



Te Taiao Tonga

Notice is hereby given of the

Regional Services Committee - Rōpū Ratonga-a-Rohe

Wednesday 16 October 2024 at 1:00 pm

Environment Southland Council chamber, 220 North Road, Invercargill
24/RS/59

Committee Members:

Cr Peter McDonald (Chair)

Cr Paul Evans

Cr Lyndal Ludlow

Cr Jeremy McPhail

Cr Jon Pemberton

Cr Maurice Rodway

Cr Eric Roy

Chairman Nicol Horrell

Ms Gail Thompson (Mana whenua representative)

Ms Estelle Pera-Leask (Mana whenua representative)

Agenda

This meeting will be livestreamed through YouTube and will be available to view on our website.
<https://www.es.govt.nz/about-us/live-stream>

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Lucy Hicks

General Manager Integrated Catchment Management

RECOMMENDATIONS IN COUNCIL REPORTS ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS COUNCIL POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED BY COUNCIL

Terms of reference – Regional Services Committee

Council assigns to the committee responsibilities from time to time, and the committee provides advice and reports back to Council on:

Governance oversight and monitoring of the non-regulatory implementation of Council plans, strategies and bylaws including (but not limited to):

- river corridor concept plans;
- clean heat;
- pollution prevention;
- environmental education;
- land sustainability;
- the Waituna response.

Managing the relationship of Council within the Catchment Liaison Committees.

Governance oversight of and recommending programmes for delivery of flood protection and drainage maintenance.

Governance oversight of and recommending programmes of work related to the Regional Pest Management Plan.

Governance oversight of and recommending programmes of work that promote sustainable resource management practices.

Governance oversight of the management of Council's lease land.

1 Welcome I Haere mai

2 Apologies I Ngā pa pouri

At the time of the agenda closing, no apologies had been received for this meeting.

3 Declarations of interest

At the time of the agenda closing. No declarations of interest had been received for this meeting.

4 Public forum, petitions and deputations I He huinga tuku korero

At the time of the agenda closing, no public forum, petitions or deputations were received for the meeting.

5 Confirmation of minutes I Whakau korero

Attached are the minutes from the meeting held 6 August 2024

Minutes of the Regional Services Committee - Rōpū Ratonga-a-Rohe

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road, Invercargill
Thursday 1 August 2024 at 10:00 am



Present:

Cr Peter McDonald (Chair)
Cr Jeremy McPhail
Cr Jon Pemberton
Cr Maurice Rodway
Chairman Nicol Horrell (ex officio)

Ms Lucy Hicks (General Manager Integrated Catchment Management)
Ali Flynn (Committee Advisor)

1 Welcome I Haere mai

The chairperson welcomed everyone to the Regional Services committee meeting for Tuesday 6 August 2024.

2 Apologies I Ngā pa pouri

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr McPhail that apologies be accepted on behalf of Cr Ludlow, Cr Roy, Cr Evans and Ms Gail Thompson.

Carried

3 Declarations of interest

At the time of the agenda closing. No declarations of interest had been received for this meeting.

4 Public forum, petitions and deputations I He huinga tuku korero

At the time of the agenda closing, no public forum, petitions or deputations were received for the meeting.

Regional Services Committee - Rōpū Ratonga-a-Rohe - Minutes - 6 August 2024



5 Confirmation of minutes I Whakau korero

Resolved:

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Cr Pemberton that the minutes of the Regional Services Committee meeting held on 8 May 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

6 Notification of extraordinary items/urgent business I He panui autaiā hei totoia pakihi

At the time of the agenda closing, no extraordinary or urgent business had been received for this meeting.

7 Questions I Patai

Questions received from Councillors McDonald and Pemberton:

- 1 Could we have an update from Randal on the projects Winton/Lumsden that were proposed in the LTP and an indication on the timeframe when the full business proposal will be ready?

Mr Beal responded that for the Winton project, analysis of that work has commenced to identify the best mechanism to achieve the outcome for the LTP. For the Lumsden project, there is an expectation that a plan incorporating modelling and options analysis will be developed by December 2024 or early 2025.

A further question was raised as to whether the plan will include methods of reducing floods further upstream and the option to build stopbanks. Mr Beal advised that the options analysis was focused on four to five options from true left and right and that they would promote the one with the best outcome.

It was noted that when staff consider these projects, there would be a lot of community interest and strong engagement would be required.

- 2 Can Environment Southland facilitate another 'farm chemical amnesty' post-cultivation season?

Ms Young confirmed that amnesties had been done in the past and could be done again. The last one was in 2021 and the next one was scheduled for 2025. Additional communication to farmers on chemical recovery and encouraging appropriate disposal would be beneficial.

- 3 What is the process to compost dead stock instead of digging a 'dead sheep hole'?

Cr McDonald raised this question on behalf of a catchment group. Further questions were raised about what can be done with the 'end product' and what the regulations were for this product. Ms Young advised that she would provide the answers to these questions in due course and that communications had gone out around the processes for disposing of stock. She would also provide further information on whether the compost could be used in the nursery industry.

Regional Services Committee - Rōpū Ratonga-a-Rohe - Minutes - 6 August 2024



8 Chairman and councillors reports | Ngā purongo-a-tumuaki me ngā kaunihera

At the time of the agenda closing, no Councillor reports were received for the meeting.

9 Reports

9.1 Fiordland Marine Guardians Letter

Mr Nick Perham and Ali Ballantine (Fiordland Marine Guardians) were in attendance and spoke to this report, where the purpose was to highlight the concerns that Fiordland Marine Guardians have regarding the Synchro-lift at Bluff.

The suggestion of an additional, smaller travel lift was raised which could be used for smaller vessels. The committee expressed an interest in finding out more about this option and other potential options and requested a paper be put forward to Council.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Chairman Horrell that Council:

- 1 Receive the report - Fiordland Marine Guardians Letter.

Carried

9.2 Bluff Haul Out

Mr Nick Perham was in attendance and spoke to this report, where the purpose was to provide an overview of the Bluff haul out project, to update the committee on the history and what actions have happened to date, and the proposed direction and timeline going forward.

The matter of funding was raised and in particular, how the monetary contribution that was given to Invercargill City Council (ICC) had been used. A comprehensive report on this matter was requested.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Pemberton that Council:

- 1 Receive the report - Bluff Haul Out.

Carried

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9.3 Biosecurity and Biodiversity Annual Report 23/24

Ms Ali Meade was in attendance and spoke to this report, where the purpose was to provide an update on the biosecurity and biodiversity operational work programme, including the additional biosecurity and biodiversity work funded by Jobs for Nature.

A suggestion was made to issue a press release on Biodiversity Action on the Ground to promote the good work that had been achieved.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Pemberton that Council:

- 1 Receive the report - Biosecurity and Biodiversity Annual Report 23/24.

Carried

9.4 Biosecurity Operations Plan 2024-2029

Ms Ali Meade was in attendance and spoke to this report, where the purpose was to provide the new Biosecurity Operational Plan 2024-2029 to Council.

This report fulfils Environment Southland's requirements under Section 100B(e) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to prepare an operational plan for the Regional Pest Management Plan and Fiordland Marine Regional Pathways Management Plan.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Pemberton that Council:

- 1 Receive the report - Biosecurity Operations Plan 2024-2029.
- 2 Approve the Southland Biosecurity Operations Plan 2024-2029

Carried

9.5 2023 2024 Catchment Integration Annual Report

Ms Fiona Young was in attendance and spoke to this report, where the purpose was to detail the work programmes and projects that the catchment integration team has been working on in the 2023/2024 financial year.

A suggestion was made to issue a press release on the positive news stories within the community to promote the good work that had been achieved.

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Resolved:

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Cr Pemberton that Council:

- 1 Receive the report - 2023 2024 Catchment Integration Annual Report.

Carried

9.6 Progress on Works and Public Bodies Contracts

Mr Randal Beal and Ms Ella Lawton Catchment Operations Stakeholder Lead was in attendance and spoke to this report, where the purpose was to provide an update on progress on works entered into by the catchment operations division during 1 April to 30 June 2024.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Chairman Horrell that Council:

- 1 Receive the report - Progress on Works and Public Bodies Contracts.

Carried

10 Extraordinary/urgent business I Panui autia hei totoia pakihi

No extraordinary or urgent business was notified at this meeting.

11 Public excluded business I He hui pakihi e hara mo te iwi

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, Seconded Chairman Horrell that in accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest/s protected by section 7 of that act, that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Confirmation of public excluded Regional Services Committee minutes – 8 May 2024

Sub-clause and reason	S.7(2)(j) - To prevent disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage
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Regional Services Committee - Rōpū Ratonga-a-Rohe - Minutes - 6 August 2024



11.1 Te Puka Rakiura Trust Report

Sub-clause and reason	S.7(2)(i) - to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).
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11.2 Lease Inspection Report

Sub-clause and reason	S.7(2)(h) - to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.
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11.3 Rabbit Control in SE Southland

Sub-clause and reason	S.48(1)(b) - to prevent the disclosure of information which would (i) be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment; or (ii) constitute contempt of Court or of the House of Representatives.
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Carried

12 Termination

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 12.28pm.

6 Notification of extraordinary items/urgent business I He panui autaiā hei totoia pakihi

At the time of the agenda closing, no extraordinary or urgent business had been received for this meeting.

7 Questions I Patai

At the time of the agenda closing, no questions had been received for this meeting.

8 Chairman and councillors reports I Ngā purongo-a- tumuaki me ngā kaunihera

At the time of the agenda closing, no Councillor Reports were received for the meeting.

9 Reports

9.1 Biosecurity and Biodiversity Q1 report 23.24

Report by: Ali Meade, Biosecurity & Biodiversity Operations Manager

Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Integrated Catchment Management

Report Date: 16 September 2024

Purpose

To provide the Regional Services Committee with an update on the quarter one work completed by the biosecurity and biodiversity team.

Summary

Quarter one has progressed as planned with scheduled work completed. Winter work comprises of planning for the coming field season as well as community events. The highlight of the quarter was the National Education and Training Seminar (NETS) event.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Regional Services Committee resolve to:

- 1 Receive the report - Biosecurity and Biodiversity Q1 report 23.24.

Background

The biosecurity and biodiversity team are responsible for delivering Environment Southlands' Biosecurity Operations Plan and the Internal Biodiversity Programme including two Jobs for Nature projects. The winter season is normally relatively quiet with the team focusing on planning for the next field season. This winter has been busier than normal due to the Southland Otago branch of the NZ Biosecurity Institute hosting the annual National Education and Training Seminar (NETS) event. Environment Southland sponsored the event and biosecurity staff formed part of the planning committee. The four-day event included weed workshops, talks, fieldtrips, biosecurity dog demonstrations and networking plus an additional weekend trip to Rakiura. Over 200 people from all over New Zealand attended.

