Draft Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy

Summary of feedback

To support Deliberations on 7 August 2025

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Summary of feedback received

Engagement
There have been various ways of community engagement for the strategy development. After Council decided to develop a Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy in October 2024, the development process started with an internal questionnaire to confirm what Council is currently already doing related to Climate Change & Sustainability and to discuss any potential opportunities and challenges.

Next step included early engagement with the community, where we asked for general feedback on the strategy content and the five proposed priority areas. This engagement, that consisted of a survey and two workshops (one public and one stakeholder session), took place from 20 January till 23 February 2025. We had 34 participants joining the workshops and received 34 submissions on the separate survey.

Stakeholders joining the workshops were: MCCC and Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Rural Support and Rural Women, RDR, ALIL, Forest and Bird/ ACCT, Sport Canterbury, Te Mana Ora - Community & Whanau Wellbeing, NZSki and Ashburton Contracting Limited (ACL).
Feedback from both the public and stakeholder sessions helped to shape draft strategy.

Consultation (summary of feedback presented in this document)
Public consultation on the Draft Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy was scheduled from Monday 26 May to Wednesday 18 June, with the closing date later extended till Sunday 22 June.

- A total of **32** submissions were received, of which three submissions were late.
- **7** submitters indicated they wanted to speak at the hearing

School engagement
Considering previous interest in the topic at the Youth Forum and the relevance of the topic for future generations additional youth engagement with teenagers was arranged. Councillors and staff engaged with the students during three school visits:

- Ashburton College, Environment Committee – 12 June (5 students, Y13)
- Ashburton Christian School – 13 June (12 students, Y7/Y13)
- Mt Hutt College, Methven – 19 June (10 student leaders, Y13)

Feedback from the school visits is presented separately at the end of this summary document (page 56-60).

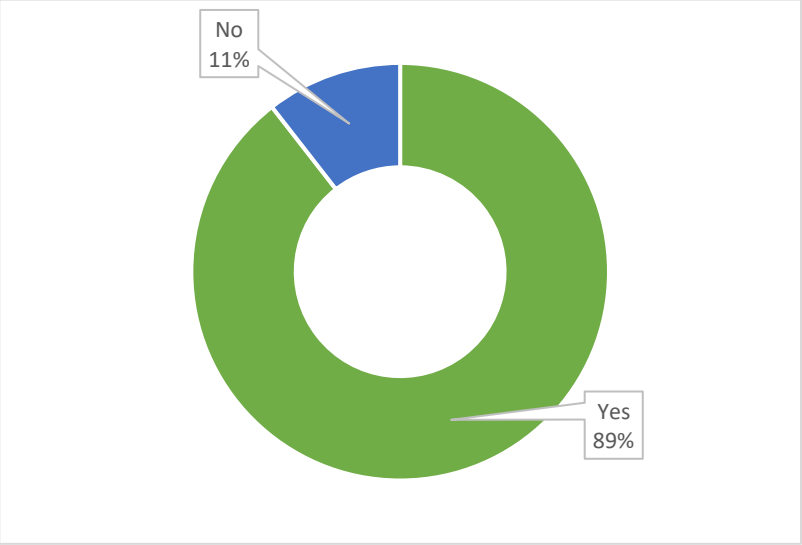
1. Feedback on Vision

Proposed vision:

"Working together for a sustainable and resilient future for the Ashburton District: empowering our people, supporting our businesses, fortifying our infrastructure and protecting our environment"

Feedback on the question "Do you support the proposed vision?"

	Number of people
Yes	17
No	2
Total	**19**



The submissions show strong support (89%) for the proposed vision.

1.1 Submitter comments on proposed vision

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Yes, *support the vision*			
Nick Yeatman	**13**	• It would be irresponsible and immoral not to	
David Watson	**16**	• Good positive thinking – just needs more detail	*A vision statement in a long-term strategy document is intended to be aspirational and "high-level" in its expression. More detail is provided in the goals, objectives and action plan.*
Methven Community Board (Fitzgerald, Megan)	**18**	• The Methven Community Board is supportive of the intent of the ADC climate change and sustainability strategy document.	
Mark Wareing	**21**	• Yes, to ensure our future generations have a quality life	
Forest & Bird (Smith, Edith)	**25**	• Covers the district vision well.	
Murray Hawkes	**28**	• An unarguable meaningless platitude, well done	
Geoff Rowe	**31**	• Biodiversity and sustainability. As a farming entity we already strive for these ideals. But at what cost of compliance and new regulation. Does money we spend on the above stay in the community or get gobbled up by the central govt parasites.	
Stephanie Poole	**10**	• I think this captures the relationship between the environment and our local economy. And I appreciate the commitment to empowering our people.	
Chris Bell	**4**	• I support working together, but I feel the rest of this wording might be a little meaningless, sorry.	

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Christina Bruce	**2**	• Yes but the Council needs to listen to their constituents the majority of Ashburton residents feel you don't judging by the posts on Social Media	*The 2024 Residents survey showed that 89% of residents are satisfied that Council provides opportunities to have their say. 89% are satisfied with the performance of mayor and councillors. 2025 results not yet available.*
Tim Tarbotton	**62**	• Yes I think this is very important	
Peter Murray	**85**	• The vision is good for the district and the people of the district.	

No, *do not support the vision*			
PWBP	**33**	• sounds like bullshit to me	
Philip Brown	**60**	• You have not given any evidence for your views on the region trending to a case of climate chaos. The Antarctica ice is currently increasing at a rapid rate in spite of the raised co2 levels we currently have. I have not noticed anything out of the ordinary with the frequency of floods and elevated temperatures. The Rakaia River is not showing any trend to major flooding. Do your own research and don't rely on scaremongering. It is so easy to go with the current flow of popular thinking and another aspect is it is costing the rate payers. So you believe there is a cost for doing nothing. • I am willing to hear your views but please back up you views with scientific data.	*Sources of evidence are stated on page 5 of the draft strategy, namely:* - *NIWA - Climate change and possible impact for New Zealand* - *Ministry for Primary Industries - Climate change and primary industries* - *Ministry for the Environment - Climate change* - *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* *Other references are included in footnotes.*

Phillip Everest	**79**	• Need to balance environmental, social, cultural and economic requirements within our community. • Protecting the environment – maybe a bit strong as there maybe things that impact the environment outside our control – ie. Sea invasion, temperature change may have already impacted some plants and animals. • Water is such a critical part of our community – where is water storage in the strategy? With larger events and maybe less snow our rivers may become less reliable. The ability to take high flows and store for later use could become even more critical to our communities survival.	*Water storage can be regarded as falling within the scope of action 1.1.A. This includes a number of agencies and stakeholders such ADC, Environment Canterbury, Irrigation companies, landowners, community, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, and environmental interest groups. MPI or central government could also play a part.* *Given the nature of its legal powers in water resource management, Council's role will be limited.*

2. Goals and objectives

We identified six priority areas for the strategy. These areas touch on all the services we provide as a council and the proposed strategy goals, objectives and actions are linked to each priority area.

The community was first asked to provide feedback on the six goals and related objectives, followed by feedback on the actions as presented in the action plans.

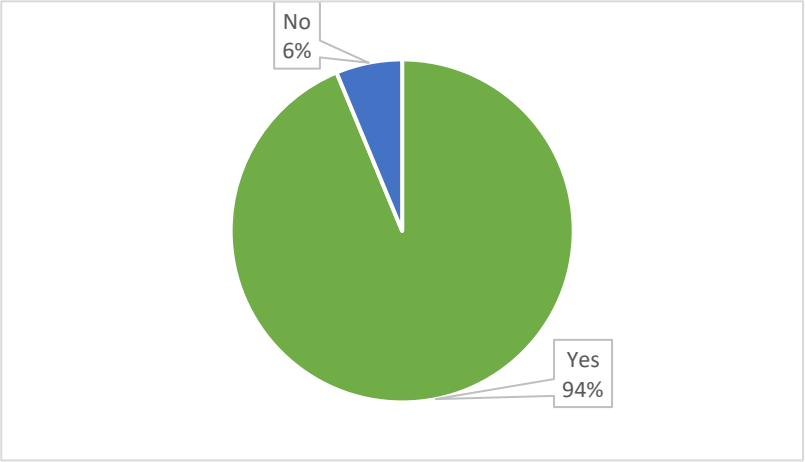
Goal 1: Sustainable water management

Attain sustainable and resilient water management, ensuring reliable access, environmental stewardship, and improved water quality

1.1 Ensure a forward-thinking approach to the sustainable management of water resources in the Ashburton District.
1.2 Promote and engage in initiatives to maintain and enhance water quality in district water bodies.
1.3 Foster a culture of water conservation and efficiency within the community.
1.4 Track and communicate water usage and quality data to ensure transparency and informed decision-making.

Do you think this goal and these objectives capture what you see as the key challenges and opportunities regarding sustainable water management in the district?

	Number of people
Yes	15
No	1
Total	**16**



Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Yes, goals and objectives are capturing key issues of sustainable water management			
General			
Murray Hawkes	**28**	• Should add promotion of science as a basis for all water management decisions. I am hugely supportive of the omission of any religious statements as a basis for policy.	
Methven Community Board (Fitzgerald, Megan)	**18**	• With regard to the Action plan point 1.1 "Ensure a forward thinking approach to the sustainable management of water resources in the Ashburton District." Points B, C, and D do not have local community groups listed as "who". • It is important to have community groups guiding the strategic management of water resources as for many, their livelihoods depend on this resource. • Examples of groups include Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective, irrigation schemes, entities representing recreation users (fish and game, forest and bird etc). With the end of the Water Zone committee, the community advisory group proposed to replace them might be the best community entity to engage with.	*Stakeholder groups can be added to these actions (B, C, D)*
Forest & Bird (Smith, Edith)	**25**	• This list covers the range of issues associated with our rivers and water ways. Sustainable and healthy waterways are a high priority. 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 • Our water ways are a habitat to an array of native species and their well being must be a high priority	
Kate White	**76**	• I'm pleased to see in 1.1. B that mana whenua are to be involved in water management decisions. • 1.3 D sounds very sensible – that ADC will Promote the adoption of residential rainwater tanks in urban areas. • I think for 1.3 to happen there will need to be education e.g. workshops offered on how to install rainwater tanks, organised tours to and/or media articles about homes/ farms/ lifestyle blocks that are doing innovative	

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
		things regarding water conservation and efficiency. Show off the solutions and make it easy for people to implement them.	
Phillip Everest	**79**	• Yes but again water storage is omitted. • Will we have a shortage of water or a less regular supply – maybe more water BUT with floods less can be utilized. Council could encourage legislation that enables water quality projects to be undertaken without considerable regulatory/consenting costs. This is currently a considerable hurdle to good mitigations.	*See Comments on page 7. Existing actions relating to water storage are summarised below:* ***Action plan - Action 1.3. A:*** *Launch educational and public awareness campaigns to educate residents and businesses about water conservation and storage.* ***- Action 1.3 D:*** *Promote the adoption of residential rainwater tanks in urban areas and investigate implementation through the District Plan* *Currently there are no actions in the strategy relating to larger water storage projects that are either to be used for community supply or for other reasons (e.g. irrigation).*
Costs / funding reference			
Nick Yeatman	**13**	• As long as these goals do not impede prosperity and well being of ratepayers	
Christina Bruce	**2**	• But don't charge us we shouldn't be paying for water our rates are pretty much unmanageable now	*Currently Council has not committed to volumetric charging for water (i.e. users paying for what they use). Water is paid for by those who receive the service generally through an annual charge.*
Mark Wareing	**21**	• Needs to be managed that it also does not become unaffordable to live in Mid Canterbury with too much red tape.	

