

Our Reference: A1187690

28 November 2024



**The Members  
Makarewa Catchment Liaison  
Committee**

***Notice of Meeting***

The **Annual General Meeting of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee** will be held on **Thursday, 28 November 2024** in the **Hedgehope Hall, Hedgehope from 1.00pm - 3.00pm**. Light refreshments will be available.

**Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Terms of Reference (attached) Page 2
4. Confirmation of Minutes of the 25 March 2024 meeting (attached) Page 5
5. Matters arising
6. Chairperson's report Page 11
7. Appointment of Committee and Membership — see list of members (attached) Page 12
8. Catchment report (attached) Page 13
9. Financial report – 2023/24, update on 2024/25, and proposed 2025/26 (attached)
10. General Business:
  - Future work programme
    - i. Update rating review Page 16
    - ii. Climate resilience projects update Page 32
    - iii. Asset Inspections/defects update
  - Bylaw review process
  - Gravel Update

Julie Freeborn and Polly Hudson  
**Co-Chairs**

# Terms of Reference

## Makarewa 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 Makarewa 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:

*Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee quorum - 3*

#### *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 Makarewa Catchment Liaison  
Committee Annual General Meeting, held at  
Hedgehope Hall, Hedgehope on  
Monday, 25 March 2024, at 1.30 pm.**

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<b>Present:</b>	Ms P Hudson	(Makarewa) <i>(Co-Chair)</i>
	Ms J Freeborn	(Makarewa) <i>(Co-Chair)</i>
	Mrs D MacPherson	(Makarewa)
	Mr R MacPherson	(Makarewa)
	Mr D Frew	(Makarewa)
	Mr B Allen	(Makarewa)
	Mr J McKenzie	(Makarewa)
	Mr W MacPherson	(Makarewa)
	Mr M Thomson	(Makarewa)
	Mr G Stevenson	(Makarewa)
	Ms B Stevenson	(Makarewa)
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Chairman Horrell	(Environment Southland)
	Ms S Thorne	(Thriving Southland)
	Cr J McPhail	(Environment Southland)
	Cr P McDonald	(Environment Southland)
	Mrs T Hawkins	(Chief Financial Officer)
	Mr P Pollard	(Team Leader, Catchment)
	Ms Ali Meade	(Biosecurity & Biodiversity Operations)
	Mrs F Young	(Catchment Integration)
	Mr K Finlayson	(Catchment Integration)
	Ms E Lawton	(Catchment Integration)
	Jody Lloyd	(Finance)
	Mrs A Flynn	(Personal Assistant – Minutes)

**1 Welcome (*Haere mai*)**

Co-Chair Ms Freeborn welcomed attendees, councillors and staff to the meeting and commented how great it was to see such a good turnout.

Attendees were invited to fill out their addresses to give to Ms Lloyd so rates estimate could be calculated based on the proposed rates review.

## 2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

**Resolved:**

**Moved Mr M Thomson, seconded Mr W MacPherson, that apologies were recorded on behalf of Mr F Weatherburn, Ms C Van Sante, Mr J Shuurmans, Mr P Ruddenklau, Ms A Wadworth, Cr Ludlow.**

**Carried**

## 3 Terms of Reference

It was noted that the Terms of Reference was last updated in 2019 in line with the adoption of the Long-Term Plan. There may be tweaks made to it in order to capture what is in this year's LTP. It was suggested that some suggested changes can be emailed out to committee members after July 2024.

## 4 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of 20 February 2023

**Resolved:**

**Moved Mr W MacPherson, seconded Ms P Hudson that the minutes of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meeting held on 20 February be confirmed as a true and accurate record.**

**Carried**

## 5 Chair/Co-Chair Report

Ms Freeborn provided the following co-chair report:

- Focus is on the infrastructure strategy and rates review.
- Draft copies of the LTP will be emailed out to committee members –it is expected to be formally adopted at the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 27 March 2024 with potentially a public meeting at the end of April 2024 to give time for public discussion before consultation.
- Closure on dross enquiry which was raised four years ago (see letters attached with the agenda) and thank you to Sarah Thorne and Mark Thomson for the Thriving Southland input.
- The Integrated Catchment Management team will present an update on gravel.
- Questions will be addressed at the end of each item and any other questions can be discussed at the end.

## 6 Matters Arising – New Vale/Goodwin

Mrs Young spoke to the following:

- Acknowledged the time that has elapsed regarding this issue
- The catchment team has identified small amount of dross and has done some monitoring.
- There is no issue from a science point of view and ES may do more monitoring in the future.
- Mrs Young thanked the group for patience on their on this matter.

