

Agenda 2023

Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 24 May 2023
Time: 10:30 AM
Venue: Council Chamber
Environment Canterbury
200 Tuam Street, Christchurch



Membership

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Chair | Councillor Peter Scott |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Craig Pauling |
| Membership | Councillor Greg Byrnes Councillor Iaeen Cranwell Councillor Joe Davies Councillor Paul Dietsche Councillor David East Councillor Grant Edge Councillor Tutehounuku Korako Councillor Ian Mackenzie Councillor Claire McKay Councillor Genevieve Robinson Councillor Vicky Southworth Councillor John Sunckell Councillor Deon Swiggs Councillor Nick Ward |

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1. Mihi/Karakia Timatanga - Opening

The meeting will be opened with a mihi whakatau, followed by a member of the Council with a karakia.

2. Apologies

At the time the agenda closed there were no apologies received.

3. Conflicts of Interest

Members are reminded to be vigilant and to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

4. Public Forum, Deputations and Petitions

There were no requests for public forum, deputations and petitions at the time the agenda was prepared.

5. Extraordinary and Urgent Business

The Chairperson will give notice of items requiring urgent attention not on the agenda as follows.

Matters Requiring Urgent Attention as Determined by Resolution of the Council:

A meeting may deal with an item of business that is not on the agenda where the meeting resolves to deal with that item and the Chairperson provides the following information during the public part of the meeting:

1. The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
2. The reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting. The item may be allowed onto the agenda by resolution of the Council.

Minor Matters relating to the General Business of the Council:

A meeting may discuss an item that is not on the agenda only if it is a minor matter relating to the general business of the meeting and Chairperson explains at the beginning of the public part of the meeting that the item will be discussed. The meeting may not make a resolution, decision or recommendation about the item, except to refer it to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

6. Notices of Motion

At the time the agenda closed there were no notices of motion received.

7. Report Items

7.1. Annual Plan Mahere ā Tau Tuhinga Tautahi 2023/24 Deliberations

Council report

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Date of meeting | Wednesday, 24 May 2023 |
| Author | Cecilia Ellis, Senior Strategy Advisor |
| Responsible Director | Katherine Trought, Director Strategy and Planning |

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide information to support Council deliberations on the Annual Plan Mahere ā tau Tuhinga Tautahi 2023/24.
2. Under the Local Government Act 2002, Councils are required to adopt an Annual Plan in the years in between a Long-Term Plan. Year 3 of the Long-Term Plan, the Annual Plan 2023/24, must be adopted by 30 June 2023.
3. Deliberations on the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 provide transparency to the community and direction to staff so that the final Annual Plan Mahere ā tau 2023/24 can be presented for adoption at the Council meeting on 21 June 2023.

Recommendations

That the Council:

1. **Receives the summary of the public engagement on the draft Annual Plan Mahere ā Tau Tuhinga Tautahi 2023/24 and the staff advice in Attachments 7.1.1 and 7.1.2, and agrees that this summary is an accurate reflection of the community feedback received.**
2. **Directs the Chief Executive to prepare the Annual Plan Mahere ā Tau 2023/24, based on the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 engaged on, for consideration and adoption by the Council on 21 June 2023, noting the inclusion of reprioritised work programmes for 2023/24 identified by staff to address financial conditions.**

Key points

4. The purpose of Council deliberations is to confirm the adjustments required to year 3 of the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 (Annual Plan 2023/24).
5. The draft Annual Plan Mahere ā Tau Tuhinga Tautahi 2023/24 prepared for community engagement was developed in the context of increasing pressures on Council's ability to fund and deliver while meeting existing commitments made in the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 and Annual Plan 2022/23 within the projected rates increase of 10%. No

changes were therefore proposed in the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 that was published for community engagement.

6. Engagement on the draft Annual Plan was undertaken from 27 February 2023 to 3 April 2023 to raise awareness of the Annual Plan 2023/24 and seek initial ideas on the development of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34. 170 feedback responses were received, and 39 presentations were heard by Council between 26 April and 28 April 2023.
7. This paper provides a summary of the Annual Plan 2023/24 engagement campaign and feedback, and staff advice including information about ongoing financial pressures, to assist Council in its deliberations.
8. Council decisions on changes to the draft Annual Plan Mahere ā Tau Tuhinga Tautahi 2023/24 are required to enable staff to prepare the final Annual Plan Mahere ā Tau 2023/24 to present for adoption at the Council meeting on 21 June 2023.

Background

9. An Annual Plan is required under the Local Government Act 2002 and provides the Council opportunity to make any required annual adjustments between three-yearly Long-Term Plans.
10. On 17 June 2021, the Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2021-31 was adopted by Council following community engagement and formal consultation. The Long-Term Plan 2021-31 was developed in the context of the changing climate, COVID-19 recovery, partner and community expectations and changes in central government requirements.
11. In 2022, formal consultation on proposed changes to year 2 of the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 (Annual Plan 2022/23) was held and 2807 submissions received. Following consultation, additional commitments to fund a public transport fare trial and other public transport improvements, fund flood recovery (in response to Canterbury 2021 floods), and replenish general reserves were adopted in the Annual Plan 2022/23. Changes were also made in the Annual Plan 2022/23 to incorporate opportunities to reduce the impact on rates, in recognition of the increasing economic uncertainty and impacts on costs to deliver.
12. Since the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 and Annual Plan 2022/23 were developed, the economic environment has changed considerably, including higher inflation rates and labour market rates. Climatic events, scientific evidence and community expectations continue to highlight the urgent need to respond to climate change. Central government continues to develop legislative reform that will significantly impact on local government roles. These external factors, alongside internal changes required to respond to operational issues such as the regulatory consent backlog, present ongoing pressures on Council's ability to deliver and fund work in year 2023/24 and beyond.
13. Given the consultation carried out through the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 and Annual Plan 2022/23, the upcoming Long-Term Plan 2024-34 development, and ongoing external pressures impacting on Council's ability to fund and deliver, no significant changes to work programmes were proposed in the draft Annual Plan 2023/24.
14. On 15 February 2023, Council resolved to carry out engagement on the draft Annual Plan 2023/24. The purpose of the engagement campaign was to raise awareness of

