

Our Reference: A1187688

26 November 2024



**The Members
Aparima Catchment Liaison
Committee**

Notice of Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting of the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee** will be held on **Tuesday, 26 November 2024 from 1.00pm - 3.00pm** in the **Southland District Council & District Library, Otautau**. Light refreshments will be available.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Terms of Reference (attached) Page 2
4. Confirmation of Minutes of meeting of 26 March 2024 (attached) Page 5
5. Matters arising
6. Chairperson's Report
7. Appointment of Committee and membership - see list of members (attached) Page 11
8. Catchment report (attached) Page 12
9. Financial report – 2023/24, update on 2024/25, and proposed 2025/26 (attached)
10. General Business:
 - Future work programme
 - i. Update on the rating review Page 20
 - ii. Climate resilience projects update Page 36
 - iii. Asset Inspections/defects update
 - Bylaw review process
 - Gravel Update

Grant McGregor
Chair

Terms of Reference

Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee

Reporting to

The Community

The Regional Services Committee, Southland Regional Council (or "the Council")

Objective

To be a connection between the catchment community, its rating district and the Council to effectively manage the catchment's natural resources, and assist the Council to maintain better communications.

Catchment Liaison Committees role:

1. be an advisory group that provides a leadership role in integrated catchment management, developing and supporting projects with agreed principles and structures through which competing interests in natural resources can be discussed.

Areas of opportunity are in: water quality and quantity, soil health, river management, land drainage, land management that affects water and flood planning;

2. report to the Council on project initiatives and budgets for projects and maintenance works, including advice on the financial overview of budgets and reserves;
3. make recommendations on behalf of the community to maintain and improve the state and management of the catchment and its environment, with any decisions resting with the Regional Council in terms of its statutory obligations;
4. provide advice to the Council on behalf of the rating district for the annual work programme for these projects, including long-term work programmes, maintenance works, river and flood planning and special projects;
5. provide advice to the Council on the development of any plan or strategy in their catchment;
6. reflect the opinion of the whole catchment, complaints or other matters relating to individual ratepayers must be redirected to the Council.

Standard operating Procedures (16/09/2020)

Membership

Public membership is limited to ratepayers including lessees (or their representative) who own land within the catchment. Membership of industry, non-government-organisations and government organisations that do not own land in the catchment is limited to scope of work.

A Sub-committee or Technical Advisory Group may be appointed at the AGM to deal with specific matters and feedback on financial expenditure when required.

The larger membership and the Sub-committee/Technical Advisory Group have the ability to co-opt and are generally open to any ratepayer.

Representation from interest groups and industry groups where appropriate.

Environment Southland will appoint its own representative with the agreement from the committee.

Appointment process

Nominations are to be sought at the Annual General Meeting.

Key considerations will be ensuring Committee interest and geographic balance to enable productive dialogue to occur.

Each committee member reflects the interests of a wider group within the community and preferably have the skills, experience and knowledge to relay information between the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee and different sectors within the community.

Governance

Chairperson

The group will select a Chair and/or Co-Chairs from amongst its members. The Chair will ensure a fair and equitable group process and be responsible for fostering an atmosphere of respect, open mindedness and group learning.

Quorum

A quorum shall include the Chair or Deputy Chair and a total of at least three normal committee members. The size of each quorum can change at an Annual General Meeting. At 1 November 2020 the following applied:

Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee quorum - 6

Meeting Frequency

Meet with the relevant Environment Southland staff and/or Councillors when necessary with one Annual General Meeting and workshops and additional meetings as required.

The Chair and/or Co-Chairs will represent their committee at combined liaison meetings and workshops.

Collaborative Decision-making

A credible commitment to the collaborative decision making process by the individuals and organisations involved is required. Decisions will be based on majority voting but consensus should be sought where possible, with the Chair/Co Chairs holding a casting vote.

Principles of Participation

All members of the committee agree to participate in the following ways:

- contributions are made without prejudice – i.e. nothing said within the group may be used in subsequent planning or legal processes except for any recommendations or agreements reached by the group;
- members to show respect for others views and avoid promoting discord within the group;
- any public statements by the group are to be agreed by the group and made through an agreed spokesperson;

- members of the group are expected to support decisions and recommendations reached by consensus by the group in subsequent public discussions;
- the Chair is responsible for fostering the principles of participation and is expected to be respected as a leader in their role.

**Minutes of the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee
Annual General Meeting, held at SDC Council & District
Library, 176 Main Street, Otautau
Tuesday, 26 March 2024, at 1.30pm.**



Present:	Mr G McGregor	(Chair)
	Mr A Brown	
	Mr E Mathieson	
	Mr L Baird	
	Mr C Lawry	
	Mr A De Wolde	
	Mr M Beattie	
	Mr J McKenzie	
	Mr G Dickson	
	Mr D Wohlers	
	Mr D Edge	
	Mr J White	
	Mr P Gutsell	
	Mr R Flett	
In Attendance:	Ms R Halder	(Thriving Southland)
	Ms B Aitken	(Thriving Southland)
	Cr N Horrell	(Environment Southland)
	Cr P McDonald	(Environment Southland)
	Ms T Hawkins	(Environment Southland)
	Mr R Beal	(Environment Southland)
	Mr D Connor	(Environment Southland)
	Mr C King	(Environment Southland)
	Ms N Bulling	(Environment Southland)
	Ms J Lloyd	(Environment Southland)
	Ms K Brown	(Environment Southland)
	Mr N Perham	(Environment Southland)
	Mr A Buzka	
	Mr L Templeton	
	Mrs H Hart	(Personal Assistant – Minutes)

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all attending the meeting. Mr McGregor read out his chairman's report, a copy of which has been retained on file.

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

Resolved:

Moved Mr McGregor, seconded Mr Brown, that apologies were recorded on behalf of Mr Heywood, Cr McPhail, Mr Frazer, Mr Boyd, Mr Simpson, Mr Miles, Mr Turner (Paul), Mr Turner (Peter) and Mr Adams.

Carried

3 Terms of Reference

No comments were made on the terms of reference.

4 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of 24 February 2023

Resolved:

Moved Mr McGregor, seconded Mr Lawry, that the minutes of the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meeting held on 24 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

5 Chairs Report

This was read out during the Welcome.

6 Matters Arising

No matters arising.

7 Appointment of Committee and membership

At this time Mr McGregor assumed the chair and called for nominations for the Chairman of the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Horrell, seconded Mr White that Mr McGregor be elected to continue the position of Chairman of the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee.

Mr McGregor assumed the Chair.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Horrell, seconded Mr White those present, together with all those who had lodged apologies for the meeting, and those on the mailing list, should constitute the members of the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee.

Carried

8 Financial Report – 2022/23 and proposed 2023/24 and proposed 2024/25

Ms Hawkins presented on the proposed budgets and further explained:

- percentage from rates and where the money comes from;
- costs such as flood warning, support costs etc;
- proposed changes for the year starting July and moving some of the costs into the regional bucket;

- Mr King commented on staff member costs going into catchment operations, looking at more of a region wide approach to help with management and budgeting;
- proposed rate structure;
- costs which have increased with inflation;
- land drainage - explaining the figures and how they are split 10% community and 90% landowner. Three-year cycle of doing drain cleaning;
- explained \$664,000 for disaster reserve;
- Mr de Wolde disagreed with 4% inflation rate, and after discussions tabled an option of 2.5%;
- approval was discussed subject to the following motion.

MOTION: Budget subject to approval after the following amendments, that:

- 1. The budget be amended to include inflation of 2.5%.**
- 2. The Waimatuku payment continue to be included.**
- 3. The structure maintenance still be within the Aparima catchment.**

Those in favour of the budget being passed. All in favour.

Moved Mr Lawry, Seconded Mr Flett.

Carried

9 Catchment Report

Mr Conner provided a detailed presentation (which would be retained on file) that included the 2022/23 work programs, and the 2023/24 and 2024/25 proposed work maintenance programmes and the financial report. He highlighted the following:

- work programs for the 2022-23 year – recap;
- 2023 flood events and work update;
- asset inspections/ defects update;
- future works;
- budget.