Mr W MacPherson talked about the deposits of dross that come from the Fonterra plant at Edendale:

- He has been trying to get lignite ash from Fonterra for years as it is very high in organic sulphur and is a valuable fertiliser.
- He has started to see some movement with Fonterra supplying him ash to trial and put to good use.
- Instead of dumping it we can turn it into a valuable asset but we need to get rules the changed by MPI. After working with them for over two years this is now coming close to fruition and thinks the problem will be solved with very little cost.

## 7 Appointment of Committee and Membership

Cr McDonald assumed the Chair. Cr McDonald called for nominations for the position of Chair/Co-Chair of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Mr Thomson, seconded Ms MacPherson that Ms Freeborn and Ms Hudson be elected to the position of Co-Chairs of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee.**

Carried

## 8 Financial Report – 2023/24 and proposed 2024/2025

Mrs Hawkins spoke to the Draft Budget for the 2024/25 year presentation slides, and the Draft Budget as circulated in the agenda, noting the following:

- Makarewa’s budget is quite straight forward.
- The gaps are because of the proposed change in the ratings system.
- ES is working through the infrastructure strategy and rate changes.
- The best and most efficient use of the money is to keep it in the catchment budget not the regional budget.
- The numbers have increased due to inflation so change is to reflect that.

There was a discussion regarding the legalisation that needs to be done in terms of properties, for example, the main river on Channel Road. How can you spend money on something that isn’t legalised? NZ Land Services has done work on this regarding people’s boundaries. It’s an opportunity to work with other agencies to change this. Maybe we could work with the working group to do some collective thinking on this.

Another discussion point was the possibility of using the Makarewa special fund towards a local project, for example deer control. It was noted that this was worthy of future discussion.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Ms Freeborn and seconded Mr Thomson that the Financial Report 2023/24 be noted and proposed 2024/25 budget be adopted.**

Carried

## 9 Catchment Report

Mr P Pollard presented the Catchment Report including an update on future river works and areas in need of attention:

- Willow clearance on the SH6 has made an immediate improvement – a question was raised regarding silt in the river remaining for considerable time after rainfall and whether this work is responsible for that. It was noted that this was unlikely.
- There are a lot more intense events happening more and more such as bank damage.

It was noted that this was an excellent report and that ES is getting a good handle on long term problems with the willows.

## 10 Thriving Southland Update/catchment reports from Mid and Lower Oreti, Hedgehope and Makarewa Headwaters

Mr Thomson presented a Thriving Southland update, which included the following:

- Activities such as Kowhai Reach - community connection to create planting events with schools.
- Lower gorge project – to extend planting facilitated by a grant from Westpac Landcare with the vision to reinstate the riverbank to make it look how it was before human intervention.
- A nursery was also established using this grant too.
- Another major undertaking is a revival project to reinstate the original ecosystem which is being threatened by deer which are reproducing in high numbers despite hunting efforts. The full report can be found on the Thriving Southland website.

A question was raised as to where Environment Southland stands regarding the overrun of deer. Chairman Horrell explained that this is currently not on our pest radar but we are moving more towards it and acknowledged that something needs to be done.

Ms Meade added that the reason we don't have deer in the plan is because it is managed by the Animal Control Act administered by the Department of Conservation. Ms Meade advised that Environment Southland will be reviewing this over the next few years. Mr Thomson stated that the Department of Conservation has been in the conversation from the beginning but that it currently does not have the funds to help.

Ms Thorne also provided an update for Thriving Southland which covered the following activities:

- Mini Forest Movement – a self-funded project to get native plants in the ground
- Winton stream catchment online platform for landowners to put in sediment traps – field day on 10 April.
- Understanding the land to drive change.
- Environment Southland award for improving water quality.

## 11 General Business

- a) Long-Term Plan 2024-34
  - i. Infrastructure Strategy 2024-54

Ms Lawton spoke to the infrastructure strategy and explained that it makes up a core piece of the LTP, it is a 30-year document to plan our assets and it's not the only thing we are spending money on. The key points are:

- Flood protection scheme – undertake a thorough review and deliver on what we're saying we're going to deliver on. We are building Infrastructure for up to 100 years.
- Defects and maintenance programme – there are lots of defects on the books - 1459 in total. Condition scores slide. We rely on people letting us know these issues.
- We want to give people the same level of service within the Infrastructure Strategy



- Change of landowner is also an issue as they might not understand the importance of stopbanks.
- We need to improve our data and understand it better, for instance Makarewa has lost flow capacity due to increased vegetation.
- We need to identify key high-risk areas and improve flood carrying capacity.
- These are big projects of work and cost a considerable amount of money.
- Capital Works Programme – building new infrastructure and maintaining the existing infrastructure – we may get assistance from central government on this.
- We need data and science to back up what we should do – science-based decision making to help understand the effects, which includes better understanding of climate change.
- A major flood will no doubt increase to one in 50 years as opposed to one in 100 years and levels of service will reduce.