the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 with the community and invite early feedback to inform development of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.

15. Community feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 was sought for five weeks from Monday 27 February to Monday 3 April 2023. This report and its attachments provide staff advice based on the community feedback, current financial position and pressures impacting on funding and delivery of year 3 of the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 (Annual Plan 2023/24).

Engagement and community feedback summary

16. Community feedback on the draft Annual Plan Mahere ā Tau Tuhinga Tautahi 2023/24 was invited from Monday 27 February to Monday 3 April 2023. Multiple channels (online and print) were used to engage with the community across the region. Direct communications were sent to Papatipu Rūnanga, Advisory Services, Canterbury councils, Youth Rōpū, community groups and those that had previously indicated they wish to be kept informed on opportunities to give feedback on Environment Canterbury matters.
17. Feedback was invited through the 'have your say' online portal on Environment Canterbury's website. 170 feedback responses were received. The majority of feedback was received through the online portal, including uploaded attachments.
18. Email was the most common way that those that who provided feedback heard about the Annual Plan engagement (32%), followed by social media (24%) and Environment Canterbury's website (22%).
19. The Council received all pieces of written feedback. 47 respondents indicated that they wanted to be heard by the Council. 39 individuals and groups spoke to the Council over three days (26, 27 and 28 April).
20. The largest proportion of respondents that provided feedback were the 40-64 years age group (42%), followed by 65+ (32%). Most respondents were from Christchurch (72%) then Selwyn (10%), and Waimakariri (9%).
21. 35 responses were received from organisations and groups, including four territorial authorities (Selwyn, Timaru, Ashburton and Waimakariri District Councils), Te Mana Ora, Federated Farmers, Forest and Bird, QEII Trust, community boards and advocacy groups including disability groups, environmental groups and residents' associations.
22. The engagement survey included a yes/no question to gather sentiment on whether respondents were broadly supportive of the draft Annual Plan and additional comments on the draft Annual Plan were invited. Given that work on the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 is commencing in 2023, feedback on anything that the community would like Council to think about when starting work on the LTP was also invited.
23. About 76% of respondents indicated they were broadly supportive of the Annual Plan 2023/24, indicating general support for the direction of the Annual Plan. Those that were supportive provided commentary that included general or continued support for current work programmes. Those that indicated they weren't supportive raised concerns, primarily about rates affordability.

24. Consistent with previous consultations and engagements, comments on public transport services generated the most feedback. Most of these were from Greater Christchurch urban areas but there were also requests and suggestions for public transport options outside of urban areas, including Selwyn and Ashburton districts, and North Canterbury.
25. A number commented on the urgent need for action to respond to climate change and protect the environment, including preparing for flooding events and river management, protecting biodiversity, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Support for braided river and wetland protection, and pest control, including requests for continued and increased support for community-led initiatives and planting was also noted.
26. On the question about work for the Long-Term Plan 2024-34, there was a continuation of the themes made on the draft Annual Plan including planning and preparing for climate change, responding to climate change through flood protection and river management, and reduction of emissions through transport initiatives, including rail, and planting, community and environmental initiatives. Similar to concerns about rates affordability and the cost of living raised in the Annual Plan feedback, some noted their concerns about increasing costs as well as those noting the need to balance affordability with action that needs to be taken. A couple of ideas for community engagement on the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 were provided.
27. A small amount of feedback (i.e. 5 responses) was out of scope of Annual and Long-Term Plan discussions including district planning matters, or consenting matters before the courts. Feedback on urban or transport related matters of more relevance to Christchurch City Council or Waka Kotahi (about 10 comments) were also received, but often these comments overlapped with outcomes sought or matters relevant to Council partnerships.
28. High-level summary themes from the engagement survey by portfolio are included in Attachment 7.1.1, and staff advice on general themes and some of the specific matters raised is included in Attachment 7.1.2.

Financial position

29. The starting point for year 3 of the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 (the draft Annual Plan 2023/24) was an additional \$15 million from rates revenue to meet work programmes consulted on in the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 and changes consulted on in the Annual Plan 2022/23. This resulted in a projected rates revenue increase of 10% for 2023/24.
30. Work programme changes adopted in 2022/23 impacting the Annual Plan 2023/24 included:
 - public transport fare trial options
 - bus driver wages increase and other public transport initiatives
 - meeting the cost of the debt-funded 2021 flood recovery work
 - replenishment of the general reserves over 5 years
 - other direct cost increases and efficiencies.
31. The draft Annual Plan 2023/24 was developed on the assumption that year 3 Long-Term Plan commitments and any financial pressures would be managed within the

projected 10% rates increase with minor efficiency gains used to offset any financial pressures. In 2023, it has become increasingly apparent that there are significant financial pressures of the Annual Plan 2023/24 budget due to changes to the economy, alongside the uncertainty around the implications of changing central government requirements on local government. This includes an inflation rate of about 7%, continuation of labour market shortages, and central government decisions around which key pieces of legislation to pursue ahead of the general elections later in the year. An internal change programme has also been implemented to ensure Environment Canterbury is agile to respond to challenges and opportunities.

