

Pre-election Report

2019



Kia ora and welcome from Chief Executive Bill Bayfield

We are all incredibly lucky to live in Canterbury. This is a geographically diverse region where people love to live. But we need to continue to focus on the challenges of sustainably managing our environment to ensure future generations can enjoy all that Canterbury has to offer.



Local Government elections will be held in October this year. This Pre-election Report gives candidates and voters a snapshot of Environment Canterbury's work and finances. It sets out what work we've been doing over recent years to progress the sustainable use of land, water and other resources, and points to issues facing our region and how we plan to tackle them.

Environment Canterbury undertakes work that has an impact on the air we breathe, the water we swim in, drink and use for other purposes, the places we visit for recreation or to gather kai, how well protected we are from floods and other natural hazards, and how easily we can move around the region.

Elected Councillors make evidence-informed decisions that balance environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes to meet the diverse expectations of our communities, our legal obligations and what's affordable to ratepayers and to industry.

How fast change in our region can occur will depend on the responsiveness of the natural environment and the ability of the community to pay for the actions to bring about that change. Some of the issues facing the region have taken generations to create and may take as long to remedy. In many cases, demonstrating progress is a long game.

Key to our success over the last decade has been a focus on collaboration and relationships with Papatipu Rūnanga, industry, fellow Councils, stakeholders and the community.

There are areas of our work where we still have a way to go, such as water quality, and there are areas, such as air quality, where we have worked with our communities and enabled significant change. We have robust plans, solid implementation programmes, dedicated staff, and prudently managed finances. Our overriding passion is making Canterbury an even better place to live, work and play.

Taking part in this year's election presents a great opportunity to help shape the region's future.

Bill Bayfield
Chief Executive

What we do | *Tō tātou mahi*

Our purpose

Facilitating sustainable development for the Canterbury region.

Te huawaere i te kauneke tauwhiro i Waitaha.

We work to ensure environmental sustainability, enable community aspirations to be met, recognise and provide for cultural values, and support regional development.

Our outcomes

Environment Canterbury facilitates sustainable development for the Canterbury region so:

- we can breathe clear air, play and swim in the rivers, gather mahinga kai, benefit from the productive use of our land, and enjoy Canterbury's unique biodiversity taonga and landscapes
- we can live, travel, and move goods with ease, within and to/from the region, facilitating work, leisure and tourism
- we have access to the information we need to be resilient in the face of short-term hazards and well-prepared for longer-term change to our region's natural environment
- we can all help shape the future of Canterbury, leaving a legacy for generations to come.

Our values

Environment Canterbury adheres to a strong set of values that underpin the way we work towards our desired outcomes. They are:

- People first | *Manaakitanga* – people, customers and staff come first
- Collaboration | *Whanaungatanga* – together works best
- Stewardship | *Kaitiakitanga* – good decisions today for tomorrow
- Integrity | *Pononga* – trust in us and our information
- Can do | *Māiātanga* – be brave and make it happen.

Our role and responsibilities

Regional Councils are responsible for managing their region's natural resources – the air, soil, water and how land use affects the environment.

District or City Councils focus on providing services for their ratepayers such as roads, reticulation of water, sewerage, libraries, parks, recreation and town or city planning.

Environment Canterbury has around 630 full-time equivalent staff across Canterbury. As a regional council, our specific responsibilities include:

- regional planning, consenting and compliance to manage land use and water quality, soil, air, and the coastal environment
- hazard management and flood protection
- biodiversity and pest management
- public transport services
- harbour navigation and safety, and marine pollution response
- regional parks
- civil defence
- environmental monitoring and reporting.

Local authority Councillors are public officials and operate under the rule of law. The Council's work is guided by a framework of legislation and national and local policies, plans and strategies.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 governs the conduct of local elections and polls, and the Local Government Act 2002 determines our role and how we must act.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) charges regional councils with the establishment, implementation and review of objectives, policies and methods to achieve sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of the region. It underpins much of our work.

Under the RMA the government has established National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards which we must adhere to, and Environment Canterbury has developed a Regional Policy Statement and regional plans for land and water, air and the coastal environment.

Key regional strategies include the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS), the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy and the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy.

Our priorities and how we work

Environment Canterbury's current strategic priorities are **freshwater management** and **indigenous biodiversity**.

These two strategic priorities focus our attention on the importance of improving the health of Canterbury's waterways, particularly braided rivers and wetlands.

We can only be successful in achieving progress if we work closely with mana whenua, central and other local government agencies, businesses, industry sectors and community and volunteer groups to manage natural resources.

The Council takes a strong collaborative approach in its work. Two specific relationships of note are with Ngāi Tahu and the region's territorial authorities.

Tuia – our special relationship with Ngāi Tahu

Environment Canterbury and Ngāi Tahu are committed to working together constructively. This commitment is based on the recognition that Ngāi Tahu's relationship with its ancestral land within Canterbury is intimately affected by the powers and functions of Environment Canterbury.

Environment Canterbury's relationship with Ngāi Tahu is supported by a joint work programme called Tuia, working together shoulder to shoulder, to achieve improved outcomes for current and future generations – together.

Canterbury councils

Strong relationships with the region's city and district councils support the activities of the regional council. The Mayoral Forum comprises the Mayors of the region's 10 territorial authorities and the Chair of Environment Canterbury. As required by the Local Government Act, the Forum develops and approves a triennial agreement following each local authority election to ensure that appropriate levels of communication, co-ordination and collaboration are maintained between local authorities within the region. The triennial agreement must be ratified by all member councils no later than 1 March 2020. The Mayoral Forum's vision is a strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life for all.



Our portfolios of work | *Tō tātou kohinga*

We structure our work into six portfolios. On the following pages we set out the work underway in these portfolios, the progress being made in each of them and the projects planned over the next few years.

