

Portfolio performance report

First quarter report

1 July to 30 September 2019



To facilitate sustainable development in the Canterbury region

Te huawaere i te kauneke tauwhiro i Waitaha



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

We can all 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.



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

We can live, travel, and move goods with ease, within and to/from the region, facilitating work, leisure and tourism.



RESILIENCE

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.



COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

We can all help shape the future of Canterbury, leaving a legacy for generations to come.



Introduction

This is the portfolio performance report for the first quarter of year two of the Long-Term Plan 2018-28: 1 July to 30 September 2019. Performance reports include matters of significance that have occurred in the year-to-date and are prepared for the Performance, Audit and Risk Committee of Council and for the community. Specific reporting on progress towards Levels of Service in the Annual Plan for 2019/20 will be included in each performance report.

Environment Canterbury reports on activity by 'portfolio'. There are a total of 41 Levels of Service across the six portfolios, as noted in the Long-Term Plan. Depending on the activity within each quarter of the year, performance reports may focus more on one portfolio than the others. When relevant, the performance report will also indicate key matters coming up for the remainder of the year. Financial reporting is separate. However, any significant matters are included in the narrative of this report.

Reporting structure 2019/20:

Q1 – 1 July to 30 September

Q1 + Q2 – 1 July to 31 December

Q1 + Q2 + Q3 – 1 July to 31 March

Q1 + Q2 + Q3 + Q4 – 1 July to 30 June, full financial year

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Summary information

Whanaungatanga – collaboration – was an important theme for the first quarter of the 2019/20 financial year (year two of the current Long-Term Plan). It was a quarter of intense activity for our partners and wider stakeholders, working with us on small projects and also helping to progress some big pieces of work – for example, the notification of Plan Change 7 (PC7) to the Land and Water Regional Plan, which proposes to bring in the strictest rules yet around our freshwater; completing a 10-year, \$40 million Waimakariri River Flood Protection Project to protect an estimated \$8 billion of property and assets – while aiding local biodiversity projects and assisting with the development of recreational assets; and releasing a major transport study on the potential to shift freight in the South Island from road to rail.

Local projects in the region included Clean and Green Silverstream in the Waimakariri; addressing breaches in water quality (Trophic Level Index, or TLI) in the Ahuriri Arm (Lake Benmore); mapping soil and erosion in Whakaraupō (Lyttelton Harbour); instigating a trial of on-demand public transport in Timaru; working with the Akaroa community on the potential impact of cruise ships; progressing action around declining trends in water quality in the Ashburton Lakes; beginning construction of a \$2.8 million river recharge system for the Waikirikiri/Selwyn River; collecting 675kg of rubbish with local schools along Lyell Creek in Kaikōura; and planting 20,000 (of the estimated 130,000 needed) at the Whakaora Te Ahuriri constructed wetland to improve water quality, diversity and mahinga kai values.

This first quarter of the financial year was also the last quarter for the outgoing Council under the Environment Canterbury (Transitional Governance Arrangements) Act 2016, as the organisation prepared for the October election.



Levels of Service by portfolio



Portfolios

Environment Canterbury's work is structured into six portfolios:

**FRESHWATER
MANAGEMENT**



**BIODIVERSITY
& BIOSECURITY**



**TRANSPORT &
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**



**HAZARDS, RISK
& RESILIENCE**



AIR QUALITY



**REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP**



The following pages include key points to note for the year-to-date by portfolio.



Supporting our communities to manage freshwater

This quarter's Freshwater Management report tells the story of effective community engagement and collaboration. Our success stories continue to be those where we empower our communities to get involved, working closely with landowners, community and industry groups and stakeholders to develop on the ground, locally-led solutions to manage our region's freshwater resources.

Supporting communities to understand planning and consent changes

Plan Change 7 (PC7) to the Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) was notified on 20 July 2019. The Plan Change is in response to emerging resource management issues, to give effect to relevant national direction and implement recommendations from the Hinds Drains Working Party and the Waimakariri and Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora (OTOP) Zone Implementation Programme Addenda. Numerous public and stakeholder meetings, drop-in sessions were held to support our communities to understand the impacts and benefits and to engage with the process. We received many more submissions (588) than for any other Resource Management Act plan or plan change in the last 10 years. The hearing is likely to be in May 2020.

Portfolio:

FRESHWATER
MANAGEMENT



Current
Status:



Our Community
Outcomes:



The Hurunui Plan Change (PC1) is further along the public notification process as a result of a long-term collaborative process to resolve an unintended consequence in the Hurunui Waiau River Regional Plan. The Hurunui Waiau zone committee have worked hard to develop consensus resulting in an agreed solution, and very few submissions in opposition to it. The hearing is due to be held in late 2019 and staff will continue to support the hearing process.

In Ashburton a consent review to bring Hakatere/Ashburton River water take consents in line with the minimum flows specified in the LWRP by 2023 was launched in July and review notices sent to all affected consent holders during this quarter. The review is ongoing, with a focus on community engagement.

Supporting community engagement

Zone committees and our zone facilitators have focused on community engagement through several initiatives. Notable examples include:



Collecting 675kg of rubbish with local schools along Lyell Creek in Kaikōura



Christchurch West Melton zone committee taking their storm water superhero campaign to the banks of the Ōpawaho/Heathcote River



Working with 60 volunteers to plant 2,700 plants in a gully at Koukourarata/Port Levy on Banks Peninsula



We supported Te Ara Kākāriki Greenway Canterbury Trust and EnviroSchools to hold two planting days in September with local schools focusing on water quality, ecology, and Ngāi Tahu cultural values. Planting days were held with Ararira Springs Primary School at the Ararira/Liffey waterway and with Darfield High School at Joyce Reserve. The next Kids Discovery Plant-Out will be held in October.



