



Community board plan
2021 - 2024

ORAKA APARIMA



WELCOME...

Haven by the sea. It's a pretty apt description of our Riverton Aparima.

New Zealand's oldest southern-most settlement is steeped in history which must be respected and preserved, together with unique areas like Colac Bay and Thornbury.

It's our responsibility to protect for future generations while ensuring the area continues to evolve and thrive – the ethos of this very document.

Our community is a diverse mix of urban and rural with a great representation of

retired folk, adding to the easy-going vibe and lifestyle we enjoy.

Your Oraka Aparima Community Board has overseen the development of this plan to co-ordinate people's ideas and vision.

It is our intent to work in partnership with the community to develop all aspects of the area for the benefit of both locals and visitors.

We're excited to see planned projects come to fruition and being utilised by the community.

No venture is without its challenges and we anticipate the usual suspects of time, money and red tape will enter the mix but we are determined to be able to progress the plans to reality.

While the old adage 'good things take time' is an appropriate one, we're excited to see all of the planned development occur and we will be striving to achieve it in a timely manner with the support of our community.

Graeme

OUR VISION



A vibrant, sustainable, connected community
focused on locals and welcoming to visitors.

Oraka Aparima Community Board Plan

The Oraka Aparima community were invited to a community workshop.

The community told us what they loved about their area, what they saw as weaknesses and challenges of living in their area and what opportunities they saw for the Oraka Aparima area going forward.

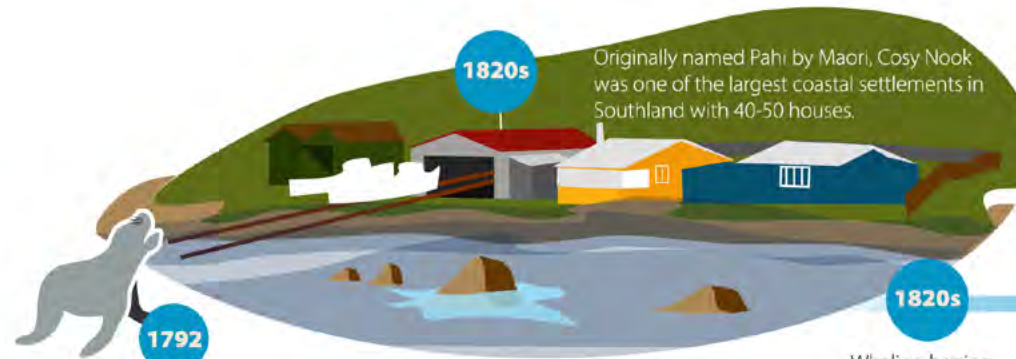


Oraka Aparima communities include:

Colac Bay/Oraka, Ermedale, Fairfax, Groopers Bush, Gummies Bush, Hazletts, Longwood, Otaitai Bush, Pourakino Valley, Riverton/ Aparima, Round Hill, Ruahine, Taramoa, Thornbury, Tihaka, Waianiwa, Waimatuku, Waipango, Wakapatu, Wrights Bush.

1700s

The area was home to a substantial Māori kaik, the inhabitants attracted by the harbour and ample resources.



Riverton (Aparima) is the oldest Pākehā settlement in Southland and Otago and one of the earliest European settlements in New Zealand.

1792 Sealing begins

1820s Whaling begins

1830s



500 Chinese miners in the Round Hill area.

The first recorded horse race was held at a newly built track on the edge of Riverton/Aparima



1861 The first hospital opened in the area

1860s Sawmilling begins

1840s Farming begins

1879 Railway arrived in the district



Thornbury Fire Brigade Established



The Templeton Flax Mill begins operation

1901 Colac Bay Rifle Volunteers Hall established

1970s

Water and sewerage services commence in the Riverton township

2009 Riverton museum 'Te Hikoi' opens

Riverton residents celebrated the town's

175TH ANNIVERSARY

2011

2018

The street art festival SOUTH SEA SPRAY begins in Riverton

2019

Colac Bay's public toilets won Keep New Zealand Beautiful

NZ's BEST LOO AWARD



Riverton Courthouse is listed as a Historic Place Category 2

Oraka Aparima population 2865

Male	50%
Female	50%
Under 15	19%
15-29 years	15%
30-64 years	46%
65 and over	21%

ETHNIC MAKEUP

European	88%
Maori	18%
Pacific people	1%
Asian	3%
Other	3%

WORK AND LABOUR FORCE STATUS

Employed full-time	49%
Employed part-time	17%
Unemployed	3%
Not in the labour force	31%

HOME OWNERSHIP

Own or partly own	62%
-------------------	-----

Our people **value**

A strong, tight-knit, friendly community who are always there for each other when needed.

