Banks Peninsula

Community Profile

September 2026

Boat Sheds Akaroa

Christchurch City Council

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Gallipoli Wharf, Rāpaki

Profiles compiled by the Community Support and Partnerships Unit, Christchurch City Council

***New Zealand Index of Deprivation (NZDep)**

The NZDep is an area-based measure of socioeconomic deprivation in Aotearoa New Zealand created by Otago University. It measures the level of deprivation for people in each small area. It is based on nine Census variables. To read more about the variables used and view maps in more detail, visit http://www.ehinz.ac.nz/indicators/population-vulnerability/socioeconomic-deprivation-profile/

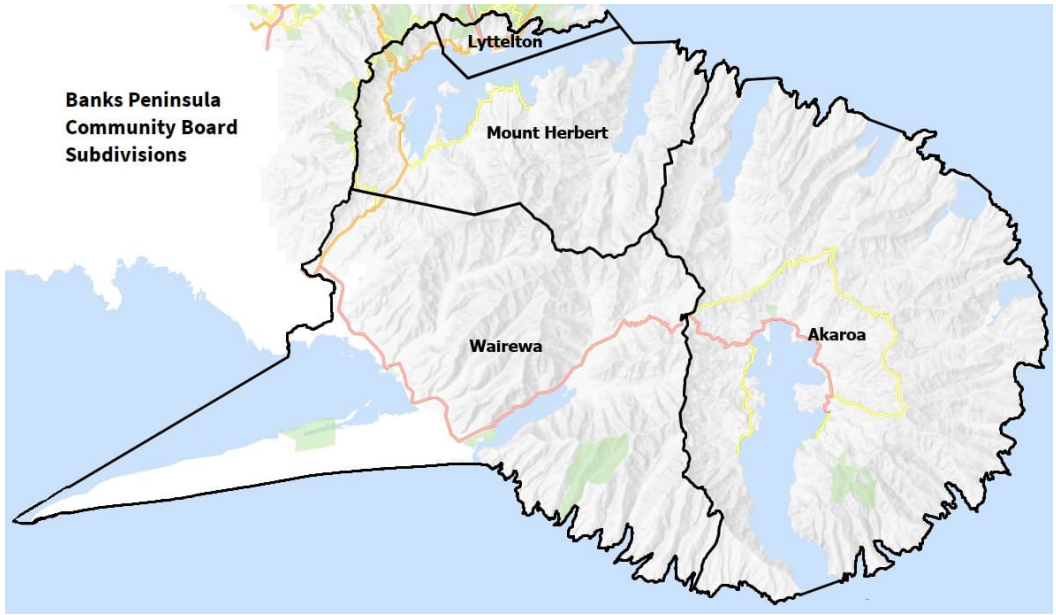
Board area overview

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Ward includes four main subdivisions: Akaroa, Wairewa, Mount Herbert and Lyttelton. This region stretches from the summit of the Port Hills at Evans Pass to Gebbies Pass and follows State Highway 75 to the Halswell River, marking the boundary with the Selwyn District Council. Predominantly rural, the Ward covers 70 percent of the land area of Christchurch City Council, housing just over 2 percent of the population, approximately 8,850 residents. The communities here are known for their strong engagement and resourcefulness typical of rural areas.

Banks Peninsula has a rich history, initially settled by the Māori tribe Waitaha, then Ngāti Māmoe, and finally Ngāi Tahu. This was followed by European settlers, with Akaroa established in 1840 by French colonists and Lyttelton, now the port for Christchurch, was the landing site for the first four settler ships from England in 1850. Heritage is a major focus. There are four Ngāi Tahu Papatipu rūnanga with marae here with a fifth rūnanga being tangata tiaki (the guardians) of Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere and the surrounding area. Significant historic sites like Takapūneke mark the area, whilst Lyttelton and Akaroa both have areas which are listed with Heritage New Zealand. Lyttelton was the departure point for Antarctica Expeditions.

Akaroa and Lyttelton are the two main hubs with substantial shopping areas and cafes/restaurants.

Residents prioritise environmental health, engaging in revegetation and pest control efforts, while also enjoying diverse land and water based recreational opportunities in the picturesque landscapes of the Peninsula.



