



Allenton School students
perform at a Citizenship Ceremony
Ashburton District Council

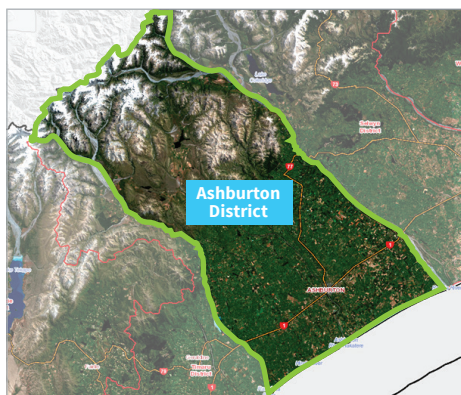


Part 2

OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Ashburton District Profile

Our district is located on the central - eastern side of the South Island. The Pacific Ocean forms our eastern coastline and the Southern Alps form the western boundary. We are bordered to the north by the Rakaia River and to the south by the Rangitata River. Our district has a land mass area of 6,175 square kilometres, which includes mountains, high country, the alluvial Canterbury Plains and a rugged coastline.



We have more than 34,100¹ residents living in our district, with our main town of Ashburton accounting for 19,280 or 56% of residents. The rest of our residents live rurally or in smaller towns or villages.

We are one of New Zealand's fastest growing rural districts with a population increase of 22% since 2006 (approximately 2% pa). This period of rapid but consistent growth follows an earlier period of little to moderate growth. Recent growth has occurred in both urban and rural parts of the district and is considered to have been driven primarily by strong growth in the local rural economy.

YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE	1996	2007	2017
Ashburton District	25,670	28,570	34,100
Ashburton Town	15,490	16,670	19,280
Rural	10,180	11,900	14,830

¹ Source: Statistics New Zealand Population Estimates 30 June 2017

We have developed this plan on the basis of the medium series of Statistics New Zealand population projections. This would mean a population growth of around 9,000 residents over the next 30 years, reaching a total population of about 43,000 by 2047. To achieve this growth, it will be necessary to maintain a relatively high level of net migration into the district, without which the population will grow slowly, stabilise, or potentially even decline. We will monitor population trends closely over coming years to identify any departure from the adopted projection, especially any rapid slowing of growth, ensuring that any planning decisions are revised in a timely manner.

Fast Facts

- ▶ **Almost half (47%) of the district's residents in 2013 have moved residence since 2008**, of these one in four simply moved address within the district²
- ▶ **Newcomers to the district account for the remainder of the residents who have moved address since 2008**. Thirty five per cent of these newcomers moved from elsewhere in the South Island; 20% came from Christchurch City; 15% moved from the North Island, and 30% moved here from overseas.³
- ▶ In 2013, **more than half (52%) of the district's population had lived in their home for four years or less**.⁴
- ▶ **In 2017, the median market rental was \$312/week and the average house sale price was \$351,340** (compared to \$625,034 nationally)⁵
- ▶ **The mean personal income in the district in 2016 was \$51,500** (compared to \$57,780 nationally).⁶
- ▶ **GDP grew by 2.3% to the year ended December 2017 and was valued at \$1,906million**. This equates to a productivity value of \$103,052 GDP per filled job in the district.⁷

² Source: Statistics New Zealand 2013 Census

³ Source: Statistics New Zealand 2013 Census

⁴ Source: Statistics New Zealand 2013 Census

⁵ Source: Infometrics Ashburton District Economic Profile 2017

⁶ Source: Infometrics Ashburton District Economic Profile 2017

⁷ Source: Infometrics Ashburton District Economic Profile 2017

ASHBURTON DISTRICT IN 2018	ASHBURTON DISTRICT IN 2028
Population 34,100	Population 37,800
17.5% aged over 65 years	20% aged over 65 years
Median age 38.6	Median age 39.5
5,270 businesses in the district	Town Centre revitalisation complete
4/5 residents believe diversity is helping to maintain or improve the district as a great place to live.	Ashburton second bridge will have been constructed, reducing travel times through Ashburton on State Highway One.



