

Our Reference: A 1120787

21 November 2024

The Members
Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee

Notice of Meeting

The **Annual General Meeting of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee** will be held on **Thursday, 21 November 2024 at 1pm - 3pm** at the **Te Anau Club, Pop Andrew Drive, Te Anau**. Light refreshments will be available.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Terms of Reference (attached) Page 2
4. Confirmation of Minutes of the 28 March 2024 meeting (attached) Page 5
5. Matters arising
6. Chairperson's report
7. Appointment of Committee and Membership — see list of members (attached) Page 16
8. Catchment report (attached) Page 17
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

Barry Taylor
Chair, Te Anau Basin Liaison Committee

Terms of Reference

Te Anau 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 Te Anau 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:

Te Anau 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 Te Anau Catchment Liaison
Committee Annual General Meeting, held at The
Distinction Hotel, Te Anau on
Thursday 28 March 2024, at 10.00 am**



Present:	Mr B Taylor	(Te Anau) (<i>Chair</i>)
	Mr S Cranstoun	(Te Anau)
	Mr C Deaker	(Te Anau)
	Mr D Deaker	(Te Anau)
	Mrs K Fraser	(Te Anau)
	Mr N Fraser	(Te Anau)
	Mr B Jarvie	(Te Anau) (Fish & Game)
	Mr G Johnston	(Te Anau)
	Mr R McClean	(Te Anau)
	Mr P McDonald (Paul)	(Te Anau)
	Cr P McDonald (Peter)	(Te Anau)
	Mr D MacGibbon	(Te Anau)
	Mr G McGregor	(Te Anau)
	Mr H Slee	(Te Anau)
	Mr M Slee	(Te Anau)
	Mr L Thomson	(Te Anau)
	Mr J Turner	(Te Anau)
In Attendance:	Chairman N Horrell	(Environment Southland)
	Cr P Evans	(Environment Southland)
	Ms J Lloyd	(Environment Southland)
	Mr D Burgess	(Environment Southland)
	Mr P Pollard	(Environment Southland)
	Ms T Hawkins	(Environment Southland)
	Mr M Harvey	(Environment Southland)
	Mr C Smith	(Environment Southland)
	Ms E Lawton	(Environment Southland)
	Mr P Chartres	(Te Anau)
	Mr P Baker	(Te Anau)
	Mr R Hodson	(Waiau Trust) Arrived late
	Mrs H Hart	(Personal Assistant) (Minute taker)

1 Welcome (*Haere mai*)

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

Resolved:

Moved Cr P McDonald, seconded Chairman N Horrell that apologies for absence be recorded on behalf of Mr R Hodson, Waiau Trust.

Carried

3 Terms of Reference

There was no discussion on this topic.

4 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of 23 February 2023

Noted incorrect surname was shown on these minutes. They are to be amended to change members name Chris Hughes to Chris Carran.

Noted that a question about pest control was raised at the last AGM and recorded in the minutes, but this took two months to be answered.

Noted a question from the floor with regards to taking the minutes for this meeting, will there be an action sheet? This moved to a formal request for an action sheet to be created and added to the minutes for this meeting.

MOTION:

Mr B Taylor confirmed the following motion. That the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee:

- 1. Create an Action Sheet with the minutes of the meeting.**

Resolved:

Moved Mr B Taylor and seconded Cr P Evans

Carried

Reference was made to section 7 in the previous minutes regarding Committee's contribution of 50% – Mr B Turner confirmed and clarified.

Mr D Deaker asked where the advertising was for this meeting? He read about this meeting in a Farming magazine. It was also raised if the agenda could be provided at

least a week in advance of the meeting. Mr B Turner confirmed he advertised the meeting twice on the local community page. The meeting was also advertised in the Southland Times and on the Facebook page. Chairman N Horrell suggested people could ring around other people prior to the meeting.

Mr B Taylor referred to the trial of grazing the sheep along the rivers which was discussed at the last AGM, and how this never came to anything. The discussion centred around fencing management and contaminates from the sheep. Mr B Taylor expressed concern about the expense of not addressing broom and gorse in the river at the current time. Mr P Pollard informed he has slides regarding this in the presentation later. Discussions continued from floor about what it looks like now, with reference to spraying, and concerns if the native vegetation is sprayed, they could be taken to court. Mr B Taylor is trying to organise a meeting with the local MP to take him on a visit with the aim to gain his understanding and help.

Cr P Evans raised the subject regarding the plan with grazing the riverbanks during the last meeting, a lot of time was spent going over it, with discussion, going over the maps, the rules of engagement, and it was disappointing that at this meeting a year later, there has not been any feedback. Mr B Taylor informed he had been in touch with Mr P Pollard. He referred to spraying the broom, there is native vegetation either side of it that is dead, but there is broom still in the fairway. Mr B Taylor mentioned the issue with this legally, and the root system issue when looking after it. It was questioned as to why we are spraying DOCs weeds? Mr B Taylor informed we will discuss this when we get to the financial section. Chairman N Horrell suggested writing to the MP.

MOTION

Chairman N Horrell confirmed that Environment Southland, on behalf of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee:

- 1. Write a letter to the MP, DOC, copy Director General and Department Land Information regarding grazing of sheep.**

Resolved:

Moved Chairman N Horrell, seconded Mr G Johnston

Carried

Mrs T Hawkins offered the committee that the opportunity to provide their name/address to Ms J Lloyd so she can work out their rates payments.

