8.6. Draft Year End 2021/22 Results

Audit, Finance and Risk Committee report

Date of meeting	Thursday, 25 August 2022
Author	Jaden Wallace, Corporate Reporting Accountant
Responsible Director	Giles Southwell, Director Corporate Services

Purpose

1. To report on the financial results for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Recommendations

That the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee:

1. Receives the Portfolio Health and Financial Health report for the year ending 30 June 2022.

Background

- 2. Monthly financial results are reported to the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee as part of our prudent financial management responsibilities. The financial results for the year ended 30 June 2022 have been prepared and are now presented to the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee for review.
- 3. The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee (AFRC) Portfolio Financial Report includes financial performance information for the year ended 30 June 2022. Service delivery will be reported in the quarterly Portfolio Performance Report.

Portfolio Performance

- 4. A year-end operating surplus of \$0.31M compared to a budgeted deficit of \$0.84M, results in a positive variance of \$1.15M. This reflects the achievement of the \$1M savings in operational expenditure included in the 2022/23 Annual Plan. Overall, this is a good result considering various events that affected ECAN's operations including the flood recovery work, and Covid-related disruptions which particularly impacted the public transport network.
- 5. It should however be noted that this result is before unbudgeted asset value adjustments of \$3.93M.
- 6. Surplus/(deficit) by Portfolio for FY22 is set out in the table below.

7. The overall performance for the financial year (including asset value adjustments) indicates a draft deficit of \$3.62M compared to a budgeted deficit of 0.84M. This has resulted in a negative budgeted variance of \$2.78M. If the accounting adjustments relating to the asset write offs were excluded, the surplus would be \$0.31M as noted in (4) above. The accounting adjustment has been funded by reserves in the current financial year, with reserve replenishment budgeted in the subsequent 5 years as per the adopted 2022/23 Annual Plan.

	Actual	Budget	Variance (Budget)
Air Quality, Transport &	(2.95M)	(1.41M)	(1.54M)
Urban Development			
Biodiversity and	(0.07M)	(0.35M)	0.27M
Biosecurity			
Climate Change and	8.14M	7.41M	0.73M
Community Resilience			
Regional and Strategic	(2.20M)	(1.15M)	(1.05M)
Leadership			
Water and Land	(6.54M)	(5.34M)	(1.20M)
Total	(3.62M)	(0.84M)	(2.78M)
Less Accounting Adj.	3.93M	-	3.93M
Total (Excluding	0.31M	(0.84M)	1.15M
Accounting Adj.)			

- 8. In **Air Quality, Transport & Urban Development**, COVID-19 had a direct impact on operations throughout the year due to the direct link to transport patronage. Half price fares were applied from 1 April to all ECAN services including Total Mobility, however, revenue loss and associated costs will be 100% covered by Waka Kotahi. Increased expenses due to increased wage and fuel costs were offset by underspends across key partnership programmes.
- 9. The **Biodiversity and Biosecurity** programmes were also impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown measures experienced at the beginning of the financial year, as well as reduced approved funding from MPI. This led to unanticipated reductions in both revenue and expenditure, largely offsetting the surplus/deficit impact of the portfolio performance. Despite the underspend, the performance of the portfolio's programmes was largely on target.
- 10. In Climate Change and Community Resilience, revenue was more than budgeted at year-end which was driven by significant revenue claimed from the National Emergency Management Agency for the May 2021 flooding event and other on-the-ground projects that received unbudgeted funding from other partner organisations. The delays noted in various projects have not negatively impacted the net operating position of the portfolio due to offsetting impacts between the reduction in both revenue and expenditure, resulting in the favourable to budget variance in the portfolio.

- 11. **Regional and Strategic Leadership's** draft deficit was a result of higher-than-expected leave costs primarily due to COVID sickness, and lower than forecast additional rates revenue from newly developed properties. There were challenges noted in the user pay services delivery due to the impacts of COVID-19 and staff turnover. This caused a temporary reduction in service delivery and largely led to the draft deficit at year end. The capacity and capability to process consents was identified as a critical risk to ECAN and was the key contributor to a higher than budgeted deficit within the portfolio.
- 12. In **Water and Land**, COVID-19 related delays and recruitment challenges impacted the overall portfolio which was reflected in the 8+4 forecast, however, revenue remained in line with budget throughout the year as the portfolio is predominantly funded by rates. Accounting adjustments for water data and Managed Aquifer Recharge account for much of the overspend in the Freshwater Resilience and Monitoring and Understanding our Environment programmes.