(photo credit Te Ara Kākāriki)

Soil Conservation and Revegetation project

The Soil Conservation and Revegetation (SCAR) project is a jointly funded four-year programme with the Ministry for Primary Industries launched in July this year. Its focus is on preventing and reducing sediment loss on erosion prone hill country exclusively in Hurunui and Kaikōura. The focus this quarter has been on building relationships, community engagement, planning and identifying SCAR projects. This quarter approximately 2000 poplar poles were ordered, delivered and planted by farmers. Work has also begun on identifying 22 hectares of land to retire and revegetate by December 2019 through fencing and native planting.

Mid-Canterbury 4x4 Park

The Mid-Canterbury 4x4 Park opened in September. This partnership with the Mid-Canterbury 4WD Club and Ashburton District Council provides a dedicated park for four-wheel drivers on the Ashburton River margin in an area where native wildlife, such as braided river birds, are not threatened.

Ashburton River Mouth Management Strategy

The Ashburton River Mouth Management Strategy was also finalised in July and identifies the first steps taken to implement improvements to the river mouth.

Water Data Programme

In July work started on the Water Data Programme which will transform how we govern, monitor, manage and share water data for better governance and management. Our community will be able to obtain data easily and quickly through access to good quality data and it will enable us to improve our understanding of water allocation and use, consent compliance, state of the resource and the effectiveness of our plans.

Environmental monitoring

Over the last quarter a variety of monitoring has been undertaken across the region by our ground and surface water teams. A recent example is the completion by our field hydrology team of gauging across the region to establish early season baselines for rivers before abstraction for irrigation begins. Sites are being prioritised to establish frequency of monitoring and to ensure irrigation restrictions are put in place as water levels decline through the season.

Infrastructure support

We continue to support a number of regional water infrastructure projects working with territorial authorities, landowners, irrigation schemes and organisations such as North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish & Game to improve water quality and increase river flows, groundwater levels and habitats in the region.

One such example is the Waikiriri/Selwyn Near River Recharge. A site blessing was held on 1 July with construction to be completed in mid-November 2019. This \$2.8 million project, co-funded by the Ministry for the Environment Freshwater Improvement Fund, aims to recharge the Waikiriri/Selwyn River system during dry periods to reduce the cultural, environmental and social impacts of sustained low groundwater and low flows.

Te Waihora Lake Edge

The Te Waihora Lake Edge project, which is now complete, has involved the development of guidance documents for managing wetland/wet pasture to avoid damage to the bed and margins, and one-on-one site visits to support landowners. Significant effort has been made to support landowners through the consenting process regarding wetland protection and retirement.

Whakaora Te Ahuriri project

During this quarter engineering and earthworks were almost completed for the Whakaora Te Ahuriri project creating a constructed wetland to improve water quality, biodiversity, and mahinga kai values. By the end of September 2019, 20,000 plants had been planted at the Whakaora Te Ahuriri constructed wetland. The planting will include a total of 130,000 plants, with 48,000 terrestrial plants providing habitat to many native birds and other animals.

Te Waihora restoration Weed Strike Force

The Weed Strike Force partnership with the Department of Conservation continues to control willows and weeds around Te Waihora as part of a three-year work plan and we are now observing healthy amounts of native tree regeneration. Willow control was recently conducted at the Williams' block and off Greenpark Road, and weed control was conducted at the mouth of the Irwell River.

2019 Canterbury Water Management Strategy targets report

The two-yearly Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) targets report for 2019 was released in August. The report assesses progress against the regional targets set through the CWMS. This year's targets report shows that, while we still have a long way to go to reach our ambitious goals, solid progress is being made in delivering the CWMS. The Mayoral Forum, which provides governance oversight of the CWMS, has accepted the regional water committee's recommendation of the CWMS 2019 targets report. The 'Fit for the Future' review of the CWMS, which was completed earlier this year, is helping us to focus on 2025 targets.

Strengthening the zone approach

With a robust planning framework in place and changes in legislation, there is now increased focus on implementation of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS). This includes a strong focus on compliance monitoring and enforcement and the implementation of new delivery mechanisms. Advice will go to Council and the Mayoral Forum and inform next steps to strengthen our zone approach.

In August the Office of the Auditor General withdrew the conflict of interest exemption for regional water committee and zone committees members. Our team of zone facilitators has been advising and supporting committee members through this, which has given us an opportunity to strengthen our process regarding conflicts of interest.

Recreational water quality

The Hurunui zone committee has prioritised work supporting recreational outcomes. Consents have recently been granted for five years for the creation and maintenance of three swimming holes with works beginning early December at sites near the Waiiau township, Hanmer and near Hawarden.

Work is underway on the Swimmable Selwyn @ Coes Ford project, a collaboration with landowners, Selwyn District Council, industry groups, Canterbury Waterway Rehabilitation Experiment – University of Canterbury (CAREX) and the Water and Wildlife Habitat Trust across the Silverstream catchment to turn Coes Ford back into a popular swimming site. This is part of a long-term plan to make the Waikirikiri/Selwyn River swimmable and increase the water quality at Coes Ford and upstream. A plan for fencing, planting and reducing contaminants has been agreed and planting is in progress.

Clean and Green Silverstream

In Waimakariri, Clean and Green Silverstream has continued the creation of a 27km freshwater biodiversity loop. Consents for earthworks at Harpers and Giles Road have been granted and contractors have completed much of the earthworks at Harpers Road and planting and fencing is now in progress. Earthworks are currently occurring at Giles Road.

Wetlands fencing in Lees Valley

In Lees Valley our zone team is working with landowners to fence off a number of wetlands and streams in this highly valuable and sensitive area.

Kaikōura Flats (Waikōau/Lyell Creek) catchment programme

We're continuing to focus on three significant wetland protection and enhancement projects over this quarter and expanding protection projects from Lyell Creek to the whole Kaikōura flats catchment. Thirteen overland flow paths and critical nitrate source areas have been identified, fenced and filtered.