View from Ōhinetahi Reserve, above Governors Bay

Facts and Figures

Banks Peninsula 2023 Census

9,195
Population

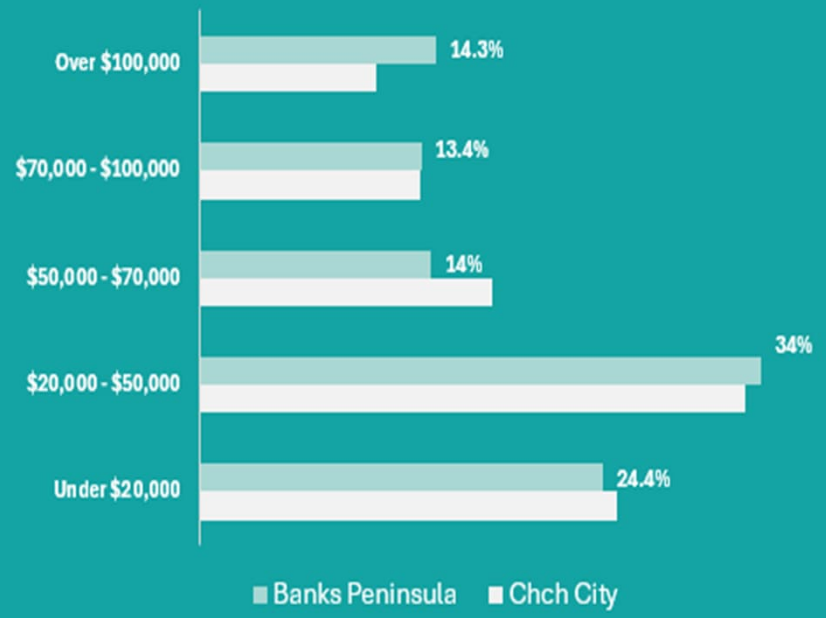
50.9
Median Age

4,098
Dwellings

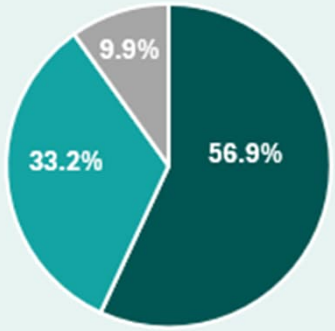
Cultural Diversity

95.3%	European
9.5%	Māori
1.5%	Pacific Peoples
3%	Asian
2%	MELAA

Personal Income



Family Type



- Couple without Children
- Couple with Child(ren)
- One Parent with Child(ren)

Businesses

Approximately
1,539 businesses
employing
3,556 people
(Feb 2024)

Community Infrastructure

8 Community development/support organisations	**98** Sport/recreation groups	**19** Faith-based organisations	**17** Residents' Associations
12 Community-owned facilities	**20** Council-owned facilities	**15** Reserve Committees	**4** Council-owned libraries
8 Early Learning Centres	**4** Museums (1 Council managed and 3 community managed)	**7** Schools	**4** Marae

Norman Kirk Memorial Pool, Lyttelton

Facilities and Amenities

- Four Council libraries: Diamond Harbour, Little River, Akaroa, Lyttelton.
- Three Council Service Centres: Little River, Akaroa, Lyttelton.
- 145 Council owned parks: 116 local/community parks, 8 garden and heritage parks, 6 sports parks, 15 regional parks.
- One Council Museum: Akaroa.
- Three community museums: Okains Bay, Lyttelton and Thornycroft Torpedo Boat Museum.
- Major sport and recreation amenities: Norman Kirk Memorial Pool, Charteris Bay Golf Club, Charteris Bay Yacht Club, Mānawa Kāwhiu Lyttelton Recreation Centre, Ōtamahua Quail Island, Orton Bradley Park, Living Springs Camp & Conference Centre, Kind Foundation Wainui Park Camp, Naval Point and Akaroa Boat Ramps, Little River Rail Trail, Akaroa Golf Club, Akaroa Sports Courts & Recreation Ground and mountain biking and walking tracks including overnight tramps like the Te Ara Pātaka/Summit Walkway and the Banks Track.
- 14 cemeteries, including one green burial cemetery
- 28 social housing units managed by the Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust (Akaroa - 8, Lyttelton - 20) and 9 Kāinga Ora owned properties
- Six shopping areas: Akaroa, Church Bay, Diamond Harbour, Duvauchelle, Little River and Lyttelton
- Seven schools: 6 primary, 1 composite year 1-13
- Eight early learning centres
- Four Papatipu Rūnanga based Marae: Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke have a marae at Rāpaki, Te Rūnanga o Koukourarata have a marae at Port Levy, Te Rūnanga o Wairewa have a marae in Little River, and Ōnuku Rūnanga have a marae in Akaroa Harbour.

Community Infrastructure

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula spans 1,150 square kilometres and hosts a low population of many discrete and highly engaged communities. These communities are proud to govern and co-manage 15 Reserves and manage and activate 28 community facilities, many of which serve as hubs for community-led emergency responses.

Various community organisations focus on interests like sports, heritage, arts, tourism, and environmental protection. A small number are dedicated community development and support organisations. Seventeen recognised community/residents' associations facilitate communication and address local issues, while four Council-run libraries provide essential services, programmes and safe spaces for residents.

The peninsula is supported by five volunteer fire brigades in Akaroa, Little River, Diamond Harbour, Governors Bay, and Lyttelton. Six Ngāi Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga have interests in the area, four of which have a marae on the Peninsula.