Financial Health Performance

13. Financial Performance for FY22 is set out in the table below.

	Actual	Budget	Variance
			(Budget)
Revenue	236.30M	243.08M	(6.78M)
Expenditure	239.92M	243.92M	(4.00M)
Total	(3.62M)	(0.84M)	(2.78M)
Surplus/(Deficit)			
Less Accounting	3.93M	-	3.93M
Adj.			
Total (Excluding	0.31M	(0.84M)	1.15M
Accounting Adj.)		,	

14. Revenue and expenditure were both behind budget for the year, with the COVID-19 restrictions earlier in the financial year causing delays in various projects across the five portfolios. The reduction in revenue and expenditure is not indicative of an amendment to the scope of the service delivery.

Treasury Performance

- 15. Total cash at bank (including investments) was \$49.7M as at 30 June 2022. Cash and short-term investment includes borrowing from LGFA and grant funding received in advance. These funds are invested in term deposits until required. Environment Canterbury is charged an average interest rate of 2.82% on \$79M of debt.
- 16. Cash at bank at the same time last year (30 June 2021) was \$43.9M. The cash position is favourable for this time of the year. Cash has remained steady compared to the last quarter (\$49.0M at 31 March 2022), which was expected given that annual grant revenue is often received in advance and additional borrowing of \$13.0M was

- taken on in June 2022. Based on current cash levels, ECAN will be reviewing opportunities to gain additional income from increased use of Term Deposits where prudent.
- 17. Capital expenditure of \$17.80M was \$23.79M under full year approved budget, with the largest contributors to this variance being the Kainga Redevelopment and the Water Data project. Underspend on the Kainga Redevelopment is due to a delay in confirmation of the contract and the retendering of the project, and the Water Data project costs are lower than expected due to a change in accounting treatment that means a significant amount of water data programme expenditure is now treated as OPEX rather than CAPEX.

Fitch Credit Rating

- In 2020, Environment Canterbury, upon the advice of our Treasury Advisors, Bancorp Treasury Services, engaged Fitch Australia Pty Ltd to provide an internationally recognised credit rating.
- 19. Fitch Australia Pty Ltd have recently completed their annual rating review and advised that Environment Canterbury have retained their AA+ Long-Term and F1+ Short-Term Issuer Default Ratings. (We have maintained these results since our initial assessment in 2020.)
- 20. The results of the review impact our borrowing costs with 10 points being deducted from the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) borrowing rate if an AA rating is achieved.
- 21. The renewed ratings are in line with our Long-Term Plan target.

Attachments

- 1. FH BI Report 30 JU N 22 [8.6.1 4 pages]
- 2. Porfolio Financial Report June 22 [8.6.2 6 pages]

File reference	le reference [SharePoint link for this paper]				
Legal review					
Peer reviewers	[Names of two peer reviewers who have reviewed this paper]				





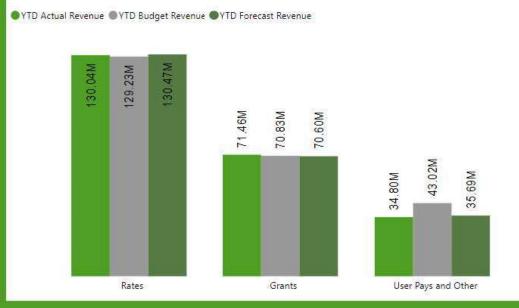
Category	Actual \$	Budget \$	Variance \$	% Var	Forecast \$	Variance \$
Revenue	236.30M	243.08M	-6.78M	-2.79%	236.76M	-0.46M
Expenditure	239.92M	243.92M	-4.00M	-1.64%	240.61M	-0.69M
Surplus/Deficit	-3.62M	-0.84M	-2.78M		-3.85M	0.23M