The portfolios are:

- freshwater management
- biodiversity and biosecurity
- transport and urban development
- hazards, risk and resilience
- air quality
- regional leadership.



Freshwater management

What we are doing

Environment Canterbury facilitates implementation of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) with its vision: *To gain the greatest cultural, economic, environmental, recreational and social benefits from our water resources within a sustainable framework both now and for future generations.* It is a collaborative, community-led approach to environmentally sustainable water management and sets challenging goals.

The CWMS is a partnership between Environment Canterbury, Canterbury's city and district councils, Ngāi Tahu and water stakeholders. With 10 water management zones throughout Canterbury, each has a committee made up of community and rūnanga appointees, as well as regional and local council representatives. Their role includes developing and reviewing Zone Implementation Programmes, which provide guidance on how we will collectively achieve the water management outcomes the community wants.

Over recent years, region-wide rules for water management have been set through the Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP). The Plan sets limits on water takes and loss of nitrates and other nutrients

to water. Collaborative planning processes, led through zone committees, establish more targeted sub-regional rules.

We have put in place some of the strictest rules in New Zealand to govern water allocation and nutrient discharge, within the country's most comprehensive and restrictive planning framework.

With the planning framework now largely in place, we are focusing on making sure things actually change on the ground. Ngāi Tahu, the community and industry groups are all involved so actions support improved environmental outcomes. This includes ensuring farming practices meet industry-agreed standards of good management practice (GMP).

Our staff, working in geographically-based zone delivery teams, provide advice to landholders and water users on how to meet the strict nutrient limits and improve the management of water by all water users. Industry has responded to the new rules with an independent farm audit scheme, working to identify where further on-farm action is needed.

Some background

There are undoubtedly challenges facing the region in freshwater management, including water quality and flow. It is also the most contentious and complicated issue facing the region. It demands collective effort and will take some time to meet our communities' aspirations for sustainable management of our region's freshwater.

Freshwater management is both a regional challenge and a priority for central government. Government provides regional councils with national direction that dictates how we carry out our Resource Management Act responsibilities for water management. In Canterbury, the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS), agreed by the Mayoral Forum in 2009, provides a collaborative framework for addressing water management challenges in the region.

Some facts about our region:

- Canterbury has more than 4,700 lakes and tarns, and over 78,000 kilometres of rivers and streams.
- In 2018, the Ministry for the Environment reported that overall grading of primary contact recreation for the Canterbury region showed 86 per cent of rivers and 81 per cent of lakes are considered swimmable.
- In general, water quality is poor in urban areas and where land is intensively farmed.
- Compared with many other regions, Canterbury has a lot of water. On average we receive around 64 billion m³/annum from rain and snow, much of it falling on the Southern Alps.
- We use freshwater for irrigation, stock-water, community drinking water and industrial use. Although we have a lot of water, it is not always in the right place at the right time.

The CWMS is a long-term strategy – while there is a lot more work to do, recent reports show some improvement in water quality across the region. To ensure we can track progress we maintain ‘state of the environment’ monitoring programmes to provide long-term data and essential baseline information on the regional water resource.

The next three years

Making sure water quality improves is critical. We will continue the work we have underway to make sure that those undertaking activities with an impact on water quality do the right thing. Making changes to ensure water is available to achieve environmental, cultural and regional development outcomes is also a focus. For example, we are working on how the review of consents on the Ashburton/Hakatere River supports achieving the minimum flows set in the relevant plan.

The Mayoral Forum commissioned a CWMS project to set additional goals for 2025 and 2030 and adopted these in May 2019. We are now working with partners to achieve these goals.

A significant project underway to keep the lower Hororata, Selwyn/Waikirikiriri and Irwell rivers from running dry as they have in the past, support mahinga kai and biodiversity and improve downstream water quality is the Selwyn Near River Recharge project. Costing \$2.5 million over two years, it will be completed in 2020 and involve constructing an off-take from the Central Plains Water scheme. This will supply a leaky basin beside the upper Selwyn River/Waikirikiriri during dry periods so recharged water will flow through the groundwater system.

Another major project will be the completion of Whakaora Te Ahuriri. This \$3.5 million project started in 2018 and will establish a new wetland to reduce nutrients and sediment otherwise headed for Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere. It will also improve biodiversity and mahinga kai.

We are dealing with issues that have developed over decades and will take as long to fix. Measuring progress is essential. We will ensure the large amount of data we collect is accessible both to the organisation and the community, to inform effective decision-making and action. We will also report mātauranga Māori alongside our state of the environment reporting and increase our focus on kaitiakitanga.



Biodiversity and biosecurity

What we are doing

Indigenous biodiversity is one of the Council's top priorities. A large number of agencies and individuals play a role in protecting indigenous biodiversity, including local authorities, Ngāi Tahu, the Department of Conservation, Forest & Bird and local trusts, landowners and volunteer groups. We work with them to champion the value and importance of biodiversity. It is not our role to protect the species themselves, but to protect the habitats and ecosystems that enable those species to thrive.

We are collecting and using information to understand the priority areas for protecting and restoring biodiversity. We also use it for monitoring to show whether our work is making a difference.

We focus on priority ecosystems (particularly braided rivers and wetlands) and work closely with all others in the community committed to biodiversity.

Our work to protect the natural character of braided rivers includes taking a 'mountains to the sea' approach for these important rivers and working with communities to identify and protect braided river values. Best practice management of the land adjacent to rivers is a project we are working on with Land Information New Zealand, the Department of Conservation and other stakeholders. We are making sure we lead by example on the land we own.

In terms of wetlands, we are identifying priority wetlands and working with willing landowners to prepare management plans for wetlands on their properties. We are making a sizable financial and staff contribution to a Sustainable Farming Fund supported project led by Landcare Trust that is promoting wetlands as assets to rural landowners.