Support from the local community for our ageing population.

Our young people and their involvement in the area.

By the community for the community

This plan is a reflection of a community working together to build a better now and a future we can all be proud of. This is where we are so far.



Four main themes emerged when discussing the Oraka Aparima area.

1

Oraka Aparima is a strong and involved community

3

Our strong economy is supported by a broad range of services

2

Oraka Aparima values the environment and ensures that it is healthy and protected for the future

4

Our infrastructure is efficient and cost-effective to meet current and future needs



We are proud of our tight-knit, friendly community and
the willingness of residents to help each other



OUTCOME ONE

A STRONG AND INVOLVED COMMUNITY

The Oraka Aparima area values its strong, tight-knit, friendly community and the willingness of residents to pull together to set up various events (eg, mid-winter Christmas markets), as well as lending a hand in times of emergencies.

Residents are aware that they have an ageing population and would like to ensure continuity of volunteering so that community spirit remains intact.

Supporting our ageing population, ensuring that young people are connected and involved, and connecting our whole community together through a shared resource are also suggested as opportunities for the community to ensure that Oraka Aparima's community remains strong.



How can we ensure we are a
safe and healthy community?

CONNECTED

COMMUNITY IDEAS

Encourage more people to volunteer

Oraka Aparima acknowledges the power of a community to drive projects forward as well as ensure its safety.

Residents are concerned over the lack of volunteers, especially for emergency services, which are an integral part of our community due to our distance from Invercargill.



Our young people

Youth are concerned at the lack of 'voice' they have relating to important decisions in the area and would like to be consulted with.

The development of an Oraka Aparima Youth Community Board is suggested.

Provision of more activities and facilities for our young people are also seen as opportunities. Ideas such as the development of a bike track and youth hangout have been put forward.



Community hub

Residents express a desire to develop a community hub for the area where all people can come together, socialise and participate in activities and events together.

Public transport

The community share the desire for there to be some form of public transport in the area. This would help to ensure people still have their independence and are able to get to medical appointments, work, do their shopping or get to sports activities.

This would particularly support our ageing population.



OUTCOME 1 ACTION PLANS

Oraka Aparima is a strong and involved community.



ACTION	COMMUNITY	OACB	PARTNERS
Encourage residents to volunteer for group, services, organisations or activities and events	<p>Hold a family event (eg, an end-of-year Christmas barbecue) and promote volunteerism for the various services and organisations within the community</p> <p>Educate residents on different ways to become involved. Understand the community’s barriers volunteering and come up with ways of overcoming these barriers.</p>	Provide communications support as necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southland District Council• Local groups and organisations



ACTION	COMMUNITY	OACB	PARTNERS
Support projects/ activities for young people to do/participate in	Hold a youth workshop to establish what activities the young people/rangitahi of the area would like to see developed. Work with our young people/rangitahi to see their ideas come to fruition	Support the facilitation of a workshop with the young people of Oraka Aparima to determine what activities and facilities they would like to have in their area. Assist in resourcing, providing advice and financial assistance where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southland District Council • Local groups and organisations • Local businessess • Youth • Funding agencies
Consider the opportunity of developing a community hub	Provide feedback and information	Community board work with Council staff to investigate feasibility of a community hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southland District Council • Local groups and organisations • Local businessess • Youth • Funding agencies



OUTCOME TWO

VALUE OUR
ENVIRONMENT AND
ENSURE IT IS HEALTHY
AND PROTECTED FOR
THE FUTURE

The Oraka Aparima community value the natural environment surrounding them and the access they have to its resources.

They are proud of their strong environmental focus and that Oraka Aparima provides a healthy environment for children to grow up in.

As such, the community are committed to reducing their own impact on the environment, as well as inspiring change and resilience.



What would it take for our community to
reduce our impact on the environment?

CONNECTED

COMMUNITY IDEAS



Community garden

Community gardens are great for the environment. Food grown locally reduces greenhouse gases produced by long-distance transportation of food. It also contributes to biodiversity of species and helps to support populations of pollinators.