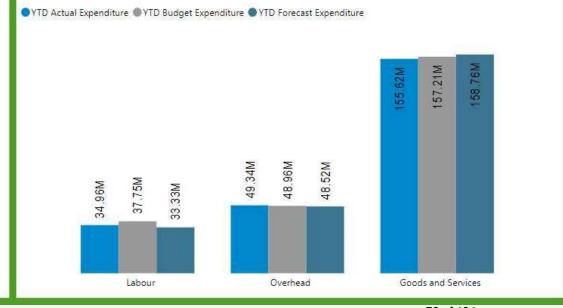
Revenue

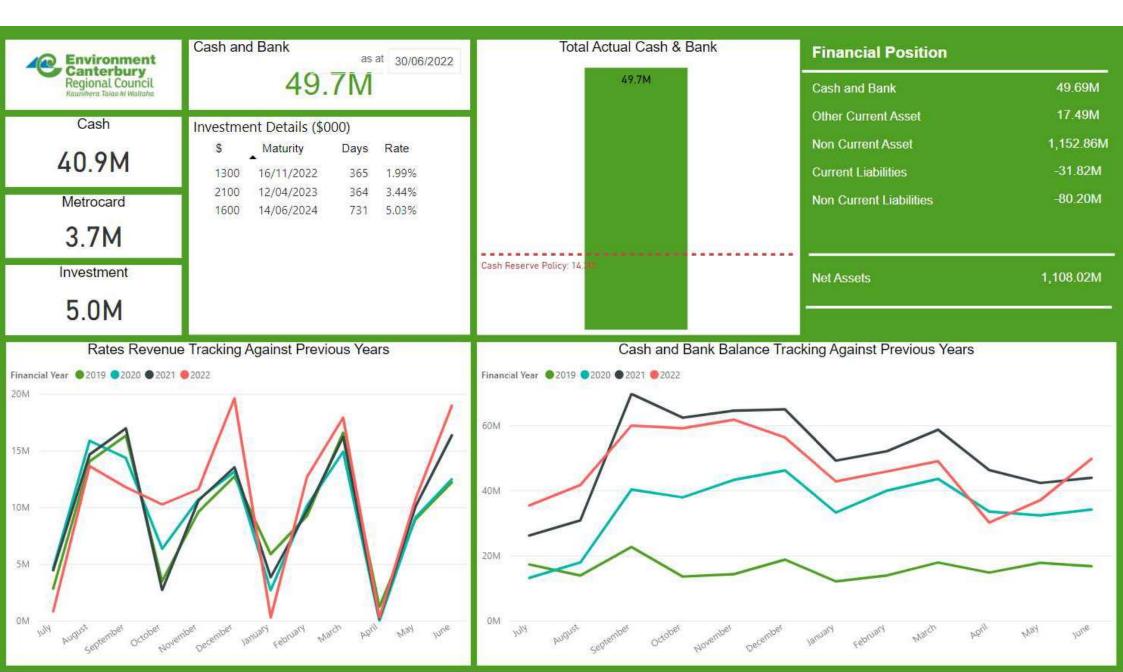
User Pays and Other revenue was \$8.22M below budget for the year as a result of lower bus fare revenue being collected due to COVID-19 disruptions, and in Consenting and Compliance due to a lower level of cost recovery from compliance activities. Rates and Grants revenue was materially in line with budget for the year with favourable variances of just \$0.81M and \$0.63M.

Expenditure

Goods and services expenditure was under budget by \$1.59M for the year due to the Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio being under budget for the work done on the Regional Pest Management programme, which was impacted by COVID-19 and funding being confirmed after confirmation of the LTP. Regional and Strategic Leadership's Goods and Services expenditure is also under budget by \$2.75M which is driven by underspend in the Leading Regional Planning and Compliance programme due to the impacts of COVID-19 and staff turnover.