Reviewing all biosecurity and biodiversity programmes over the winter months has emphasised the importance of prioritising our limited resources. Resource is being reallocated around the biosecurity and biodiversity projects to maximise outcomes. This has meant that some projects have been changed. One of the projects that has been affected is the rodent and bird monitoring, previously provided to community groups. The monitoring was not providing data that was more broadly useable, and as a result the resource will be reallocated into a new monitoring programme to support the requirements of the National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity. The team will provide training and technical support to the groups to allow them to do the monitoring themselves.

Incursion response

As of the 16 September 2024, there has been one wallaby and one rook report, both have been investigated and cleared.

Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) have found Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) in Port Chalmers. Otago Regional Council (ORC) are in the process of delimiting surveillance to determine the scale of the incursion. The find is of concern as the port could be a vector to Southland. The marine biosecurity team have offered planning and dive support to ORC. Investing in preventing the establishment of fanworm in Otago will help reduce the risk to Southland.

Pest Plants

The pest plant team have been researching and reassessing the pest plant containment programmes with the intent of improving the effectiveness of our work programmes. These programmes were highlighted in the 23.24 annual report as struggling to meet targets. An example of this work includes a review of the Japanese honeysuckle programme which identified limited information and unclear goals. The team has now identified 40 sites across the region and by overlaying the known sites with the biodiversity priority layer they have been able to determine which sites are a priority for control.

Other planning and assessment work completed over winter has been the review of velvetleaf. Velvetleaf was not included in the Regional Pest Management Plan in 2019 as it was being managed by BNZ as part of a national programme. However, BNZ is no longer actively working on velvetleaf in Southland. A cost benefit analysis to include velvetleaf as a pest in the Southland Regional Pest Management Plan has been completed. The team is now working through the pest management options and will bring a paper to Council with recommendations.

At the Strategy and Policy meeting on the 12 September 2024, biosecurity gained permission to apply to the Environmental Protection Agency to release Chilean flame creeper beetle into the environment as a biocontrol. Part of the approval process includes public consultation. The team is working with Environment Canterbury, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research and the Environment Southland communications team to present and collate information from the public. There will be further consultation opportunities through the Environment Protection Authority once the application is in.

Pest Animals

Predator Free Rakiura has reached a major milestone and operational work planning is now underway. The first stage is expected to begin with a ~10,000ha block at the southern end of Rakiura. This stage will trial tools and techniques to learn what will be required to scale up the removal of rats, possums, feral cats and hedgehogs across the island. Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP) has been engaged to lead the planning and delivery of the Predator Free Rakiura operational project. Te Puka Rakiura Trust will lead Ngāi Tahu aspirations work and the development of a long-term biosecurity approach. Environment Southland will continue to be involved in the biosecurity approach.

Predator Free Southland has been put on hold for a few months as the governance group reassess what is possible within the current budgets.

Work on a new Possum Control Area and annual maintenance programmes are also underway.

Marine Biosecurity

Marine surveillance is being carried out during late September 2024 around Rakiura and in Fiordland. A verbal report will be provided at the committee meeting.

Biodiversity

In January this year, Environment Southland purchased a one-year membership to the strategic grants funding platform including access to the GEM local portal for up to 50 community groups. The portal helps groups access funding. To promote the site, the team has held a community evening and attend community events. Feedback from the community has been very positive with one group indicating that they found up to 35 funds that they may be able to apply for. To date 18 groups from across Southland have signed up.

Several biodiversity focused events have been held this quarter including a conservation week event with the Invercargill library where several children learnt how to repot native seedlings and got to take home their

very own Tōtara tree. In addition, the team supported the Predator Free Southland Hui, Te Rere Planting Day and the DOC conservation week event in Te Anau

The Biodiversity Southland Forum meet with attendees learning about the Jobs for Nature fish passage case study findings. The internal Biodiversity Technical Group have been meeting monthly and are working through a number of ‘burning’ issues to support the improvement of biodiversity programmes across the organisation.

Biodiversity Action on The Ground

The team has focused on processing Environmental Enhancement Fund applications for the 2024-2025 financial year. Seventy-five applications were received this year. Of these, 66 were approved, contributing \$867k towards projects valued at over \$2M. Nine applications were declined as they did not meet the fund criteria. Two new fund categories were created this year to enable more biodiversity work to be completed. The ecological survey work has continued with 12 surveys covering 550ha being undertaken and three management plans have been completed.

Southland Fish Passage Remediation Project

During these winter months, survey and remediation work is not able to be completed. This work will begin next quarter as weather permits. The project has focused on completing planning for the coming season and reviewing previous data. Ryan Easton (our case study researcher) has given two talks presenting the early findings of his work. It is reassuring that his work is showing a benefit to climbing species across the region.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources	X		
Diverse opportunities to make a living	X		
Communities empowered and resilient	X		
Communities expressing their diversity			X

Attachments

Nil

9.2 Whakamana te Waituna

Report by: Nick Perham, Partnership Manger

Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Integrated Catchment Management

Report Date: 17 September 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the workings of the Whakamana te Waituna Charitable Trust, of which Environment Southland is a key partner.

Summary

Throughout the last financial year (year 7), the Whakamana te Waituna Charitable Trust (the Trust) have successfully transferred from the old structure associated with the Deed of Funding to a new, independent operating structure. As part of this transfer, the Trust has been granted charitable status and has developed clear objectives to support its charitable status.

A new programme of work has been developed for the current year, with each project aligning with one or more of the charitable objectives. To support and drive this programme of work, the Trust has recently employed a project manager, whose role includes planning, reporting, and identifying and securing ongoing funding.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Regional Services Committee resolve to:

- 1 Receive the report - Whakamana te Waituna.

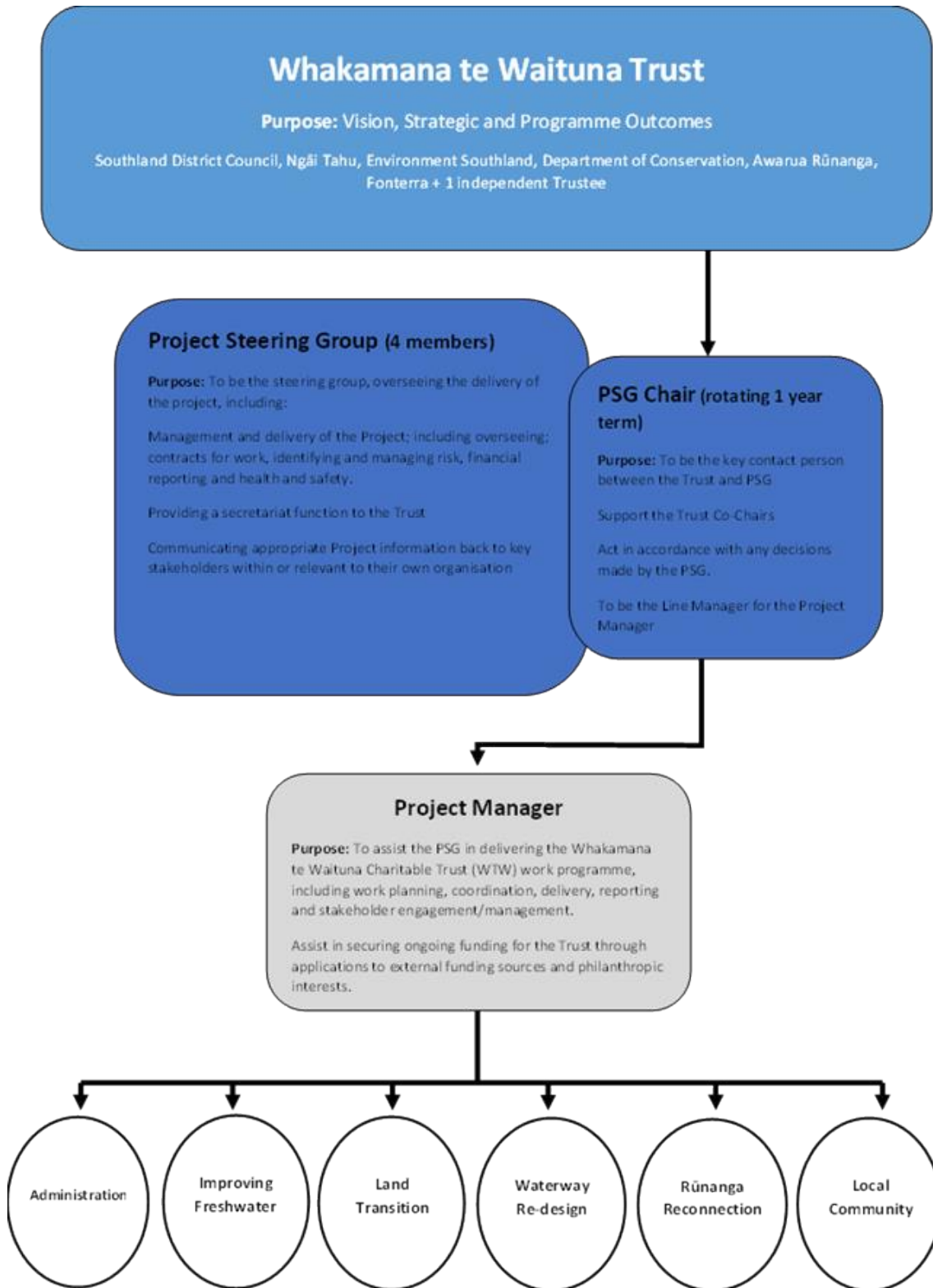
Report

This report provides an update on key undertakings relating to the workings and structure of the Trust. Following the completion of the Deed of Funding with the Ministry for the Environment (at the end of June 2023), the Trust has spent the last year in a 'care and maintenance' mode while transferring to a leaner and more agile set up, independent from Environment Southland. The partner shareholders of Whakamana te Waituna agreed to this move.

Updated Trust structure

The Trust was reformed to consolidate the workings and interests of the key partners in the Waituna Catchment. Taking learnings from Phase 1, the Trust has also appointed an independent trustee from within (and to represent the interests of) the Waituna Community. The Trust still has a co-chair arrangement with the trustees from Environment Southland and Awarua Runanga holding the co-chair roles.

The former director's position was disbanded at the end of year 6 in line with the end of the Deed of Funding arrangement. The Project Steering Group has continued, and have an elected chair, who is the conduit to the co-chairs and trustees. Recently the Trust has also employed a project manager. The diagram below shows the current trust structure, including the six work streams that align with the new charitable objectives.