Discussion points and comments:

- we no longer carry out the inspection side of the gravel inspections. Mr McGregor noted having compliance doing large gravel is fine, but the farmer-based ones perhaps need more education. Cr Horrell agreed to take this back for discussion;
- Mr Conner gave a brief overview of the 2023 Aparima work program and flood event;
- Cr Horrell informed the committee that Environment Southland (ES) are working towards a catchment wide consent to do the works and provided further explanation. The consenting process is slow and expensive;
- Cr McDonald mentioned the Gravel Working Group and bringing together groups such as DOC, iwi and the catchment liaison committees.
- Mr Beal talked about getting consents, groups working together, having the right data to support this, and taking the steps to fill in the data gaps. Forming a consultation to apply for consent, gives a chance for everyone to work together in Southland. He raised the issue of cost of discarding the gravel if nobody wants to buy it and answered various questions.
- Mr Conner described Stopbank defects, describing them, talking about condition scores and showed photos of each condition. He mentioned the annual inspection, due for Aparima in July 2024.

- A question was raised if landowners can do anything to improve the stopbanks and Mr Conner agreed this is a good question and is something to think about in how we provide this information.

Mr D Conner talked about future priorities and then introduced Mr R Beal to talk further on this, he commented/presented:

- Thanked the committee with the support getting the additional budget last year
- Infrastructure Strategy – a 30 year document and every council needs one
- Aim of a nice graded river, getting rid of vegetation in the middle, making room for the river within our floodbanks and creating room that is taken up by weeds.
- Managing the gravel, consents, having a budget.
- Scheme reviews
- Oscillation period – we are experiencing floods like we had in the 70s and 80s and can expect more floods.
- 1500 defects in our schemes and looking to budget and address these in five years
- We need to be heavy on data and science as we won't be granted consents and budgets without it
- Discussed current conditions after inspections, flood control and operational budget to deal with maintenance.

Questions were raised on the effectiveness of the CLC groups. Cr N Horrell spoke to this mentioning it is good to hold council to accountability, we will always listen. These groups are the community voice for councils and can give feedback on a broader range of things. Mr R Beal explained CLC groups are one of the biggest assets with regards to relationships, knowledge, local community voice.

Break at 3.00pm, resumed meeting at 3.23pm

Ms F Young spoke to a presentation reminding the committee of the Mission as an organisation and our Vision, introducing herself and Kate Brown, with information on roles.

10 General

Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2024-34

Mr Beal spoke to this explaining:

- the LTP as a rolling plan every 3-4 yrs, it never gets finalised;
- the workshops and their purpose;
- a key point is the rating system requiring change for some time, we have been communicating with the groups and it has always come back to wanting a review;
- the rating system and infrastructure go hand in hand;
- Mr Beal mentioned the predictions shown last year for the next 30 years with 10% more rainfall for Southland and minimising risk.

Proposed Rates Review

Ms Hawkins spoke to this presentation

- explained the complications around the old rating system and how it will be simplified. Key assumptions made with regards to how this province has changed from 35 years ago, mobility of goods/services, people across the region, relying on regional infrastructure. The need to design a rate to reflect the interconnected way we are now;
- the reasons rates need to be balanced out, the LTP with the statement of proposal, to replace the 140 different rates across southland with one rate.
- detailed the current percentage split between rural, residential and commercial;
- rising costs and the budget is to allow the continuation of capital projects;
- borrowing money and paying off over time, and assuming 75% government funding.
- an online calculator on the website will help people to work out what their rate change will be;

- invited to answer questions in the back of the booklet (handed out) and submit views.

Mr R Beal and Ms J Lloyd left the meeting at 4.24pm

Biodiversity and the Environmental Enhancement Fund

Ms Bulling introduced herself and spoke to this, covering:

- Fencing native habitat – stock exclusion;
- Pest mammal control;
- Pest plant control;
- Wreys Bush concrete.

Biosecurity.

Ms P Bulling spoke to this:

- giving examples of plants such as Old Mans Beard, Purple Loosestrife and Oxygen Weed (Lagarosiphon) prevention;
- Canadian Geese – explaining the biosecurity act only allows ES to work on areas listed under the act, Geese are not an area we work on. The team are happy to take calls and provide advice;
- Possums - there are no possum control areas in the Aparima catchment, advised if farmers have possum problems, and their neighbours also do, get together and ask for a possum control area – then ES will do the initial knock down, and farmers can continue through bait stations, trapping, or whatever is most suitable for the property. Showed leaflet with information to take;
- Wallaby's – advised to keep an eye out in the headwaters of the catchment, and if seen, give ES a call to deal with them.

Current projects

Ms F Young presented on current projects:

- Freshwater Farm Plans and Catchment Context – gave explanation and tools for helping manage adverse effects on farm. Advised the ES team are happy to provide information about maps, background information, risks, treatments on farm. There are online maps to download. Suggested to get started now and be prepared;
- Intensive Winter Grazing. Mentioned website for movie regarding 10 degree slope etc.
- Southland Riparian Project – explained and advised to talk to ES if interested in purchasing native plants to plant along waterways – this project is in the early stages.
- Waituna project – not in the Aparima catchment, but mentioned due to lots of media and community interest – explained the actions taken.
- Murihuku Slow the Flow project – explained it is nature based solutions, talked about the aim, working with stakeholders, iwi and community.
- Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan – explained, discussed findings, the plan forward, next steps, public availability of information.
- Southland Sediment Strategy with regards to interest in where we are in terms of the state of the environment, water quality, nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment etc. – how we make it accessible and readily available in the community – talked about working on catchment summaries and access to information.

ACE – Aparima Catchment Group Update, Thriving Southland

Rachael Halder spoke to the committee and referred to current projects of Thriving Southland, such as:

- ACE – Aparima Community Environment and the Aparima Catchment Groups - passed leaflets around. Explained the project with funding through Thriving Southland.
- Thriving Southland looking at hosting national science challenge.
- Waimatuku selected to be one of 14 NZ rivers in NZ to be part of the DOC project – a full time DOC person allocated plus funding every year for mitigations.

11 Termination

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 5.05pm

Action Plan – Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee meeting 26 March 2024

Action	Description	Responsibility
Amendment to budget	The budget be amended to include inflation of 2.5%	Environment Southland
Include in budget	The Waimatuku payment continue to be included	Environment Southland
Include in budget	The structure maintenance still be within the Aparima catchment	Environment Southland
Information for landowners regarding Stopbanks.	Stopbank improvements – question was raised if landowners can do anything to help	Environment Southland consider how to provide information around this to landowners.

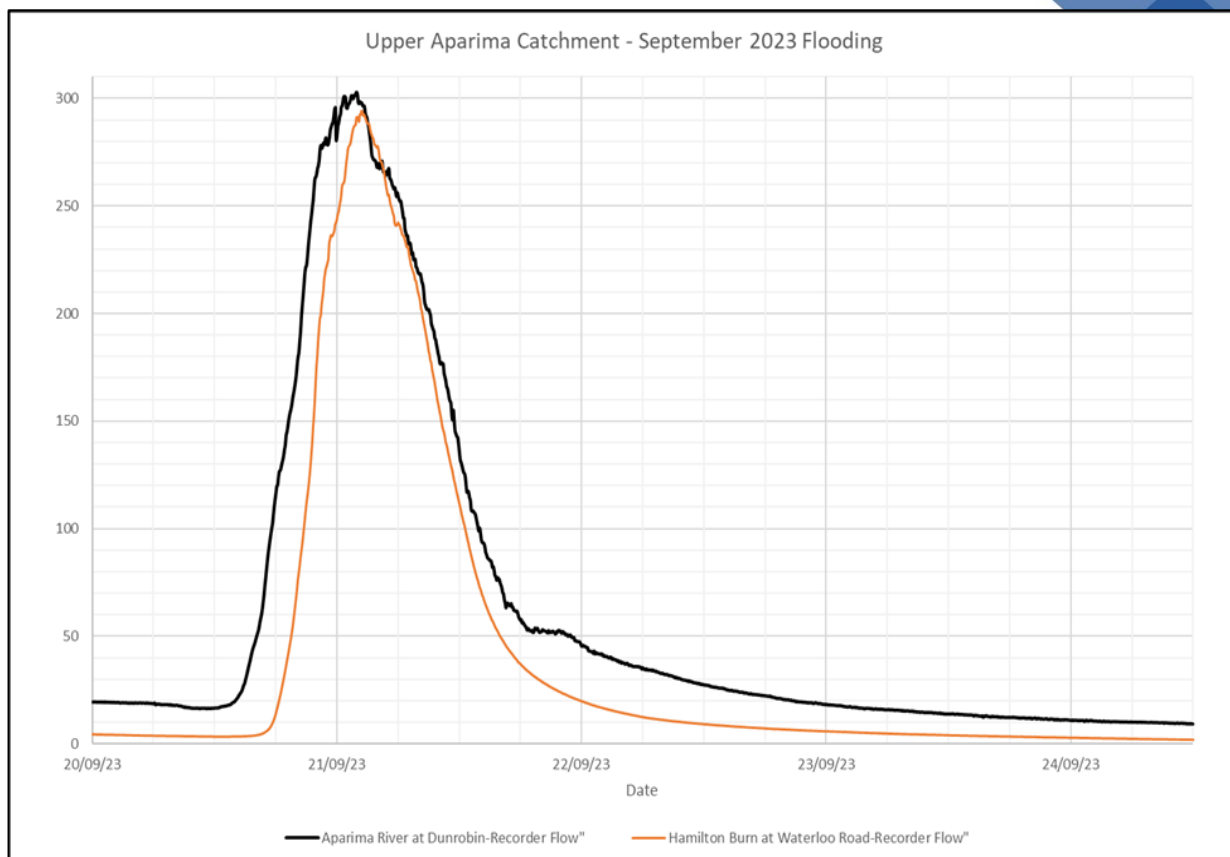
**Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee List of
Members as at July 2024**