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Reference to more details / targets			
Stephanie Poole	**10**	• I think these sound great – but I'd like to see the procedures/practise of how these will be put into action and how this will be communicated to our wider community. I.e. is there support to implement, understand and take part in this process.	*See the action plan linked to this priority area for proposed actions. Community engagement for priority area 1 is referred to in 1.2.B and 1.3.A*
David Watson	**16**	• Again good warm and fuzzies but needs targets etc	

No, goals and objectives are not capturing key issues			
PWBP	**33**	• everyone should have water tanks, all the stormwater that's wasted, no need for reforms	***Action 1.4D*** *"Promote the adoption of residential rainwater tanks in urban areas and investigate implementation through the District Plan"*

Goal 2: Nature-based solutions

Encourage nature-based solutions and support our communities to help understand how nature-based solutions to climate disruption will work.

2.1 Support blue-green networks development for Mid-Canterbury

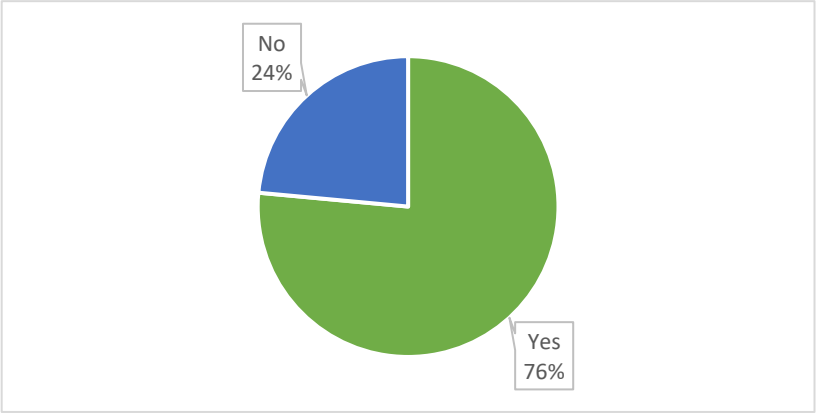
2.2 Continue biodiversity restoration and ecosystem health enhancement

2.3 Build a climate-resilient environment in the district

2.4 Continue to promote sustainable land use and soil conservation

Do you think this goal and these objectives capture what you see as the key challenges and opportunities regarding nature-based solutions in the district?

	Number of people
Yes	13
No	4
Total	**17**



Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Yes, goals and objectives are capturing key issues			
Tim Tarbotton	**62**	• Yes I support the idea of blue-green networks but I don't think urban areas should become a holding pond for surging stormwater generated upstream in rural catchment areas which now consequently flows through urban areas. • E.g. Wakanui Drain/ Mill Creek and Carters Creek. Cut off drains need to remain in place and be maintained upstream of urban areas to help take the surging stormwater in these drains directly out to the river before it enters townships. This means the blue-green networks through urban areas can be used to their full potential with surging stormwater generated from the urban area itself.	*See officer comments regarding Wakanui Drain/ Mill Creek and Carters Creek at 'Resilient Infrastructure'. (p31-39)*
Kate White	**76**	• Great to see in 2.2 a nod to supporting the development of food forests and community gardens! • 2.4A – great to see the plan to inform and educate the community about sustainable land use and soil conservation – please ensure any educational event like this gets listed on www.keeplearningmc.nz so more people find out about it. Perhaps ADC could partner with the community garden, Keep Learning Mid Canterbury and those who are already demonstrating success models – to put on relevant talks, workshops, tours etc. on these topics.	
Phillip Everest	**79**	• Biodiversity could be a challenge in a changing environment – we might be able to start growing Kauri and bananas! Great to enable sustainable land use and soil conservation – just need some clear definitions of what these things are – sustainable land use also need to be economic for the landowner AND the community. • In my time in the district soil conservation has shown a massive improvement largely due to cultivation practices and irrigation.	

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Mary Ralston	**38**	• I would like to submit the ADC takes the opportunity to invest in nature based solutions to increase the district's resilience to the extremes of climate change. • Nature based solutions have "stacking" or compounding benefits, that is, there are multiple benefits from a single action, and these benefits increase as time goes on, and address the biodiversity crisis as well as the climate crisis. • Nature based solutions include pest control, wilding conifer control, making room for braided rivers, protecting and increasing the extent of wetlands, protecting sections of the stock water races that have significant biodiversity values, increasing the planting of native plants throughout urban and rural areas of the district, and restoration of coastal ecosystems. • **Pest animal control in the foothills and high country**: there are significant populations of deer, tahr, possums, pigs and goats in the foothills and high country of the Ashburton District. • Deer, tahr and pigs have completely eaten out the understory of many areas of foothills forests and disturb high country scree slopes, leading to loss of soil and plant cover, which subsequently increases soil and plant loss during extreme rain events (which are likely to become more frequent). • Possums are voracious eaters of foliage and also eat native birds' eggs and chicks. Mustelids, rodents and wasps are also significant threats to native biodiversity. • Control of these pest species has the stacking benefits of protecting native birds and other native biodiversity while retaining soil and plant cover, which reduces flooding and sedimentation of downstream waterways, protects and reduces the loss of trees, shrubs and tussocks, at the same time as providing the climate change benefits of holding carbon in the soil, improving the conditions for further carbon sequestration and improving biodiversity. **Wilding conifer control:** even though wilding conifers sequester carbon, their presence means space for native species has been usurped. Native species have better long-term carbon-holding and sequestering ability and	

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
		provide habitat for native species. Native cover in the foothill and high country also has lower fire risk and enhances native biodiversity values. • The foothills have many areas of Douglas fir forestry plantings that have the risk of spread. Larch and Douglas fir are currently spreading from ADC plantings into Pudding Hill Stream. • **Wetlands**: protecting, enhancing and the re-wetting of wetlands have multiple and stacking benefits of enhancing water-holding capacity, protecting and enhancing native biodiversity values, reducing fire risk as well as holding and storing carbon. Urban wetlands can also help with flood control, pollution runoff and the lowering of urban temperatures. • **Stock water races**: many sections of the district's stock water races hold significant plant and animal biodiversity, which should be retained. They are also storm water conduits and hold water in the landscape in dry weather. Both of these weather extremes are likely to become more frequent as climate change proceeds. • Races in the Staveley area are rich in native fish and other aquatic life. Existing biodiversity offers a much better opportunity for maximising conservation values than starting from scratch with a planting project. Staveley is also likely to get more extreme rain events as the snow level rises and the races help transport water to the rivers. • **Increasing the planting of native plants:** urban areas are likely to get hotter. Green areas of native plants and water can dampen heat extremes and offer pleasant areas for people to recreate. The Ashburton River could be further enhanced with plantings and weed species controlled to offer shade, biodiversity and room for flood waters. • **Coastal ecosystems:** flax swamps and other coastal ecosystems can absorb carbon at the same time as softening floods and storm surges. • Further planting and restoration of the Wakanui stream and the Hakatere river mouth would improve biodiversity as well as being of significant climate change benefit.	

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Costs / funding reference			
Christina Bruce	**2**	• But don't charge us anymore on our rates, learn to budget the important things	
Core services			
Nick Yeatman	**13**	• In regard to these initiatives council needs to be aware they are not core services that council is chartered to provide.	
Reference to more details / targets			
David Watson	**16**	• Yes we need to work with nature but devil is in the detail which is missing	*See the action plan linked to this priority area for proposed actions.*
Stephanie Poole	**10**	• Yes – but again I'd like to see the practise/procedure behind these goals. For example, what do you consider to be 'sustainable land use' and how will you 'continue to promote' that. And what is a 'climate-resilient environment' for our district, and how/who has input into what that looks like.	*'Sustainable land use' means making use of land and protecting it from harm or degradation. In other words, managing land resources in a way that maintains ecological integrity while supporting economic and social needs.* *A climate-resilient environment means an environment or a place that is ready for and can handle the challenges brought by climate change such as severe storms, floods, droughts, and gradual changes in weather over time.* *Promotion will be through education, campaign and awareness.*

No, goals and objectives are not capturing key issues			
PWBP	**33**	• one goal, common sense, and what the hell is blue green, there's only one green and that's green	
Philip Brown	**60**	• You are still proposing climate change as a catastrophic event. Tomorrow the sun will rise again in spite of your idealistic views.	
Costs / funding reference			
Mark Wareing	**21**	• Somewhat, it needs to be balance to what the community can afford	
Geoff Rowe	**31**	• most people I know practice some form of good FARM ENVIRONMENT PLAN. Why duplicate and sometimes triplicate our farming activities. These all come at a cost.	

Goal 3: A resilient, engaged and informed community

Build a community that is well-informed about the changing climate and actively engaged in sustainable practices and resilience efforts.

3.1 Improving Council understanding of the impacts of a changing climate and sustainable responses, and advocate on behalf of the district in climate change matters

3.2 Engage with and educate the wider community to improve understanding of climate change and sustainability practices

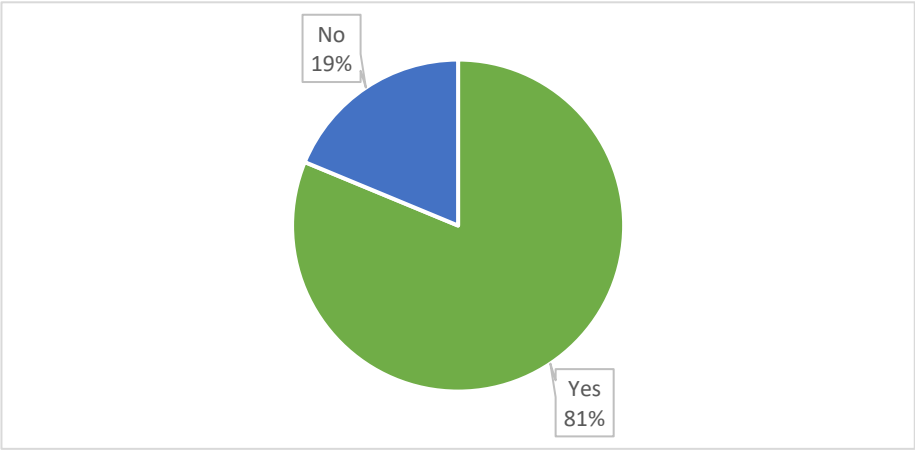
3.3 Support the community to be prepared on resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts

3.4 Encourage and promote sustainable good practice in Council operations and activities

3.5 Promote and connect community and stakeholder groups working on sustainable projects and establish partnerships and initiatives to engage the community and promote collective action

Do you think this goal and these objectives capture what you see as the key challenges and opportunities for our community?