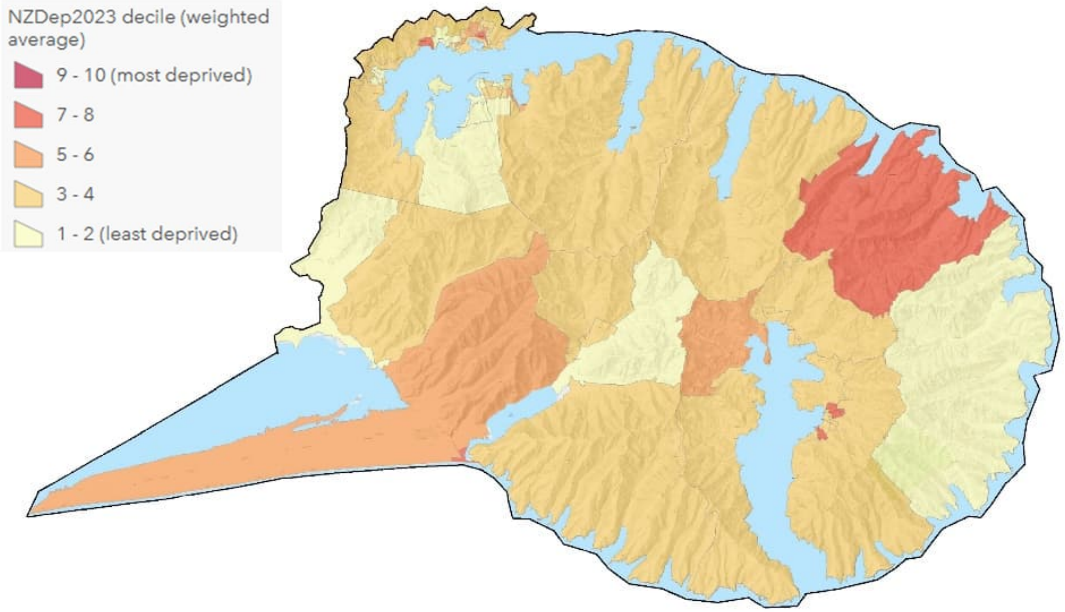
The Akaroa Museum, the only Council-managed museum, attracts over 20,000 visitors annually and highlights local stories and family history. Other community museums include Lyttelton's Antarctic Collection, the Thornycroft Torpedo Boat Museum, and Okains Bay Museum its with significant taonga Māori collection.

Education is provided by seven schools and eight early learning centres. Schools often share facilities with the wider community to support community connections in these remote and/or dispersed areas.

Okains Bay Museum

Little River Library and Service Centre

Socio-economic Deprivation Index



The scale of deprivation ranges from 1 to 10:

- 1 represents the areas with the least deprived scores.
- 10 represents the areas with the most deprived scores.

In comparison with Christchurch City, the Banks Peninsula population experiences lower levels of socioeconomic deprivation. However, there are some communities that are small to the extent that there are no statistics available, such as Port Levy.

Banks Peninsula does not have any areas classed as 'most deprived' (i.e. deciles 9 and 10), whereas for Christchurch City, 16 per cent of the population live in areas classed as 'most deprived'. Around 26 per cent of the area's population live in the 'least deprived' areas (i.e. deciles 1 and 2), compared with 22 per cent of all of Christchurch City's population.

The Banks Peninsula Ward has higher levels of personal income compared to Christchurch City, particularly in the $100,000+ category, which is 3.4 per cent higher than the citywide average. However, household incomes in Banks Peninsula closely align with those of Christchurch as a whole.

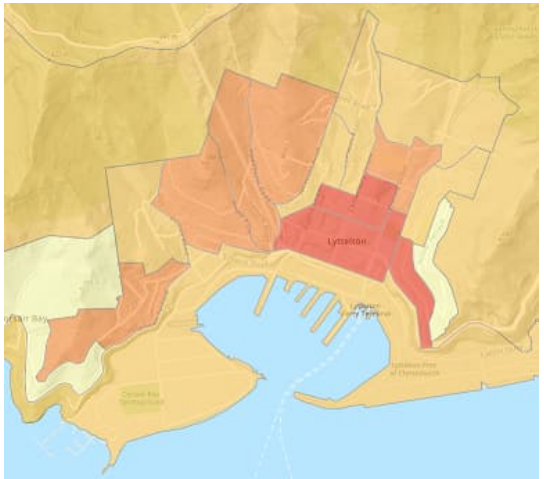
Home ownership rates are higher across the Peninsula leading to a lack of rental stock. 82.3 per cent of Banks Peninsula homes are either fully or partially owned by the person residing there with 17.6 per cent renting. This is compared to 64.8 per cent and 35.2 per cent respectively for the wider City.

The ward also has a more stable population, with a higher proportion of residents staying in their homes for 10 or more years, indicating lower transience. Akaroa is the exception to this with 20 per cent of residents living in their residence for less than a year as compared to Banks Peninsula as a whole which is 14 per cent. There are a limited number of social housing complexes in Akaroa and Lyttelton.

Remote work is significantly more common in Banks Peninsula, with 35.5 per cent of residents working from home—more than three times the rate of Christchurch City. For those who commute, walking and driving are the primary modes of transportation. This is largely due to the limited availability of public transport options.

Self-employment is also twice as high as in the city, suggesting that many residents choose to live in Banks Peninsula for lifestyle reasons rather than necessity, especially as internet connectivity continues to improve. Despite being a rural area, internet access is 0.4 per cent higher than in Christchurch.

