

## Ashburton District

# State of the Community Summary 2011

Economy • Environment • Community Identity • Education • Health and Safety •  
Recreation • Democracy



# Environment

**Groundwater quality** The level of nitrate-nitrogen in ECAN-monitored Ashburton District wells has been increasing. The number of ECAN wells that exceed the national recommended nitrate levels has more than doubled between 2001 and 2010.

**Water use** - The amount of water used per domestic connection has decreased over the last three years. This is likely to be due to increased awareness of water conservation, less leaks in

the water supply system and improved results from demand management such as water restrictions.

**Drinking water quality** E.Coli contamination, a key indicator of water quality, has been decreasing over the last three years, with just one incident in 2010.

**Air quality** The Ashburton urban area has had reducing exceedences of PM10 particle levels since 2008, a very positive result. for air quality in the area.

# Economy

There have been a number of key changes in our district's economy.

**Fast growing population** The 20 year population growth forecast for Ashburton District is now 12% higher than previous estimates.

**Less industry training** Industry training levels are sensitive to economic conditions, and a drop-off has been experienced across the country. Despite this, Ashburton District continues to have more of our our working aged population involved in industry training, such as modern apprenticeships, than the national average.

**Reduced building activity** Building consent figures also reflected the impact of difficult economic conditions. However, the number of residential and commercial building consents issued per 1,000 people in Ashburton District remains above the New Zealand average. Also, the average value of residential building consents issued has risen 15% in 5 years.

**Increased Tourism** - Annual increases in guest nights spent in the district have increased significantly in the last three years. Annual increases are now on par with regional and national growth averages for the first time since 2002.

**Quality of life** Residents are still very positive about the quality of life in the district, with 93% of residents satisfied with their quality of life. This remains above the New Zealand average, although this gap has been narrowing over the last three years .

## Welcome to the State of the Community 2011 Summary

*The 2011 State of the Community Report has recently been released by the Ashburton District Council.*

*This key report measures progress toward our seven community outcomes. Check out the full report at [www.ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz)*

*This summary provides an overview of the key findings from the report.*

*Overall, there have been many positive developments in our District over the last two years.*

*Positive improvements include a strong economic performance in challenging global conditions, environmental improvements, more students staying at school and gaining qualifications and increases in physical activity, road safety and workplace safety.*

*Potential areas for concern point to where negative trends may be developing. These include reduced access to health services and comparatively increasing crime rates.*



**More students in the Ashburton District are leaving school with at least NCEA Level 2. This figure has steadily increased since 2005, reaching 65% in 2009.**



## Health and Safety

**More active, more often** Our most recent community survey indicates we are more physically active, with a 7% increase in residents who exercise or at least 30 minutes, five or more times week.

**Barriers to health services** An increasing proportion of residents face perceived barriers to health services. Eighteen percent of Ashburton residents reporting having wanted to see a doctor in the last 12 months but not seeing one.

**Crime** While the crime rate remains much lower in Mid/South Canterbury than New Zealand overall, there is a trend of increasing levels of crime in the district.

**Improved road safety** Road crash injury rates have headed down for in the last three years.

**Fewer ACC claims** The proportion of working aged residents lodging new work-related ACC claims has steadily decreased since 2007.

## Education



**93% of Ashburton District residents are satisfied with their quality of life**

**Staying at school** The retention rate of secondary students in Ashburton District to age 17 has dramatically increased between 2009 and 2010. 83% of Ashburton District students continue to attend secondary school at age 17.

**Suspension and exclusion rates** per 1000 students in Ashburton District have increased slightly in the last two years, and are currently higher than the national average.

**School leavers** The percentage of school leavers with no formal qualifications has significantly decreased over the last five years, in our district and across New Zealand.

**Maori achievement** The rate of Maori students attaining at least NCEA Level 2 increased from 36% in 2007 to 56% in 2009.

## Recreation

A greater proportion of the community are accessing Council-provided facilities and services.

**The Ashburton Art Gallery** has attracted increasing numbers of visitors over the last two years.

**The Ashburton Community Pool** has experienced a strong increase in admissions over the last four years, with 95,588 admissions between July 2010 and June 2011.



This summary includes some of the key results from the State of the Community Report 2011.

Copies of the full report are available on the Ashburton District Council website at [www.ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz)