



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

2019 - 2024

Issue Information

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Central Otago District Council	*****
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1.0 FOREWORD

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Our Common Future – the Brundtland Report, 1987

Sustainable practices support ecological, human, and economic health and vitality. Sustainability accepts that resources are finite and should consequently be used conservatively and wisely.

It should be noted that sustainability is not only about protecting the environment, even though environmental stewardship is an integral part of sustainability. To achieve sustainability, an organisation must consider environmental, social and economic elements as each of these play a vital role.

We need to care for and invest in our natural resources, understanding the consequences of our decisions, and making wise choices that will benefit future generations.

This is Council's second Sustainability Strategy. It builds on Community Outcomes and incorporates United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We believe it is important to align with global benchmarks while implementing a local application.

Sustainability Strategy has been developed to focus on issues Council directly controls in the first instance. Council impacts on the sustainability of our community through both the services we provide and the regulatory processes we apply.

The manner in which we provide infrastructure services can have a direct environmental impact. Community services such as libraries, parks and community centres are important social foundations within our communities. Our regulatory processes are designed to mitigate the impacts of today's development on our future. As well as providing infrastructure, and enabling sustainable development, our consenting and licensing functions also impact the local economy

There are opportunities across all of these activities to reduce our carbon footprint, reduce environmental impacts and streamline our business processes. By getting our own house in order first, we can better lead the community in wider sustainability discussions.

Of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, we see the last one, “partnerships for the goal” as the most important and for this reason, it has been attached to the top of our strategy matrix. This reminds us that while the Council can own some things, it will only be through true partnerships that we, as a district and a community, can make a real difference that leads to improved sustainability outcomes.

1.1 Our strategy at a glance

The matrix below demonstrates how our sustainability vision connects with our community outcomes and the supporting workstreams, goals, actions and measures of success. This high-level view is supported by a programme of actions and deliverables shown in Section 6 of this strategy.

This view also demonstrates how our strategy aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

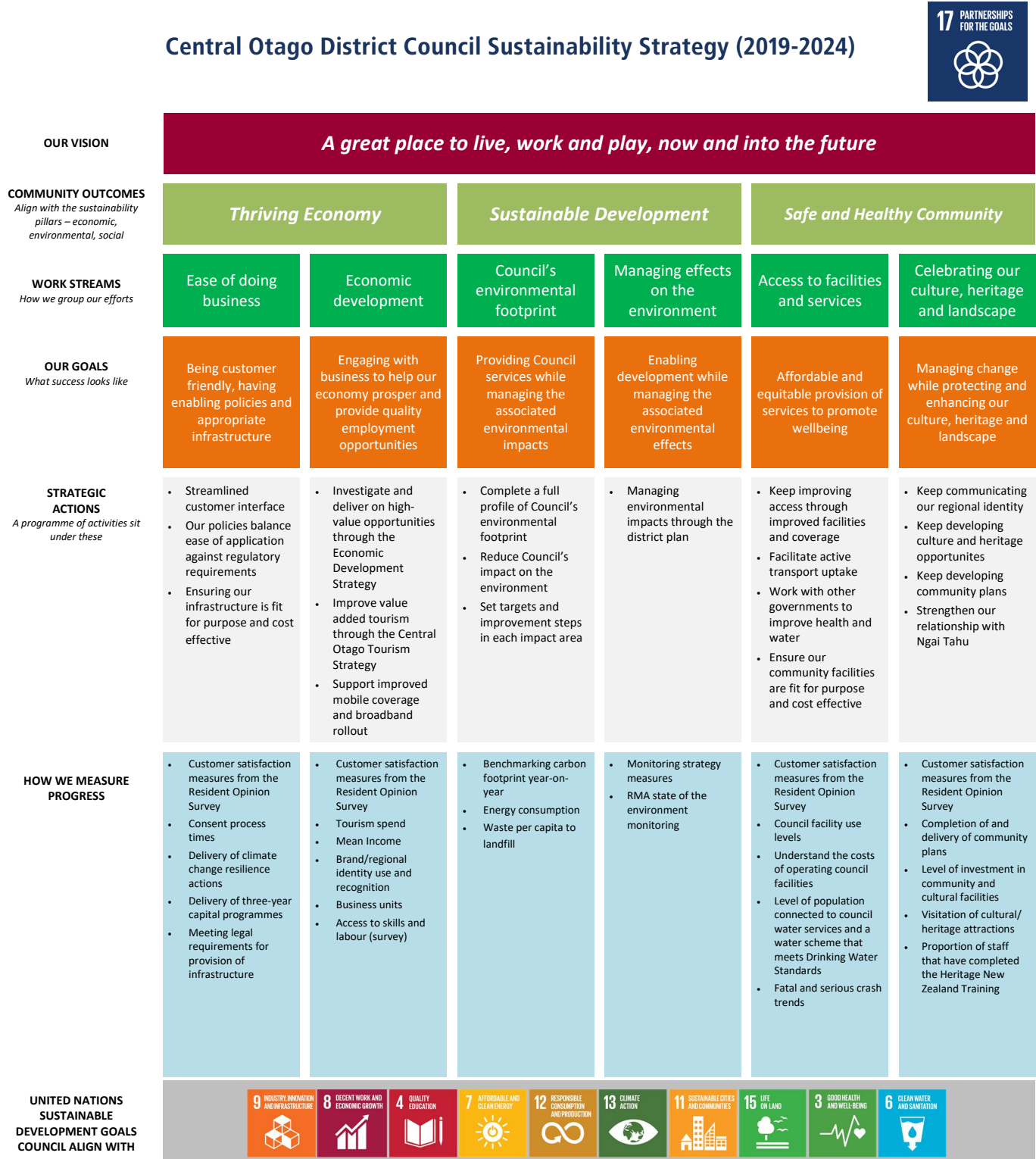


Figure 1: CODC Sustainability Strategy Matrix (also included in large format as Appendix 1)



2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose

This is Central Otago District Councils' second Sustainability Strategy and has been prepared to meet the needs of the district from 2019 - 2024. It will be important for Council to keep learning and adapting as the local, regional and national environment changes in response to growth, disruption, technology changes and other developments.