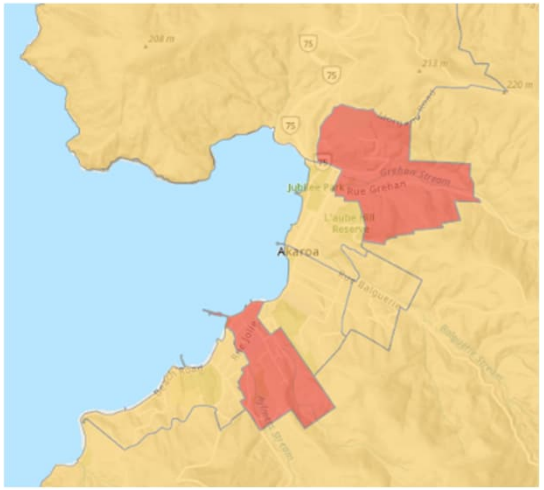
Socio-economic Deprivation Index



Ōhinehou/Lyttelton

Parts of Lyttelton township have a deprivation index of 5-7. The shaded zone encompasses the central commercial centre and its surrounding older area of Lyttelton with more closely packed dwellings. This area is mixed use, commercial, light industrial and residential, with residential/rental accommodation above the shops and four small social housing complexes.

The 15-29 year age group in Lyttelton constitutes 13.4 percent of the population compared with 21.6 per cent in Christchurch. All secondary students attend schools and receive tertiary study out of the area (generally in Christchurch). Many work out of the area. Conversely, the 30-64 age group is higher in Lyttelton at 54.6 per cent of the population as opposed to 45.6 per cent in Christchurch.



Akaroa

The Akaroa and Wairewa subdivisions are predominantly rated as decile 3-4 on the deprivation index. However, parts of Akaroa township have a deprivation index of 7. This area is a mix of commercial and residential properties, and this includes affordable accommodation for workers servicing the business and tourism sector. Over a third (40 percent) of Akaroa's population is aged from 65 years. This compares with 16 per cent of the Christchurch population. In Akaroa, the personal income bracket of $25,000-$40,000 is 22 per cent compared with 15.2 per cent in Christchurch.

Akaroa also has a high percentage of residents not in the labour force - 41 per cent compared with 32.7 per cent in Christchurch.

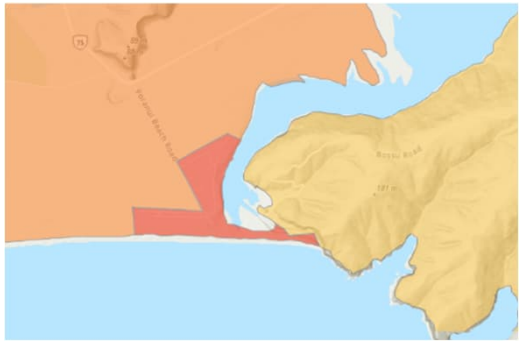
Socio-economic Deprivation Index

Okains Bay/Little Akaloa

The areas of Okains Bay and Little Akaloa have a deprivation index of 8 which is the highest on the Peninsula. This is a sparsely populated area.

The eastern Bays have the highest level of residents in part-time employment in the Banks Peninsula Ward (20.2 per cent), compared with the rest of the ward (18.9 per cent) and Christchurch (14.9 per cent).

Okains Bay



Birdlings Flat

The residential area of Birdlings Flat has the second highest levels of deprivation on the peninsula with a deprivation index of 7.

There are no discrete statistics for this area owing to the size of the population.

Birdlings Flat

Strengthening Communities Together Strategy

This section of the Community Profile provides a narrative of the area in relation to the four Pillars of the strategy. You can view the full strategy document on the Council's website by clicking here.

Te Pou Tua Tahi: Te Tāngata

Pillar 1: People

The city actively promotes a culture of equity by valuing diversity and fostering inclusion across communities and generations.

Cholmondeley Children's Centre

There is a strong sense of community amongst the residents of Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula. As a result of being predominantly rural and geographically distant from the city and from each other, the residents of many settlements have developed groups and organisations to provide community programmes and activities to stay connected and care for each other and the local environment. Each geographical community has its own unique history and sense of identity.

The four Papatipu Rūnanga based on the Peninsula; Koukourarata, Ōnuku, Ngati Wheke and Wairewa are active in providing education and connection opportunities for their people and the wider community. This has included wānanga on Coastal Hazard and Climate Change Adaptation, Emergency Service awareness, Waitangi Day commemorations and Community days.

Only the two main settlements, Lyttelton and Akaroa, have any formal social service provision. Little River has some informal social service provision through a foodbank and provision of meals to people in crisis.

In terms of health care, there are three health centres on the Peninsula: Lyttelton, Diamond Harbour and Akaroa. The health centres are well supported by the community and provide an example of the community investing time and resource to ensure needs are met. Residents need to travel to the city for specialised health care including mental health support. This can create barriers to access.

The Peninsula is well served in terms of community organisations per capita. Organisations such as Akaroa Resource Collective Trust work collaboratively to respond to needs and gaps that emerge in the community, most recently this has included developing a low-cost second-hand clothing store and a visitor information space.

