

Our Reference: A1187694

29 November 2024



The Members
Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee

Notice of Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee** will be held on **Friday 29 November 2024** at the **Gorge Road Clay Target Club, 13 Waituna Lagoon Road, Kapuka South, from 9.30am - 11.30am**. Light refreshments will be available.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Terms of Reference (attached) Page 2
4. Confirmation of Minutes of the 23 April 2024 meeting (attached) Page 5
5. Matters arising
6. Chairperson's report
7. Appointment of Committee and Membership — see list of members (attached) Page 10
8. Catchment report (attached) Page 11
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 17
 - ii. Climate resilience projects update Page 33
 - iii. Asset Inspections/defects update
 - Bylaw review process
 - Gravel Update

Carl McCrostie and Trevor Tatham
Co-Chairs

Terms of Reference

Waituna 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 Waituna 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:

Waituna 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 Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee
Annual General Meeting, held at the
Gorge Road Clay Target Club,
13 Waituna Lagoon Road, Kapuka South
Tuesday 23 April 2024, at 1.00 pm.**



Present:	Mr E Pirie	(Co-Chair)
	Mr C McCrostie	(Co-Chair)
	Mr H Amtink	
	Mr J Ballantine	
	Mr L Ballantine	
	Mr R Botting	
	Mr N Haan	
	Ms K Stanley	
	Mr T Tatham	
	Mr T Tatham (Jnr)	
	Mr M van Rossum	
	Mrs W van Rossum	
	Mr M Waghorn	
In Attendance:	Ms T Millar	(Thriving Southland)
	Mr C Duncan	(Fonterra)
	Cr P McDonald	(Environment Southland)
	Cr J Pemberton	(Environment Southland)
	Mrs T Hawkins	(Chief Financial Officer)
	Mr D Connor	(Team Leader, Catchment)
	Mr C King	(Works Supervisor)
	Mr N Perham	(Partnerships Manager, ICM)
	Ms A Raymond	(Senior Land Sustainability Officer)
	Ms P Bulling	(Team Leader Biodiversity)
	Ms J Lloyd	(Team Leader Corporate Reporting)
	Mrs M Wass	(Personal Assistant – Minutes)

1 Welcome and Chairman's Report (*Haere mai*)

The co-Chairs Mr Pirie and Mr McCrostie welcomed the attendees to the meeting and spoke to their Chairman's Reports, which highlighted the following:

- An outline of the maintenance programme – Triannual clean (The main Waituna channel had only be cleaned as far as Badwick Road due to budget constraints. The remainder of the main channel and all side channels would need to be completed within the next financial year).
- Bank stabilisation – expended budget on three properties (two McCrostie properties at Mokotua and the McSwag property) – The McSwag's had advised they would continue the operation at their own expense.
- Sediment pond on the Jordan – Figures had been released from the survey work done on sediment levels.

- 800 metres of erosion control work had been done – acknowledged and gave thanks to those involved.
- Involvement in some of the Environment Southland Long-Term Plan workshops. The workshops have been centred around developing policy and a rating system to fund current and future climate resilience through an infrastructure strategy and floodplain management. Moving to capital value rating system. It was noted that the liaison committee chairs have forwarded their concerns to Environment Southland for consideration and submission forms would be available for individuals to make submissions on the Long-term Plan.

Resolved:

Moved Mr R Botting, seconded Mr N Haan that the co-chairs report be received.

Carried

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

Resolved by Consensus:

That apologies be recorded on behalf of Mr L McCallum, Ms G Munroe, Mr K Crack, Ms J Crack, Mr R McCrostie, Mrs J McCrostie, Mr G Herbert and Ms N Paterson

Carried

3 Terms of Reference

It was noted that the Terms of Reference, circulated with the agenda, were provided for information purposes and were not to be considered an agenda item.

4 Confirmation of Minutes of meeting of 17 February 2023

Amend the title of W van Rossum to ‘Mrs’ in the present section of the minutes.

Resolved by consensus:

That the minutes of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meeting held on 17 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

5 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

7 Appointment of Committee and membership

Mr Ewen Pirie noted that he would be stepping down as co-chair of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee. The committee thanked him for the work he'd done as co-chair over the years.

