

5. AKAROA HARBOUR BASIN SETTLEMENTS STUDY



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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study has been completed, with the production of two documents: an 'Issues and Prospective Projects' document (**Attachment 1**) and its accompanying Implementation Plan (**Attachment 2**). The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's endorsement of these documents as guides to assist future operational decision-making.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Study Scope

2. The Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study (the Study) was initiated in early 2007. The Study identifies the strategic issues facing the eight rural settlements of the Akaroa Harbour Basin, with the aim of achieving strong and sustainable communities and settlements over the next 20-30 years. The eight settlements are listed below and the attached reports include a map showing their associated study areas.

Akaroa	Barrys Bay
Takamatua	French Farm
Robinsons Bay	Tikao Bay
Duvauchelle	Wainui

Study Process and Findings

3. The Study entailed a comprehensive planning exercise, involving information-gathering, mapping, identification of issues, evaluation of options, cross-Council discussion and community consultation. A large number of issues (ranging from locality-specific to harbour-wide) were identified and are listed in Part II of Attachment 1. These issues cover:
 - (a) Natural Environment (including coastal issues, landscapes, freshwater resources, climate change, slope stability)
 - (b) Social Environment (including historic character, population, community facilities)
 - (c) Physical Environment (including water, wastewater, stormwater, transport)
 - (d) Economic Environment (including housing affordability, business growth, tourism)
 - (e) Subdivision, Land Use, Managing Urban Change (including settlement patterns, capacity for urban growth).
4. The preferred options to address the issues have now been identified as 'prospective projects' in the attached documents. Some projects are multi-disciplinary (for example, 'Detailed Planning Studies', 'Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan') but most are more confined in their scope. These projects are listed in Part III of Attachment 1, under 18 topic areas. The relative timing for each of these is identified by a symbol in Attachment 1 and in more detail in **Attachment 2**. The majority of projects are shown for commencement in 2012 or beyond, although work will begin on the following funded projects this financial year:
 - B Akaroa Places and Spaces Plan
 - Q.2 Cruise Ship Protocol
 - R.1 Project Implementation and Monitoring
5. The identification of prospective projects within the attached documents does not commit the Council to commencing each project. Projects that are identified as commencing in 2012 or later will be contestable as part of the review of the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

On-going monitoring

6. Although the Study has been completed, ongoing work will be undertaken to oversee implementation of the programme and to monitor trends and impacts of development.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The principal financial implication is for operational budgets in future years. There is scope within projected immediate budgets for commencing some of the projects, as identified in **Attachment 2** and paragraph four above.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

8. This Study was identified as a project in the current LTCCP and its outcomes aim to inform the development of future LTCCP budgets. The Settlements Study and Implementation Plan provide a framework to guide future actions, and to ensure the opportunities, priorities, linkages and dependencies are identified and managed. The timing and funding of all or any projects in the Implementation Plan is dependent on decisions made as part of the current and future Long Term Council Community Plan.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. The Study takes into consideration the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) and the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA 1991) through the development and use of evaluation criteria. These criteria were used to assess the desirability or otherwise of the project options and included the degree to which a project met legal requirements. This process has ensured that higher scoring and therefore higher priority projects are in accordance with legal requirements.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

10. Yes, as above. As the Council gives effect to the higher priority projects there will be additional legal implications, particularly in relation to any District Plan changes under the RMA 1991. The work already undertaken to gather and analyse relevant information will go some way toward satisfying future Section 32 requirements.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

11. Where existing Activity Management Plans address issues identified in the Study, this has been noted in background technical documents. The projects identified in the two attachments will likely inform future Activity Management Plans across various Council units.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

12. This Study was identified as a service in the 2009-19 LTCCP and its outcomes will inform the development of future LTCCP budgets.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

13. Assessment of the project options against various evaluation criteria has ensured alignment of the projects with strategies applying to Banks Peninsula (e.g. Biodiversity Strategy, Social Housing Strategy, and Sustainable Energy Strategy). As a result, the projects listed in the two attachments do not conflict with existing strategies and their associated implementation plans.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

14. Yes, as above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

15. Two public consultation exercises were conducted during the course of the study. The first was in November 2007 to assist with issue identification for the eight settlements of the harbour basin. The second was in March-April of this year and enabled prioritisation and fine-tuning of the project options. Separate meetings were also held with the two local rūnanga, via Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd (MKT).

Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board response

16. The Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board discussed the final reports at its 12 August meeting. The staff recommendation was that the Community Board:
- (a) Support the approach taken in preparing the two documents: 'Issues and Prospective Projects' and its accompanying Implementation Plan.
 - (b) Recommend that the Council endorse the documents as guides to assist future operational decision-making.
17. The Board adopted the staff recommendation but made the following suggestions:
- Add a comment to the Implementation Plan explaining that partners to projects:
 - (a) Have been provisionally identified where they have statutory responsibilities, noting that other stakeholders will be involved in the course of the project.
 - (b) Have been informed of their potential involvement in the project.
 - (c) Will be further involved as projects are commenced.
 - Bring forward the timing of projects K.3 (Walkway routes) and M.2 (Water intakes on private land).
18. Staff views are as follows:
- It is preferable for the Walkway routes project (K.3) to await completion and adoption of the Christchurch Public Open Space Strategy.
 - Water intakes on private land are not causing any immediate issues but if they do cause problems then this can be brought forward as necessary, given that the Implementation Plan is a living document.
19. Therefore staff would recommend that the additional text regarding partners be added to the Implementation Plan but that the timing of projects remains as currently indicated.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Regulatory and Planning Committee recommends to the Council that it:

- (a) Endorse the two documents ('Issues and Prospective Projects' and its accompanying Implementation Plan) as guides to assist future operational decision-making,
- (b) Incorporate the following amendment to the Implementation Plan, as recommended by the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board:

Add a comment to the Implementation Plan explaining that the identified partners have statutory responsibilities, have been informed of their potential involvement in the project and will be further involved as projects are commenced.