	Number of people
Yes	13
No	3
Total	**16**



Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Yes, goals and objectives are capturing key issues			
Murray Hawkes	**28**	• Support on the basis that all objectives have a basis in good science and not in political or religious philosophy.	
Mark Wareing	**21**	• It still needs central government to give the tools for local government to achieve. ADC only need to go at a rate that is connected to the rest of NZINC, don't need to be a leader, but a close follower.	
Forest & Bird (Smith, Edith)	**25**	• I congratulate the Council staff who have communicated with the wider community to produce this draft climate change and sustainability policy for community consultation. These objectives are identified throughout the plan.	
David Watson	**16**	• As before - good warm and fuzzies but detail lacking	
Stephanie Poole		• I think there needs to be much more education, support and opportunity for our wider community to engage, ask questions, and be supported to understand WHY sustainability and climate change is so important to our district. And like the other objectives, the procedure/practise of HOW this will be achieved is perhaps more a question than the goals on their own.	
Christina Bruce	**2**	• Don't pay huge amounts for so called experts when you can find information online these days by what others are doing in the world	
Kate White	**76**	• It was clear at the council consultation evening on the climate and sustainability document that education on climate change is necessary! Also needed - a better understanding of how sustainability relates to/ affects climate change. • 3.2 C Great to see you want to establish and support community education - make sure any community education events you run get listed on www.keeplearningmc.nz so everyone can find out about them! Who could you collaborate with to make these happen? It has worked really well with Lesley and the Eco Educate team providing education both at the learning hub at the Waste Recovery Park and in schools and at events etc. - they have done a fantastic job. I was sorry to see their contract has not been renewed.	*Council has a confirmed partnership with Eco Educate till 2026 after which it will be retendered.* *In 2025 Council awarded its solid waste management contract to WasteCo, which is a separate contract from Eco Educate.*

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
		I hope whoever takes it over is as passionate about waste reduction and sustainability as they have been. • I really like 3.5 - bringing people/ groups together and establishing initiatives to engage the community and promote collective action. Fantastic.	
Phillip Everest	**79**	• As the brief has said - there are many different views on climate change BUT as we export so much product offshore the need to demonstrate our commitment is rapidly becoming our license to operate. • Your data showing Mid Canty is emitting 66tGHG/capita vs the national average of 15t/capita needs some publicity as to what we can do and HOW? • To me most of this relates to our livestock systems - this will take a commitment from the rural members of our community if meaningful reductions are to be made.	

No, goals and objectives are not capturing key issues			
Nick Yeatman	**13**	• Current narratives around climate change are political rather than scientific. It is not the councils job to promote any particular political mantra. Sustainability is and needs to be an integral part of council decision making but it is not its job to enforce irrelevant and misleading information.	
PWBP	**33**	• you lot are being led around by some pressure groups, the public know what's happening with climate change, but the changes required do not suit some sector's, so nothing changes, get real.	
Philip Brown	**60**	• See Goal 2 – Nature-based solutions	

Goal 4: Waste reduction and minimisation

Enable responsible waste management that reduces waste and protects community and environmental wellbeing.

4.1 Implement methods to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill or other disposal

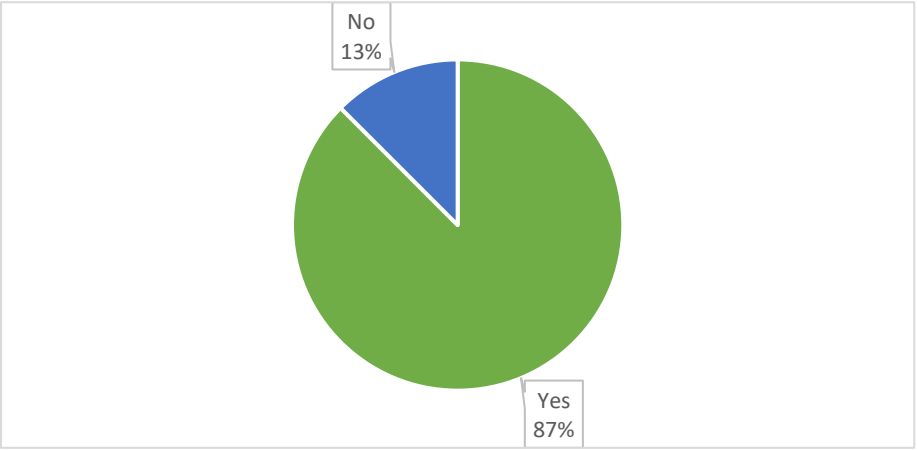
4.2 Lower waste management costs and increase economic benefits to ensure financial sustainability

4.3 Reduce the risk of environmental damage and protect public health through sustainable waste management

4.4 Engage and involve our community to achieve waste management goals and objectives

Do you think this goal and these objectives capture what you see as the key challenges and opportunities regarding waste management in our district?

	Number of people
Yes	14
No	2
Total	**16**



Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Yes, goals and objectives are capturing key issues			
Michael Register	**23**	• We need to make the creators of packaging more responsible for the recycling of the waste.	*A container return scheme (CRS) was proposed in 2023 to encourage recycling and reduce waste by offering a refund for returning empty beverage containers like bottles and cans.* *The government decided to defer the scheme due to concerns about the potential impact of the scheme on household budgets during a cost-of-living crisis.* *Despite the deferral, there is ongoing discussion and support for the concept of a container return scheme, with some groups advocating for its reintroduction in the future. (ADC Waste Recovery team)*
Murray Hawkes	**28**	• Council should seek ways to promote small scale waste to energy plants to reduce the hugely wasteful, environmentally damaging and highly profitable trucking of solid waste to landfills	*Council is supportive of all technology that aims to reduce waste sent to landfills, recover resources, and generate energy from waste, contributing to a circular economy and addressing climate change. It is planned this year to establish a working group with waste companies and businesses to facilitate improved and targeted services on waste collection, treatment and disposal.* *All of Ashburton's refuse is trucked to Kate Valley Landfill which captures landfill gas and converts to energy. A new EcoGas plant for organic material is opening in Christchurch around the same time our kerbside FOGO service is introduced that achieves the same goal. (ADC Waste Recovery team)*

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Nick Yeatman	**13**	• Investigation into local waste recycling and use needs to be done, exporting waste out of town at rate payers expense is not a sustainable practice. Building a waste fired electrical generation facility would be	*We have in the past, done investigations into a scalable pyrolysis plant and local composting.* *Establishing a local Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF) requires large investment. In addition, the district does not have the volume of waste that will make the operations of an RMF economically feasible. We are therefore working collaboratively with other councils, currently Timaru DC, to ensure that our recyclable materials are properly managed without burdening rate payers with the high cost of running MRFs. Neither were deemed viable due to consents requirements and Ashburton's small population.* *The draft strategy includes a long term action to review the viability of this type of solution.* *(ADC Waste Recovery team)*
Philip Brown	**60**	• It is good to have a vision of disposing of waste to avoid damaging the land.	
Tim Tarbotton	**62**	• I am thinking big picture here but are there opportunities long term for Ashburton District to be part of something like the Amager Bakke, a state-of-the-art waste-to-energy plant in Copenhagen (on a smaller scale)? Waste that cannot be recycled is used at Amager Bakke to produce electricity for homes and companies in the Danish capital.	*Council welcomes and is supportive of all technology that aims to reduce waste sent to landfills, recover resources, and generate energy from waste, contributing to a circular economy and helping addressing climate change.* *(ADC Waste Recovery team)*
Phillip Everest	**79**	• We are already doing a good job here - no cash charges for waste means there is no excuse in not disposing at the correct site - the free whiteware and electronics recycling is a good start by the council. • Composting will be another addition for green waste and food waste which i see you are pursuing. • Peer pressure and good recycling opportunities are key here.	

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Costs / funding reference			
Mark Wareing	**21**	• Once again move at a rate that is achievable	
Green waste			
Christina Bruce	**2**	• Get the green bin going, people have been asking for this for to long now, encourage people more and give them incentive to manage waste	*Food organic/ garden organic (FOGO) kerbside collection service will be in place by September 2026.*
Forest & Bird (Smith, Edith)	**25**	• Communication with the wider community is important to ensure a successful transition to Green waste collection. Council would ensure there are suitable processes to compost the green waste material which will be available to the public. Benefits financially to ADC and prolong the life of Kate Valley landfill.	*Council will carry out communication and education campaigns starting July/August of 2026 to ensure that residents are aware of the new FOGO service and understand what can be disposed in the new green bins.*
Reference to more details / targets			
David Watson	**16**	• As before - no specific plans	*See Goal 4 and actions 4.1 to 4.4 in the draft strategy and the council's WMMP.*
Stephanie Poole	**10**	• These objectives sound great, but again its about the HOW of achieving these and adequately resourcing the process to achieve these.	*Council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) sets out Council's plans to minimise and manage the waste in our district. The plan is adopted by Council thus the actions are carried forward into our long term and annual plans to ensure we have the resources to deliver the plan's goals and objectives.*

No, goals and objectives are not capturing key issues			
PWBP	**33**	• you lot created extra waste to the tip with your own buildings	*Council's policy is to reduce and recycle wherever practicable. Some waste to landfill from construction and demolition projects is inevitable, despite the best of intentions.*