32. In response to ongoing financial pressures, staff have carried out a further internal review. The purpose of this review was to identify ways to ensure we can meet additional costs while not materially changing overall commitments and levels of service in the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 and Annual Plan 2022/23. This review was based on the organisation's capacity to complete the annual work programme, and where it exceeded available capacity, to reduce or delay some work. This process identified \$4 million of operating expenses that could be reprioritised to further offset cost pressures.
33. Although these changes were made to ensure we could meet the additional financial pressures within existing budgets, funds identified are not sufficient to meet all projected cost pressures for 2023/24.
34. Operating reserves also generally remain negative in the 2023/24 year due to existing borrowing balances, limiting the ability to draw on reserves to fund current year activities. Passenger transport reserves are expected to be higher than target levels during 2023/24 but may be required during the year to fund Public Transport initiatives to address delivery and cost pressures related to Public Transport.
35. In some specific cases, work originally planned to take place in the Annual Plan 2022/23 financial year has been delayed and these will be carried forward to Annual Plan 2023/24. This expenditure specifically relates to work where external agreements are in place and funding is from grants and other external contributions. Where Environment Canterbury does have a commitment to part-fund work, reserves will be used due to rates having already been collected in 2022/23. Items include the Greater Christchurch Spatial Plan and the National Ticketing system.
36. Capital expenditure for 2023/24 is forecast to be 52% of that in 2022/23 due to the building programme at the Kainga depot coming to an end, and completion of the flood protection rebuild post the 2021 floods.
37. Environment Canterbury carries significant financial risks into the Annual Plan 2023/24. These include:
 - CPI and labour inflation rates exceeding current forecasts
 - external factors that further impact on the current regulatory consent backlog
 - an economic downturn reducing various income streams
 - Government decisions that create opportunities for co-funding but are unbudgeted for e.g., environmental, flood protection, or public transport initiatives
 - further rises in interest rates making debt funding materially more expensive.

38. Budget and programme reviews will be ongoing in 2023/24 as part of regular quarterly forecasting reviews to ensure any further pressures can be met.
39. The Central Government budget 2023 is due to be delivered on Thursday 18 May, after this report was written. Staff will provide an update to Council if there are any budget items of note for the Annual Plan 2023/24 year.

Staff advice

40. Community feedback was broadly supportive of the draft Annual Plan 2023/24, and included support for continued or increased work programmes within the Plan. Concerns about rates affordability were also noted in feedback.
41. As noted previously in this report, there are several pressures impacting on Council's ability to deliver and fund in 2023/24 and financial risk is being carried into Annual Plan 2023/24. No funding is available for new work without impacting on Council's ability to limit rates increases, manage ongoing cost pressures and deliver existing commitments.
42. To maintain delivery and funding to meet the existing commitments and community expectations and limit the rates increase to 10% as outlined in the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 that was engaged on, staff recommend no changes are made to the draft Annual Plan 2023/24.
43. As noted in paragraph 32, staff have identified \$4 million of operating expenses that could be reprioritised to further offset cost pressures through a review based on the organisation's capacity to deliver. Staff recommend Council note that the reprioritisation of work programmes totalling \$4 million will be incorporated in the final Annual Plan 2023/24, given that the reprioritisation relates to our capacity to deliver and does not impact on levels of service.
44. In 2023, the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 will be developed, and there will be opportunities for Council to consider relevant feedback canvassed through this Annual Plan engagement. Relevant feedback includes comments on the Annual Plan or Long-Term Plan that imply or request new, continued or increased work relevant to Environment Canterbury.
45. In considering the feedback and developing the Long-Term Plan, alignment with Environment Canterbury roles and responsibilities, strategic direction and balancing affordability with what needs to be delivered, will be considered. The Long-Term Plan 2024-34 development will also provide an opportunity to consider delivery and funding options more holistically in the context of changing central government requirements for local government and responding to climate change.
46. Staff acknowledge the amount of feedback on public transport, including service improvements. Public Transport is subject to delivery and cost pressures, and information will come to Council to make decisions where required in-year, e.g. following any relevant central government decisions.
47. Staff advice on general themes and some specific matters raised is provided in Attachment 7.1.2. Several concerns raised are being addressed by current work programmes and initiatives, or central government policy initiatives. Some of the

feedback or ideas provided by individuals or groups can be explored within existing work programmes without changes to budgets.

48. Staff have noted the feedback that can be incorporated in discussions as the Council develops and engages with the community on the Long-Term Plan 2024-34. Partners, stakeholders, and the community will have further opportunity to provide feedback through Long-Term Plan 2024-34 engagement activities and consultation in 2024.

Cost, compliance and communication

Financial implications

49. Staff advice provided in this report manages changes within the proposed 10% rates increase. If the Council considers any further changes/decisions on the draft Annual Plan, then the financial implications and impacts on rates may change.
50. Rating resolutions to set to the rates for the 2023/24 year will be presented to the Council for consideration at the Council meeting on 21 June 2023.