Some background

Canterbury's native plants and animals, and the landscapes and ecosystems that support them, are recognised nationally and in some cases internationally, as defining the region. They also form a fundamental part of the cultural identity and heritage of Ngāi Tahu and subsequent settlers. There is an increasing expectation from our communities that issues of biodiversity loss are addressed.

The region has 60% of the country's braided river systems, characterised by their multiple, shifting shingle channels and varying flows. They support many species, including rare and threatened species not found anywhere else. Our braided rivers include the Waiau Toa/Clarence, Waiau Uwha, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Rakaia, Rangitata and Waitaki.

Wetlands provide habitat for a diverse range of plants and animals and once covered large areas of Canterbury. Wetlands are now some of our rarest and most-at-risk ecosystems.

Biodiversity concerns in Canterbury include extensive loss of indigenous biodiversity. In lowland and coastal areas, remaining freshwater and terrestrial indigenous biodiversity tends to occur in small, scattered fragments. Wilding conifers present a particular issue in high-country pastoral land and on public conservation areas in Canterbury.

Unwanted plants and animals harm our natural environment and economy. Declared animal pests for Canterbury are Bennett's wallabies, feral goats, feral rabbits, koi carp, possums and rooks. There are also 30 species of plants declared as pests in the region, including gorse, boneseed, old man's beard, nasella tussock, Chilean needle grass and wilding conifers.

Over ten years we have invested nearly \$20 million in community-led projects to enhance biodiversity. Zone committees have been central to galvanising planting and protection projects in partnership with landowners and community and volunteer groups.

Our new Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) came into effect in 2018. The Plan directs our work in combatting unwanted pests, including identifying how pests could enter the region so we can minimise this occurring.

Since 2016, more than two million hectares (43% of the region) has been searched and treated for wilding pines, at a cost of \$8.8 million. Our partners in this work are the Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand, the New Zealand Defence Force and landholders.

The next three years

Canterbury has a collective vision for biodiversity expressed through the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy. We have recently reviewed the 10-year-old strategy and will be working with our partners to refresh our commitment, integrate pending national policy changes and implement the strategy together.

We will maintain and enhance the natural character of braided rivers, including working with communities to develop and implement plans for actions and outcomes on specific rivers.

We will develop and implement wetland action plans with willing landowners and support the close relationship between biodiversity and mahinga kai.

We will continue to monitor our work and publish reports on the effectiveness of our projects.

We are supporting the community-led Pest-free Banks Peninsula initiative, working towards the Peninsula being effectively free of animal pests by 2050.

We will continue to implement the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan, delivering pathway management to address the risks of new pests establishing and spreading in the region. With both regional and national funding, we will continue to facilitate ongoing wilding pine control as part of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme. We will work with our new stakeholder Biosecurity Advisory Groups to effectively manage plant and animal pests across the region.



Transport and urban development

What we are doing

Providing public transport services in greater Christchurch and Timaru is the council's single largest budget item. It covers buses, ferries and the Total Mobility scheme for people who are unable to access regular bus services.

We want everyone to have access to a safe and affordable transport network. Canterbury's network has been built over generations and provides us with access to economic and social opportunities. But our region is changing and our growing population demands ongoing investment. While satisfaction levels by those who take public transport are high, we work to improve reliability and frequency of the service while balancing this with the financial viability of routes.

The Greater Christchurch Public Transport Joint Committee, with representatives from greater Christchurch councils and other agencies, oversees the public transport service and has produced a new forward-looking Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP). We are working with our partners to budget for and implement the Plan.

Encouragingly, over the last year we have seen the first positive growth in public transport patronage since the 2010/11 Christchurch earthquakes.

In terms of urban development, we are part of the Greater Christchurch Partnership. Over recent years we have supported the ongoing regeneration of Greater Christchurch. The National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity requires Greater Christchurch's councils (Christchurch City Council, the Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils and Environment Canterbury) to undertake a three-yearly urban development capacity assessment to inform spatial planning decisions. The first assessment was prepared through the Greater Christchurch Partnership.

We convene the Regional Transport Committee. Its role is to prepare the Regional Land Transport Plan (which sets out the programme of transport investment across the region). A mid-term review of the plan has just been completed. It identified opportunities for freight mode shift in the South Island and will lead to work to improve road safety outcomes and improve the resilience of the transport network.

Some background

As changes occur in technology, demographics, tourism and climate, how we plan for and invest in our cities, towns, transport infrastructure and services must change. As change accelerates, the need for flexible, integrated and adaptive land use and transport planning in the region is even more critical.

Some facts about our region:

- The region's population is expected to grow from 562,900 in 2013 to 767,300 by 2043. Most of this population growth is expected to occur within greater Christchurch (Waimakariri, Christchurch, Selwyn). This growth will create additional demands on the transport system and increase congestion issues around urban centres.
- Over the same period, freight volumes travelling to, through and from Canterbury are expected to almost double. The use of rail and coastal shipping is relatively low at present.

- Currently, transport accounts for 20% of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental impacts also include air pollution, dust, visual intrusion, storm water run-off, noise and vibration.
- We anticipate ongoing growth in visitor numbers to our region, which will place increasing demands on our transport systems.
- About 40 people die and nearly 300 people are seriously injured on average every year on Canterbury roads.

The rapid rate of change in technological innovations, which may have the potential to change transport demand and the way people travel, creates opportunities but also uncertainty.

The next three years

We will continue to enhance public transport services as set out in the Regional Public Transport Plan. This includes implementing new bus and ferry contracts under the national Public Transport Operating Model (PTOM). We are looking at trialling Demand Responsive Transport options in Timaru and will undertake work to upgrade real-time information systems. We will participate in a national programme to update bus ticketing systems across the country and are likely to implement new ticketing systems in the next 3-5 years.

We will investigate rapid transit corridors for Greater Christchurch and opportunities to enhance existing services. We will support the Regional Transport Committee and partners to implement the current Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP).