Mrs Hawkins spoke about the LTP and that this year we have three consultations:

1. Revenue and Finance Policy
2. LTP budget changes
3. Fees and charges

ii. Mrs Hawkins went on to discuss the proposed rates review and covered the following:

- The major proposal is the move to capital value rates across Southland and sharing costs across Southland both geographically and financially
- Instead of 140 rates, there will be one.
- By moving to capital value, it is spreading it out over the region, there are two parts to this, one is the budget is going up and the second is the rate change to share rates out differently.
- Capital value reflects the earning capacity of the property and the commercial value of the property too.
- It is recommended that people use the feedback form to provide a submission on this.

Other key points included:

- Changes will be to commercial properties – 31% increase.
- Rural properties will reduce by 8%.
- We have achieved the middle ground plus or minus \$20.
- Catchment chairs have been involved in this conversation from the start.
- Environment Southland is proposing one rate but seven budgets.
- Environment Southland wants the committee to approve the work programme at the beginning of the season, not at the end.

iii. Other matters

- The need to do more to maintain resilience in a changing climate.
- Infrastructure – the future of investment. Let's all get together for future benefit. It will give each community an opportunity to see what we can do.
- Current operating budget will stay the same but can access money for other things.
- We are coming back to a catchment focus.
- To increase operating expenditure in flood infrastructure by \$2.3m per year.
- Proposal to borrow funds to invest in flood infrastructure over next ten years, assuming that 75% will be government funded.

b) Showcasing the catchment presentation by Catchment Integration

Ms Young, Mr Finlayson and Ms Meade presented on what is going on across the catchment, and included the following:

- Goals for southland – healthy environment, safe and resilient communities, thriving region.
- Biodiversity – protecting native species and the environment – as part of Covid recovery projects we have \$400k that we can give out in grants.
- Biosecurity – lots of pests and issues. New pests to the region include wallabies
- Other species to watch out for are Old Man’s Beard, Reed Sweet Grass, Purple Loosestrife.
- Other considerations – RPMP, climate change.
- Southland riparian project.
- Waituna.
- Murihiku Slow the Flow.
- PCT.
- Gravel – moving toward a strategic gravel plan. There is a national focus on this but we need to understand it from a catchment perspective. Environment Southland is talking more broadly with stakeholders and there will be a community wide meeting coming up soon.

Other matters that were raised:

- Dumping of garden waste around rivers – this will become a problem if we don’t keep on top of it.
- Camoline white daisy is becoming a major problem in some areas.
- Intensive Winter Grazing – there is an opportunity to put some good news stories out about dairy farmers.
- Fish from the Winton Bridge to Queenstown – the quality of the trout are in the best condition than they have in years. Lots of whitebait in the rivers. More eels than ever.

## 12. Termination

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 4.40pm

## **Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee Chairpersons Report - November 2024**

It has only been a matter of months since our last AGM, but it has been necessary to change the timing of the Catchment Liaison Committee AGM's in order to better align with the setting of Environment Southland's budgets for individual catchments.

Since our April AGM, Julie and I have attended meetings at Environment Southland regarding the Long-term Plan Consultation Document and rates review and discussion around that generated from the community consultation process. A new rating structure is now underway taking into account the feedback from the consultation regarding affordability concerns and essentially breaking up the full proposed rates increase into stages.

We also attended a special meeting regarding the use of lease area reserves to offset rate increases, these lease areas are within the Oreti, Maitara and Aparima catchments and the proposal was to use the Reserve funds to fund deferred maintenance in those areas relating to the Reserve – so staying within those particular catchments.

With regards to the Makarewa catchment, willow clearance, protection against bank erosion and stop bank inspection and maintenance has been continuing on and the general feeling is that there has been some good work completed and more underway in areas of concern. The committee has commented previously on the excellent level of communication with Paul Pollard and his team regarding ongoing river works.

At a recent Regional Services Committee meeting there was quite a bit of discussion around stop bank maintenance and landowner responsibility. It is clear that in most cases there is a good level of cooperation between landowners and Environment Southland regarding maintenance of stop banks, particularly as it is in the best interest of both parties to have flood protection and prevention structures working well. Unfortunately there are also cases where there is complete disregard for the rules and regulations around stop bank maintenance, which then badly compromises the structures leading to future failure which can have devastating consequences. Flyers are sent out annually to landowners to remind them of their obligations around stop banks but also as a community we can help reinforce the message.

As co-Chairs of the Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee, Julie and I have found the experience extremely informative, we have attended many meetings with our fellow Catchment Chairs and Environment Southland councillors and staff and have enjoyed making new connections and gaining a valuable insight into the role of the liaison committees. We would now like to see someone else from the committee to consider taking on this role, not just for the valuable learning opportunity - but most importantly for the Makarewa Liaison Committee that we continue to have a voice for our catchment community.

