

Our ongoing collaboration within local government

Building on several years of successful initiatives across a wide spectrum of services and core business activities, Southland’s councils and their neighbouring Otago local authorities look to continue the collaborative efforts achieved to date.

Areas the councils are currently working together on include:

- climate change
- biodiversity
- responding to the reform of the Resource Management Act 1991
- responding to the Three Waters Reform Programme
- lidar¹

The economies of scale and the cost-effectiveness of working jointly or collaboratively and avoiding duplication, provide the rationale for the sharing of ideas and effort.

The above are in addition to existing formal shared services arrangements that have been operating for a number of years set out in the table below:

	Maori Involvement	Emergency Management	Regional Heritage	Transport Planning	Regional Strategy	Computer Services
Gore District Council	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Southland District Council	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Invercargill City Council	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Environment Southland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Otago Regional Council	✓			✓		
Queenstown Lakes District Council	✓					
Clutha District Council	✓					✓

The Councils continuously look at opportunities for effectiveness and efficiency gains throughout the range of activities and outcomes that they are expected to deliver to their communities and businesses.

The Council through this Long-term Plan commits to continuing its involvement in investigating and joining collaborative processes and shared projects with its neighbouring councils, where there are advantages and efficiencies in doing so for the council and the community.

¹ **Lidar** stands for Light Detection and Ranging and is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth.