We’re backing 

Our Place

Catlins

How about you?

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Clutha District Council
www.cluthadc.govt.nz
“We’ve set a direction to promote living and working in the Clutha District. But what does that actually mean for The Catlins?”

We want to take the lead and we’ve got some ideas and options we want to talk about.

They centre on what Council can do with key facilities and areas around The Catlins.

How can we work with groups and the community to help make things happen?

We’re talking plans, partnerships and projects for The Catlins.

We’ve listed some ideas and want to ask:
- What do you think of them?
- Which ones are priorities?
- What other ideas should be considered?

What’s Council up to overall?

Our Place Catlins fits together with some other plans and opportunities that Council will be considering for The Catlins. This includes a review of the way land use is managed through the Clutha District Plan, and the development of a Catlins Reserve Management Plan, which includes a review of the existing plans for reserves at Hinahina, Owaka and Willsher Bay.

Message from the Mayor
Bryan Cadogan

If you care about our community and want to help shape a brighter future for generations to come, then please get involved in this consultation process.

Have you ever thought ‘there’s a better way to do this’ or ‘wow, we do that well, I’d hate to see it disappear’? If so, then now is the time to have your say.

Like many of you, I have aspirations of how The Catlins can be, both now and into the future, so I can’t stress enough the importance of what we’re trying to achieve here.

It’s time we all talked about our vision and priorities for our community, listened to others and believed that, collectively, we can make a difference.

I look forward to hearing from you.
We’re all backing Our Place Catlins

We are developing a community plan, which will identify some key projects to make The Catlins a more attractive place for people to live, work and visit. This document lists the activities which Council either provides itself or helps to fund, as well as the major improvements which are planned over coming years. This information is provided to encourage feedback about what Council should do with the existing key facilities and services in The Catlins. It is also intended to help generate ideas and feedback about additional items that might become future priorities.

We are after as much feedback as possible to help set a direction that promotes living and working in this part of the Clutha District. You can provide feedback on any of the activities listed below, or tell us your own ideas through the attached survey form, or online at www.cluthadc.govt.nz.

The Catlins area is a particularly scenic part of the Clutha District, which is one of the key factors that make it an attractive place to live and visit.

Activities which aim to protect and enhance the natural environment are expected to form an important part of the Our Place Catlins plan. We all have roles to play in ensuring that the recreational, cultural, landscape and ecological values of The Catlins are maintained for future generations.

Developing a Reserve Management Plan for The Catlins is just one activity Council will be leading to help to safeguard these values.

There are numerous other programs which make an important contribution in this area, including the work of the Catlins Care Code, Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust, Forest and Bird, and Council’s review of the outstanding natural landscapes and coastal environment across the district.

How important is it to protect the landscape and environment of The Catlins?

What are your suggestions for additional work or initiatives to protect and enhance The Catlins landscape and environment?
We believe we can turn some of these negative population trends around. The Our Place Catlins Plan will provide the means by which Council and the community can take a more proactive approach, and work together to make The Catlins an even better place for people to live and work.

A key objective of the Our Place Catlins Plan will be to identify how Council and the community can work together to manage these challenges. It is not necessarily about setting ‘targets’ for more people or new development; rather it is about making the best of our existing resources to adapt to these changes so that Catlins communities can continue to move forward. If we get these things right, then it is only natural that more people will choose to live here, but commute to work outside of The Catlins, e.g. public transport or ride-sharing.

Here are some ideas which might help to ensure the sustainability of Catlins communities, by building on the natural resources and advantages the area has to offer:

- Actions which make it easier for people to live here, but commute to work outside of The Catlins, e.g. public transport or ride-sharing.
- Improved technology which allows people to work from home.
- Support for a broader range of home-based industry.
- Diversification of farming operations, including tourism-related opportunities.
- Opportunities for retirees to more actively contribute to the community.
- Ensuring there is an adequate supply of suitable land for development, in and around the main settlements.
- Protecting and managing the highly valued natural resources that The Catlins is famous for.
- Improvements to Council infrastructure and the networks provided by other suppliers (e.g. electricity and internet). Council services may need to change, to support these (or any other) ideas which may encourage people to live, work or holiday in The Catlins.

The following is a list of ideas which might help to ensure the sustainability of Catlins communities, by building on the natural resources and advantages the area has to offer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SETTLEMENT</th>
<th>MEDIAN AGE–2001</th>
<th>MEDIAN AGE–2013*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaka Point</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owaka</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papatowai/Tahakopa</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clutha District (for comparison)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>41</td>
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</tbody>
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* At the time of publication 2018 Census data was not yet available.