This strategy also contributes to and gains direction from the following Central Otago District Council documents:

- The Long Term Plan
- The District Plan
- The Infrastructure Strategy
- The Economic Development Strategy
- The Tourism Strategy
- Waste Minimisation and Management Plan
- The Outdoor Recreational Strategy
- Towards Better Heritage Outcomes for Central Otago
- The Central Otago Arts Strategy
- The Community Plans.
- The "Central Otago - World of difference" regional identity.

2.2 Scope

The strategy focuses on the following elements within the context of Sustainable development:

- Economic development and business support
- Land and resource management
- Organisational operations management
- Waste management
- Environmental management
- Urban ecology management
- Provision of facilities and services
- Culture and heritage management
- Energy consumption and management
- Community engagement.

2.3 Strategy development process

This strategy was developed through the process shown below.

- Internal discussion of priorities and challenges.
- Review of the previous strategy to produce learnings and achievements.
- Review of the sustainability environment at a local and national level.
- Review of strategies from other councils and organisations to select suitable framework. Desktop research on the sustainability strategies/frameworks and policies of organisations across NZ, Australia and beyond, including:
 - Air NZ, Auckland/Brisbane Airport, numerous New Zealand and Australian Councils, Auckland Transport, NZ Post and Westpac NZ (based on a targeted search).
- Completion of an internal workshop to create a strategic outline which included a vision, workstreams, goals actions and measures.
- Discussion of a draft framework with councillors.
- Follow up meetings to better capture actions, opportunities and achievements.



3.0 A BIT ABOUT US - THE CENTRAL OTAGO DISTRICT

Central Otago is New Zealand’s most inland region, located in the southern half of the South Island. It is breathtakingly different with vast undulating landscapes, rugged snow-capped mountains, clear blue rivers and lake, deep gorges and tussock-clad hills.

Central Otago covers an area of 9969 km² and has one of the lowest population densities per square kilometre in New Zealand. This, together with the landscape, gives Central Otago its particular character.

The community consists of a variety of small towns that offer a wide range of services. It is a popular holiday destination, and the population swells over the summer months. For the year ended 30 June 2017 the population of Central Otago grew by 1,800 people, or 9.7%, to 20,300.

Central Otago has become a fashionable place to live and visit and many people are moving to the district for work and business opportunities.

Growth is also influenced by increasing demand in the Queenstown Lakes area and the relative affordability of property in Central Otago.

The district's population growth is forecast to continue for the next 30 years.