Riverton already has a thriving community garden and residents would like to see more volunteers for this asset.

Green spaces

The community have highlighted the need to retain and further enhance our green spaces around the Oraka Aparima area. Suggested ways of enhancing include planting more trees.

This would help offset carbon emissions and contribute to the government's goal of being carbon neutral by 2050.

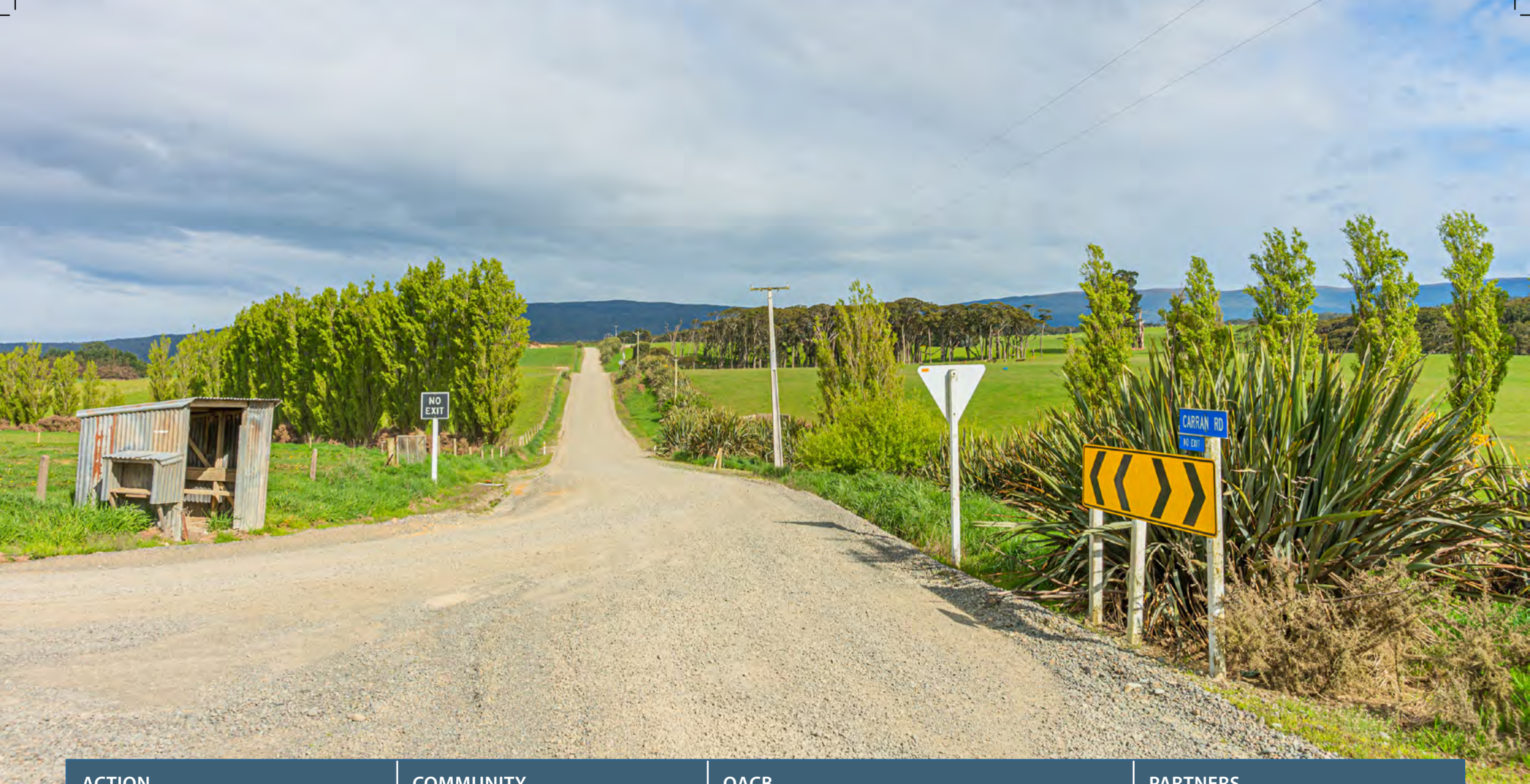


OUTCOME 2 ACTION PLANS

Oraka Aparima values the environment and ensures that it is healthy and protected for the future.