20,000 plants

have been planted at the Whakaora Te Ahuriri constructed wetland.



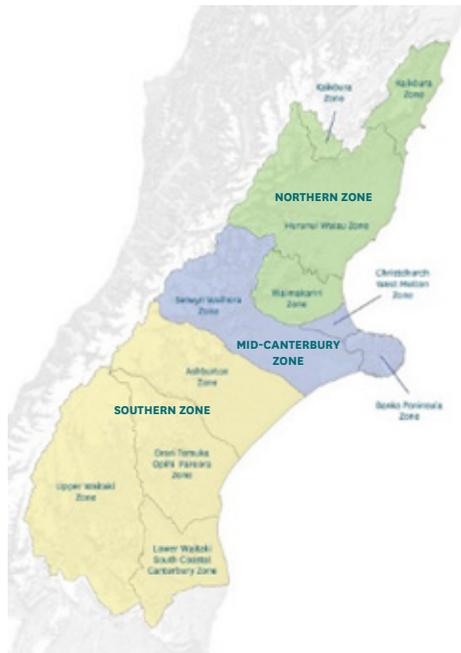
Zone committee Immediate Steps funding

All zone committees are developing projects for Immediate Steps biodiversity funding, in line with zone priorities and with willing landowners. Notably, the Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora and Banks Peninsula zone committees have allocated their \$100,000 Immediate Steps funding for projects to improve local biodiversity outcomes by protecting and enhancing waterways.

Highlights include:

Northern zone

- The establishment of bird habitat with seven island sites in the Hurunui and Waiau Uwha Rivers. This work includes substantial physical work on the sites and control of black-backed gulls. This has likely reduced the *E. coli* levels and also supports the Balmoral swimming site.
- Clarence River weed control and bird habitat projects.



Mid-Canterbury zone

- Planting in the Port Hills to minimise sediment runoff into the Ōpāwaho/Heathcote River.
- Undertaking weed control, fencing and native planting to enable a dryland biodiversity and recreational hub on the south side of the Waimakariri River through allocation of funding over the next three years.
- Community engagement through projects such as Operation River Quest where five Christchurch schools were involved in litter clean up at the Ōtākaro/Avon River.

Southern zone

- The protection and enhancement of roosting habitat of long-tail bats and joint pest control project with the Department of Conservation and forestry company Port Blakely.
- The completion of Oteake Springs willow control and continuing to work towards improving protection of native forest and grey scrub at Limestone Hills.
- Projects at Milford and Orari Lagoons and Ellis Road coastal wetland.

Whakaraupō Catchment Plan

The Banks Peninsula community has been supported through a number of targeted projects including the implementation of the Whakaraupō Catchment Plan. This has included mapping soil and erosion in Whakaraupō (Lyttelton Harbour) and identifying the first site for the Whakaraupō roadside cutting trial of erosion and sediment control methods.

Ahuriri Arm (Lake Benmore) breaches in Trophic Level Index

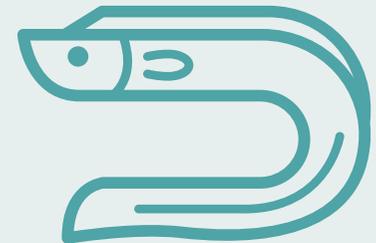
Breaches in Trophic Level Index (TLI), a measure of water quality, in the Ahuriri Arm (Lake Benmore) led to the Upper Waitaki zone committee and Environment Canterbury zone delivery teams successfully collaborating with landowners and responding as a collective to address issues and establish improved practices. The willingness to work together and ownership by all participants gives the group a foundation for longer-term collaboration and initiatives.

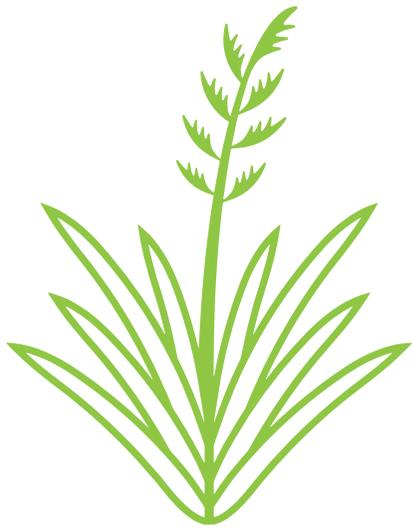
Ashburton Lakes water quality

In August a constructive hui was held at Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Department of Conservation, Land Information NZ, Ashburton District Council and Fish & Game to discuss declining trends in water quality in the Ashburton Lakes and the need for urgent action. Follow-up meetings are planned and all landholders will be invited.

Freshwater Management programmes:

- Resource Management Act Water Framework
- Canterbury Water Management Strategy Facilitation
- Environmental Monitoring and Progress Reporting
- Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Water Infrastructure
- Te Waihora Restoration
- Zone and Regional Delivery





Biodiversity action on the ground

From protecting braided rivers and wetlands to targeting pests like feral goats, Nassella tussock, wilding pines and more – this quarter has seen great progress made on the ground in partnership with landowners, key stakeholders, community and industry groups.

Working together for braided rivers

A key piece of work by the Braided River Action Group, a group formed to maintain the natural character of braided rivers comprising representatives from Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation, tangata whenua, non-government organisations, Land Information NZ, industry representatives, other councils, landowners and community groups, has been identifying land ownership adjoining the Rakaia River. Data contributed by Land Information NZ reduced work and expenditure for both agencies. Environment Canterbury has previously mapped land ownership in the Rangitata, Ashley/Rakahuri, Ashburton/Hakatere and lower Waitaki Rivers.

We have also been working with Department of Conservation as they scope a Restoration Plan for the Rangitata River. This work aligns well with Environment Canterbury's approach to create non-statutory plans for braided river ecosystems from the mountains to the sea over the next 10 years. Environment Canterbury has been developing this approach in the Ashley/Rakahuri River. Ngāi Tūāhuriri have expressed their willingness to work closely with us on this plan and the Waimakariri zone committee has been kept informed.

