

Report to:	Council
Date:	February 2019
Subject:	Environmental work update
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PURPOSE AND ORIGIN

To provide Councillors with an update on environmental work being carried out and supported by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kaikōura has long been regarded as a community that cares for the environment and actively works towards mitigating impacts on and protecting our environment. Since the 1990s Council has incorporated these values through various programmes and initiatives including Earthcheck accreditation and Zero Waste.

As a nation, New Zealand is working towards a more pro-environmental approach in all areas of work. To maintain its pro-environmental stance KDC must continue to support work and initiatives both internally and across our community.

Currently KDC has very limited FTE allocated to environmental work, approximately .3 FTE plus limited support from Communications/Community Development staff. For the 2019/19 year, Council led environmental work has a \$28,000 budget (carried over from previous years), this is not renewable. The last time budget was allocated to environmental work was 2011.

In lieu of budget or staff, KDC has continued to promote an environmental focus through in-kind support, sharing knowledge and expertise and participation in key multi-agency initiatives such as the Kaikoura Water Zone committee.

Through the 3 Year Plan 2018-2021, Councilors' adopted six community outcomes to guide all work completed by Council. One specifically relates to the environment - "We value, protect and enhance Kaikōura's natural environment and biodiversity and sustainably manage disposal of waste". Working towards this outcome within current allocations of budget or resource will be challenging.

This report informs Council of the current state and some future opportunities/risks around environmental work being carried out or supported by Council.

Following this report, a limited environmental communications programme will be rolled out to draw attention to the environmental work in Kaikōura, encourage our residents and visitors to

display pro-environmental behaviors and identify any gaps in the current environmental work being carried out in the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Notes this report, including the limited resource currently dedicated to environmental work**
2. **Provides feedback on which areas they would like more information on**
3. **Provides feedback on any specific actions they would like undertaken.**

COUNCILS' ENVIRONMENTAL WORK

Zero Waste

In 1998 KDC resolved to be a Zero Waste Community. Innovative Waste Kaikōura (IWK) was formed from Kaikōura Wastebusters Trust as a partnership with KDC. The goal was “to achieve zero waste by 2015”.

The Zero Waste framework aligns with the Zero Waste Network, which is a national network connecting, educating, enabling and inspiring projects and organisations across New Zealand who are working towards zero waste.

As part of the move to zero waste, kerbside waste collection was ceased and kerbside recycling collection began. This made the cost of waste visible to ratepayers, as they were paying for it directly at the Resource Recovery Centre, encouraging ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ behaviours.

The strategy was to make recycling easily accessible and waste disposal less convenient for residents.

Current state

The Zero Waste Strategy was initially successful. The installation of recycling stations throughout Kaikōura helped promote the zero waste ethos to the community and visitors. Unfortunately, the message of being a zero waste community has been lost/diluted over the years and the removal of kerbside waste collection has since had implications with residents using public waste bins to dispose of their household waste.

The 2017/18 ratepayer satisfaction survey showed that 94% of ratepayers acknowledged minimising rubbish by recycling regularly. In the same survey, only 39% of ratepayers believed Kaikōura as a community was doing enough to be sustainable.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-ignite community involvement and enthusiasm for a zero waste future • Work with other organisations facing the same issues
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero waste ethos has been lost • Low uptake from the community for zero waste initiatives (such as sustainable future courses) • Lack of clarity around fit/priority between zero waste and EarthCheck

Recycling and Waste minimisation

Innovative Waste Kaikōura (IWK) is a Council controlled organisation. Council contracts IWK to deliver services including managing the district’s recycling and rubbish, maintaining public toilets and looking after some of our water infrastructure and services. IWK also provide waste management services to other private business. Council owns 100% of the Kaikōura Enhancement Trust (KET), which in turn owns 100% of IWK.

KDC contract IWK to carry out refuse and recycling services. Current rated kerbside recycling collection is undertaken in the town limits and Oaro. Recycling pickup points are offered at Suburban School, Linton Downs, Kēkerengū and Clarence.

A Waste Minimisation Strategy (WMS) details on past initiatives/information in the waste space, the current state of waste in Kaikōura, and guides the future of zero waste in our district.