Schools play a vital role in connecting young people and families with their local community, which is essential for wellbeing. Akaroa Area School serves children aged 5 to 18 and is the only secondary school in the area, with most young people travelling to Christchurch for secondary education. Cholmondeley Children's Centre in Governors Bay offers short-term respite care for children aged 3-12 from across Canterbury and supports their education during their stay.

Te Pou Tua Rua: Te Whenua

Pillar 2: Place

We support and help build connections between communities and their places and spaces to foster a sense of local identity, shared experience and stewardship.

Takapūneke Reserve Monument

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula is a region of rich history, unique geography, and vibrant communities. Formed by volcanic activity around 10 million years ago, the peninsula carries deep Māori cultural significance. This land has witnessed key historical moments, including the massacre at Takapūneke in Akaroa Harbour and early French settlement attempts - both of which acted as catalysts for the development of one of New Zealand's founding documents, Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The Peninsula was also pivotal in European settlement. Lyttelton, the main port, was the landing site of the first four ships that brought British settlers in 1850, shaping the development of Ōtautahi Christchurch. It later became a departure point for famous Antarctic explorers, including Scott and Shackleton.

Today, Banks Peninsula is a hub for recreation and tourism. Often referred to as Christchurch's "playground," the area attracts local, national and international visitors with its stunning landscapes, outdoor activities, and rich biodiversity.

During summer, the influx of cruise ships into Lyttelton and Akaroa significantly boosts the local economy. This seasonal tourism places increased pressure on infrastructure, including roads, water supply, sewerage, marine facilities and public transport. Future disruption from cruise liners may be less of an issue as the number of ships booked for next season is reduced.

The development of a Destination Management Plan for the area in 2023 has highlighted the need for tourism numbers to be more balanced throughout the year.

The local communities are strongly committed to environmental preservation. The individual settlements, whilst distinct, share a vision of regenerating the environment and protecting their unique ecology for future generations. This is also reflected in the Destination Management Plan, which emphasises the need for tourism to benefit the environment.

Public transport in the area is very limited, with no formal services beyond a minimal bus service between Rāpaki and Lyttelton and a ferry service between Diamond Harbour and Lyttelton, connecting to the bus service into Ōtautahi Christchurch.

Housing issues, particularly in Akaroa, affect both seasonal workers and permanent residents, with high property prices and a lack of long and short-term rentals resulting from the large numbers of regularly unoccupied holiday homes. Additionally, social and retirement housing is scarce, and limited health services force many older residents to leave their communities and relocate into the city.

A network of community-managed facilities across the area, cared for by local volunteers, provide important spaces for connection in this predominantly rural area.

Te Pou Tua Toru: Te Mahi

Pillar 3: Participation

Residents and groups in the wider community are socially and actively engaged and able to initiate and influence decisions affecting their lives.

Little River Response Planning Meeting

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula residents are highly engaged and have a high level of involvement in Council and other statutory bodies' decision-making. These high levels of engagement can also be seen in the large numbers of people involved in their community and volunteering. The 2023 Census recorded that 21.4 per cent of those living in Banks Peninsula (aged over 15 years) indicated that they had participated in unpaid helping or voluntary work for or through an organisation, group or marae compared to 13.4 per cent for New Zealand and 12.3 per cent for Christchurch.

Education levels are frequently a driver of high civic engagement and educational attainment amongst residents of Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula is significantly above the Christchurch average.

The one Community Board for the ward meets in Akaroa, Lyttelton and Little River on a rotation. The virtual technology available in these spaces provides flexibility to community members, staff and Board members to attend remotely if necessary, and all Board meetings are livestreamed, recorded and available through the website. These measures ease access for the many small communities, enabling them to engage regularly at the Board's meetings where issues of local importance are discussed and decisions made, and it mitigates some of the inequities due to distance.

The Community Board has 14 groups in its governance structure, including 10 Reserve Committees, Lyttelton and Akaroa Design Review Panels, the Head-to-Head Walkway Working Party and the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee.

In order to deliver projects across such a vast geographical distance, the Board leverages the energy and engagement of the community through these committees and panels.

Reserve Committees oversee reserve assets as diverse as camping grounds, sports fields, community facilities, tracks and halls. These volunteers work with Council staff to manage and develop the Council owned reserves often coordinating working bees etc and harnessing considerable local volunteer effort. It is estimated 10,000 hours are volunteered via these committees per year.

The Design Review Panels provide free, local and independent design advice for developers, property owners and Council, in order to promote quality design outcomes that contribute to the built character of their historic townships.

Te Pou Tua Rua: Te Whenua

Pillar 4: Preparedness

People feel safe in their communities and neighbourhoods and work together to understand, adapt and thrive in the context of change and disruption.

Climate Change Resilience

Coastal areas of Banks Peninsula face risks from sea level rise, coastal and river flooding, and rising groundwater, which threaten both natural ecosystems and road access to isolated communities, along with water supply issues in some communities. In Inland areas drought, heat, and wildfire risk create issues in particular for farming and water supply security. These impacts along with heavy rainfall can impact land stability, with increased erosion and sedimentation impacting waterways and drinking water quality. Akaroa is particularly exposed to the compounded risks of coastal flooding, water shortages during high demand, and growing wildfire hazards near built areas.