Mr B Taylor reverted to passing the previous minutes.

Resolved:

Moved Mr B Taylor, seconded Mr J Turner that the minutes of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meeting held on 23 February 2023 be amended as discussed and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

5 Chairmans' Report

- we are in a good space with the way our rivers are, we have kept up with work and within budget. He referred to DOC spraying, bridge clearing and gravel;
- we need to be as prepared as we can be for rain;
- the need for the right information, especially financials;
- requested that financials are presented like last year.

Resolved:

Moved Mr B Taylor, seconded Mr M Slee that the Chair's Report be noted.

Carried

6 Matters Arising

As covered in section 4.

7 Appointment of Committee and membership

Mr B Taylor mentioned his future intention of stepping down from the position of Chair for the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee.

Mr B Taylor assumed the Chair. Mr P Evans called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee. Mr C Deaker nominated Mr B Taylor, no other nominations were called.

Resolved:

Moved Mr C Deaker, seconded Mr R McClaine that Mr B Taylor be elected to the position of Chairman of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee.

Carried

Noted that last year, a co-chairing option was suggested, as with other groups. Mr B Taylor asked the Committee to consider this and advised he will be standing down as Chair next year. Included in the Action Plan.

The meeting noted the existing Committee members list.

Resolved:

Moved Mr B Taylor, seconded Cr P Evans that membership of the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee comprise of attendees and apologies for the meeting today.

Carried

8 Financial Report – 2023/24 and proposed 2024/25**Mr P Pollard introduced himself and provided a presentation:**

- Provided examples of work being done this year following concerns regarding the Mararoa River.
- has talked with NZTA and got gravel removed under both bridges, showing the area in the photos, giving full update of work completed;
- answered questions about gravel movement, confirming movement is a natural process. Questions and discussions followed;
- noted there has been good support from Fish and Game and DOC;
- resource consents allow removal of underlying gravel, but there is no resource consent for the Mararoa – it is part of the management strategy to apply for a global resource consent to allow for work on other rivers;
- Cr P Evans stated it looks better than the site visit done last year;
- Discussed work Fulton Hogan undertook on the bridge and work yet to be completed;
- Mr P Pollard talked about getting a concession and showed a map and photos of the areas proposing to skim in the next few years;
- Upukarua photos explained;
- issue with the broom on Mararoa river photos shown and explained;
- discussion points for vegetation control program continued, with estimated timescales. Discussions from the floor followed with suggestion to write to the DOC leadership regarding funding;
- Grazing discussed, further discussion required;
- question on the reasons why grazing the waterways is not allowed. Mr P Pollard mentioned advice received was that stock would need to be excluded from water requiring fencing, which is expensive. As much of the riverbed is on DOC Marginal Strip, DOC would likely expect that stock would be excluded from water as part of their Concession process for activities on DOC controlled land;
- Mr B Taylor mentioned in Eastern Bush they are encouraged to graze cows, yet here nobody can do anything;
- question raised as to if it is DOC land and would ES be happy to approach DOC about grazing. Mr P Pollard has already spoken to Mr Lucas at DOC;
- Mr B Taylor mentioned we need to change the rules through the local Member of Parliament (MP).

Cr P McDonald asked Ms E Lawton to talk about the Gravel Working group.

Ms E Lawton briefly introduced herself and referred to the following points:

- gravel is an issue, over the last two years, lots of work has been happening with trials across Whitestone and Upukerora River, this is generating background data for planning, now we are getting the science sorted;
- mentioned the website to look at;
- referred to the need of an ecological perspective, this has been taken to the stakeholders, looking at how some of the problems can be overcome, and progress in future;
- referred to the current proposal, and the new plan in terms of Land and Water transition;
- it is hoped in the next two weeks there will be more answers to enable more trials and to be able to transition to operational certainty;

- regarding the Gravel Working Group, we have representatives from Southland District Council (SDC), Environment Southland, and two chairs (Aparima and Oreti) from the Catchment liaison committees, the general consensus is that the main parties are finding out a way to integrate this into their systems. It is probably a two-prong thing:
 - remove excess gravel and open up the fairways
 - maintain fairways.
- need information on how much gravel is in the rivers, where, and how much is migrating down the rivers, plus how much gravel can sustainably be extracted out of the rivers;
- Mr B Taylor mentioned the design of this working group is to bring people together and all on the same page;
- Cr P McDonald raised needing the science to support the data for our proposals and Mr B Taylor mentioned this is the system we have to work with at the moment;
- Cr P McDonald said if we propose works without science support and data, we could get legally challenged and acknowledge current feelings on the issue;
- Mr P Pollard described working towards global consent, with Fish and Game and DOC involved in this;
- Cr P McDonald advised out of the CLC chairs, two are sitting on the working group;
- Chairman N Horrell advised there are a lot of conversations going on at the moment, with some progress and we need to balance competing views. Mr B Taylor commented he would like to think not spraying rivers will bring things to a head;
- query raised if people are getting a good service delivered for our rates. Mr B Taylor advised Ms T Hawkins will explain this when she speaks about rates;
- Mr C Deaker made an offer to visit his land. Chairman N Horrell agreed to a visit and Cr P Evans requested an invitation also.