Further work on urban development capacity assessment will be required by December 2020. This may require changes to the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement.



Hazards, risk and resilience

What we are doing

Climate change is already having an impact on our activities and we take climate scenarios into account when making decisions – including flood management, land and water planning and a range of water management activities. We have an active climate change integration programme in place to make sure climate change is front of mind for the whole organisation, including in our science, modelling and engineering work. We also convene the Canterbury Mayoral Forum's regional Climate Change Working Group.

In May 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency in recognition of the importance and urgent need to address climate change for the benefit of current and future generations. Actions already underway by the Council illustrate the importance climate change adaptation has to our work.

We are responsible for a total of \$508 million in flood protection infrastructure on the region's rivers. A 10-year, \$40 million project to protect Christchurch from the Waimakariri River has just been completed under budget and ahead of

schedule. This massive undertaking now protects an estimated \$8 billion of community assets and has enhanced our Waimakariri Regional Park.

Our work on earthquakes has us closely involved with Project AF8 (Alpine Fault Magnitude 8), with scientific modelling, response planning and community engagement. AF8 is a partnership of all the Emergency Management Groups in the South Island, funded by the Government through the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management's Resilience Fund.

We have also made a significant contribution to development of the South Island Alpine Fault Earthquake Response (SAFER) Framework. The SAFER framework will provide a co-ordinated picture of response and priority setting across the South Island in the first seven days of response to an alpine fault earthquake.

The two largest urban centres, Christchurch and Timaru, have been mapped for hazardous land sites, and we have overseen the New Zealand Rural Waste Minimisation Project across the region.

Some background

Natural hazards: flooding and earthquakes

- Flooding is a natural hazard of significant concern in Canterbury, from river flooding, surface flooding from local run-off and coastal over-topping.
- Canterbury has 800 km of coastline and 11,620 km² of coastal marine area.
- The region sits across the boundary of the Pacific Plate and the Australian Plate. The impacts of the 2010/11 Canterbury earthquakes and the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake have been well documented.
- The Alpine Fault has a high probability (estimated at 30%) of rupturing in the next 50 years. The rupture will produce one of the biggest earthquakes since European settlement of New Zealand and will have a major impact on the lives of many people.

Climate change

Climate change is a global issue with economic, social and cultural impacts on our natural and built environments, regionally and locally.

- Higher temperatures, less rainfall and greater evapotranspiration are likely to cause increasing pressure on water resources, particularly in North Canterbury. Droughts are likely to become more frequent and more extreme.
- Strong winds, combined with high temperatures, low humidity and seasonal drought may result in an increased fire risk in some areas and a longer fire season.
- Sea-level rise and coastal erosion will impact significantly on coastal settlements and some Papatipu Rūnanga marae. Christchurch is likely to face increased flooding in some areas, particularly around the lower Avon River/Ōtākaro.

The next three years

Our work in climate change will continue to gather momentum within the organisation and across the region. We will facilitate and communicate regional and cross-sector collaboration on climate-related matters, identify opportunities and threats of climate change, support communities to become more climate-risk literate and resilient, and seek to influence central government climate-related policy that impacts on Canterbury. In 2019/20 we will be undertaking an initial climate change risk assessment for Canterbury.

We will shortly start the coastal science work to support a review of the Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

- We anticipate that climate change will affect the spread of pests and weeds. There may also be an increased threat to native species from changed distribution of disease vectors.
- Warmer temperatures, a longer growing season and fewer frosts could provide opportunities to grow new crops, but these benefits may be offset by prolonged drought, increased flood risk and greater frequency and intensity of storms.
- Extreme weather events, coastal erosion and sea-level rise will impact on coastal defence infrastructure, buildings, transport infrastructure, water infrastructure and flood protection infrastructure.



Air quality

What we are doing

Air quality in the region continues to improve thanks to the work of households and industry to reduce emissions. The regional council has put plans in place to support home owners to achieve this change. The collective impact has been fewer high pollution days in urban centres, lower-cost home heating and greater efficiency. In some towns more must be done to bring emissions down to the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality set by central government.

To help the community make changes to improve emissions we have been implementing our Canterbury Air Regional Plan, which focuses on improving the quality of burners for home heating. Our priority is ensuring people are warm and dry in their homes, while transitioning to cleaner heating.

Under that plan we monitor air quality in eight airsheds – Christchurch, Rangiora, Kaiapoi, Ashburton, Geraldine, Washdyke, Timaru and Waimate. Our particular focus in the last few years has been on Timaru and this is now paying off.

In the last year we introduced Healthier Homes Canterbury, which provides funding to those who are unable to afford a change to cleaner heating. It provides a loan that is paid off over time through the rates bill.

Quarry dust has been a significant concern for some residents, particularly during the rebuild phase following the earthquakes. We have worked with the quarry industry and residents to establish boundary dust monitoring on the Yaldhurst quarries and this has led to improvements in air quality relating to dust. We have also initiated discussions with central government around set-back distances.

The next three years

We will continue to support the community to make the necessary changes to home heating so we can all enjoy cleaner air. We prioritise airsheds where the need is greatest, such as Timaru and Waimate. We are also focused on non-domestic emissions such as dust from activities like quarries, odours, and outdoor burning. Central government has signalled a new National Environmental Standard for Air Quality and we will be working to influence and implement that.

Some background

Most of Canterbury enjoys air quality that ranges from good to very good, but our towns and cities experience poorer air quality, particularly in winter from the burning of wood and coal for home heating and by industry.

Rural areas are affected by burn-offs and other rural practices from time-to-time. Vehicle emissions play a small role in air quality in our region.



Regional leadership

What we are doing

Our relationships with communities, mana whenua, government and local government agencies, businesses, industry sectors and groups throughout Canterbury are central to our work. Regional Leadership is the portfolio with oversight of Environment Canterbury's key relationships.