ACTION	COMMUNITY	OACB	PARTNERS
Support sustainable use of renewable energy for the benefit of the community	Support initiatives that assist the community to become more energy self-reliant	Consider supporting groups with appropriate funding applications to the Community Partnership Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southland District Council• Private enterprise• Enviro-Mark Solutions• Other councils• Great South



ACTION	COMMUNITY	OACB	PARTNERS
Maintain natural landscapes and open spaces in the Oraka Aparima area	Identify green spaces, and assist landowners with ideas and planning for their development and maintenance	Support community groups in developing action plans to enhance green spaces within the area, advocate for the maintenance of open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southland District Council Private groups
Continue with fostering and growing the diverse community gardens and orchards for the benefit of Oraka Aparima	Encourage people to be involved with the community garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications support Consider supporting appropriate funding applications of the Community Partnership Funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southland District Council Local businesses and organisations



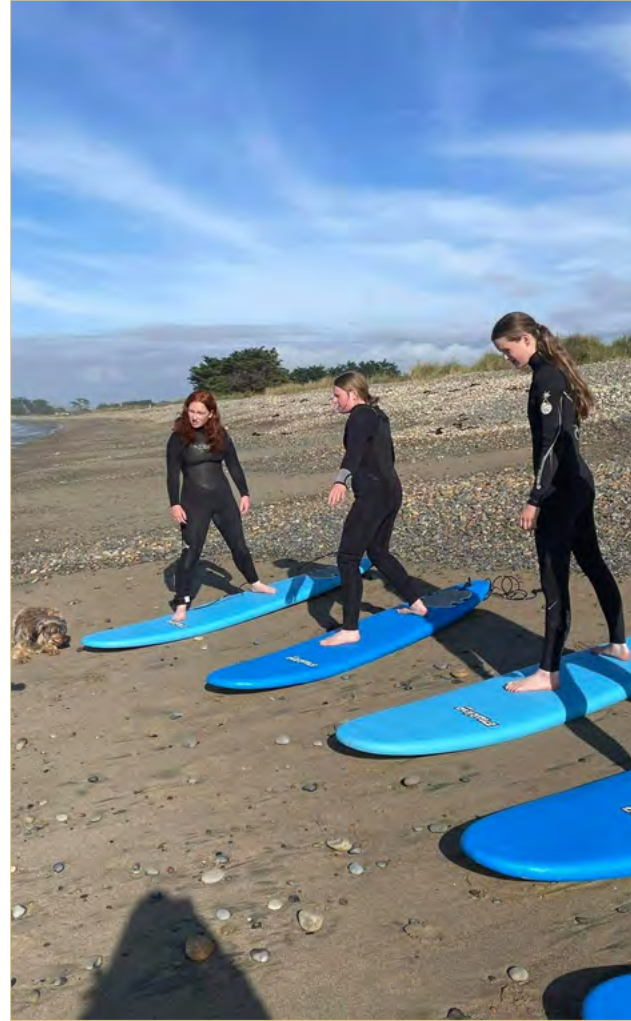
OUTCOME THREE

OUR STRONG ECONOMY IS SUPPORTED BY A BROAD RANGE OF SERVICES

Residents in the Oraka Aparima area value their location, the strong community feel and the natural surrounds of the area and, as such, are satisfied with current population numbers.

In terms of the economy, Oraka Aparima is proud of visitor growth in the area and the flow-on effects of this, such as nice cafes and restaurants for locals to enjoy. Residents would like to ensure they have the right infrastructure to allow for visitor growth in the area, such as affordable and available housing for the workforce.

Keeping jobs local and development of visitor accommodation were further suggestions by residents on how to sustain the economy.



What can we do as a community to encourage
growth and sustainability?

CONNECTED

COMMUNITY IDEAS



Housing

The community raised availability of rental accommodation and affordability of housing as one of the major challenges for the Oraka Aparima area.

Unforeseen growth in Southland has inflated house prices in the area and placed pressure on housing supply for permanent residents, as well as limiting the supply of short-term accommodation for seasonal workers.

Keeping jobs local

The community has highlighted the need to employ locally and stop the centralisation of contracts (mainly in relation to local and central government authorities).

Keeping jobs local will support the economy of the Oraka Aparima area.