As a start, and to investigate how Council can help promote and manage visitor numbers in the Clutha District, a ‘Destination Strategy’ will be developed by Clutha Development in 2019. This will obviously have a particular emphasis on The Catlins, given the number of tourists who visit.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK…**

How important is it to plan for likely changes in population and increasing visitor numbers?

What are your suggestions for additional work or initiatives to help manage changes in population and increasing visitor numbers?

Do you have other suggestions for making our communities more sustainable?
Which are the most important parks and reserves in The Catlins area?

**Destination parks and reserves**
Recent reviews have seen Council taking a strategic approach, to focus investment in ‘destination’ parks and reserves. These are the places residents and visitors consider to be an important area, and/or act as a focal point to the community.

Key examples in The Catlins might include:
- Owaka Adventure Playground
- Owaka Historic Museum Reserve
- Owaka Memorial Hall, Swimming Pool and Tennis Court Reserve
- Owaka Sports Ground
- Kaka Point Foreshore Playground
- Tarata Street Playground in Kaka Point
- Pounawea Playground
- Pounawea Domain Recreation Reserve
- Willisher Bay Domain Reserve
- Hinahina Reserve
- Papatowai Recreation Reserve.

**Catlins Reserve Management Plan**
As well as considering the priority projects for parks and reserves to be included in the Our Place Catlins Plan, your suggestions will help with the development of a Catlins Reserve Management Plan (RMP). The RMP will provide the framework for managing all Council reserves in The Catlins during the next ten years. It will outline what activities are permitted or could be developed, as well as any issues or barriers.

**Other reserves**
There are also a number of other small reserve areas within The Catlins. Council will also be considering these as part of the creation of The Catlins RMP later in 2019.

**Cemeteries**
There are a number of current and historic cemeteries in The Catlins, and we are also seeking feedback about how you think they should be cared for.


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Council has responsibility for 415 kilometres of roads in The Catlins, 118 kilometres of which are sealed. This includes some important tourist routes such as The Catlins section of the Southern Scenic Route, and the Nuggets Road.

Roading costs make up a large proportion of Council’s overall infrastructure budget, and the quality of roading has improved steadily since this area was first settled.

The recently completed Long Term Plan includes additional funding to make improvements to the roading network over the next 10 years, including some major items in The Catlins area:
- **Key bridges:** There are three bridges in The Catlins which are nearing the end of their design life. The Hinahina Bridge is scheduled to be replaced in 2019/20, and the Papatowai and Maclean Bridges are due for renewal in the late 2030s.
- **Seal extensions:** Council has allocated additional funds to extend the seal network in urban areas across the district. Six roads in The Catlins area will be given priority for new sealing over the next three years. This includes Watten Road in Pounawea; Setsea, Wood and Brighton streets in Kaka Point; and Cross/Urly streets in Papatowai.
- An increased budget to purchase stockpiles of gravel for use across the whole district. This will allow Council to respond quickly to adverse weather events and changes in road usage.

How important is it to make further improvements to The Catlins roading network?

What are your suggestions for making roads in The Catlins safer?

You will find a feedback form in the middle of this document to help tell us what you think, or fill out the online form at www.cluthadc.govt.nz.
The Catlins is valued for its amazing scenery. It attracts a large number of independent travellers, some of whom choose to travel in ‘self-contained’ vehicles, are on a limited budget, and are looking for low cost or free accommodation.

Although the area has a range of accommodation options (including hostels and campgrounds), these are spread irregularly throughout the area. In addition, some visitors would rather not pay for a limited range of basic services, and prefer to ‘freedom camp’ in scenic locations throughout The Catlins.

Freedom campers also use services that are funded by ratepayers (roads, toilets, rubbish collection), and unfortunately some campers can pollute the environment and cause other issues, such as parking in accessways. This has previously led to tension between residents and tourists, particularly during the busy summer season. Promotion of The Catlins as a visitor destination will increase the number of tourists, which may increase the existing range of issues.

A responsible camping ranger was appointed for the 2017/18 summer season to help educate visitors on appropriate places to camp in The Catlins. This responsible camping initiative was a joint effort between the Department of Conservation, Clutha District Council and Southland District Council, to address issues that can arise from freedom camping in the area. A survey of freedom campers resulted in some interesting findings:

- The main reasons people choose to freedom camp in The Catlins include its wonderful natural landscapes, and the low cost.
- Most people want to do the right thing. Many visit an i-SITE or tourist website before arriving, for information and advice.
- A majority (65%) of the 859 campers surveyed in 2017/18 were from Europe, while 22% were from New Zealand.
- Approximately half said they planned to stay in the area for 3 or more nights.

