

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Pilot 2: Mid-South Canterbury



Mid-South Canterbury is the location for the second pilot to develop and test processes for Local Advisory Committees.

Local Advisory Committees are proposed under the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Bill to ensure Fire and Emergency New Zealand is responsive to the risks and needs of the communities it will serve from 1 July 2017. As part of the transition work leading up to 1 July, the FENZ Transition Project is running pilot working groups in several areas around the country to help design Local Advisory Committees to work effectively in the future. The pilot working groups are temporary groups made up of community stakeholders.

Mid-South Canterbury provides a very different landscape to the first pilot in Greater Auckland. The region is made up of one fire area with multiple council relationships. It has extensive farming and rural land use, including forestry. Its urban fire services are predominantly volunteer run. Mid-South Canterbury has a markedly different weather and fire environment to Auckland. In 2015/16 it had the highest number of vegetation incidents per 100,000 people in the country.

Mid-South Canterbury statistics

Population

- Mid-South Canterbury has approximately 87,000 people spread over approximately 2 million hectares.
- It includes the area from Glenavy in the south to Rakaia in the north, and includes the Mount Cook and Twizel catchments.

Land area and use

- 1.98 million hectares of rural land within the rural fire district
- 6,500 hectares of urban fire district
- 15,000 hectares Defence land
- The Department of Conservation has 385,000 hectares of public conservation land.

Rural fire services

- Mid-South Canterbury is an Enlarged Rural Fire District
- 18 Voluntary Rural Fire Force stations
- 350 rural volunteers

Urban fire services

- 14 urban fire stations made up of:
 - 2 Career Fire Stations in Timaru with 37 paid operational firefighters
 - 12 Volunteer Fire Stations with 286 volunteer fire fighters
 - 6 area management personnel