Risk assessment and legal compliance

51. The draft Annual Plan 2023/24 was prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. Councils are required to have an Annual Plan in place by 30 June 2023.
52. Any large, unexpected events, financial shocks or unplanned work programmes and expenditure that occur within the year will likely trigger the need for a further review of work programmes and budgets.

Engagement, Significance and Māori Participation

53. The draft Annual Plan 2023/24 does not include significant or material differences from the content of the Long-Term Plan 2021-31, and changes consulted on through the Annual Plan 2022/23 under section 95 (2A) of the Local Government Act 2002. Council undertook engagement on the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 to raise awareness of the draft Annual Plan and development of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.
54. If Council considers any changes to the draft Annual Plan 2023/24, consideration would also need to be given to the significance of those proposed changes and whether or not affected or interested parties have been given the opportunity to present their views to Council.

Climate Change Impacts

55. Climate Change impacts have been considered and integrated throughout the Long-Term Plan 2021-31, the Annual Plan 2022/23 and in the draft Annual Plan 2023/24.

Communication

56. Just prior to the hearings in April, all the respondents who had given feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 were contacted to thank them for their feedback and provided with information about the next steps.

57. Following adoption of the Annual Plan 2023/24, information will be sent to respondents to provide an overview of decisions made.
58. A media release and other communications will also be prepared when the Annual Plan 2023/24 is presented for adoption in June 2023.

Next steps

59. Staff will prepare the final Annual Plan 2023/24 based on Council direction.
60. Council approval to adopt the final Annual Plan 2023/24 and rating resolutions will be sought on 21 June 2023.

Attachments

1. Annual Plan Feedback High Level Themes May 2023 [7.1.1 - 4 pages]
2. Draft Annual Plan 2023-24 Staff Advice on Feedback Themes and Specific Matters [7.1.2 - 11 pages]

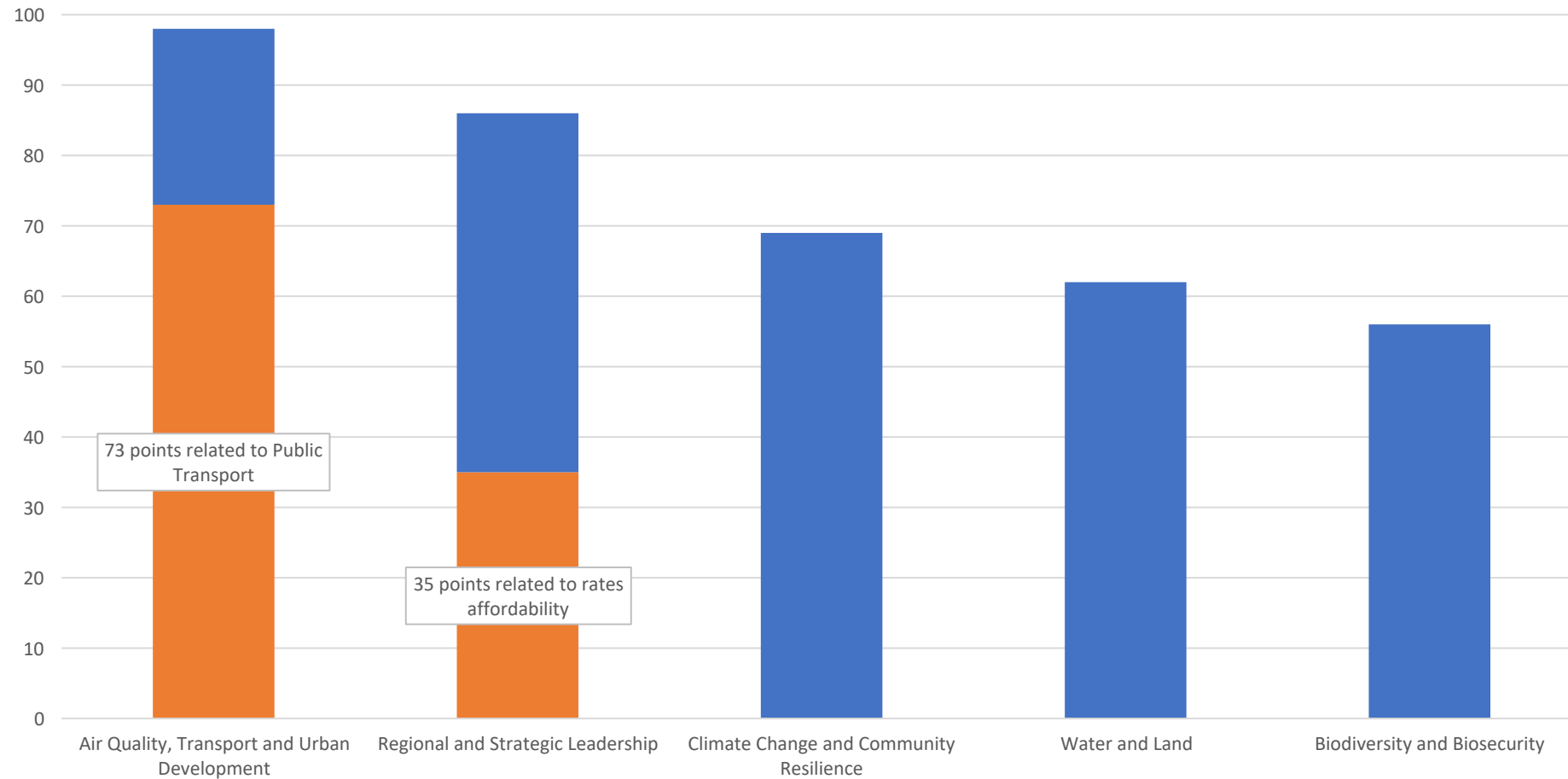
| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Legal review | |
| Peer reviewers | Carmen Marsh, Organisational Performance Manager |