Ms T Hawkins introduced herself and spoke to her presentation and raised the following:

- explained percentage of rates, and targeted rates;
- ran through what each cost means and covers, referring to differences people are paying for their land;
- Drainage plan explained and discussed;
- percentages of current total rates paid by each ratepayer explained;
- noted this is a draft budget, councillors adopted the consultation document yesterday which proposed the budget increase, explaining this is putting it to the committee to endorse or approve with recommendations;
- conversations about levels of service and whether an increase is needed;
- committee raised this budget is misleading as a number of costs are missing or have been removed, meaning we won't know what these costs are until they are revealed in the new rating scheme. Need to understand all information before a catchment can make a decision about a budget;
- advised the part of the budget farmers are responsible for has shrunk, it is about where we are accounting to the costs;
- Mr B Taylor suggested we adopt the same budget as last year as there was a bit of surplus, stating we will be well within our finances;

- Mr P Pollard mentioned from a catchment engineering perspective, make hay while the sun shines, prepare for flooding. There will be extra work – the planting that was carried out previously are quite mature trees and are now having a shading effect on the bank, so if budget allows, this is quite a big job;
- Mr B Taylor agreed and in his point of view, there is a budget to work through, and yes, there is the \$69,000, so we can carry on with the work. Continue the work, and if 70k or 80k is left over, there can be a wish list. He stated to keep this meeting moving, he adopts to leave it as it is. Mr P Pollard suggested holding the Fairway spraying to \$150,000.

MOTION

Mr B Taylor proposed to leave the budget as it is from 2022/23.

Resolved:

Moved Mr B Taylor, seconded Mr G Johnston that the budget remains the same as provided for the 2022/23 year, with no increase.

Carried

Break at 11.40am

Resumed at 12.00

9 Catchment Report

Agreed to discuss Mr P Pollards' presentation later in the meeting.

Cr P McDonald talked from the floor about the Regional Services committee, that catchment groups report back to that committee, and mentioned the Infrastructure Strategy, explaining:

- at present there are 140 targeted catchment rates which is very complex;
- explained why the rates review was required and associated work;
- need to reinvest to give the next generation a sense of comfortability;
- proposing flattening the rates off across the region, to reflect how different the region is from 35 years ago;
- referred to being economically connected in this region, i.e. tankers coming from Edendale across the bridges, the catchments have interconnection;
- we all share in the benefits, so we need to spread the cost between everyone.

10 General

- explained current work;
- prioritising work and areas of highest risk getting the focus that is needed;
- requirement for work in flood protection schemes with regards to flood banks and requirement for investment to do this;
- Capital Works programme inclusion – and the need to look at this more into the future;
- science and data;
- talked of looking at the next 100 years, not just the next 30 years;
- Slow the Flow project;
- Need for sharing cost of proposed improvements to stopbank conditions. Primarily those paying are those living alongside rivers currently, but it is also protecting others.

Ms T Hawkins handed out information on the proposed rates review and spoke to this:

- there are multiple consultations going on at the moment with the LTP process;
- LTP explained;
- main infrastructure is the floodbanks system, and further discussed:
 - Revenue and financing policy – rate changes;
 - LTP – Budget changes;
 - fees and charges.
- Statement of proposal to change the rates. Worked through six main points to consider;
- explained one rate will replace the current 140 catchment rates and this will be based on capital value;
- explained the split between land value and capital value for residential, commercial and rural areas;
- referred to the effects of floods on everyone i.e. Makarewa was cut off during floods which affected residential and commercial people also;
- currently 66% of rates are paid by the rural rate payer;
- proposal explained for one rate, still 7 catchments, 7 budgets, 7 committees;
- referred to an “adjustment period”, some rates will go up, some down;
- explained change in total rates paid by ratepayer in each sector by percentage;
- borrowing.

Cr P McDonald explained this is the third catchment meeting, so some familiarity with the content, there will be different reactions from different regions. Interest is related to rating and there will be significant interest in the jobs and the budget. Noted being aware there may be concerns raised from other groups.

Discussions followed around Strengthening Grassroots representation – Cr P McDonald talked about the local voice in place for that representation. Questions raised about owning several plots of lands and properties, so possibly paying more. Ms T Hawkins explained the Statement of Proposal and the website where members are welcome to ask questions.

Committee raised they would have liked this information two or three weeks before the meeting, to have had a better understanding. Chairman N Horrell stated we only

adopted this document yesterday – if we need another meeting, this can be arranged. Cr P McDonald mentioned the other groups have expressed an interest in getting a larger meeting together to be held in Winton and invited the committee members to attend if there is an interest there.

Mr B Taylor raised we have one chance of getting this right for the next generation – he suggested everyone goes home to think about it, and even have a meeting just as a committee, or go to the Winton meeting.

With further reference to discussing meetings, the committee raised that other people may have been interested in attending these meetings, but the title may not show that i.e. Contractors can attend.

MOTION

Committee proposed that Environment Southland give consideration to the name change to the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee. Added to the Action sheet for a response.

Resolved:

Moved Mr R McClean and seconded Mr B Taylor that Environment Southland will give consideration that the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee name be changed to include the Environment Southland activities of the Te Anau basin.

Against Mr P Barker, Mr G Johnston, Mr M Slee.

Carried by majority vote

Noted: Mr P Baker spoke against this motion stating it is a major shift to change the name of the committee, when it is more about trying to achieve better advertising and more public consultation.