Portfolio:

**BIODIVERSITY
& BIOSECURITY**



Current
Status:



Our Community
Outcomes:



Pest-Free Banks Peninsula

Pest-Free Banks Peninsula has also been busy securing resources and planning for the first year of implementation. The Department of Conservation Community Fund is supplying funds for a Project Manager and Environment Canterbury is supporting a summer student to work with the Christchurch City Council and the Summit Road Society on baseline predator monitoring around three key suburbs (Halswell, Westmorland and Sumner). In addition to the goat project noted below, the group is working on the operational approach to possum control on the Peninsula, particularly the possum eradication work in the 'Wildside' area, from the entrance of Akaroa Harbour to Okains Bay.

Goats have been a problem on Banks Peninsula for many years. The Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan declares goats a pest on the Peninsula and contains new rules requiring land occupiers to ensure their goats are identifiable and fenced appropriately. Pest-Free Banks Peninsula work with landowners to eradicate feral goats and plans are being finalised for the next five years of eradication work.

Going international to combat *Nassella tussock*

On the ground inspections to ensure compliance with Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan rules with regard to *Nassella tussock* have started and will be completed by 20 December 2019.

A *Nassella tussock* biocontrol project will begin by the end of December, in conjunction with multiple partners. The project will look at biocontrol opportunities and will involve working with agencies within New Zealand, Australia and Argentina.

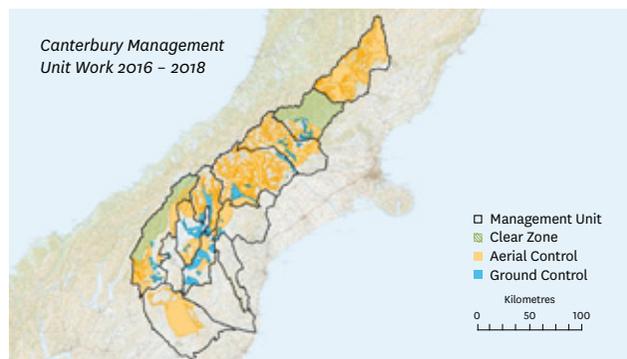
New ways of working

In July, Environment Canterbury completed a project to create a better engagement model and align a customer-centric approach to controlling *Nassella tussock*. Key outcomes from this process were the creation of a new model that may be adopted nationally. It's a new approach to engagement, focused on information and effects on neighbours, and adapting resourcing to enable the pilot project to occur in addition to our usual work.

Following the review of the former Pest Management Liaison Committees, new Biosecurity Advisory Groups were established. Community members have been appointed to the groups, and the appointment of Environment Canterbury, Papatipu Rūnanga and District and City Council representatives will be confirmed now that new councils are in place. These groups will play an important role in maintaining strong relationships in the community and identifying local biosecurity champions, who will assist us in our delivery of the biosecurity programme. The groups will meet for an induction before the end of 2019.

Controlling wilding pines

In 2016/17 Canterbury received over \$6.5 million in Crown funding for wilding conifer control. The control work undertaken over three years has removed much of the wilding conifer spread from 10 management units stretching from the Waiau Toa/Clarence River in the north to the Hawkdun/Kakanui Ranges in the south, involving over two million hectares.



We have recently prepared further operational plans (2019/20 and 2020/21) and successfully sought funds to continue this work.

There is considerable interest by the forestry industry to harvest commercially viable wilding conifer forests and seed-source plantations for logs and chip (biofuel) in accessible areas. Profit from the harvest funds the cost of tree removal with no cost to the ratepayer.

Prioritising on the ground delivery

An important part of our work on the ground is to ensure that the projects we undertake are effective. This quarter we have identified 23 previously-completed biodiversity projects for field assessments, to begin in October.

All zone committees are developing projects for Immediate Steps biodiversity funding, in line with zone priorities and with willing landowners. Notably, the Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora and Banks Peninsula zone committees have allocated their \$100,000 Immediate Steps funding for projects to improve local biodiversity outcomes by protecting and enhancing waterways.

The Banks Peninsula zone committee has focused on funding covenants and stream restoration including fencing, and are supporting projects at Koukourarata, Ōkuti River and Little Akaloa. Banks Peninsula has a number of endemic aquatic invertebrates and these are found in streams with forest cover. Covenants are a holistic approach, protecting springs, streams and their surrounding landscape.

Wetlands

We have a number of initiatives where we are working closely with willing landowners to protect wetlands. The 'Wetlands as Farm Assets' project, funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries Sustainable Farming Fund and led by key partners Federated Farmers and NZ Landcare Trust, has started. The group has met and identified several project sites in the Kaikōura district and are progressing ideas for agreement with landowners. Initial site visits have also been undertaken in the Hakataramea Valley.

Environment Canterbury also develops wetland plans with landowners wanting to protect these features on their land. Projects are a mix of weed control and fencing. Five new plans are in development. Some will be funded directly by Environment Canterbury while others are funded by the landowner or other funding sources. Landowners are enthusiastic about taking up these initiatives.

Tracking pathways of our nastiest pest plants

Environment Canterbury has commissioned AgResearch to determine the dispersal pathway(s) for each of what are considered the four most invasive pest plant species (Broomsedge, Kangaroo grass, Nutgrass, Palm grass) in the Regional Pest Management Plan's exclusion programme. This work attracts funding from the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment under the AgResearch Strategic Science Investment Fund.

Biodiversity & Biosecurity programmes:

- Braided Rivers
- Biosecurity
- Regional Biodiversity
- Wetlands



Innovative transport solutions to benefit our communities

This quarter progress has been made in future-proofing transport in Canterbury, prioritising efficiency, convenience and safety of our citizens. In many cases innovative solutions lead the way, such as the Timaru on-demand trial.