Kate White	**77**	• I don't disagree with these objectives but think there are a few things missing. The current objectives won't make much of a dent without things done on a national level that would help *everyone* reduce waste. Section 4 is missing an objective on lobbying central government on waste issues - it is vaguely mentioned in 4.1 D but I think it needs to be one of the main objectives. It is excellent that we are going to have the green waste bin introduced in the district to minimise organic matter going to landfill, the nationwide ban on plastic bags also meant a shift in behaviour when shopping - with most remembering their reusable bags these days. More nationwide policies need to be advocated for if we want to see widespread change locally. • I feel an addition is needed, e.g. 4.5. "advocate for progressive waste management and minimisation laws and nationwide waste policies such as the introduction of container deposit schemes and product stewardship." It's those kind of changes that can't easily be introduced locally but would have a massive impact locally if introduced on a national level. I lived in Denmark in the 90s and they had a container deposit scheme then - and still do - why are we so behind!? It means you never see plastic bottles thrown away as they have monetary value. • re:4.4. Education is massively needed around the impacts of the (global) waste crisis. We still have the mentality in NZ that you can just throw something 'away' but there is no 'away'. Education is needed about the escalating amounts of waste generation outpacing current waste management capabilities and the impacts this can have on the environment and human health. • It is great that one of the goals (4.4 A) is to 'Improve existing levels of communication'... While council might have financial incentives for reducing waste (and this will ultimately also be in ratepayers interests) engaging the community will need to centre around non-financial messaging, draw on our common values and dreams for	*The New Zealand waste and resource efficiency strategy presents the Government's priorities for minimising waste and improving waste management. It sets out what the Government wants to achieve, and the tools to help us get there. This strategy was released in March 2025.* *We understand that achieving change will include targeted investment by national and local governments and ensure that the right legislative tools are available. These are all discussed in the detail in the new waste and resource strategy.* *Council's WMMP requires that we will work with the sector, businesses, iwi/Māori, local government and communities to develop and implement practical cost-effective solutions in managing wastes in the district.* *Council engages a contractor, EcoEducate to conduct communication and education campaigns on recycling and waste reduction. They visit schools and community events to promote and education residents on the right*

		the future of our environment and human & community health. • We need clear messaging around waste *reduction* - far more important than recycling messages. People need to be thinking about not getting the waste in the first place! Maybe council could collaborate with others on educational events - fun ways to reduce waste (in the kitchen, laundry, bathroom, on farm, cleaning products, at the office etc.), raise the profile of local business or community groups who support waste reduction e.g. Simply Eco who runs a refillery (was a shop but now at the farmers market once a month) or perhaps competitions/ challenges/ awards that focus on waste reduction. • An idea to think about when improving existing levels of communication - engage influential people from the main migrant communities and ask them how best to communicate the message so their communities will hear it. Might be good to have targeted messaging instead of one size fits all that in reality misses the mark. • Very pleased to see 4.4B & 4.4C in here. Something missing that I'd like to see here too: Increase support for businesses & community organisations wanting to develop waste minimisation initiatives, including providing grants, exploring new funding opportunities, assisting businesses who wish to reuse materials (waste exchange programmes - not limited to construction sector) and collaborating with private sector and community groups that are innovating (for example through circular economy initiatives). • It has been great to see Eco Educate at council events (4.4D) to deal with waste and divert what they can, educating the public as well... but even better would be council running events that have at their outset more of a zero waste plan. i.e. no takeaway coffee cups allowed, people encouraged to bring their own - or buy reusables on site.	*way to segregate food waste, recycling and reduce waste.*

Goal 5: Resilient infrastructure

Prepare our infrastructure for the long-term impacts of climate change to ensure resilience and safety for our community.

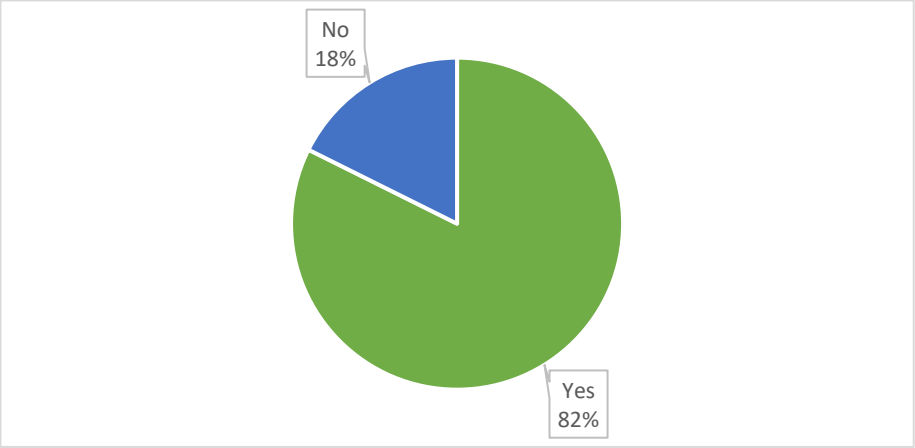
5.1 Ensure all critical infrastructure within the district is assessed and upgraded for climate resilience

5.2 Incorporate climate resilience and sustainability in new infrastructure projects and subdivisions

5.3 Make greater use of durable, low-carbon materials for infrastructure projects

Do you think this goal and these objectives capture what you see as the key challenges and opportunities regarding resilient infrastructure in our district?

	Number of people
Yes	14
No	3
Total	**17**



Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Yes, goals and objectives are capturing key issues			
Murray Hawkes	**28**	• Yes, why not, and you should deploy diggers to clean out under bridges during flood events, engage with local contractors to mitigate flood damage in a timely manner	
Nick Yeatman	**13**	• I believe all previous councils have tried to ensure all infrastructure is as durable as possible. Council needs to move away from the currently fashionable carbon phobia. Every councilor needs to be aware of the dead planet consequences of atmospheric carbon below 200ppm, we are currently at 400ppm, during the Cambrian Period, part of the Paleozoic Era, 541 million to 485.4 million years ago. It's known for the "Cambrian Explosion," a period of rapid diversification and evolution of animal life, including the appearance of diverse marine organisms, some of which were early ancestors of modern groups.	*Council's view is based on the science referred to on page 5 of the Strategy.*
David Watson	**16**	• At last some specifics	
Michael Register	**23**	• Take river control back from Ecan and make the rivers work for us again.	*This is currently an Ecan function and would need a legislative change or local government reorganisation (e.g. ADC becoming a Unitary Authority) for it to be an ADC responsibility.*
Forest & Bird (Smith, Edith)	**25**	• I support these objectives as the impact of the recent floods have highlighted the need to ensure critical infrastructure resilience. The District resilience is dependent on a precautionary approach while anticipating major flooding. (more frequent and greater impact is anticipated) 5.2 and 5.3 agree	

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Stephanie Poole	**11**	• Assessed and upgraded by what standard/authority to what standard, and who/how is that decided on. • HOW are you going to support infrastructure projects to 'make greater use of durable, low-carbon materials'	*Hydraulic modelling guides long-term upgrades by assessing network performance under high demand—peak use for water, and inflow or rainfall for wastewater and stormwater.* *We are making greater use of materials such as PE and GRP which have longer useful lives. PE pipe should last at least 100 years compared to AC pipe which has a useful life around 60 years.* *Major capital projects also make use of carbon assessments to compare options.*
Costs / funding reference			
Christina Bruce	**2**	• Yes but factor this in your budgets and stop continual rate rises	
Mark Wareing	**21**	• Perhaps need to have greater financial reliance sitting for these events. Working with central government to help understand the key risks	*Government has just released the findings of the Independent Reference Group on Climate Adaptation, suggesting ideas to help address these issues. This is not Government Policy but illustrates the challenges facing NZ, and advocates for greater individual and community self-reliance in the long-term. Government is expected to put forward a Climate Adaptation bill later in the year.*

No, goals and objectives are not capturing key issues			
PWBP	**33**	• get to the causes/or matters that do not assist reducing climate change, you have been told get off your backsides and do it	

Phillip Everest	**80**	• We need to think harder about our rivers - particularly the Ashburton and Hinds that could threaten our towns - do we have the right flood control structures - just building the stop banks higher might not be the solution - do we need a wider path for the water to flow - in places we may need to widen the width between stop banks - this has a serious cost in the community particularly to the land owners - need to be thought well through and have community buy in. • Riparian planting could create more flooding while enhancing biodiversity.	*Environment Canterbury references planned flood management, stopbank works and river scheme reviews for amongst others the Ashburton and Hinds rivers in their 2024-35 Long Term Plan.*

Stormwater / land drainage issues			
Kieran Breakwell, Adrian Galvin, Clark McLeod (late submission)	**35** **87**	**Hepburn's drain** • I am submitting this feedback as a landowner located downstream of the former Hepburn's Drain (Ministry of Works Lateral #6) — a strategic channel that was historically part of Ashburton's flood management network. • I understand that in recent years Council made the decision not to accept ownership of this drain or the associated easements when they were offered by Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd. Since then, the drain has been filled in or left to degrade — despite being clearly identified in Council's own WSP Opus 2018 report as part of the managed urban stormwater network (Figure 6-4, p. 38). • My concern specifically is that this decision by council (not to accept ownership or associated easements when offered by Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd), will restrict growth in our district by complicating development in the area, this has a direct monetary cost to the ratepayers, council will in turn miss out on millions of dollars in reserves, development contributions, rateable properties, consent fees. • I also feel the decision above has put the Ashburton district in a very real safety risk if we are to get a major flood event. This has had direct	*The structure on Hepburns Rd referred to was not a drain. It was a tail race channel for Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd. At the time the matter was investigated by Council and ultimately discounted. The easements that were held by ALIL was for the conveyance of irrigation water so it was unclear whether transfer of the easements to Council for drainage purposes was ever legally possible. The race was acting as a dam and channelling water toward the Ashburton urban area so the prevailing view was that if the "dam" was removed, that channelling would no longer occur. This has proven to be the case for recent events.*

		consequences for landowners like me, located in the downstream flow path. The loss of this cut-off drain has: • Increased the stormwater loading on Wakanui Creek, already known to be unstable and flood-prone; • Shifted the flood risk further downstream, onto private landholders who were not part of the original decision-making; • Forced developers and landowners in these areas to undertake costly, ad-hoc, and piecemeal stormwater solutions to try and manage runoff that used to be handled by a functioning upstream system. • If the Council is sincere in its intention to "build resilient infrastructure" and prepare for the effects of climate change, then it needs to take responsibility for legacy decisions that have created vulnerability in the present. I ask that the final Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy includes: • A clear acknowledgement of past infrastructure decommissioning that has had downstream consequences; • A commitment to reassess the function and status of previously removed assets like Hepburn's Drain (Lateral #6), particularly where development pressure exists; • Policy support and funding for catchment-based, not site-by-site, stormwater planning — especially in areas where Council decisions have constrained development capacity; • And above all, that Council avoids repeating the mistake of ignoring existing infrastructure with proven flood management value.	
Andrew Rosevear	**66**	• In my view, the **Hepburn Cut-Off Drain** was previously an important safeguard against flooding for the Ashburton township. Being a downstream landowner, it concerns me that if a significant flooding event was to occur and floodwater flows down Methven Highway and Racecourse Road, the damage to property will be far greater than if the Hepburn Drain was reinstated to assist with intercepting floodwater and safely divert to the Ashburton River.	See comment page 31

