



# Corporate and democratic process

## group of activities

The corporate and democratic process group of activities contributes to the following community outcomes:  
Refer to community outcomes listed for all other groups of activities

Environment Canterbury is the lead agency for providing democratic and effective regional government (Local Government Act 2002, Local Electoral Act 2001, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, Resource Management Act 1991). It is also the lead agency for over-arching regional planning (Resource Management Act 1991).

## KEY ISSUES FOR 2009-19

### Increasing community engagement in decision-making

Experience has shown that engaging the community in decision-making processes produces the best long-term results that meet community needs. Engagement can range from involvement in council meetings and community consultation processes through to working collaboratively with communities, stakeholders, industries and other government agencies to develop policies and find local solutions to local issues.

### Informing the community about decision-making

Environment Canterbury needs to be accountable to the community. Elected councillors provide a vital link with individuals and local communities. There is a need to continue to explore, identify and make use of the most appropriate tools to continue keeping Environment Canterbury's diverse audiences up to date and informed.

### Environmental leadership

Environment Canterbury has a key role to play in providing leadership for the long-term management of the region's natural resources. This relies on the continued development of a policy framework, via the Regional Policy Statement, and the provision of up to date information on which to base decision-making. An ongoing process is required to ensure Environment Canterbury's plans and policies are implemented and reviewed appropriately.

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### Stakeholder relationships

Environment Canterbury recognises the importance of having strong relationships with key partners and stakeholders. This includes Maori and tangata whenua and district and city councils. Working collaboratively to identify and develop solutions to resolve issues leads to better results for all parties.

## Effect on the four well-beings

Providing the community with opportunities to vote for councillors and participate in council processes contributes to social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being. There are no negative effects on well-being.



SOCIAL



ECONOMIC



ENVIRONMENTAL



CULTURAL

## Involving the community

- The Canterbury community elects a new council to govern Environment Canterbury every three years.
- People regularly make submissions on Environment Canterbury's Long Term Council Community Plans, Annual Plans and other key documents.
- Stakeholder agencies and interest groups are providing input into the review of each chapter of the Regional Policy Statement (the statement will go through a public consultation process).

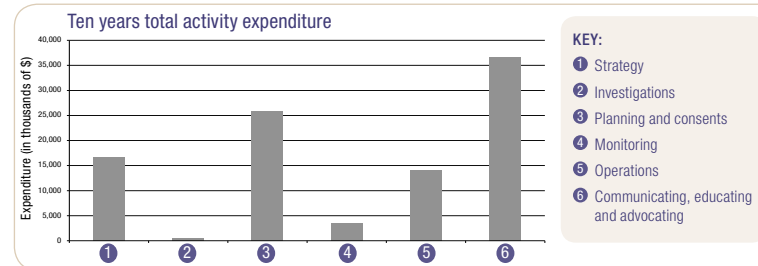
## ACTIVITIES

Priority over the next 10 years

The main focus for this group of activities is ensuring representation of community interests in council decision-making processes.

We will undertake the following activities:

- 1 **Strategy**  
Developing regional strategies to ensure that Environment Canterbury achieves the community outcomes defined in the Corporate and democratic process portfolio.
- 2 **Investigations**  
Investigating requests under the official information legislation.
- 3 **Planning and consents**  
Developing policy that contributes to achievement of community outcomes and monitors progress.
- 4 **Monitoring**  
Monitoring awareness of Environment Canterbury's functions, performance and key issues.
- 5 **Operations**  
Undertaking work to meet Environment Canterbury's Corporate and democratic process responsibilities.
- 6 **Communicating, educating and advocating**  
Communicating with, educating and influencing stakeholders and the public about regional issues and activities. Seeking feedback and input from the community and ratepayers in developing appropriate responses to issues of concern. Also promoting Environment Canterbury's functions and key decision-making on issues.



WORK PROGRAMMES FOR 2009/10 TO 2018/19:

### 1 Strategy

**Years 2009/10 to 2018/19**

- Develop strategy options to address issues identified in the Regional Environment Report and through other community consultation processes.
- Assess implementation and effectiveness of plans and strategies.

**Years 2009/10 to 2016/17**

- Progress the review of the Regional Policy Statement.