High-level feedback themes

- Many provided feedback on Public Transport services (in Christchurch). Support also noted for public transport services in districts.
- A number noted need for action on Climate Change and the environment, including river management and preparing for flooding events, protecting biodiversity, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction
- Support for braided river and wetland protection, and pest control, including funding for community-led initiatives and planting
- Concern about rates affordability and some commentary about balancing need for action
- Commentary about engagement process and documents
- Some comments out of scope/limited scope e.g. specific consents or territorial authority matters

Feedback points received

Number of feedback points by portfolio



Each piece of feedback was coded by portfolio. Multiple codes could be assigned to one piece of feedback.

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Feedback themes – Draft Annual Plan 2023/24

Air Quality, Transport & Urban Development

- Most feedback related to requests for improved public transport services to various suburbs around Christchurch (including around harbour and bays)
- Requests also for public transport options in district areas
- Support for public transport improvements with some suggesting faster action
- Commentary around wider work required in transport to reduce emissions
- Air quality concerns raised including dust, quarries and rural burning

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Regional & Strategic Leadership

- Concerns about rates affordability, and balancing the need for action
- Support for continued and increased funding for community-led initiatives, i.e. the Waitaha Action to Impact Fund
- Support for engagement activities, including enviroschools/youth
- Commentary about operational functions, including consenting and compliance activities

Climate Change & Community Resilience

- Support for climate action, noting need for more urgent action, funding options for adaptation and greenhouse gas emissions reductions
- Support for rivers resilience work, and requests and comments on river management, programme funding (river rating) and operational challenges

Water & Land

- Support for developing a robust planning framework that implements Essential Freshwater legislation and other national direction
- Support for protection of environment including wetlands and braided rivers
- Water quality concerns including contamination and concerns around safe-guarding water quantity
- Recognition of climate change on implications for water quality and quantity

Biodiversity & Biosecurity

- Support for biodiversity protection, regeneration and pest management – including wetland and braided river environments
- Support for planting, both to achieve biodiversity outcomes and climate mitigation
- Conservation and community groups, particularly associated with Banks Peninsula in support of B&B activities, including cross-agency and collaboration efforts

Feedback themes – Long-Term Plan

- Continuation of themes/concerns raised under Annual Plan feedback
 - Responding to climate change including flood protection and river management, planning and preparing communities for climate change, and reduction of emissions through transport initiatives, planting, community and environmental initiatives
 - Support for passenger rail and transport initiatives
 - Balancing affordability with action that needs to be taken
 - Ideas for community engagement on the LTP

| Feedback Theme or Matter | Staff Advice |
|---|--|
| a) Support for passenger rail and mass rapid transport initiatives | The efficacy of rail-based modes for public transport are being assessed through the Mass Rapid Transit Business Case process being undertaken through the Greater Christchurch Partnership. Regional rail is being investigated with the South Island Chairs Group and the Regional Transport Committee. |
| b) Various suggestions on Public Transport service level improvements | Improvements to service levels on specific routes are subject to service review processes as set out in the regional public transport plan. Regional Public Transport Plan includes processes for requests for additional services. Improvements to service levels on specific routes, including requests for MyWay style services, are subject to service review processes as set out in the regional public transport plan |
| c) Support for service level increases, including on demand services | Environment Canterbury and Greater Christchurch Partners have agreed to support Future Public Transport Business case which recommends service levels increases across the network as funding is made available through future long-term plan cycles. |
| d) Suggestions regarding Cass Bay service | An additional Cass Bay service was agreed during the last Annual Plan process. |
| e) Comments on infrastructure supporting public transport | Infrastructure spend is an issue for Greater Christchurch territorial authority partners as Environment Canterbury is largely dealing with operational expenditure and service provision. |
| f) Support for decarbonisation of fleet | Transition to decarbonisation of the Public Transport fleet is included within the annual and long term plan. Funding has also been provided for decarbonising the Public Transport fleet. Battery electric technology is being phased in with the target of having a fully decarbonised fleet by the mid 2030's. |
| g) Comments regarding bus driver shortage/support | Environment Canterbury is working with central government and partner bus operators to ensure working conditions and remuneration for bus drivers supports ongoing retention and recruitment. This has been included within the annual plan funding. |

