence these community outcomes.

Refer to Appendix 2 page 156 for the key influencing organisations and measures.

### The key purposes of identifying the community outcomes are:

- To provide opportunities for communities to discuss their desired outcomes in terms of the present and future social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the community.
- To allow communities to discuss the relative importance and priorities of the identified outcomes.
- To provide scope to measure progress towards the achievement of community outcomes.
- To promote better co-ordination and application of community resources.
- To inform and guide the setting of priorities in relation to the activities of Environment Canterbury and other organisations.

Under section 91 (1) of the Local Government Act 2002, Environment Canterbury must carry out a process, not less than once every six years, to identify community outcomes for the intermediate and long-term future of the region. This process was carried out as part of the development of the 2006-16 Environment Canterbury's Long Term Council Community Plan. The community outcomes will be reviewed again for the 2012-22 Long Term Council Community Plan.

## How were the community outcomes identified and prioritised?

The community outcomes were derived from extensive public consultation undertaken as part of the Future Path Canterbury process across the whole region in 2004. They were then revalidated and prioritised through public and stakeholder meetings and focus groups.

## Working together to achieve the outcomes

The Local Government Act 2002 requires local authorities, including Environment Canterbury, to work with local and regional organisations, Maori, central Government and non-governmental organisations and the private sector to further the community outcomes.

Refer to Appendix 2 page 156 for details of the key organisations and groups contributing to the community outcomes.

There are other organisations and groups that will also contribute to, or influence, the community outcomes in partnership with Environment Canterbury.

Environment Canterbury will work with these organisations and groups in a range of ways to further the community outcomes, including:

- Partnering with other local authorities to improve Canterbury's natural and built environment. Examples of such partnerships have been the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, the Canterbury Water Management Study and the development of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy.
- Continuing to work in partnership with community-based groups at a catchment and sub catchment level to address land and water quality management issues. Such groups include the Avon-Heathcote/Ihutai Estuary Trust, the Waihora Ellesmere Trust and a number of integrated catchment management groups. Coastcare and Living Streams programmes also help protect the environment and facilitate sustainable land use and riparian management practices.
- Working with central Government in advocating sustainable development in Canterbury and with key Government departments to progress the regional community outcomes.
- Working with the private sector in a range of areas including water and land management, air quality, environmental programmes, including providing financial support for biodiversity enhancement.
- Interacting with primary and secondary schools and teachers through educational programmes to raise awareness of environmental issues.
- Working with and continuing to build relationships with Maori in respect of a wide range of activities, including:
  - the provision of support for iwi management plans
  - the protection of sites of significance
  - the provision, through plans, resource consents and environmental monitoring, for the specific aspects of the relationship of tangata whenua culture and their traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu and other taonga
  - the provision of opportunities for Maori to contribute to Environment Canterbury's decision-making processes
  - the provision of relevant information to underpin capacity building.

Strengthening these relationships and aligning activities better is an ongoing process.

To help ensure that the collaborative process and relationships remain valid and productive there will be regular partner meetings to review progress, related developments and potential partnerships that can help build progress towards achieving the community outcomes.

## Monitoring and reporting progress

Environment Canterbury and a number of key organisations and agencies have agreed to collaborate on monitoring and reporting procedures and key measures to assess and report on progress towards achieving the regional community outcomes.

Environment Canterbury has published the 2006-2008 Community Outcomes Report. This assesses the community's progress towards achieving the regional community outcomes and, along with the Regional Environment Report 2008, has provided the basis for the development of the 2009-19 Long Term Council Community Plan.

Refer to Appendix 2 page 156 for the key influencing organisations and measures that underpin monitoring and reporting progress toward the community outcomes.

## The planning cycle

The following diagram explains Environment Canterbury's planning cycle in relation to the 2009-19 Long Term Council Community Plan.



## THE COMMUNITY OUTCOMES AS PRIORITISED BY THE COMMUNITY

### ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING 'CARING FOR CANTERBURY'



Environmental well-being – those factors that relate ultimately to the capacity of the natural environment to support, in a sustainable way, the activities that constitute community life.

RANK

Water

*Water is in a healthy condition, clean and plentiful enough to support life*

4,5  
6

Air, beaches and ocean and land

*Air, beaches and ocean and land are all in a healthy condition*

7,9  
16

Sustainable business and farming

*Business and farming activities do not harm the environment*

12  
18

Environment

*Environment, in general, is to be looked after*

15

Rural land

*Rural land is mainly for farming and horticulture*

23

Native plants and animals

*Native plants and animals can thrive*

24

### ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 'PROSPERING IN CANTERBURY'



Economic well-being – those factors relating to the capacity of the economy to generate the employment and wealth necessary to provide many of the prerequisites for social well-being, such as health services.

RANK

Income

*Incomes provide good standard of living*

8

Employment

*People in work*

10

Economy

*A strong economy*

14

Alternatives

*Alternatives for moving people and freight*

27  
31

#### Rank

The community ranked the 32 community outcomes, with 1 ranked as the highest. Where there are two numbers, the outcome has several components.

For example: Business and farming activities do not harm the environment

The part of this outcome relating to business activities was ranked at 12 and the part relating to farming activities was ranked at 18.

