

Drop in sessions' feedback

Tuesday, 5 December 2023
Gore and Invercargill

Wednesday, 6 December 2023
Otautau

Total number of participants – approximately 10

1. Environment Southland has a range of responsibilities and outcomes it is working towards. Which of these are a priority for you?
Choose up to three priorities – 3 dots for your 1st priority – 2 dots for your 2nd priority – 1 dot for your 3rd priority.

- Well managed pest plants and pest animals (5)
- Reduced contamination in water bodies = freshwater and estuaries (17)
- Improve air quality (4)
- Improved flood protection infrastructure (9)
- Appropriate regulations for activities that cause negative environment effects (4)

Comments:

- Protect region's water resources re climate change
 - These are all priorities. You only have a certain amount of money so don't waste it!
 - Cost benefit analysis per ratepayer
 - Some of these are repetitive and not well-phrased
 - This list should be based on s30 of the RMA and a systematic analysis of issues in Southland (3)
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2. Investing in our flood protection infrastructure is important for Southland's resilience to climate impacts and because our current infrastructure is 30+ years old.

How much would you be prepared to pay to improve the current level of protection?

- None: 1 (No more bigger better stop banks (false sense of security))
 - \$1-\$5 a week: 1
 - \$5-\$10 a week: 1
 - \$10-\$15 a week: 1 (Invest in dealing with flow in upper catchment (slow the water down))
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3. Building regional resilience – flood protection infrastructure

Investing in our flood protection network is a key priority for the Council's next Long-term Plan currently being developed. Our flood protection infrastructure has held up well over recent decades. However, it is now 30 years old and this coupled with more frequent, severe and enduring flood events mean we need to plan for now and the future.

Our region is a different place to what it was 40 years ago when much of our flood protection network was built. We are more interconnected now. We often live and work in different places and we need to maintain transport routes and telecommunications to do business, study, access health care and for many other aspects of our lives.

The flood protection networks help to protect people, property and all that critical infrastructure that keep us connected. We think that requires a regional approach to how we plan for the future needs of our flood protection infrastructure, rather than only a localised view (which is still important), so that we can prioritise effectively and build Southland's resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.

What are your views on this approach?

- Interventions that have multiple benefits
- There is not enough money nor time to do things twice
- Look at the existing, recent moves away from insuring flood prone land. The logic of BAU is that insurance premiums will increase. The reality is insurance won't be available. Therefore, need to think outside the BAU box. Long-term trends: increased peak events, reduced profits through cost inflation, so reduced ability to pay. What about providing funding for flood prone residents to relocate to leasehold land where costs recovered through land rent?
- This is a short term sticking plaster – face up to reality!