Key Issues for Ashburton District's Future

LIKE OTHER COUNCILS IN NEW ZEALAND, WE ARE PREPARING FOR A RANGE OF ISSUES IN THE FUTURE.

The following provides a high level review of the key issues for our district.

Our People

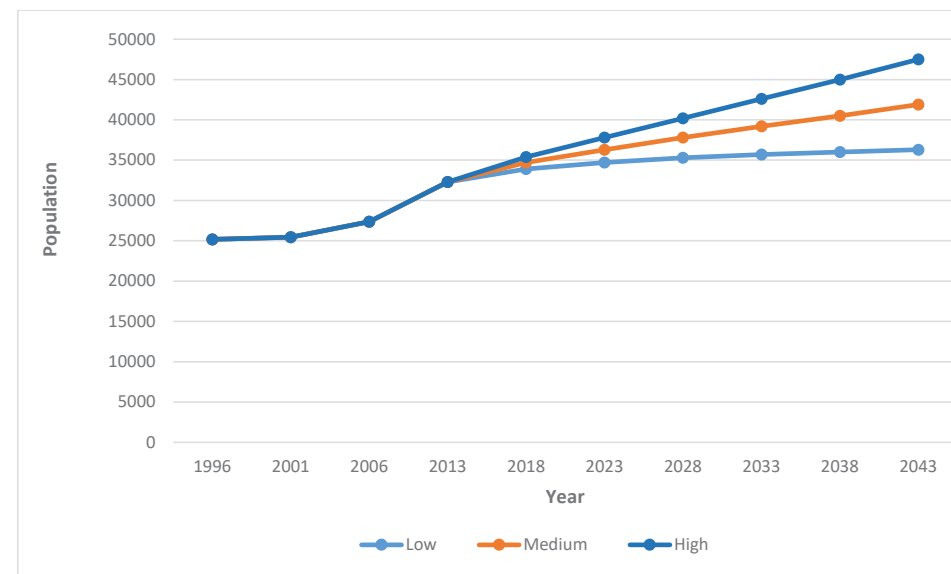
Population growth¹

The population of our district has experienced substantial growth since the mid 1990's when the projections for the district were forecasting a minimal population increase. The last Census showed that we are the 5th fastest growing district in the country and continue to be one of the fastest growing rural districts in New Zealand. Our population size ranks us 33rd out of the 67 districts in New Zealand.

Between 2006 and 2013, our population grew by 3,669 people, giving a 13% growth rate. Since 1996, our population has increased by 23% compared to 17% growth for the whole of New Zealand for the same period. Within the district, different areas have experienced different growth rates. Netherby, Methven, Hinds and Rakaia have all experienced large growth, whereas Ashburton central, west and east have had population declines.

The district's population is projected to continue to grow over the next 25 years. Depending on the projection scenario used, the population could grow from between 5,000 to 15,000 people by 2043. Based on current trends in building consent data, we have determined that the 'medium-range' population projections are likely to be most appropriate for our district, and we have used them in developing this Long-Term Plan.

While we are planning for a growing population, we are conscious that current levels of growth have occurred as a result of a relatively high level of migration into our district. This could be challenging to maintain in the future and we will monitor population trends closely over the coming years to identify any departure from the adopted projection series.



Ashburton District Population Projections (2013 base)²

Household Change

A consequence of a growing population is changes to the number of households. The average household size for Ashburton District is 2.5. In 2013, there were 12,900 households. This is projected to rise to 16,200 by 2038 - an increase of 26% or 3,300 households.

One-person households are projected to increase by 42% (or 1,300) from the 2013 level of 3,100 to 4,400 by 2038. The highest increase is projected to be in family households, from 9,300 to 11,300 - an increase of 22% or 2,000 family households.

Existing infrastructure is being managed to address specific growth factors associated with an activity (i.e. traffic demand or wastewater connections). Additional infrastructure due to growth can be funded through development contributions.