Mr Connor assumed the Chair. Mr Conner called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee.

Resolved:

Moved Mr E Pirie, seconded Mr T Tatham (Jnr) that Mr C McCrostie be elected to the position of co-chairman of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee.

Carried

Resolved:

Moved Mr C McCrostie, seconded Mr L Ballantine that Mr T Tatham (Jnr) be elected to the position of co-chairman of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee.

Carried

Mr McCrostie called for nominations for the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee.

Resolved by consensus:

That the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee comprise of Mr L Ballantine, Mr R Botting, Ms G Munroe, Mr N Haan and Mr K Crack, and that the committee have the authority to co-op other members in the future.

Carried

8	Catchment Report
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Mr Connor spoke to his presentation which gave an overview of the previous season of work as well as upcoming work in the Waituna area. (A copy of the presentation slides would be available on file). He highlighted the following:

- Bank stabilisation work on multiple properties. (McSwag being one, who agreed to carry on the work at their own expense).
- Erosion control work using a mixture of full rock, 'rocking' inside bends only and minimal/no rock on different areas. Information on what sites 'held up' the best would be helpful when creating future river management plans.
- DOC had removed the logs that were put in the Waituna as a trial to encourage fish. The results from the trial would be released in a report.
- Waituna lagoon opening – asked at short notice under emergency powers to open the mouth of the lagoon, Multiple committee members and Council were

involved in the work plan and it made for a very successful opening. A report on the situation would be available once a review had been completed.

Mr Connor spoke to his presentation which gave an overview of the flood protection situation in southland and the immediate priorities. He also noted the asset improvement programme and how defects were prioritised.

9 Financial Report – 2022/23 and proposed 2023/2024

Mrs Hawkins spoke to the financial report (presentation slides would be available on file) and noted that the overhead and staff costs would not be charged out to individual catchments anymore and would come directly from the regional budget. It was proposed that the general rate in the River Works budget be removed from all catchment liaison committee budgets and instead be spread out evenly across the entire region as a flood infrastructure rate. The Long-term plan consultation outlined further information and included a proposal to moving to capital value rating.

Discussion took place and it was clarified that staff would still be noting where time was being spent, however it wouldn't be charged separately to each budget. It was suggested that staff time still be recorded and included as part of the financial report to future Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee AGM's for transparency.

Resolved:

Moved C McCrostie, seconded Mr N Haan, that the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee Meeting approve the draft 2024/25 drainage budget.

Carried

10 General

Long-term Plan 2024-34

Cr McDonald gave an overview of the high-level points for the infrastructure strategy and LTP matters:

- He noted that any feedback to the long-term plan was encouraged, whether it was for or against - If there were alternative suggestions then please also include those.
- Moving to capital value rating system (as part of the rating review) which bases rates on capital value instead of land value, ensuring an even spread of rates over the whole region, instead of having smaller pockets of the region with larger rate increases than others;
- 30 year strategy – general focus on flood protection scheme review and levels of service and prioritising urban flood protection;
- Meteorological phenomena where there will be heavier rainfall and higher flow rates that will last longer - climate change would add another layer;

Mrs Hawkins explained the proposal for an infrastructure strategy rate. (Her

presentation would be available on file) The presentation highlighted:

- Three consultations under the long-term plan – rates changes, budges changes and fees & charges.
- Review of catchment rates had been undertaken beforehand and feedback from the catchment liaison chairs had been used to form the proposal. (noted that not all chairs were in agreeance)
- 140 catchment rates becoming one rate, based on capital value – will have a different impact depending on the ratio of land value to capital value. Taking away classifications and moving biosecurity and land sustainability rates into a general rate.
- If Regional Council didn't change the way they rate now, then future increases would fall on a small group of people.
- Doesn't affect drainage rates, as there would need to be a review on the drainage rate in the future.
- She noted that members in attendance would receive an estimate of their properties rates increase following the meeting.

The co-chairs noted that the committee needed more time to consider the proposal and encouraged everyone to submit individually or as a group, through the Long-term Plan process.