Year 7 outcomes

The primary focus for the year 7 (1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024) has been the set up and transfer to the new trust structure, to run independently from Environment Southland. This has involved applying for and obtaining Charitable Trust status (including establishing clear and meaningful charitable objectives), setting up an independent finance system, and updating the Terms of Reference.

Alongside this a number of projects have continued and/or been completed:

- Southland District Council completed the upgrade of the Waghorn Road Bridge;
- The Ta Wai Parera Trust in conjunction with Awarua Runanga have undertaken the development of several wetland ponds. This has allowed for a wider habitat for fish and bird species and has supported the cultural aspirations associated with Mahinga Kai;
- The Trust ended its project on the Webster Block to develop a constructed wetland to support sediment retention. It was decided to not undertake the construction, this was primarily due to the significant increase in costs compared to the relevant benefits – the size of the Webster Block didn't allow for the desired scale. However, the process and work completed through the scoping and development phases provided significant learnings which will be carried forward to later projects.

Terms of References updated

The Terms of Reference have recently been updated to support the new structure and modes of operating.

Some of the key areas amended included:

- electronic payments:
 - new procedure added for the authorisation of payments via the Trust's bank account to ensure appropriate safeguards in place to prevent fraudulent activity;
 - any breach of the procedure to be investigated and immediately reported to the Trust;
 - reflects procedures currently being used.
- Reporting and Consultation - Ministry for the Environment:
 - references to consulting, seeking approval and reporting to the Ministry for the Environment removed as a result of the Deed of Funding being completed;
- charity and donee status:
 - updates made to reflect the Trust is now a registered charity and has donee status;
- auditing of financial accounts:
 - auditing of the Trust's financial accounts is now at the discretion of the Trustee's, in situations where an audit is not required by law (consistent with the Trust Deed).

Updated Trust structure

The Trust was reformed to consolidate the workings and interests of the key partners in the Waituna catchment. These are: Awarua Runanga, Department of Conservation, Environment Southland, Fonterra, Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu, Southland District Council. Taking learnings from Phase 1, the Trust has appointed an independent trustee from within (and to represent the interests of) the Waituna Community and have recently employed a project manager.

New project manager

A new project manager has been employed by the Trust. The role of project manager has been set up to:

- assist the Project Steering Group (PSG) in delivering the Trust's work programme, including work planning, coordination, delivery, reporting, and stakeholder engagement/management;
- the position has a strong focus on proactively leading work to identify and secure ongoing funding for the Waituna project, supporting the Trust's Webster Block restoration project and associated nature-based financing pilot and leading the development and utilisation of clear policies and procedures for the Trust, including data management;

- the position will also provide secretarial services to the Trust and the PSG to assist in the effective operation of the Trust and also provide support and expertise to the re-imagining Mātaura project, showcasing how resources and knowledge can be shared across key projects in the Southland region.

Year 8 work programme

Following the transitional, care and maintenance year 7, the Trust now has a clearer vision for what it wants to achieve. And has put together a purposeful work plan for Year 8 and beyond. The PSG along with the newly appointed project manager are currently undertaking some scoping and forward planning around the proposed work projects. Some of these projects have already started or continued from last year. Some projects will be planned and scheduled to start this (financial) year. And, acknowledging that the Trust has limited resources and can't undertake everything in one go, some projects will be moved out to start at a later time.

FY24 & Beyond – Achieving our Vision

Whākamana
Te Waituna
Programme

Reduce N & P farming

Prevent further increases in N and P losses to water from farmed land and start reducing losses by implementing Low and Medium On-Farm Mitigations



All farms operating at good farming practice.
Reduced autumn & Spring fertiliser use and use low water-soluble P fertiliser
Increased production efficiencies enabling profitable farming with lower inputs.
Lower overall catchment stocking rates

Waterway re-design

Drains and waterways are re-designed to minimise the risk of sediment flowing into Waituna Lagoon and to reduce weed growth



Re-construct drain cross-sections to prevent bank collapse (main sediment input)
Re-construct larger streams and creeks into a 2-stage channel that increases flood capacity and reduces bank erosion.
Undertake riparian planting to shade waterways, reduce weed growth and provide habitat.

Land re-purposing wetlands

Land is acquired in the mid and lower catchment and large scale wetlands are created. Land is also acquired or re-purposed in sensitive areas (peat).



Investigate alternative funding models enabling the acquisition of land in and around the locations of the mid and lower catchment wetlands and in sensitive areas.
Construct lower Waituna Creek catchment wetland (100-150ha)
Construct mid Waituna Creek wetland (50ha)

Mātauranga Māori connection

Continue to partner with Awarua Rūnanga and Ngāi Tahu to further the incorporation of Mātauranga Māori into our ways of thinking and working.



Enhance the habitats of key taonga species by improving water quality and increasing areas of native vegetation.
Utilise traditional Māori knowledge and cultural health indicators.
Improve access to land for Mahinga Kai gathering and Rūnanga development.

Carbon

Realise the co-benefits enhancing biodiversity and water quality have on NZ's carbon footprint and the value of carbon in funding nature restoration.



Investigate carbon and biodiversity credits as a mechanism for funding wetland and restoration projects.
Prioritise areas of peat soil for restoration and investigate their carbon sequestration potential.
Utilise land acquired around constructed wetlands and in sensitive areas for native forest plantations (ETS).

The following table provides an overview of the projects the Trust has planned to undertake. These have been grouped under the six charitable objectives.

Main Charity Objective	Year 8 Activities	Details
Administration	1.1 Operate Whakamana te Waituna Charitable Trust	Trust meetings, Trustee expenses & development, Trustee insurance.
	1.2 Operate Project Steering Group (PSG)	PSG meetings and any costs associated with operating the PSG
	1.3 Financial Services and Reporting	Annual Audit, Accountant Fees & Reporting costs.
	1.4 Project Management Office	Full time project co-ordinator, IT, printing, stationary & general project expenses
Rūnanga Reconnection	2.1 Whare installation, veranda and infrastructure	Installation of the new SIT Whare at the Mahinga Kai Pa site, including site preparation, consenting, septic system and veranda.
	2.2 Marshall Road Whare Repairs	Repairs and upgrades to the building at 600 Marshall Road to bring it up to a usable standard for camping/general use.
	2.3 Mahinga Kai Pa Pest Control	Continuing to maintain a pest control programme on the Mahinga Kai Pa site.
Waterway Re-Design	3.1 Waituna Creek Long Term Plan (including erosion plan).	Develop in collaboration with stakeholders a long-term plan for Waituna Creek. A shared vision and associated strategy will form a key part of the plan along with identification of priority areas for restoration/re-battering and areas that may require short/medium term remediation (i.e. rock work). The aim is to develop a shared vision and work plan that all stakeholders can work towards achieving, while also enabling work to be carried out that is required in the short/medium term.
	3.2 Waituna Creek Esplanade Reserve Fencing (Carried over from Year 7)	Complete fencing of Waituna Esplanade Reserve. Project started in Year 7 but due to weather and flooding has had to be carried over to Year 8.
Improving Freshwater	4.1 Maintenance and Monitoring of Jordan Creek Sediment Trap	Maintenance of the Jordan Creek sediment trap and the continuation of the monitoring programme to determine sediment accumulation rates, sediment size and cleaning requirements.
	4.2 On Farm / Catchment Group Projects for Freshwater	Restarts the on farm/community fund available to individual landowners or groups to support initiatives to improve freshwater, i.e. riparian planting, wetland creation, sediment traps, etc.
	4.3 Catchment Scale Wetland Design - Waituna Creek	Builds on the earlier work of Aqualinc (2020) and Tonkin & Taylor (2020-24), which investigated potential sites on Waituna Creek for a large scale constructed wetland. With a potential land acquisition at the bottom of Marshall Road, this work will focus on a wetland design that links the Trust's (and Trust Partner) assets together to

		create a large lower catchment wetland for nitrate removal.
	4.4 Removal of PROC Structures x2	Removal of two Peak Run-off Control Structures at Foveaux Investments that impact fish passage.
Land Transition	5.1 Nature Based Financing Pilot	Contract with EnviroStrat to create a verified nature-credit scheme for the Webster and Crack Blocks (with potential expansion to other land acquisitions and private landowners) as a means of creating an ongoing revenue stream from the Trust's restoration programmes.
	5.2 Webster Block Restoration Programme	Re-vegetation of the 48ha Webster Block using various forms of the Tīmata planting method. This includes natural reversion, Mānuka as a nursery crop and Mānuka interspersed with areas of more diverse native plantings (as a seed source). Over the next 50-100 years a biodiverse forest will re-establish.
	5.3 Land Acquisition Programme	The acquisition of additional land in the lower Waituna Catchment that was identified by the original land purchase programme or is required for catchment scale wetland creation.
	5.4 PhD Research - Productive Use of Re-Wetted Peat (Paludiculture)	Supporting the PhD of Rahel Leila Bauerdick from Victoria University (3 years). Rahel is researching the re-wetting of peat soils in Waituna and potential productive uses that can take place on these re-wetted soils which don't impact the natural ecological functioning of the peat/wetland.
Local Community	6.1 Develop an Integrated Catchment Plan (incl. refresh of Strategy and Action Plan & Contaminant Intervention Strategy)	Updating the 2015 Strategy and Action Plan for Waituna through the development of an integrated catchment management plan. This will socialise and build on the contaminant intervention strategy, the Waituna Creek Long Term Plan and community aspirations.
	6.2 Community Engagement & Communication	Ensuring effective community engagement so the wider community is aware of the Trust's work and vice versa.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources	X		
Diverse opportunities to make a living	X		
Communities empowered and resilient	X		
Communities expressing their diversity	X		

Attachments

Nil

9.3 2024 10 16 Catchment Integration Divisional Update

Report by: Fiona Young, Catchment Integration Manager

Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Integrated Catchment Management

Report Date: 16 October 2024

Purpose

This report outlines the proposed work programme for 2024-2025 and provides an update on activities over the past three months.

Summary

The catchment integration team work to support community and Council to implement its regulatory obligations. The focus is primarily on freshwater and land practice, however the scope generally also includes waste, pollution prevention and other matters.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Regional Services Committee resolve to:

- 1 Receive the report - {Catchment Integration – Divisional Update}.
- 2 Approve the Catchment Integration work programme for 2024-2025.

Background

The Catchment Integration team work programme is intended to directly support the following long term plan levels of service:

- Council works in partnership with community, landowners, iwi, community groups, businesses, government agencies and other councils to enable action that deliver better environmental outcomes;
- provide reliable information, advice and an ongoing education programme that lead to effective environmental stewardship and kaitiakitanga.