Tim Tarbotton	**62**	• Yes, I think ADC needs to identify strategically important drains in the district which provide critical infrastructure during significant flooding events. I think council also need to acknowledgement past infrastructure decommissioning that has had downstream consequences and make a commitment to reassess the function and status of previously removed assets. For example, the **Hepburn's Drain** (Lateral #6) which was offered to ADC but ownership was declined and now sections of this drain have been filled in meaning stormwater now has to flow through Wakanui Drain/ Mill Creek and flood urban areas.	See comment page 31
Barry Redmond	**70**	• There have been some opportunities not taken up. Referring to **Hepburn drain.** This provided flood protection as a cut off drain upstream of the urban area in the NW of Ashburton. If council is serious about providing a resilient infrastructure then they should pursue the reestablishment of this cutoff to help minimise the flow and potential flooding of Wakanui Creek.	See comment page 31
Bryan Ching	**65**	• In my view, the **Hepburn Cut-Off Drain** has always been a critical safeguard against flooding for the Ashburton township. It acted as a reliable backstop during major rainfall events, and I have long advocated for a similar cut-off drain to be established upstream of Tinwald to provide the same level of protection. • Importantly, this type of infrastructure doesn't just protect existing developments - it also supports future growth upstream of the Hepburn Drain by providing a controlled outlet for stormwater during peak events. • If a significant flooding event occurred above Ashburton, with water flowing down Methven Highway and Racecourse Road, the Hepburn Cut-Off Drain could intercept that flow and safely divert it to the Ashburton River. While there were some concerns raised in the past	See comment page 31

		about water potentially backing up from the river, I am not aware of any instances where this has actually happened. • Maintaining the Hepburn Cut-Off Drain would significantly reduce pressure on Mill Creek during storm events, ultimately protecting both residential and urban areas from preventable flood damage.	
Stan Keeley	**74**	• See initial bullet points submission Kieran Breakwell (**Hepburn's Drain**) • This has had direct consequences for Landowners & Urban Property owners located both upstream of Lateral #6 & on the downstream flow path, including the Wakanui Creek (this is also known as Mill Creek from Farm Road, all the way through urban Ashburton to Braebrook), which is already known to be a flood-prone area in the past. • In the last 2.5 years, I have seen firsthand during several events of substantial rainfall, the surface water flows from the vicinity, of at least, an area of land east of the Methven highway/Racecourse Road. These water flows can build up at Hepburn's Road, as well as flow down other drains, one of which flows through a culvert under Racecourse Road at the approximate address of 400 Racecourse Road, & then spills out onto the farm land on the other side of the road, & I assume the water then flows its own way through landowners' properties down to the former Hepburn's Drain (or MoW Lateral #6 — or Ashburton Lyndhurst irrigation tail race), where the water flows to where the tail race has been dammed up to stop water flow. The water then backs up & spills over the lowest point into more landowners' properties & flows down onto both urban property areas as well as into the Wakanui creek (also known as Mill Creek from Farm Road down to Braebrook). • If Hepburn's drain was re-opened, this would allow water to drain & flow away down the tail races' original path from all land areas that are	See comment page 31

		affected now. This will go a long way towards protecting properties & the Ashburton urban area. • Under the current situation, there could be unnecessary costs that are being worn by rate payers, urban property owners & landowners downstream from Hepburn's drain. • I think this is very unfair, caused due to the poor short-sighted decision making that was made in the past to shut down this valuable infrastructure. • I'm led to believe that Ashburton District Council has a responsibility to look after our district, prepare & maintain our core infrastructure to protect & help our community for the future. Given that we have a changing climate, the ADC also should be focused on strengthening our district's resilience & showing how we can be more sustainable.	
Peter Gluyas	**49**	• See submission Kieran Breakwell (**Hepburn's Drain)** • In conclusion, the floods that breached the stopbanks above **Digbys Bridge** were the saviour of Racecourse Rd Allenton residents. If those stopbanks are now reinforced, then the next flood will cause havoc in the Allenton area without question. See photo of the swale (p.51 in Full submissions booklet) at the Hepburns Rd, Racecourse Rd intersection which should be reinstated in my opinion.	See comment page 31
Stuart & Tim Tarbotton	**52**	• See submission Kieran Breakwell (Hepburn's Drain) • **Hepburn's** Drain was once a key flood mitigation asset but has since been decommissioned, directly increasing stormwater load on unstable downstream channels like Wakanui Creek. • **Carters Creek** continues to flood urban areas during major rainfall events, despite longstanding proposals for an upstream cut-off drain that would divert excess flow to the Ashburton River. Easements exist, but	See comment page 31 *The protection of Tinwald from rural runoff has been a source of discussion for many years. Council contends that this is an ECan function and ECan have carried out investigations previously, including identifying a potential route for a cut-off drain above Tinwald, and sought to establish easement for this purpose. In*

		no action has been taken to construct the drain as yet. • **Remington's Road Drain** demonstrates how downstream modifications can severely impact upstream properties, including commercial operations like my quarry, when historic primary drains are filled in or redirected without oversight. (See details, map and photos on p. 52-59 in full submissions booklet) Additional requests to add to strategy (see others in Kieran Breakwell submission) • Clear mechanisms to prevent downstream landowners from altering critical drainage paths without upstream impact assessments or regulation. e.g. where will the water flow once the drains filled in? Who does that impact? Is the new flow path able to withstand the volume of water? • And, most importantly, a renewed investment in cut-off drains upstream of urban areas to intercept surge events and protect downstream communities and infrastructure.	*response to recent significant events, Environment Canterbury have made budget provision in their 2024-34 Long Term Plan to revisit this work and other work on Carters & Lagmhor Creeks. ECan 2024-34 LTP (Refer page 125). In relation to the future use of stockwater races – this will be considered as each intake is considered as part of the Stockwater Exit Transition Plan. Where races are proposed to be closed, and are providing a drainage benefit that is not otherwise able to be mitigated, the Stockwater Transition Working Group will consider the merits of reclassification such races as drains.*
Ross Stackhouse, Stackhouse Farming	**42**	**Remington's Road Drain** • Too often during heavy rainfall the Remington's Road creek spills onto Remington and Frasers Road causing serious surface flooding. This area experiences high levels of traffic which in turn raises the concern of how important it is for the council to consider the impact of their drainage decisions and how it is affecting their local community. • Additionally, we have experienced significant overflow of this creek with direct consequences to our land. We have lost crops due to flooding from the Remington Road Drain and have had to undertake costly solutions to ensure we can be prepared and safeguard our crops if future creek flooding were to occur. As a farmer we already must cope with significant weather conditions and restrictions on farming practices, dealing with the downstream impacts of the Ashburton	*With Council's exit from provision of stockwater, where races are proposed to be closed, and are providing a drainage benefit that is not otherwise able to be mitigated, the Stockwater Transition Working Group will consider the merits of reclassification such races as drains.*

		District Council's drainage decisions is something that could be avoided. • Action needs to be taken on managing existing infrastructure to ensure efficient water management particularly drainage channels. This is something we believe needs to be considered in the latest Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy. (see photos in full submission booklet p43-46)	
Darren Green	**69**	**O'Keefe Road** • I am writing to express concern about the extreme surface flooding experienced at 45 O'Keefe Road during the recent rain events. The extent of the flooding appears to be significantly worsened by the poor state of the surrounding drainage systems and nearby creeks and/ or swales and dry creeks that may have filled in over time. • The water is not draining away effectively, posing risks to property, access, and safety in the area. It seems that the drains and creeks in the vicinity and nearby are either blocked or not functioning as they should, and we believe this is contributing heavily to the issue. • I would also like to note the new subdivision that has been developed to the east of 45 O'Keefe Road in the recent years. It is unclear whether these developments have been required to upgrade or properly manage their storm water systems to account for increased runoff. If their storm water has been directed into existing natural waterways or drainage systems without significant upgrades or capacity planning, this too could be contributing to the already increased volume and speed of water flowing eastward towards properties below. • We respectfully request that the Council reviews the storm water infrastructure associated with this subdivision to ensure it is not exacerbating already overflowing systems downstream areas. • During heavy rainfall, a significant volume of water flows in from high-elevated properties located to the west of 45 O'Keefe Road, moving eastward across the land. This volume of water adds considerable	*This location is heavily influenced by Lagmhor Creek which passes through this area along with some other local races. There is also a number of drains operated and maintained by Environment Canterbury. Council officers could advocate to ECan on behalf of the submitter to confirm timing of any programmed maintenance. The recent subdivision discussed in the submission is the Ashbury Grove development. This development ultimately discharges to the ADC water race network further to the north-east and is unlikely to be contributing to the concerns raised.*

		pressure to the already overwhelmed drainage systems in the nearby areas and contributes directly to the surface flooding on and around the property. The natural slope of the terrain channels water towards our location and without effective drainage infrastructure or clear watercourses this will continue to become increasingly severe with future rain events. • We kindly request that the Council urgently inspects and clears the drains and creeks around this location to mitigate future flooding risks and ensure proper water flow during heavy rainfall. • We would appreciate a response regarding any scheduled maintenance or actions that may be taken to address this issue.	
Vicki & Alan Dobson, David & Elizabeth McCormick, Westview (2021) Ltd	**82**	• We support the Council's commitment to infrastructure resilience but stress the importance of protecting Tinwald's downstream urban area from unmanaged rural stormwater runoff. • Existing infrastructure – including **Carters Creek, Lagmhor Creek, and Council's Tinwald drainage systems** are overburdened during heavy rainfall, placing homes, roads, and public infrastructure at increased flood risk. • Council should proactively intercept rural runoff before it reaches urban catchments. This must include strategic interventions upstream of Tinwald, rather than relying solely on upgrades within the urban area. • A practical and long-overdue solution is the construction of a cut-off drain above (up-contour) of Tinwald's western boundary - running southeast from Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road to the Ashburton River. • It is understood that Environment Canterbury has already secured part of an easement corridor for this concept, offering a foundation for collaboration and delivery.	See comments page 35-37

		• Council's own Stockwater Exit Transition Plan (2024–2027) acknowledges that some stockwater races serve dual roles - providing both stockwater and critical drainage/stormwater services. • Tinwald is one such area where these dual-purpose races need to be preserved or repurposed to serve climate resilience objectives, even after stockwater services end. • Council should integrate the proposed Tinwald cut-off drain into both the Climate Change Strategy and the Stockwater Exit Transition Plan, recognising the hydrological importance of these corridors to the wider urban drainage network. We recommend that Council: • Retain or adapt drainage-aligned water races serving urban protection roles • Work with ECan and local landowners to complete the Tinwald drainage corridor • Allocate funding and include this as a priority action under Resilient Infrastructure planning	

Goal 6: Transition to a low carbon future

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the impacts of climate change and create a more sustainable future.