Banks Peninsula communities have a high level of risk when natural disasters and emergencies occur. Many communities are rural or coastal and isolated or at risk of being cut off from surrounding communities and resources during an emergency. In particular, the risk of flooding is high for communities in areas with steep catchments which includes many parts of the peninsula. Recurring heavy rain and wind events in recent years have resulted in flooding, slips and road closures, sometimes for extended periods of time.

Recent initiatives to mitigate the risk of flooding and support communities to prepare for emergencies have focused on identifying local hazards and working with Civil Defence and Emergency Management staff and local residents to plan for these events. Community Emergency Response Plans have been developed in communities in all four subdivisions and Community Emergency Hubs have been established in Okuti Valley, Birdlings Flat, Akaroa, Takamatua, Head of the Bays, Wainui, French Farm, Lyttelton, Cass Bay, Rāpaki, Governors Bay, Charteris Bay, Church Bay, Diamond Harbour, Purau and Pigeon Bay. Community Hubs provide a place for residents to go to receive up to date information and welfare support during an emergency. This enables residents to feel prepared for emergencies and have a plan in place to support their households and others living nearby during such an event. For more isolated communities this includes the purchase of generators and communications equipment as well as comprehensive first aid kits and other necessary equipment. The establishment of Round Table Working Groups that include community representatives, rūnanga representatives, ECAN and Council staff and elected members, provides an opportunity to develop solutions and mitigation strategies with all parties involved in the discussions. The Little River Flooding Round Table Group was established in 2023 and has enabled new flood mapping work to identify key sites for mitigation strategies in the Little River township. Similar groups are being established in some Eastern Bays of the peninsula. The Little River River Ratings scheme, established by ECAN in 2017, continues to improve the flow of water through the township by removing invasive willows and managing the waterways in the area.

The Christchurch City Council Coastal Hazards Adaptation Plan for the Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour and Koukourarata Port Levy areas aims to address the challenges posed by climate change and coastal hazards, such as rising sea levels and increased flooding. The plan provides adaptation pathways for at risk areas of the harbour and Port Levy, protecting public infrastructure whilst working with and supporting local ecosystems.

Whilst crime rates are generally lower than for Christchurch, anti-social road users continue to cause safety concern for residents of Banks Peninsula, particularly in the Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour area. The noise disturbance caused by this activity has a particularly detrimental impact on residents on the popular routes taken by anti-social road users with the harbour acting as a natural amphitheatre for such noise. Various community initiatives have attempted to tackle this issue, with NZ Police noting that a change in legislation is required.

Key Community Issues

Issue	Actions being taken
Responding to climate change and natural hazards Banks Peninsula communities face risks due to a number of natural hazards including, but not limited to, coastal inundation, wildfire, landslips, flooding, rock roll, tsunami, and earthquakes. Climate change is intensifying these risks.	Council have just completed the Coastal Hazards Adaptation Plan (CHAP) for the communities of Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour and Koukourarata Port Levy. There is a desire for this planning to be extended across the peninsula. However, CHAP only applies to publicly owned infrastructure. The upcoming Plan Change 12 will extend this to include the private sphere. Many communities across the peninsula, often working in conjunction with Council, are involved in ecological initiatives, such as planting fire resistant or salt tolerant species, restoration of healthy waterways etc. to mitigate some of these risks. Communities are also taking the lead in raising awareness about fire risk, organising local FENZ education sessions and community open days. Planning and preparation for El Niño 2026 is underway, with a focus on raising awareness of potential impacts and support community readiness.
Road safety – narrow gravel roads / road condition / footpaths	Many of our roads are shingle and some are technically single lane, especially when there are large vehicles such as logging trucks or campervans using them. Maintaining safety is a particular challenge during the peak summer tourism season, with an increase of traffic volume, combined with drivers who are inexperienced on New Zealand's windy roads and logging traffic. Extreme weather events cause erosion, slips and frequent flooding causing damage to rural Banks Peninsula roads and isolating communities, highlighting the importance of community resilience planning and equipment in all Banks Peninsula communities. From 2022-24 Council has doubled the transport budget for the Peninsula and has focussed on upgrading the network to increase resilience. The additional funding has enabled significantly more chipseal and asphalt resurfacing over the past 3 years, increasing resilience and the contractor has been able to completely renew more roads, giving back a 25-year minimum lifespan. The contractor has received a 10-year contract term, enabling them to invest significant funds into more environmental initiatives that will see less trucks carting materials around the Peninsula. Footpath safety and walking connections are a concern with many commonly walked paths, or sections of path being unpaved and hazardous, particularly those alongside busy roads or subject to storm damage. In March 2025 the Board collaborated with staff to prioritise footpath projects around the Peninsula to improve pedestrian safety. Six projects were included around the Peninsula, located on Rapaki Drive, Governors Bay Road, Beach Road (Akaroa), Charteris Bay, Purau Avenue, Park Terrace - Corsair Bay.