Current State

The current Waste Minimisation Strategy (WMS) needs to be updated.

On 01 January 2018 China introduced a set of policies (referred to as the National Sword Statement) which banned or restricted the import of a number of different products including low-quality plastics. Recyclables from around the world are now being sent to other countries and prices for recyclables in international markets have dropped dramatically (*Ministry for the Environment*).

These impacts are being felt at IWK and a need exists to increase the quality of our recyclables in order to present a desirable market to countries carrying out the recycling.

Refuse and recycling arrangements have not been reviewed in some time. Some community members have expressed dissatisfaction with current arrangements. Some unwanted behaviours (fly-tipping, burning/burying rubbish) occur regularly. Town bins are often misused.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update Waste Minimisation Strategy (WMS) to allow Council and IWK to set clear work programmes towards a zero waste future for our district, and work with the community on how they can play their part in ensuring a sustainable future for our district. • A robust education programme around kerbside recycling/rubbish • Start kerbside refuse pickup – rate for this service • Introduction of a prepay bag for waste (pay for waste services through purchase of the bag) • Upgrade recycling stations in strategic locations around Kaikōura • Upgrade glass collection at kerb, so that sorting of glass is done at collection, creating a market to divert from landfill. • Introduce kerbside recycling for rural properties closer to town (where possible, rate for this service) • Assess plastic kerbside collection for viability/sustainability • Public education around reduce, reuse, recycle • Remove refuse bins around town
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town bins are being used for commercial and household refuse (rate of approximately 400kg per day) • fly dumping of large items and general refuse occurs on a regular basis. This incurs additional costs to KDC. • KDC/IWK missing out on revenue to manage the landfill and provide waste services • Historical diversion rates are no longer relevant • Lack of direction in the waste space as a result of dated WMS/waste framework.

EarthCheck

EarthCheck is the world’s leading scientific benchmarking certification and advisory group for the travel and tourism industry. They work with governments, businesses and destinations to deliver

clean, safe and prosperous destinations. EarthCheck is based on Agenda 21 (a non-binding action plan from the United Nations with regard to sustainable development).

In 1999, Kaikōura District Council adopted the EarthCheck Sustainable Communities Program which provided a framework to reduce the environmental impact of the community's activities.

Key achievements so far include:

- 2008-2009: Kaikōura reduced energy consumption to 39% above best-practice
- 2008-2009: the community reduced their waste to 47.9% above best-practice
- 2009: 300 homes were assessed for energy loss and fitted with appropriate insulations.

Current state

KDC is currently EarthCheck Platinum certified. Benchmarking data for 2016/17 has been submitted and is currently being analysed by EarthCheck. Data gathering for benchmarking 2017/18 is currently underway and we will be audited in 2019. Council are required to provide a plan that states how our community will reduce our environmental impacts.

The 2017/18 Resident Satisfaction survey showed that only 28% of ratepayers knew what the EarthCheck brand was about. Public knowledge and buy-in are key to ensuring the success of the Earthcheck programme as it relies on whole-of-community participation

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain Kaikōura's reputation as an EarthCheck destination • Willingness from EarthCheck promotors to work with KDC and the community • Use of annual planning process to engage the community in a conversation about reducing negative environmental impacts • Engage with local businesses to provide education and support • Growing global focus on sustainability and pro-environmental behaviours • National strategies on environmental policies being implemented
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of community knowledge around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How EarthCheck works ○ What it means for our community ○ How we can improve our sustainability ○ The importance of community buy-in and involvement

Significant Natural Areas (SNA) Project

The SNA project is working with landowners to identify, protect and manage areas of significant biodiversity on their properties. The goal is to improve native habitats and help build the districts biodiversity.

Current State

A working group that provides advice to Council on policies and implementation methods for the SNA Programme has been re-established (January 2019). It was last active in 2011. A limited communications campaign started December 2018.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and restore areas of significant indigenous biodiversity • Educate landowners on the importance of biodiversity and native habitat • Educate community on the importance of biodiversity and native habitat • Be a leading destination in biodiversity and native habitat protection
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current lack of support and knowledge around SNA's

Kererū to Kaikōura

The Kererū to Kaikōura Native Planting Project aims to help bring birds and other wildlife to Kaikōura by helping landowners restore large areas of native habitat in the Kaikōura Flats area.