Showcasing the catchment

Ms Bulling gave a presentation on the additional things that were happening in the catchment. A copy of her presentation would be kept on file. She highlighted the following:

- Environment Enhancement Funding for special ecological projects.
- Check, Clean, Dry – vessel messaging for freshwater.
- Biosecurity pests that are prevalent including 'Heather'; and some that could come to Southland and become a risk, including Wallibys.

Sediment traps

Mr Duncan from Fonterra shared with the group the results of the sediment trap monitoring on Martins place. He noted large amounts of sediment from the six tiles they had put in. From the top end on the southern side there was approximately one metre, in the middle half a metre and at the front end 20 centimetres. Moving to six monthly monitoring. A small amount of gravel was at the top end but mostly sand and moving forward, finer material.

11 Termination

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 3:51pm.

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

Name
Carl McCrostie and Trevor Tatham Co-Chairs Waituna Liaison Committee
Gerrit Amtink
Jeff Ballantine
Lindsay Ballantine
Rex Botting
Nan Pieter de Haan
Cain Duncan
Ray & Janette McCrostie
Blair McKenzie
Tessa Miller
James Montgomery
Gay Munro
Jonathan Pemberton
Bevan & Michelle Pirie
Ewen Pirie
Karen Stanley
Maarten Van Rossum
Murray Waghorn
Karen Welsh

Waituna Lagoon Opening (by David Connor Team Leader Catchment)

Previously there have been at least four locations along the Waituna lagoon that have been considered and used for mechanical openings to the sea. These sites include Walker's Bay, Charlie Hansen Bay, The Fence, and the Eastern End. The Waituna Control Association has previously held the consent to open the lagoon. The more favoured site of recent times has been Walkers Bay. A resource consent application for opening the lagoon has been lodged.



22 Jan 2024

Environment Southlands Catchment Operations team were tasked with opening the lagoon under the RMA Emergency powers, due to deteriorating ecological conditions. Catchment staff utilized local knowledge and the services of a retired staff member, to assist in the planning. Two options were considered namely "The fence" and "Walkers Bay" sites. Following an assessment of the 'pros and cons' of both sites, a decision was made to undertake a mechanical opening at "The Fence". The last time the lagoon was opened at "The Fence" was in 1972.

The rationale for opening at this location, on this occasion was a more significant build-up of material at the Walkers Bay site, the site is further away to track machinery and the lagoon levels were also lower (1.4m) than they have been for previous mechanical openings. This meant that there was more work required to successfully undertake the opening such as moving more material and cutting into a known deeper channel.

Additionally, it was considered that this could have been more difficult at the usual Walkers Bay site due to the low lagoon level, looser material and the additional depth needed, which raised Health and Safety concerns. It was also noted that if the depth was not reached at the Walkers Bay site, the Lagoon may not have stayed open for as long. In terms of the duration of the opening it was recommended at least 2 months and the resulting cut was open to the sea for 60 days. Catchment Operations have provided input into the consent application and suggested any future consent enable flexibility across possible opening sites.

Note in the Waituna budget (2023-24) General expenses costs of \$11,002 for the opening were to be transferred from Waituna lease reserves. Photo below highlights the Waituna Opening at "The Fence" in January 2024.



Waituna Bank Stabilisation (by David Connor Team Leader Catchment)

Eroding banks in Waituna Creek have been recognised as one of the main contributors of sediment entering the receiving environment by the Catchment Operation teams' observations.

The Waituna bank stabilisation rate was first initiated by Catchment operations staff in 2020. The idea was to help local landowners in the Waituna rating District reduce land loss from high water events, whilst also helping reduce sediment into the receiving environments of Waituna Stream and Waituna Lagoon.

Around 50 Waituna landowners were approached for their feedback on a proposed new rate to cover erosion control works. Environment Southland received their feedback in April 2020 and a new targeted rate option was subsequently adopted.

Bank stabilisation work is now discussed annually (pre-work and onsite) by the Waituna Liaison Committee, interested ES councillors and staff, to plan where and how the coming years funds will be utilised. It has to be noted that there are differing views at times on the stabilisation techniques/expenditure, but to date there has generally been a consensus reached before the work begins. The messaging has also been to accept that these are trials to ultimately come up with the most cost-effective solution for reducing land loss, benefits to the receiving environment while improving flood capacity. It is also hoped that these trials may benefit other areas of Southland.

