

Groups of Activities and Levels of Service

Environment Southland's Strategic Direction

The strategic direction outlines the vision of the Council for the community over the long-term and provides a basis for the development of the Long-term Plan:

Vision	A thriving Southland - <i>te taurikura o Murihiku</i>
Mission	Working with the community to enhance Murihiku Southland's environment
Community Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed access to quality natural resources • Diverse opportunities to make a living • Communities empowered and resilient • Communities expressing their diversity

Our changing climate and impacts on community wellbeing and the environment, along with the Council's role in responding to this, is a key strategic driver for this Long-term Plan. This is integrated throughout the Long-term Plan. Similarly, working in partnership with Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku, is a key element woven throughout Council's work.

Community wellbeing

The work of Environment Southland links to all four aspects of community wellbeing – environmental, economic, social and cultural. The table below shows the connections between the community outcomes and the four aspects of community wellbeing:

Community outcomes	Community wellbeing			
	<i>Environmental</i>	<i>Economic</i>	<i>Social</i>	<i>Cultural</i>
<i>Managed access to quality natural resources</i>	The natural environment is protected and enhanced	The intrinsic value of the natural environment is recognised	Equitable access to the natural environment	People can enjoy the natural environment
<i>Diverse opportunities to make a living</i>		There are opportunities for all to contribute to and benefit from a diverse and thriving economy		
<i>Communities empowered and resilient</i>	People understand changes in the natural environment and how they can take action to protect and enhance the natural environment	People, property and assets are protected	Communities are prepared and can recover from changes in the natural environment	People are informed and know how they can act to contribute to building resilient communities
<i>Communities expressing their diversity</i>				Different cultures and values are recognised and provided for

Outcome measures have been developed for each of Environment Southland's groups of activities to track progress towards the intended impact that the Council is seeking to make.

Environment Southland's Groups of Activities

For this Long-term Plan, Environment Southland has consolidated its activities into three key groups as follows:



For each group of activity, the following sections set out:

- The community outcomes from Environment Southland's strategic direction that are most relevant
- Outcome statements distilled from the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans that indicate what we are seeking to achieve
- What we will do towards achieving these outcomes
- How we will measure progress towards the outcomes
- The levels of service that the Council intends to provide and associated performance measures and targets to measure the Council's performance for each year of the Long-term Plan



Healthy Environment

Protect, enhance and restore Southland’s natural environment, indigenous biodiversity and its capacity to provide for current and future generations

Outcomes

The following community outcomes are from Environment Southland’s strategic direction. We highlight those most relevant to this group of activities.

Community outcomes	Managed access to quality natural resources	Diverse opportunities to make a living	Communities empowered and resilient	Communities expressing their diversity
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The following outcome statements have been distilled from the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans and indicate what we are seeking to achieve through this group of activities.

Outcome statements	Safeguard the health of freshwater in the region and its life supporting capacity Sustainably manage region’s water resources	Safeguard the health of soils in rural areas and its life supporting capacity Sustainable use of rural land resource Identify, investigate and manage contaminated land and its adverse effects	Sustainable use of coastal marine area Protect, enhance and restore the natural character of the coastal environment	Protect, restore and enhance air quality	Protect, restore and enhance indigenous biodiversity and health of ecosystems including areas of significant native vegetation and habitats	Control or eradicate harmful species
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What we will do

Environment Southland undertakes the following activities within this group of activities:

- Policy and Planning
- Regulatory
- Science and Matāuranga Māori
- Engagement, Partnerships and Empowerment
- Biosecurity

How we will track progress

The outcomes identified on the previous page set out what we are seeking to achieve on behalf of the community. While Environment Southland can contribute to or influence these, real progress needs contribution from everyone.

To track progress, we will focus on improvements in the health of our natural environment by developing a suite of key measures, based on national legislation and policy, to monitor progress towards achieving the outcome statements. For some of the measures, it will take time before we can see the results of our contribution whereas other measures will hopefully respond more quickly.

Environment Southland already measures and reports on many environmental attributes and makes that information publicly available. See our [website](#) and the Land Air Water Aotearoa [LAWA website](#) for more information.

Task	Reporting	Target
Develop a suite of outcome measures, based on national legislation and policy, to monitor progress towards achieving a healthy environment.	Suite of outcome measures and baselines established and reported on by the end of 2024/25 and then progress reported on annually.	Outcome measures improving.

Levels of service and targets

The following table sets out the levels of service that the Council intends to provide for this group of activities and associated performance measures and targets to measure the Council's performance for each year of the Long-term Plan.



Healthy Environment

Protect, enhance and restore Southland’s natural environment, indigenous biodiversity and its capacity to provide for current and future generations.