Landowners can apply to Council for funding assistance for native planting projects that are a minimum of 1000 square metres in size (Council will contribute up to \$1000 per project). This project is part of the SNA Programme, in accordance with the Resource Management Act.

Current state

Started in January 2019. Have had a large amount of interest expressed in the project from the community.

The Kaikōura Flats area has less than 20% of native cover left, making it a high priority restoration area for the Ministry for the Environment.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create new native habitat for wildlife• Link new and existing habitats wildlife (from the mountains to the sea)• Protect and restore areas of significant indigenous biodiversity• Educate landowners on the importance of biodiversity and native habitat• Educate and work with the community on the importance of biodiversity and native habitat• Be a leading destination in biodiversity and native habitat protection
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current lack of support and knowledge

Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance

This Alliance is made up of Iwi and Council's in the top of the South Island and is led by the Department of Conservation (DOC). The focus is on creating a strategy to guide landscape-scale conservation projects with social, economic and cultural benefits.

The core idea is a strategy where we 'Kotahitanga', (work together as one) to care for 'te Taiao', (our natural heritage).

By aligning long term goals with neighbouring Council's and Iwi, a strategy is created that is fit-for-purpose for our area. It will allow for positive environmental outcomes to be achieved through collective action and encouraging social, economic and cultural benefits and development.

Current state

KDC Biodiversity/Planning staff are our representative on this Alliance. Local Iwi have been kept informed of Alliance progress and feedback on the draft strategy has been received from Kaikōura Youth Council.

The final strategy will be presented in February 2019, with an aim to workshop the strategy with Councillors in March 2019. Adoption of strategy is set for June/July 2019.

A limited communications programme will be rolled out once the strategy is finalised.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategy will enable Council as part of the Alliance to undertake landscape-scale conservation projects with purpose and direction• Ties in with other Council led environmental initiatives• Works alongside other Councils and Iwi – collaboration/idea sharing• Educate community around importance of biodiversity and conservation
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project is new• Lack of public understanding

Helping on Holiday – Volunteer Project (KDC Planning)

Representatives from a number of local volunteer/conservation organisations met to discuss how to get greater involvement in conservation activities in Kaikōura. They wanted to be able to target tourists, the wider community, schools, uni groups and others to take part in local conservation activities that would benefit our environment and wildlife.

People visiting Kaikōura (as well as residents) can now give back to our district by volunteering their time, helping one of our volunteer groups that operate in the environment space in Kaikōura.

Current state

Whiteboard at iSite displaying all opportunities available to locals and travellers has been installed. A limited communications package is being established – information on KDC website, email newsletter.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the scale and number of conservation projects within Kaikōura and work towards becoming 'ecologically exemplary'• Support local volunteer/conservation groups and help to extend their reach and impact• Increase the awareness that Kaikōura has a culture for conservation and environmental awareness• Potential funding for supplying plants for planting days, equipment etc.
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding (lack of)• Volunteer/conservation group may be lacking in time to allocate to supervising volunteers• Public knowledge of initiative

Sustainable Living Programme

A web-based education resource hub for tools that residents can use to live a more sustainable lifestyle. Content is relevant to building post-quake resilience, encourage water use efficiency, home food growing, higher quality home heating and insulation, waste minimisation, lower-carbon lifestyles etc.

Community members sign up as individuals, at a \$0.05 cost to Council (additional annual subscription fee of around \$960 to Council).

Current state

Subscription due June/July 2019 for 2019-2020 financial year (\$968).

Not actively promoting until more information is known about the programme and the benefit to the community. No leading staff/manager/facilitator.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource base for the community• Training for facilitator to deliver Future Living Skills courses• Promotional material• Opportunity to tie in with other environmental initiatives in the community
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No leading staff member/manager/facilitator• Lack of Council knowledge around programme

- Funding availability for subscription renewal
- Cost effectiveness – no data on uptake/use
- Lack of community knowledge

Responsible Cat Ownership (KDC Communications & Community Development)

It is estimated that New Zealand’s 1.4 million domestic cats kill at least 18.76 million animals a year, including over 1.1 million native birds. Responsible cat ownership can greatly reduce the impact that domestic cats have on our district’s wildlife. Many of Kaikōura’s bird populations are declining rapidly. Cats (both pets and feral) are a major cause in this decline.