Issue	Actions being taken
Community Facilities	In 2024 the Community Board received an audit of community-managed, Council-owned facilities. The audit found the majority of facilities across Banks Peninsula were highly valued by communities, providing a sense of heritage and identity and space for an emergency hub if required. The audit resulted in a number of priorities being identified for facilities. The Community Board allocated funding towards a number of the priorities identified and lobbied for additional investment in others. Two facilities require earthquake strengthening, Pigeon Bay Hall, required by 01 February 2037 and Port Levy Community Hall, required by 24 November 2031. In its Draft Annual Plan 2025/26 the Board requested that Council consider allocating funding for the strengthening work and upgrades to both halls in the Council's Long Term Plan 2027-37.
Infrastructure – development and maintenance: roading, toilets, marine etc.	Maintenance of aging infrastructure remains a priority for local communities. In particular roading, toilets, wastewater systems and marine structures are in need of repair, upgrading and in some cases replacing. Budgets constraints mean that this work is not always possible immediately and shorter-term repairs are necessary. Marine: A significant proportion of the marine structures across all of Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula are approaching the end of their service life and will soon require extensive repairs and renewals. These structures are vital to the daily lives of the Ōtautahi Christchurch and Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula communities, acting as essential lifelines during emergencies. The Board lobbied for additional funding for Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Marine Structures to support the implementation of the approved Coastal Adaptation Plan in the Council's Long Term Plan 2027-37. Drummonds Wharf in Akaroa has recently been rebuilt with pontoons that will be transferred to the Akaroa Wharf once it has been re-built. Work is scheduled to start on Akaroa Wharf late 2025. Daly's Wharf in Akaroa is also being strengthened. Various repairs have been scheduled to a number of Banks Peninsula marine structures during FY25-27, including: Duvauchelle T Head Rebuild, Little Akaloa Wharf, Takamatua and Purau slipways, Church Bay Jetty pile replacement, Port Levy-Koukourarata Wharf repairs, Akaroa Boat Park west jetty repairs, Robinsons Bay Wharf pile replacement at T Head, Tikao Bay Jetty pile repairs, Moncks Bay Seawall repairs, Wainui Breakwater WSP rebuild.

Issue	Actions being taken
Infrastructure cont...	**Retaining Walls:** 4 existing retaining walls that have reached end of life will be renewed during FY25-27, and 10 slip sites with no existing walls will have a new wall or erosion protection of some sort installed. These are located in Duvauchelle, Onawe, Pigeon Bay, 2 in Governors Bay and 9 in Lyttelton. **Toilets:** Little River Toilets have had a new water storage tank installed to cope with the high visitor numbers during summer, after serious problems with a lack of water at peak times. Funding has been allocated to investigate the necessity for a toilet at Duvauchelle Boat Ramp. The Cemeteries Master Plan identified a new toilet requirement for Duvauchelle Cemetery – planning yet to be initiated. Toilet renewals have been budgeted for 2025-2027 in order of priority as follows: 1. Purau Reserve toilet renewal 2. Tikao Bay toilet renewal 3. French Farm toilet strengthening 4. Stanbury Reserve toilet refurbishment and strengthening.
Emergency Preparedness	Community Response Plans and Community Hubs have been established in communities throughout the peninsula, with more underway. Civil Defence and Emergency Management support is available for groups wanting to establish Community Plans and Hubs. Information Sessions and Community Open Days have been held in a number of communities, providing information from agencies, including CDEM, FENZ, local Fire Brigades and others. Information about upcoming extreme weather events is distributed to networks throughout the peninsula with advice and information about what to do in case of emergency. This information can then be distributed through local networks such as social media.

Issue	Actions being taken
Potable water supply	Access to safe drinking water remains a priority for peninsula communities. An upgrade project is currently underway to install new monitoring equipment to make the water supplies compliant with the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules introduced in 2022. Two new reservoirs (1,000,000 litre capacity each) to store treated water from the L'Aube Hill treatment plant have been constructed in Akaroa. Water restrictions are still likely during dry summers owing to low stream flows. Investigations for an Okains Bay Water Scheme are underway. Design works are underway on an upgrade to the Duvauchelle Water Treatment Plant. This will remove much of the need for tankers to bring water. Early investigations into suitable sources for a Port Levy water supply scheme are underway this year. Lyttelton and Akaroa lead-jointed, cast-iron pipes - Construction works are ongoing as these pipes are permanently removed. Birdlings Flat - public meetings have been held around chlorination of the water supply in Birdlings Flat. Staff worked with the community to apply for a chlorination exemption after the existing system is brought up to national standards. However, this was denied by Taumata Arowai The Water Services Authority.
Flooding	Flooding remains an issue for communities in Banks Peninsula, with increasing numbers of heavy rain events exacerbating residents' concerns. Community Emergency Response Plans have been developed by a number of peninsula communities to support community preparedness for flooding events. The Councils Long Term Plan 2024-34 has allocated $215 million for stormwater drainage, which includes flood management support. The Little River Flooding Round Table Group has completed new flood mapping in the township and is considering sites for new mitigation strategies. The Little River River Rating District continues to work on flood mitigation in the area. Flooding at Port Levy is being addressed as part of the Coastal Hazards Adaptation Plan project.