**Years 2011/12, 2017/18**

- Review Canterbury's community outcomes.

**Years 2011/12, 2014/15, 2017/18**

- Publish the Canterbury Regional Environment Report.
- Adopt Long Term Council Community Plans.

### 2 Investigations

**Years 2008/09 to 2018/19**

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

#### UNCERTAINTIES

For 2009-19, the following is uncertain:

- a) Whether Environment Canterbury's contract with the Chatham Islands Council to provide regional council functions, which ended in January 2009 and is currently being negotiated through to June 2012, will be renewed.

#### ASSUMPTIONS

For 2009-19, it is assumed that:

- a) The Chatham Islands Council contract will be renewed.



### 3 Planning and consents

#### Years 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Hold council, committee and area committee meetings.
- Work with the community and other local authorities in the region to ensure there is a collaborative governance approach to developing and achieving community outcomes.
- Undertake representation reviews every six years, or more frequently if required.

#### Years 2009/10, 2010/11, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19

- Adopt Annual Plans.

#### Years 2010/11, 2013/14, 2016/17

- Report on progress towards achieving community outcomes.
- Adopt Long Term Council Community Plan.

### 4 Monitoring

#### Years 2010/11, 2012/13, 2014/15, 2016/17 and 2018/19

- Monitor residents' awareness and general satisfaction.
- Monitor residents' views on key issues.
- Include public feedback in work programme planning.

### 5 Operations

#### Years 2009/19 to 2018/19

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

#### Years 2010/11, 2013/14, 2016/17

- Hold council elections.

### 6 Communicating, educating and advocating

#### Years 2009/10 to 2018/19

- Proactively ensure that 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 effectively to requests for information from the public.
- Provide access to information through the Environment Canterbury website and other channels.
- Report on Environment Canterbury's contribution to community outcomes.
- Encourage residents to undertake activities which enhance the region's natural and physical environment.
- Publish annual achievements and outputs through the annual report.
- Provide opportunities for community feedback on issues of concern.
- Have a presence at community events which provides channels for informing, educating and influencing the community.
- Provide education on environmental sustainability, including the support and co-ordination of the EnviroSchools programme.

# LEVELS OF SERVICE



## HOW ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY'S LEVELS OF SERVICE RELATE TO THE COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

### Community Outcomes

Refer to community outcomes listed for all other groups of activities

### Levels of Service

1	Providing environmental leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Providing value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Making decisions that reflect the best interests of the community	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Providing customer service	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Raising awareness and understanding of Canterbury's natural resource issues	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environment Canterbury's contribution will be reported on each year in our annual report.

## OUR LEVELS OF SERVICE

### 1 Providing environmental leadership

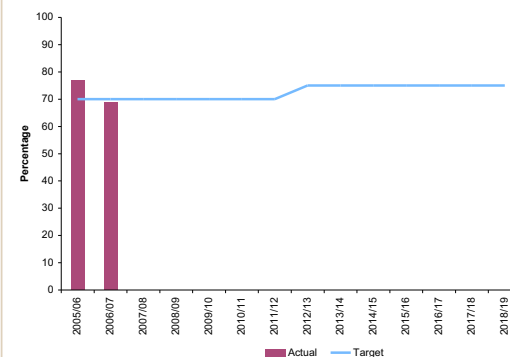
#### MEASURE 1

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

#### TARGET

70% by 2011/12.  
75% by 2018/19.

### Public awareness



Source: Environment Canterbury two-yearly survey.

#### MEASURE 2

The availability of information about the effectiveness of Environment Canterbury's regional policy statement and regional plan(s).

#### TARGET

See table

Regional policy statement and plans	Year findings reported
Canterbury Regional Coastal Environment Plan 2005	2009/10
Land and Vegetation Management Regional Plan Part I and II 1997	2009/10
Land and Vegetation Management Regional Plan Part IV 2005	2010/11
Waimakariri River Regional Plan 2004	2010/11
Opihi River Regional Plan 2000	2010/11
Proposed Natural Resource Regional Plan	2014/15*
Land and Vegetation Management Regional Plan Part IV 2005	2015/16
Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (2nd generation plan)	2016/17*

\* Estimated dates: Dates are dependent on when the plans become operative. Operative plans are listed with their operative date.

