

5. Importance and priorities



5.1 Regional priorities

Joint consultation processes with regional and district councils have been effectively done in several regions. Taranaki ran a joint process to determine community outcomes for the region, utilising a project team with representatives of the four councils to drive the project, with assistance from external consultants ACNielsen, and a professional facilitator.

Buller District Council approached the other West Coast Councils prior to embarking on their consultation, to gauge interest in a joint regional approach. Only the West Coast Regional Council expressed an interest in pursuing this at that time. In order to complete the consultation in the timeframes required, Buller District Council embarked on their process, with a view to working with the Regional Council as much as possible.

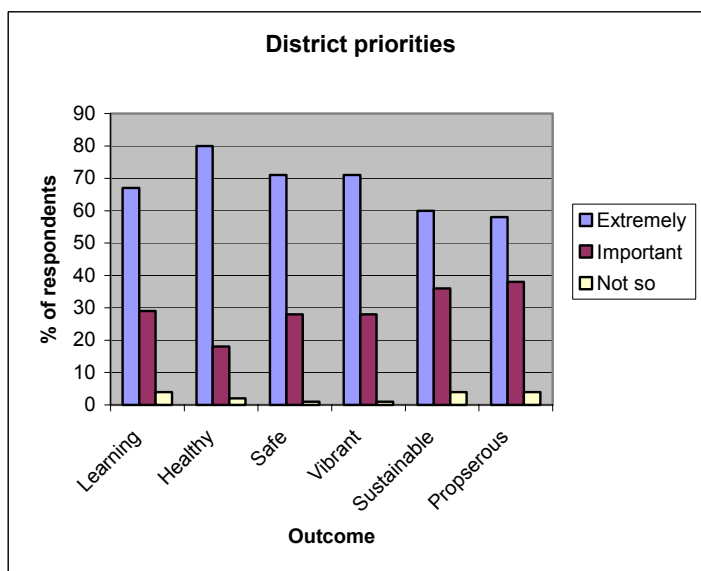
The West Coast Regional Council and Westland District Council have recently embarked on their community outcomes process and have contacted Buller District Council to gauge interest in integrating the feedback to achieve regional compatibility in outcomes. The Council supports this common approach, and is keen to meet with the other West Coast Councils to share feedback on district consultations to identify regional priorities where they exist.

At the time of writing this report, this meeting is planned for prior to December 2005.

5.2 District priorities

Participants in the survey were asked to rate the importance of each of the draft outcomes as either very important, important, or not so important. Opportunity was also provided to express disagreement with any of the draft outcomes identified, and to suggest additional outcomes.

Ensuring an acceptable level of health through our communities and region was ranked as the most important outcome, with 80% of respondents rating this as extremely important to them.



Participants were also asked to indicate on a scale of 1-10 (with 10 being the best), how well they felt the region was currently achieving the goal outlined by the draft outcome. This was to ascertain what level of effort was required for the region to achieve each of the outcomes.

[For example, the community may have ranked safety as the most important outcome for them, but indicated that they felt that we were already achieving the goal as stated. In this instance, the outcome would have still been the most important, but the current level of effort would only have to have been maintained, rather than increased.]

For the purposes of analysis, the average of the given responses for each outcome has been used. In some instances there was considerable variation between responses, reflecting some demographic differences in responses between age groups and locations.

Residents ranked health as the most important outcome, and felt the greatest effort was required to achieving this goal. They ranked current achievement at 5.2 on a scale of 1-10.

This ranking was supported by other feedback, including the listing by residents of the uncertain nature of health services, and concern over the level of emergency services being some of the worst aspects of living in the region. While residents supported the recent progress towards a waste water treatment facility, they expressed unhappiness at the current provision of sewerage treatment, waste management and water quality, all major services required to support healthy communities.

Residents also felt that there was considerable effort required to reach the 'sustainable community' outcome, with our current achievement sitting at 5.5 on a scale of 1-10.

Current achievement for the 'learning community' outcome sat at 6.0, with 'prosperous' and 'vibrant' both sitting at 6.2. Average responses for 'safe & supportive' ranked at 6.7.

Most Important	Greatest effort required
Healthy	Healthy
Safe & Supportive	Sustainable
Vibrant	Learning
Learning	Vibrant
Sustainable	Prosperous
Prosperous	Safe & Supportive
Less Important	Less effort required