6.1 Set an emissions reduction target with a focus on Council activities

6.2 Continue to measure Council's greenhouse gas emissions, and adopt and implement emissions reduction plan

6.3 Promote and encourage sustainable transport in the community

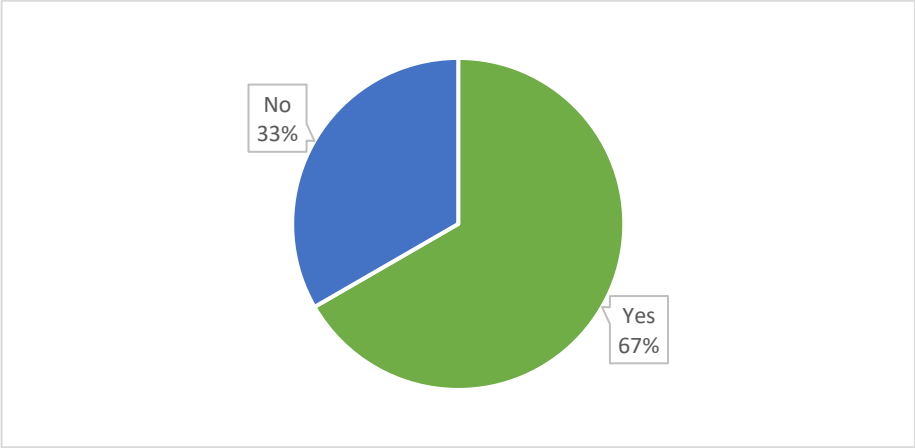
6.4 Increase carbon sinks in the Ashburton District

6.5 Engage with and educate the community on greenhouse gas emissions

6.6 Monitor emissions and report to the public

Do you think this goal and these objectives capture what you see as the key challenges and opportunities regarding a low carbon future for our district?

	Number of people
Yes	12
No	6
Total	**18**



Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Yes, goals and objectives are capturing key issues			
David Watson	**16**	• Some good ideas but would like to see more	
Mark Wareing	**22**	• But let's slow down to make sure we have real targets not pipe dream targets that will never be achieved.	
Forest & Bird (Smith, Edith)	**26**	• Each of these objectives are important to reach key challenges. Demonstrating the Council commitment to these emissions reduction plans will set a good example to the wider community and encourage the sometimes reticent public to meet their own emissions reduction plans. • This will be achieved with community education about practicalities of reducing these emissions.	
PWBP	**34**	• monitor the burn offs and print the results, and monitor yourselves running around in vehicles.	
Christina Bruce	**3**	• yes but research what is the most important and factor these into your budgets	
Stephanie Poole	**11**	• Yes - but again HOW, and WHO are we getting this expert advice from? • Who will be monitoring the emissions, making the reports and reporting to the public and HOW will that be funded? • Who is being consulted to set an emissions reduction target for Council activities? • HOW and WHAT are the sustainable transport options for our community - we have no public transport options here and very few 'safe and appropriate' cycle ways... so how will this be resourced/funded/achieved.	*Expertise on emissions monitoring is available within Council and data gets externally audited.* *At this stage there is no community consultation scheduled for the emissions reduction target. Council can consider this.* *See objective in 6.3, action A, B, C, D in the action plan for more details on the promotion and encouragement of sustainable transport.*

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Phillip Everest	**80**	• Need to investigate how we can measure and store more carbon in our soils AND get acknowledged for it - the Irish are doing it already and we are dropping the ball!!!	
Geoff Rowe	**32**	• as afor mentioned	
Kate White	**77**	• 6.3 B Council could consider being part of and promoting Love to Ride & Aotearoa Bike Challenge (every Feb) - many other councils support this. https://www.lovetoride.net/ We have the ideal conditions for biking/ commuting to work on bikes - with flat, wide roads, pretty good weather, low traffic and short distances to anywhere. Let's see some campaigns to normalise it. Maybe council could support events like getting your bike ready for spring/ summer riding... sponsoring puncture repairs, bike fitting etc. Reducing the barriers to bike riding for different communities. • It is really disappointing that cycling infrastructure in Ashburton has not been well designed (eg. cycle way on footpath on Cass st that means you have to stop at every intersection - consequently cyclists use the road). With the recent changes to the EA Networks Centre entrance I was disappointed to not see any consideration of cyclists... they have to go over those speed bumps (which people I know on bikes have fallen off) then awkwardly get up on to the area where the bike stands are (for me that means, getting off the bike and lifting it up off the driveway onto the footpath area- no smooth way to do it while on your bike). The steps from Oak grove down into the EA Centre carpark could have had a flat paved area beside the steps so people could push their bikes (or prams) up (and down). It seems there's not much thought given to walkers or cyclists... and around a sports facility this should have been a key feature. • 6.5 A. List any events on the Keep Learning Mid Canterbury website	*Ashburton District Council has previously joined the Aotearoa Bike Challenge and can look into doing this again in the future and promote this with other organisations in the district.* *Noted.* *The widened EANC road entrance this is intended as a more appropriate gradient for cyclists, however adding additional width for cycle lanes would've meant significant extra excavation and challenges such as streetlight throw. The speed humps have been changed to a design that is easier for a bike to travel over.*

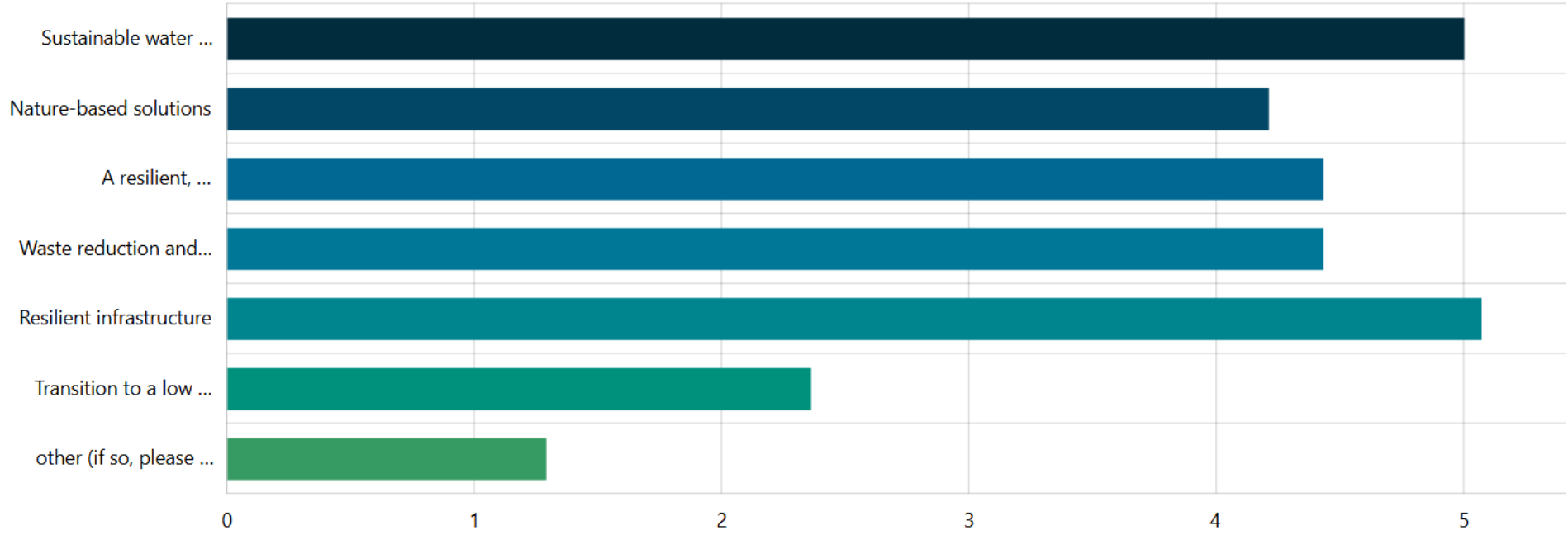
No, goals and objectives are not capturing key issues			
Nick Yeatman	**14**	• Council would be engaging in destructive cultural manipulation by misinformation.	
Murray Hawkes	**29**	• The preamble to the council policy provides clear demonstration of why concentrating on greenhouse gasses is a pointless, economically and environmentally damaging basis for policy. Ice skating on the domain ponds in Ashburton last occurred in 1948, and the global climate has been seen to generally be on a warming trend for 2-300 years, these events are not a consequence of dramatic increases in greenhouse gasses, they are part of a warming trend which has been in place for the past 8,000 years. Reducing emissions and promoting sustainable practices are self evidently good things to do, but there is zero likelihood that even dramatic action... all the way to depopulating the planet, would reverse the climate variation. • Planting pine trees with the intention of "permanently" sequestering carbon is a lunacy, driven by the economic beneficiaries of the industry being created. A mature pine forest emits the same amount of CO2 and similar or higher methane to the atmosphere as does ruminant grazed pasture (most of the breakdown of wood, which is cellulose, is done by insects and their larvae which use the same enderoteric methanogenic bacteria to digest the fibres as are present in rumanent digestive systems. The economic, environmental and social catastrophe being created by the carbon sequestration industry needs to be avoided by positive council policy. Investing in Carbon sinks should be restricted to encouraging development of wetlands (enhanced with water from the former stock water races) and native amenity plantings. Carbon forestry should be a prohibited activity in the district • Monitoring of emissions and reporting will reduce the attractiveness of the region for investment.	
Chris Bell	**4**	• I believe climate change is a well thought out engineered hoax that has been thrust upon us over the last 20 years or more and now a large part of	

		the population believe in it. There are scientists that can disprove this inaccurate modelling, ie Ian McIntosh, William Happer etc.	
Philip Brown	**61**	• We are depend on coal and fossil fuel and until a new viable alternative is discovered not much can be done apart from a lot of hot air from certain Council's.	
Peter Murray	**85**	• Greenhouse gas emissions and global warming could have benefits for increased food production and lower energy usage.	

3. Strategy objectives - priorities

*Based on the question "***What is most important to you?***"*

14 submitters ranked the priority areas:



The scale at the bottom refers to the score in the ranking.

Resilient infrastructure was ranked as the highest priority by the contributors, closely followed by **sustainable water management**. **A resilient, engaged and informed community**, **Waste reduction and minimisation** and **Nature-based solutions** were all close together in a bit lower ranking. **Transition to a low carbon future** got ranked as the lowest priority area.