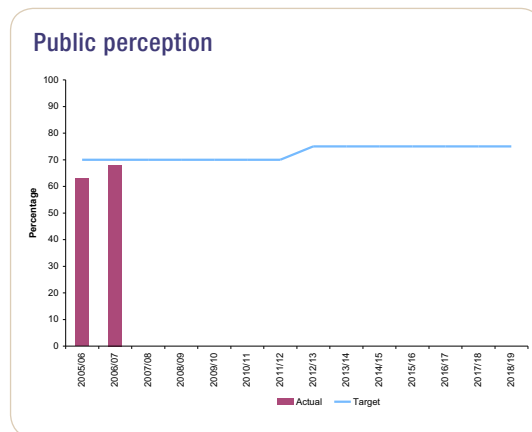
## 2 Providing value for money

### MEASURE

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

### TARGET

70% by 2011/12.  
75% by 2018/19.



Source: Environment Canterbury two-yearly survey.

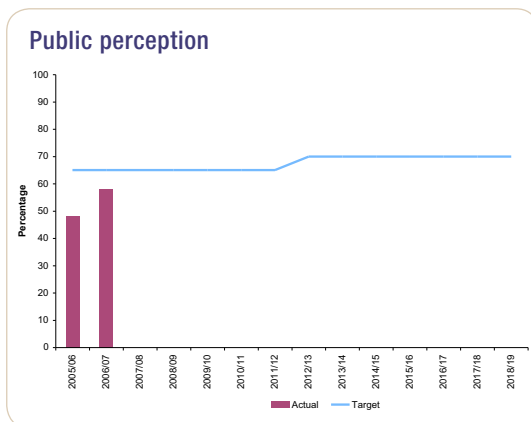
## 3 Making decisions that reflect the best interests of the community

### MEASURE

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

### TARGET

65% by 2011/12.  
70% by 2018/19.



Source: Environment Canterbury two-yearly survey.

## 4 Providing customer service

### MEASURE

Percentage of people using Environment Canterbury's Customer Services Call Centre who are satisfied with the service received.

### TARGET

90% of customers rate the service as good or very good (on a scale of very poor, poor, fair, good and very good).

## 5 Raising awareness and understanding of Canterbury's natural resource issues

### MEASURE

Participants' rating of the success of sustainability education programmes in raising awareness and understanding of Canterbury's natural resource issues.

### TARGET

95% of participants rate the programmes' success as good, very good or excellent (on a scale of dreadful, very poor, poor, good, very good and excellent).

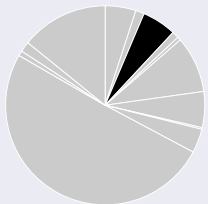
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Asset management and capital expenditure

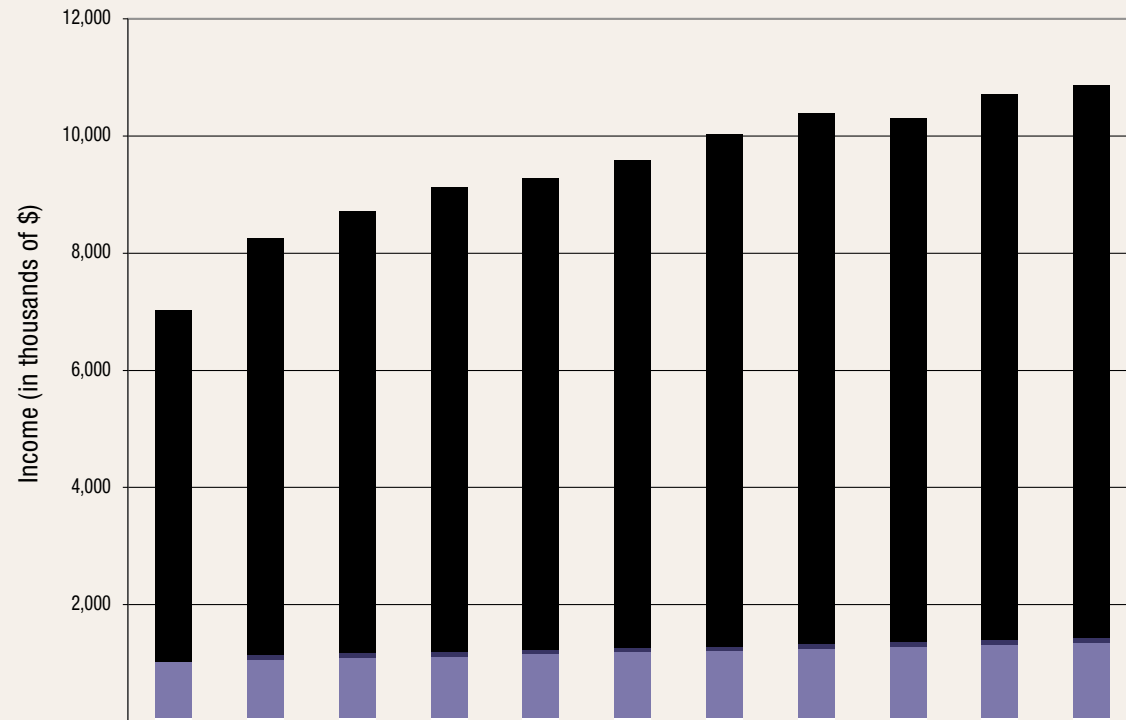
There are no assets involved in this group of activities.