The rate has been running for four years and four properties throughout the Waituna rating district have received work, using various methodologies of bank stabilisation.

2021-22:

The Botting property had sediment removed from the substrate and overhanging banks stabilised throughout an eroded section. An engineered approach using rock rip rap along the top true left bank to the substrate with a 2:1 batter was agreed to and undertaken. It was also noted that established plantings on the north side were deflecting the waterway into the adjacent bank adding to erosion. The landowner was asked to trim the trees back. As the landowner farmed cattle, it was strongly recommended a fence be put up to keep stock out. Benefits were a very stable bank and stock fence put up. Cons were the expense of the rock purchase, cartage and placement of rock, some criticisms of over engineered approach, we also noted some reduction in channel flood capacity. Photo below highlights bank erosion on the true left bank.



Photo below looking upstream on the Botting property to the above site above after bank stabilisation. It is fenced off and starting to re-grass



2022-23:

Following an initial discussion and through consultation with stakeholder groups, different ideas were trialled instead of an all-rock approach. This was agreed to by all parties. The next property to receive work was the McCrostie property during the 2022-23 year. (Photo below highlighting a site on McCrostie property pre-work).



The landowner was happy to trial bank stabilisation without the use of quarried rock. Sediment was removed from the substrate, inside bend aggradation, and overhanging from eroding banks was removed at selected sites. Sediment was placed back on banks to fill the gaps and create the batter. Grass is then applied to provide scour resistance.

Photo below highlights a site on the McCrostie property just after the bank stabilisation work.



Positives noted were, the costs were a lot less, as no quarried rock was utilised, and it didn't take much time to complete. Negatives to this approach were future freshes started to build up materials on the inside bends causing erosion on the outside bends that had no rock protection. Of note four loads of rock were needed to tidy the erosion up post-work. Note it may have also been more beneficial to take more off the inside bends to allow for more space however the topography and cost would have been more substantial.

2023-24:

With the McSwag property it was suggested and later agreed that fences be moved back, bank overhang removed, a 2:1 batter, sediment removed from the substrate and the outside bends rock. Photo below highlighting a section of slumping/eroding bank pre-work.



Photo below highlighting a 2:1 batter construction on McSwag property



The McSwag property brought into the concept even further and contributed an additional \$60,000 of their own funds to bank stabilisation on the property.

Observations to date:

- that the concept of giving the river more space by constructing a 2:1 batter gives more flood capacity,
- likely reduces water speed and therefore helps settle some sediment
- It would be beneficial to move fences back on inside bends so that banks can be stabilised, and/or a flat deposition area could be added to catch sediment at these set points.
- The inside bend deposition point could act similar to a sediment trap and reduce the need for cleaning the whole channel therefore reducing costs and disturbance
- Outside bends should generally be rocked to reduce bank erosion/undercutting in the Waituna system which has high incised banks.
- While it is accepted that these are only field observations, we believe it is important that different ideas are being trialled with a key focus also being on landowner understanding and buy in.

A photo below showing rock rip- rap placed on the corner at McSwag property



Waituna Creek Drainage District		Actual 2023/24	Budget 2023/ 24	Budget 2024/25
		\$	\$	\$
Opening surplus at 1 July 2023		49,546	49,546	7,471
Revenue	Rates - General	18,230	10,633	8,988
	Rates - Separate	95,412	95,423	80,892
	Local Contributions Received	62,502	-	-
	Investment Income Allocated	837	1,597	1,486
		176,981	107,653	91,366
Expenditure	Channel Maintenance	55,894	41,275	45,453
	Bank Reconstruction Maintenance	124,498	41,693	45,913
	General Expenses	11,708	-	-
	Direct & Support Costs	52,704	24,686	-
		244,805	107,654	91,366
Transfer from Lease Area		10,807	-	-
Closing deficit as at 30 June 2024		7,471	49,545	7,471



**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 (includes planning, advice and response)	100% General rate
Emergency Management and Response	100% General rate

What do the Flood protection rates include now?