The team seeks to achieve these levels of service by working internally with other teams, and externally with stakeholders to engage, educate and empower individuals and groups to action. Staff utilise the following tools and approaches to facilitate the connection between the Council and the Southland community. Staff provide advice and education for individuals, businesses, community groups and schools on sustainable land management practices. As noted above, staff work with others across Council to support our regulatory responsibilities for water, biodiversity, and contaminated land and hazardous substances. Finally, the team looks for opportunities to improve environmental practices and take action.

The following table outlines the proposed work programme of 2024-2025 and has been developed over the last couple of years, and following direction from staff and Council on priorities.

WORK AREA	INITIATIVES
1. Catchment Projects	Waikawa Integrated Management Catchment Plan Waihopai Catchment Plan ACE/Aparima Southland Sediment Project Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund Projects (e.g. Ocean Beach)
2. Funding Initiatives	Southland Riparian Restoration Programme Waihopai Planting Home Creek Waiau Fencing Fund Enablement Grant Maitaia Catchment Group Fund
3. Regulatory Implementation	Farm Plans Intensive winter grazing Forestry Contaminated Land Sites Register (SLUS) Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan Implementation
4. Education and Engagement	Land Management Advice Enviroschools (Education for Sustainability) Community/Catchment Group Engagement Southern Pest Eradication Pollution Prevention Catchment Liaison Committee support

Staff look for opportunities to support existing initiatives in the community that further the goal of the organisation to improve the environment.

The Catchment Integration team have been connecting with the community through their land sustainability, pollution prevention, and education work. For example, in August 2024, Environment Southland education advisors supported the Southland Science and Technology Fair, helping to judge projects, interview the students, and select environmental-themed projects deserving of awards. Environment Southland sponsored six prizes for outstanding projects, including the overall award for this year’s theme of ‘Natural Murihiku’.

Catchment Integration have been actively involved in the nominations process and judging of the Environment Southland community awards. Staff supported members of the community to showcase their numerous valuable initiatives and assisted Councillors in the judging process.

The following sections provide an update on activities over the past three to four months.

Waihopai Integrated Catchment Management Plan

Progress has continued in the Waihopai Catchment to develop a community catchment plan. The Waihopai Catchment presents unique challenges relating to diversity of both land use and community. The area includes intensive dairy and sheep farming, industrial zones both within Invercargill and within small rural hubs, a sizeable portion of urban residential areas within Invercargill and its surrounding lifestyle block subdivisions.

The Waihopai river is of considerable significance locally, being highly visible to many Southlanders for recreation purposes, flood protection, and drainage services. Development of an integrated catchment management plan (ICMP) offers the opportunity to actively engage with community, mana whenua, and stakeholders at place. One of the aims of ICMPs is to enable an important link between Environment Southland's policy requirements and on-the-ground action by the community. We have engaged contractors to work alongside us to coordinate and deliver the integrated catchment management plan. They provide a wealth of project management experience including skills in workshop facilitation, customer engagement, advice on co-design strategy and approaches, as well as data collection and analysis.

Staff at Environment Southland have been involved in:

- Community engagement by gathering support via existing networks and events, and participating in Waihopai ICMP workshops;
- Cross-divisional partnerships with regular interdivisional project planning and reporting meetings;
- Field days to familiarise the working group with the Waihopai catchment, including meeting landowners, and visiting relevant on-the-ground initiatives;
- Research and reporting on existing science and previous projects that relate to the development of an ICMP.

To date, staff have received a summary of their research findings on the current state of the Waihopai and previous relevant activities to the internal staff working group. This provided additional insights into what is valued and could be prioritised in the Waihopai. The first round of three community and stakeholder workshops in July 2024 was attended by a broad representation of the community. Additional engagement has included numerous phone conversations with businesses and key representatives from community groups, in-person meetings with catchment group coordinators and chairs, participation in community meetings including the Girl Guides and catchment group.

The July workshops established:

- Themes for potential actions on the ground across the catchment by individuals and groups;
- Preferred output method (move away from large, static, word documents to other 'living' formats including an online storymap or succinct poster);
- Opportunities for the ongoing governance structures, management, finance, and support of the integrated catchment management plan.

Currently we are continuing with regular weekly catch ups with the internal staff working group, preparing for follow-up workshops with community and stakeholders in October and anticipate delivery of the 'first version' of the catchment action plan by the end of November 2024.

Education - Long-term Plan Funding from other Councils

We have recently received notification from Southland District, Gore District, and Invercargill City Councils that they will be continuing their Enviroschools funding support for the next three years. This funding is critical to the continuation and development of our Enviroschools Programme in Southland. Our kaupapa

supports the empowerment of young people and their communities to connect with each other and the environment and work together, to innovate and create change.

During the last fiscal year staff worked with over 2000 young people and ran numerous events to help them develop environmentally focused projects both within their schools and communities. We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support we received from our Council partners. Partnerships with councils provide a stable support base for the nationwide network of Enviroschools. Council investment has been key to the success of Enviroschools for two decades with over 80% of councils being involved in providing regional leadership and on the ground support for participants nationwide.

Staff have also been working closely with Wastenet over the past 12 months and have been provided with funding support to deliver activities. Wastenet staff are contributing on the day, and financially to the Enviroschools Regional Hui to be held in December 2024 at the Waimumu Field Days site. There is good alignment of goals and work activities, and staff are positive about this ongoing work.

Waihopai planting

Our Waihopai planting site continues to gain support from our local schools with numerous planting events taking place over the last few months. The site now has over 3000 native plants established within this area. Staff have placed 25 plant identification signs; these signs were originally created by local primary schools who volunteered their time to research and develop the information for these panels. We hope to add more panels soon as the site continues to expand. We regularly receive positive feedback from teachers regarding this environmental project that centre around for main themes:

- Hands-on learning: Students gain practical experience in environmental science, plant identification, and ecology through direct involvement in planting and caring for our native species;
- Enhanced curriculum activity: This native planting project can be integrated into science, math, and social studies curricula, which provides real-world applications for classroom learning;
- Critical thinking: Engaging in native planting encourages problem-solving and critical thinking as students plan and manage their planting projects;
- Connection to nature: Students develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural systems and their role in environmental stewardship;
- Community engagement: Involvement in native planting can connect students with their local community, enhancing their sense of belonging and responsibility.

Home creek Planting

Fiordland college students recently took part in a planting event at our Home Creek site near Manapouri. Students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities which included:

- Fish ID; finding and identifying macroinvertebrates; visual soil assessment; and creating pest tracking tunnels were the four stations our experts ran;
- The ākongā/students finished the day by planting 100 natives along the bank, thinking about where to put the different species to best help the ecosystem.

AgriFutures

Catchment Integration staff supported the Agricultural Field Day Event known as 'Clash of the Colleges'. This event was established by the New Zealand Rural Games Trust to support youth studying horticulture and agriculture and to create unique opportunities for partnership and connection within the education and employment sectors. There were eight secondary schools in attendance from across Southland and Otago.

- The events are fast-paced and mimic an amazing race-style competition that offers students hands-on experience in various aspects of the rural sector. The modules are run by experts in their field and members of local young farmer clubs;
- The aim is to motivate, support, and empower rangatahi (young people) to pursue rewarding food and fibre careers by bringing experts and tools to the table. Some extra ‘celebrity’ was provided by Southland local, Tangaroa Walker;
- Modules include artificial insemination, ATV safety and wheel change, tree identification, attaching an insulator, break fencing, irrigation, offal identification, feeds and weeds, drenching, handpiece setup, wool identification through to gumboot throwing, sulky racing, and horse riding;
- Agri Futures also creates in-school modules to support teachers and students studying agriculture and horticulture. These modules are designed to supplement the existing curriculum, providing additional resources and hands-on learning opportunities.

Upcoming events for education and Enviroschools include:

- Marine Metre Squared workshop - November, Hedgehope School;
- Green Gold Reflection – November;
- Enviroschools Regional Hui – December;
- Aquavan Project - March 2026.

Contaminated land

Contaminated land staff manage projects relating to closed landfills and identifying HAIL sites including sheep dips. An internal presentation was recently delivered that gave an overview of several key sites undergoing remediation across Southland and the unique challenges they present, including Bluecliffs, Little Tahiti and Ocean Beach. These three “at risk” landfill sites have been granted funding from the Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund (CSRF).

The Bluecliffs CSRF funded project is ending. Removal of the landfill was successfully completed in March 2024 and the site will be revegetated with this work to be completed by the end of October 2024.

The Ministry for Environment (MfE) have commissioned Tonkin and Taylor to update their tool to include a climate change exposure assessment. Environment Southland closed landfill data is being collated to include in this assessment.

The sheep dip identification AI project will be completed this month and presented to staff. The contaminated land identification project by E3Scientific consultants determined if historic sheep dip sites can be identified through AI tools.

On-farm treatment options

Southland farmers are progressively adhering to good management practices in Southland. This includes installing water systems, and fencing stock out of waterways, best practice fertiliser application, and good practices for winter grazing management. As stated in Southland’s erosion strategy the priority is to keep sediment and contaminants in the paddock. The next steps to improve the environment after these preventative and farm management practices are completed, include building treatments to intercept contaminants between the source and waterways or groundwater.

These treatments can include building constructed wetlands, sediment traps, detainment bunds, retiring critical source areas or marginal farmland and allowing native vegetation to regenerate. They may also be a combination of some or all these treatments. An example combination is a detainment bund above a constructed wetland to help moderate the peak flow through the wetland by holding back storm flows behind the detainment bund and releasing slowly through the wetland. This increases the effective attenuation of the wetland.

Environment Southland have been working with Fish and Game to identify and support the investigation and installation of treatments on farm. This will help improve water quality in Southland by reducing phosphorus, nitrogen, sediment, and microbes from getting into waterways. In the case of constructed wetlands, sediment traps and retiring land it also helps to move towards hauora by providing additional habitat for native fish and birds. The table below, gives a brief overview of some of these examples of the treatments with the estimated elements of costs, what contaminants are addressed, and some considerations for their appropriate use.