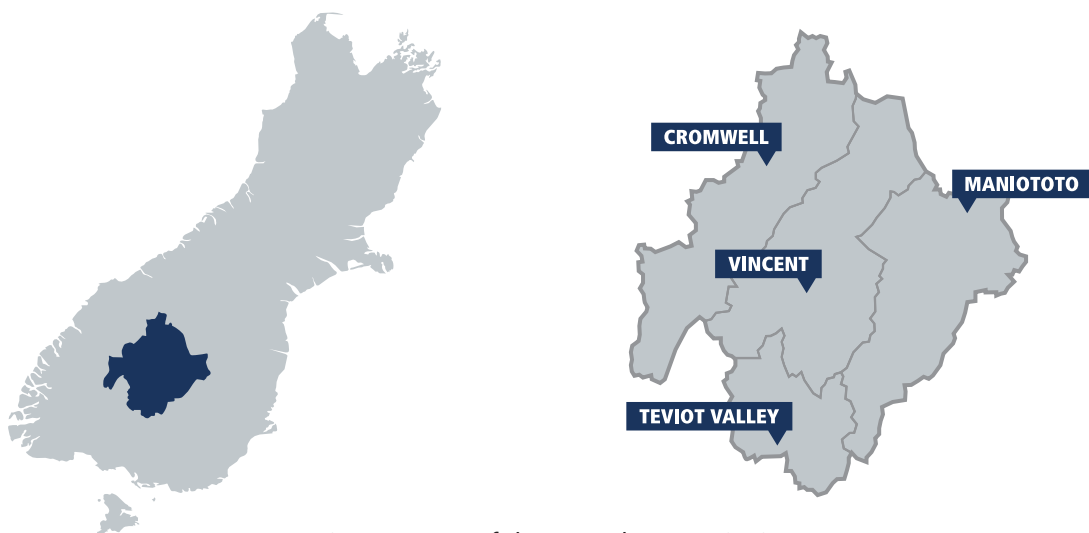


Figure 2: Map of the Central Otago District

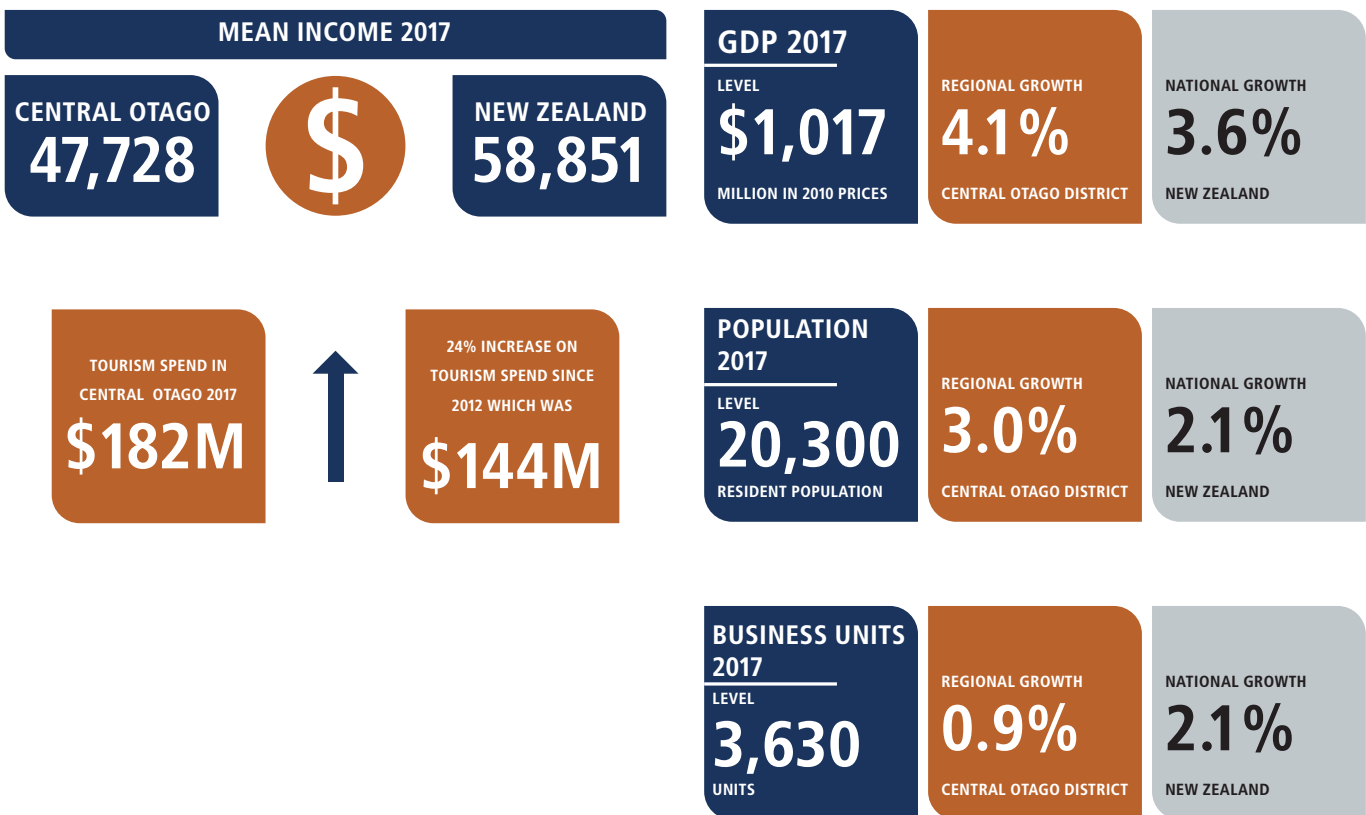
The Central Otago economy is anchored in the primary sector, with construction, tourism, hydroelectricity and professional services also significant contributors. Traditional sheep and beef industries are strong; we have a growing dairy industry, and thriving horticultural sector. Stone fruit, viticulture and apples are key horticultural growth areas.

Construction is the second largest sector and is currently driven by high demand for housing and industrial premises in both Central Otago and the neighbouring Queenstown Lakes area.

Manufacturing is dominated by the wine industry, which is predominantly located within the Cromwell and Vincent areas.

The professional, scientific and technical sector is developing. Improved communication, infrastructure and air services from Queenstown and Dunedin are enabling providers to service national and international clients while opting for the Central Otago lifestyle.

International visitors are expected to continue to increase significantly on the back of national marketing initiatives to get more tourists into the regions. Central Otago is implementing a new Tourism Strategy to leverage off national initiatives, and encourage international visitors from Queenstown to spend time in Central Otago. The Central Otago Touring route is one local initiative to support this.





4.0 OUR DISTRICTS CHALLENGES

While the district is in a very positive position, there are many challenges that need to be considered in the context of this and wider strategies. These challenges include:

- Environmental/social impacts arising from increasing population and visitor numbers.
- Infrastructure and land provision keeping up with growth.
- Skills and labour shortages across all sectors – notably seasonal workers to meet the demand of peak periods.
- Lack of suitable accommodation to house seasonal workers during peak periods.
- A lack of visibility regarding supply and demand (such as the number of seasonal workers available and the number of visitors coming to the area).
- An ageing population that is changing infrastructure demands and workforce composition
- Attracting and retaining talent – particularly young people and families.
- Affordability, particularly in relation to property and living expenses.
- Limited resources within Council to drive sustainability outcomes.

4.1 Population growth

Central Otago has experienced a decade of exceptional population growth. Between the 2001 and 2013 censuses the resident population grew by 25.4% from 14,750 to 18,500.

Central Otago's growth is influenced by increasing demand in the Queenstown area and the relative affordability of property in Central Otago relative to Queenstown.

In addition to the growth from Queenstown, there is a strong local economy with many people moving to the District for work and business opportunities.

The influence of demand from the Queenstown Lakes area is reflected in terms of the geographic spread of population growth in Central Otago. The fastest rate of growth has been experienced in the Cromwell ward, where the population has increased between the 2001 and 2013 censuses by 73%. The Vincent Ward, which includes Alexandra, Clyde, Omakau and Ophir, grew 15%.

The Cromwell area is projected to continue to experience the highest population growth, followed by the Vincent area. The population is forecast to remain static in the Maniototo area, and decline very slightly in the Teviot area. The dwelling and rating unit growth is still positive in Maniototo and Teviot.