Visitor accommodation

Residents enjoy being a tourist hotspot and would like to ensure they have the right infrastructure to support the visitor industry.

Lack of motels and hotels in the Oraka Aparima area was a challenge raised during the workshop. The community see an opportunity for development of more visitor accommodation in the area.



OUTCOME 3 ACTION PLANS

Our strong economy is supported by a broad range of services.

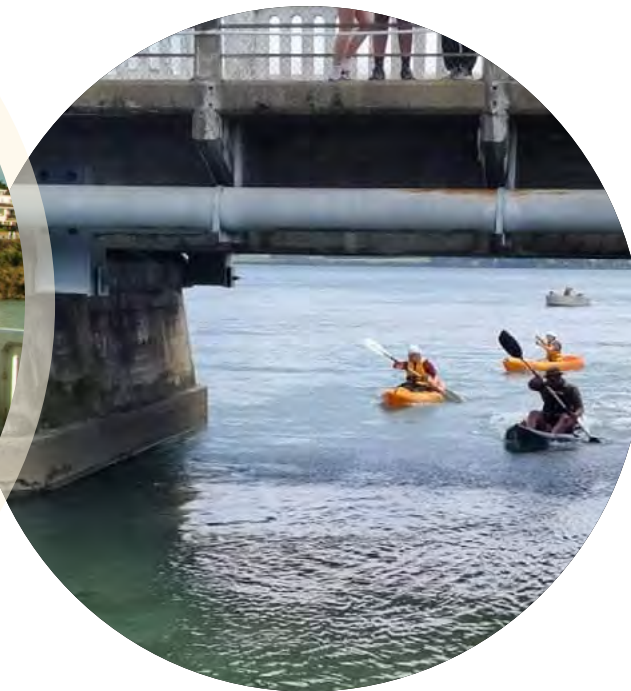


ACTION	COMMUNITY	OACB	PARTNERS
<p>Work with other districts to identify and encourage use of innovative housing models that may be of use to our area.</p> <p>Advocate for different housing solutions on behalf of the community to Council.</p>	<p>Support alternative housing solutions offered.</p>	<p>Be the link between community and Council on this issue, and advocate for appropriate solutions for the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southland District Council• Local businesses

ACTION	COMMUNITY	OACB	PARTNERS
Encourage locals to support local	Businesses supporting businesses	Continue to encourage Council to have “local content” criteria within the tendering process for work. Educating the public on the tender process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southland District Council • Local businesses



ACTION	COMMUNITY	OACB	PARTNERS
Advocate for more visitor accommodation within the Oraka Aparima area.	Provide information about visitor accommodation needs.	Provide support where necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southland District Council • Great South • Ministry of Business