Public transport contracts

Environment Canterbury initiated the procurement process for bus contracts in April 2019, following approval of the procurement strategy by both the NZ Transport Agency and our Council. Contracts have been successfully negotiated directly with our two largest incumbents, with the remaining three urban, one ferry and two school contracts being competitively tendered during September 2019.

Timaru on-demand trial

Tenders for the operator and technology components of the on-demand public transport trial in Timaru were released in September 2019. The pilot phase of this trial is scheduled to commence in the New Year. Community sentiment with the initiative remains positive as we progressively increase our level of community engagement, education and development.

Employment Relations Act

Following recent industry engagement and workshops involving representatives from local government, bus operators, unions and the Government, the consensus is for regions to develop a local approach to the interpretation and application of the legislative change within the public transport industry, within some broad industry guidelines. This is a pragmatic and sensible outcome given the variability in public transport environments across the country. Environment Canterbury has already been working closely with our service partners and representative union, and have a workshop scheduled in November 2019 to enable us to move forward in the development of a fully compliant solution to meet the 6 May 2020 deadline.

*See page 11, Levels of Service update.

Portfolio:

**TRANSPORT
& URBAN
DEVELOPMENT**



Current Status:



Our Community Outcomes:



Greater Christchurch future public transport business case

Following the approval of funding from the NZ Transport Agency in June 2019, work has been underway preparing to go to tender for a suitable consultancy to facilitate and lead the development of the future public transport business case for Greater Christchurch. This will be a key work package of the Greater Christchurch Public Transport Joint Committee, and will influence the public transport investment plans in the upcoming Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan and partner council's Long-Term Plans for the 2021-2031 period.

Freight mode shift

Environment Canterbury released a major transport study in August 2019 that identified substantial opportunities for shifting freight from road to rail in the South Island. The study was carried out by Stantec on behalf of the South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group, and in conjunction with transport companies, ports and their customers. It found that an investment of \$20-\$30 million in rail projects across the South Island could shift the equivalent of 8% of existing road freight to rail, and result in \$12-\$18 million of cost savings per year to society. Shifting some freight away from our roads will be necessary to support sustainable growth in the South Island.

National road safety strategy

During July and August 2019, the Government sought feedback on a proposed road safety strategy that seeks to drive improvements in road safety in New Zealand. Environment Canterbury provided a submission on this proposed strategy on behalf of the Canterbury Regional Transport Committee and the South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group. The submission commended the Government for proposing the adoption of Vision Zero – an approach that says no death or serious injury on our roads is acceptable – and signalling that a step-change is required to address the significant number of deaths and injuries occurring on New Zealand’s roads.

Changes to the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement

Following the Council’s adoption of the Greater Christchurch Future Development Strategy (titled Our Space 2018-2048) in June 2019, the minimum housing targets established for Greater Christchurch in this strategy were inserted into the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement. These targets outline how much development capacity should be provided for in council plans to ensure housing demand across Greater Christchurch is accommodated over the next 30 years.

A further action for Environment Canterbury from the Greater Christchurch Future Development Strategy was to prepare a proposed change to Chapter 6 (Recovery and Rebuilding of Greater Christchurch) of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement. This proposed change will enable Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils to re-zone land through their district plan reviews, if required, to provide for housing demands in Rolleston, Rangiora and Kaiapoi over the next 10 years. The Council resolved in September 2019 to apply to the Minister for the Environment to use the Streamlined Planning Process under the Resource Management Act 1991 to make this proposed change.

Ōtākaro/Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan

The Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration approved the Ōtākaro/Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan in August 2019. This plan, which outlines a vision and objectives for future land uses and opportunities for the 602-hectare area, was prepared by Regenerate Christchurch with substantial input from partners – including Environment Canterbury. As directed by the Minister, Environment Canterbury subsequently amended the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan to help enable the vision and objectives of the regeneration plan.

Upcoming consultation with our communities and the Government

Preparation for consultation with Waimakariri residents regarding the possible provision of express bus services from Waimakariri to the Christchurch CBD is almost complete. Consultation will commence in November 2019. These services are in support of the high occupancy vehicle lane (a condition required by the Greater Christchurch Partnership to support the third lane on the Waimakariri bridge) due to open in June 2020 on the northern corridor.

Consultations on proposed national policy statements for urban development and highly productive lands are also being held by the Government from August to October 2019. Environment Canterbury will be required to give effect to these national policy statements, which could involve making changes to our regional plans. The Government is also expected to introduce further legislation that will provide Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities (the Government’s national urban development authority) access to a range of statutory powers that it can use to enable urban development projects at scale and pace.

Levels of Service update

Our progress remains on track for most Levels of Service in the Transport & Urban Development portfolio. However, three targets will not be met by the end of the financial year. These are outlined below:

27.2 Target: 20 million trips by 2020 and 35 million trips by 2030. As central city regeneration has been slower than anticipated we are unable to meet this target and it has since been revised in the Regional Public Transport Plan to 18 million by 2024.

27.3 Target: 3% of total trips by 2020 and 5% of total trips by 2030 as measured by the Ministry of Transport latest household travel survey. This target will now be based on the revised Regional Public Transport Plan target in 27.2.

27.4 Target: 50% cost recovery from passengers in Canterbury by 2020. This target was revised in the Regional Public Transport Plan to better reflect current conditions with the target now stating, “to maintain and improve on current farebox”, which is currently being achieved.

Transport & Urban Development programmes:

- Regional Transport
- Urban Development
- Public Transport



Reducing flood risk and building resilience to climate change



This quarter's Hazards, Risk & Resilience report includes projects that have significant community and regional impact, as well as some that have an impact on a smaller number of people but are of equal importance. Our success stories are testimony to our expert staff and their understanding of natural hazard risks, along with the knowledge of the partners with whom we work.