Name
Grant McGregor, Chair Aparima Liaison Committee
Bridgett Aitken
LJ & DC Baird
Michael Beattie
Howard Boyd
Allan Brown
Alber de Wolde
Grant Dickson
Fraser Drummond
Dave Edge
Willian Egan
Robert Flett
Douglas Fraser
John Gray
Peter Fordyce
Rachael Halder
John Haywood
Nicol Horrell (Chairman)
Geoff Kidd
Colin Malcolm
Graeme Lynch
Edwin Mabonga
Alexander Mathieson
Jim McKenzie
Tony Miles
C McKenzie & F Young
Josie Reid
Hamish Ryan
Lisa Shaw
Alistair Simpson
Luke Templeton
Paul Turner
Peter Turner
Frank van Miltenburg
John Copeland
Scott Wills
David Wohlers

Aparima Catchment Rating District 2023/24

(Compiled by David Connor, Team Leader – Catchment & Craig King, Catchment Works Supervisor)

In September 2023, the Aparima catchment recorded its highest water level since the construction of the stopbanks in the 1980's. From 21 September 2023 there was approximately 70mm to 10mm of rainfall over a 24-hour period. The previous day had warm temperatures and combined with north westerly winds resulted in a large volume of snow melt in the catchments.



In the Aparima catchment the flow at Dunrobin was recorded up to 303 cumecs (black colour). The worst affected area was the upper catchment which had 102mm in 24-hour period. The Hamilton Burn was estimated at 294 cumecs (orange colour).

The flood event in conjunction with subsequent freshes, caused some overtopping, displacement of willow trees in the channel, erosion of farmland and areas near roading/bridge assets and sections of significant damage to stopbank infrastructure. Emergency works were required for two sites on the Aparima River, where stock bank breach/damage had occurred. The Avondale breach was 155m long. Retrospective resource consents were also applied for as a requirement under the Resource Management Act for the diversion of the river and bed disturbance at two locations so that the remedial works could be undertaken.

In addition, three areas on the rural banks did overtop onto pastureland during the September 2023 flood with no notable damage being recorded. These areas have been surveyed and are low points which will need attention in the future. Due to budget constraints and work projects being based on priorities, this work has been unable to be carried out to date.

Works Activity

1. River Works

Stopbank repairs

Photo below showing reconstruction of stopbank near Avondale which had breached due to flooding resulting ***in a section of stopbank 155m long being lost.***



The photo below highlights erosion on a stopbank on the true right bank, approximately 3.5m below Otatau. The site required significant work in terms of moving the river away from the stopbank where a deep hole had formed, before undertaking the repair work.



Otautau Steam flood fairway

ES Catchment Operations staff have been concerned about the on-going build-up of materials in the Otautau Stream flood fairway which includes around the bridge at Otautau.



This flood (photo above) subsequently inundated 190 out of 275 houses on 27 January 1984. The scheme was originally set up to control willows/vegetation in 1978. When the 1984 event occurred an urban standard of protection which included system of stopbanks were to be built on the Aparima River and the Otautau stream with the stopbanks being able to withstand a 100-year flood event with freeboard of 0.5m. The township of Otautau is currently protected from flooding in the Otautau Stream by a stopbank system on both banks adjacent to the main channel which gives 100-year protection at the time up to 400 cumecs. The bridge soffit level at Otautau township is lower than the actual stopbank height therefore it needs to be banded/sandbagged at the bridge before a large highwater event.

Engineering calculations during the past year indicated there was a notable build-up of materials both on the berm and instream areas, which was reducing overall flood capacity by an estimated 30% compared to as-built design standards. Material build-ups have been backed up by recent cross and longitudinal sectional surveys. The photo below highlighted material build-up around Otautau Stream bridge.



The plan initially was to remove vegetation and some built-up areas of sediment on the berm and stopbank batters. During the 2023-24 year, a total of 660 tonnes of sediment had been removed from this area. Grass build-ups had also been removed from both the batters and flood channel. Catchment operations is in the process of applying for resource consent to move more material from both the berm and instream areas. This includes the extraction of gravel which is a discretionary activity. It is hoped a long-term consent can be obtained so that this area can be managed when required well into the future.

Erosion protection

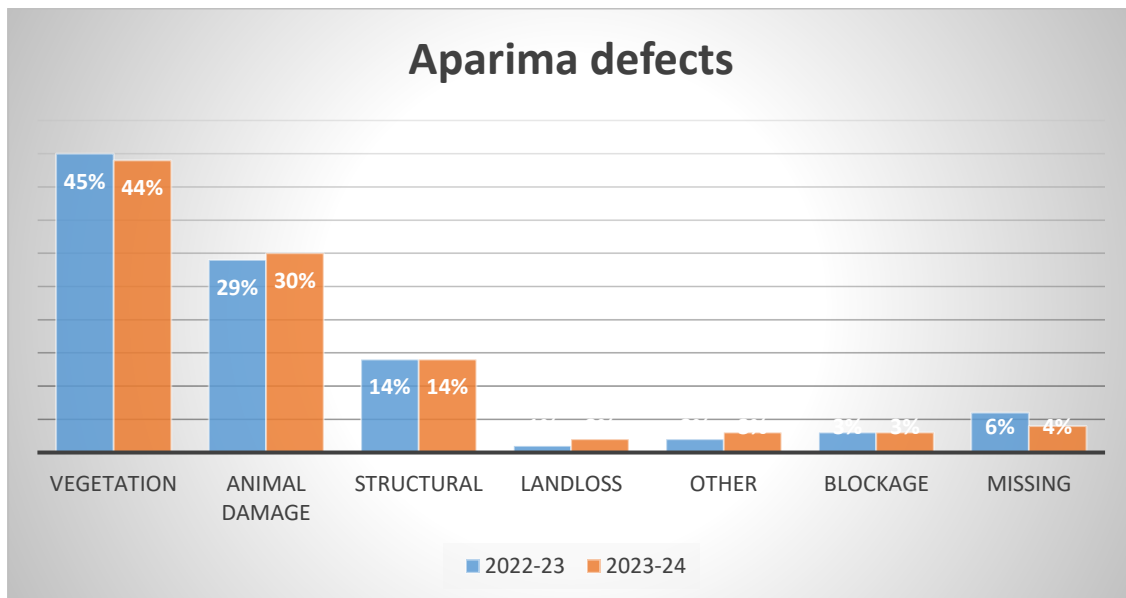
Work was undertaken to clean up channel debris throughout the Aparima fairway with an additional three willow layering jobs being undertaken for erosion protection, totaling 250m. A total of 3.8 km of vegetation clearance along the stopbanks targeting three sites was also undertaken. Excluding rock for stopbank repairs, a total of 3711 tonnes of quarried rock was placed at four separate sites to help stabilise eroding banks. Another job was undertaken in conjunction with Transit NZ near the Wreys Bush bridge where floodwaters had undermined the bank and were threatening the bridge approaches. A combination of willow removal, willow layering, concrete and rock was used to help stabilise this area. In addition Catchment operations received various drainage enquiries and removed fallen down willows in the Pourakino area and railway irons that were considered a navigational hazard in the Aparima River.