Finally I would just like to acknowledge what an incredibly challenging season this has been for the farming community, with unprecedented rainfall, chronic feed shortages and cold, wet conditions for both calving and lambing. Having to constantly watch the river level for potential flooding as well as coping with all the above certainly adds another layer of stress. This again highlights the essential need for effective channel maintenance and we can all do our bit by informing Paul Pollard and his team if problems arise.

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

<b>Name</b>
<b>Julie Freeborn and Polly Hudson, Co-Chairs Makarewa Liaison Committee</b>
Bill Allen
Grant Barrie
George Buckingham
Peter Clinton
John & Rhonda Cowie
George & Stewart Donald
Richard Evans
Dan Frew
Rebecca Jamieson
Mark Janssen
Mandy Johnston
Denise McPherson
Warren McPherson
Peter McDonald
Jim McKenzie
Ryan and Jenny McKinnel
Jeremy McPhail
Paul Ruddenklau
Jeroen Schuurmans
George Stevenson
Mark & Elspeth Thomson
Sarah Thorne
Dale Turnock
Cattelijne Van Sante
Alexis Wadworth
Nick Wadworth
Findlay Weatherburn
Selwyn Wills
Russell MacPherson

## **Makarewa Catchment Rating District 2023/24** *(Compiled by Paul Pollard, Team Leader - Catchment)*

The Makarewa Catchment Rating District has a responsibility to maintain 140 km of mainstream channel, 50 km of drainage channel, 20 km of rural floodbanks and associated structures. It had income of \$392,148 for the 2023/24 year.

### **Works Activity**

#### **1. Anticipated River Works**

A major flood occurred in September 2023 and caused some damage at various locations in the catchment. It was the second highest stage but only the fourth highest flow at the Counsell Road recorder which is approx. 3.8 km above the SH6 bridge. The likely cause of the stage being higher in comparison to previous event flows is the presence of old willow trees on the riverbanks which are slowing the water and causing it to head up. Contractors have commenced removing the willows below SH6 over the past two years to help reduce the incidences of floods cutting access across the approaches to the SH6 bridge and will progress upstream in future years as budgets allow.

Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and the Oreti Lease Reserve have contributed funding to the work below the highway which has been greatly appreciated but the work upstream of the highway bridge will need to be funded from the Makarewa river works budget.

Work in the 2024 – 2025 year will involve maintenance in the Titipua and Hedgehope streams, repair of isolated flood damage and replacement of three aging culverts on the Otapiri and Hedgehope streams.

#### **2. Drainage Maintenance**

Drainage maintenance was carried out on six of the 27 drains that make-up the land drainage component of the Makarewa Rating District.

#### **3. Stopbank Inspections**

The Makarewa stopbanks are inspected once a year, usually in July/August.

### **Expenditure**

A total of 1,820 tonnes of rock was carted to three locations in the catchment.

A total of 81 days was spent in the catchment repairing erosion, removing willows and repair of flood gates

Contractors also planted a total of 200 native trees for erosion control at various locations in the catchment.

The Makarewa Catchment Rating District ended the 2023/24 year with a credit works account level of \$211,342.

## Summary of the Makarewa Rating District for Year End 30 June 2024

All sums exclude GST

<b>River Works</b>						
<b>1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024</b>		<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>		<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Draft Budget</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	Rates - General	79,227	114,571	79,880	122,854	-
	Rates - Separate	191,379	211,311	211,009	122,855	253,413
	Local Contributions Received	30,050	-	-	-	-
	Insurance Recoveries	6,125	-	-	-	-
	Investment Income Allocated	3,554	6,375	3,600	3,186	3,186
<b>Revenue total</b>		<b>310,335</b>	<b>332,257</b>	<b>294,489</b>	<b>248,895</b>	<b>256,599</b>
Expenditure	Cost of Works Insurance	2,362	3,733	3,582	4,630	4,774
	River Works	8,660	15,008	-	-	-
	Channel Maintenance	223,497	284,596	219,605	227,072	234,099
	Tree Planting	549	6,294	-	-	-
	Structure Maintenance	3,157	5,836	6,700	6,928	7,142
	Cost of Works Miscellaneous	495	1,912	1,000	1,137	1,173
	Floodwarning	8,832	8,828	8,828	9,128	9,411
	Support Costs	46,587	49,707	54,773	-	-
<b>Expenditure total</b>		<b>294,139</b>	<b>375,913</b>	<b>294,488</b>	<b>248,895</b>	<b>256,599</b>
Transfer From Oreti Leasehold Reserve		-	69,477	-	-	-
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) Transferred to / (from) Carry-Forwards</b>		<b>16,196</b>	<b>25,820</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>River Works Reserves</b>	
<b>Carry-Forwards</b>	
Opening Balance at 1 July 2023	\$106,190
Plus balance to add to carry forward as above	\$25,820
<b>Carry-Forward Balance at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>\$132,010</b>