Our special relationship with Ngāi Tahu (the Tuia relationship) involves regular hui with the region's 10 Papatipu Rūnanga. Staff training, noho marae and regular staff engagement with Papatipu Rūnanga members helps make sure cultural values and considerations inform our decision-making.

Through the Mayoral Forum, and our regular interactions and visits to the territorial authorities in the region, we maintain connection and understanding of the issues facing local government throughout Canterbury.

Strong and positive relationships exist with Government and we have hosted Ministers and Members of Parliament from all parties, as well as the Governor-General. Policy advice to influence central government thinking and direction is essential. We have recently provided submissions and advice on freshwater management, climate change, funding and financing, and transport. Through

the Mayoral Forum we contribute to the development of regional submissions, most recently on immigration policy and employer-assisted work visas, and the proposed reform of vocational education.

In the last two years, we have strengthened our presence in the south of the region with the appointment of a South Canterbury Regional Manager, and we have joined Waitaki and Mackenzie District Councils, the Department of Conservation and Land Information New Zealand in a five-agency partnership to align our activities in the Mackenzie Basin.

We work in partnership with many community organisations across the region. We invest in engagement tools and communication to keep information available to the community and to make participation in our processes easier to access. Council has supported a new youth initiative, the Environment Canterbury Youth Rōpu, to support the engagement and participation of young people in local government.

We are responsible for collecting and sharing state of the environment monitoring data to monitor and track air quality; rainfall; the quality, levels and flows of the water in our rivers, streams and lakes; river and stream ecosystem health; and the quality and levels

Some background

- Canterbury is New Zealand's largest region by land area (around 45,000 km²) and second-largest by population after Auckland, with an estimated resident population (June 2018) of 624,200 – 13% of New Zealand's total population.
- The region generates around 12% of national GDP.
- Canterbury's population is unevenly distributed across the region – 62% in Christchurch City, 82% in greater Christchurch (Waimakariri, Christchurch, Selwyn).
- There are 10 Papatipu Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu in Canterbury:
 - Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura
 - Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga
 - Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke
 - Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata
 - Ōnuku Rūnanga
 - Wairewa Rūnanga
 - Te Taumutu Rūnanga

- Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua
- Te Rūnanga o Waihao
- Te Rūnanga o Moeraki.
- The region includes 10 local authority areas (north to south):
 - Kaikōura District Council
 - Hurunui District Council
 - Waimakariri District Council
 - Christchurch City Council
 - Selwyn District Council
 - Ashburton District Council
 - Timaru District Council
 - Mackenzie District Council
 - Waimate District Council
 - Waitaki District Council.
- The Mayoral Forum comprises the Mayors of the city and district councils and the Chair of Environment Canterbury.
- At the request of the Mayoral Forum, Environment Canterbury hosts a regional forums secretariat.

of groundwater. We also report on water allocation, consenting, water use and plan effectiveness. Mātauranga Māori will be reported alongside state of the environment reporting.

We host and manage Canterbury Maps, which provides free, interactive access to maps, records, information and data from the local government councils in the Canterbury region. Data collection and management informs all our decision making.

Much of the work of the Regional Leadership portfolio is the behind-the-scenes work of making sure our organisation is fit-for-purpose, agile and responsive and is providing ratepayers with excellent value for money.

Environment Canterbury's main office at 200 Tuam Street was opened in 2016 and has excellent seismic resilience and energy efficiency. In 2018 we added solar panels to the roof, electric vehicles/scooters/bicycles to staff transport options and ensured the forestry blocks we own on behalf of the community are working for us in terms of carbon sequestration (5,755 tonnes of CO₂ were removed from the atmosphere last year).

Planning and consent monitoring and enforcement

Canterbury has a robust and comprehensive statutory planning framework, with stringent nutrient management rules. This is supported by a requirement for all higher risk farms to have independently audited farm environment plans.

There are more than 24,000 consents in Canterbury and we respond to around 4,000 possible pollution reports a year. Consistent with the Ministry for the Environment's Best Practice Guidelines, we take a prioritised risk-management approach. We carefully prioritise which consents our staff monitor by considering catchments that are most at risk and activities that have potential to cause the most damage. We use a range of monitoring technologies where we can, such as telemetry for water use data, to make the most of our resources.

We focus on improving the use of data obtained through compliance activities to inform and enable better decision-making by resource users, the community and Council. A number of projects are focused on this in relation to water, farm environment plans, odour and dust.

The next three years

Without dedicated Ngāi Tahu seats around the Council table, we will explore opportunities to ensure strong governance engagement continues. Staff training in Ngāi Tahu engagement will continue to be essential. The employment of staff focused on achieving mahinga kai outcomes on farm will support this initiative.

A number of land and water plans will progress through the hearings process (including Waimakariri and Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora water zones). This will provide further certainty for farmers around environmental outcomes that need to be achieved.

We will be initiating and undertaking a review of the Regional Policy Statement and work will begin on the review of the Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

We are increasing our investment in data collection and management, with around \$8.6 million being invested over two years in the Water Data Programme. We will also be investing around \$3.4 million in investigating and upgrading the software and processes we use to support service delivery.