Land Drainage

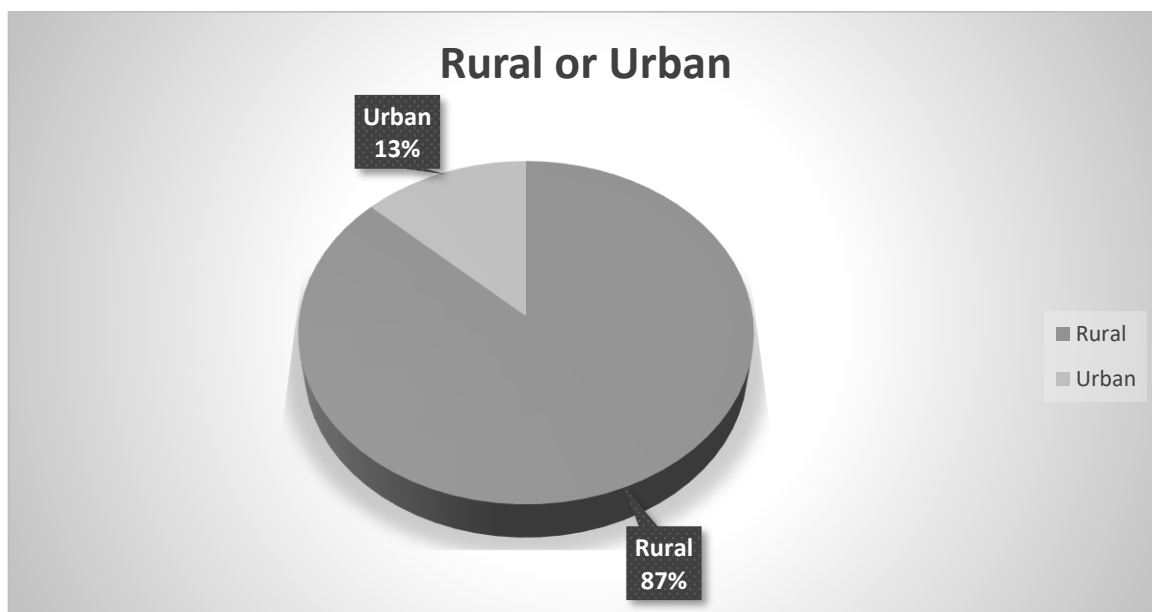
The Bayswater, McKays, Castledowns, Thornbury trib, Alision trib received mechanical intervention during the 2023-24 year to remove weed, sediment and any obstacle build-ups. The upper Waimatuku trib also received work under the Waimatuku drainage scheme.

Stopbank Inspections

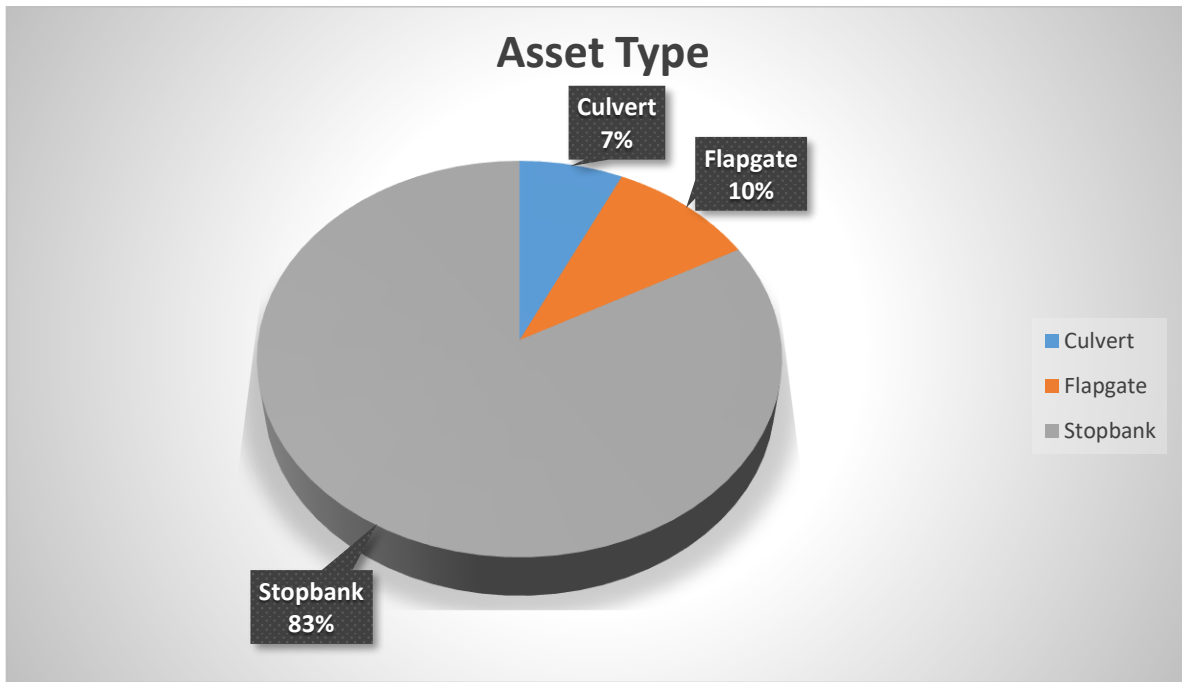
Letters and educational flyers continue to be sent out to all landowners who have stopbanks on their land prior to undertaking inspections. Stopbank inspections were carried out on both the rural (annually) and the urban banks (quarterly).



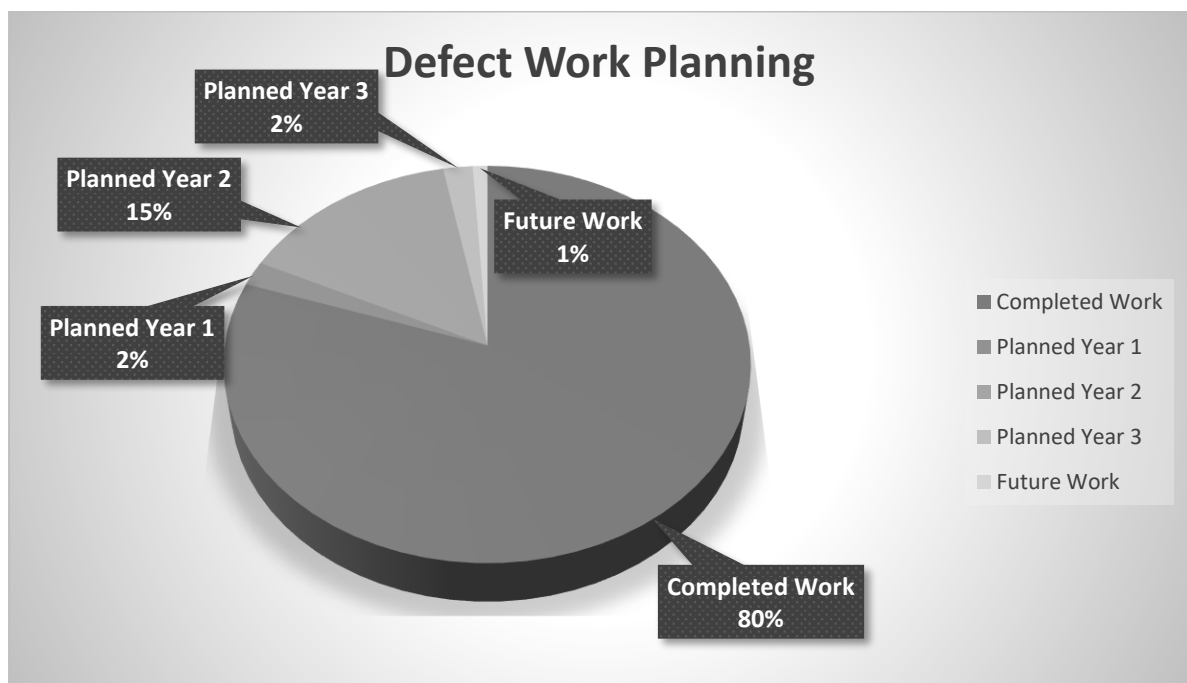
The above graph highlights a breakdown of the remaining defects from 2022-23 and 2023-24 years. The trend of defect types and percentages is similar. Vegetation on the stopbanks, and animal damage continue to be the highest contributors. Of note, up to 30 June 2024, a total of 299 defects have been closed since the asset management systems inception, with 71 still remaining open on the Aparima stopbanks.