Noted: Mr M Slee explained he voted against this, as he felt it should have been a public meeting.

A discussion followed around inflation and rising costs. Chairman N Horrell encouraged all attendees to look at the information and give us feedback. He used Hawkes Bay as example. He noted we have dedicated staff, and we are in a better position than in a lot of places, he invited feedback.

Craig Smith introduced himself and on behalf of the land sustainability team spoke of the Environmental Enhancement Funding, covering:

Biodiversity

- winter grazing explained, the 2023 findings and the 2024 plan;
- freshwater farm plans – explained the work and plan;
- Southland Riparian Project;
- Home Creek – a new project on the go, welcomed attendees to come along to this community event, with a BBQ and to plant native plants.

Dave Burgess introduced himself and spoke to:

Biosecurity

- explained Environment Enhancement funding can be for things like fencing, pest control etc. He referred to details available on the website;
- 3 projects granted funding for 2023/24;
- pest mammal control;
- Hollyford Conservations Trust;
- Jobs for nature funding – to tackle some of the weeds in Te Anau/Manapouri area. This also provided funding to businesses for jobs, giving employment during covid times. The money ran out for Jobs for nature but talked of wanting to continue this but working with farmers;
- referred to different plants that are pests currently working on, and updated on progress, including on shelterbelts etc. Shelterbelts Wilding including Larch;
- Check Clean Dry programme;
- Wilding conifer control;
- Buddleia removal;
- J4N Fiordland buffer;
- Wallabies – there are concerns these may spread to the region, asked attendees to please report through pest hub website or MPI website. ES will follow up. Wallabies are spreading their way through Otago at present;
- a question was raised if there is any assistance on shelter belts? Not at present, but ES is available for advice.

11 Termination

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 1.20 pm

Action Plan: Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee meet 28 March 2024

Action	Description	Responsibility
Action sheet	To create an action sheet to accompany minutes of each AGM	Secretary in attendance
Response times	Questions raised at meetings and recorded in minutes to be responded to within a reasonable timeframe	Environment Southland
Letter to MP, DOC leadership at Director General level	Write a letter to the local MP, DOC, Director General and Department Land Information, regarding grazing sheep on riverbanks. Invite MP to visit.	Environment Southland
Agenda, Financials and information	To be provided two or three weeks in advance of meeting in the future, including budget information. Financials also to be presented as per previous year.	Environment Southland
Chair position and co-chairing option	Mr B Taylor will be stepping down as Chair next year. Co-chairing is an option.	Te Anau Committee members to consider the co-chairing option and who will be the next Chairman.
Visit to Mr C Deaker's land	Mr C Deaker offered for Chairman N Horrell to visit his land. Cr P Evans also requested attendance.	Environment Southland and Mr C Deaker to make arrangements.
Follow up meeting	Chairman N Horrell offered (during the proposed rates section) that another meeting can be arranged. Alternatively the Committee was invited to attend a larger meeting in Winton, which may be set up following other groups expressing an interest in a further meeting.	Te Anau Committee decide if they require another meeting or are happy to attend the proposed Winton meeting. Environment Southland to set up an individual meeting if required, and provide details of date, time and venue of the Winton meeting if it goes ahead.
Grazing discussion	Grazing discussion required with farmers. Mr P Pollard agreed the current system is not working in his view and referred to this needing to be talked about.	Environment Southland
Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee name change	For consideration that the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee's name is changed to include the Environment Southland activities of the Te Anau basin.	Environment Southland to give consideration and feedback.

**Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee List of Members as at
July 2024**

Name
Barry Taylor, Chair, Te Anau Basin Liaison Committee
George Anderson
Glenda Bell
Chris Carran
Maggie Carter
Peter Chartres
Selwyn Cranstoun
Cyril Deaker
Graham Deaker
Andrew Feierabend
Fish and Game New Zealand – Southland Region – Te Anau
Graeme & Joy Gunn
Lance Helm
Roger Hodson
Christopher Hughes
Graham Johnstone
David MacGibbon
Hamish McClean
Russell McClean
Paul McDonald
Duncan McGregor
Grant McGregor
Laurie Ngakai
Nick & Katie Fraser
Logan Pullar
Aaron Scott
Mark Scott
Hayden Slee
Maxwell Slee
David Smith
Phil Smith
Lincoln Thomson
John Turner
Ray Willett
David Wright

Te Anau Basin Rating District 2023/24 *(Compiled by Paul Pollard, Team Leader Catchment)*

The Te Anau Basin Rating District was formalised during the 2013/14 year following a lengthy community consultative process promoting amalgamation into one single rating entity (the previously separate Whitestone River and Upukerora River rating districts), and inclusion of two newly established districts, those being Upper Mararoa River and Lower Mararoa river.

The Te Anau Basin Catchment Liaison Committee is made up of representatives from each of the four separate districts and is formally recognised by Council as the community contact regarding river and land drainage management matters for each of the districts.

At its February 2014 Annual General Meeting, the Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee made a decision to amalgamate the four river districts and the two drainage districts into one district for administrative reporting but continue to provide liaison members with an individual area summary at the completion of the financial year.

This is the tenth year of reporting in this manner.

