

# Land

*Wise use of land and good land management practices are crucial to sustainable development.*

## Key issues for 2008/09

**Impact of land use change:** In many areas, land use change is affecting the life-supporting capacity of soils and ecosystems, water quality and quantity, biodiversity, tangata whenua values and amenity. Transport and environmental issues arising from urban development around metropolitan Christchurch can be resolved through collaboration by the affected parties. See also, key issues for Public passenger transport page 50 and Regional land transport page 56.

**Impact of land management practices:** In many areas, inappropriate land management practices are resulting in changes that are difficult to reverse, such as loss of soil and biodiversity, and harm to wetlands, bush and grassland habitats, and water and soil quality. Experience has shown that working with communities to resolve environmental issues produces the best long-term results. Recognising and rewarding worthwhile projects and good land management practices through the Environment Enhancement Fund, is another important way of resolving environmental issues.

**Recreational demand:** Environment Canterbury holds extensive areas of reserve and endowment land associated with its flood and erosion protection work. Much of this land is leased or planted in forestry for soil conservation purposes. Some areas, such as in the lower Waimakariri River, are subject to growing pressure for development for recreational purposes.

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

No change.

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

- Business and farming activities do not harm the environment
- Rural land is mainly for farming and horticulture
- Native plants and animals can thrive
- Recreational needs are met
- Water is in a healthy condition, clean and plentiful enough to support life
- Air, beaches and ocean and land are all in a healthy condition
- Environment, in general, is to be looked after

Environment Canterbury's role is as the lead agency for soil conservation and a joint lead agency, in collaboration with land holders, industry groups, territorial authorities and other agencies, for managing land resources.

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

## 1. Maintaining and improving soil quality and quantity

### Measure 1

The average annual rate of soil loss from wind erosion.

### Target

Less than 0.25mm a year by 2030.

### Measure 2

The percentage of the area of non-arable farm land with more than 20% bare ground.

### Target

The percentage is reducing.

### Measure 3

The percentage change in soil quality factors including organic carbon, aggregate stability, readily available nitrogen and fertility.

### Target

Soil quality is being maintained or improved. (Thresholds are still being developed in association with the national Soil and Land Use Research Initiative.)

### Measure 4

The percentage of areas with identified soil quality and quantity issues that are being addressed by resource care, community or industry groups.

### Target

100%

Source: Environment Canterbury

### » 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. Measures 2, 3 and 4 have been added.

## 2. Protecting key infrastructure<sup>1</sup> from the impact of settlement

### Measure

The extent to which the efficient operation, use and development of key infrastructure is impacted by settlement, other than through a Resource Management Act process where the extent of impact is known and acknowledged.

### Target

No impact.

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

No change.

Impact of settlement changes	
2005/06	No impact
2006/07	No impact
2007/08	Forecast: no impact
2008/09	Target: no impact
2009/10 to 2015/16	Target: no impact

Source: Environment Canterbury

## 3. Providing open space leisure opportunities on council-owned land

### Measure 1

The level of visitor satisfaction.

### Target

75%

### Measure 2

The number of walkers and mountain bike riders using McLeans Forest (stage one of the Waimakariri River Regional Park).

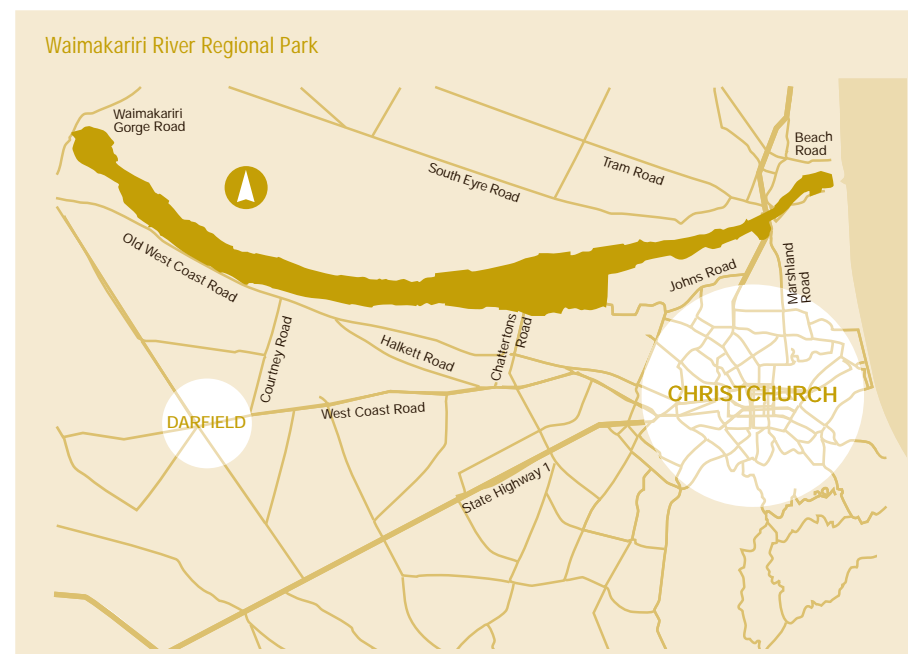
### Target

The number is increasing relative to the baseline in 2007/08.