The Aparima River has a total of 83km of stopbanks. The rural areas have 78km and the urban areas total 5km. The graph above highlights the urban and rural percentage of stopbank defects. The main defect type on the urban banks in Otautau are vegetation and are largely historic (older trees) on Southland District Council Land. Discussions are ongoing with SDC and a plan is being formulated to address these concerns. Part of the crest on the Otautau stopbanks is currently mowed by the community board. From an engineering perspective, the preference is for these banks to be mowed in the future as they protect a township and having rank grass grow can be problematic, during flood events.



The graph above highlights the Asset categories and percentage breakdown of defects.



The above graph highlights the planned defects and the preferred timing of the work, based on priority rating, budgets, scheduling of work or landowner follow-up.

River Fairway Vegetation Control Programme

Aerial spraying was undertaken covering an area of 294 ha throughout the Aparima Catchment in the 2023-24 year, focusing on grass species and pest plants within the flood fairways. In addition to the set budget, a \$15,000 contribution was received from Land Information New Zealand for the 2023/24 year. Ground spraying operations continue to focus on the re-growth and general vegetation along the river corridors and stopbank areas. Some follow-up spot spraying was also undertaken in the upper Hamilton burn catchment.

Land Drainage

Work was carried out on four of the eight outfall streams in the Aparima rating including Bayswater drain (sprayed), Thornbury tributary (sprayed) and McKay's tributary (sprayed). In addition, willow removal and erosion was undertaken over a 2 km stretch in the Otautau Stream just upstream of the township.

Budget

The budget for the 2023/24 year was set at \$570,089. As a result of the additional work highlighted above throughout the 2023-24 year, there has been a significant overspend in the river works budget.

Expenditure

The district completed the 2023/24 year with a works account balance of \$564,175, representing a total decrease of \$222,111.

Summary of the Aparima Rating District for Year End 30 June 2024

All sums exclude GST

River Works 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024		2022/23	2023/24		2024/25	2025/26
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Draft Budget
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue	Rates - General	115,122	251,942	131,981	195,016	-
	Rates - Separate	316,294	335,982	338,079	195,017	402,942
	Local Contributions Received	40,928	157,653	-	-	-
	Investment Income Alllocated	20,089	26,031	20,515	17,881	17,881
Revenue total		492,433	771,608	490,575	407,914	420,823
Expenditure	Cost of Works Insurance	11,914	17,380	15,395	15,510	15,990
	Fairway Spraying	116,437	121,275	120,053	124,080	127,920
	River Works	145,345	596,075	165,089	170,610	175,890
	Channel Maintenance	3,740	15,730	-	-	-
	Structure Maintenance	15,721	54,995	64,200	66,383	68,437
	Stopbank Inspections	231	5,450	7,571	7,828	8,071
	Depreciation Expense	-	-	2,600	-	-
	Transfer from Waimatuku Drainage District	(9,213)	(9,213)	(9,213)	(9,213)	(9,213)
	Floodwarning	31,644	31,640	31,640	32,716	33,728
	Support Costs	93,455	157,711	93,240	-	-
Expenditure total		409,275	991,043	490,575	407,914	420,823
Surplus / (Deficit) Transferred to / (from) Carry-Forwards		83,158	(219,435)	-	-	-

River Works Reserves

Carry-Forwards

Opening Balance at 1 July 2023	\$596,029
Less balance to carry forward as above	(\$219,435)
Carry-Forward Balance at 30 June 2024	\$376,594

Land Drainage					
1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024		2022/23	2023/24		2024/25
					2025/26
					Draft
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue	Rates - General	4,217	8,620	7,952	5,851
	Rates - Separate	62,666	64,795	65,199	52,658
	Investment Income Allocated	6,331	10,112	6,369	5,708
	Other External Income	7,972	-	-	-
Revenue total		81,186	83,528	79,520	64,217
Expenditure	Solicitor Fees	10,040	-	-	-
	Channel Maintenance	19,249	57,807	58,315	64,217
	Cost of Works Miscellaneous	3,750	6,092	-	-
	General Expense	770	-	-	-
	Support Costs	16,338	22,305	21,199	-
Expenditure total		50,146	86,204	79,514	64,217
Surplus / (Deficit) Transferred to / (from) Carry-Forwards		31,040	(2,676)	6	-

Land Drainage Reserves	
Carry-Forwards	
Opening Balance at 1 July 2023	\$190,257
Less balance to carry forward as above	(\$2,676)
Carry-Forward Balance at 30 June 2024	\$187,580

Lease Area Reserve	
Aparima Lease Area Balance as at 30 June 2024	\$41,360
Disaster Reserve	
Balance Disaster Reserves at 30 June 2023	\$645,536
Plus interest received	\$35,504
Disaster Reserve at 30 June 2024	\$681,041



**For now &
our future**

Funding of Community Resilience Review



Why did we undertake a council wide rates review?

To enable us to more effectively respond to a changing climate

Our compelling case for change

The current catchment rating system did not ;
support co-ordinated investment in regional resilience
allow region wide management of the river network
align with new methods and tools needed

The system of rating was a tool developed in the past to fund past work methods and infrastructure.

The benefits calculated and rated for have changed.

The recent approach is to focus more on overall community outcomes and well beings.

Parts of Flood control and resilience management and rating that we addressed

1. Funding of Riverworks (River Management)

Commitment to the CLC's and the Capacity Building project – 2018
Review the equity/benefits/cost of the classification system

2. Funding of Flood Infrastructure – Kanoa projects

No rating policy in place for new flood infrastructure

3. Funding of increased spend on deferred maintenance – defects program

No rating policy for funding floodbank maintenance

4. Funding of increased investment in staff capability and capacity for planning, managing flood resilience and flood forecasting, modelling, with a region wide approach

5. Funding of ICM, non-structural solutions – Slow the flow, soft engineering solutions

6. Funding of – Biosecurity and Land sustainability, appropriateness of using land value in 2023

We followed the required processes

Investigate and consider per Section 101(3) Funding Needs Analysis Process
Engagement and Consultation
Decision Making Process post hearings
Revenue and Financing Policy
Rates Setting Process

Our approach was guided by our financial principles which suggest our rates are affordable, equitable and certain

Plus, our method of rating needs to be

Transparent
Flexible
Fit for Purpose
Future focused



Funding Safe and Resilient Communities

We concluded with a “Funding Needs Analysis” that includes Flood protection and control as part of council’s significant activity, “Safe and Resilient Communities”.

Our work on Natural Hazards, Climate Change and Emergency Management all sit in this same group.

All but River management and Land Drainage, are funded 100% by General rate

Safe and Resilient Communities

Flood Protection & Control

This activity delivers a range of services designed to protect people, property and livelihoods. These services are:

Catchment Planning.	100% General rate
River Management.	50% general rate / 50% targeted rate moving to 100% capital value rate
Flood Infrastructure Investment. (capital)	100% region wide targeted rate on capital value
Land Drainage.	10% general rate / 90% targeted rate

- Natural Hazards and Climate Change** 100% General rate
 (includes planning, advice and response)

- Emergency Management and Response** 100% General rate

What do the Flood protection rates include now?