Whitestone River

Works Activity

Anticipated River Works

- 2,700m willows cleared Whitestone River berm areas;
- 800 tonne rock placed eroding river bank;
- 7.3 km berm spraying carried out Hillside Rd bridge to SH 94 bridge;
- 39 defects repaired Whitestone flood banks;
- 1442 m3 gravel removed from State Highway 94 bridge;
- 2128 m3 gravel removed from upstream State Highway 94 bridge.

Upukerora River

Works Activity

Anticipated River Works

- 300 tonne of rock placed to protect access track above the highway bridge.
- 2,432 m3 gravel removed beach 2 downstream of Milford Rd bridge
- 2,000 m3 removed from beach 3 downstream of Milford Rd bridge
- 1,500 m3 of overburden removed downstream of Milford Rd bridge
- 6355 m3 gravel removed from upstream of Milford Road Bridge

Mararoa River

Works Activity

Anticipated River Works

- 600 tonne rock placed erosion repairs downstream SH94 bridge;
- 107ha aerial spraying carried out upstream SH94 bridge;
- 804 m3 gravel removed from State Highway 94 bridge;
- 4,886m3 overburden removed from/below State Highway 94 bridge.

Riverbed Vegetation Control – all catchments

The 2023/24 work completed as part of the ongoing programme to control gorse, broom and willow growth within the floodways of the three catchment river systems in the Te Anau Basin is detailed below. The decision by the Te Anau River Liaison Committee to contribute 50% of the Department of Conservation contribution meant the total funds available was \$55,000. Staff prioritised the Mararoa with the limited funds available.

Aerial application was carried out on the Mararoa from the SH94 bridge to the Mararoa confluence to the top end of the rating district.

Partnerships with Land Information New Zealand continue to provide support to the Te Anau Basin control programme.

Expenditure on Te Anau Basin river corridor vegetation control work completed for the 2023/24 year was as follows:

• ES - Te Anau Basin Rating District - Upukerora, Whitestone and Lower Mararoa	\$2,137
• LINZ direct contributions to ES managed programmes	\$40,000
• DOC direct contribution to ES managed programmes	\$10,000
Total Expenditure	<u>\$52,137**</u>

** Actual expenditure varies from total in summary below due to invoice miscoded to another cost centre

Other Works

1,750m cleaned Home Creek

Summary of the Te Anau 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	63,818	77,674	107,459	175,455	-
	Rates - Separate	206,619	207,508	206,679	175,455	362,097
	Local Contributions Received	73,808	97,800	54,000	55,836	57,564
	Investment Income Allocated	11,482	20,125	11,292	10,545	10,545
Revenue total		355,727	403,108	379,430	417,291	430,206
Expenditure	Cost of Works Insurance	3,902	5,938	5,850	6,204	6,396
	Fairway Spraying	58,801	37,739	150,000	155,100	159,900
	River Works	145,412	151,778	208,000	215,072	221,728
	Channel Maintenance	14,203	42,320	-	-	-
	Fence Maintenance	-	-	4,000	4,136	4,264
	Stopbank Inspections	4,406	3,303	4,000	4,136	4,264
	Cost of Works Miscellaneous	2,120	16,199	28,700	32,643	33,654
	Depreciation Expense	-	-	1,000	-	-
	Support Costs	57,693	96,869	42,471	-	-
Expenditure total		286,536	354,146	444,021	417,291	430,206
Use of Surplus				(64,591)		
Surplus / (Deficit) Transferred to / (from) Carry-Forwards		69,191	48,962	-	-	-

River Works Reserves	
Carry-Forwards	
Opening Balance at 1 July 2023	\$351,489
Plus balance to carry forward as above	\$48,962
Carry-Forward Balance at 30 June 2024	\$400,451

Land Drainage					
1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Draft
		\$	\$	\$	Budget
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue	Rates - General	1,135	1,299	1,706	1,847
	Rates - Separate	15,352	15,418	15,356	16,623
	Investment Income Allocated	6,696	10,593	7,156	5,722
Revenue total		23,183	27,310	24,218	24,192
Expenditure	Channel Maintenance	6,824	12,223	21,969	24,941
	Support Costs	4,525	771	2,249	-
Expenditure total		11,349	12,993	24,218	24,941
Surplus / (Deficit) Transferred to / (from) Carry-Forwards		11,834	14,317	-	-

Land Drainage Reserves	
Carry-Forwards	
Opening Balance at 1 July 2023	\$190,731
Plus balance to carry forward as above	\$14,317
Carry-Forward Balance at 30 June 2024	\$205,047

Disaster Reserve	
Balance Disaster Reserves at 30 June 2023	\$381,201
Plus interest received	\$20,966
Disaster Reserve at 30 June 2024	\$402,167



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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