1 Ashburton Community Profile 2016 – Original source Statistics New Zealand 2013 Census

2 Source Statistics New Zealand Population Projections (2013 base with a 2017 update)

Demographic Changes

We are experiencing growth in our older population with the projected rates to increase by 77% in the 65+ age group from 5,300 in 2013 to 9,400 people by 2043. This is projected to be split evenly between urban and rural areas. There are also projected increases of 22% in the 0-14 age group, and 30% in the 15-39 age group for that same time period.

The ethnic diversity of the district continues to grow, with a projected increase to 2038 of 110% of Maori (an additional 2,730 people), 139% of Asians (1,940 additional people), and 147% of Pasifika (an additional 1,700 people). Europeans will still be the largest ethnic group, but the percentage of total population will change from 89% in 2013 to 82% in 2038.

A significant difference in ethnic minorities is that their median age is much lower than the European median age. This means ethnic minorities are much younger and will make up a larger percentage of the working age population and have higher birth rates. The largest projected increase in population is from Asian migration, with European migration expected to fall into negative figures by 2038.

Ashburton District has also seen an increase in the number of people attending citizenship ceremonies, from 45 people in 2010 to 237 in 2017.

Our Space and Places

Natural Hazard / Disaster Events

GNS puts the probability of the Alpine Fault rupturing in the next 50 years at around 30%. Serious natural hazard events, such as a civil defence emergency, following the Alpine Fault rupturing, are events that can strike without warning and the assumption is there will be no significant event in the ten-year term of this Long-Term Plan.

Ashburton District Council is a member of the Local Authority Protection Programme Disaster Fund Trust (LAPP) and has a variety of insurance which would cover emergency works. It also has a Disaster Relief Fund for the replacement of infrastructural assets, excluding roading, in the event of a natural disaster. Central government has a role in disaster recovery after a natural disaster.

NZTA Subsidy Funding

We work closely with NZTA, who are responsible for looking after the State Highways in our district, to ensure appropriate transport strategies are implemented.

NZTA Investment allocate subsidised funding from the National Land Transport Fund for maintenance and renewal of the Nation's roads. Councils and NZTA (for State Highways) submit applications for monies from this fund. NZTA Investment review all applications and decides the amount given to each applicant. This approved amount is adjusted by the subsidy rate to determine the actual dollar value provided.

Council's subsidy rate is governed by the Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) which is currently set at 51% of all NZTA-approved projects (i.e. 51 cents for every dollar spent on roads). We rate for the other 49 cents through our general rates.

We are concerned that NZTA's One Network Road Classification (ONRC) system, which comes into effect on 1 July 2018, will disadvantage our roading network. In this system 75.8% of the district's roads are classified either Access or Low Volume roads which mean they carry the least amount of traffic categorised by the customer-focussed ONRC. This makes it increasingly difficult to justify funding on these roads compared to higher-use routes, so the end result is they will be lower priority in the work programme and are likely to have reduced levels of service.

We believe the size of our roading network and relatively small population results in a disproportionate cost burden on ratepayers. With our local economy highly oriented towards producing export goods, it is vital our roading network provides an efficient and effective link between the district and ports. As roading is important to the community, we are asking NZTA for an increase in funding to help maintain the current levels of service. With Ashburton District roads being considered by NZTA to be one of the better maintained networks, it is unlikely the full request for funding will be successful ahead of other districts with greater roading issues.

Our Economy

Legislative Changes

Legislative changes to how we deliver activities and service occur regularly. Constantly striving to meet the new demands placed on us, while maintaining levels of service with existing resources, is challenging. We will continue to monitor these changes and plan work programmes and budgets to ensure the best outcomes for our residents.

Technological Advancement

Technology is advancing in the digital age, bringing change at an exponential rate which impacts on service delivery and information gathering and management. The fourth industrial revolution will fundamentally transform our society, economy, and ways of doing business.

Monitoring technology changes through involvement with ALGIM and liaising with other councils will assist us to keep current within our means. As new technology becomes more mainstream, costs go down. We currently introduce new technology platforms (apps, handheld devices, online processes, and increased use of social media for community engagement) as part of our core work programmes.