Completion of the Waimakariri Flood Protection Project



Environment Canterbury successfully completed the Waimakariri Flood Protection Project in August 2019, marking the occasion with a celebration attended by three Government Ministers. The 10-year \$40 million project was completed ahead of schedule and significantly improves Canterbury's resilience to a major flood event and climate change. Construction works began in 2010 and featured the upgrade of 35km of primary stopbank along the Waimakariri River, construction of a 25km secondary stopbank, and 8km of rock armour bank protection work, which is now estimated to protect \$8 billion of property and assets. The completed works ensures the primary stopbank will be able to handle a flood of 5,500 cumecs and the secondary system will offer protection against a 6,500 cumec event. The largest flood on record in the Waimakariri River was just under 4,000 cumecs in 1957. The project also aided local biodiversity projects and assisted with the development of recreational assets.

*See page 13, Informing our communities of the potential hazards from historical land use.

Portfolio:

**HAZARDS, RISK
& RESILIENCE**



Current
Status:



Our Community
Outcomes:



Climate change – building an integrated approach

Environment Canterbury's climate change integration programme ensures that climate change is robustly, consistently and visibly incorporated into our work and decisions across all portfolios. In September we convened the Regional Climate Change Working Group (a staff group under the Mayoral Forum comprising representatives from Canterbury councils and Ngāi Tahu). We completed a literature review of climate change impacts on the Canterbury region and shared this with our Working Group partners. We also commissioned (on behalf of the Working Group) a first pass climate change risk screening, to develop a shared understanding of the key climate change risks (threats and opportunities) to the Canterbury region. The screening is designed to support identification of further priority work, and regional engagement with the National Climate Change Risk Assessment.

Review of the Halswell/Hurutini flood protection scheme

In accordance with the 30-year infrastructure strategy, the first flood protection scheme review, Halswell/Hurutini, was completed in August 2019 and the report has been presented to the rating district liaison committee. The report outlines a key finding of the significant effect future climate change will have on the scheme and there are several recommendations that will be worked through.

Flood protection and control works

The annual tree planting work is wrapping up around the region and several major erosion repair works are complete. Looking ahead, we will begin our annual herbicide spray programme, where necessary, in rating districts across the region. River rating district meetings will soon commence, with public elections of new committees to take place. The first, Lower Waitaki River, shared with Otago Regional Council, is on 29 November and the remainder will take place in early 2020. Nationally, regional councils are continuing the conversation with Central Government on the proposal of co-investment in flood protection, which we consider critically important infrastructure.

Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere opening

Environment Canterbury and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu jointly hold the resource consents to open Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere to the sea. The shared responsibility is an important part of ensuring lake levels are appropriately managed for a wide range of values. Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere was opened to the sea twice in the last quarter, following consultation with stakeholder groups, Te Taumutu Rūnanga, Department of Conservation, the Rating District Liaison Committee, Fish & Game, commercial fishermen, Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council and the Waihora Ellesmere Trust.



Updating Christchurch's tsunami evacuation zones

Environment Canterbury has been working with the Christchurch City Council Civil Defence Emergency Management team to update tsunami evacuation zones for Christchurch City, based on updated tsunami inundation modelling science. The new inundation zones are finalised and the associated technical reporting completed and peer reviewed. The updated inundation zones will be made publicly available in November 2019.

Informing our communities of the potential hazards from historical land use

A decision has been made to postpone this year's information collection phase for the next (Ashburton) district-wide hazardous activities and industries list (HAIL) identification programme. Pausing this activity may impact our ability to achieve level of service target 22.1b which states that one district must be completed each year. The decision will be revisited in February 2020. Completion of the current districts (Hurunui and Kaikōura), has taken longer than expected due to a modified approach to stakeholder engagement which changes the way we typically inform landowners and sees a greater level of community engagement and communication.

Environment Canterbury currently convenes the regional sector Contaminated Land and Waste Special Interest Group. In our role as convenor we are leading a national project to identify the risk from existing and historic landfills on behalf of the regional sector, Ministry for the Environment, and in collaboration with Local Government New Zealand and Department of Conservation. This project is in part responding to the issues raised by the recent erosion of a historic landfill by the Fox River in Westland. We are currently in the initial phase (funded by the Ministry for the Environment) which involves a scoping exercise to review and understand the natural hazard and landfill information currently held by councils. This phase will also develop a feasible approach and a risk-screening and assessment tool for use around New Zealand.

Phases two and three of the project will see the application and piloting of the landfill risk-screening tool in Canterbury, the West Coast and Southland. Costs will be shared by all regional councils, with site studies funded by Environment Canterbury, West Coast Regional Council, Southland Regional Council and the Department of Conservation.

Cruise ship season

The Akaroa cruise ship season, which runs from October to April, will see a significant rise in navigation safety monitoring activity, particularly from mid-November when it starts getting busy. Akaroa is scheduled to receive 91 cruise ships during the summer season bringing more than 190,000 visitors to Akaroa.

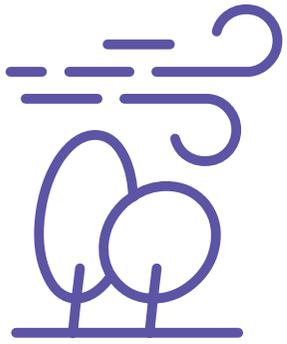
Environment Canterbury has commissioned a report, including a review of all available research, in response to concerns from within the Akaroa community that cruise ships, operating in the harbour, may be damaging the seabed. The report is being completed by the Cawthron Institute and will be available in October 2019.

Helping communities to make the right decisions

Environment Canterbury delivers information and advice to communities and decision-makers about natural hazards. In the last quarter we responded to 38 Land Information Requests, 31 general enquiries, and conducted 55 Flood Hazard Assessments, underpinned by historical observations, scientific research and computer modelling.