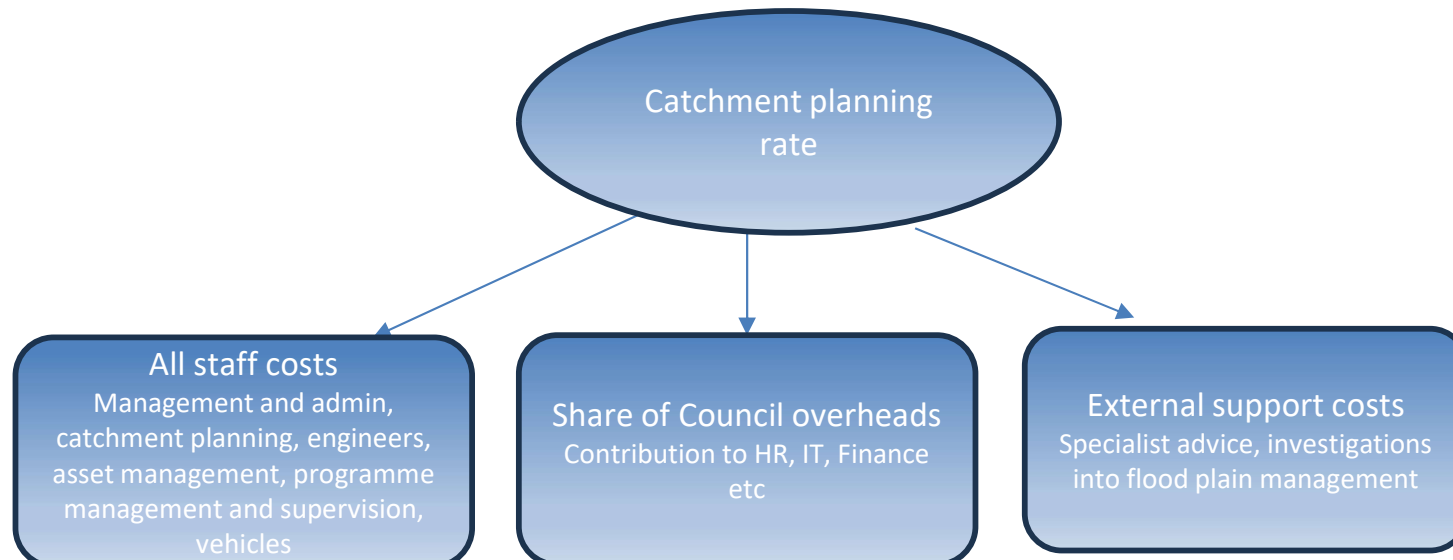
Flood Infrastructure
rate

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.

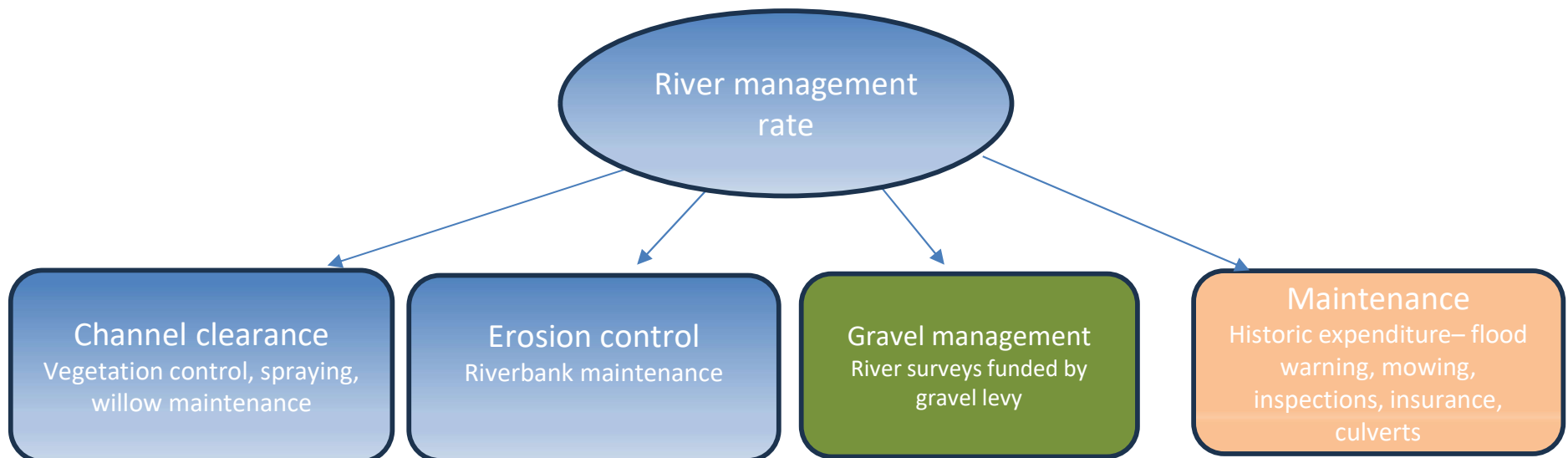
For example, managing the catchment works programmes, planning future mitigation, nature based solutions, asset management, and supporting Catchment Committees.