<b>Land Drainage</b>					
<b>1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024</b>		<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Draft</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Budget</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Revenue	Rates - General	4,944	3,531	6,063	5,932
	Rates - Separate	50,622	52,771	52,695	53,390
	Investment Income Allocated	1,840	3,589	1,872	1,643
<b>Revenue total</b>		<b>57,405</b>	<b>59,891</b>	<b>60,630</b>	<b>60,965</b>
Expenditure	Channel Maintenance	35,970	21,878	35,700	40,530
	Structure Maintenance	-	-	18,000	20,435
	Cost of Works Miscellaneous	-	2,048	-	-
	Support Costs	13,469	11,387	6,930	-
<b>Expenditure total</b>		<b>49,440</b>	<b>35,314</b>	<b>60,630</b>	<b>60,965</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) Transferred to / (from) Carry-Forwards</b>		<b>7,965</b>	<b>24,577</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Land Drainage Reserves</b>	
<b>Carry-Forwards</b>	
Opening Balance at 1 July 2023	\$54,755
Plus balance to add to carry forward as above	\$24,577
<b>Carry-Forward Balance at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>\$79,332</b>

<b>Makarewa Special Fund</b>	
Balance Special Fund at 30 June 2023	\$115,321
Plus interest received	\$6,343
<b>Makarewa Special Fund at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>\$121,664</b>
<b>Disaster Reserve</b>	
Balance Disaster Reserves at 30 June 2023	\$186,014
Plus interest received	\$10,231
<b>Disaster Reserve at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>\$196,245</b>



**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

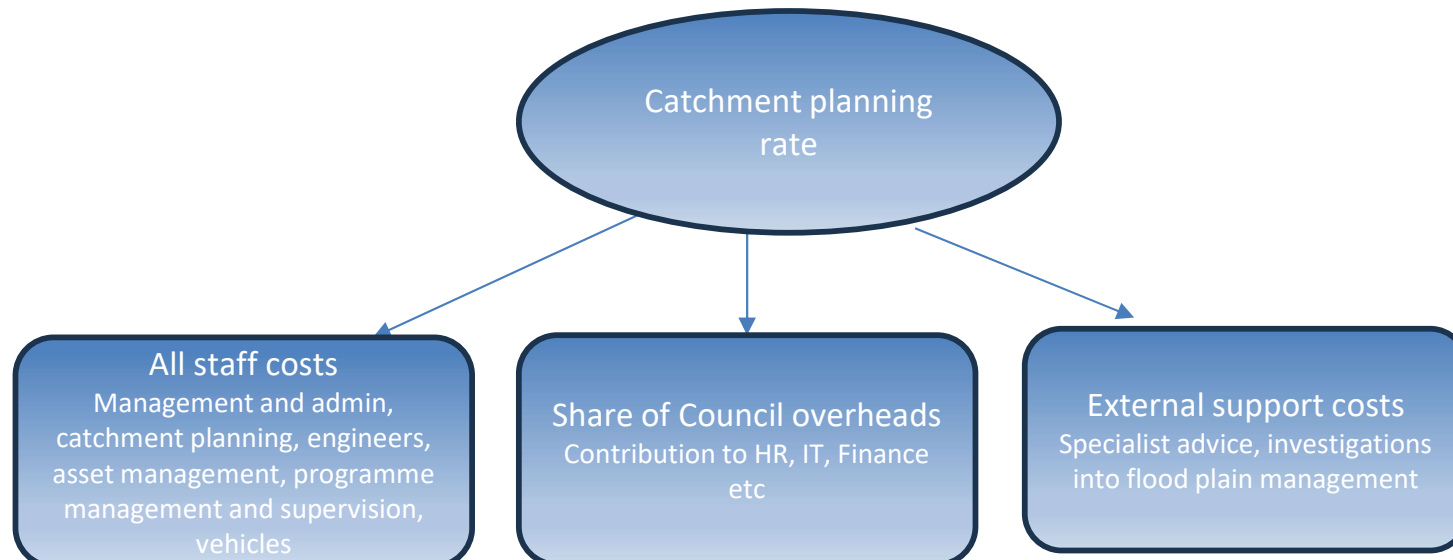
Flood Infrastructure  
rate

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.