The responsible camping initiative was very successful and the ranger will again be patrolling the tourist hotspots this summer, armed with pamphlets and educational resources to help encourage people to camp responsibly. The approach will once again be education rather than enforcement.

Other progress is being made to improve facilities and promote The Catlins as a tourist destination. Council will build a new public toilet at Cannibal Bay this summer, and has allocated $85,000 to undertake a tourist infrastructure feasibility study and help create a Clutha District Destination Strategy.

However, there are several freedom camping issues that need to be addressed. The Our Place Catlins Plan feedback is a good way to hear from residents and visitors about their views on this important issue. Your feedback will help to inform Council’s own policies and bylaws, and we will also use it to guide our input into national initiatives.

Some important considerations to help guide your feedback:

1. Council only has control over the land it owns. It can’t stop people camping on land which is administered by others (e.g. Department of Conservation and private landowners).
2. There is currently a lack of cohesive national guidance, with no clear rule on where one can camp. It is important to highlight that tourists travel ‘New Zealand’, and don’t differentiate between different regions.
3. Is it a good idea to continue promoting The Catlins as a fantastic natural area to both international and domestic visitors?
4. If so, should we aim for a network of camping places (commercial and non-commercial) which:
   a. provides flexibility for different times of the year, as the number of people camping will vary significantly between summer and winter
   b. provides for a range of different camping experiences
   c. has a net positive economic and social impact on communities and the local environment, and
   d. means that New Zealanders and international visitors can choose camping as a way to experience The Catlins tourism and recreation opportunities?

What are your suggestions to better manage responsible camping in The Catlins?
Given its location at the southernmost tip of the South Island, The Catlins is vulnerable to numerous natural hazards – particularly flooding, coastal erosion, storm surge and tsunami.

These existing hazards are likely to be aggravated by predicted changes in climate and sea-level rise. The impact of long-term climate change on communities in The Catlins may include:

- Increased risk of flooding, landslides and erosion: the capacity of stormwater systems may be exceeded more frequently due to heavy rainfall events which could lead to surface flooding, damage to infrastructure and road closures.
- Coastal hazards: there is likely to be increased risk to coastal roads and infrastructure from coastal erosion and inundation, increases in storms and sea-level rise.
- Water security may also become an issue. Droughts are likely to increase in both intensity and duration over time.

Although the effects of climate change and sea-level rise will increase gradually over time, Council and residents alike need to start planning and preparing response options now. We need to ensure that our communities, and the services and infrastructure which support them, can remain resilient into the future.

Council will carry out more detailed modelling around climate change impacts over the next three years and will continue to monitor climate change science and the response of central government. In addition, we will continue to support civil defence and emergency management preparations, so that communities in the Clutha District are well prepared for the effects of natural hazards.

How important is it for Council and our communities to plan ahead for these impacts?
What are your suggestions for making our communities more resilient?
What areas and facilities are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change?
What are the important areas or facilities that are priorities to focus on?

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK…

LET'S TALK

Managing the effects of climate change
A seaside resort, Kaka Point is located at the northern end of The Catlins, and is an increasingly popular place to live or visit.

Existing Council activities
A variety of ownership models apply to the facilities in this area. Some are owned solely by Council while others receive financial assistance. All activities have some level of Council support, which may go towards maintaining and/or operating the facility.

Activities and facilities include:
- Kaka Point Community Centre
- Kaka Point Camping Ground
- Richardson rural water scheme which also provides water to Kaka Point
- Kaka Point stormwater drainage scheme
- Kaka Point sewage scheme
- Wheelee bin service at Kaka Point
- Funding towards Kaka Point Surf Life Saving Club
- Playgrounds and reserves
- Romahapa Hall.

Major improvements or changes planned
As well as regular maintenance work, there are some major improvements or upgrades planned for some facilities. These include:
- Earthquake strengthening of the Kaka Point Community Centre
- Renewals at the Kaka Point Camping Ground
- Desludging of the Kaka Point sewer oxidation pond
- Sealing of Wood and Brighton streets in Kaka Point
- Richardson rural water scheme – various upgrades over the next 10 years.

Some ideas and options to get you thinking include:
- Visitor education including interpretation panels, international signage, or digital resources.
- Are there better ways to manage the large number of visitors travelling to, and parking at The Nuggets?
- A walking or cycling trail which links Nugget Point to Papatowai?
- What should Council and/or the community do to help manage increasing visitor numbers?

What do you think of these ideas?

What other ideas would you like to see developed that would promote living and working in Kaka Point and The Catlins?