4.2 Ageing Population

The District has a significantly higher proportion of older residents compared to the rest of New Zealand. Projected change in the District's population indicates the proportion of people aged 65+ will increase from the present 21% to over 30% by 2028 to become the dominant demographic.

The reduction in the number of people aged between 15 and 64 years of age in our community is likely to result in shortages of staff for the workforce.

Innovative, streamlined work processes, targeted work programmes and increasing use of technology will continue to be implemented to help limit the impact of a reduced workforce and labour shortages.

However; at some stage, new initiatives will be required to attract youth, develop local capability and retain it. This strategy will include some initial actions to support this need.

4.3 Subdivision Demand

Central Otago District Council has experienced consistent subdivision growth over the last 15 years. The District is currently experiencing another unprecedented urban growth peak.

There is currently no remaining urban-zoned land available for development in Clyde, and very little in Cromwell and Alexandra. The lack of available land in Cromwell, Clyde and Alexandra is impacting on property prices. This is resulting in increased demand in Omakau and Roxburgh where property prices are more affordable. Consequently, a number of private plan changes being implemented, making it difficult to forecast growth areas and subsequent infrastructure impacts. The outcome of this is that forecasting of growth areas and the subsequent infrastructure impacts is difficult.

The District Plan will be reviewed and this will include provision of sufficient zoned land to meet the expected demand for the next 20 years.

4.4 Affordability

Affordability is becoming a real focal point for the district. While there are many upsides to strong economic performance driven by growth in demand, the downside for Central Otago is the effect that this is having on affordability.

It is worth recognising the ripple effect that parts of Central Otago are experiencing as a result of the strong property prices in the Queenstown Lakes District. Notably, Cromwell is playing a critical role in providing many services to the Queenstown Lakes District and many people are commuting between these two areas frequently for work. Through this relationship and as part of a wider uplift in property prices, Cromwell is experiencing property price growth that is driving an emerging affordability challenge for the district.

The core components of affordability in a broad sense are the cost of property to buy or rent and the common costs of living (food, services and education). Affordability pressures become most evident when income levels do not keep up with these costs. In an economic sense, this has a raft of potentially negative impacts, such as:

- Reducing the ability to attract and retain skilled workers in the district.
- Reduced inflow of seasonal workers.
- Reduced numbers of children to support the usual operations of the schools (and the jobs of the teachers – this scenario also applies to hospitals and other social services).
- Reduced support of local businesses.
- Slowing of residential growth.
- Reduced disposable income circulating in the local economy.
- Increased pressure on social services.

The average annual earnings in Central Otago in 2016 was \$47,728, which is 19% less than the New Zealand average of \$58,851.

4.5 Tourism growth

The value of tourism in Central Otago has grown in recent years, with expenditure rising from \$145 million in 2012 to \$181 million in 2016 (growth of 24% over the four-year period).

However, the region's visitor economy has grown at a rate lower than the national average (37%) and at a rate lower than neighbouring regions such as Queenstown (70%), Wanaka (63%) and Dunedin (28%). This stems, in large part, from

Central Otago's reliance on the domestic market - which accounts for almost 72% of total tourism expenditure in the region - and its comparative weakness in the more rapidly growing international market segment.

Central Otago's small number of overnight international visitors – estimated at around 35,000 in 2016 - has, however, insulated the region from many of the challenges faced by other regions and pressure to scale up rapidly to meet demand (e.g. with the development of more commercial accommodation and more public infrastructure and amenities). For Central Otago, this has given time and perspective to consider whether growing volume is the best way to increase tourism's value to the region.

Other regions, such as Queenstown Lakes, have experienced significant impacts from the increase in tourism and this has put serious strains on infrastructure and the experience provided by key places. With ongoing growth in inbound tourism forecast at a national level, there is undoubtedly potential to grow Central Otago's tourism economy and, in doing so, to provide greater social, economic and environmental benefit while balancing impacts.

4.6 New Technologies

Central Otago District Council has embraced technology and it is widely used for quick notification of events such as road conditions and disruptions to service. This technology is also widely used for managing the water, wastewater and roading networks.

Electric vehicle charge stations are being installed across the network. These are often located on Council land, but are funded by commercial providers.

The development of technology which provides improved data for decision-making is rapidly advancing. This technology is being incorporated into Council's operational activities where appropriate.

4.7 Climate Change

Central Otago District Council commissioned a report of climate change impacts on the Central Otago District. This was prepared by Bodeker Scientific, and is titled "The Past, Present, and Future Climate of Central Otago: Implications for the District". This includes the scenario under the worst case or highest warming scenario, as well as implications this may have for the district.

Potential impacts of these climate changes for the district include:

- Higher intensity extreme rainfall events may lead to increased likelihood of landslides and flooding.
- Events during winter may result in very high snowfall - with implications for road availability and management.
- Increased heat stress from heatwaves, affecting the workforce during summer.
- Increased temperatures, combined with drought conditions, heighten the risk associated with wildfire. This will increase the importance of vegetation management and impact on when work can be undertaken due to the risk of causing a fire.
- Higher summer temperatures may affect construction and cause heat damage to bitumen.
- A reduction in the number of winter frost days is likely to see a reduced hazard from ice on our roads and freeze thaw issues on unsealed roads.
- Flood events caused by extreme rainfall, snowfall or snowmelt runoff may increase the potential for greater damage to bridges and road approaches.

The report outlined for the Central Otago District one of the main considerations is the use of water to enhance land-productivity, whilst reducing natural river flows and contributing to water quality issues. This has knock-on effects for native flora and fauna, both on the land which is irrigated and within the river catchments. Behaviour change involves encouraging people to first recognise that an issue exists in the way that current activities are undertaken, then modifying their activities accordingly. It includes the promotion of activity that will lead to better management and enhanced outcomes for the environment.