TREATMENT	CONTAMINENTS ADDRESSED	COST	WHEN TO USE
Detainment bund	P and sediment - any soil type, catchments less than 42 hectares. Need 120m ³ storage per hectare of catchment	Earthworks and pipes Locate in narrow critical source areas	Use on productive land you still want to graze Reduce peak flood flow Do not want permanent open water
Sediment trap	P and sediment Also store 120 m ³ per hectare of catchment (sediment traps are usually smaller than they should be)	Earthworks, fencing and some planting	Catchments with high sediment loss potential – winter grazing, steeper slopes, poorly drained soils
Constructed wetland	N, P, sediment and microbes Key treatment to capture nitrogen Depth of water, consistency of flow, and wetland plants key to success	Earthworks, fencing and significant planting	Address known nitrogen risk. Also to help store water and provide habitat value. Dairy farm catchments and free draining soils
Retiring land	N, P, sediment, and microbes Prevent farming from occurring in high-risk areas that easily lose vegetation cover to bare soil, become pugged, or require constant spraying	Fencing	Strategic change to marginal land use that is of little economic value to the farm system Boggy areas, steep south facing weedy slopes, vegetated areas

Hill Country Erosion Funded work

Councillors will be aware of the Hill Country Erosion Programme partnership between the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), councils and landowners. It provides funding support to regional erosion-control projects that are beyond the capacity of councils to address on their own. Both councils and landowners also provide funding throughout the programmes. Environment Southland received funding in 2023-2024 financial year. One of the required deliverables is an Erosion Strategy. This Strategy was developed to support the ongoing implementation of actions. Attached in Appendix One is an extract of this Strategy.

Staff from Catchment Integration worked with Manaaki Whenua to develop the strategy, and with Rural Consulting to develop the complementary implementation plan. Broadly, the strategy aims to outline erosion issues in Southland, collate scientific and technical knowledge, identify known tools to address erosion, recognise the role of key stakeholders and prioritise resources to address the highest risks first. It also includes linkages to policy and current work programmes.

Landslide Susceptibility in Southland

In the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle in early February 2023, Councillors sought advice on whether there is a risk infrastructure from slash generated by plantation forestry practices in Southland. This request was

prompted by the large amount of slash deposited near rivers and beaches on the east coast of the North Island. Staff commissioned Scion because of their expertise in forestry and land management. In Southland, the loss of Pyramid Bridge in 2018 was anecdotally, at least, partially attributed to slash build-up against the bridge during the flooding.

The initial scope of the report was focused on the risk to infrastructure from wood in rivers in Southland. A minor change occurred to include all sources of woody material, some of which include plantation forestry, while other sources include willows, poplars, riparian planting, and native bush. Due to known locations and management regimes, the report has stayed with plantation forestry as a first step of a longer project to assess risk to infrastructure and how our work programme can influence these risks.

Table 1. Description of watersheds within the study area

Watershed	Description	Mapped area (ha)
1	Oreti Catchment E of SH1, incl. Hokonui Hills. Taringatura Forest W of SH1, incl. E side of Aparima Catchment	41,661
2	Waiau Catchment, incl. Rowallan Forest and Blackmount W side of Aparima Catchment	48,619
3	Te Anau Basin (minor forest areas)	3,263
4	N of SH94, including West Dome	20,411
5	E of Mataura River incl. Slopedown Forest	33,612
Total Mapped Area		147,566

Table 9. Area (ha) within each slip erosion susceptibility class by watersheds.

Watershed	Slip Erosion Susceptibility Class						Total
	Neg. (0)	Slight (1)	Mod.(2)	Severe(3)	V.severe (4)	Extreme (5)	
1	40,069	1259	302	21	8	0.4	41,661
2	47,289	1137	164	20	7	2	48,619
3	2,956	209	82	16	-	0	3,263
4	14,636	3,004	1,958	509	210	94	20,411
5	31,542	1,693	350	20	6	0	33,612
Grand Total	136,492	7,302	2,856	586	231	96	147,566

Forestry slash moves into waterways via shallow landslides/soil slips causing debris flow. The 147,566 hectares of plantation forestry in Southland were mapped against the likelihood of a shallow landslide occurring. This illustrated that the majority of Southland forestry is not at risk of shallow landslides. The tables above describe the watersheds and risk of slip erosion. It is noted there are higher risk areas in upper catchments, and further work is needed to identify sites that are at higher risk, may contribute to any risk to infrastructure in their lower catchments.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources			X

Diverse opportunities to make a living	X		
Communities empowered and resilient	X		
Communities expressing their diversity	X		

Attachments

1. Erosion Control Strategy for Murihiku Southland [9.3.1 - 5 pages]

Erosion Control Strategy for Murihiku Southland

INTRODUCTION

Erosion is the process where soil, regolith or rock is removed and transported from one place to another. Sediment refers to the eroded material when it is in transport or in a receiving environment. Some erosion, and consequent sedimentation, occurs naturally, and this load is generally unmanageable. However, most erosion outside the DOC estate is caused or exacerbated by human activities. This load is considered manageable and is the focus of this strategy.

This strategy provides an approach for Environment Southland for managing erosion and activities that affect erosion and sediment and their impacts in Murihiku Southland. It is informed by a wealth of technical work and forms part of a suite of regulatory and non-regulatory activities that seek to deliver Environment Southland, community, and mana whenua aspirations.

THE NEED FOR AN EROSION CONTROL STRATEGY FOR MURIHIKU SOUTHLAND

Excessive erosion and sediment deposition can affect diverse values held by mana whenua and communities, such as ecosystem health, mauri and te hauora o te wai o te taiao, amenity and recreation, cultivation and food production, transport, mahinga kai, fishing, archaeological values, birds, and mammals, wai tapu, and safety of people and infrastructure.

Previous investigative work has highlighted impacts on these diverse values caused by erosion and sediment. Declining water quality, and deposited sediment in streams, rivers, estuaries, harbours, and the near-coastal environment are particularly concerning to mana whenua and Murihiku Southland's communities. This work also highlighted that in many catchments, reductions in erosion and sediment loads to water are required to meet both regional and national objectives/regulations. In some catchments these required reductions are significant.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the erosion control strategy is to support mana whenua, community, and Environment Southland's aspirations of hauora.

With respect to erosion, a state of hauora and healthy resilience will be supported when:

- erodible lands and waterbody margins are stabilised
- sediment is prevented from reaching waterbodies as much as possible.

GOALS

The goals of the erosion control strategy are to:

- indicate what types of erosion to focus on
- guide future erosion reduction activities by identifying where erosion problems exist in Murihiku Southland and a process for their prioritisation
- outline options for how to address erosion problems
- support funding applications to address erosion in Murihiku Southland including MPI's Hill Country Erosion Fund
- support synergies across the council activities to achieve multiple outcomes including erosion control
- provide high-level guidance to the erosion control implementation plan.

PRINCIPLES

- Take a pragmatic and evidence-based approach for identifying where erosion problems exist.
- Preferentially target preventative measures to prevent erosion and sediment delivery rather than addressing the symptoms of erosion and sedimentation.
- Encourage widespread engagement and support local, place-based approaches.
- Align approach with current and near-future regulatory instruments and existing activities.

SUPPORTING ON-THE-GROUND CHANGE

To maximise the likelihood of achieving on-the-ground change Environment Southland will do the following.

- Make clear mana whenua and community aspirations that pertain to erosion and sediment.
- Make key information and knowledge easily accessible and available including:
 - why considering erosion is important
 - where there are problems (and the exact nature of these and likely causes)
 - what activities can exacerbate or mitigate erosion
 - where to do erosion control activities (priority areas rather than activities).
- Provide credible and relevant evidence for erosion control activities by:
 - providing showcase examples, farm demonstrations
 - providing information on benefits and costs of interventions.
- Provide support to farmers by:
 - enabling localised approaches for example through catchment groups
 - having skilled advisors to provide 'How to' advice
 - providing some funding, which may come from MPI's Hill Country Erosion Fund or from other sources.
- Minimise additional work for farmers and Environment Southland by:
 - aligning erosion control strategy with existing and near-future regulatory requirements and existing Council projects and activities.
- Consider the upstream and downstream requirements and impacts of planting for erosion control such as:
 - nurseries for plant supply, maintenance of plantings
 - possum, deer, and goat control to minimise damage to any planting
 - biodiversity impacts.
- Co-ordinate with other Environment Southland initiatives to achieve multiple benefits from environmental investments.

KEY MESSAGES

- Erosion and sedimentation have significant impacts in Murihiku Southland despite rates not being very high by national standards. Erosion reduces the productive potential of the land, and sedimentation affects receiving environments such as lagoons and estuaries and consequently impacts both cultural and community values.
- Changes in land cover and land use and hydrological changes are the primary reasons for increases in erosion expressed as an increase in sedimentation rates in the regions estuaries and harbours.
- Surface erosion is the main type of erosion contributing 92% of modelled suspended surface loads at a regional level. At a freshwater management unit (FMU) level it contributed between 66% and 95%.
- Bank erosion becomes more important in the lower reaches of the major rivers.
- Intensive winter grazing and forage cropping is likely to be an important localised source of sediment loads in rivers.
- Prevention is better than cure. The guiding principle of erosion and sediment control is to prevent erosion happening in the first place then aim to intercept sediment before it reaches the receiving environment.
- Efforts to mitigate stream bank erosion should include localised riparian vegetation, stock exclusion, and in-river works while simultaneously addressing catchment drivers such as changes in land use and practices that affect hydrology that result in increased bank erosion.

STRATEGIC APPROACH

This strategy takes a spatial approach to erosion control, focusing on hydrological catchments. These provide a pragmatic reference for Environment Southland, can be readily identified, and are often places where communities interact to address environmental issues (e.g. via catchment groups).

The increase in erosion and the subsequent impacts of sediment arise from a combination of land use, land practices, and hydrological changes over the past century and especially in the past few decades. Analysis of existing information does not clearly point to any particular area, land type, or land use or a single mitigation activity as the focus for prioritisation.

The following dimensions of the strategic approach are informed by this analysis.

- Use of multiple criteria to aid prioritisation of key sources of erosion.
- Use of hydrological sub-catchments for the multicriteria analysis.
- Targeting highest priority areas first with a combination of provision of credible and relevant information, community support, regional council advice, and incentives. This can be scaled according to resources. Explore leverage opportunities with other Environment Southland activities and funding in these priority areas.
- Within priority sub-catchments focus on key sources of erosion and sediment. Target support for practices that reduce sediment generation at source (e.g., soil conservation planting, assisted native regeneration, maintaining cover), serve to retain water in upper catchments (planting, detention bunds) that protect riverbanks (e.g., stock exclusion fencing, riparian and estuarine setbacks and planting, wetland restoration).
- Support and enable landowners and catchment groups to use Southland Farm Plans as a key delivery mechanism. The risk-based nature of farm plans mean that they are well-suited to identifying and managing activities to reduce erosion and sedimentation.