Kaikōura has the largest Red Bill Gull breeding colony in NZ and the only breeding colonies for Hutton’s Shearwater. Our district also provides important breeding habitats for Banded Dotterel, two types of Oyster Catchers, several species of shags, as well as terns and little blue penguins.

Banded Dotterels are hunted by cats while nesting and fledging on our beaches. New Zealand’s Banded Dotterel numbers have reduced by 60% in the last 5 years alone. Hutton’s Shearwaters are very vulnerable to both cats and dogs on their first flight from the mountains to the sea. Local research is showing very strong evidence that Penguins, Banded Dotterel, White Fronted Terns, and Red Bill Gulls are also impacted.

Bush birds such as the South Island Robin and eggs or juveniles of our favourite bush birds like the Tui, Bellbird, Brown Creeper, Rifleman, Tom Tit and Kererū are also highly vulnerable to cat predation.

Responsible cat ownership is about raising awareness in the community about the impact that cats have on our wildlife and encourage/educate our residents on what they can do to mitigate these impacts.

Current State

Information has recently been promoted to the community through Council communications channels as well as a targeted flier drop for the South Bay area.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce domestic cat’s impacts on native birdlife • Educate public on domestic cat impacts on birdlife
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No previous information supported by Council • Volunteer capacity (time/resource) within community groups

District Plan Review

The Kaikōura District Plan sets standards for development within our district. These standards aim to ensure natural resources and hazards are managed safely and sustainably.

The current version of the plan has been operative since 23 June 2008, and it is now due for review. The District Plan Review provides opportunity for Council and the community to review the future of our district, while implementing policies and guidelines that allow our environment to prosper.

Current State

The District Plan Review is being conducted under the normal RMA process, which means the process will be lengthy and consultation required. There is no set communications plan yet, but KDC staff are working with external organisations to ensure the community have their say.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with community to plan for a sustainable and resilient future for our district (community groups, schools, businesses, Youth Council, Rūnanga etc.)• Ensure our environment remains protected
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of public knowledge around opportunities for input that the review presents to the community• Lack of public knowledge of review process

Hurunui/Kaikōura Earthquake Recovery Waste Minimisation

The magnitude 7.8 earthquake on 14 November 2016 caused extensive damage to land, coastal areas, buildings, homes and infrastructure in our district. It was estimated about 8000 tonnes of earthquake waste would be produced – equating to about eight years of waste for Kaikōura.

The Ministry for the Environment approved \$2.6million for a Waste Minimisation project, to help reduce earthquake waste and increase the recovery of useful resources from waste.

As a result of the project, over 23 tonnes of hazardous material was collected and safely disposed of in Hurunui and Kaikōura. 174 asbestos tests were carried out on homes in Kaikōura District, with 18 requiring removal of asbestos.

Current state

This project has now been completed and funding has ended. KDC Communications contributed to ECan communications around this project and are supporting further media coverage of environmental projects in our district (most notable, a follow up article about the development at IWK).

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY AND PARTNER AGENCY PROJECTS

KDC provides support for various community groups and partner agencies and events in the environmental space. Some examples are provided below.

Kaikoura Water Zone Committee

The Kaikōura water zone is one of the most tectonically active parts of New Zealand and features diverse landscapes, biodiversity and land uses over short distances. Its distinctive rocky coast in close proximity to high mountains gives rise to many short, steep, swift-flowing rivers. The vision for Kaikōura is to ensure its waters enhance the abundance and quality of life in the region.

The committee works with community members and an on-the-ground team made up of Environment Canterbury staff to implement water management work programmes in the Kaikōura area.

Council Communications/Community Development staff support communications for this group through:

- Bi-monthly attendance at meetings
- Bi-monthly stories/meeting summaries on KDC website (<https://www.kaikoura.govt.nz/latest-news/kaikoura-water-zone-committee/>)
- Facebook meeting advertisement and sharing of stories
- Email newsletter meeting advertisement and sharing of stories.