What else should be considered for this part of The Catlins? How can Council work best with the community to help make things happen?
Owaka is the largest population centre in The Catlins, with a range of facilities and services located in the town. There are also several smaller settlements located nearby, which provide a diverse range of accommodation options and attractions for residents and visitors alike.

**Existing Council activities**
A variety of ownership models apply to the facilities in this area. Some are owned solely by Council while others receive financial assistance. All activities have some level of Council support, which may go towards maintaining and/or operating the facility.

Activities and facilities include:
- Owaka Memorial Hall (Community Centre)
- Catlins Information Centre, Owaka Library and Service Centre
- Owaka Community Pool
- Purekiriki Hall on Owaka Valley Road
- Community Housing – six 1-bedroom units
- Public toilets at Owaka
- Wheelie bin service and transfer station at Owaka
- Motor caravan dump station at Owaka
- Pounawea camping ground
- Owaka urban water supply scheme
- Playgrounds and sports fields
- Owaka sewerage scheme, with a connection from Pounawea to the Owaka treatment plant
- Owaka stormwater drainage scheme and limited stormwater infrastructure in Pounawea
- Community funding of information services at Owaka (Catlins Historical Society).

**Major improvements or changes planned**
As well as regular maintenance work, there are some major improvements or upgrades planned. These include:
- Earthquake strengthening for Owaka Community Centre
- Upgrades to the Owaka urban water supply plant
- Sealing the Owaka playground carpark
- Stormwater upgrades at Waikawa Road in Owaka
- Sealing and stormwater upgrades at Wratten Road in Pounawea
- New public toilet at Cannibal Bay
- Scheduled renewals of the Surat Bay and Jack’s Bay toilets in 2019/20.

What else should be considered for this part of The Catlins?
How can Council best work with the community to help make things happen?
Some ideas and options to get you thinking include:
- What actions would help to ensure a stable, or growing permanent population?
- What community-based sustainability initiatives could be investigated (food supply, transport etc.)?
- What should Council and/or the community do to help manage increasing visitor numbers?
- What improvements could be made to central Owaka? For example, putting power lines underground

What do you think of these ideas?
What other ideas would you like to see developed that would promote living and working in Owaka and The Catlins?
The southern part of The Catlins is more remote, and has a small, widely distributed population. Tautuku Beach and the Cathedral Caves are just two of the amazing natural attractions in this area.

Existing Council activities
Due to its small population, the range of services provided by Council is more limited. However, the roading network is obviously one of the critical lifelines for this area. This includes the Maclellan and Papatowai bridges, which have been strengthened in recent years. Council also maintains the footpaths through Papatowai. Other services include management of solid waste, which includes a transfer station at Maclellan.

Major improvements or changes planned
As well as regular maintenance work, some improvements are planned or underway.

These include:
- Stormwater upgrades at Alexandra Street in Papatowai
- Sealing of Cross/Lily streets in Papatowai
- Sealing of the carpark at Papatowai
- Repair or replacement of the coin-operated ‘Jack Trash’ bin at Papatowai
- Florence Hill carpark sealing.

Tell us what you think...

- A reduced speed limit through Papatowai?
- Permanent No-Fire bans in areas frequently used by visitors?
- Enhancement of the Papatowai Playground?
- Future-proofing the low-lying, flood prone section of road between the Maclellan and Papatowai bridges?

What do you think of these ideas?
What other ideas would you like to see developed that would promote living and working in Papatowai and The Catlins?

How can Council work with the community to help make things happen?

Some ideas and options to get you thinking include:
- A walking or cycling trail which links Papatowai to Nugget Point?
- Improved communication – internet, Wi-Fi, mobile coverage?
How can Council best work with the community to help make things happen?

Some ideas and options that have been put forward include:

• Improved walking and cycling options: Walkways and cycle trails have been growing in popularity throughout New Zealand and Otago. Are there any opportunities for shorter, community walkways, or even for a longer trail linking several communities?

• Greenwaste management: The Long Term Plan includes a goal to investigate community-based initiatives for managing greenwaste. Council staff will continue to provide technical support to community groups who wish to develop their own greenwaste initiatives. We’re keen to hear from you.

“We’re ready to hear your views and suggestions. Now is the time to have your say…”

Hilary McNab
Catlins Ward Councillor
We want to hear from you

We'd love your feedback

FILL OUT THE ATTACHED FORM, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE CLUTHADC@GOVT.NZ AND SUBMIT ONLINE.

Your details

First name ___________________________
Last name ___________________________
Organisation ___________________________
Phone (Landline or mobile) ___________________________
Postal address ___________________________
Email address ___________________________

Are you responding as a...