PRIORITISATION

Prioritisation criteria	Scoring		
	5	3	1
Extent of erosion problem in the contributing catchment	80% of catchment is covered by one or more erosion or model layers	40% of catchment is covered by one or more layers	>10% of catchment is covered by one or more layers
Extent of bank erosion in the mainstem/high order rivers	Visibly active >1.0 m loss per year; many sections of riverbank within catchment experiencing >50 m bank erosion	Visibly active >0 and <0.5 m loss per year; some sections of riverbank within catchment experiencing 5–20 m bank erosion	Not active
Extent of localised bank erosion problem in the catchment's low order streams	Visibly active >1.0 m loss per year; many sections of low order stream bank erosion within catchment experiencing >20 m bank erosion	Visibly active >0 and <0.5 m loss per year; some sections of low order stream bank erosion within catchment experiencing small (<5 m) bank erosion	Not active
Manageability of erosion problem	Scale and severity of the problem easily managed (technical feasibility and cost)	Scale and severity of the problem moderately manageable (technical feasibility and cost)	Scale and severity of the problem difficult and costly to address. Or >75% catchment is in Conservation estate
Impacts on the receiving environment	D band or at risk estuaries identified through monitoring, or modelled/measured sedimentation rate exceeds 2 mm/yr,	Evidence of increasing estuary sedimentation rate	A band estuaries identified through monitoring no increase in estuary sedimentation rate
Urgency of action	High	Medium	Low
Supporting activities	Catchment group AND at least one other project or activity (e.g. Biodiversity funding, existing Land Management activity, 'Slow the Flow' project activity)	Catchment group OR at least one other project or activity (e.g. Biodiversity funding, existing Land Management activity, 'Slow the Flow' project activity)	No activity

IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

Actions for supporting implementation				
Completing initial sub-catchment prioritisation and sense check of the prioritisation criteria	ES Land Management team, River Engineering, Science, Policy/Planning and Rural Consulting	January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities established and plan and funding secured for first priorities 	
Use prioritisation to guide areas to be targeted as part of the erosion control implementation plan	ES Land Management team and Rural Consulting	February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of timeline for action • Alignment of implementation plan with other council plans 	
Identify alignment of implementation plan with regional plan e.g. “Appendix N” of the proposed Southland water and land plan detailing farm plan requirements	Rural Consulting	March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation plan adopted • Funding application completed for HCEF to address first 2 year’s priorities 	
Implementation plan approved by Council and TAMI; timelines set; plan dovetailed into other ES plans	ES Land Management team and Rural Consulting	April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First catchment group to work with selected 	
Actions for aligning with other initiatives				
Investigate synergies with other ongoing initiatives in and outside ES for possible complementarity and opportunities to leverage for multiple outcomes	ES Land Management team, River Engineering, Biodiversity, Catchment initiatives such as ‘Slow the Flow’, Policy/Planning	May 2024	Future rounds of funding across ES consider multiple objectives	

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Erosion Control Strategy should be monitored after 12 months to see if it has achieved its goals, and thereafter reviewed and refreshed every 5 years. For the monitoring and review of the erosion control implementation plan, the focus should be on the extent, placement, and continued functioning of erosion control activities.

- Specific tasks and targets should be set for 12 months.
- A review should take place annually to account for any changes in the operating environment and to:
 - ensure tasks are completed on schedule
 - assess against the strategic goals and aspirations
 - assess relationship with other activities, both internal to ES and external.

We recommend these reviews be conducted by the Land Management team at ES. We also suggest a reference group to support the review process be established.

9.4 Report on land management funding opportunities

Report by: Fiona Young, Catchment Integration Manager

Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Integrated Catchment Management

Report Date: 16 October 2024

Purpose

To seek Council approval of the approach for various grants to incentivise environmental action on the ground for the 2024/25 year.

Summary

Funding opportunities have been an important aspect of land sustainability officers and education advisors supporting individuals and communities to take positive environmental action. This report outlines the background to and seeks approval to proceed with the initiatives.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Regional Services Committee resolve to:

- 1 Receive the report – funding for environmental action on the ground.
- 2 Approve the approach and funding level for the Mataura Catchment Group Grants.
- 3 Approve the approach and funding level for the Constructed Wetland Grants.
- 4 Approve the approach for the Thriving Southland fund.
- 5 Approve ongoing reporting to occur through the Regional Services Committee.

Background

In August 2019, the Mataura Catchment Group Grant was initiated by Catchment Operations as a trial to incentivise catchment groups to undertake environmental work funded by interest from the Mataura rating 'disaster reserve'. The grant encouraged investment in projects that complemented the work of the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee and aligned with Environment Southland objectives.

When initially established, each of the five catchment groups in the Mataura Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) at the time were eligible for \$5,000 each, making a combined total of \$25,000. In 2019, a total of two applications were received, however, they did not progress, and the grant was not utilised in subsequent years.

A second area of funding was also made available in the past via the Enablement Grant. This grant was made available to people who had completed a Focus Activity Farm Plan, and where the proposed work specifically related to one of the recommendations. The Focus Activity Farm Plan project operated from 2015 to 2019. Through that time, Land Sustainability staff worked with farmers to prepare almost 1000 farm plans. In May 2024, Appendix N (Farm Environmental Management Plans) of the Southland Water and Land Plan became operative. We have found farmers still refer to, or at least have a paper copy of their plans.

Over the past three years, funds have been directed to catchment projects as part of the catchment integration and the riparian planting projects at Charlton Waimumu, Home Creek and Waihopai. Changes to the use of these funds is proposed for the current financial year.

A third area of funding has been created by the Council decision in July this year to grant Thriving Southland \$235,000 to fund environmental enhancement projects.

Current progress and ongoing work

In February 2024, in response to community demand for environmental project funding, the Catchment Integration team began working to reinvigorate the grants for this area. The proposed Maitara Catchment Group Grant will alleviate some financial barriers and enable catchment groups to take environmental action, address environmental issues specific to their catchment and strengthen relationships between all involved parties.

Examples of projects that can be supported by the grant are included on the flyer and application guide, for example wetland creation or restoration, detention bunds and retiring gullies. Applications closed at the end of June, with applicants notified of decisions in August 2024. When the funded work is complete, the fund holder will submit a claim form and invoices to Environment Southland. Staff will then complete a site inspection prior to reimbursement.

A suite of paperwork was created and reported to Council in 2019 (refer [Maitara Catchment Group Grants - Environment Southland \(es.govt.nz\)](#)). These were refreshed in early 2024 in conjunction with the Maitara Liaison Committee Chair. Applicants are now required to describe the issues in their catchment, outline their project in detail (including timeframes and a budget), and explain how their project addresses water quality, soil conservation, biodiversity and climate resilience.

The team began advertising the grant from mid-May to the end of June 2024. A meeting was held in mid-May 2024 with members of the Maitara Catchment Liaison Committee and several catchment group representatives to explain the grant. The Catchment Integration team visited catchment groups, made phone calls to individuals, created a webpage and gave out information on the grant at community events.

For 2024-25, there is \$25,000 available and there are now twenty-two catchment groups within the Maitara FMU eligible to seek up to \$5,000 in funding for projects with environmental benefits. Six applications were received for the 2024 round of funding, and of these, five were granted, and staff are in further discussion regarding the sixth application. The main eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Mana whenua and wider community - will the project have benefits (e.g. access, education) for mana whenua and the wider community?
- Effectiveness – potential impact on water quality, soil conservation, biodiversity and/or climate resilience;
- Value - does the project address issues specific to the catchment?
- Feasibility - does the project have realistic timeframes, budgets, resources and capacity?
- Cost-effectiveness – is the project good value for money?
- Long term sustainability - will the project require ongoing time, money and resources? Will the project continue to have positive impact in the long term?

A second funding opportunity is being planned focused on mitigations and interventions for environmental improvement. Increasing wetlands was seen by the Regional Forum as an effective means of restoring hauora and resilience to our waterways. Restoring existing wetlands, reinstating wetlands or in paddock constructed wetlands decrease the amount of sediment and nutrients that enters our main streams, rivers and estuaries, and reduce the peak during flood events. In addition, wetlands (new and constructed) provide biodiversity and habitat for a wide range of species.

Staff recommend the redirection of the previous Enablement Grant for this financial year into a 'Constructed Wetland' grant, for wider environmental interventions and mitigations. These funds will be directed to individual initiatives at property scale in rural areas. We will continue to draw on our wider range of internal expertise, with Southland Fish and Game, and with other agencies to support these initiatives.

This work will provide an opportunity to test the Regional Forum's recommendation to restore, create (recreate) wetlands across the landscape as part of a wider approach to reducing nutrients and sediment. This work also utilises the wealth of information known about soils and landscape across Southland that assists with choosing locations. There is an intention to use this work to demonstrate successful projects so that further funding can be sourced in the future.

Priority will be given to individual landowners where the proposed site is a catchment between 100 – 300 hectares, adjacent intensive land use and gently sloping sites, where a low bund will create around half a hectare (or less) of open water. Where appropriate, the criteria used for the Mataura Catchment Grants will be included in the selection process.

A further funding opportunity has come about through the long-term plan process. Funds are to be given to Thriving Southland for their staff to support catchment groups with on-ground actions. The proposed approach is that applications from catchment groups will be directed via their Funding Panel, (which includes one senior Environment Southland staff member as an independent decision-maker). The panel will assess applications as follows:

- Does the project deliver an on-ground catchment mitigation (this is a stop/go point as the focus of the funding is to support on-ground action)?

If Yes to the question above:

- Does the project showcase actions that improve freshwater quality and contribute to broader environmental understanding?
- Is co-funding included, which may be in the form of in-kind contributions (e.g., digger time)?
- Is project collaborative, working through the catchment group model allowing flexibility and community engagement?
- Does it allow for sharing of data and learnings to promote broader community knowledge and understanding?
- Does it empower community engagement?
- Does the project enhance understanding of environmental issues?

Thriving Southland will provide an update on the applications received, funding allocated and a progress report on the projects at each Regional Services meeting. A letter of agreement will be developed between Council and Thriving Southland to document the arrangement.

Next steps

It is recommended the Mataura grants be reviewed, over the next year, to ensure any opportunities to increase the total sum of money available to either provide more catchment groups with support or to provide funding greater than \$5,000 to individual groups. Through this review, sharing the learnings with other Catchment Liaison Committees who may wish to establish a similar grant in their areas.

If approved, staff will work quickly with landowners and relevant agencies to promote the proposed new 'Constructed Wetland' grant to fund mitigations and interventions. The intention is to have a date by which applications can be submitted, reviewed and decisions issued to applicants. Ideally applicants will know the outcome by November 2024 so that they can make plans for construction in the first half of 2025 (at the latest).