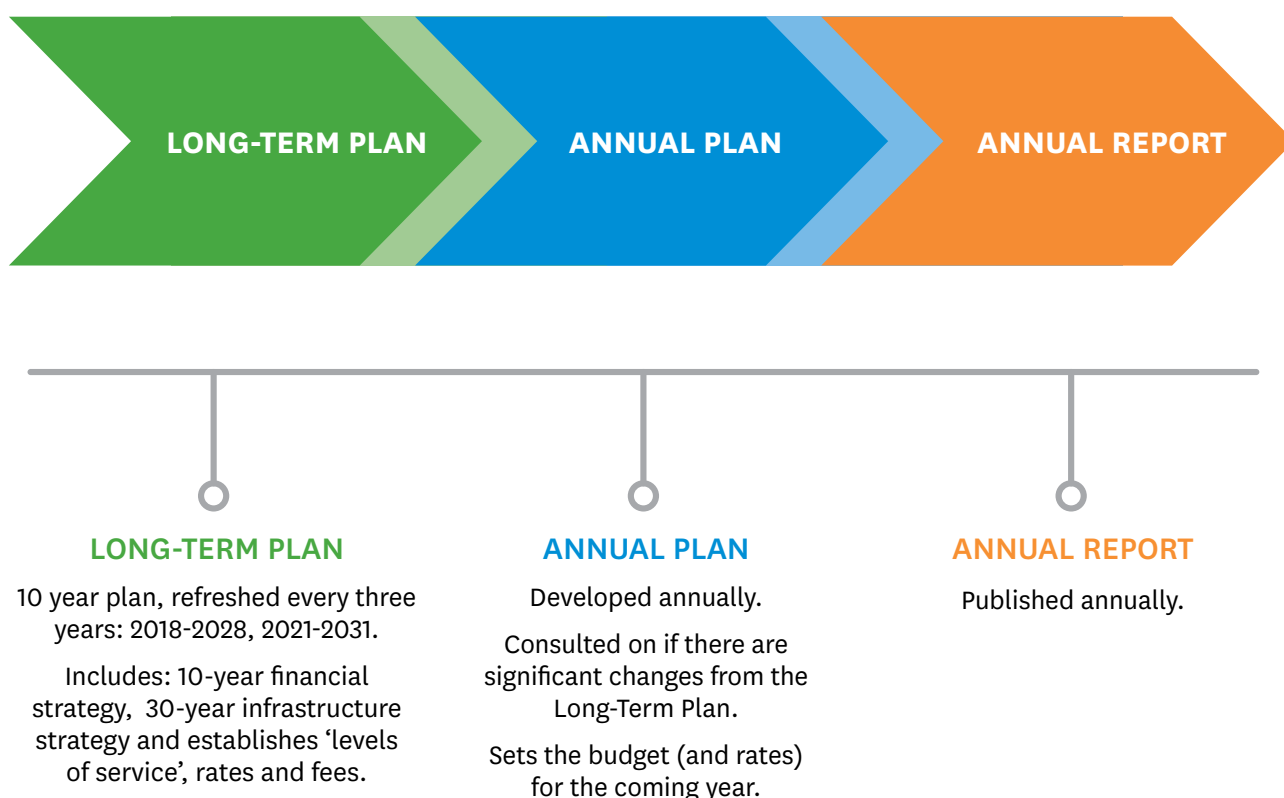
In terms of property, we will be investing around \$6.9 million in the rebuild of our facilities at Kainga to ensure that the site is fit-for-purpose, and as a back-up to our Tuam Street building if necessary.



How we do it | *Tō tātou whakahaeretanga*

Local government planning and reporting

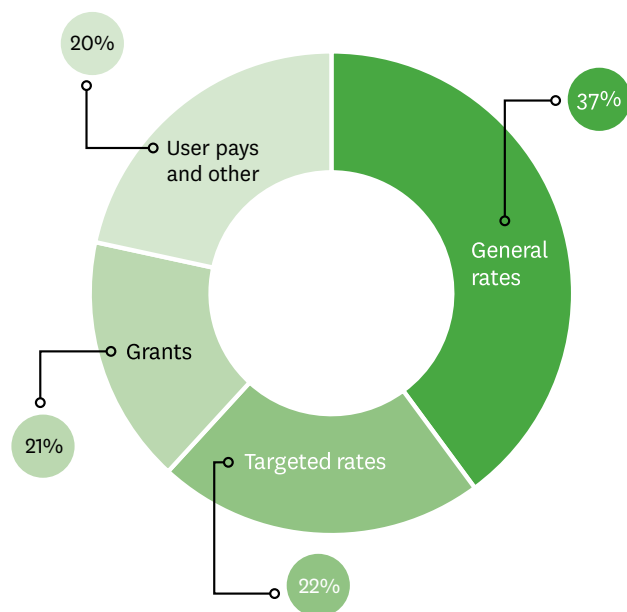
- The Local Government Act 2002 prescribes planning and reporting requirements of local authorities, and processes of consultation and community engagement that local authorities must follow.
- Local authorities work to a rolling 10-year planning cycle (the Long-Term Plan), consulted on and adopted every three years.
- Within the Long-Term Plan cycle, local authorities develop and engage with the community on Annual Plans that set the budget (and rates) for the coming financial year.
- Each local authority must have a 'significance and engagement policy' that describes how it decides whether a proposal is 'significant' and the consultation and engagement process it will follow.
- Local authorities must also publish audited Annual Reports.