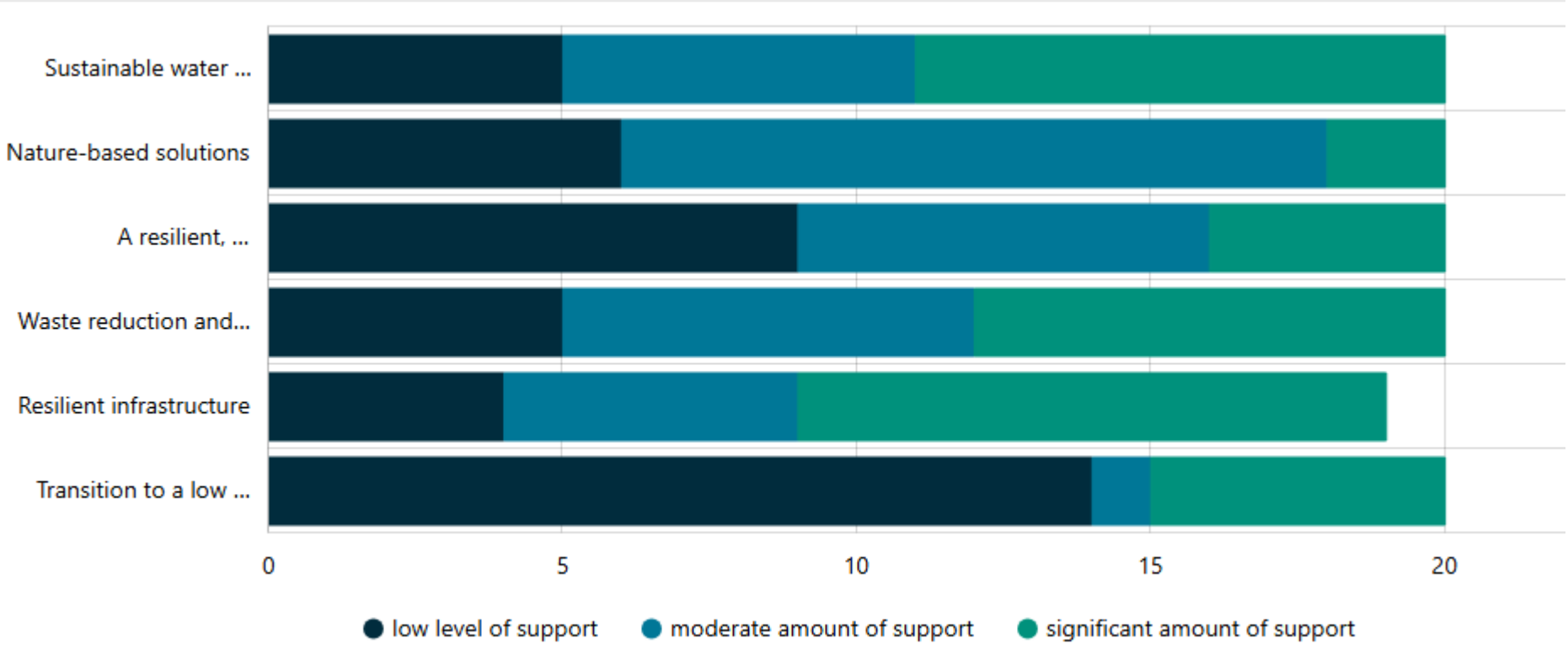
3.1 Comments on the ranking of the priority areas and/or other:

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Other			
Nick Yeatman	**14**	• Well being and welfare of its constituents	
David Watson	**17**	• #1 must always be reversing climate change - reduction is more important than mitigation; but both must be complimentary	
Philip Brown	**61**	• These results are totally depend on the way the questions are asked. A consultant commonly asks what results do you want to achieve. Meaning that the way the questions are asks will determine what the outcome will be.	
Phillip Everest	**80**	• other - Water storage for our community	
Abegail Juntilla, Ashburton Christian School (youth workbook submission)	**93**	• I put having a resilient, engaged and informed community down on the previous page ranked as number 1 of being most important because it is essential. Having an informed and engaged community can lead to much support and have us work together as a whole town to strengthen our sustainability. We can start off by doing something simple as a community and that's being more aware of decreasing our use of plastics (things that are harmful to our eco-system).	

4. Funding allocation

Implementing the strategy will require funding. ***Share your thoughts on where council should spend funding on the priority areas and indicate your preferred level of support.***

20 submitters indicated their preferred level of support (low, moderate or significant) for the priority areas:



The different colours show the 'level of funding support' for each priority area. For *Sustainable water management*, *Waste reduction and minimisation* and *Resilient infrastructure* is 'Significant' funding support. *Nature-based solutions* gets a clear 'moderate' level of support where funding support for a *Transition to a low carbon future* and *A resilient, engaged and informed community* is low.

4.1 Comments on the support for funding:

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Other			
David Watson	**17**	• All are important and all must be considered and acted upon.	
Nick Yeatman	**14**	• Ecan is responsible for sustainable water management, council is responsible for the reticulation of water to it constituents in the boroughs. Ratepayers should not be funding duplication. • Nature based solutions are inherently the most sustainable and should always be considered in any council planning. • Education and information should not go beyond 100% transparency of all council meetings & business. • Better utilization of waste needs to be investigated and implemented. • The planned location of the second bridge is a classic example of a lack of commitment to a sustainable future, how a group of adults can conclude that retaining main road traffic through the town center is beneficial to the future beggars belief. • Low carbon future is no future. 200ppm, if achieved will be the sustainable end of earth. We need 1000ppm to feed earths growing population.	
Stephanie Poole	**11**	• We need to invest now to save us money in the long run, short term investment in sustainable solutions means long-term success. In order to achieve the objectives set out earlier we need adequate resourcing!	
Chris Bell	**5**	• How can around 7,450,000 of extra spending on climate change strategies be helpfully to heavily burdened ratepayers be ok for things that may not benefit those in this district.	
Forest & Bird (Smith, Edith)	**26**	• 1.It is important to have the community engaged with the Strategy and an inclusive approach to all aspects of managing climate change. • 2. Sustainable water is such a central issue I believe is should have a separate priority of it's own. • 3. The low carbon future goal is vital to achieving reduction of greenhouse gases and is closely aligned with 1.	

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
		• 4. Waste reduction is a basic Council service along with the introduction of green waste.	
Philip Brown	**61**	• Reread my prior answers.	
Tim Tarbotton	**63**	• Infrastructure that fails is most likely to have the biggest long term impact on people, their property and their environment. e.g. House flooding causing financial hardship and stress. E.g. Sewage ponds overflowing into rivers and lake not good for the environment, animals and humans.	
Peter Murray	**86**	• Infrastructure, water and waste management are core council functions.	

5. Feedback on the Action plan

We have identified 80 actions to reach the goals in the strategy. You can read about them on ItsOurPlace.nz or the action plan on page 23 – 42 in the draft strategy.

Feedback is on the question "***Is there any specific additional action or anything else Council should be doing with regards to climate change and sustainability for the district?***"

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
General			
Nick Yeatman	**14**	• Listen to the community, reinstate public access all council meetings, restore transparency by allowing councilors to discuss council business with the public. • Reduce costs particularly in the areas of administration and services outside of core council functionality. • Maintain democratically elected governance. • Review the way council engages contractors to carry out work. More frequent and open tenders may considerably reduce costs and increase quality of work as long as the work is supervised by competent council staff. • The most important priority for sustainability for the Ashburton district is to maintain the transport corridor between Chch and Timaru. Council should be lobbying central government to this end. • Something to ponder, we the south island sit in the space between the southern and pacific ocean, the southern alps are one of the greatest captures of fresh rain water in the world, this water descends from our mountains on both sides of the main divide, it flows down our foot hills across our plains virtually unmolested. The capability of potential energy harvesting from this reticulation is staggering, but in the name of sustainability we wait till this resource is up to 300m below ground and then we import energy through at risk infrastructure to extract it. All in the name of sustainability and efficiency.	

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
PWBP	**34**	• take note people are getting irate with the amount of bullshit, and lack of action	
Forest & Bird (Smith, Edith)	**26**	• 1. Room for rivers. The Ashburton River and the foot hills streams, displayed their impact when flooding in 2021. Following that event and in anticipation of heavy downpours, are flood plain buffers in place to give certainty to the increasing built areas that may be vulnerable to another breach of flood water? • 2.Loss of Biodiversity and Foothills landscape. There is potential for wide spread landscape change from pine plantations planted as carbon sequestration on Mid Canterbury foothill landscapes. These sites often have remnant native vegetation as identified by Mike Harding in earlier surveys. The remnant indigenous biodiversity is important to the District Biodiversity and rules regarding removal of native vegetation in Rural A and B state resource consent is required.	
Murray Hawkes	**29**	• The ADC should withdraw from the CCPP group. This group is a self sustaining, political and pseudo religious body promoting a specific social and political agenda which provides no benefits to the people of our district.	
Philip Brown	**61**	• Nothing noteworthy.	
Kate White	**78**	• Suggested additions were made in previous comment sections.	
Costs / funding reference			
Geoff Rowe	**32**	• Lower rates for farmers. Dont kill the goose that lays the golden egg	
Chris Bell	**5**	• I suggest removing all strategies that will be extra on top of what is already budgeted for.	
Masha Nel, Ashburton Christian School (youth workbook submission)	**91**	• For me, I have never been too eager to learn about climate change. To be honest, humans aren't the problem as much as what we think we are. For at least 60 years people have been saying that the world will falter away because of what we are doing. It's all part of God's plan.	

GOAL 1 – Sustainable water management			
Chris Bell	**5**	• I would suggest that water meters and monitoring may cost more than it returns.	
GOAL 2 – Nature-based solutions			
Murray Hawkes	**29**	• Council should not promote mulching of grass clippings, instead they should promote compost heaps. Who was the nutter who made this a policy objective?	
GOAL 3 – A resilient, engaged and informed community			
Murray Hawkes	**29**	• Remove funding for the It's time Canterbury campaign, put the money into parks and reserves	
Stephanie Poole	**12**	• I think focusing on supporting, educating and informing our community is crucial, and getting expert advice from the start so we can make sustainable, resilient decisions that mean our rate-payers are investing in long-term, preventative solutions.	
GOAL 4 – Waste reduction and minimisation			
GOAL 5 – Resilient infrastructure			
Nick Yeatman	**14**	• Ensure all existing core infrastructure is safe a suitable for purpose before funding any additional amenities. • Plan all future infrastructure and policies for the benefit and welfare of rate payers.	
Tim Tarbotton	**63**	• Please take a good look at how strategically important cut off drains which run upstream of urban areas can have a significantly positive impact on downstream landowners. It seems like a no brainer to put these in place and I think the council made a big mistake allowing the Hepburn Cut Off Drain go and think council should consider reinstating it to protect urban Ashburton.	