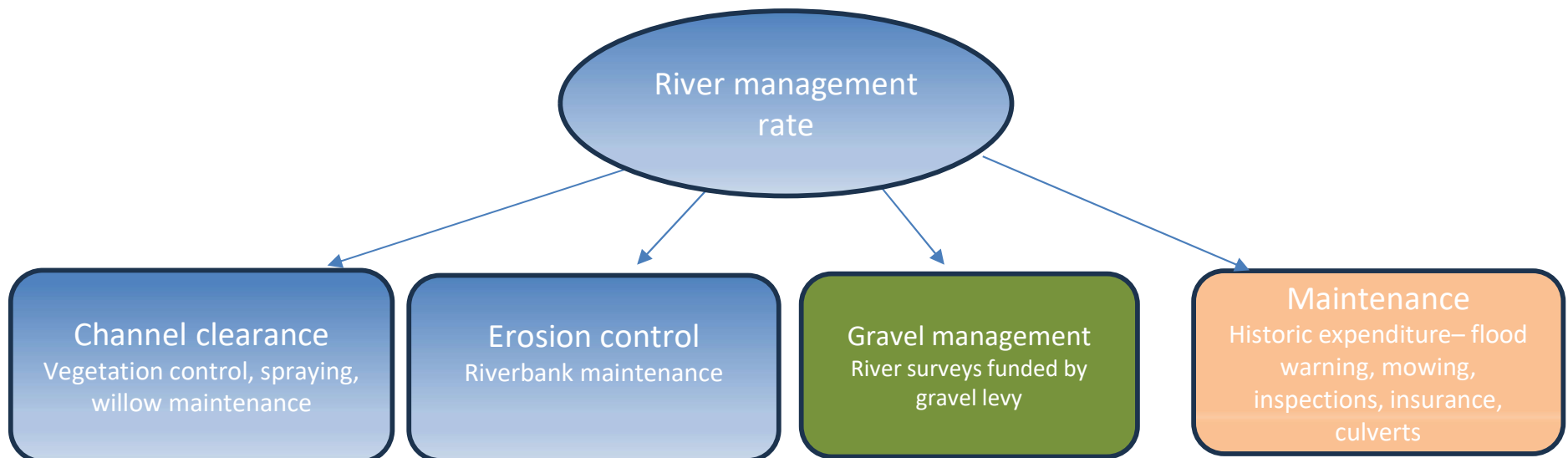
For example, managing the catchment works programmes, planning future mitigation, nature based solutions, asset management, and supporting Catchment Committees.



## River Management rate

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

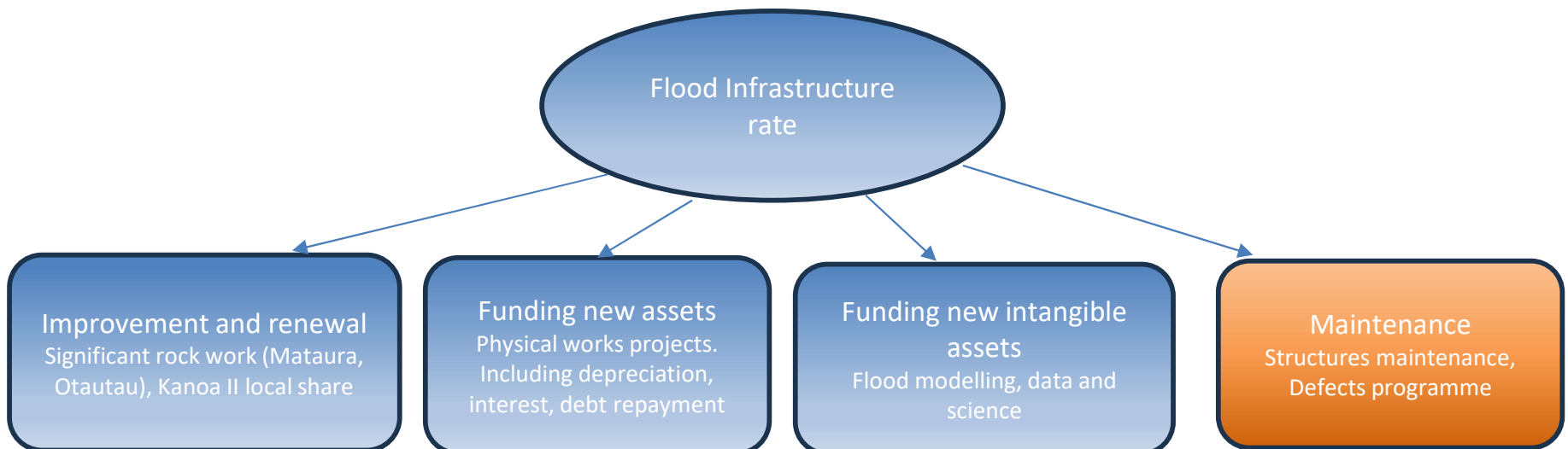
The services include routine maintenance to ensure adequate fairway width, enhancement work to improve access and monitoring stability and alignment of rivers, through river cross section surveys, gravel surveys etc.