Source: Environment Canterbury

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

This is a new measure and target that was proposed in the 2006-16 LTCCP and added in the 2007/08 Annual Plan.



<sup>1</sup> The RPS defines key infrastructure as: roading, Christchurch International Airport, Timaru Airport, Port of Lyttelton, Primeport Timaru, telecommunication facilities, military establishments, the rail network, and other network utilities (including electricity transmission and distribution).

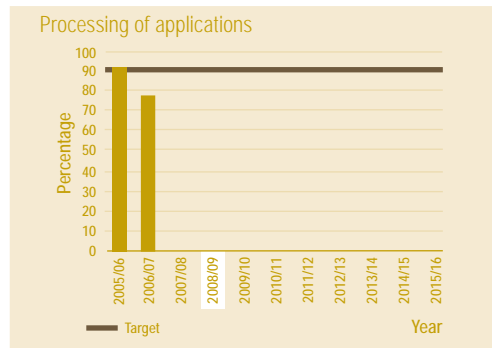
## 4. Authorising resource users to use natural and physical resources so that the environmental effects remain acceptable to the community

### 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%

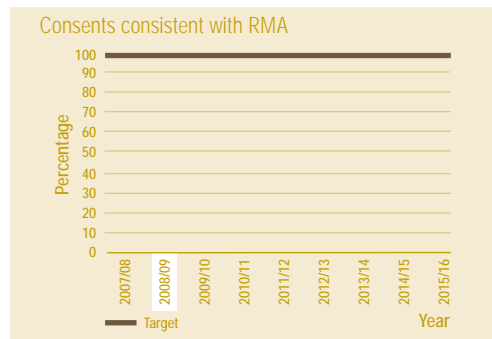


### Measure 2

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

#### Target

100%



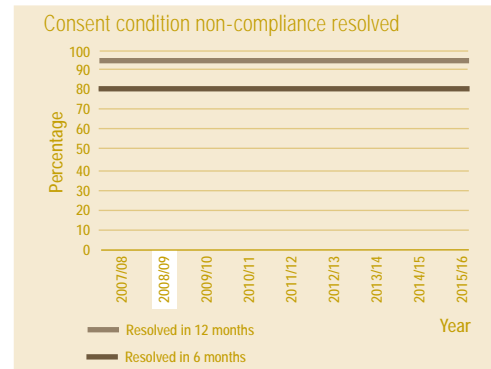
### Measure 3

The percentage of significant or major non-compliance<sup>2</sup> with resource consent conditions resolved<sup>3</sup> (no further action is required).

#### Target

80% are resolved in 6 months.<sup>1</sup>

95% are resolved in 12 months.<sup>1</sup>

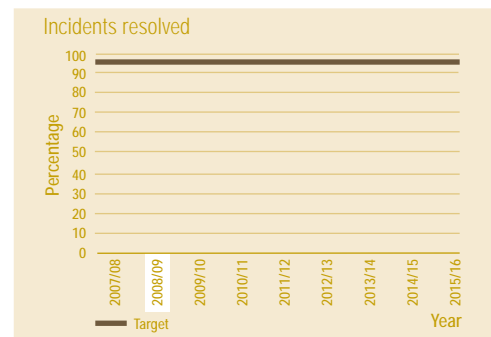


### Measure 4

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

#### Target

95%<sup>1</sup>



### » 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

## 5. Ensuring cattle and farmed deer and pigs are excluded from specific rivers and lakes

### Measure 1

The percentage of Living Streams catchments (listed below) with agreed programmes of action to exclude cattle and farmed deer and pigs from at least 80% of the length of rivers and lakes in those catchments within five years of implementing the programme.

#### Target

100%

### Measure 2

The number of Living Streams catchments where cattle and farmed deer and pigs have been excluded from at least 80% of the length of rivers and lakes in those catchments.

#### Target

2 catchments.

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

This is a new measure and target that was proposed in the 2006-16 LTCCP and added in the 2007/08 Annual Plan.

### Living Streams catchments

**Northern:** Lyell Creek, Middle Creek, Cam River – including North, and South Brooks, Little Ashley, Taranaki Creek, Waikuku Stream, Saltwater Creek, Ohoka Stream, Kaiapoi Stream.