Flood Protection & Control

Catchment planning
rate

River management
rate

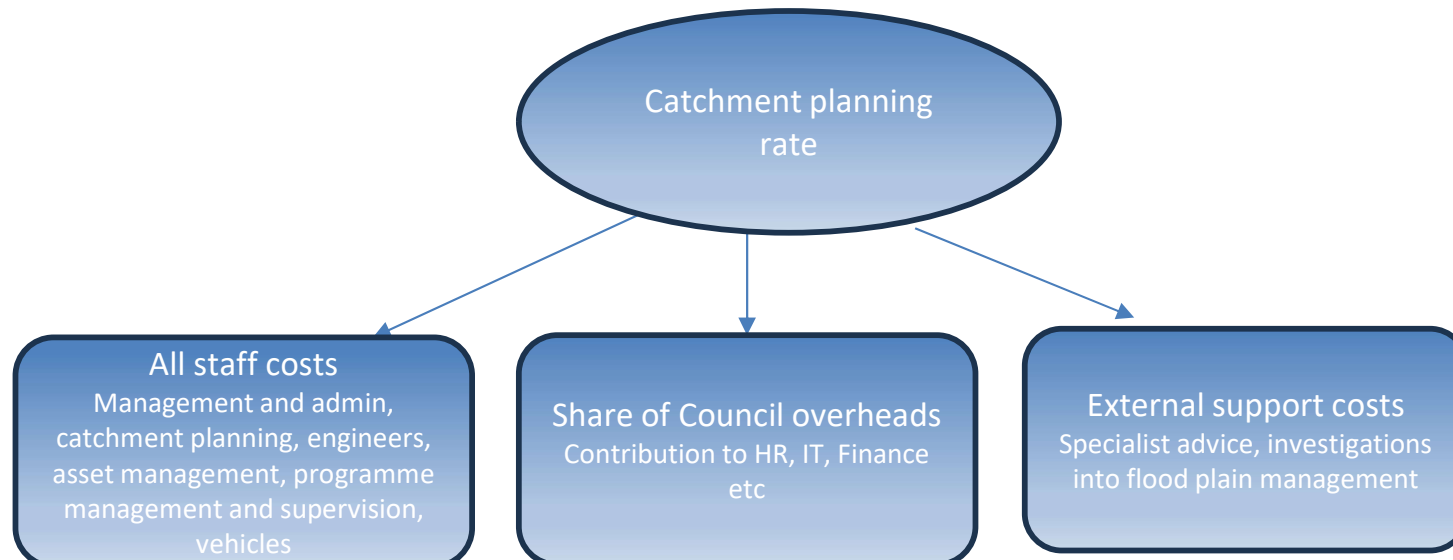
Flood Infrastructure
rate

Land drainage rate

Catchment Planning rate

Implements approaches to the use of land and water resources. It addresses community needs arising from whole of catchment resource use (e.g. gravel), plans and polices and community resilience needs arising from adverse weather.

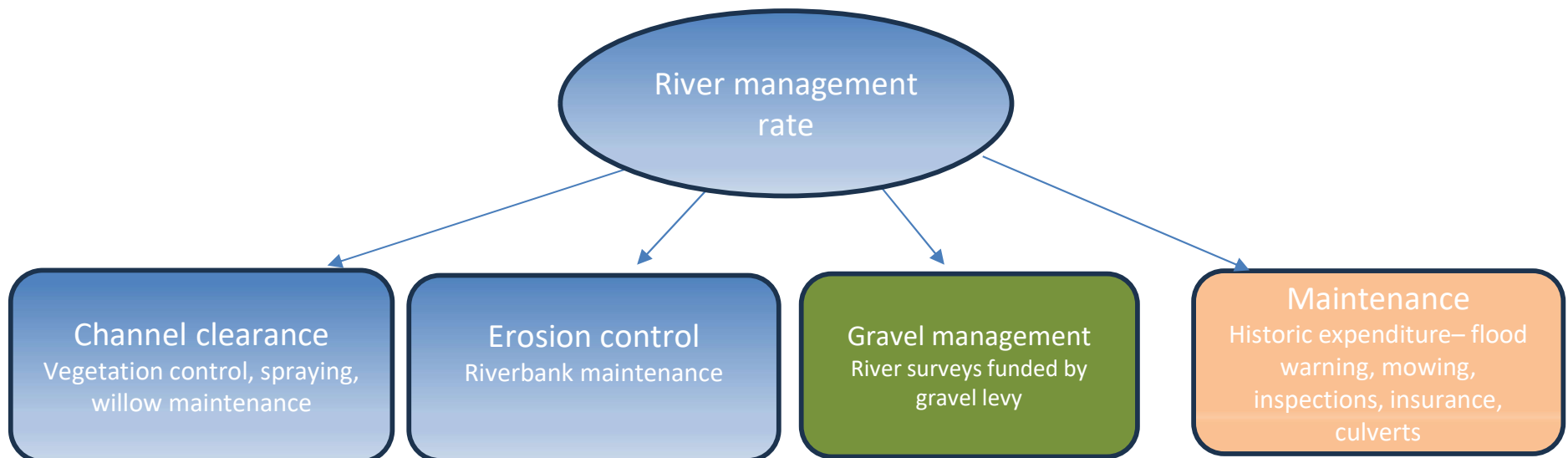
For example, managing the catchment works programmes, planning future mitigation, nature based solutions, asset management, and supporting Catchment Committees.



River Management rate

Operations services designed to maintain rivers to protect people, property and livelihoods.

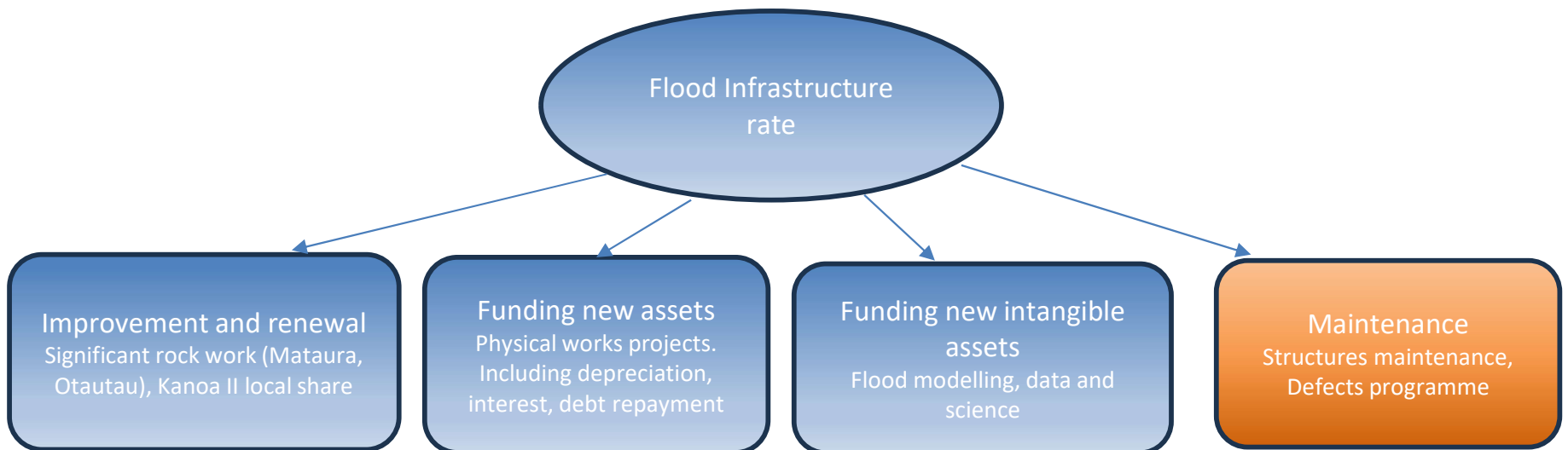
The services include routine maintenance to ensure adequate fairway width, enhancement work to improve access and monitoring stability and alignment of rivers, through river cross section surveys, gravel surveys etc.



Flood Infrastructure Investment rate

Activity delivers new and improved “assets” to mitigate consequences of adverse weather events.

Flood infrastructure investment delivers new construction, the improvement and renewal of existing assets and the maintenance of flood protection assets



We ended up with the following decisions (page 126 LTP Revenue & Financing Policy)

1. Funding of Riverworks (River Management)

Agreed on capital value basis, increased gen rate % share, Waiau remains same
delayed completion until further consultation in 2024.25



2. Funding of Flood Infrastructure – Kanoa projects

Agreed new region wide rate on capital value – Flood Infrastructure
Investment rate – partly funded by Leasehold land surpluses



3. Funding of increased spend on deferred maintenance – defects program

Included in new Flood Infrastructure rate – partly funded by reserves in
first 4 years



4 Funding of increased investment in staff capability and capacity for planning, managing flood
resilience and flood forecasting, modelling, with a region wide approach

All staff and overheads included in Catchment Planning activity, 100% general rate



5. Funding of ICM, non-structural or soft engineering solutions

Included in Catchment Planning activity, 100% general rate



6. Funding of – Biosecurity and Land sustainability

Agreed to transition to capital value over 2 years



What were the important outcomes we achieved ?