## 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%
<b>Grand Total</b>	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.

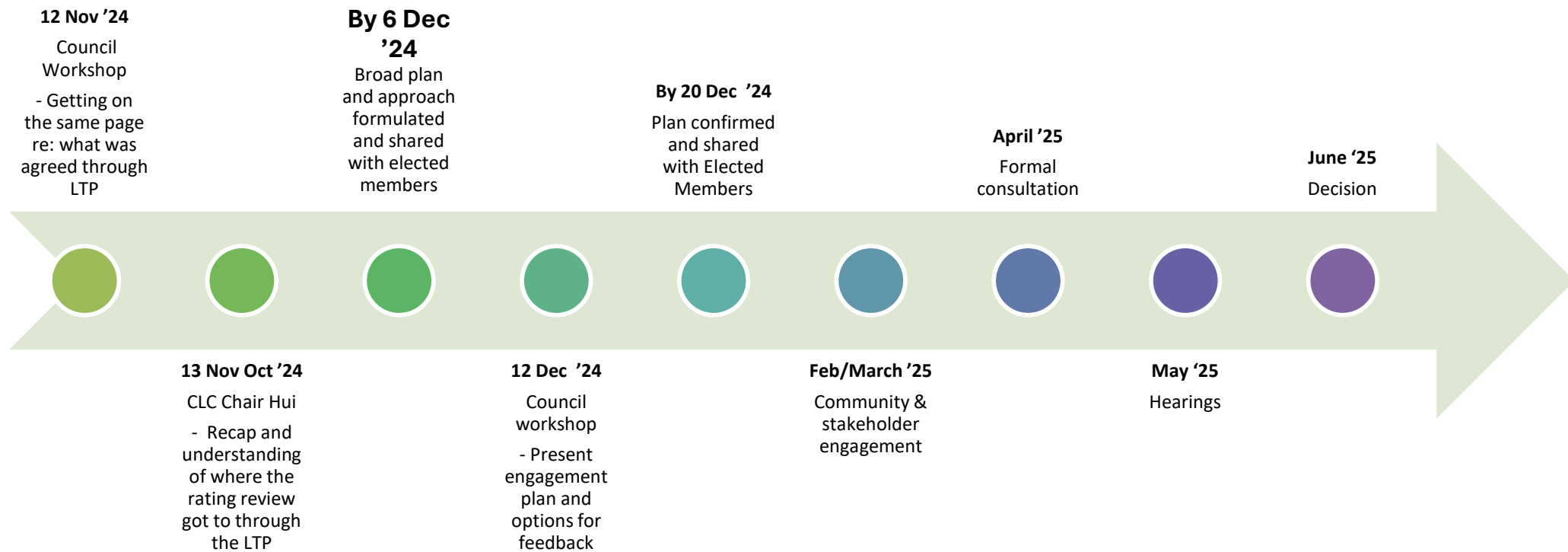
2. Council resolved to use \$450,000 per annum of leasehold surpluses to partly fund the new Flood Infrastructure activity.

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
<b>Lease Area Reserves</b>					
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
<b>Accumulated Surpluses</b>					
Biosecurity	200	200	200	100	700
Land sustainability	200	200	200	100	700
<b>Asset Reserve</b>	6	237	186	374	803
<b>TOTAL</b>	926	1,312	1,336	1,074	4,548