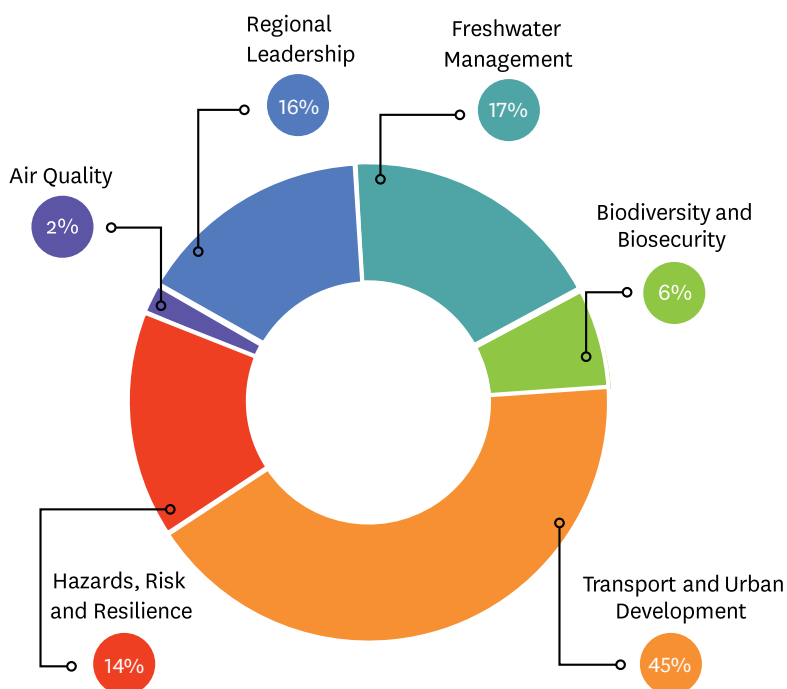
Money matters

The annual operating budget of Environment Canterbury is about \$189 million (for 2019/20). Our income comes from general rates, targeted rates (either by function or geographical area), user pays (such as bus fares or consent applications) and grants. Government grants associated with public transport are a significant part of our annual revenue.

Our sources of Income (\$188m in 2019/20)



How our money is spent (\$189m in 2019/20)



Finance strategy overview

Environment Canterbury's Financial Strategy 2018-2028 forms part of the 2018-2028 Long-Term Plan. It outlines how we manage our finances and the considerations taken into account when forming a Long-Term Plan.

Broadly, we aim to maximise return on investments, minimise risk, hold reserves at our policy level and keep rates affordable.

The financial strategy in the 2018-2028 Long-Term Plan sets financial limits. Compliance against these limits for the last three years to the end of 2018/19 is demonstrated in the graphs on this page.

For 2019/20 compliance against these measures (not shown in the graphs on this page):

Rates increases from year to year

In 2019/20 the average rate increase will be 10.51%, which does not meet our rates affordability benchmark of 6%.

This increase is in response to community consultation (Regional Pest Management Plan, Regional Public Transport Plan, Long-term Plan). The increased spending will be in the areas of Freshwater Management and Biodiversity, both strategic priorities for the Council, and in Public Transport.

Rates as a % of total income

In 2019/20 rates will be 59% of total income. The measure sets a limit of 70%.

Debt affordability

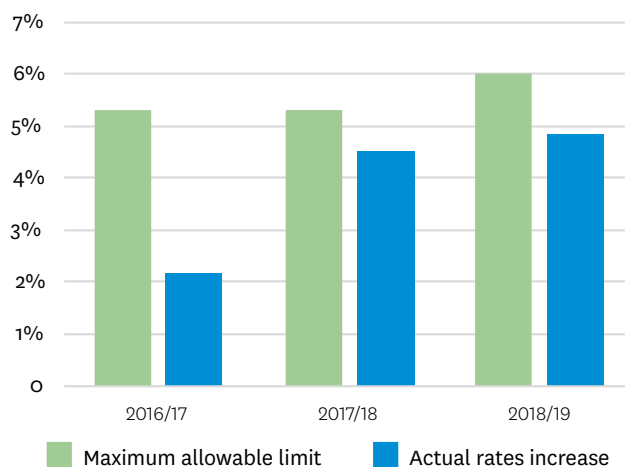
In 2019/20 our debt level will be 43%. The measure sets a limit of 175%.

Returns on Investment

Environment Canterbury does not rely heavily on investment income from treasury and equity investments as these contribute only a very small percentage of revenue collected.

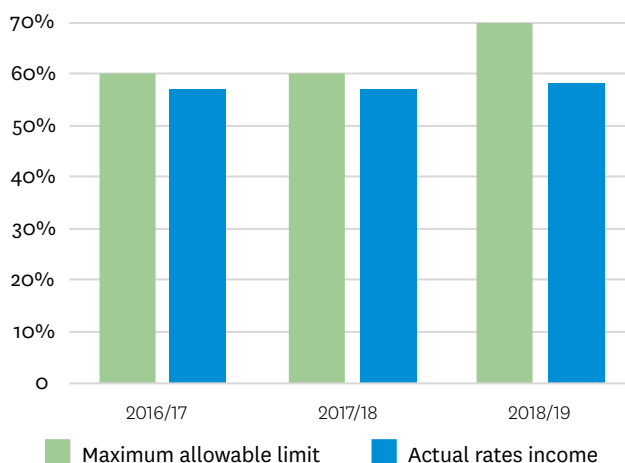
Rates increases from year to year

This measure ensures that rates do not increase by more than 6% per year from 2018



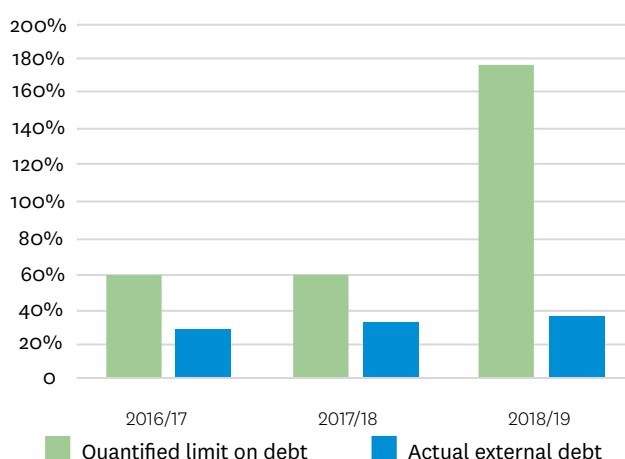
Rates as a % of total income

This measure ensures rates do not exceed 70% of total income from 2018



Debt affordability

This measure ensures that debt levels stay below 175% (2018/19 onwards) of total rates income.



Financial position

The council's net worth is \$909 million. Net worth is total assets less total liabilities. Due to our high level of assets to liabilities we are able to access low-cost borrowing, which means we can fund capital projects as required.

Assets – the council's total assets are worth \$969 million. The majority of the assets are flood protection infrastructure such as stopbanks and planting, with the remaining made up of property, plant and equipment.