Level of Service	Measure	Baseline (2023/24)	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026/27	Target 2027-34	Work Programmes
Provide a robust Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans that enable sustainable management of Southland’s natural and physical resources and protection of indigenous biodiversity.	1. Notify and then make operative targeted amendments to the Regional Policy Statement and Southland Water and Land Plan	Modified measure	Notify by 30 June 2025	N/A	Make operative by 31 December 2027	N/A	Regional Policy Statement, Plan Change Tuatahi
Deliver efficient and effective consenting and compliance monitoring and enforcement services to enable sustainable use of Southland’s natural and physical resources.	2. Percentage of resource consent applications processed in accordance with statutory timeframes.	99%	≥99%	≥99%	≥99%	≥99%	Consents Programme
	3. Percentage of priority consents (as identified in the Environment Southland Compliance Plan) monitored to ensure compliance with consent conditions.	80%	≥80%	≥80%	≥80%	≥80%	Compliance Programme
	4. Percentage of RMA significant non-compliance activity reviewed and actioned in accordance with Environment Southland Monitoring and Enforcement Policy.	New Measure	≥80%	≥80%	≥80%	≥80%	
	5. Number of cruise ship monitored annually to assess whether cruise operators meet their environmental obligations as per the deed of agreement.	New Measure	≥5	≥5	≥5	≥5	Coast and marine operations

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Deliver efficient and effective environmental response services to pollution and environmental incidents or notifications of non-compliant activities in Southland to minimise risks and effects.	6. Percentage of high risk reported pollution and environmental incidents responded within 24 hours.	New Measure	≥80%	≥80%	≥80%	≥80%	Compliance Programme
	7. Maintain a regional oil spill response plan including a minimum of 20 up-to-date trained responders.	New Measure	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Coast and Marine Operations
Monitor and investigate the state of Southland's natural environment and resources to provide high quality and timely data and information to decision makers and community to improve their understanding of where the greatest areas of risks are and where further action is needed.	8. Report the results of Environment Southland's science and monitoring programmes.	New measure	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2024	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2025	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2026	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September each year	Water and Land Science Programme, Coast and Marine Science Programme, Air Quality Programme, Wetland Programme, Biodiversity Programme
Council works in partnership with iwi, communities, other councils and organisations to enable action that delivers better environmental outcomes.	9. Work in partnership with iwi and the community to develop catchment plans.	Modified Measure	One catchment plan to be presented to Council by 30 June 2025	One catchment plan to be presented to Council by 30 June 2026	One catchment plan to be presented to Council by 30 June 2027	One catchment plan to be presented to Council by 30 June each year until plans for all catchments are completed	Catchment Integration
Provide reliable information, advice and an ongoing education programme that leads to effective environmental stewardship and kaitiakitanga.	10. Percentage of land management (Land Sustainability, Contaminated Land, Pollution, Hazardous Substance, Education) requests for service resolved.	New Measure	≥90%	≥90%	≥90%	≥90%	

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	11. Percentage of Biosecurity and Biodiversity requests for service resolved.	100%	≥90%	≥90%	≥90%	≥90%	Biosecurity Programme
Provide timely and high quality data and information about state of the environment to our communities.	12. State of the environment data updated and published on Environment Southland and Land Air and Water Aotearoa websites at least once a year.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Water and Land Science Programme, Coast and Marine Science Programme, Air Quality Programme
Deliver practices and programmes that give effect to the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) and Fiordland Marine Regional Pathways Management Plan (FMRPMP) to reduce the spread of harmful species in Southland.	13. Review and implement RPMP and FMRPMP operational plans annually in accordance with the Biosecurity Act.	Modified Measure	Review and provide the annual operational plan to Council and complete required reporting.	Review and provide the annual operational plan to Council and complete required reporting.	Review and provide the annual operational plan to Council and complete required reporting.	Review and provide the annual operational plan to Council and complete required reporting.	Biosecurity Programme, Marine Biosecurity and Biodiversity



Safe and Resilient Communities

Enable communities to provide for their health, safety and social, cultural and economic wellbeing

Outcomes

The following community outcomes are from Environment Southland’s strategic direction. We highlight those most relevant to this group of activities.

Community outcomes	Managed access to quality natural resources	Diverse opportunities to make a living	Communities empowered and resilient	Communities expressing their diversity
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The following outcome statements have been distilled from the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans and indicate what we are seeking to achieve through this group of activities.