River Management rate

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

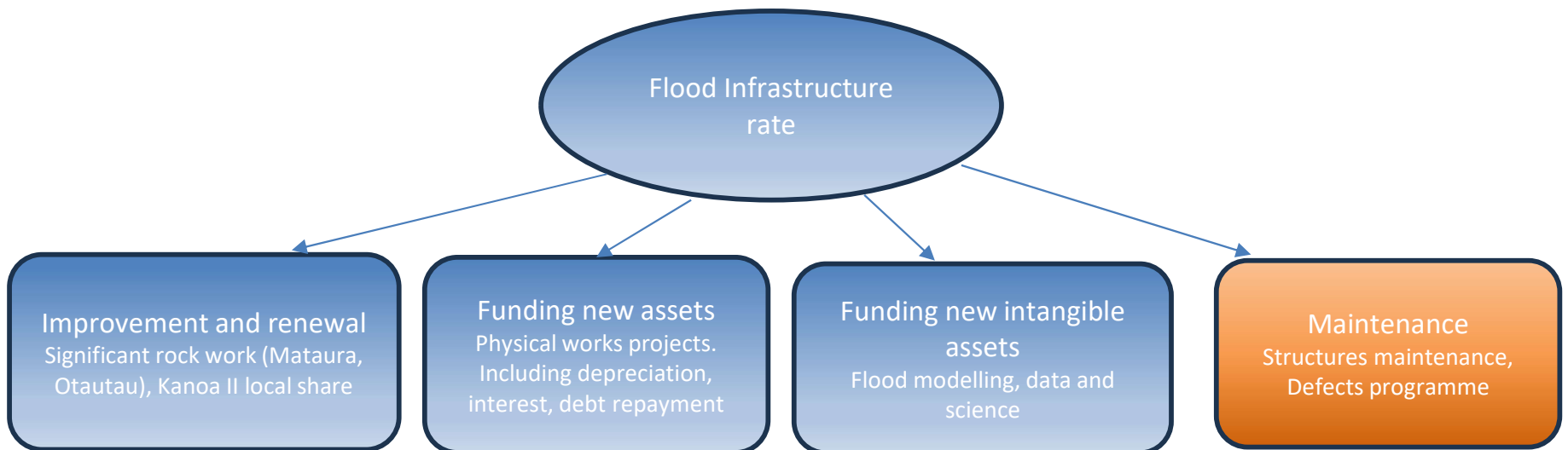
The services include routine maintenance to ensure adequate fairway width, enhancement work to improve access and monitoring stability and alignment of rivers, through river cross section surveys, gravel surveys etc.



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.

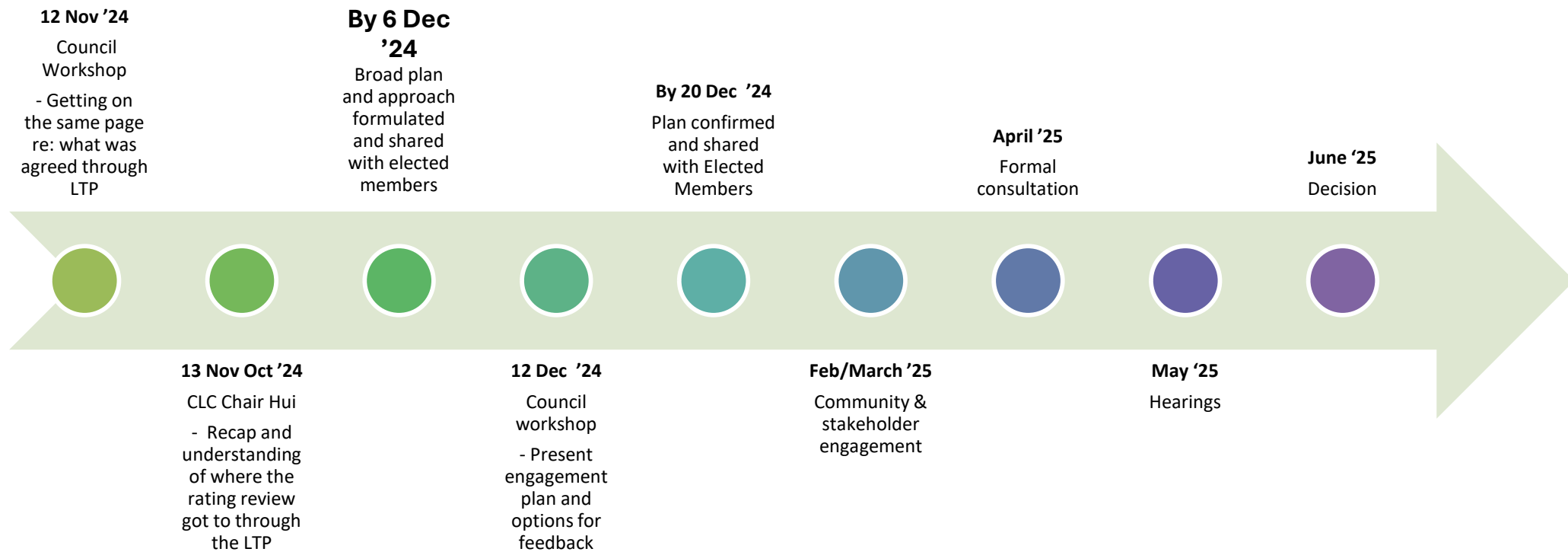
2. Council resolved to use \$450,000 per annum of leasehold surpluses to partly fund the new Flood Infrastructure activity.