Total Outstanding Debts (Excluding Rates)

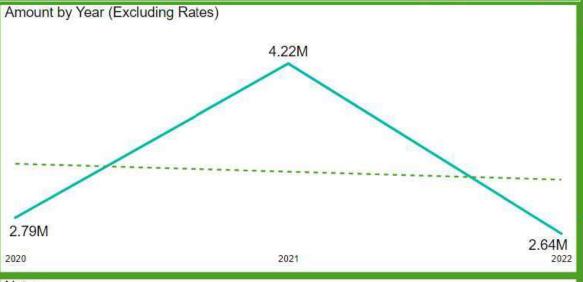
Period Ending:

30/06/2022

2,643,654



OVER 90 DAYS DEBT MANAGEMENT							
Total	Reminder	eminder Payment Arrangement Objection/ Query Collection Agency Others					
0.37M	0.07M	0.00M	0.13M	0.04M	0.12M		
*Others includes Debt recovery, Liens, Court Action/Infringements							
Amount by Year (Excluding Rates)							
4.22M							





\$2.02M of the \$2.64M debt is current. Only \$0.37M is over 90 days, which is at different stages of debt management as shown above.



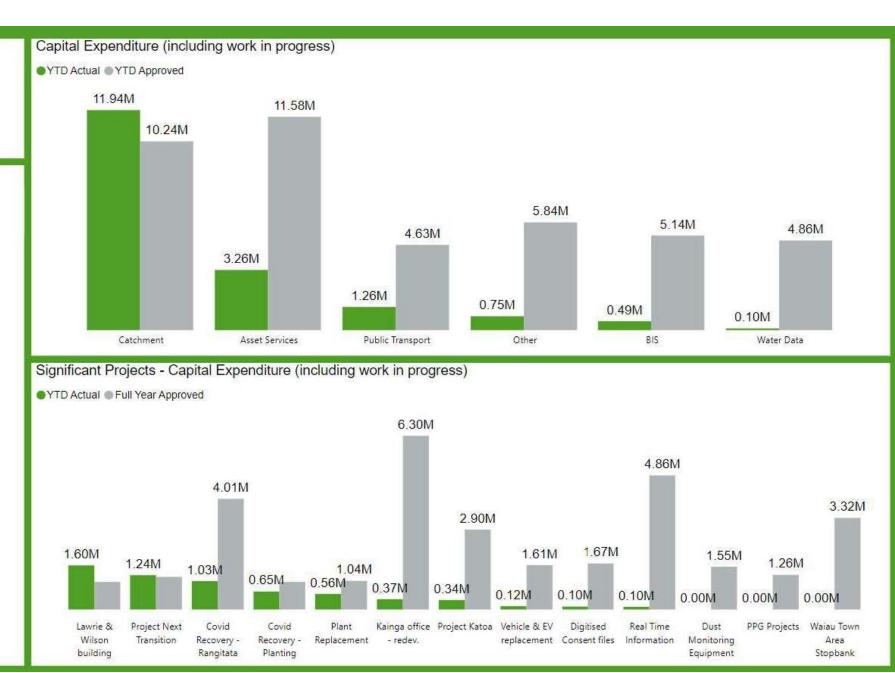


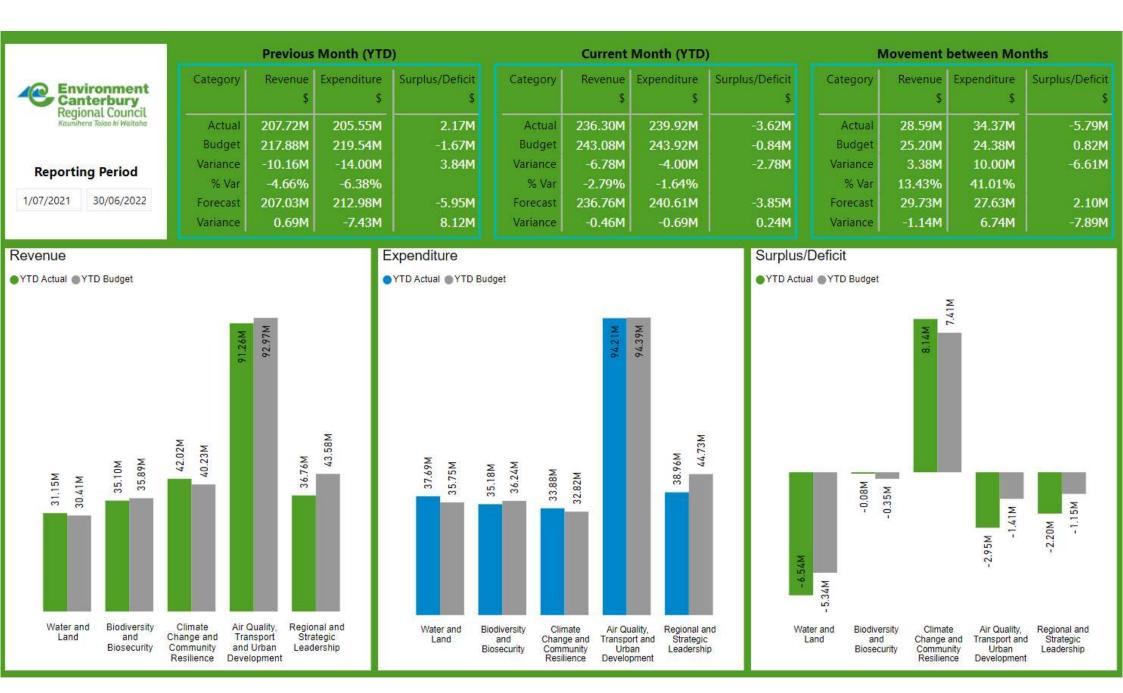


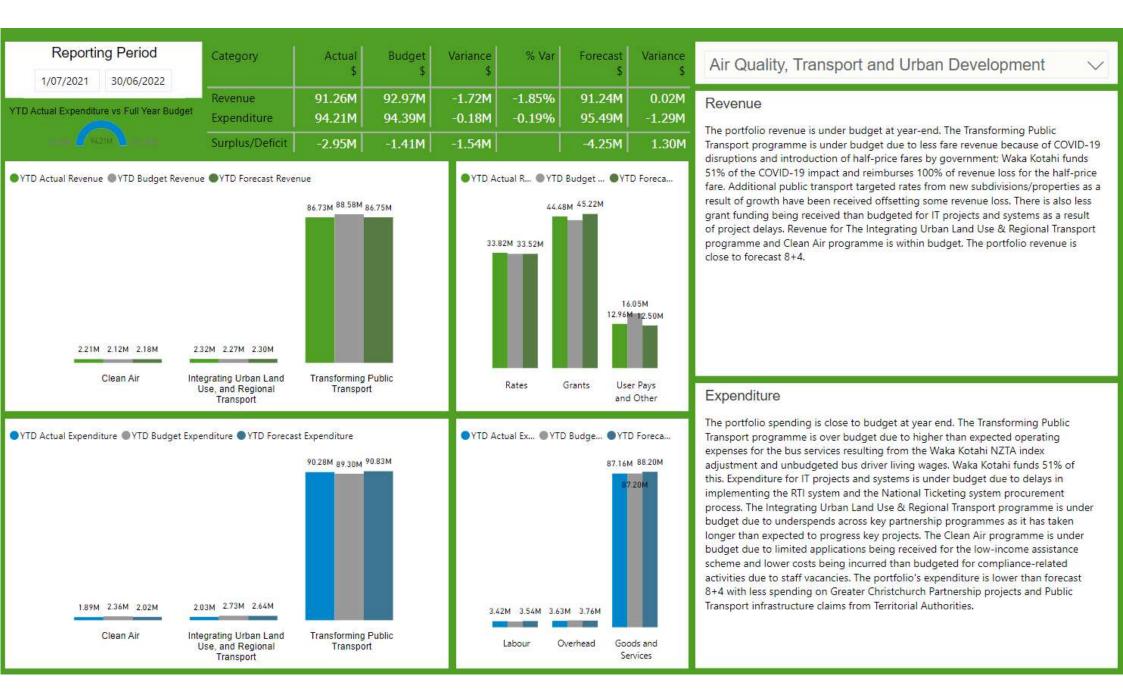


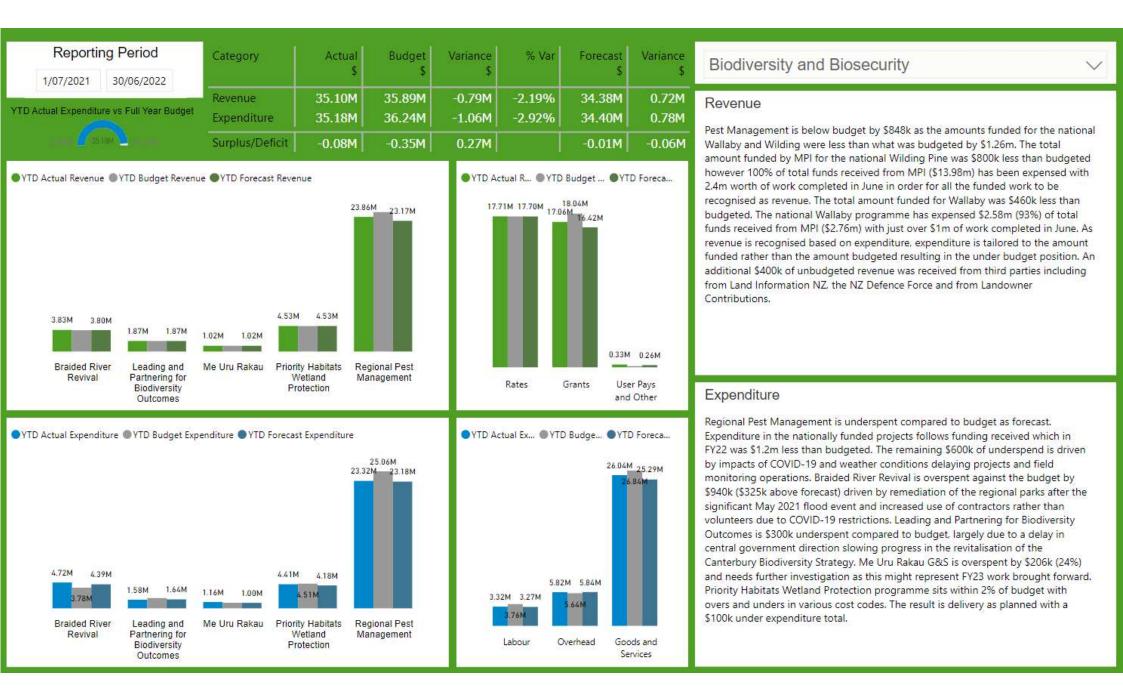
17.80M

Full Year Approved: 41.59M (-57.22%) YTD Approved: 42.29M (-57.92%)











Climate Change and Community Resilience

Revenue

