Functions and Responsibilities of Council

The functions and responsibility of Council are broadly summarised as follows:

Resource Management

Establishing and implementing objectives, policies, and methods to achieve the integrated management of the natural and physical resources of Otago, under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Air Quality Management

Monitoring emissions to air with the aim of reducing atmospheric pollution and maintaining air quality.

Animal Pest Control and Pest Plant Management

Minimising the damage to our environment by animal pests and pest plants, by monitoring, enforcement, education, technology transfer, and service delivery.

Coastal Management

Protecting our coastal environment by monitoring and managing discharges to the marine environment and discouraging pollution.

Drainage and Flood Protection Work

Minimising the dangers of flooding to our environment by monitoring our rivers, preparing flood protection strategies and works, and managing flood warning systems.

Pollution Control

Operating a 24-hour pollution hotline throughout the entire Otago region to combat the illegal discharge of contaminants to our land, air, and water, and to enable early intervention and corrective action.

Regional Land Transport

Coordinating safe, efficient, and convenient land transport systems, and ensuring an appropriate level of passenger transport is provided.

Harbour Management

Promoting navigational and recreational safety on Otago harbours and waterways.

Civil Defence Emergency Management

Participate in and administer the Otago Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

Water Quality and Quantity Management

Managing and preserving our water through monitoring, education, and enforcement for our streams, rivers, and lakes. Managing the allocation of water, while protecting the aquatic habitats and natural characters of our rivers.