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

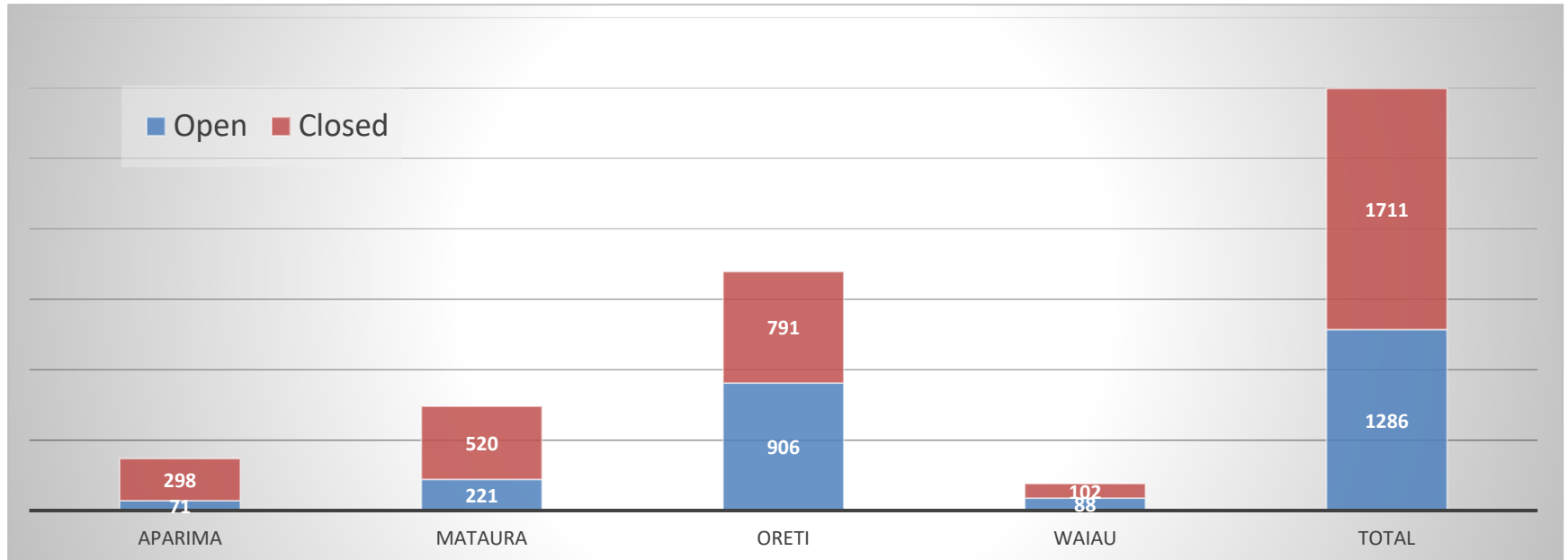
- Mataura Catchment flood bank repair budget \$220k - Mimihaui flood bank at Wyndham.
- Waimumu flood bank west of Mataura township has toe erosion. Looking at options of moving flood bank back and rock lining the toe.
- Oreti Catchment flood bank repair \$330k budget allocated to fix defects.
- Waituna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



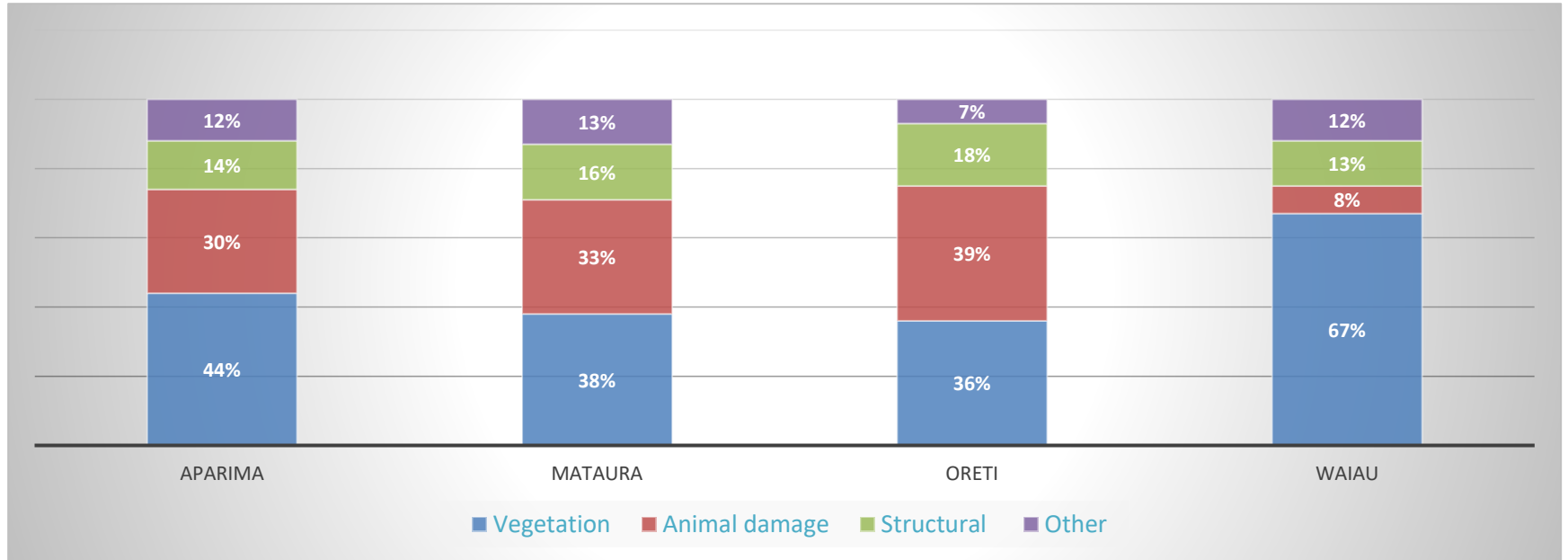
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Asset Inspections/Defects Update

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 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>