## SOCIAL WELL-BEING 'LIVING THE GOOD LIFE IN CANTERBURY'



Social well-being – those factors that enable individuals, their families, hapu and communities to set goals and achieve them – such as education, health, the strength of community networks, financial and personal security, rights and freedoms and levels of equity.

RANK

Healthcare

*Good healthcare for all*

1

Education

*Everyone has access to good education*

2

Public safety

*People feel safe at all times*

3

Community services

*Community services that meet people's needs*

11

Housing

*Everyone has access to acceptable standards of housing*

13

Transportation

*Transport and travel needs are met*

21

Accessibility

*Easy to travel around cities and towns and easy access to shops and other community services*

25

26

## CULTURAL WELL-BEING 'VIBRANT EXCITING CANTERBURY'



Cultural well-being – those factors that encompass the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours and identities reflected through language, stories, experiences, visual and performing arts, ceremonies and heritage.

RANK

Diversity

*A good place to live for all cultures*

17

Sport and recreation

*Opportunity to participate in sport and recreation*

19

Parks and reserves

*Public parks and reserves are plentiful*

20

Open spaces and wilderness areas

*Access to open spaces and wilderness areas*

22

Recreation

*Recreational needs are met*

28

Arts and culture

*Opportunity to participate in arts and cultural activities*

29

Attractive places to live in

*Canterbury has attractive places to live in*

30

Heritage protection

*Heritage buildings and sites are protected*

32

# ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY'S CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

## Environment Canterbury's contribution

Environment Canterbury's contribution (pages 16 to 121) shows how Environment Canterbury will be contributing to further the regional community outcomes and includes information on:

- Environment Canterbury's groups of activities that will contribute to furthering specific regional community outcomes.
- The effect that the activities may have on social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.
- The levels of service that will assess progress towards the community outcomes.

## Environment Canterbury's role

Environment Canterbury's role is mandated by statute, including the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991.

The Local Government Act sets out the broad scope of council functions and the role of a local authority and the Resource Management Act sets out regional council functions for managing a wide range of environmental and natural resource management responsibilities.

In delivering a regional council's responsibilities, the sequence of tasks can be broadly described as follows:

- Identification and definition of issues related to the regional council's responsibilities
- Formulation of plans of action to address identified issues
- Implementation of action plans through:
  - requiring others to implement actions
  - facilitating actions by others
  - undertaking actions or contracting actions.

This then defines the activities that Environment Canterbury undertakes:

- Strategy
- Investigations
- Planning and consents
- Monitoring
- Operations
- Communicating, educating and advocating
- Regulating.

Environment Canterbury's role in contributing to community outcomes varies and may be a direct or indirect contribution, either in a statutory or discretionary capacity:

- As the lead agency that is largely responsible for delivering an activity or activities in a specific area
- As a joint lead agency with other agencies in delivering a joint programme of action
- As a supporting agency providing support to other agencies
- As an advocating or influencing agency to advocate for change or influence other agencies.

Environment Canterbury's roles in specifically contributing towards the community outcomes are stated at the start of each group of activity section (pages 18 to 121).



## ADOPTING A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The Local Government Act states that one of the purposes of local government is to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future. This sustainable development approach is expanded in section 14 of the Local Government Act which states that in taking a sustainable development approach, a local authority should take into account:

- (i) the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities;
- (ii) the need to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment; and
- (iii) the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.

The concept of sustainable development has no single meaning. Like the concepts of democracy, liberty or justice, the significance of sustainability may be more appreciated when some aspect of sustainability that the community values the most is being eroded or has been lost completely.<sup>1</sup>

The most common definition of sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.<sup>2</sup> A further definition adds additional meaning – sustainable development is about reconciling development (the meeting of human needs) with limited natural resources and the capacity of the environment to absorb the effects.<sup>1</sup>

The principle of intergenerational equity is also applicable – that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.<sup>1</sup> This involves taking an integrated approach in both short-term and long-term decision-making in terms of the social, economic, environmental and cultural aspects of sustainable development.

### The four “well-beings”

The social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being aspects of sustainable development may encompass the following:

 <p><b>Social well-being</b> ‘Living the good life in Canterbury’</p> <p>Those factors that enable individuals, their families, hapu and communities to set goals and achieve them – such as education, health, the strength of community networks, financial and personal security, rights and freedoms and levels of equity.</p>	 <p><b>Economic well-being</b> ‘Prospering in Canterbury’</p> <p>Those factors relating to the capacity of the economy to generate the employment and wealth necessary to provide many of the prerequisites for social well-being, such as health services.</p>
 <p><b>Environmental well-being</b> ‘Caring for Canterbury’</p> <p>Those factors that relate ultimately to the capacity of the natural environment to support, in a sustainable way, the activities that constitute community life.</p>	 <p><b>Cultural well-being</b> ‘Vibrant, exciting Canterbury’</p> <p>Those factors that encompass the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours and identities reflected through language, stories, experiences, visual and performing arts, ceremonies and heritage.</p>

The identified regional community outcomes (pages 12 and 13) are aligned to where they predominantly fit within the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-beings.

Environment Canterbury has a key role under the Local Government Act 2002 to promote a number of these regional outcomes by planning and implementing activities that will contribute towards achievement of the outcomes and to help facilitate and regularly report the contribution of other organisations and groups to the outcomes.

<sup>1</sup> Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987.