Flood Protection & Control

Catchment planning
rate

River management
rate

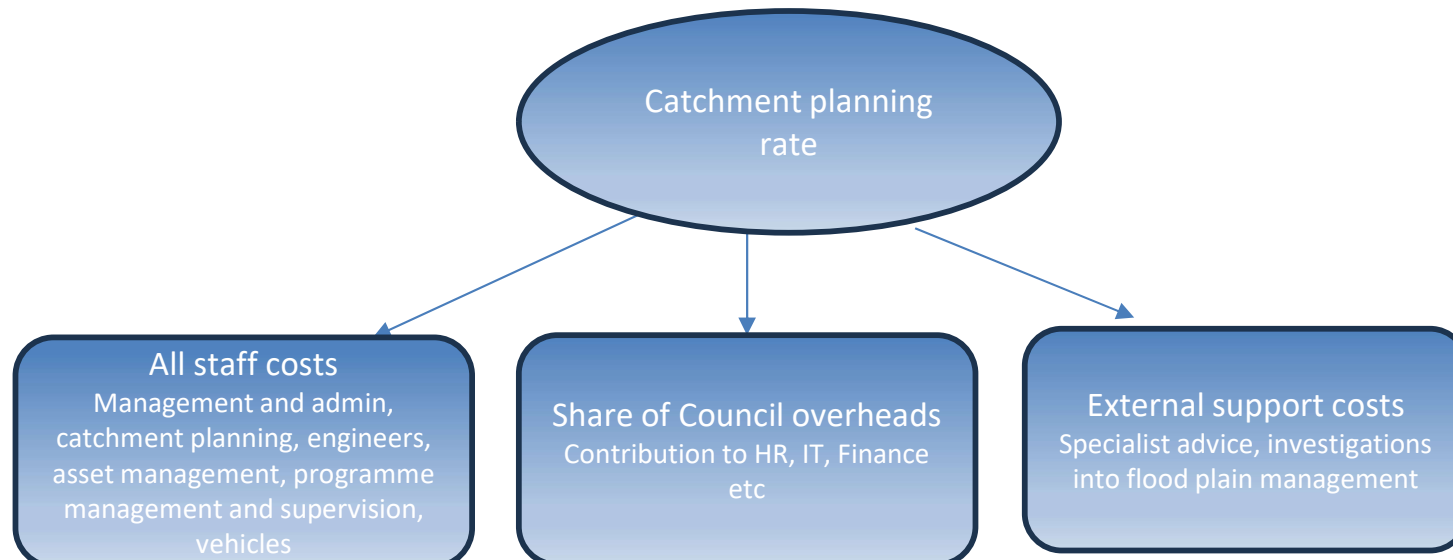
Flood Infrastructure
rate

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.

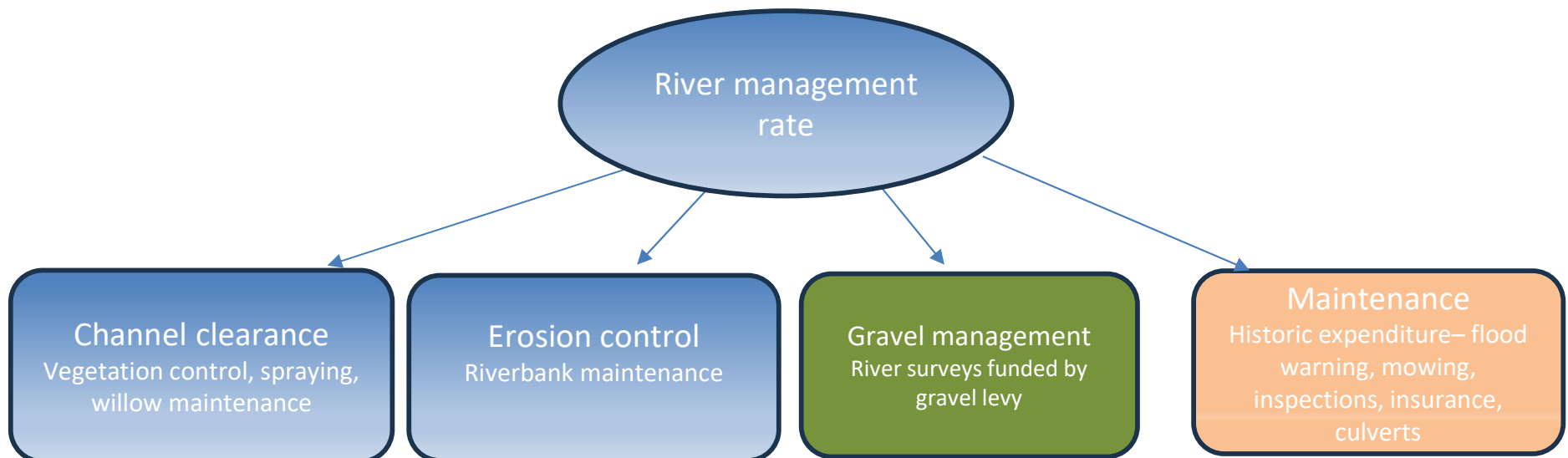
For example, managing the catchment works programmes, planning future mitigation, nature based solutions, asset management, and supporting Catchment Committees.