In the Central Otago context, there are a number of sub-optimal behaviours that could be targeted, including: impacts from stock and use of fertilisers (particularly in close proximity to waterways), waste or biomass burning and its effect on air quality, or in the urban context the use of inefficient log burners, coal, or diesel fired burners, or the burning of wet or treated wood. In addition, positive behaviours could be encouraged, such as the use of native plant species to create riparian strips along waterways, providing habitat for native fauna; education around the appropriate wood to be used in wood burners; or encouraging organisations to shift from coal-fired boilers to wood-fired, or another technology that is less environmentally harmful.



5.0 WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

5.1 Vision

The vision for this strategy is:

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY, NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

5.2 Community Outcomes

Council has high-level Community Outcomes, which include:

Thriving Economy - A thriving economy that is attractive to both businesses and residents alike.

Sustainable Environment - This would be an environment that provides a good quality of life. The community would also have a healthy balance between its natural and built environment.

A Safe and Healthy Community - This would be a vibrant community with a range of services and facilities. This would also be a community that values and celebrates its rich heritage. These outcomes have been used as pillars for this strategy and they effectively capture the three foundations of sustainability, balancing the economic, environmental and social elements. Through this connection, this strategy shares a strong alignment with and actively contributes to achieving these community outcomes.

5.3 Workstream

Six workstreams have been created underneath these pillars/community outcomes, including:

- Ease of doing business.
- Economic development.
- Council's environmental footprint.
- Managing the effects on the environment.
- Access to facilities and services.
- Celebrating our culture, heritage and landscape.

These workstreams recognise the role of Council in providing services to the community.

Goals have been identified for each workstream. These goals provide high level targets that are to be achieved through a set of actions.

The goals for this strategy include:

1. Being customer friendly, having enabling policies and appropriate infrastructure.
2. Support improvement and diversification of skills, industries and experiences.
3. Providing Council services while managing the associated environmental impacts.
4. Enabling development while managing the associated environmental effects.
5. Affordable and equitable provision of services to promote wellbeing.
6. Managing change while protecting and enhancing our culture, heritage and landscape.

Strategic actions and a specific action plan have been included to deliver against each of these goals. The action plan and measures for each workstream are shown below in Section 6.


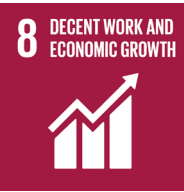
5.4 Sustainability Action Plan

The action plan below is broken down in by workstreams and goals. This table also notes how each action will be measured, what goal they contribute to for this strategy and how they align to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.




6.0 WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

6.1 Thriving economy

6.1.1 Ease of doing business






Goal	Strategic focus	What we do now	What we need to add between 2019 and 2025	Measures	SDG alignment
Being customer friendly, having enabling policies and appropriate infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined customer interface Our policies balance ease of application against regulatory requirements Ensuring our infrastructure is fit for purpose and cost effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide customer service for Otago Regional Council within Central Otago Sometimes fragmented customer interface across Council activities Some policies provide good customer guidance and outcomes, others need improving Proactive infrastructure planning in accordance with the infrastructure strategy. Some infrastructure upgrades are reactive to demand Service centres and i-SITEs in four locations across the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue rollout of systems thinking programme Streamline planning and development engineering functions Undertake master planning for areas of high growth Ensure infrastructure capacity will meet growth requirements Review infrastructure resilience for major events and climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer satisfaction measures from the Resident Opinion Survey Consent process times Delivery of climate change resilience actions Delivery of three-year capital programmes Meeting legal requirements for provision of infrastructure 	 

6.1.2 Economic Development






• Goal	• Strategic focus	• What we do now	• What we need to add between 2019 and 2025	• Measures	• SDG alignment
Engaging with business to help our economy prosper and provide quality employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and deliver on high-value opportunities through the Economic Development Strategy Improve value added tourism through the Central Otago Tourism Strategy Support improved mobile coverage and broadband rollout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of airports Support development of new business initiatives in Central Otago which align with Council values Administer Central Otago – A World of Difference brand Development and endorsement for export opportunities. (Central Otago Premium Fruit) Actively promote Central Otago to value added tourists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify an aspirational vision for the district that aligns with the World of Difference Values and informs each strategy Support the joint education marketing initiative currently underway in the district Delivery of a “Touring Route” between Queenstown and Dunedin Form a district youth leadership group to identify opportunities and progress key initiatives focused on how to attract, retain and enable youth in the district Continue to support the development of alternate industries and services. E.g. film creation Support community development opportunities through appropriate policies. E.g. Naseby Dark Sky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer satisfaction measures from the Resident Opinion Survey Tourism spend Mean income Brand/regional identity use and recognition Business units Access to skills and labour (survey) 	  

6.2 Sustainable development

6.2.1 Council's environmental footprint






Goal	Strategic focus	What we do now	What we need to add between 2019 and 2025	Measures	SDG alignment
Providing council services while managing the associated environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a full profile of Council's footprint • Reduce Council's impact on the environment • Set targets and improvement steps in each impact area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LED street lighting upgrades • Energy share system between Molyneux Aquatic Centre and IcelnLine • Expansion of hybrid vehicles in CODC fleet • Commitment through the Local Government climate change declaration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste audit for Council facilities • Measure and monitor our carbon footprint • Consideration of alternative energy sources, e.g., Community heating, heat transfer, solar energy use • Energy audit with a review of high energy use activities • Review community education provision to ensure alignment with waste management and minimisation plan objectives • Provide community education regarding water use, and impacts on wastewater operations. • Organisation-wide integrated management of energy use and refuse bins • Investigate options for re-use of treated wastewater. • Investigate options for reduction in toxic chemical use • Partner with the Otago University Centre for Sustainability to identify research projects for the district that align with their student interest areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmarking carbon footprint year-on-year • Energy consumption • Waste per capita to landfill 	    