As noted in the previous section, the funding for Thriving Southland has been confirmed in the Long-Term plan, and parameters included by which decisions to grant funds will be made.

Reporting on the expenditure for all grants, and the any evaluation undertaken will be provided to the Regional Services Committee.

Risks/Opportunities

The actions outlined in this report provide opportunities for individuals and the community to take on-ground action that has a direct impact on the environment. It utilises existing relationships between Council, farmers, staff, the Catchment Liaison Committees, and Thriving Southland to achieve this outcome. Risks will be managed with the process of reviewing applications and allocating funding, with requirements outlined as appropriate. Any funds granted will need to ensure any consent requirements are met. A site visit to confirm that action have been undertaken, and funding spent as per the funding agreement.

Views of affected parties

Funding for the three opportunities outlined in this report have been confirmed in the 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources			X
Diverse opportunities to make a living	X		
Communities empowered and resilient	X		
Communities expressing their diversity	X		

Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

This report meets the requirements of the significance and engagement policy.

Considerations

Financial implications

Legal implications

Attachments

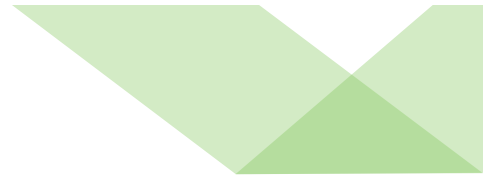
1. Mataura Catchment Group Grant Application Guide (v A 1972041) [9.4.1 - 4 pages]
2. Mataura Catchment Group Grant Flyer (v A 1980972) [9.4.2 - 2 pages]
3. Mataura Catchment Group Grant Application Form (v A 1972043) [9.4.3 - 6 pages]

Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee in conjunction with Environment Southland

MATAURA CATCHMENT GROUP GRANTS

A guide to funding requirements and applications





Mataura Catchment Group Grants

The Southland landscape has changed significantly through land development and drainage. This has made land more prone to erosion, resulted in greater and faster water runoff, reduced wetland area and riparian habitat, and increased contaminant loss (e.g. sediment, nutrients and microorganisms) to waterbodies. Catchment groups are an important component in achieving positive environmental outcomes for Southland.

The Mataura Catchment Group Grants were initiated to encourage investment in projects that complement the work of the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee and align with Environment Southland objectives. If your catchment group is undertaking projects that benefit your catchment and wider environment, your group may be eligible for a grant.

What does the grant cover?

- ▶ Projects within the Mataura Catchment Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) of the Southland Region.
- ▶ Projects that benefit water quality, soil conservation, biodiversity and/or climate resilience in your catchment.
- ▶ Projects on public land where active management by the relevant authority (e.g. council) is absent.
- ▶ Projects on private land which benefit the wider community and catchment.
- ▶ New projects or expansion of existing projects. Single and multi-year projects.

Examples of projects that could qualify for funding.

The grant could cover projects such as:

- ▶ Wetland restoration or creation
- ▶ Detainment bunds
- ▶ Wood chip bioreactors
- ▶ Riparian planting
- ▶ Erosion control planting
- ▶ Retiring gullies
- ▶ Sediments traps

Who can apply for funding?

Catchment groups that are within the Mataura Catchment FMU. Individual landowners are not eligible for funding, applications must be made through a catchment group.

How much funding is available? And how does it work?

- ▶ Environment Southland is able to provide up to \$5,000 per Catchment Group per year.
- ▶ Applications can be submitted any time by the deadline of 30th June.
- ▶ Applicants will be advised of decisions in August.
- ▶ Priority will be given to applications that use best practice techniques, provide multiple benefits to the environment and address issues specific to your catchment.



Left: Retired gully with planting. Right: Detainment bund



What is not covered by the grant?

- ▶ Retrospective applications for work that has already been completed.
- ▶ Resource consent applications or mitigation requirements.
- ▶ Projects for profit.
- ▶ Projects with limited or no environmental benefits.

If circumstances change and the project cannot be completed within this timeframe, a formal request must be made to Maitara Catchment Liaison Committee and Environment Southland seeking an extension to the deadline before 30th April or to withdraw the application.



Above: Erosion control planting
Below: Sediment trap

The application, selection and payment processes

1. Applicants submit their project application by June 30th of each year.
2. A panel of Maitara Catchment Liaison Committee members and Environment Southland staff will review applications.
3. Applicants will be notified of decisions in August. Once the project is approved, the work can go ahead.
4. Projects must be completed and costs invoiced after 1st August and before 30th June of the following year.
5. When the work is complete, the applicant must submit a claim form and certified invoices to Environment Southland who will complete a site inspection for reimbursement.
6. On satisfactory completion of the project, the funds are released.

Not sure if your project qualifies?

You can contact Environment Southland with any questions about your application. They can help you design a project, and can provide you with assistance to understand environmental issues in your area.



To help complete your application

The grant application form is available on Environment Southland’s website and must contain the following information.

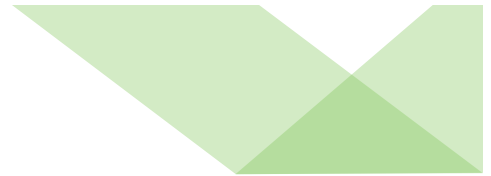
General application information

- ▶ Catchment group details
- ▶ Project work plan (including timeframes and budget)
- ▶ Project benefits

Additional project advice

Project plan

- ▶ Applicants must submit an annotated map, aerial photograph or line drawing which illustrates what is planned for where in addition to this funding application form.
- ▶ Depending on the scale of the proposed project, the project plan may be short and simple, or long and complex.
- ▶ The applicant should outline what the project entails, the current issues in the catchment and how the project benefits the environment. The project plan should contain the aim, methods (e.g. who, what, how).



Project Benefits

The applicant needs to clearly outline the benefits of the project to the environment e.g. water quality, climate resilience, biodiversity, soil conservation. For example:

Catchment issue:
<i>The local stream has poor turbidity and clarity due to high volumes of sediment entering the stream. The stream also has excessive plant growth due to high amounts of phosphorus entering the waterway. Neighbouring land is rolling to steep hill country with some areas prone to soil slips.</i>
Project idea:
<i>Retiring a nearby gully which has steep sides prone to soil slips. The gully is a critical source area and contributes a large amount of water to the stream. Plan is to fence off the area, plant poplar poles on the steeper land prone to soil slips, build a sediment trap at the bottom of the gully and plants native in the bottom on the gully and around the pond.</i>

Does your project benefit the following?		Describe the benefits
Soil Conservation e.g. minimising erosion, improving soil health	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes / No	<i>Planting poplar poles on areas prone to soil slip. The root system will bind the soil together and minimise the risk of losing large amounts of sediment.</i>
Water Quality e.g. reducing contaminants entering lakes, rivers, and estuaries	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes / No	<i>The sediment trap will allow sediment carried down the gully to settle out before entering the stream.</i>
Biodiversity e.g. enhancing or preserving native plants and animals	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes / No	<i>Native plantings around the pond will provide habitat for native animals in the area and filter contaminants.</i>
Climate Resilience e.g. reducing flooding risk, slowing flowing water	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes / No	<i>The sediment trap will slow the flow of water and provide some flooding relief.</i>

Contact us

Applications close on 30 June each year. For more information about the Maitara Catchment Group Grants, or to apply, you can contact a land sustainability officer at Environment Southland by emailing service@es.govt.nz with 'Maitara Catchment Group Grants' in the subject line or call 0800 76 88 45.



Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee

MATAURA CATCHMENT GROUP GRANTS

Encouraging investment in projects
to protect Southland's environment



Mataura Catchment Group Grants

Funding is available to assist catchment groups in the Mataura catchment working to protect and enhance Southland’s environment. There is funding available for up to \$5,000 per catchment group.

► **Examples of projects that could be supported by the Mataura Catchment Group Grant**



Wetland creation or restoration



Detainment bunds



Riparian planting



Erosion control planting



Retiring gullies



Wood chip bioreactors



Sediment traps



Expert advice

Applications close on 30 June each year. For more information about the Mataura Catchment Group Grants, or to apply, you can contact a land sustainability officer at Environment Southland by emailing service@es.govt.nz with 'Mataura Catchment Group Grants' in the subject line or call 0800 76 88 45.

For more information about the Mataura Catchment Group Grants or to contact us:



service@es.govt.nz (with 'Mataura Catchment Group Grants' in the subject line)



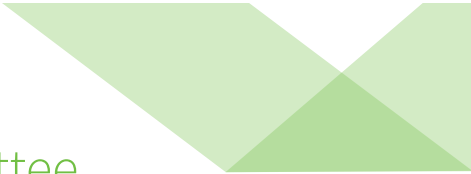
0800 76 88 45



www.es.govt.nz

May 2024





Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee

MATAURA CATCHMENT GROUP GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: General information

Catchment Group Name: _____

Contact Person 1: _____

Contact Person 2: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

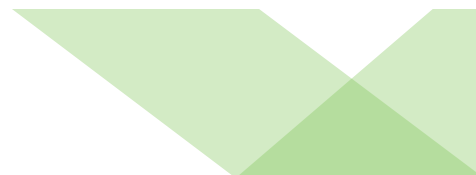
Note: To support this application you may wish to include the following:

- ▶ A copy of your constitution, strategic plan or objectives if you have them.
- ▶ A copy of the previous year's financial records if available.
- ▶ A list of office bearers and members of the catchment group.

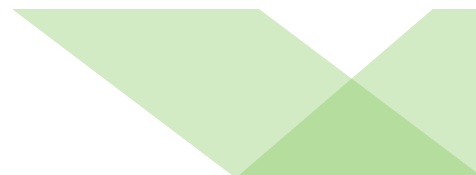
Section 2: Catchment issues

Describe the issues in your catchment



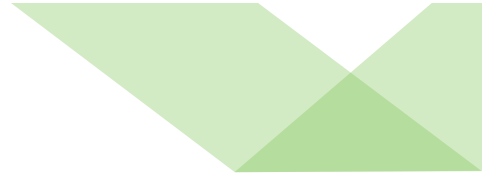


Does your project benefit the following?		Describe the benefits
Soil Conservation e.g. minimising erosion, improving soil health	Yes / No	
Water Quality e.g. reducing contaminants entering lakes, rivers, and estuaries	Yes / No	
Biodiversity e.g. enhancing or preserving native plants and animals	Yes / No	
Climate Resilience e.g. reducing flooding risk, slowing flowing water	Yes / No	
Other		



Section 4: Budget

Item	No. units required	Per unit cost (\$)	Provided by Applicant (hours and rate)	Provided by Contractor (hours and rate)	Total cost (Excluding GST)
Labour Please describe e.g. digger work, planting, spraying					
Materials Please describe e.g. pipes, fence posts, netting/wire, plants					
Other Please describe e.g. professional services, machinery, transport, field days					
Total project cost (excluding GST)					
Total funding sought from this grant by the applicant					



Total other funding	
Please advise below if funding is being sought from any other sources and if so, how much, who from, and when funding would be confirmed.	

