

Caring for our environment is a shared responsibility.

At Environment Southland, kaitiakitanga and a love for the land are at the heart of the work we do with communities across Murihiku Southland.

As someone who works the land, I know how deeply Southlanders care about the place we call home.

This year, we have helped lead discussions about the future of local government while continuing to deliver the services our communities rely on.

There is still uncertainty about what those future arrangements might be. But what won't change is the need to manage our region's environment, from river and flood management to biosecurity and natural resource management. The Government has made it clear these responsibilities will continue, regardless of who delivers them.

That's why we're pressing ahead with our 2027-2037 Long-term Plan. It's about being clear on what services need to be provided, what assets are required to support them, and how they'll be funded in the years ahead.

We know many households are under financial pressure, so we have found efficiencies and used reserves to reduce the impact of this year's rates increase.

Jeremy McPhail

Environment Southland Chair



2027-37 Long-term Plan

We're developing our 2027-37 Long-term Plan, which will guide where we focus our effort and investment over the next decade.

Early next year, we will ask for your feedback on our draft plan – your input will help shape the future.

For more information, visit
www.es.govt.nz/Long-Term-Plan



Water

Your rates help fund Environment Southland's water quality monitoring programme, which tracks the health of rivers, lakes, estuaries and groundwater across Murihiku Southland.

This monitoring helps us understand long-term environmental impacts and provides Southlanders with trusted information about their waterways. As the regional council, we're responsible for managing natural resources sustainably in partnership with our communities. We do this through compliance monitoring, consents, and practical on-the-ground support. Our Land Sustainability team works alongside farmers, landowners and community groups, providing advice that helps protect soil, improve water quality and reduce environmental impacts.

📍 Ōreti River, Winton.



Did you know?

You can access water quality, river flow, river level and groundwater information through our Environmental Data Portal. The data helps communities, landowners and businesses make informed decisions about the water resources they rely on every day.

envdata.es.govt.nz ➡

Env Data



Land

Your rates help reduce flood risks and protect Murihiku Southland from invasive pests and weeds.

We work with communities to reduce the impacts of flooding on people, property, productive land and essential services. Through flood modelling, river management and infrastructure upgrades, we're helping communities prepare for and adapt to a changing climate.

Our Biosecurity and Biodiversity teams work alongside Southlanders to prevent invasive pests and weeds from becoming established. We provide practical advice, pest control programmes and support for community action to protect farms, native and productive landscapes.

📍 *Environment Southland Deputy Chair Phil Morrison and Chair Jeremy McPhail in the Waikaka Valley.*



Did you know?

The Southland Pest Hub helps you identify pests, report sightings, explore management options and find advice tailored to your area. Our biosecurity experts are also available to provide guidance and support when needed.

pesthub.es.govt.nz ➡

Pest Hub



Coast

Your rates help keep Southlanders safe on the water and protect the region's coastal and marine environments.

Through coastal monitoring, environmental management and navigation safety, we help people safely enjoy our rivers, lakes, harbours and coastal waters. Our Harbourmaster and Navigational Safety team works with boaties year-round to promote safer boating, respond to maritime incidents and manage navigational hazards.

We also help protect nationally significant places, including Fiordland, through our rules and plans, such as the Clean Vessel Pass. All visiting cruise ships pay a Marine Fee, which helps fund work to protect and manage our coastal and marine environment. Together with boaties and communities, we're helping keep these waters healthy and productive for future generations.

📍 Monkey Island, Orepuki.



Did you know?

Environment Southland's Harbourmaster team is on call 24/7. Before heading out, boaties can check known maritime hazards through SouthMaps Maritime Hazards to help stay safe on Southland's waterways.

southmaps.es.govt.nz ➡

SouthMaps



Air

Your rates help keep Southlanders informed about the air they breathe every day.

We work with communities to help keep our air clean and support healthy communities. In Invercargill and Gore, our monitoring sites collect data that helps us track air quality trends, predict periods of higher pollution and work with Southlanders to improve air quality.

You can access real-time air quality information through our website, helping you make informed decisions for yourself and your whānau. By combining science and community action, we're helping create healthier communities across the region.

📍 *Waihōpai River, Invercargill.*



Did you know?

You can explore environmental information for your area through our Environmental Data Portal, including air temperature, wind speed and direction, monitoring locations, and live PM10 readings for Invercargill and Gore.

es.govt.nz/Air ➡

Air Quality

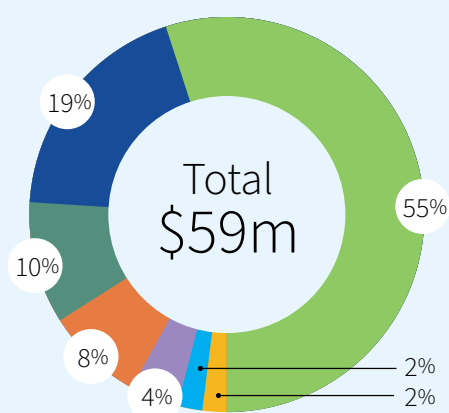


Your rates support a healthy environment, resilient communities and a thriving region.

Affordability of rates was front of mind for councillors who wanted to reduce pressure on households and businesses, while continuing to invest in the region through its priority work programmes.

Through careful planning, efficiencies and the use of reserves, the average rates increase is 3.25%, while still maintaining our levels of service and progressing the work that matters for our communities.

Where does our 2026-27 income come from?

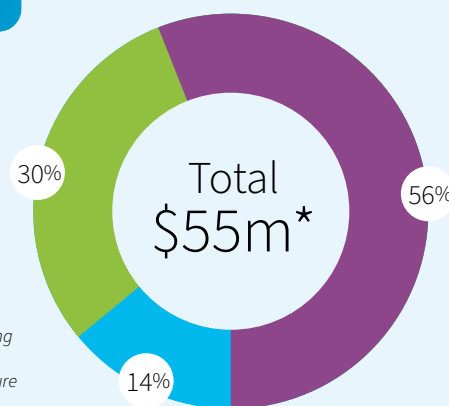


- Rates \$32m
- Fees & charges \$11m
- Capital grants \$6m
- South Port dividends \$5m
- Investment income \$3m
- Rental income \$1m
- Levies & contributions \$1m

How is the income spent?

- Healthy Environment \$31m
- Resilient Communities \$16m
- Thriving Region \$8m

**The graph shows only operating expenditure. Funding totals are higher because they also include \$6.1m of capital grants supporting \$9.95m of capital expenditure for the Resilient Infrastructure programme.*



\$31m goes to Healthy Environment – to track and report on the health of our waterways, stop the spread of harmful pests and species, and manage activities that can affect the environment.

\$16m goes to Resilient Communities – to help reduce the effects of natural hazards, flooding and climate change.

\$8m goes to Thriving Region – to support communities and the environment to thrive, work together and plan for the future of our region.

General Rate

Based on your property's capital value and includes biosecurity and land sustainability services.

UAGC (Uniform Annual General Charge)

A fixed charge that funds services benefiting all Southlanders, regardless of property size or value.

River Management Rate

Funds river management to help keep Southland connected and resilient. Excludes Waiau rating district.

Flood Infrastructure Investment Rate

Supports flood protection infrastructure and helps Southland respond to the impacts of a changing climate.

You can find more information and frequently asked questions about rates on our website www.es.govt.nz/rates

Rates are due 27 November!

Use our Payble payment platform.

It's easy to use and gives you greater flexibility over your rates payments.

Powered by Payble