Waikōau/Lyell Creek Spring Clean-up (October 2018)

Over 150 members of the Kaikōura community attended a clean-up day where lots of rubbish was collected from Waikōau/Lyell Creek and the surrounding beach area. Organisations and groups involved included Environment Canterbury, Kaikōura's Primary Schools, CCSP (Creation Care Study

Programme), NCTIR, Kaikōura Youth Council, Kaikōura Mums and babies group, Whale Watch, Department of Conservation Innovative Waste Kaikōura, Keep New Zealand Beautiful and individual community members.

KDC Communications and Planning supported organising and communication for the event, and a number of staff members took part in the clean-up.

Bee Aware month – flower planting at Suburban Primary School (October 2018)

KDC Communications and Planning staff organised for two classrooms at Suburban Primary School to have an interactive talk presented by DOC's community staff worker. This was in promotion of Bee Aware month and free wildflower seeds were provided to the community. Kaikōura Youth Council also took part in a planting for Bee Aware month.

Community support (October 2018)

KDC Communications helped to support a local primary school student who won a nationwide competition for work she completed around better protecting marine mammals in Kaikōura. It focused on the information available to locals and tourists about what to do around wildlife on land and sea, and if there was anything more we could be doing to help educate people.

Email newsletter – communications support (ongoing)

Local volunteer/conservation groups have the opportunity to contribute to Councils monthly email newsletter by providing written content, images or links. Some content is also pulled from their various communications channels or news sites by the communications team. The email newsletter goes to around 2,000 subscribers and is put together by KDC's Communications staff.

Groups, events and organisations where content has been included in the email newsletter (not limited to those named below):

- Kaikōura Wildlife Rescue
- Te Hā o Mātauranga
- Hutton's Shearwater
- Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project
- Environment Canterbury
- Sustainable Living Programme
- Asbestos testing (Waste Min project)
- Hazardous Waste Removal (Waste Min project)
- IWK information and updates
- Kaikōura Water Zone Committee
- The Post-Quake Farmers Group
- Responsible Camping/Kiwa Road
- Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura
- Ministry for Primary Industries and Ministry for Fisheries information, consultations and events
- DOC work (such as the work with NCTIR planting Ōhau Rock Daisies)
- Bee Aware month
- Op Shop (removal of plastic bags)
- Banded Dotterels of South Bay
- St Joseph's School fundraiser (reusable produce bags)
- Keep NZ Beautiful Week
- Natural Hazard information and updates
- Kaikōura Museum Spring Plant Sale
- Conservation Week
- Local property successfully combatting weeds for 18 years through the SNA Project
- Whale Watch (awards for Eco-Tourism & Global Responsible Travel Award 2018)
- Civil Defence information, updates and events (including Shake Out 2018 promotional programme)
- Community Planting Day (2 year quake anniversary – IWK, Trees for Travellers, KDC, DOC and Whale Watch)
- World Tsunami Awareness Day

- News articles including information on Kaikōura and the post-quake environment/changes
- Plastic free July
- Kaikōura Ocean Research Institute (KORI)
- Trash Fashion
- World Ocean Day (microbeads park bench)
- Consultation for banning single use plastic bags (featured)
- Kaikōura Water Zone Committee
- Thin Ice, Antarctica documentary and talk
- Coastal Pacific Cycleway
- Kaikōura Plains Recovery Group

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

Matariki Tu Rākau

Matariki Tu Rākau is a national initiative led by Forestry New Zealand/Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). It is part of the one billion trees programme, in which the NZ Government has set a goal to plant one billion trees by 2028, and delivering improved social, environmental and economic outcomes for NZ.

Matariki Tu Rākau provides funding assistance to help community's plant living memorials honouring New Zealand Defence Force members, past and present. It contributes to the ecological, social and cultural aspects of community by allowing people to connect through the creation of something that benefits the environment and our people's health.

Forestry NZ provides funding for trees, a commemorative plaque or a contribution to signage and a contribution to costs of facilitating community-wide planting events.