River Management rate

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

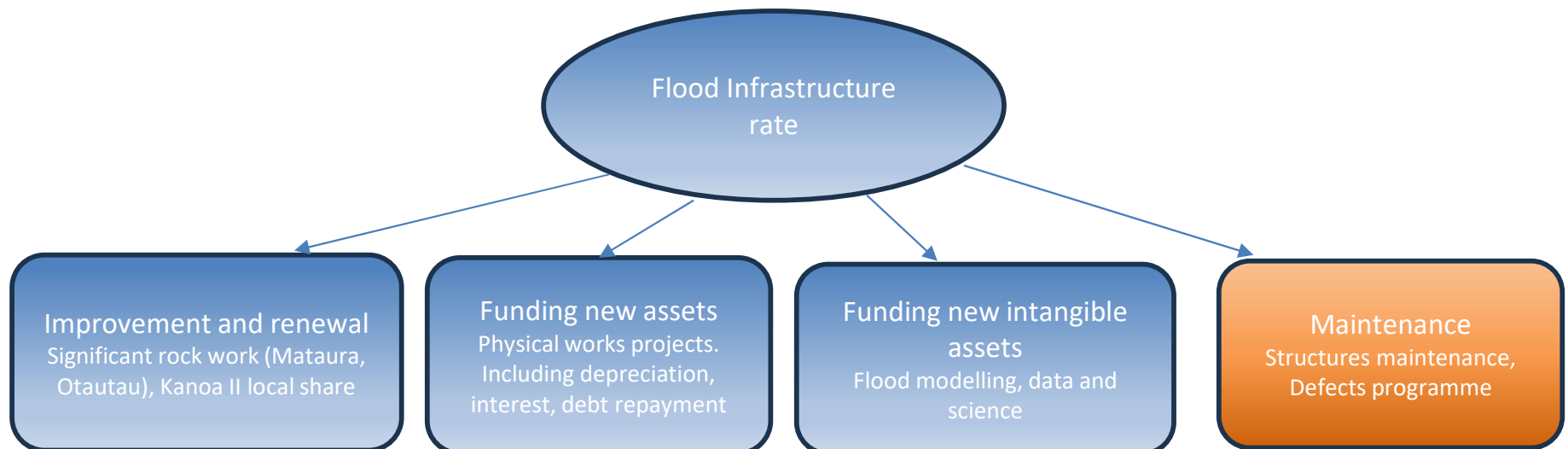
The services include routine maintenance to ensure adequate fairway width, enhancement work to improve access and monitoring stability and alignment of rivers, through river cross section surveys, gravel surveys etc.



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.