Hazards, Risk & Resilience programmes:

- Natural Hazards
- Navigation and Recreational Boating Safety
- Flood Protection and Control Works
- Coastal Environment and Hazards
- Emergency Management
- Contaminated Land, Hazardous Substances and Waste
- Climate Change Integration



Helping improve Canterbury's air quality

We're working across the key airsheds in the region to ensure progress towards better air quality and health outcomes for everyone. With national and regional rules in place, our role is to help people meet the new standards and undertake regular monitoring to track how we are doing against the targets.

Airshed performance

Environment Canterbury is monitoring air quality across eight designated airsheds to track how we are doing against the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NESAQ). Although there have been exceedances of the permitted levels of PM₁₀ (particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter) in Rangiora, Christchurch, Kaiapoi, Timaru and Washdyke airsheds, the long-term trends are broadly favourable, showing improving air quality. Further information on the trends over the last two decades is available on the Environment Canterbury website (www.ecan.govt.nz), Air quality data section.

In early 2019 a new monitoring site was established in Washdyke which has provided a more accurate picture of air quality in that airshed. A high number of exceedances have since been recorded and investigations have found that the exceedances are mainly caused by a variety of industrial activities and that there was no case for an exemption for exceptional circumstances. Environment Canterbury's understanding of the factors causing the exceedances will be used in our ongoing work, with industry and Timaru District Council, to achieve NESAQ compliance.

Portfolio:

**AIR
QUALITY**



Current
Status:



Our Community
Outcomes:



Table showing improvements over the last 10 years and 2019 exceedances to date against NESAQ standards:

HIGH POLLUTION NIGHTS 2009							
Ashburton	Christchurch	Geraldine	Kaiapoi	Rangiora	Timaru	Washdyke	Waimate
12	16	6	26	4	37	5	10

HIGH POLLUTION NIGHTS 2019							
Ashburton	Christchurch	Geraldine	Kaiapoi	Rangiora	Timaru	Washdyke	Waimate
1	6	1	8	2	12	9	1

MAXIMUM HIGH POLLUTION NIGHTS ALLOWED PER YEAR							
Ashburton	Christchurch	Geraldine	Kaiapoi	Rangiora	Timaru	Washdyke	Waimate
3	3	1	3	1	3	1	3

Maximum allowable high pollution nights per airshed are determined by the NESAQ. From 2021 the target for each airshed will become one or fewer high pollution events per calendar year.

Stay Warm in Winter

Environment Canterbury collaborated with Canterbury District Health Board to develop a 'Stay Warm in Winter' resource for health and social service organisations. The resource provides practical advice on individual warmth, including home heating. Anglican Care used 2,000 of these leaflets when door-knocking the most vulnerable suburbs to address energy poverty and provided free good wood to households in need. They also referred households to Community Energy Action, which provides access to Environment Canterbury's financial assistance schemes.

No Visible Smoke and burner upgrade initiatives

Environment Canterbury successfully implemented the No Visible Smoke campaign in Timaru, Geraldine and Waimate in July and August. The purpose of this campaign was to identify and support households who were emitting excessive smoke in order to encourage them to improve their burning and therefore the impact they were having on the local air quality. 261 households were observed to be emitting excessive smoke across these three clean air zones. In Timaru 79 households were identified as using a non-compliant burner without authorisation.

Several well attended drop-in sessions were held in Waimate and Geraldine regarding a rule in the Canterbury Air Regional Plan which means that older style burners cannot be used after 1 January 2020. These were run in partnership with the relevant territorial authority.

Financial assistance schemes

Uptake of the region-wide Healthier Homes Canterbury voluntary targeted rates scheme, which allows eligible ratepayers to add up to \$6,000 of the cost of home heating, insulation and/or ventilation products and installation to their rates bills, has been higher than predicted, with 267 applications received between 1 July and 30 September.

The Environment Canterbury subsidy scheme provides payment towards the costs of changing from non-compliant heating to another form of home heating for low income households in areas prone to air pollution, with no repayment required. In July 2019, the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority, Warmer Kiwi Homes, started offering subsidies of up to 67% for heat pumps and pellet fires, which has a flow-on effect on the amounts requested from the Environment Canterbury subsidy scheme. This should mean that our funding will go further, and we can provide assistance to support more households across the region.

High demand in Waimate and Geraldine for the Environment Canterbury subsidy scheme means that all budgeted funds for those areas are already allocated. The other Canterbury clean air zones currently have a low demand for subsidy support.

Keeping up with innovation in technology

The first application to authorise secondary technology for use on existing burners will be considered in the next quarter. This is a device that is installed in an existing chimney to convert burners in homes to meet ultra low emission burner (ULEB) standards and reduce emissions.

Air Quality programmes:

- Air Quality Monitoring and Progress Reporting
- Cleaner Home Heating
- Non-Domestic Emissions





Collaborative approaches to our work

The last few months have seen our Water Data Programme begin, which will transform how we govern, monitor, manage and share water data for better governance and management. We're trying new ways of working to ensure compliance with regulations and continuing to deliver excellent service to our customers. Our work is grounded in our relationships and we've celebrated the continued strengthening of our relationship with Ngāi Tahu. We've ensured we respond to the Government's 'year of delivery' and prepared to welcome a new Council in October.

Transforming water data

In August, work started on the two-year Water Data Programme which will transform how we govern, monitor, manage and share water data for better governance and management. Decision-makers and the wider community will be able to obtain information easily and quickly through access to good quality data. This will enable us to improve our understanding of water allocation and use, consent compliance, state of the resource and the effectiveness of our plans.

This foundational work will enable us to have real time, quality assured water data infrastructure in a format ready for use with future systems and technologies, providing the ability to utilise the new modelling and forecasting tools to better assess the likely impact and effectiveness of plans, policies and environmental changes and support decision-making at all levels.

NZ Audit has accepted that the majority of programme expenditure is of a capital nature (88%) which means that costs will be depreciated over 25 years rather than expended in the year they are incurred. This paves the way for other councils to similarly manage their data programmes and recognises the intergenerational nature of the data.