There is appetite in the community for this project to be carried out (by individuals and community groups), but resource is needed to provide guidance/leadership for this project.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding available to carry out project • Raise awareness of environmental importance • Connect community (individuals and groups) • Commemorate service men and women • Create place of remembrance in the community • Outdoor activity is proven to have positive impacts on overall wellbeing
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No resource allocated to lead this project

Enviroschools

Enviroschools aims to weave environmental education into the current school curriculum to foster a generation of people who instinctively think and act sustainability. Regional Coordinators and Enviroschools Facilitators support the programme in 1161 schools and early childhood education centres New Zealand wide.

Enviroschools used to run in Kaikōura but the funding was directed elsewhere. Funding needed to carry out the project would depend on how the role was allocated (whether it is included in an existing role or established separately).

Earlier in 2018, schools were approached and there was appetite in the community for this project to move forward. For some education providers, the programme would be relatively easy to implement as they are already carrying out education around sustainability in their teachings.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another initiative to further our district’s commitment to the environment and sustainability • Fostering the next generation to protect our environment
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No resource allocated to this project • Other programmes with similar goals exist • Relies on school willingness to uptake

NATIONAL CONTEXT

National and international environmental movements have been gaining popularity as people and communities realise the importance of protecting their environment. Research done by Colmar Brunton in 2017 (*Better Futures Report*) showed that the build-up of plastic in the environment is now one of the top five concerns for New Zealanders.

The government is continuing to work through the implications of China’s 2018 policy changes for New Zealand and has signalled in many ways that improving environmental management is a key priority.

Recent environmental initiatives and movements in New Zealand include:

- Ban on use of plastic micro beads in soap and skin creams (implemented June 2018)
- Ban of single use plastic bags (announced August 2018)
- New Zealand Plastic Packaging Declaration (launched June 2018, signing indicates a business’ commitment to using 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging by 2025 or earlier – related to the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment signed by Ministry of Environment on behalf of NZ Government)
- Work programme to address waste issues (August 2018, range of actions/measures to address environmental/waste issues in NZ)
- Waste Minimisation Fund (funds projects that promote or achieve waste minimisation)
- Circular Economy Accelerator (Sustainable Business Network NZ; resource base and platform for collaboration)
- The Packaging Forum (promoting the Love NZ brand to reduce landfill and promote packaging recycling to help keep NZ green and clean; in July 2018 members committed to making all their packaging recyclable or compostable by 2025)

Implementation of National Environmental Standards

National environmental standards (NES) are regulations issued under section 43 of the Resource Management Act and apply regionally or nationally in NZ. NES are regulations that prescribe standards for environmental matters to ensure consistency for activities or resource use around the country.

Each regional, city or district council must enforce the same standard and in some circumstances can impose stricter or more lenient standards.

The implementation of the first set of NPS are set to begin in April 2019. Councils must amend their plans to incorporate the mandatory standards within one year and the discretionary content within five years of the publication of the standards. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) will work with councils to incorporate the gazetted planning standards into plans and policy statements.

Our annual plan process and district plan review both provide opportunity to work with the community and ensure our regulations and policies protect and enhance our natural environment and wildlife and are well communicated to our residents and visitors.

Opportunities/gaps

Possible opportunities/solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual plan • District Plan review • MfE support to incorporate NES into plans and policy statements • Opportunity to educate and work with the community on implementing standards
Risks/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No adequate resource allocated

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

Many of the opportunities and risks outlined above would require additional allocation of resource to be carried out.

Funding is available from a variety of external sources, to support and fund environmental projects and initiatives but FTE is needed to lead these projects.

If Council wishes to strengthen its environmental work, it will need to consider if/where budget/FTE can be found.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED

The work is in support of all community outcomes.



We value, protect and enhance Kaikōura’s unique natural environment and biodiversity and sustainably manage disposal of waste.



Residents and visitors enjoy an improved quality of life in our District.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Resource Management Act (Section 43) – National Environmental Standards

Resource Management Act 1991 (Section 6c) – Significant Natural Areas

Resource Management Act 1991 (Schedule 1) – District Plan Review

COMMUNITY VIEWS

Community consultation when developing the 'Reimagine Kaikōura' recovery plan made it clear that residents and ratepayers value our natural environment. Under the 2017/18 Residents satisfaction survey results, only 39% of respondents felt we were doing enough to be sustainable.

IWK’s waste management figures show that residents/visitors are not doing as well as they could be to reduce/reuse/recycle.