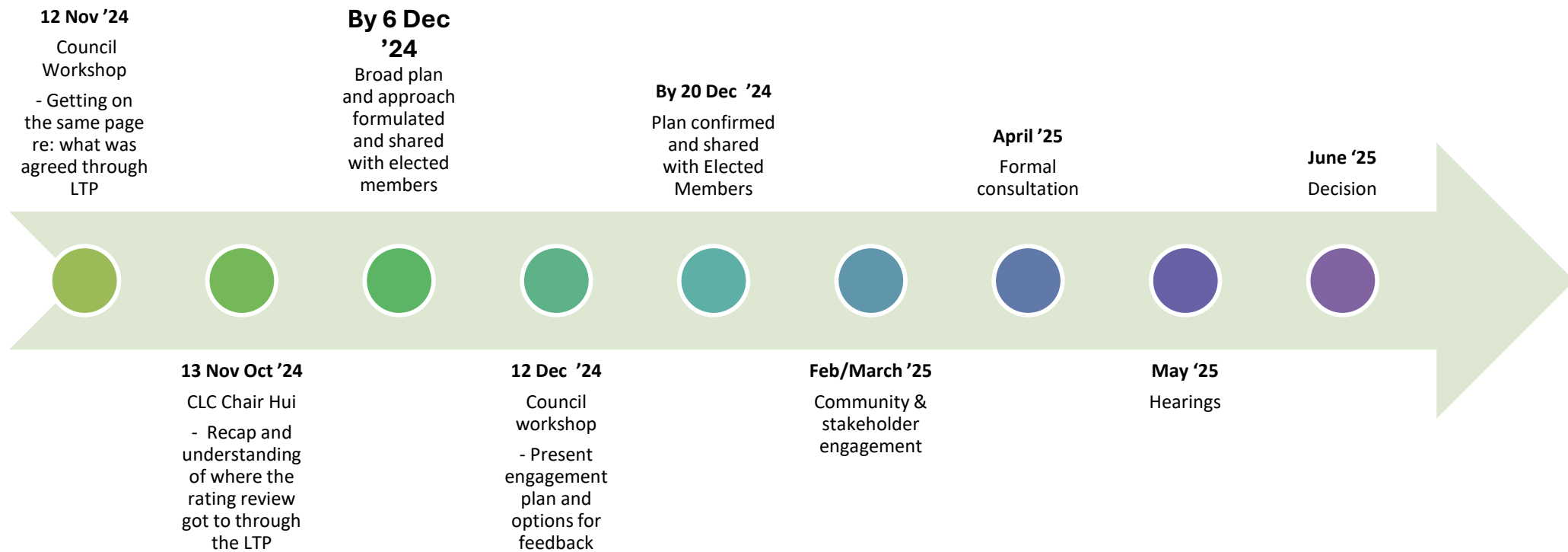
2. Council resolved to use \$450,000 per annum of leasehold surpluses to partly fund the new Flood Infrastructure activity.

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

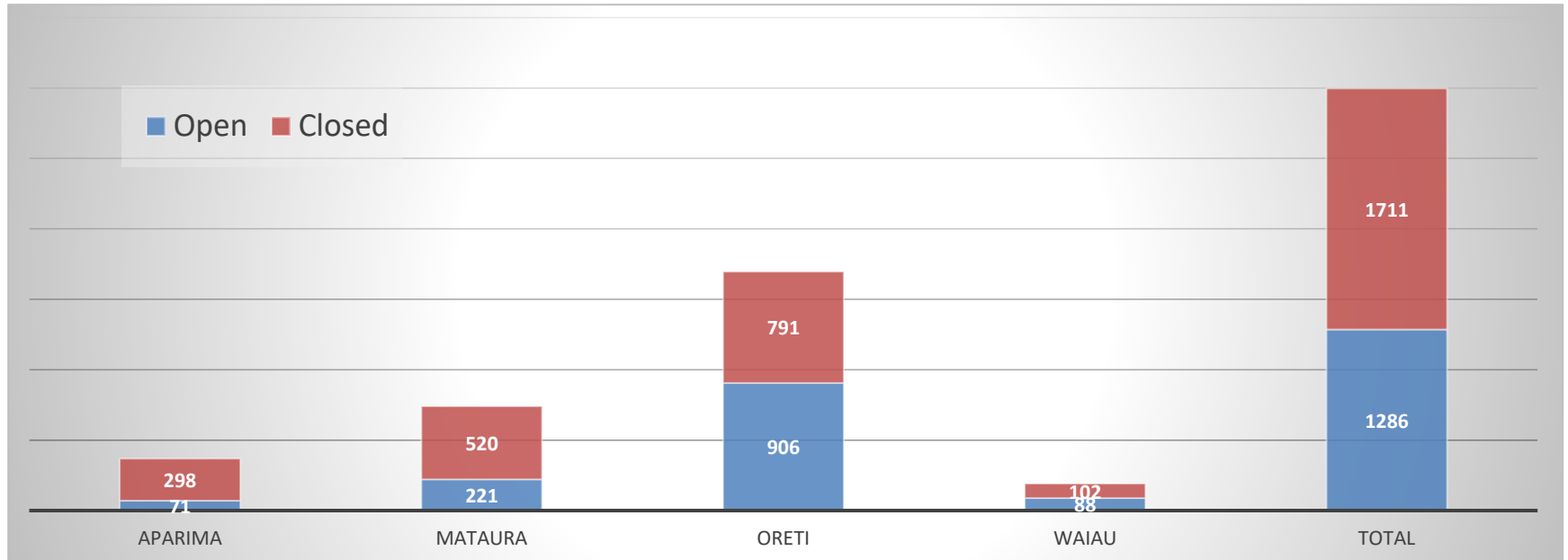
- Mataura Catchment flood bank repair budget \$220k - Mimihaui flood bank at Wyndham.
- Waimumu flood bank west of Mataura township has toe erosion. Looking at options of moving flood bank back and rock lining the toe.
- Oreti Catchment flood bank repair \$330k budget allocated to fix defects.
- Waituna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