Issue	Actions being taken
Wastewater and stormwater management	**Wastewater:** Wastewater systems in need of renewal owing to the expiry of discharge consents: • Akaroa/Robinsons Bay wastewater - The Akaroa Wastewater Treatment plant is currently located on a site at Takapūneke, which is a place of particular significance to the Ōnuku Rūnanga. Discharge consent expires in 2030. A new treatment plant will be built next to the water supply reservoir on Old Coach Road. All wastewater leaving the new plant will be treated to ensure it is safe to reuse, initially to irrigate parks in Akaroa and irrigate new areas of native trees and plants at Hammond Point and Robinsons Bay. The planting, scheduled for April and June 2025, will consist of around 130,000 Kanuka and 33,000 other native species to help increase biodiversity in the area. A Resource Consent will need to be obtained to allow discharge to harbour of treated wastewater overflows. The Resource Consent hearing for the new development is paused until later in 2025, providing time for staff to respond to Commissioner questions and allowing Council to consider the impact of the new National Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards on its plans when they are introduced. • Duvauchelle Wastewater Renewal – There is currently a project underway to discontinue the discharge of treated wastewater from the plant into the Akaroa Harbour and instead use the treated water to irrigate land. A scheme to discharge treated wastewater to trees on Christchurch City Council land upslope of the Akaroa Golf Course and to the course itself will be commissioned by 2029. The treatment plant will be upgraded so that it can treat water to the high quality necessary for land application. Discharge Consent expires in 2031. **Stormwater:** Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Stormwater Management Plan is in development. A research study was undertaken in 2024/25 by a Lecturer in Geology from University of Canterbury on the current state of drainage systems within Okains Bay valley floor and the impacts during rainfall. The key recommendation was for a whole system approach and maintenance to provide resilience within the system, reduce impacts of rainfall events and resultant callouts for remediation/response.

Issue	Actions being taken
Access to health and social services	Akaroa and the Bays residents are appreciative of the community health centre which caters to many of their needs. The nearest dental services, dementia care and specialist mental health services are in Christchurch. Local access to these services would assist in reducing the barriers to access. A Community Health Hub has been established in Birdlings Flat, bringing health and social service providers into the community to offer information, advice, and support to residents of Birdlings Flat and Little River.
Community Funding Landscape	The majority of community funders such as Lotteries and Rātā have shifted to a focus on equitable funding. Meaning that there is less available funding for communities in less deprived areas. In general, there is also less available funding from central government leading to more competition for contestable philanthropic funding. To see what funding can be applied for through Council visit: Community funding : Christchurch City Council The Community Development Advisors provide advice to community groups needing to find project funds.
Anti-social road users Some Peninsula communities, particularly around Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour, experience considerable noise disturbance and road safety issues.	A community group, supported by Council staff and the community board, have been working with Police and the local Members of Parliament to try to address this issue. Police have limited powers to deal with the noise problem and Council have limited ability to apply traffic calming measures as this is an over-dimension vehicle route from Lyttelton Port. It is hoped that new legislation will be adopted which will empower the police to act and allow Council to support police efforts with the installation of automatic number plate recognition cameras that monitor sound levels.
Water quality / safe swimming Our harbours, bays, lakes, rivers, streams provide important cultural, recreational and social opportunities for mana whenua, residents and visitors.	Water quality around the Peninsula remains an issue in both fresh and salt environments. Storm and Wastewater management remain central issues that community are concerned with. Major council infrastructure projects currently being worked on include the Akaroa Wastewater and the Banks Peninsula Stormwater Management Plan. Water Zone Committees are local environmental groups working with ECAN and Christchurch City Council to take a community approach to problems.

Issue	Actions being taken
Sustainable Tourism	Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Destination Management Plan was finalised late 2023. Implementation of this Plan should progress regenerative tourism that gives back more than it takes from host communities, the environment and the ecosystem. The Plan also recognises the need for infrastructure upgrades to cope with the impact of tourists and the need to balance tourist numbers throughout the year to reduce infrastructure pressure and support the local economy. To address the impact on the local community, during the last cruise season affordable alternatives to public transport for cruise passengers' shore excursions were developed, with cruise lines encouraging passengers to make use of the designated cruise passenger transport options rather than utilising public transport. This has ensured that public busses have capacity for school children and workers that rely on them. Dark sky tourism is one of the areas the region has identified for growth in its destination management planning, partly because stargazing can be done with little environmental impact and takes place at night and can stimulate travel outside peak periods. A process is currently in place to have Banks Peninsula accredited as a Dark Sky Reserve. The region's dark sky tourism efforts are leading to the emergence of local astro-tourism businesses offering tours of some of the area's best dark sky viewing points. In October 2024 Christchurch became one of the first four cities to join the international Space Cities Network – a select club focused on aeronautics, space, and astronomy that also includes Lausanne in Switzerland, Houston in the USA and Seoul in South Korea.
Sustainability / community resilience	Across Banks Peninsula, community-led initiatives are contributing to sustainability and climate resilience through activities such as renewable energy, waste minimisation, local food growing, environmental stewardship, shared community resources, sustainable transport, and education programmes that build local skills and self-sufficiency.