

4.2 Assumptions

Growth Forecasts

Growth forecasts are inherently uncertain and involve many assumptions. The Central Otago District is expected to continue to experience growth, and issues are expected not just from the growth in resident population, but more directly from the increase in peak visitor numbers.

Growth related work is largely limited to projects which are undertaken within the Low-Cost/Low Risk Improvements programme.

The forecasts for income from Development Contributions will vary if the growth that occurs is different to that forecast. In some cases the work in the Low-Cost/Low Risk Improvement program will need to be delivered before the growth component is collected. This results in the development contributions account being deficit. Council is changing the management process for development contributions to improve monitoring of the timing of work versus the timing of contribution collection.

Demand Forecasting

Demand forecasting is also inherently uncertain and involves many assumptions. Expectations regarding change in demand as a result of demographic change are based on robust information. Information regarding growth in visitor numbers is more uncertain as this is affected by global financial impacts. Data regarding visitor number is becoming more robust due to the use of cell phone information (Qrious). Council also has access to a range of tailored economic growth, demand and population statistics through Infometrics datasets.

Assumptions regarding demand changes as a result in change in land use are sensitive, and have a high degree of uncertainty associated with them. Management of changes in demand involves non-asset solutions, Low-Cost/Low Risk Improvement projects, changes to the renewal lives, and financial impacts from an increased asset base.

Climate Change

Council has commissioned a Climate Change Report from Bodeker Scientific which has been used to project possible climate change implications for Central Otago.

There are many possible futures regarding global climate. Exactly which one we follow will depend on many factors that are themselves unpredictable. As a result, there is no way to make a reliable prediction on what the future climate may look like. Projections have been made based on a set of assumptions. That set of assumptions, together with the simulated outcomes, is referred to as a scenario. Three scenarios were modelled, a best case, a worst case, and a middle scenario which are considered possible depending on the quantities of greenhouse gases emitted over the 21st century. The report provided outlines implications for the worst case and middle scenarios which are considered most likely.

For this study, a number of indices were sourced from the Expert Team on Climate Change Detection and Indices to quantify and communicate estimates of the impacts of climate change which would be of interest to Central Otago. These were compared to historic trends and modelled with a regional climate model to generate daily fields of temperature and precipitation at 5 km x 5 km resolution.

4.3 Political and Legal Assumptions

Government Policy Statement

Investment priorities for NZTA are set based on the Government Policy Statement (GPS), and the NZTA Investment and Revenue strategy Investment Assessment Framework. This plan has been prepared with consideration to the Draft 2018 GPS. Historically changes in Government have resulted in significant changes in priority for Government funding. The transportation priorities of the Labour/New Zealand First/Green Party Coalition Government are unknown at the time of preparing Councils 2018 Roading Program.

Changes in Legislation

This plan does not specifically provide for future changes in legislation.

“ The CODC’s AMP goes on to discuss negative effects associated with providing and operating the transportation system, such as:

- crashes on the road network
- noise
- light spill from street lighting
- dust from unsealed roads affecting air quality
- dust suppression (applying oil) and its negative environmental effects.

For each negative effect identified, there is also a description of how the council is tracking or managing it.

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