| Feedback Theme or Matter | Staff Advice |
|--|---|
| h) Central City shuttle/services | The Council's Air Quality, Transport and Urban Development Committee passed a resolution on 7 September 2022 to work with Christchurch City Council to incorporate our shared aims of improving patronage within the central city as part of our Public Transport Work Programme in the period 2022-24 to inform the next Long-Term Plan, without disrupting existing priorities. |
| i) Clarity on Waimakariri public transport rates | Waimakariri Rural Public Transport rate is lower than urban Public Transport rate to provide for Community Vehicle Trust support and to reflect the limited access to scheduled service Public Transport via park and ride and similar opportunities. |
| j) Comment noted regarding timing-point performance measurement. | Environment Canterbury's Public Transport services operate on the city roading network. As such, Environment Canterbury is not responsible for the reliability of that network and issues such as congestion are beyond our scope to resolve but will impact our ability to achieve timing performance metrics. The 95% start time metric is a measure of the reliability of the Public Transport Network. |
| k) Hamner Springs community vehicle trust | The process of establishing a community vehicle trust is covered by policy 1.8 of the Regional Public Transport Plan. This will require working with the community on their establishment of an appropriate rating area to ensure that on-going funding is sustainable. Advisory support is being provided to the community to assist with this process. |
| l) Public Transport services - Amberley | Currently no subsidised fixed route and scheduled public transport services are offered beyond the Ashley/Rakahuri River, although residents of Hurunui can park and ride on any Metro service within the Greater Christchurch area. There are no plans to include Amberley within the Greater Christchurch Metro network. Policy 1.9 of the Regional Public Transport Plan has provision for approaches from communities outside Greater Christchurch for public transport services and the criteria under which these requests would be assessed. |
| m) MyWay or similar initiatives to support PT options in the districts | MyWay, shuttle or other initiatives outside of urban area would require investment in the Long-Term Plan to investigate. |

| Feedback Theme or Matter | Staff Advice |
|--|---|
| n) Healthier Homes Canterbury | Healthier Homes Canterbury (HHC) Scheme has been put on hold due to changes to the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003. Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is leading on recommendations to the Minister about how Councils can progress with schemes such as HHC. |
| o) Stubble burning within Ashburton Zone. | The Canterbury Air Regional Plan sets out requirements for stubble burning in these zones. Guidelines to burning are available on the Environment Canterbury website. |
| p) Dust concerns | Information about dust monitoring programme is provided on Environment Canterbury's website . |
| q) Air Quality enforcement matters within Waimate | Waimate is a gazetted clean air zone |
| r) Implementation of Rolleston Air Shed | An initial investigation would be required which could take 1-2yrs, therefore staff would recommend that this is explored during development of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34. Council could scope this work as part of this annual plan (year 3 of the Long-Term Plan) within existing budgets. |
| s) Pest management control, including animal and plant pests | <p>The Canterbury Regional Pest Management (CRPMP) provides the rationale for requiring organisms to be managed regionally. Any organisms with pest status identified in the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan (CRPMP) must not be spread, released, sold or propagated (under sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act).</p> <p>To manage new organisms or pests as part of Environment Canterbury's work programme, comprehensive information is required to identify why intervention is required, and ensure we have the resources (including financial, physical and regulatory tools, staff capability) to provide effective control and enduring outcomes.</p> <p>Council will be considering options for reviewing the Regional Pest Management Plan, as it reaches its required review cycle, as part of the next Long-Term Plan. The upcoming review of the Biosecurity Act as an opportunity to evaluate regional pest management tools.</p> |

| Feedback Theme or Matter | Staff Advice |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted concerns about pig and deer populations, these are not currently managed as pests under the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan, Wild pigs and deer are controlled under the Wild Animal Control Act, administered by the Department of Conservation • Through the RPMP review process in 2018, sycamore and rowan were identified as Organisms of Interest, meaning they were considered to pose a sufficient future risk to warrant being watch-listed for ongoing surveillance or future control opportunities. • Managing feral cats requires a holistic pest management approach, including full support from the community to also manage domestic cats. The Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan (CRPMP) was adopted by Council in March 2018 after a thorough public consultation process, which included investigating the pest status of cats. As a result of this process, feral cats were identified as an Organism of Interest, meaning they are watch-listed for ongoing surveillance or future control opportunities. <p>Biosecurity Advisory Groups are open forums and are vital for informing Environment Canterbury's biosecurity team. Attendance from community members and groups is welcomed.</p> <p>Staff note that changes in pest management funding levels relate to the amount of grant funding received from the Ministry for Primary Industries for the Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme and the National Wilding conifer programme.</p> |
| t) Increased mustelid numbers around the estuary and the impact from animal and plant pests. | Environment Canterbury welcomes further discussion with the Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust about enabling the Trust to develop and implement a pest plant strategy for the estuary. |
| u) Use of pesticide | A range of methods are used for pest control. A pesticide is used where it is the most efficient and effective option available. Other technologies will be considered as they become available. |
| v) Concerns regarding communication of pest and invasive organisms | The iNaturalist app enables users to upload photos for identification by subject matter experts. |

| Feedback Theme or Matter | Staff Advice |
|---|--|
| w) Control of Wilding Conifers | Wilding conifer control is part of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, delivered by Environment Canterbury on behalf of partners and stakeholders. Wilding control work receives significant grant funding from Central Government. The programme was established in 2016, and the government initially pledged \$16M over four years for the first phase of the national control programme. This was used to tackle wilding conifers in the highest priority areas, with the majority being in Canterbury. Budget 2020 allocated further funding of \$100M over four years to expand the programme. Environment Canterbury has responsibilities as a landowner to manage wilding conifers under the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan. |
| x) Expansion of Pest Free Banks Peninsula | Staff acknowledge the benefits in cross-agency and organisation alignment to deliver biodiversity outcomes on Banks Peninsula. While Environment Canterbury provides financial and governance level input to support this work, the scope of delivery is not determined by Environment Canterbury. Council may need to consider ongoing financial support for organisations to deliver covenanting services or other protection and regeneration work through Long Term Plan consultation. This includes considering its commitment to support Pest Free Banks Peninsula, as the existing agreement is due to expire after the next financial year. |
| y) Retain, or restore previous levels of funding for Biosecurity and Biodiversity programmes, including Me Uru Rākau and Pest Management. | The Long-Term Plan is the appropriate mechanism to consider requests for additional investment for Biodiversity and Biosecurity programmes. Me Uru Rākau continues to take an iterative approach to ensure it delivers the desired community and environmental outcomes. Me Uru Rākau has been rephased and deferred due to both fiscal constraints and limits on the capacity to deliver the programme at scale initially proposed. |
| z) Biodiversity targeted rate across Christchurch City and Banks Peninsula | There is already a targeted rate for the Port Hills and Banks Peninsula to support Pest Free Banks Peninsula since 2020/21. A targeted rate for Christchurch City would require community consultation. |