Outcome statements	Southland’s regionally significant, nationally significant and critical flood protection infrastructure is secure, operates efficiently, and is appropriately integrated with land use activities and the environment.	The risks to people, communities, their businesses, property and infrastructure from the effects of natural hazards and climate change are understood and avoided, remedied or mitigated, resulting in communities becoming more resilient.	Support Emergency Management Southland to prepare communities for civil defence emergencies and enable an effective and efficient regional emergency management response when disaster strikes.	Maintain safe use and navigation of our region’s ports, harbours, coastal areas and inland waterways.	Monitor community wellbeing and understand where the greatest risks and opportunities are to support Southlanders into the future.
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What we will do

Environment Southland undertakes the following activities within this group of activities:

- Flood Protection & Control
- Natural Hazards and Climate Change
- Emergency Management and Response
- Maintaining Safe and Navigable Waterways
- Community Wellbeing

How we will track progress

The outcomes identified on the previous page set out what we are seeking to achieve on behalf of the community. While Environment Southland can contribute to or influence these, real progress needs contribution from everyone.

To track progress, we will focus on improvements in community resilience and safety by developing a suite of key measures, based on national legislation and policy, to monitor progress towards achieving the outcome statements. For some of the measures, it will take time before we can see the results of our contribution whereas other measures will hopefully respond more quickly.

Task	Reporting	Target
Develop a suite of outcome measures, based on national legislation and policy, to monitor progress towards achieving a safe and resilient community.	Suite of outcome measures and baselines established and reported on by the end of 2024/25 and then progress reported on annually.	Outcome measures improving.

Levels of service and targets

The following table sets out the levels of service that the Council intends to provide for this group of activities and associated performance measures and targets to measure the Council's performance for each year of the Long-term Plan.

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Safe and Resilient Communities

Enable communities to provide for their health, safety and social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

Level of Service	Measure	Baseline (2023/24)	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026/27	Target 2027-34	Work Programmes
Council owned infrastructure is maintained and enhanced to a level that reduces the negative impacts of natural hazards, flooding and climate change.	14. Percentage of major flood protection and control works maintenance, repair and renewal schedule completed to the key standards defined in relevant planning documents.	Modified Measure	≥90%	≥90%	≥90%	≥90%	Catchment Operations Programme, River Management Programme
Monitor and investigate natural hazards and changing climate to provide high quality and timely data and information to decision makers and community to improve their understanding of where the greatest areas of risks are and where further action is needed.	15. Report on Environment Southland’s natural hazards and climate adaptation science and modelling programme.	New Measure	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2024	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2025	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2026	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September each year	Climate Adaptation Science and Modelling
	16. Percentage of the time real-time river flow, water level and rainfall information is available to the community.	Modified Measure	>95%	>95%	>95%	>95%	Flood Warning and Hydrology Programme
	17. Percentage of Natural Hazards requests for service resolved.	New measure	90%	90%	90%	90%	Hazard Advice and Planning
	18. Percentage of the time that the Duty Flood Controller is available during the year.	New measure	100%	100%	100%	100%	Flood Warning and Hydrology Programme
Council works in partnership with iwi, communities, other councils and organisations to implement regional natural hazards and climate change	19. Work with partner agencies to implement and review the Murihiku Southland Regional Climate Change Strategy.	An agreed Regional Climate Change	Commence the development of a plan to operationalise	A plan to operationalise the Regional Climate	N/A	N/A	Inter-Agency Climate Change Strategy

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<p>adaptation projects, build community resilience and to promote climate change action.</p>		Strategy is in place by 30 June 2024	Regional Climate Change Strategy	Change strategy is in place by June 2026			
	20. Take action to reduce our organisational GHG emissions in line with the 2050 net zero target.	New Measure	Develop an emissions reductions plan	Target to be developed in 2024/25	Target to be developed in 2024/25	Target to be developed in 2024/25	ES Carbon Net Zero Project
	21. Report on the regional floodplain management approach.	New Measure	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2024	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2025	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2026	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September each year	River Management Programme
<p>Council works in partnership with Emergency Management Southland to prepare Southland communities to effectively avoid, mitigate and/or respond to an emergency.</p>	22. Support Emergency Management Southland in accordance with the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group/Environment Southland Service Level Agreement, including the provision of adequate number of suitably trained staff to respond to an event within an hour after a state of emergency is declared.	Modified Measure	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Financial and staff contribution to Emergency Management Southland
<p>Maintain safe and navigable waterways in the region to enable safe use and navigation of our region's ports, harbours, coastal areas and inland waterways.</p>	23. Undertake an annual joint self-assessment between South Port and Environment Southland to ensure consistency with the New Zealand Port and Marine Safety Code	Modified Measure	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Coast and Marine Operations
	24. Percentage of time that a Harbourmaster is available during the year.	Modified Measure	100%	100%	100%	100%	

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Monitor recreational bathing sites and provide high quality and timely data and information to decision makers and community to understand where the greatest areas of risks are.	25. Undertake regular monitoring of all recreational bathing sites and update data on Environment Southland and Land Air and Water Aotearoa websites monthly during summer months (December to March.)	Modified Measure	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Water and Land Science Programme
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Thriving Region

Enable democratic decision-making and promote practices that allow communities and our natural environment to flourish

Outcomes

The following community outcomes are from Environment Southland's strategic direction. We highlight those most relevant to this group of activities.