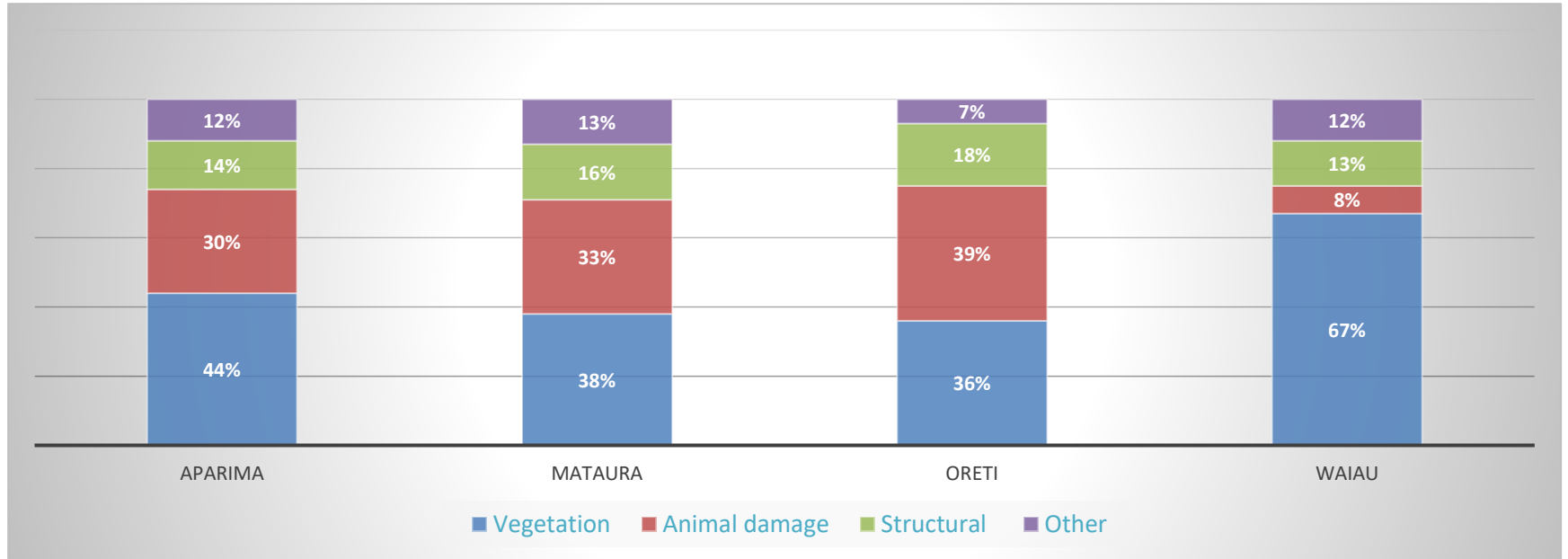
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Asset Inspections/Defects Update

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 41</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>