6.2.2 Managing effects on the environment




Goal	Strategic focus	What we do now	What we need to add between 2019 and 2025	Measures	SDG alignment
Enabling development while managing the associated environmental impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing environmental impacts through the district plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer the district plan Development of Eye to the Future – Cromwell Masterplan Wilding Trees funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District plan review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting requirements of the resource management act, including but not to: Protection of indigenous biodiversity Protection of productive soils Protection of outstanding landscapes and natural features from inappropriate subdivision Relation of Maori with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi Tapu and other toanga Protection of heritage from inappropriate subdivision Management of risks from natural hazards Maintenance and enhancement of access to lakes and rivers Develop a monitoring strategy including measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring strategy measures RMA state of the environment monitoring 	    

6.3 Safe and Healthy Community

6.3.1 Access to facilities and services

Goal	Strategic focus	What we do now	What we need to add between 2019 and 2025	Measures	SDG alignment
Affordable and equitable provision of services to promote wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep improving access through improved facilities and coverage Facilitate active transport uptake Work with other governments to improve health and water Ensure our community facilities are fit for purpose and cost effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the installation of EV charging facilities Provision of alcohol licencing to contribute to minimising alcohol related harm. Gambling policy Community road safety education programme. Water infrastructure upgrades New Otago Civil Defence Emergency Management website and alerts Extended hours and features at district libraries Provision of community facilities, e.g., halls, libraries, swimming pools, parks and reserves, sports facilities Elderly person housing Partnership in the Swim Skills programme to all school children Grants to Uruuruwhenua to enable access to pools for families Sport Otago funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade of water schemes to meet Drinking Water Standards Upgrade of wastewater schemes to reduce environmental impacts Review of customer service/ visitor information/library service provision Improve infrastructure that supports walking and cycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer satisfaction measures from the Resident Opinion Survey Council facility use levels Understand the costs of operating council facilities Level of population connected to council water services and a water scheme that meets Drinking Water Standards Fatal and serious crash trends 	    

6.3.2 Celebrating our culture, heritage and landscape

Goal	Strategic focus	What we do now	What we need to add between 2019 and 2025	Measures	SDG alignment
Managing change while protecting and enhancing our culture, heritage and landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep communicating our regional identity • Keep developing culture and heritage opportunities • Keep developing community plans. • Strengthen our relationship with Ngai Tahu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clyde Commercial Precinct review and enhancement • Museum Funding • Support events throughout the district e.g. Blossom festival • Fund arts coordinator role for the district • Member of Central Otago Heritage Trust • Develop of Community plans • Maintain historic bridges and walls • Local government youth partnership fund • Teviot Valley Community Development Scheme • Eden Hore Collection • Cromwell Masterplan – Eye to the Future • Adaptive reuse of council heritage buildings. E.g. Clyde and Ranfurly railway stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate design guidelines and tools for Heritage Precincts. (District plan review) • Active promotion of culture and heritage • Heritage strategy update • Review inventory of heritage features through the district plan review • Develop heritage award • Inventory of historic stone walls on roads in the district and develop a maintenance plan • Provide cultural awareness training for staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer satisfaction measures from the Resident Opinion Survey • Completion of and delivery of community plans • Level of investment in community and cultural facilities • Visitation of cultural/heritage attractions • Proportion of staff that have completed the Heritage New Zealand Training 	  



7.0 MONITORING AND REPORTING

7.1 CEMARS (Certified Emissions Measurement and Reduction Scheme)

CEMARS certification is for large organisations or large emitting industries to measure their greenhouse gas emissions, put in place plans to reduce them and have both of these steps independently certified.

The CEMARS methodology for producing an organisational carbon footprint is aligned with the internationally recognised Greenhouse Gas Protocol for corporate accounting and reporting. It is also aligned with the ISO 14064-1 specification, with guidance at the organisational level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

The CEMARS carbon footprint exceeds the technical requirements for greenhouse gas emissions reporting of the Carbon Disclosure Project.

At the end of 2018 there were seven Councils in New Zealand who had CEMARS certification.

7.2 Reporting

The regime below provides a framework for monitoring this strategy and its proposed actions:

- Quarterly progress reporting through the Council Executive and Leadership teams.
- Six-monthly review with the Waste and Property Committee.
- Annual progress report to the community.



8.0 DEVELOPMENTS AND DRIVERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

8.1 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by all the world's nations, cover nearly every aspect of our future — for our planet and for humankind. They concern all people, all countries and all parts of society. There are seventeen goals in total, and they aim for nothing less than a transformation of global civilization.

Launched in 2015, the seventeen goals were developed and released under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development titled "Transforming our world".

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Figure 3: United Nations Sustainability Development Goals

To make the most of the Sustainable Development Goals it is suggested that organisations complete the steps below. This has been completed for Central Otago District Council during the strategy development workshop and subsequent meetings.

- Map business plans and activities against the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Identify the most relevant goals.
- Identify inter-linkages between the goals.
- Identify SDGs/targets where the company can have most impact.
- Set company specific goals and targets that are consistent with Sustainable Development Goals.
- Identify business opportunities arising from the goals.
- Engage in strategic partnerships.
- Devise an action plan.

8.2 Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration

In 2015, Mayors and Chairs of New Zealand declared an urgent need for responsive leadership and a holistic approach to climate change. The key points below demonstrate how this is being applied:

"We have come together, as a group of Mayors representing local government from across New Zealand to:

- acknowledge the importance and urgent need to address climate change for the benefit of current and future generations;
- give our support to the New Zealand Government for developing and implementing, in collaboration with councils, communities and businesses, an ambitious transition plan toward a low carbon and resilient New Zealand;
- encourage government to be more ambitious with climate change mitigation measures;
- outline key commitments our councils will take in responding to the opportunities and risks posed by climate change; and
- recommend important guiding principles for responding to climate change.