Community outcomes	Managed access to quality natural resources	Diverse opportunities to make a living	Communities empowered and resilient	Communities expressing their diversity
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The following outcome statements have been distilled from the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans and indicate what we are seeking to achieve through this group of activities.

Outcome statements	Southlanders are engaged and enabled to play an active part in shaping our region's future.	Effective partnerships with Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku are in place that uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
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What we will do

Environment Southland undertakes the following activities within this group of activities:

- Regional Strategic Planning
- Transport
- Governance and Democracy
- Te Tiriti Relationships

How we will track progress

The outcomes identified on the previous page set out what we are seeking to achieve on behalf of the community. While Environment Southland can contribute to or influence these, real progress needs contribution from everyone.

To track progress towards a thriving region, we will develop a suite of key measures, based on national legislation and policy, to monitor progress towards achieving the outcome statements. For some of the measures, it will take time before we can see the results of our contribution whereas other measures will hopefully respond more quickly.

Task	Reporting	Target
Develop a suite of outcome measures, based on national	Suite of outcome measures and baselines established and	Outcome measures improving.

legislation and policy, to monitor progress towards achieving a thriving region.	reported on by the end of 2024/25 and then progress reported on annually.	
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Levels of service and targets

The following table sets out the levels of service that the Council intends to provide for this group of activities and associated performance measures and targets to measure the Council's performance for each year of the Long-term Plan.

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Thriving Region

Enable democratic decision-making and promote practices that allow communities and our natural environment to flourish.

Level of Service	Measure	Baseline (2023/24)	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026/27	Target 2027- 34	Work Programmes
Council works with iwi, communities other councils and organisations to develop and implement long-term strategic plans and strategies for the region.	26. Percentage of Mayoral Forum, Te Roopu Taiao and Second Tier Environment Group Hui attended during the year.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Stakeholder and Partnerships Strategy
Advocate on behalf of the Southland community on matters, which are of regional significance and are of interest or concern to local communities.	27. Analyse and respond to the direction from central government and proposed new legislation that affect the Council's statutory responsibilities and work programmes.	Prepare advice on proposed new legislation and statutory tools that are relevant to ES's activities.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Government Reform
Provide a robust Regional Land Transport Plan that sets the long-term vision and strategic direction for Otago Southland's land transport system.	28. Maintain a Regional Land Transport Plan that is compliant with the Land Transport Management Act and is fit for the region's needs.	New Measure	No target this year	Regional Transport Committee set up following local elections	Regional Land Transport Plan review completed	Commence Development of a Regional Transport Plan in July 2027	Regional Land Transport Planning
Council's planning and reporting functions meet statutory requirements and demonstrate sound business planning.	29 Council's LTP, Annual Plan and Annual Reports meet audit requirements.	Unqualified audit opinion achieved for Annual Report and Annual Plan.	Achieved.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Strategic Planning and Reporting

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Provide and promote governance processes that are robust and transparent for the community.	30. Percentage of Council and Committee meeting agendas (for all scheduled meetings) that are available at least five working days before the meetings.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Democracy Programme
	31. Percentage of draft Council and Committee meeting recordings available on the Council website within 24 hours.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
	32. Percentage of official information requests responded to within legislative timeframes (twenty working days of being logged).	New Measure	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Murihiku Southland residents and ratepayers are engaged and enabled to play an active part in shaping our region's future.	33. Develop and implement a customer and stakeholder strategy.	Modified Measure	Develop a customer and stakeholder strategy.	Target to be developed in 2024/25	Target to be developed in 2024/25	Target to be developed in 2024/25	Stakeholder and Partnerships Strategy, Customer Strategy
	34. Develop and implement a mechanism for youth engagement.	New Measure	Develop a proposal for a new youth engagement mechanism	Implementation milestones achieved	Implementation milestones achieved	Implementation milestones achieved	
Council continues to uphold its commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and builds, maintains and monitors partnerships with Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku.	35. Give effect to the Charter of Understanding <i>He Huarahi mō Ngā Uri Whakatapu - A Pathway for the Generations Coming Through and any associated partnership agreements.</i>	New Measure	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2024	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2025	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September 2026	Annual Report submitted to Council by 30 September each year	Stakeholder and Partnerships Strategy