Additional resource has been allocated in this LTP to assist our Information Systems team to address the need to keep pace with new technology.

Our Environment

Climate Change

Climate change may impact on our operations and require an appropriate response to adapt and prepare for potential impacts.

The predicted national changes, such as increased temperatures, rising sea levels, more heavy rainfall and a greater number of storms, will affect different parts of the community in various ways. More frequent drought conditions, being experienced throughout Canterbury, may see further land-use changes and pressure on water supply services. Conversely, more floods will put pressure on stormwater and land drainage services. On the basis of Ministry for the Environment guidelines, we have assumed a base value sea-level rise of 0.5m relative to the 1980-1999 average.

Our infrastructure planning takes into account the need to sustain extreme weather events and sea level rises. Civil Defence Emergency Management planning for community resilience is focusing on community response plans throughout the district. There are fewer risks to our assets due to sea level rise as few structures are located along the coast. The very small communities located in hut settlements have evacuation plans in case of flooding. The District Plan takes into account any increased coastal hazards and other location specific climate hazards and extremes. This includes changing some infrastructure mechanisms such as the size of culverts in flood-prone areas.

Surface Water Strategy

We are developing a Surface Water Strategy to set high level outcomes for the management of surface water in the district. This includes the future management of the stockwater race network.

Our responsibilities under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS); the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP); and the Ashburton Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP) have required Council to investigate ways to increase efficiencies in the stockwater race network and to make available, if possible, water from the network for other uses. The LWRP features a new flow and allocation regime for the Hakatere/Ashburton River to be implemented by 2023. The LWRP also identifies a number of methods to achieve this, including decreasing abstraction from the river for the network. In response to this, we are a part of the Hinds/Hekeao Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) project, which aims to improve water quality in surface waters and aquifers by recharging an aquifer in the Hinds area. Our unused consented water from the Rangitata River has been diverted through the Rangitata Diversion Race and Valetta Irrigation Scheme to two infiltration basins, before seeping into an underlying shallow aquifer and then infiltrating surface water bodies.

We expect to have the Surface Water Strategy completed in year 1 of the LTP, with implementation work to begin from year 2.

Community Outcomes

WE HAVE REVISED OUR COMMUNITY OUTCOMES FOR THE DISTRICT, AND HAVE DEVELOPED STRATEGIC PRIORITIES TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR LONG-TERM PLAN.

These outcomes and priorities help us achieve our vision of the district of choice for lifestyle and opportunity.

What are Community Outcomes?

Community outcomes are the future-focused, aspirational goals we have for the district. These are goals that guide our work of providing quality and cost-effective infrastructure, public services and regulatory functions.

How have these been developed?

The Local Government Act 2002 requires councils to include community outcomes in their long-term plans (LTPs) (s.93). The process for developing these outcomes has changed significantly in recent years. In 2010, an amendment to the Act removed the obligation for councils to collaborate with other organisations when developing community outcomes. Councils can instead focus on what they can directly influence, without having to identify and seek the agreement of other organisations.

We reviewed our community outcomes in mid-2017 as we began our work on developing the draft Long-Term Plan. The most notable change to the community outcomes is that we have included a series of strategic priorities which set out how we will carry out our day-to-day operations. These priorities are our commitment to the community in the delivery of our activities and services.

Our Community Outcomes

VISION: The district of choice for lifestyle and opportunity

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

- Residents are included and have a voice
- A district of great spaces and places
- A balanced and sustainable environment
- A prosperous economy based on innovation and opportunity

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Plan and provide fit for purpose services
- Work with the community and engage in meaningful conversations
- Lead the community with clear and rational decision-making
- Represent the district on regional/national issues and partner with others when needed

Community Outcomes and Strategic Planning

These community outcomes and priorities set the direction for our future and underpin why we provide each service and the level to which we provide them. Council has a number of strategic documents including the District Plan, Infrastructure Strategy and Open Spaces Strategy that provide a platform for the provision of Council activities and services. Each of our activities have specific levels of service targets which are measured through performance measures.