Permanent resident & ratepayer [ ]
Ratepayer [ ]
Visitor (NZ) From: ___________________________
Visitor (overseas) Visitor (overseas) Country: ___________________________
Other (please state): ___________________________

Your feedback will be provided to elected members to help inform their decisions about the Our Place Catlins plan. Your contact details will not be made publicly available.

Give your feedback

ON PAPER
Each page within this document has information that explains more about the ideas, issues and options. There is a form on the back page to help you provide some feedback. Feel free to add more pages if you need more space.

ONLINE
You can find information online at www.cluthadc.govt.nz. You can also provide feedback via an online survey.

FreePost Authority Number ??????

Clutha District Council
P.O. Box 25
Balclutha 9240

How to return this form via FreePost

1. Complete your feedback
2. Fold form out along the dashed line
3. Fold here
4. Fold here
5. Fold here
6. Fold here
7. Seal tab with tape or glue. Do not use staples.
8. Drop into your nearest NZ post box, or the CDC main office or service centre.

Thank you!

FreePost
Let's talk about The Catlins landscape and environment

How important is it to protect the landscape and environment of The Catlins?

What are your suggestions for additional work or initiatives to protect and enhance the landscape and environment of The Catlins?

Let's talk about opportunities and challenges for The Catlins changing communities

How important is it to plan for likely changes in population and increasing visitor numbers?

What are your suggestions for additional work or initiatives to help manage changes in population and increasing visitor numbers?

Do you have other suggestions for making The Catlins communities more sustainable?

Let's talk about parks and reserves in The Catlins

How important are the following parks and reserves in The Catlins?

Kaka Point Foreshore Playground
Tarata Street Playground at Kaka Point
Willsher Bay Domain Reserve
Owaka Adventure Playground
Owaka Historic Museum Reserve
Owaka Hall, Pool & Tennis Court Reserve
Owaka Sports Ground
Pounawea Playground
Pounawea Domain Recreation Reserve
Hinahina Reserve
Papatowai Recreation Reserve
Other (please specify)
Other (please specify)

Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make about the above parks and reserves in The Catlins? Please specify the park or reserve beside your comment.

Do you have any comments or suggestions about other parks, reserves or cemeteries in The Catlins? Please specify the park, reserve or cemetery beside your comment.
LETS TALK

ROADING NETWORK

Let’s talk about making the most of The Catlins roading network

How important is it to make further improvements to The Catlins roading network?

What are your suggestions for making roads in The Catlins safer?

Are there any particular stretches of road you think require particular attention? If so, why?

Apart from the seal extensions already planned, where should we prioritise further road sealing work?

RESPONSIBLE CAMPING

Let’s talk about responsible camping in The Catlins

How important is it to manage responsible camping, so that it has a positive economic and social impact on communities and the local environment?

How important is it to continue funding a ranger to help educate visitors about responsible camping in The Catlins?

What additional infrastructure is needed to help facilitate responsible camping, and where?

What other improvements or initiatives can you suggest for how responsible camping is managed in The Catlins?

CLIMATE CHANGE

Let’s talk about managing the effects of climate change in The Catlins

How important is it for Council and our communities to plan ahead for the effects of climate change?

What areas or facilities in The Catlins are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change?

What are the important areas or facilities in The Catlins that are priorities to focus on in terms of managing climate change?

OWAKA, POUNAWEA, NEWHAVEN AND JACK’S BAY

Let’s talk about Owaka, Pounawea, Newhaven and Jack’s Bay

How important is it to make further improvements to Council infrastructure in this part of The Catlins?

Which activities or facilities are priorities in this part of The Catlins?

What ideas or initiatives would you like to see developed that would promote living and working in Owaka and this part of The Catlins?
Let's talk about Kaka Point and Romahapa

How important is it to make further improvements to Council infrastructure in this part of The Catlins?

Which activities or facilities are priorities in this part of The Catlins?

What ideas or initiatives would you like to see developed that would promote living and working in Kaka Point and this part of The Catlins?

Let's talk about Papatowai, Maclennan, Tahakopa and Tautuku

How important is it to make further improvements to Council infrastructure in this part of The Catlins?

Which activities or facilities are priorities in this part of The Catlins?

What ideas or initiatives would you like to see developed that would promote living and working in Papatowai and this part of The Catlins?

Lets talk some more... What else do you think we should be considering for The Catlins?

Please return by 15 March 2019

Your answers, ideas and suggestions will be collated with all the feedback we receive and provided to elected members. Your contact details will be withheld publicly to protect your privacy.