Section 5: Declaration

The information contained in the application is true and correct.

Applicant - Catchment Group contact person 1

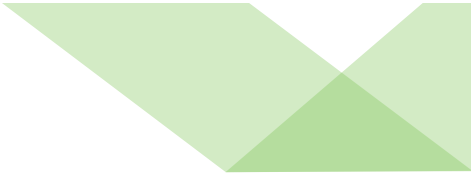
Signed: _____ Date: _____

Applicant - Catchment Group contact person 2

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Send your completed application form to service@es.govt.nz with “Mataura Catchment Group Grants” in the subject line.

Environment Southland representative	
Signed: _____	Date: _____
Objective ID: _____	



Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee Mataura Catchment Group Grant Minor Works Agreement

Minor Works Agreement

File No:

1. The rate of grant assistance is based on the total cost of the work, but not exceeding the estimate approved by Environment Southland (the Council).
2. The applicant may proceed with the project in accordance with the approved specifications following advice of approval from the Council.
3. Riparian planting, fencing or structures are to be placed so that they do not hinder access for machinery to carry out drain maintenance works managed by the Council.
4. The Council reserves the right to withdraw its approval of the project at any time before the commencement of work.
5. The applicant agrees not to damage, interfere with or demolish structures or plantings without first obtaining the Council's consent in writing.
6. Where relevant, controlled grazing with sheep only to suppress noxious weeds and rank grass growth is permitted, on condition of the following:
 - No grazing during the months of May to September inclusive
 - No significant de-vegetation occurs
 - A minimum grass sward height of 100mm is maintained
 - Grazing shall not damage any assisted riparian plantings
7. Pest flora and fauna control is the responsibility of the catchment group or landowner.
8. The applicant agrees to maintain any plantings, fencing and structures in good stock proof order and condition; any such maintenance to be at the applicant's own cost.
9. The applicant agrees to refund to the Council the amount of the grant paid by the Council if there is a failure to comply with any of the conditions specified in this agreement.
10. The applicant agrees to produce prior to claim for assistance such receipts, invoices and vouchers relevant to the project as the Council may require.
11. The applicant agrees to permit the staff of the Council to inspect the project at all reasonable times.
12. The Catchment Group/Landowner will not transfer or otherwise dispose of the Land to another person without first arranging for that other person to enter into a replacement agreement with the Council, whereby that other person agrees to assume the Catchment Group/Landowner's obligations under this Agreement for the unexpired term of the agreement.
13. This agreement exists for a period of 20 years from the date of signing.
14. This agreement applies in respect of the applicant's land described as [legal description of property]

The Catchment Group acknowledges that they and the Landowner have read and understood this agreement, and in particular understands that the Agreement must repay the grant if there is a breach of this Agreement which includes disposing of the Land without first arranging for the new owner to sign a replacement agreement.

Name of applicant: _____

Signature of applicant: _____

Date: _____

Name of witness: _____

Signature of witness: _____

Date: _____

Name of authorised representative of Council: _____

Signature of authorised representative of Council: _____

Date: _____

9.5 Catchment Liaison Committee November 2024 Annual General Meetings

Report by: Ella Lawton, Catchment Operations LTP and Stakeholder Lead
Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Integrated Catchment Management
Report Date: 3 October 2024

Purpose

Provide background on the purpose of the Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meetings, the role of Environment Southland and key details about the upcoming meetings.

Summary

Environment Southland administers and manages eight Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meetings (AGMs) on behalf of the Catchment Liaison Committees. The November 2024 AGMs will take place across the region from the 21 to 29 November 2024. As stated in the Catchment Liaison Committee terms of reference (attached), the AGMs are to confirm membership of the Catchment Liaison Committees, a forum for the community to discuss catchment matters, and where agreed, provide advice and make recommendations to Council. The key focus for these AGMs will be for the Catchment Liaison Committees to receive and discuss the 2025-26 annual work programme and budget.

The November AGMs will be the second round of AGMs held in 2024. This change is so that the recommendations made by the Catchment Liaison Committees can be considered in line with the development timeline of the 2025-26 Annual Plan. The draft Annual Plan is due to be presented to Council in December 2024 and finalised in February 2025.

A meeting between Catchment Liaison Committee Chairs and the Regional Services Committee is scheduled for 13 November 2024, to discuss AGM matters prior to the meetings.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Regional Services Committee resolve to:

- 1 Receive the report - Catchment Liaison Committee November 2024 Annual General Meetings.
- 2 Note the dates and content of the Catchment Liaison Committee AGMs.

Background

AGM purpose and procedure

As agreed in the Catchment Liaison Committee terms of reference, the purpose of the committees is 'to be a connection between the catchment community, its rating district, and Council to effectively manage the catchment's natural resources and assist Council to maintain better communications'.

Public membership is limited to ratepayers including lessees (or their representatives) 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. There may be representation from interest groups and industry groups, where appropriate.

Catchment liaison committees are a committee of Council, though they have no delegated powers.

At the AGMs:

1. Committee membership is confirmed;
2. Nominations for chair and/or co-chairs and other Catchment Liaison Committee groups, are received and decided on;
3. The group selects a chair and/or co-chairs from amongst its members;
4. There is an option for creating a sub-committee or technical advisory group;
5. Environment Southland will appoint its own representative with agreement from the committee.

Additional points:

6. A quorum must be reached to formalise the meeting. Quorum numbers differ for each committee and can be found in the terms of reference attached;
7. Key considerations will be ensuring committee interest and geographic balance to enable productive dialogue to occur;
8. The larger membership and the sub-committee/technical advisory group can co-opt and are open to any ratepayer;
9. There may be representation from interest groups and industry groups where appropriate.

Committee member expectations:

10. The chair will ensure a fair and equitable group process and be responsible for fostering an atmosphere of respect, open mindedness, and group learning;
11. Each committee member reflects the interests of a wider group within the community and preferably has the skills, experience, and knowledge to relay information between the Catchment Liaison Committee and different sectors within the community;
12. Note the commitment to 'collaborative decision-making' and 'principles of participation' in the terms of reference.

Proposed format for November 2024 AGMs

There are eight AGMs across the region which Environment Southland administers and manages on behalf of the catchment liaison committees. Below is the template on which the agenda for each of the eight AGMs will be developed, in collaboration with the catchment chair/co-chairs.

Feedback for the last few years is that the meetings have become too long. The upcoming meetings will aim to keep the formal AGM meeting to core the issues of catchment budgets and work programmes. The AGMs will be divided into two parts, as follows, and are expected to take approximately two hours each:

- Part 1: AGM formalities:
 - open meeting;
 - apologies, previous minutes, matters arising;
 - appointment of committee and membership.
- Part 2: AGM general business:
 - 24/25 - financial report and catchment report;
 - 25/26 - financial plan and catchment work programme;
 - close meeting.
- Part 3: Catchment Forum:
 - Invitation to other projects/matters of interest.

The date, time and venue for each AGM will be tabled at the meeting.

Environment Southland has standardised all meeting record keeping and in this next round of AGMs will be aligning the protocols and procedures. Staff will work with the CLC Chairs to ensure meetings are exercised in a transparent and inclusive manner, and meeting minutes are resolution and action only. This will be discussed at a pre-AGM meeting with the Chairs, on the 13 November.

Environment Southland will take responsibility for AGM invitations to iwi partners and key catchment stakeholders, and initial communication and marketing of the events. A ‘hold the date’ invite will be sent out on the 19 October, and the agendas circulated at least two weeks before each meeting date. Content of past and future AGMs is available on the Environment Southland website. AGM minutes will be available within two weeks after the meeting date.

Environment Southland also provides catering at the meetings, either morning or afternoon tea. A Health and Safety plan will be developed for each meeting, and all staff attending, and the Catchment Liaison Committee chair will be briefed.

Implications/risks

Public AGMs are a requirement for these committees and must be held each year. AGM good practice needs to be followed.

Feedback from the Catchment Liaison Committee chairs and organisational learning from last year’s AGMs has been reviewed and will be incorporated into this year’s planning and management.

The AGMs are an opportunity for Environment Southland to share and connect with the wider catchment community.

Next steps

Send invitations to key stakeholders and launch November 2024 AGM advertising and communications campaign.

Continue liaising with chairs and their committees to ensure the smooth running of the AGMs.

Views of affected parties

The Catchment Liaison Committee chairs have been engaged in conversations about the AGMs since last year. The AGM dates, agendas and stakeholder lists have been shared with the chairs and their feedback included where possible.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources	X		
Diverse opportunities to make a living	X		
Communities empowered and resilient	X		
Communities expressing their diversity	X		

Attachments

1. Catchment Liaison Committees Terms of Re [9.5.1 - 3 pages]

Terms of Reference

Catchment Liaison Committee (Name of individual 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 (catchment name) 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 3 normal committee members. The size of each quorum can change at an Annual General Meeting, on November 1 2020 the following applies: *Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee – 6; Oreti Catchment Liaison Committee – 4; Maitai Catchment Liaison Committee – 3; Makarewa Catchment Liaison Committee – 3; Te Anau Catchment Liaison Committee – 3; Waiau Catchment Liaison Committee – 5; Waimatuku Catchment Liaison Committee – 3; Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee - 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.

10 Extraordinary/urgent business | Panui autia hei totoia pakihī

No extraordinary or urgent business was notified at this meeting.

11 Public excluded business | He hui pakihī e hara mo te iwi

11.1 Confirmation of public excluded Regional Services Committee minutes - 6 August 2024

Section under the act	The grounds on which part of the Council or committee may be closed to the public are listed in s48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the act)
Sub-clause and reason	S.7(2)(j) - to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage.

11.2 Lease Inspection Report

Report by: Doug McIntosh, Property Officer
Approved by: Bethia Gibson, General Manager Business Services
Report date: 16 October 2024

Section under the act	The grounds on which part of the Council or committee may be closed to the public are listed in s48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the act)
Sub-clause and reason	S.7(2)(h) - to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

11.3 Progress on Works and Public Bodies

Report by: Randal Beal, Catchment Operations Manager
Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Integrated Catchment Management

Section under the act	The grounds on which part of the Council or committee may be closed to the public are listed in s48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the act)
Sub-clause and reason	S.7(2)(h) - to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.