| Feedback Theme or Matter | Staff Advice |
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| aa) Protection of vulnerable land by means of council purchase | <p>Environment Canterbury is currently preparing a strategy for the land Environment Canterbury owns and administers. The purpose of the strategy is to maximise the opportunities for land holdings to leverage regional opportunities for climate resilience with cultural, environmental and social gains. This includes consideration of strategic land purchase and disposal.</p> <p>We also work extensively with covenanting entities who can offer permanent protection mechanisms onto environmentally sensitive land, particularly in instances where council funding has supported enhancement, restoration or retirement initiatives on that land.</p> |
| bb) Concern regarding use of vehicles on coastal and riverbed environments | <p>Vehicle access to beaches is typically covered by District Council bylaws. Our Parks and Field Rangers conduct patrols on behalf of the Waimakariri and Hurunui District Councils, monitoring compliance of bylaws that cover vehicles in the coastal environment and focusing on appealing to social conscience and good behaviour through education and presence. Environment Canterbury aims for a presence during peak activity times (tidal range driven) where poor behaviour has the most effect on other users. Activity has slowed considerably and the public are quick to raise concerns. We routinely receive pictures and vehicle data we can and do act on.</p> <p>Motor vehicles are permitted within most regional park areas subject to normal road rules and vehicle regulations that can be enforced by police under the Transport Act. Drivers are encouraged to avoid open shingle areas during braided river bird nesting season (mid-August to mid-January) to avoid harming endangered wildlife.</p> |
| cc) Protection of wetlands and braided rivers and ecosystems | <p>Activities relating to wetlands are regulated by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2020 and by the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.</p> <p>The Priority Habitats and Wetland Protection programme includes biodiversity initiatives designed to protect and regenerate priority habitats (of all types). Environment Canterbury works with those in the agriculture sector to implement on-the-ground environmental improvements to achieve a range of outcomes, including freshwater quality, biodiversity and climate change.</p> <p>Under the Braided River Revival programme, Environment Canterbury facilitates and undertakes predator control in riverbeds to protect and restore habitat for indigenous braided river species.</p> |

| Feedback Theme or Matter | Staff Advice |
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| dd) Management of Environment Canterbury land | Environment Canterbury works collaboratively with Papatipu Rūnanga, DOC, LINZ and land managers to lead to further changes in land management improvements to ECan administered land and build on the work Environment Canterbury has undertaken to date. This includes reviewing existing land use, changes to grazing licences upon renewal and increasing investment in indigenous biodiversity on Environment Canterbury land (including regional parks). |
| ee) Management of effects of Forestry | The National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) provides nationally consistent regulations to manage the environmental effects of forestry. Where it isn't possible to manage these effects, the activity will require resource consent. There is a ministerial inquiry underway into forestry slash. |
| ff) Tree planting and maintenance initiatives | Some elements of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio involve planting, such as Me Uru Rākau, which is a regionwide protection, planting and restoration programme. Support is available via the Waitaha Action to Impact Fund for community engagement and action. |
| gg) Monitoring of water temperatures and water allocation | Council continues to resource the development of a network of continuous monitoring stations across the region that include the measurement of water temperature. Water temperature in rivers is considered when minimum flows and allocation limits are established for water abstraction. Climate change will impact on temperature regimes of water bodies, which will need to be taken into consideration when flow and allocation limits are reviewed in future plan changes. |
| hh) Land use | The Land and Water Regional Plan has started to address the problems caused by land-use intensification. Some of the impacts of these rules are only starting to take effect, and there is a lot of work to be done by farmers, industry and Environment Canterbury in coming years. Environment Canterbury is reviewing its planning framework to implement the Essential Freshwater legislation and Te Mana o te Wai. This will likely create opportunities for land use change. |

| Feedback Theme or Matter | Staff Advice |
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| ii) Water quality concerns – including nitrates | Essential Freshwater policy aims to stop further degradation and loss and start making immediate improvements so that water quality is materially improved within five years. Measures include riparian planting and fencing off waterways to exclude stock. Central government set up a task force to investigate the health effects of ingesting nitrates. Environment Canterbury is investigating running a 'private well information roadshow' across the region to include an indicative nitrate test and provision of information about other testing, such as pathogens and pesticides. |
| jj) Water allocation and consents for water takes | <p>Regional councils must comply with regional planning rules, and regulations and standards imposed by central government. Where a regional rule states that a consent is required to perform an activity (such as taking water for irrigation or discharging contaminants to land), then the council must consider these consent applications. Water allocation is managed through consents.</p> <p>Environment Canterbury has no ability to charge for water use for irrigation/water bottling. The NPS-FM will encourage change to water and land use practices. Environment Canterbury will be bound by the decision of the Supreme Court in the matter of the consents that have been sought for change of historic use for water bottling.</p> <p>Environment Canterbury has prioritised compliance monitoring of water take consents for irrigation and is engaging with industry to improve the effectiveness of fish screens as a high priority.</p> |
| kk) Ensure adequate resources in place to be consistent with Water Conservation Orders | Regional councils' role and responsibility with respect to Water Conservation Orders is currently before the court for a declaratory ruling. |
| ll) Funding for review of CWMS | Discussions are currently underway to ensure the Canterbury Water Management Strategy remains fit for the future. |
| mm) Comment on tuna stranding | With respect to the tuna stranding at Taumutu, this was a natural phenomenon. Environment Canterbury and Selwyn District Council worked with the rūnanga to clean up. |