GOAL 6 – Transition to a low carbon future			
Nick Yeatman	**14**	• Reject any initiative ,proposal, plan or policy generated or driven by the idea of anthropogenic C02 driven climate change.	
Murray Hawkes	**29**	• Emissions reduction targets should be removed from planning • Budget for EV purchases should be removed from planning, EV vehicles should only be purchased when they are the most cost effective solution over the economic life of the vehicle and including consideration of environmental disposal cost. • Remove the budget provision for providing an emissions blackboard. The $10,000 provision is nowhere near the actual cost of resourcing the input of data and dissemination of the information, this is the start of a new department. Kill it now	*Proposed budget for emissions dashboard changed to in-house and reduced to $2,000*

6. Any other comments?

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Methven Community Board (Fitzgerald, Megan)	**19**	• The Methven Community Board is supportive of the intent of the ADC climate change and sustainability strategy document. • MCB is very supportive of the focus on transparency (1.4, 4.2, 6.2, and 6.6) and encouraging active community engagement through promotion (1.2, 1.3, 2.4, 3.4, 3.5, 4.4, and 6.5). Education is also mentioned a number of times as a way to help the community understand their impact (2.4, 3.2). • MCB would encourage the council to be discerning of how this education is created. Will there be engagement with experts in this area? If so, at what cost will they come at? Is the expectation the knowledge will come from staff? • It is great to see both adaptation and mitigation approaches are discussed throughout and there is a focus on proactive infrastructure development and resource management. MCB encourages ADC to take a wholistic approach to minimising carbon emissions. Please ensure that the efficiency of core functions should not be negatively impacted, become more costly, or have perverse outcomes (e.g. increasing flooding risk with poor location of carbon sinks). • This is a well written document with great intent that will help our community move more resiliently into the future.	*Intention is to use a mix of internal expertise and involvement of external, preferably local, experts where considered necessary.*
Murray Hawkes	**30**	• The greatest source of waste is the process you are engaged in While there are recognised regulatory requirements to pay homage at the alter of environmentalism the council's role is to deliver cost effective services to our community. Leave the sermons to the pulpits and marae	
PWBP	**34**	• yes, this is nz built by our forbearers, and some of them returned from war to build the communities, thinking these day's is totally money orientated in terms of what looks good eg new council building etc, new vehicles and mowers, get real you lot, thats not the real world, hard graft, sensible constrained spending, cut the bullshit.	

Submitter name	Page	Summary	Staff comments
Chris Bell	**5**	• Here is some info from Ian McIntosh (B.App.Sci.Rur.Tech. (Hons) on how he shows that the RCP8.5 modelling isn't fit for purpose. *see appendix 1-4 in full submission booklet* • I would like to see ADC hold off on some of these objectives and spending. Thank you for your consideration.	
Phillip Everest	**81**	• Enabling legislation to allow/encourage 'good stuff to happen' • Too much energy and money is wasted consenting good mitigations - we need to be able to try new stuff which may or may not work but then remediate if not successful	
Mary Ralston	**39**	• I commend the ADC for its climate change resilience plan and call for community input to its climate change policy.	
Masha Nel, Ashburton Christian School (youth workbook submission)	**91**	• It is all a sham, for me. I respect for what you think, but it's not what I would say/do. • Weather also influences the wildlife and nature. For example, a lightning bolt hitting a patch of dry grass and setting it on fire. Fires can be caused by us as well	
Abegail Juntilla, Ashburton Christian School (youth workbook submission)	**93**	• My school for the past few years have been prioritising recycling. We also have our own compost bin around our garden which the junior school use often. My family and I take advantage of the fact that we have a recycling bin and use every chance we get to recycle. • What I was saying in the page before... Levels of rubbish, greenhouse gases, use of water etc / things that are bad for our environment, we should have stricter rules and laws about. Our earth is dying and most of it is entirely us human's faults and we should try save it before we kill its beauty and itself overall. • I just wanted to say such a big thank you for all the hard work, time and effort the Ashburton District Council does and give. The community totally appreciates it! It does not go unseen and unnoticed. Thank you for also asking the community's opinion!	

7. School engagement – student feedback

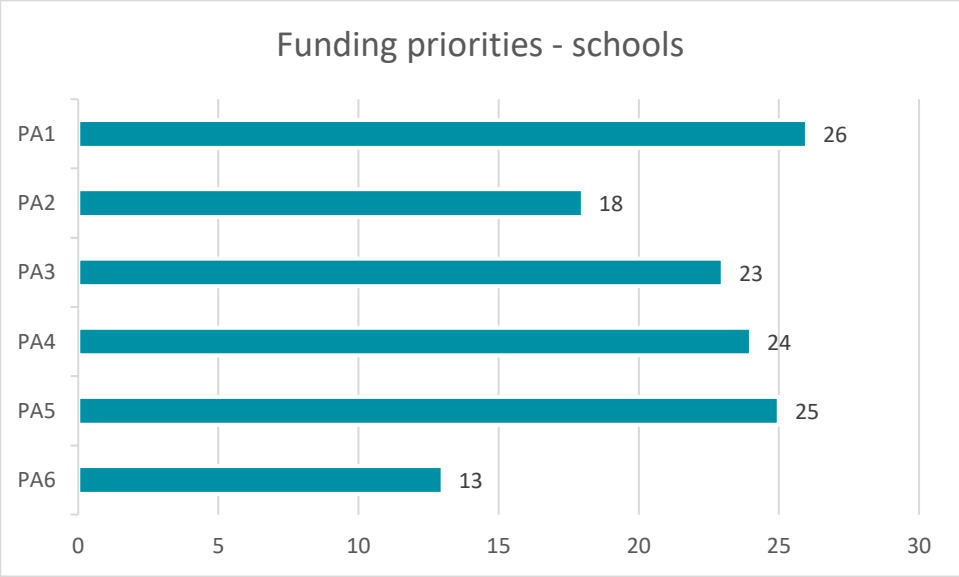
During the school visits, as referred to on page p3, students were given an introduction on the draft strategy, after which we asked their feedback through two exercises, both based on the similar question asked in the consultation document.

1. Funding exercise

Students were working in small groups and given 20 tokens ("symbolic funding") which they could allocate to the different priority areas, according to their priorities. It was not necessary to spend all funding or students could choose to not spend any funding at all.

Result showed that the funding priorities with the youth lie with the priority areas indicated in bold:

PA1 = Sustainable water management
PA2 = Nature-based solutions
PA3 = A resilient, engaged and informed community
PA4 = Waste management and minimisation
PA5= Resilient infrastructure
PA6= Transition to a low carbon future



Comments on the reason for their choices (in brackets the total number of tokens allocated):

PA 1 – Sustainable water management

- It's taken for granted and even wasted until it's needed, but we don't have it. Water is used for everything. (4)
- Water is very important. (3)
- All life needs water. Our country uses a lot of water. (3)
- Unsure as to why and what they'll do to help this. (0)
- With the recent floodings, many roads become submerged in rainwater and many drains flood. Or aren't placed in highly at risk roads and area. (5)
- Flooding, dangerous Rd. damage, etc. Conserve water. (4)
- Being aware of water conservation. (4)

PA 2 – Nature-based solutions

- Already a green community but using nature based solutions are important as they. Are sustainable and easily implemented. (2)
- Nature based solutions are important, but it doesn't seem like it would make a big difference. (2)
- Trees absorb carbon dioxide. (3)
- Good ideas. More trees is good. No vision is good to be executed. Less space around towns. Nowhere to put nature. (0)
- Increase oxygen, decrease CO2. (4)
- Not using tax pay to plant trees on the grand scale of things compared to the rest of the world. (2)

PA 3 – A resilient, engaged and informed community

- With an informed community, these measures can be implemented strongly throughout the community. Community help leading to move. Sustainability. (4)
- If people don't know about many things about the sustainability of the environment, then they won't do anything. (5)
- Community need to take part and need to be engaged. (3)
- Information must be unbiased science as being proved wrong before eg Isaac Newton, Galileo Galilei. We must be informed on both sides of climate change for proper free education. (0)
- People must be informed of floods or winds or any emergency so everyone is ready. (3)
- It's important that the community is aware of the impacts of their actions on the environment. If they don't know so they won't take action. (3)
- Informing the district on possible/probable consequences of the environment. Believe or not, helpful to know. (2)
- Builds strong community culture for everybody. (3)

PA 4- Waste reduction and minimisation

- Waste can end up in waterways, the wide environment and can be very harmful to organisms. And nature. Wider implications that can be easily prevented. (4)
- Lots in the youth community. (2)
- If we reduce the amount of rubbish dumps, it can save money and we can use it into energy. (3)
- Same as PA3 no point in doing 2 separate things. (0)
- Responsible waste management is key for reducing waste pollution. (3)
- Minimise waste, keeps district clean. (5)
- Specifically in schools, kids are foundation to our future, knowing what's recycling and what's not. (4)
- Clean and tidy environment is key to a strong community. Respectful if it's tidy and clean.(3)

PA 5 – Resilient infrastructure

- This will help us become prepared for the future. (3)
- Stops against climate disasters. (0)
- Due to recent and common floods, the second dish Burton Bridge will keep traffic slowing as well as better structure of the new bridge. (5)
- Create building that lasts so we won't have to spend lots of repair / rebuilding. (2)
- Improving drainage system tend to get large amounts of rain in winter. Water treatment plants.(4)
- So we won't have to spend lots of money repairing them. Build to last. (4)

PA 6 – Transition to a low carbon future

- Youth, very common, should focus on other things as well. (2)
- Cost would be very important, whether it be electrical cars or petrol, diesel, it will be expensive and would cost lots of money. (3)
- The loss of individuality. Electric slash hybrid cars are more expensive and harder to keep. Not focusing on poverty needs. (0)
- Important for Council to lead by example. (2)
- Contradicts the other categories. (1)
- Setting an example for the community. (2)

2. Action plan exercise

For the second exercise students were asked to look at the action plan of their preferred area and indicate which actions they most liked or if there was anything missing (for a reference to the actions see action plans here – page 25-42):

1. Sustainable water management	3. A resilient, engaged and informed community	4. Waste management and minimisation	5. Resilient infrastructure	6. Transition to a low carbon future
1.1 A, C, D	3.1 B	4.1 A, E, F,G	5.1 A, B, C	6.3 A, B
1.2 A ,B	3.2C	4.3 A.B	5.2 A, B	6.4
1.3 A (2x), B (2x), C, D, E, F, G (2x)	3.5 B, C, F	4.4 B, D		6.5 A
1.4 A (2x), B (2x)				