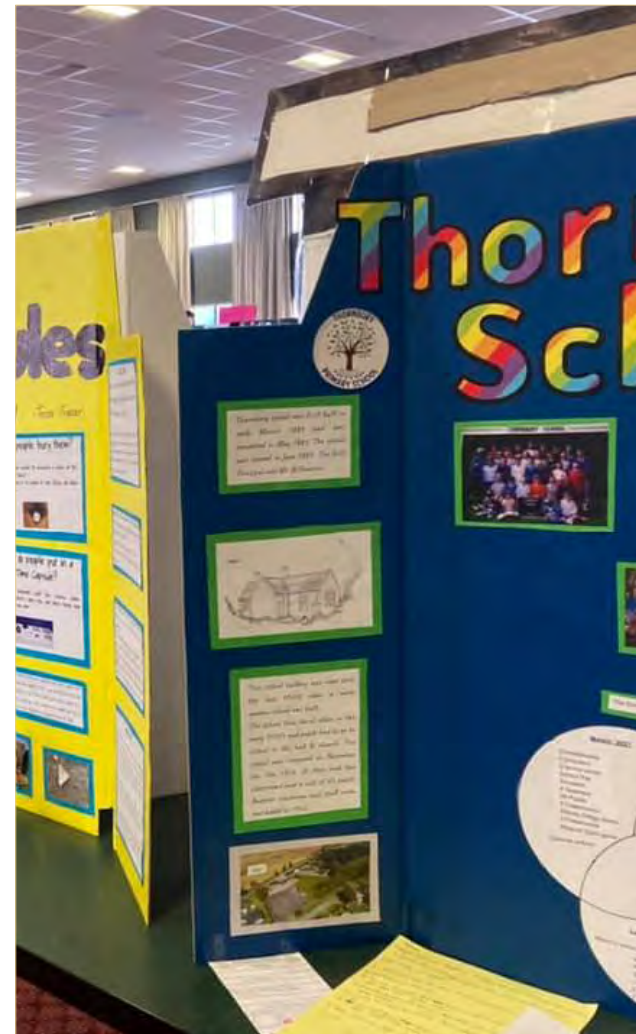
OUTCOME FOUR

OUR INFRASTRUCTURE
IS EFFICIENT AND
COST-EFFECTIVE TO
MEET CURRENT AND
FUTURE NEEDS

Residents value having Council offices in Riverton. However, they are concerned with the amount of time it takes Council to address service requests within the area.

The state of roads in the area is an issue and there is concern over lack of enhancement, repairs and maintenance to the bridge in Riverton. This poses a safety risk, particularly if there is a natural disaster.

Quality drinking water is also mentioned as a concern to the community.



What would it take to have a community that is
connected and engaged?

CONNECTED

COMMUNITY IDEAS



Ageing infrastructure

The community are keen for Council to continue to perform necessary maintenance and upgrades of infrastructure such as water supply and bridges as they see this as important to the safety and health of the community.

The bridge needs widening for milk tankers to cross and strengthening in case of a natural disaster. Advocate this to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, as the bridge is part of State Highway 99.



Quality of roading

Residents are concerned over the lack of maintenance to both the main road to Invercargill as well as to country roads within the Oraka Aparima area.

The state highway is cited as dangerous and slippery and needing immediate attention.



OUTCOME 4 ACTION PLANS

Our infrastructure is efficient and cost-effective to meet current and future needs.



ACTION	COMMUNITY	OACB	PARTNERS
Improve quality of roading and bridges within the area	<p>Notify SDC when there are roading issues so that they can be fixed in a timely manner.</p> <p>Community to get involved in the public consultation process.</p>	<p>Ensure SDC and Waka Kotahi are aware of roading issues within the Oraka Aparima area and ensure community are aware of roading developments. Emphasise that SDC road network maintenance issues such as potholes can be reported with a request for service by phoning Council on 0800 732 732.</p> <p>Advocate that essential bridges have appropriate maintenance and upgrades.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southland District Council• Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency



ACTION	COMMUNITY	OACB	PARTNERS
Maintain good water supply systems	Community to report water supply issues.	Identify potential problem areas and solutions, maintain water supply systems and respond to issues reported. Upgrades as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southland District Council

DISTRICT BUSINESS OVERVIEW

As our boards wanted to ensure local businesses were represented in this plan, a district-wide survey was conducted to capture a snapshot of their views.

The main advantage identified for businesses in the south was being on the main tourist route. Other benefits included a supportive community and loyal customers, centrality of location, close proximity to Queenstown and less competition.

Challenges faced were seasonality, labour shortages, unreliability of the internet and phone coverage, power cuts, council red tape and issues with the delivery of goods.

Respondents stated that they foresee business growth in the next five years as being 67% – based on 0% being none at all and 100% significant growth.

Comments included:

- We will only be able to expand when we find more staff to employ
- There is expected increase in the building industries and maintenance work
- We are actively investing and growing our business and we work with the USA and Australian markets which are still strong performers
- Council's bridge closures are challenging for us
- Increase of raw materials available
- Over the last five years we have expanded to cover more areas
- We only have a small site so there is limited potential for further growth
- My business is hospitality and tourism based, hospitality is directly affected by rural economy, any decline in farmer income would have a direct impact on their disposable income, therefore it is impossible to predict future trends
- Tourism has had a steady increase over the years

Southland district a better place to operate a business - attracted the following comments:

- Better services - more reliable internet etc
- Yes, rental properties would be great, the lack of accommodation here can be and is a real problem especially for staff
- Establishing a business operators organisation
- Easing of red tape and costs of compliance
- Tidy up our main streets where businesses are located
- Getting people to support and shop local
- Maybe a community business Facebook page where we can share and support each other. I would like to know the other business owners in my community and share ideas
- We will need to invest in new housing and visitor accommodation
- Vastly improved internet required
- More public toilets and tourist information regarding this



Economic stability plays an important role in the future of our community.