## How this work is funded

For more information on source of funds and rationale for selection, see: 2009 Funding and Financial Policies, Long Term Council Community Plan Part B.



Ten years total expenditure, all 13 groups of activities  
KEY: ■ This group of activities



(\$000)	2008/09 Annual Plan	2009/10 LTCCP	2010/11 LTCCP	2011/12 LTCCP	2012/13 LTCCP	2013/14 LTCCP	2014/15 LTCCP	2015/16 LTCCP	2016/17 LTCCP	2017/18 LTCCP	2018/19 LTCCP
Interest	73	61	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
User Pays/Other	947	992	1,032	1,049	1,087	1,119	1,144	1,185	1,223	1,252	1,283
Grants	1	83	84	84	85	85	85	85	85	85	85
Targeted Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Rates	6,007	7,099	7,529	7,922	8,047	8,320	8,742	9,055	8,937	9,303	9,423
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>8,235</b>	<b>8,708</b>	<b>9,118</b>	<b>9,282</b>	<b>9,587</b>	<b>10,034</b>	<b>10,388</b>	<b>10,308</b>	<b>10,703</b>	<b>10,854</b>
Operating Expenditure	7,413	8,235	8,708	9,118	9,282	9,587	10,034	10,388	10,308	10,703	10,854
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(385)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves	385	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

# Uniform Annual General Charge

## What the Council decided

### THE DRAFT 2009-19 LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN PROPOSED:

That a Uniform Annual General Charge is used to fund councillor representation and provision of public information (current annual cost \$2M).

### COUNCIL'S DECISION

This proposal was adopted in full.

### BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

A Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) is a flat rate levied on a property regardless of the property's value. This contrasts with a general rate which is levied on the basis of a property's capital value. A UAGC means that all homeowners pay the same amount in their rates payments for provision of certain services. Application of a UAGC is justified by a council if the funds collected are to be used to provide services that benefit all ratepayers equally, regardless of the value of individual properties.

This rating mechanism has not previously been used by Environment Canterbury, but UAGCs have been used by Canterbury district and city councils for many years.

As a result of public submissions to the 2006-16 Long Term Council Community Plan, the council decided to investigate the introduction of a UAGC to cover provision of some core services and to consult further with the community on this option.

Some costs related to the provision of democracy functions were identified as possible candidates for funding using a UAGC. These included the cost of councillor representation and provision of public information.

### WHAT THE SUBMITTERS TOLD US

There were 85 submissions received on the proposed introduction of a UAGC. Of those submissions, 64 were in favour and 21 against the proposal.

Some submitters were concerned that lower income ratepayers would pay a proportionately higher share of their income to meet a UAGC than higher income ratepayers. However, the maximum cost incurred by any individual rating unit resulting from this proposal is calculated at \$8.57 per annum, and more typically \$5 or less per annum.

Some submitters also expressed concern that the introduction of this charge would lead to further similar charges. However, under Environment Canterbury's rating policy any future change would be subject to a further consultation process.