The portfolio revenue is \$1.8m more than budgeted at year-end. The variance is largely due to the Leading Flood and River Resilience programme which is \$1.3m above budget (\$1m above forecast). In this programme, significant revenue has been claimed from NEMA for the May 2021 flooding event (\$3.6m). Other on-the-ground projects have also received unbudgeted funding from other partner organisations. This has been offset with less funding revenue recognised than budgeted for the COVID-19 shovel-ready capital projects as these projects are behind schedule and revenue can only be recognised as contracted work is completed. Several of these contracts will deliver work over the coming 18 months – with deliverables recognised over both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years. Non-capital COVID-19 shovel ready projects have been completed ahead of schedule and the revenue recognised accordingly.

Expenditure

The portfolio is \$1.1m over budget at year-end (\$1.1m under the year-end forecast). The main driver of the overspend is in the Leading Flood & River Resilience programme which is \$2.2m over budget, (\$593k under forecast). Extra expenditure comes from the regionally significant May 2021 flood event and is partially funded through claims to NEMA. Council agreed to fund the unbudgeted expenditure for this event in June 2021. In addition, more work has been completed ahead of schedule for the COVID-19 shovel-ready non-capital projects, resulting in additional expense this year, but within the overall planned expenditure for the projects. The Managing the Coastal Environment programme is \$656k under budget (\$422k below forecast) due to the review of the Coastal Plan being delayed. The focus in 2021/22 has been engagement with Papatipu Runanga to develop a partnership and due to delays with this, the technical and planning work was not able to progress as originally planned. Different options on how to progress this work in the 2022/23 financial year are currently being investigated. Other programmes in the portfolio were below or within budget, but were impacted by staff vacancies.