Liabilities – the council's total liabilities are worth \$60 million, which include borrowings and other liabilities including trade payables.

	Actual 2016/17	Actual 2017/18	LTP 2018/19	Annual Plan 2019/20	LTP * 2020/21	LTP * 2021/22	LTP * 2022/23
Current assets	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Total current assets	41,373	43,279	33,080	28,770	29,847	32,636	36,978
Non-current assets							
Total non-current assets	916,551	921,475	936,093	952,290	948,720	951,365	949,103
Total assets	957,924	964,745	969,174	981,060	978,567	984,001	986,081
Current liabilities							
Borrowings							
Other	20,331	27,039	21,958	22,277	22,758	23,311	23,858
Total current liabilities	20,331	27,039	21,958	22,277	22,758	23,311	23,858
Non-current liabilities							
Borrowings	25,000	30,000	37,869	47,609	45,268	46,283	45,482
Other	4,971	425	306	312	318	325	331
Total non-current liabilities	29,971	30,425	38,175	47,921	45,586	45,608	45,813
Total liabilities	50,302	57,464	60,133	70,198	68,344	69,918	69,672
Total equity/net assets	907,622	907,280	909,041	910,860	910,223	914,082	916,409

* These figures are taken from the 2018-28 Long-Term Plan

Funding impact statement

Our expenditure and how we fund it

This table shows how we fund our operating and capital expenditure.

The figures for 2018/19 (LTP (est)) are based on the first eight months actual data and the last four months estimated data.

The draft annual plan for 2019/20 has a 10.5% rates increase. Future rates levels will be determined in each Annual/Long-Term Plan.

	Actual 2016/17	Actual 2017/18	LTP (est) 2018/19	Annual Plan 2019/20	LTP * 2020/21	LTP * 2021/22	LTP * 2022/23
Sources of operating funding	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Cash provided from:							
General rate, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	32,639	33,139	61,710**	68,381	69,447	73,637	77,107
Targeted rates	60,744	64,485	38,073	41,901	41,317	41,778	42,117
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	32,570	33,334	33,338	39,887	34,530	32,621	31,687
Fees and charges	32,259	33,521	36,600	37,090	36,782	37,777	39,301
Interest and dividends from investments	712	750	424	566	710	744	790
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	3,637	3,982	296	15	260	261	268
Total Operating funding	162,562	169,210	170,441	187,840	183,046	186,818	191,270

Applications of operating funding							
Payments to staff and suppliers	156,071	165,177	167,558	181,027	169,644	174,048	178,571
Finance costs	1,059	1,145	1,083	1,495	1,540	1,624	1,648
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total applications of operating funding	157,129	166,322	168,642	182,522	171,184	175,672	180,220

Surplus/(deficit) of operating funding	5,433	2,889	1,799	5,318	11,862	11,146	11,050
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Sources of capital funding							
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	-	-	840	563	3,570	1,530	-
Development and financial contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase / (decrease) in debt	300	4,983	8,000	8,528	4,166	1,015	-801
Gross proceeds from sales of assets	554	2,095	241	1,143	1,158	1,174	1,190
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sources of capital funding	855	7,078	9,081	10,234	8,894	3,719	389

* These figures are taken from the 2018-28 Long-Term Plan

** As set out in the Long-Term Plan 2018-28, from the 2019/20 financial year the targeted Canterbury Water Management Strategy rate switches to a general rate. This has no effect on individual ratepayers.

\$000	Actual 2016/17	Actual 2017/18	LTP (est) 2018/19	Annual Plan 2019/20	LTP 2020/21	LTP 2021/22	LTP 2022/23
Application of capital funding	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Capital expenditure							
To improve the level of service	6,680	1,746	2,251	4,479	-	-	-
To replace existing assets	2,073	8,193	15,710	17,196	14,440	9,372	6,328
Increase/(decrease) in reserves	457	2,948	-3,140	-1,368	3,929	3,859	2,327
Increase/(decrease) in investments	-2,923	-2,920	-7,359	-4,755	2,388	1,634	2,783
Total applications of capital funding	6,287	9,967	7,282	15,551	20,756	14,865	11,439
Surplus/(deficit) of capital funding	-5,433	-2,889	1,799	-5,318	-11,862	-11,146	-11,050
Funding balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Further reading

Environment Canterbury's website is www.ecan.govt.nz. You can access further information on:

- our portfolios of work from the menu on the Home page – Your region (Your environment, and Living in Canterbury)
- [Canterbury's water](#)
- [Plans, strategies and bylaws](#), including our Long-Term Plan and annual reports
- our [Tuia relationship](#) with Ngāi Tahu
- our [leadership team](#).

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum's [website](#) provides information on regional forums and the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy.

Key legislation

You can read and download legislation from www.legislation.govt.nz.

The relevant legislation is:

- Local Government Act 2002
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Local Electoral Act 2001
- Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- Biosecurity Act 1993
- Land Transport Management Act 2003
- Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Election 2019

Key dates for the 2019 local body elections are:

KEY DATES	WHAT'S HAPPENING
FROM 17 JULY	Elections will be advertised and nominations called
19 JULY	Nominations open
16 AUGUST	Nominations close at midday
20 SEPTEMBER	Voter packs mailed to electors. Voting opens
12 OCTOBER	Voting closes at midday
17 OCTOBER	Official result released
FROM 17 OCTOBER	Official result advertised

A candidate information booklet for the 2019 election has been prepared and is available on the Environment Canterbury [website](#). Nomination forms will be available in early July 2019.

If you are enrolled as a Parliamentary elector, you will automatically be placed on your district or city council's electoral roll as a residential elector. If you need to enrol or update existing name or address details on the parliamentary electoral roll, you can do so at any Post Shop, online at www.elections.org.nz or by phoning 0800 36 76 56.

Further election related documents and links are available on our [website](#).

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