Staff advice on themes and matters raised through the draft Annual Plan 2023/24 engagement

11 May 2023

| Feedback Theme or Matter | Staff Advice |
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| nn) Increase community funding (zone committee and WAI fund) | Environment Canterbury provides various community funds which may be reviewed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034. |
| oo) Live stream of meetings | Environment Canterbury is currently investigating livestreaming of meetings. Meetings are open to the public and audio is made available. The areas that are commercially sensitive are public excluded, and these items are kept to a minimum. |
| pp) Youth representation | The Regional Leadership, and Climate Change Resilience Committee has just voted to appoint two youth representatives with full voting rights, so although the targets set out in the Long-Term Plan are fairly generic, this does not mean there is a lack of ambition. The suggestions regarding youth engagement will be shared with the youth engagement team and considered for the next Long-Term Plan. |
| qq) Suggestions about engagement process or documentation | Feedback on the engagement process and documentation will be reviewed as part of the Long-Term Plan development. The Local Government Act 2002 prescribes content that must be included in Annual and Long-Term Plans. |
| rr) Exacerbator should pay | Revenue & Financing Policy and Fees and Charges Policy include the principles of beneficiary pays and exacerbator pays. This policies will be reviewed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 process. |
| ss) Resourcing requirements for implementing new government direction | Concerns over resourcing has been included in our feedback on central government policy proposals and through other channels. We acknowledge the current wellbeing concerns for the rural community and there is work underway to review our internal systems and processes and communications to rural communities |

| Feedback Theme or Matter | Staff Advice |
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| tt) Comments on river management approach | Environment Canterbury takes a 'whole of river' approach to river resilience which includes both engineering and nature-based solutions to protect people and communities from flooding risk. support for nature-based solutions in river management, this is in keeping with our holistic 'whole of river' approach to catchment resilience. |
| uu) Flood protection in Rangitata | Staff are assessing options to support flood protection of the Arundel area from the Rangitata River. This forms part of the Rangitata Revival programme looking at a more holistic approach to river management. Funding of any proposed works would need to be considered in Long-Term Plan discussions. |
| vv) Managed retreat | The topic of managed retreat is complex and we will work with central government on the upcoming Climate Adaptation Bill legislation on this matter. The upcoming Climate Adaptation Bill is expected to provide clarity on the complex legal and financial issues surrounding climate adaptation and will be considered in the development of the next Long-Term Plan. |
| ww) Support and requests for increased climate change action | <p>Environment Canterbury's Climate Change and Community Resilience team is undertaking two key workstreams to achieve Level of Service 23.3 in the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 for increased climate action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a region-wide Canterbury Climate Partnership Plan in collaboration with Canterbury councils, led by the Canterbury Climate Change Working Group. • Development of an Environment Canterbury Climate Action Plan. <p>Climate education is included in our work programme</p> <p>A funding plan for the climate action plan will come through the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 discussions. Discussion on funding options, such as a climate levy, will be included in the dedicated funding plan for the Climate Action Plan.</p> |
| xx) Out of date information on website on climate change | Out-of-date information on the main Environment Canterbury website has been identified as needing to be updated. |

| Feedback Theme or Matter | Staff Advice |
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| yy) Comments on cause of climate change | Environment Canterbury takes an evidence-based approach to climate action, using the best local, national and international science and knowledge in decision making. It is the accepted view of experts that it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. (IPCC 6th Assessment Report - https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/resources/spm-headline-statements/) |
| zz) Suggested change to LoS24.2 2024+ target to continue year 3 work | Levels of Service measures and targets relating to year 4 onwards will be reviewed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 development |
| aaa) Selwyn District Council request on river management | There are ongoing discussions between Environment Canterbury and Selwyn District Council on opportunities for river maintenance and flood protection, which Council is keen to continue. |
| bbb) Out of scope of annual plan/long-term plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the allocation of parking buildings and locations • Christchurch urban rivers and waterways management • address flooding issues on the Ōpāwaho - Christchurch City Council is carrying out extensive work • signage on the walking track between Cass Bay and Corsair Bay • street lighting (district or city council matter) and highway lighting is Waka Kotahi responsibility • bike lanes are the responsibility of the local council, but initiatives can be included in the Regional Land Transport Plan which is the responsibility of the Regional Transport Committee. • Canterbury Regional Council does not have jurisdiction over any roads in the region • Waimate Waste Energy plant related to a specific consent, not to the Annual Plan. Matter before hearings panel. • Location of structures (cell towers) is a consenting matter. Planning considers land and spaces to avoid and protect. |

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 21 June 2023 at 10:30am. Any changes to this time will be publicly advertised and updated on the Environment Canterbury website.

9. Mihi/Karakia Whakamutunga - Closing

The meeting will conclude with a karakia by a member of the Council.