For our part we commit to:

- Develop and implement ambitious action plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support resilience within our own councils and for our local communities. These plans will: a. promote walking, cycling, public transport and other low carbon transport options; b. work to improve the resource efficiency and health of homes, businesses and infrastructure in our district; and c. support the use of renewable energy and uptake of electric vehicles.

- Work with our communities to understand, prepare for and respond to the physical impacts of climate change.
- Work with central government to deliver on national emission reduction targets and support resilience in our communities.

We believe these actions will result in widespread and substantial benefits for our communities such as; creating new jobs and business opportunities, creating a more competitive and future-proof economy, more efficient delivery of council services, improved public health, creating stronger more connected communities, supporting life-long learning, reducing air pollution and supporting local biodiversity. In short, it will help to make our communities great places to live, work, learn and visit for generations to come”.

Central Otago District Council is a signatory to this declaration.

8.3 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management provides direction on how local authorities should carry out their responsibilities for managing fresh water under the Resource Management Act 1991.

This policy was amended on 7 August 2017 and requires regional councils to improve water quality and meet targets. There are new requirements for regional councils to follow when managing the level of nutrients – such as nitrogen and phosphorus – which can get into waterways. This requires the consideration of cumulative effects.

Central Otago District Council has a \$30 million program of improvements to urban wastewater treatment sites over the next decade. This program will reduce the environmental impacts from urban wastewater discharges.

8.4 Zero Carbon Act

Central Government recently announced it is working towards the development of a Zero Carbon Act. The act aims to make New Zealand a world leader on climate change. The Bill aims to change, guide New Zealand’s transition to a low emission, climate resilient future and a sustainable economy. As this bill is developed and other new central government initiatives are developed, Central Otago will need to be able to adapt and be prepared to make the most of wider opportunities.

8.5 Adapting to climate change in New Zealand – Stocktake report

This report is the first report prepared by the Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group. It summarises the expected impacts of climate change on New Zealand over the medium and long term, takes stock of existing work on adaptation and identifies gaps in New Zealand’s current approach.

In taking stock of the work already underway, the Group identified three characteristics that need to be in place for effective adaptation to develop in New Zealand:

- Being informed about how our climate is changing and what this means for us
- Being organised, with a common goal, a planned approach, the right tools, and clear roles and responsibilities
- Taking dynamic action to proactively reduce exposure to the social, cultural, environmental and economic consequences of climate change.

The report concludes that New Zealand is in the early stages of planning for climate change with many positive initial steps being taken across a number of sectors – it is in the informed phase, with some areas having advanced to the organised phase.

The information in the report is current as at May 2017, when it was first delivered to the Minister for Climate Change Issues. The report provides the evidence for the Group’s second report which will detail options for adapting to climate change and recommend how New Zealand can build resilience to the effects of climate change.

Central Otago District Council needs to stay up to date in the findings from this group and be ready to make use of the outputs, particularly the second report which will be more informed by recent activities and trends.

8.6 ICLEI's (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) Ten Urban Agendas

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is the leading global network of more than 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future. ICLEI started with the idea that a single municipality has a significant impact.

ICLEI was conceived in 1989 when local government leaders met with a leading atmospheric scientist to discuss the depletion of the ozone layer. They pledged to establish local laws to phase out ozone-depleting chemicals and imagined an organization that could coordinate local government responses to global environmental problems.

ICLEI was then founded in 1990 by 200 local governments from 43 countries who convened for the first World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Operations began in 1991 at the World Secretariat in Toronto, Canada, and the European Secretariat in Freiburg, Germany. The World Secretariat has since moved to Bonn, Germany.

ICLEI has 10 Urban Agendas that help local and subnational governments address these challenges and advance the objectives of global sustainability frameworks, from the Sustainable Development Goals to the Paris Agreement and New Urban Agenda.



Sustainable City Agenda

ICLEI's overarching goal is the creation of Sustainable Cities. Sustainable cities ensure an environmentally, socially, and economically healthy and resilient habitat for existing populations, without compromising the ability of future generations to experience the same. They aim for sustainability in a comprehensive and inclusive manner. They integrate policies across sectors to connect their ecological and social goals with their economic potential, rather than addressing challenges through fragmented approaches that meet one goal at the expense of others.



Low-carbon City Agenda

A low-carbon city recognizes its responsibility to act. It pursues a step-by-step approach towards carbon neutrality, urban resilience and energy security, supporting an active green economy and stable green infrastructure. The local government collaborates with other levels of government on optimizing climate action through effective vertical integration. Together with other cities, Low Carbon Cities look to scale up their efforts, conform to global standards, report to national and global platforms and continuously improve their performance towards low carbon, sustainable development.



Resource-efficient and Productive City Agenda

Resource-efficient cities - often called Eco-Cities - ensure that their socio-economic development is significantly decoupled from resource exploitation and ecological impacts. They accomplish this by minimizing the required inputs of all natural and human resources within their area, including water, air, soil, nutrients, minerals, materials, flora and fauna, ecosystem services, and social and financial resources, while avoiding their degradation and reducing waste generation. Productive cities go beyond improving the efficiency of current or future urban systems, including new cities or new urban developments, with the aim of becoming net productive systems in ecological, economic and social terms.