Approximately 38% of respondents had connected with their community board.

Comments included:

- Local board members have been positive, and several have visited/maintained contact. Very encouraging
- Just thought of it now
- The community board members aren't business focused, it's not their area of expertise
- Yes, through the local business association
- Never thought of it
- I have discussed it with many members of the community, this will have filtered through to the community board I'm sure. I have never been invited or asked my opinion directly from our community board
- Not sure of the process how to connect with them



YOUTH ARE OUR FUTURE AND THEIR OPINION COUNTS.

Led by the Southland District Council youth councillors, a **district-wide survey** was conducted to gauge the views of young people to be included in this community board plan.

In collating the responses, a genuine sense of community featured highest among things Southland youth liked most about living in the district.

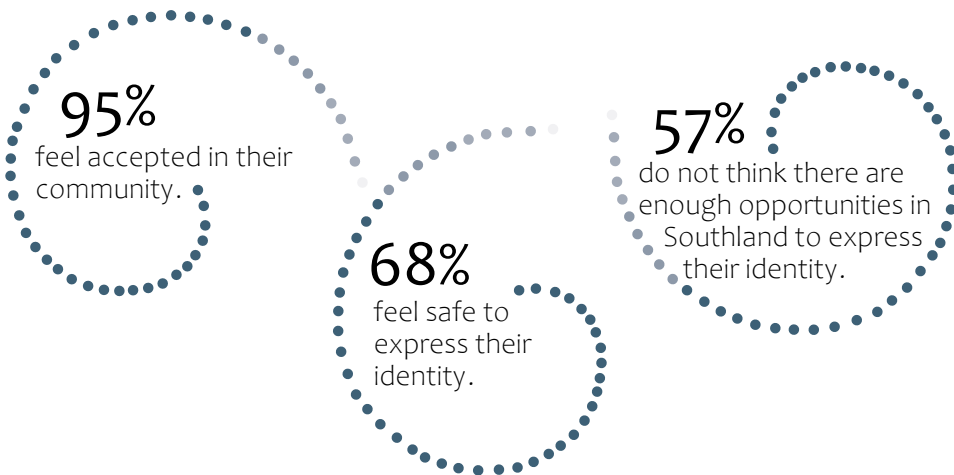
The people, small town vibe, feeling safe and the surrounding environment and landscape rated highly.

Successfully enhancing communities with a youth focus would include more activities, opportunities, events, shops and facilities as a place to hang out. Three major issues identified as having an impact were the mental health and wellbeing of young people, diversity and inclusion, and climate change.

85% of survey respondents believed mental health was a significant issue, with 65% believing there was not sufficient access to help and support.

Comments included:

- There's still a lot of stigma around mental health
- Young males and the farming community are at risk
- People don't feel safe to talk
- No-one wants to talk to the school guidance counsellor
- Good support in school but once kids have left school there's nothing
- Invercargill is too far to travel for services
- It's a problem everywhere
- Some individuals have mental health issues but the majority don't
- I don't know how to access support but I probably should



Comments included:

- There's a fear of judgement
- Southland is very judgemental and aren't good at accepting differences
- There is LGBTQ phobia
- If you aren't involved with rugby or sports, you aren't included in the community
- Everyone in the community is included
- There's more openness to multiculturalism
- A lot of racism here
- Some people get beaten for being gay and expressing it
- We need more festivals and events to celebrate people



In our evolving world, youth are acutely aware of climate change and the role they have to play.

Youth rated the level their community was responding to climate change at 42%, with 0% being not at all and 100% responding extremely well. Reasons included that a lot of people in Southland don't believe in climate change, it's easy to turn a blind eye, the older generation are often stubborn and it's not a priority for Southland's communities as there are bigger issues right now.

Identified among the best ways to respond to climate change were more recycling, reducing plastic, improving farm practices and changing the way we think.

Comments included:

- We need more effective rubbish disposal in rural areas
- We need to promote locally sourced foods
- It needs to be a priority, not just something in the news
- Initiatives like boomerang bags are quite cool
- The issue isn't advertised locally
- People are finally speaking up about it
- Most people have more important stuff to worry about
- Climate change doesn't exist
- People see environmentally friendly alternatives as inconvenient
- There's no public pressure from Council



COMMUNITIES
hold Southland
together

facebook.com/**Oraka-Aparima-Community-Board**