Portfolio:

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP



Current Status:



Our Community Outcomes:



Land, Air, Water, Aotearoa

The annual update of water quality monitoring results for rivers and lakes (including for Canterbury) went live on the Land, Air, Water, Aotearoa (LAWA) website on World Rivers Day, 22 September 2019. The results can be viewed in the river quality section of the LAWA website. This update provides an overview of how New Zealand's waterways are tracking.

Initially a collaboration between New Zealand's 16 regional councils and unitary authorities, LAWA is now a partnership between the councils, Cawthron Institute, and the Ministry for the Environment and has been supported by the Tindall Foundation and Massey University. LAWA is the website for regional state of the environment reporting, including for Canterbury – the data collected by Environment Canterbury science staff are not only used in council work programmes but also shared for regional reporting. The website can be explored by topic or by region, where the individual state of the environment results for Canterbury can be viewed.



Getting involved

We aim to ensure that our citizens are engaged and enabled to play an active part in shaping our region's future. Underpinning this is the ability to easily access information about our work and the issues and opportunities facing the region.

In September we published our Annual Report 2018/19.

For the period July to the end of September:

255 media enquiries were responded to



61 official information requests covering a broad range of topics were responded to



19,813 followers across social channels



2.4% increase on previous period (not including Civil Defence & Metro)

106K users on ecan.govt.nz site



2% increase on previous period

Celebrating partnership



In early September Councillors and staff gathered with representatives from the ten Papatipu Rūnanga of Waitaha/ Canterbury to unveil the mauri pounamu that has been generously entrusted into our care as a symbol of the respect, trust and unity we've built over the years. It's a big honour to receive this taonga as a symbol of how far we have come, but the pounamu also represents a challenge to us all to continue paddling the waka together with Papatipu Rūnanga, striving to do better.

Much of the focus for Te Rōpū Tuia, the joint governance forum of Ngāi Tahu and Environment Canterbury, over recent months has been discussing potential arrangements for the participation of mana whenua in decision-making after the local body elections. Council received a report and recommendations on this matter, endorsed by both Councillors and Papatipu Rūnanga Chairs, at the final Council meeting in September.

The Mayoral Forum's meetings in August 2019 focused on identifying priority themes for the next regional development strategy and finalising a draft triennial agreement for 2020-22 and briefings to incoming members of the Mayoral Forum. The Forum also adopted criteria for supporting Canterbury applications to the Provincial Growth Fund and received a feasibility report on tourism rail services south of Christchurch and an update from Selwyn Mayor Sam Broughton on the South Island Destination Management Plan.

Council's engagement with the Government continued in the lead up to the election, including an event to mark the Waimakariri River Flood Protection launch, attended by three Government Ministers and several Mayors.

Return to a fully elected Council

Preparations were made for the local body elections to be held in October 2019. For Environment Canterbury this will mark the return to a fully elected Council and is the first full election since 2007. Staff were particularly busy ensuring the Environment Canterbury website had the right information for prospective candidates and for voters, hosting an information evening and fielding media enquiries, and ensuring nominations were correctly received and processed. In total, 39 candidates were nominated for 14 positions on Council.

The September Council meeting was the last of the triennium and an opportunity for the outgoing Councillors to look back on their time at Environment Canterbury.

Regional Leadership programmes:

- Governance and Engagement
- Strategy and Direction
- Ngāi Tahu and Regional Relationships
- Long-Term Community Planning
- Plans, Consenting and Compliance
- Our Information and Advice



Annual Plan 2019/20 Summary of Levels of Service (LOS)

A Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan describes the activities to be undertaken by the Council and must include performance measures to enable the community to assess how the Council is doing. The Levels of Service are the Council's commitments to the community. They describe specific, measurable outputs or outcomes. For each Level of Service, there are measures and targets to be achieved each year. For full details of each Level of Service and the measures and targets, please refer to the Annual Plan 2019/20, available on the Environment Canterbury website.



- 1 The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Levels of Service, numbers 39-41, have been grouped with the Hazards, Risk & Resilience Levels of Service.
- 2 One target not on track – see page 13, Informing our communities of the potential hazards from historical land use.
- 3 Three targets won't be achieved – see page 11, Levels of Service update.

	PROGRAMME	LOS	STATUS	
FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT	CWMS Facilitation	1	●	
	Environmental Monitoring and Progress Reporting	2	●	
	Zone and Regional Delivery	3	●	
	Resource Management Act Water Framework	4	●	
	Regional Water Infrastructure Support	5	●	
	Te Waihora Restoration	6	●	
BIODIVERSITY & BIOSECURITY	Regional Biodiversity	7	●	
	Biosecurity	8	●	
	Braided Rivers	9	●	
	Wetlands	10	●	
HAZARDS, RISKS & RESILIENCE	Natural Hazards	11	●	
		12	●	
	Navigation & Recreational Boating Safety	13	●	
		14	●	
	Flood protection and control works	15	●	
		16	●	
		17	●	
		18	●	
	Coastal environment and hazards	19	●	
		20	●	
	Emergency Management	21	●	
		Civil Defence Emergency Management Group ¹	39	●
			40	●
		41	●	
	Contaminated land, hazardous substances and waste ²	22	●	
	Climate change integration	23	●	
TRANSPORT & URBAN DEVELOPMENT	Regional Transport	24	●	
	Urban Development	25	●	
		26	●	
	Public Transport ³	27	●	
AIR QUALITY	Air Quality Monitoring and Progress Reporting	28	●	
	Cleaner Home Heating	29	●	
		30	●	
REGIONAL LEADERSHIP	Governance and Engagement	31	●	
	Strategy & Direction	32	●	
	Ngāi Tahu & Regional Relationships	33	●	
	Long-Term Community Planning	34	●	
	Plans, Consenting & Compliance	35	●	
		36	●	
	Our Information and Advice	37	●	
		38	●	