Valuable discussions across the community on the importance of flood resilience

Significant increase in funding for flood resilience through the LTP

- increased investment in staff capacity and capability

- \$500k per annum funding for deferred flood bank maintenance, increasing over time

- \$1.2m per annum (3 years)for flood modelling to inform Floodplain Management design

- \$8m of capital investment in Years 2 & 3

New rating policies to support the above were developed and agreed.

- The new rating policies “share the cost of integrated flood plain management” more evenly across the region.

Council responded to the cost of living crisis and requests from submitters, by using reserves to reduce the proposed rate increase and implementing a transitional rate change policy over 2 years.

The final rates impact by rates category

Land use	Increase rate % proposed in CD	Final rate % increase
Residential	27%	17%
Rural	12%	6%
Commercial	65%	32%
	23%	13%

Councils' decision during deliberations, to use reserves to reduce rates, resulted in a rate increase of 13% vs the proposed 23%.

The introduction of a transition proposal for the rate policy changes, reduced the impact on ratepayers with higher capital values, those not paying catchment rates and those paying very little for land sustainability and biosecurity.

The final rates impact by rating districts

Rating districts	Increase rate % proposed in CD	Final rate % increase
1745 - Aparima Rating District	13%	7%
1750 - Invercargill Rating District	27%	15%
1755 - Makarewa Rating District	16%	8%
1765 - Mataura Rating District	13%	7%
1770 - Oreti Rating District	12%	9%
1775 - Te Anau Rating District	24%	18%
1800 - Waiau Rating District	31%	16%
No River Rate	51%	25%
Grand Total	23%	13%

The rural rating districts, already paying substantial rates for catchment, land sustainability and biosecurity rates, saw lower overall increases.

Ratepayers outside current catchments, “No River Rate”, had a rate increase of 25% overall, compared to the proposed rate increase of 51% for the same group.

The final rates impact by capital value across the region

All ratepayers Environment Southland					
Property value	% of properties	Average total rates 2024.25	Average increase \$	Average per week \$ incr	Average increase %
<\$450,000	55%	\$ 290	\$ 14	\$ 0.27	5%
\$450,000 - \$649,000	20%	\$ 425	\$ 59	\$ 1.13	16%
\$650,000 - \$849,000	9%	\$ 540	\$ 87	\$ 1.68	19%
\$850,000 - \$1,049,999	4%	\$ 655	\$ 123	\$ 2.36	23%
\$1,050,000 - \$1,249,999	2%	\$ 773	\$ 148	\$ 2.85	24%
> \$1,250,000	10%	\$ 3,114	\$ 377	\$ 7.26	14%
	100%	\$ 647	\$ 73	\$ 1.41	13%

- 84% of all properties had a rate increase of < \$1.68 per week
- The median property, \$450,000 had a rate increase of \$0.63 cents per week
- Individual rate changes varied dependent on location and land value /capital value

Council decisions impacting catchment rates, surpluses and reserves

1. The movement of staff and overhead costs from River Management and Land Drainage activities to Catchment Planning, removed \$1.3m of annual costs from targeted rates.

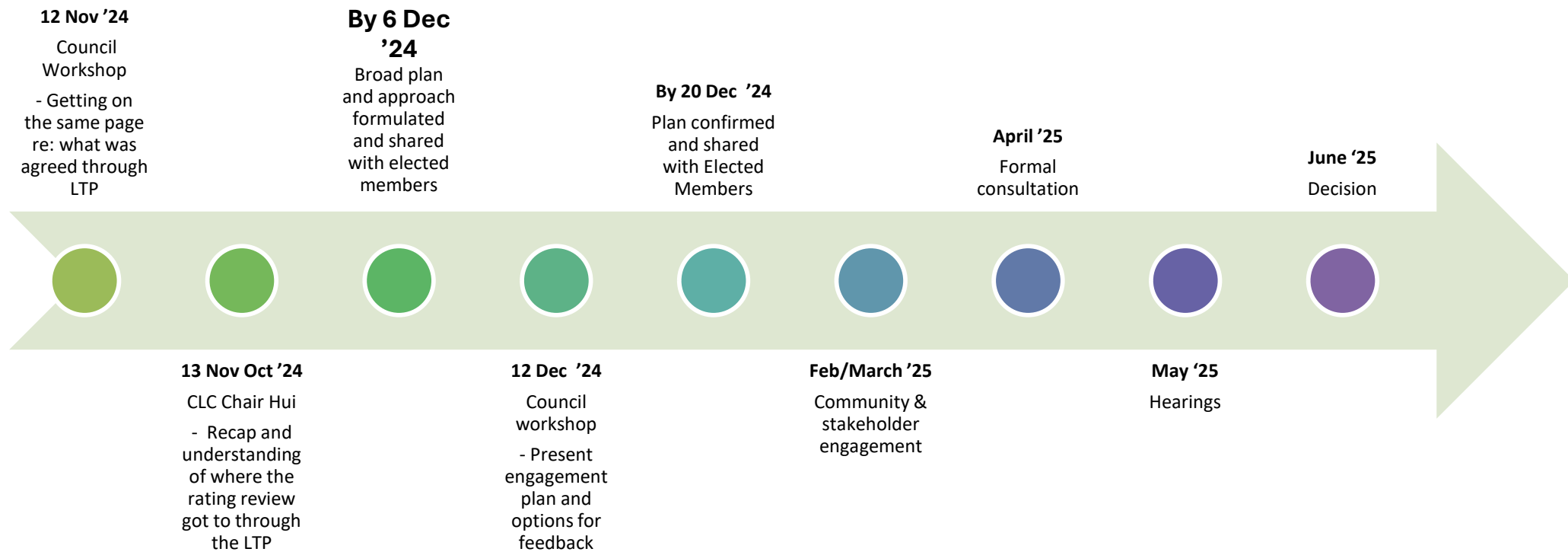
2. Council resolved to use \$450,000 per annum of leasehold surpluses to partly fund the new Flood Infrastructure activity.

3. Council resolved to clarify that river and drainage reserves generated within a catchment would remain in that catchment.

4. After consultation with Catchment Liaison committees, council resolved to use Lease hold reserves as shown, within the first 4 years of the LTP.

Table 1: Reserve use in Years 1 to 4 of the Long-term Plan					
Reserve type	Proposed use in \$000k (variance from Consultation Document)				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Lease Area Reserves					
Ferry Road	300	275	200	75	850
Ōreti		100	100	75	275
Mataura	220	300	250	100	870
Waihōpai			100	50	150
Otepunī			100	100	200
Accumulated Surpluses					
Biosecurity	200	200	200	100	700
Land sustainability	200	200	200	100	700
Asset Reserve	6	237	186	374	803
TOTAL	926	1,312	1,336	1,074	4,548

Phase 2 Rating Review – Proposed timeline





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Climate Resilience Projects Update

Climate Resilience Projects

- Te Anau - \$500k for improving the integrity of the flood banks and the hydraulic efficiency of the flood fairway (project has 2yr timeline)
- Aparima - \$500k for improving the integrity of the Otautau flood banks and improving the hydraulic efficiency of the flood fairway (project has 1yr timeline)
- Oreti - \$5 million for improving the integrity of the true left flood banks and improving the hydraulic efficiency (project has 3 years' timeline)