Resilient City Agenda

A resilient city is prepared to absorb and recover from any shock or stress while maintaining its essential functions, structures and identity, adapting and thriving in the face of continual change. Examples of the change cities face include natural and industrial disasters, environmental emergencies, economic shocks, climate change impacts, drastic demographic changes and other unforeseen challenges. Building resilience requires identifying and assessing hazard risks, reducing vulnerability and exposure, and increasing resistance, adaptive capacity and emergency preparedness.



BiodiverCity Agenda

Biodiverse cities understand that a diverse natural world is the foundation of human existence, as it is necessary for both survival and quality of life. They are aware that ecosystem services contribute towards many essential municipal services, as well as towards the local economy, sustainability and social well-being of their cities. Biodiversity in cities provides a critical contribution towards achieving the global biodiversity targets. It buffers further biodiversity loss, improves the urban standard of living and provides local opportunities for global education and awareness.



Smart City Agenda

A smart city has embedded “smartness” into its operations, and is guided by the overarching goal of becoming more sustainable and resilient. It analyses, monitors and optimizes its urban systems, be they physical (e.g. energy, water, waste, transportation and polluting emissions) or social (e.g. social and economic inclusion, governance, citizen participation), through transparent and inclusive information feedback mechanisms. It commits to continuous learning and adaptation, and through the application of systems thinking, aspires to improve its inclusivity, cohesion, responsiveness, governance and the performance of its social, economic and physical systems.



EcoMobile City (Sustainable Urban Mobility) Agenda

An EcoMobile city fulfils its objective of creating a more liveable and accessible city by utilizing Sustainable Urban Mobility principles to achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption, improvements to air quality, and increased mobility opportunities for all citizens. A key component of Sustainable Urban Mobility is EcoMobility, which gives priority to integrated, socially inclusive, and environmentally-friendly transport options. EcoMobility comprises walking, cycling, wheeling, and passenging and, wherever possible, integrates shared mobility as an integrated alternative personal automobile use.



Happy, Healthy, and Inclusive Communities Agenda

Happy, healthy and inclusive communities look beyond GDP as the primary indicator for development, choosing to prioritize health and happiness for all. They are vibrant, clean, healthy, inclusive, peaceful and safe, and offer education, culture, green employment, high quality of life, and good governance. They provide opportunities for interaction and community engagement in decision making, and plan for both the needs of an increasingly aging society and for the development for younger demographics. Happy, Healthy and Inclusive Communities will extend its mandate to both individuals and society-at-large.



Sustainable Local Economy and Procurement Agenda

A sustainable local economy improves human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and natural resource scarcity. A sustainable local economy is resource efficient, low-carbon, socially responsible and diverse. It prioritizes an economy that creates jobs in green-growth industries, investment in cleaner technologies, innovation, skills and entrepreneurship, all of which are needed to create sustainable cities. By undertaking innovative and sustainable procurement, local and regional governments ensure that tax revenue is used responsibly, and that public purchasing power brings about major environmental and social benefits locally and globally.



Sustainable City-Region Cooperation Agenda

Regions and sub-national governments are crucial drivers for global sustainability. In addition, their own policies, plans and initiatives which align with sustainability principles, they provide enabling framework conditions for the cities and municipalities within jurisdictional boundaries, and use their powers of representation to amplify influence at the national level. City-region cooperation builds the conditions necessary to advance sustainability on the local, regional and sub-national level. Public transport, local and regional energy generation, resource flows, food systems, productive city-regions and urban planning can often most successfully be approached within a wider functional area.

8.7 Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (and New Zealand)

The Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) has developed a framework for incorporating sustainability considerations and outcomes into any phase of infrastructure planning and delivery. This framework has been very successful and is currently being applied to a wide range of developments in Australia and New Zealand. Central Otago District Council has an opportunity to apply the principles within this framework initially and then consider participating in the IS rating process for larger developments or programmes.

The IS rating scheme can be used as part of the initiation, development and/or procurement phases of project planning to incorporate sustainability considerations and outcomes into the overall project phases.

The benefits of applying the IS rating scheme as part of project planning include:

- Significantly improved sustainability performance of, and outcomes generated by, infrastructure projects over their lifecycle
- More efficient use of public resources (reduces costs through greater energy efficiency, reduced waste disposal, and reduced risk management)
- Broader engagement across project’s team, not just sustainability practitioners, which strengthens clients’ sustainability

commitments

- Better decision-making during infrastructure procurement so as to deliver more sustainable outcomes
- Demonstrates that clients are committed to achieving sustainable development objectives
- Enhanced understanding of the importance of sustainability and how to consider it during infrastructure procurement
- Make available an effective and consistent approach to sustainability in procurement
- Functional briefs incorporating sustainability requirements become 'core' rather than being seen as an 'add-on'.
Designers and contractors will then understand the commitment of their sponsors and be more serious and innovative in responding to requests for tender.

8.8 Otago University Centre for Sustainability

There is opportunity to work closely with Otago University in identifying relevant research projects and creating a framework for creating a sustainability dashboard (which shows performance against a number of key areas) for the district.

The Otago University Centre for Sustainability is an interdisciplinary research centre working on local and global sustainability challenges.

They collaborate closely with stakeholders, who include communities, iwi, industry and government agencies. For many projects, they form teams with other researchers from across New Zealand and internationally.

They generate high-quality research, both practical as well as theoretical. Their research informs choices, adaptations and transformations in both policy and practice to enhance social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing.

Their research covers the interrelated streams of Food & Agriculture, Environment and People, and Energy. They are also the administrative base for the University's Transport Research Network. Their recent work has been in the areas of:

- Agricultural sustainability
- Energy cultures
- Indigenous environmental management
- Agroecology
- Societal responses to climate change
- Food issues
- Community resilience.

9.0 APPENDICES

9.2 An example of a Sustainability dashboard/ scorecard