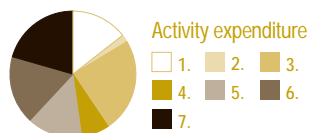
**Central:** Otukaikino, Okuti and Okana, Cashmere Stream, Wainui, Silverstream, Boggy Creek, Harts Creek, Birdlings Brook, Coopers Lagoon catchment and Waikawai, Jollies Brook, Carters Creek, Coldstream, Boundary Drain, Staveley Stream.

**Southern:** Ohapi Creek, Smithfield, Raukapuka, Worners, Orakipaoa, Taumakatahu, Coopers Creek, Dobies Creek, Waikakahi Stream, Whitneys Creek, Wairepo and Willowburn.

# 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 'Planning and consents', the Biodiversity Strategy for Canterbury was completed in 2006/07 and will now be implemented.

In 'Operations', planning for the Waimakariri River Regional Park continues. Managing leases and forestry has been transferred to the Hazards Group of activities. As the revenue from this activity is applied to flood hazard work, it is more appropriate to include it there.

## 1. Strategy

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

### What we plan to do

#### Year 2008/09

- Evaluate strategy options for addressing issues identified in the Regional Environment Report.
- Identify options for implementing actions in the Biodiversity Strategy for the Canterbury region including provision for regional co-ordination.
- Implement an urban development strategy for metropolitan Christchurch with Selwyn and Waimakariri district councils, the Christchurch City Council and Transit New Zealand.

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

## 2. Investigations

This activity investigates soils and land-use practices.

### What we plan to do

#### Year 2008/09

- Investigate soil quality and quantity.
- Establish a land management index, soil aggregate stability<sup>1</sup>.

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

## 3. Planning and consents

This activity develops policy for managing land and monitors policy effectiveness and efficiency.

### What we plan to do

#### Year 2008/09

- Progress the beds and margins of lakes and rivers, wetlands and soil conservation chapters of the Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan through statutory processes.
- Ensure consistency between district and city plans and regional policies for managing land.
- 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 land management practices.

### What we plan to do

#### Year 2008/09

- Monitor rural subdivision activity land-use change in the region.
- Monitor soil loss from wind erosion.
- Monitor hill country vegetation cover and bare land.
- Monitor wetland and forest remnant biodiversity.

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

<sup>1</sup> The Land Management Index is a scale which predicts changes in soil health from the management history of a paddock.

## 5. Operations

This activity manages endowment and reserve land.

### What we plan to do

#### Year 2008/09

- Operate the Waimakariri River Regional Park.
- Plan Stage 3 of the Waimakariri River Regional Park Otukaikino to McLeans Island.
- Enhance biodiversity on land within the Waimakariri River Regional Park.
- ~~Manage leases on endowment and reserve land.~~
- ~~Manage forestry plantations on endowment and reserve land.~~

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

## 6. Communicating, educating and advocating

This activity promotes sustainable land use.

### What we plan to do

#### Year 2008/09

- Work with community groups to encourage the adoption of sustainable land management practices.
- Work with community groups to improve land management practices affecting water quality in Living Streams catchments.
- Work with agricultural sectors on the integration of environmental management into farm and industry management.
- Support indigenous biodiversity through the Environment Enhancement Fund.
- Recognise outstanding examples of sustainable farming practice and water efficiency by supporting the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.
- Work with landholders to enhance wetlands and other indigenous biodiversity.

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

## 7. Regulating

This activity manages discharges into or onto land 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.
  - Monitor Land Improvement Agreements for compliance with conditions.
- » 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 health benefits from healthy land and clean water, and increased environmental well-being from healthy land and clean water.

## Financial summary

\$ in thousands	Annual Report 2006/07	Annual Plan 2007/08	LTCCP 2008/09	Annual Plan 2008/09
<b>Operating Revenue</b>				
General rates	3,932	4,250	4,738	4,564
Targeted rates	958	888	896	835
Statutory charges/User pays	1,328	2,524	2,612	2,553
Grants	-	-	-	55
Interest	15	28	29	68
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>6,233</b>	<b>7,690</b>	<b>8,275</b>	<b>8,075</b>
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>				
Expenditure	5,859	7,812	8,275	7,981
Interest	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	28	28	-	27
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>5,887</b>	<b>7,840</b>	<b>8,275</b>	<b>8,008</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>(150)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67</b>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) transferred Regional Park Reserve	151	(150)	-	67
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) transferred to/from General Reserve	195	-	-	-

### Capital Expenditure

■ Refer to Appendix 2 page 107 for more information on capital expenditure associated with this activity. 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.