Projects

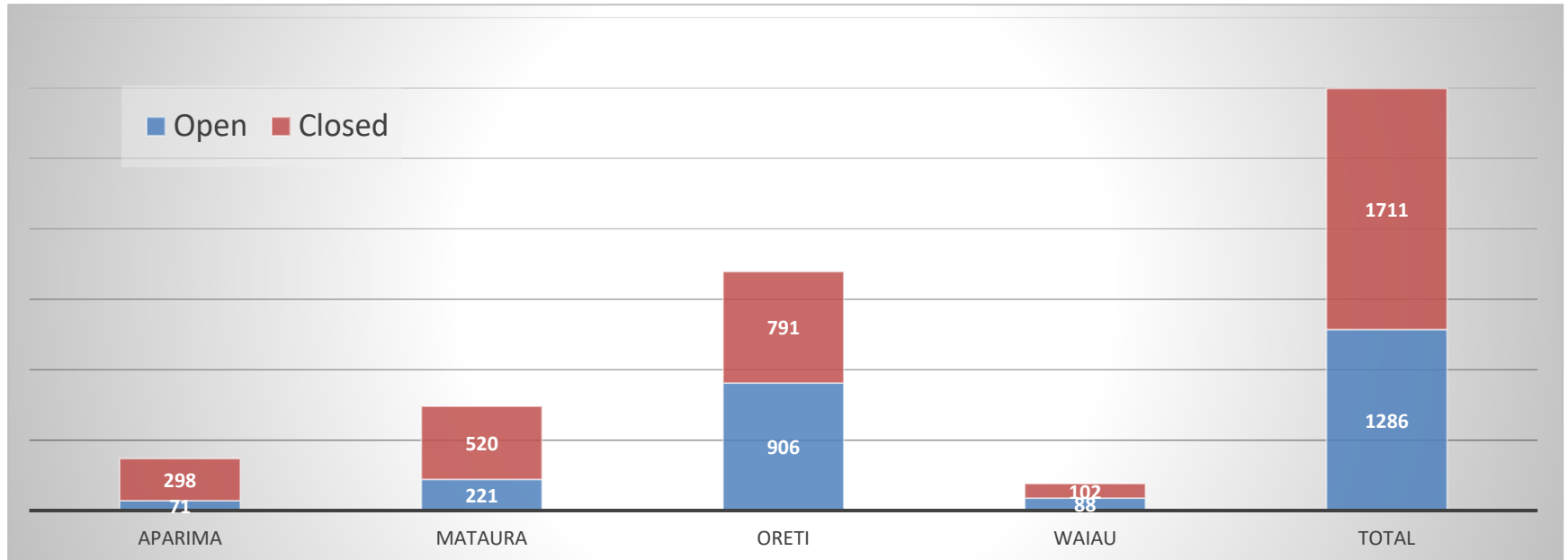
- Mataura Catchment flood bank repair budget \$220k - Mimihaui flood bank at Wyndham.
- Waimumu flood bank west of Mataura township has toe erosion. Looking at options of moving flood bank back and rock lining the toe.
- Oreti Catchment flood bank repair \$330k budget allocated to fix defects.
- Waituna flood bank stabilisation work \$45k budget land-owner to match.
- Invercargill garden/trees/stump removal off banks \$70k.

A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a river winding through a lush green valley. In the background, a range of mountains with patches of snow is visible under a clear blue sky.

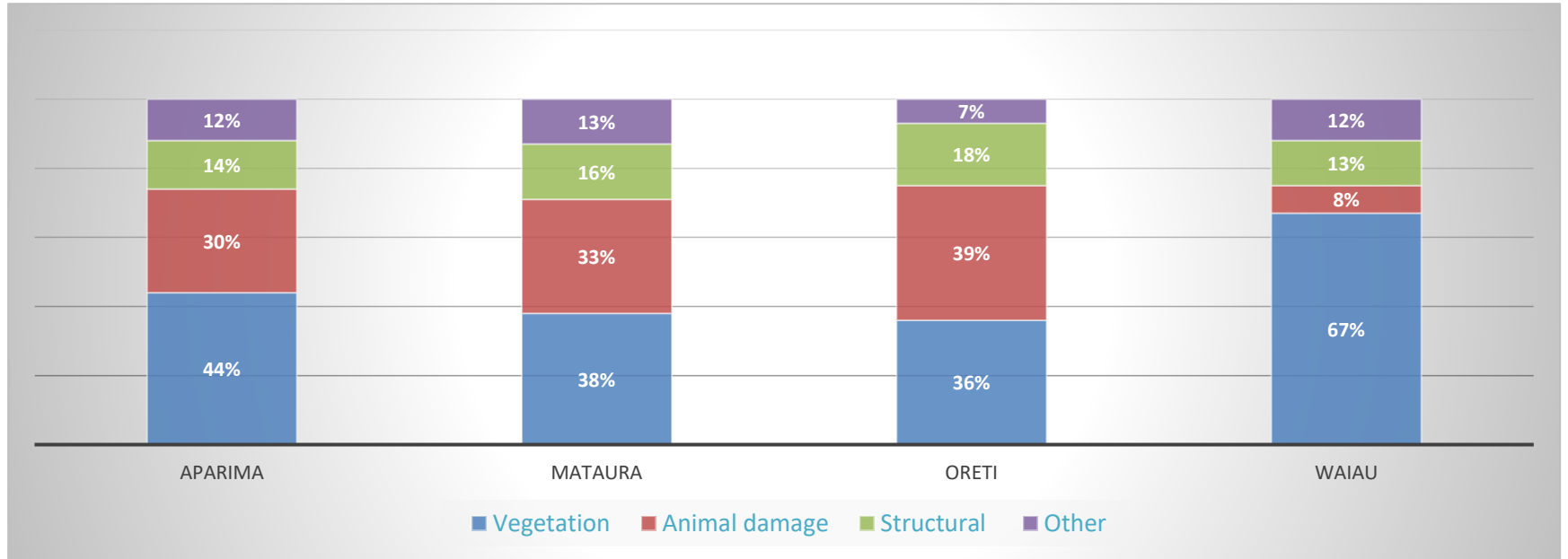
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Asset Inspections/Defects Update

Flood bank defects update



Main defect type





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Gravel Update

Towards Strategic Gravel Management

- *Towards Strategic Gravel Management* is a technical working report to inform the discussion on Southland's gravel management approach. It 'outlines a series of scientifically led strategic principles and recommendations that should underpin and inform gravel management in Southland's rivers'.
- <https://www.es.govt.nz/environment/hazards-and-protection/gravel-management-in-southland>

Report Recommendation	Environment Southland action to December 2023	Environment Southland (ES) action to November 2024
<p>The need for reliable information on the gravel load of Southland’s rivers to create gravel budgets.</p>	<p>Bathymetric LiDAR has been piloted on the Mataura. Additional funding is needed and has been requested through the 2024-27 Long-Term Plan.</p>	<p>Funding was secured. ‘Southland Rivers Geomorphic Assessments - a framework and Mataura River example’ are due mid-2025, including gravel budgets.</p>
<p>The need for a holistic approach to gravel management.</p>	<p>ES is transitioning work to have an integrated catchment focus. The draft Long-Term Plan suggests the use of Integrated Floodplain Management Plans to understand all possible options for reducing flood risk.</p>	<p>Case studies are being used to engage expertise across different disciplines. The purpose of the case studies are to develop a risk-based approach to flood risk management, which will guide river management options development and analysis.</p>
<p>Further studies on how channels respond to vegetation lock-up in Southland and the viability of using gravel management options intended to ‘unlock’ channels include bar top (beach) skimming.</p>	<p>The report highlights several trials already carried out by ES. Further trials are being planned, including a focus on ecological values.</p>	<p>A consent for a reach on the Lower Oreti is being progressed.</p>
<p>In the long-term, allowing the river room to erode will increase the geomorphic and habitat diversity in the river corridor and improves resilience in the face of increased flood magnitudes.</p>	<p>Floodplain management will create the opportunity to explore options for re-engaging the floodplain.</p>	<p>Re-engaging floodplain is one of the mitigation options being explored through the Murihiku Slow the Flow Project. This mitigation option that could be explored in collaboration with the community.</p>
<p>A collaborative approach to problem-solving.</p>	<p>In early 2024 ES invited the ‘Gravel Working Group’ to recommend steps towards strategic gravel management.</p>	<p>The Gravel Working Group has held four meetings since February. The group includes representatives from ES, Te Ao Mārama, Fish & Game, Department of Conservation, Southland District Council, and Catchment Liaison Committee Chairs.</p>
<p>A phased approach is needed, and communities will need time to appreciate and understand the changes in practice.</p>	<p>Staged approaches are being planned for both freshwater management and the floodplain management plans. Community engagement is fundamental to this approach, and ES is committed to working with the community to identify and implement solutions. <small>Page 46</small></p>	<p>A Gravel Management Strategy will be drafted in 2025 providing short, medium and long-term options for gravel management. The strategy’s first phase will refer to ES’s management options related to flood risk. This will be shared with the community for further discussion.</p>