# Phase 2 Rating Review – Proposed timeline





**For now &  
our future**

# 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

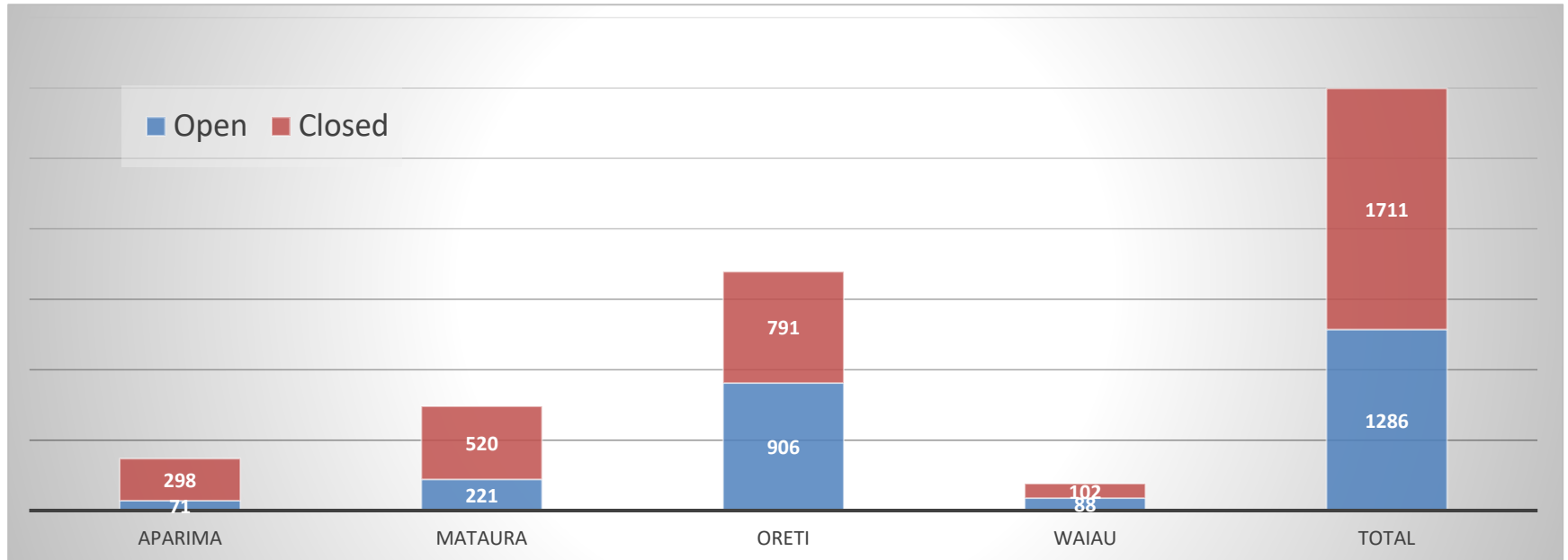
- Mataura Catchment flood bank repair budget \$220k - Mimihaui flood bank at Wyndham.
- Waimumu flood bank west of Mataura township has toe erosion. Looking at options of moving flood bank back and rock lining the toe.
- Oreti Catchment flood bank repair \$330k budget allocated to fix defects.
- Waituna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



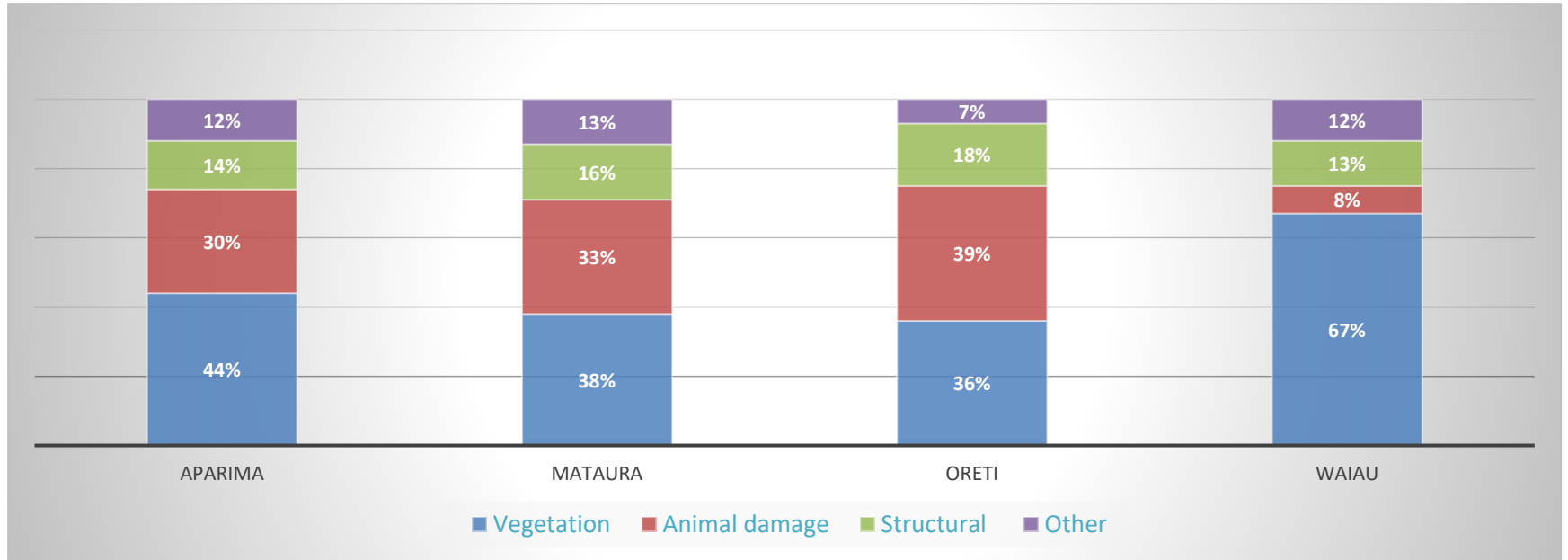
**For now &  
our future**

# **Asset Inspections/Defects Update**

# Flood bank defects update



# Main defect type





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our future**

# 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 &amp; 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 40</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>