

Fantastic insights for Catchment Groups

Thriving Southland conducted independent research by Scarlatti to collect lessons from four Catchment Groups that successfully engaged their communities and achieved environmental outcomes. A more detailed report is available.

Being prepared, resourced and resilient

Behind-the-scenes is important work too

Project management: Having someone to handle the behind-the-scenes tasks means farmers and the group can focus on what they do best: hands-on, community-facing work that drives the project forward.

Extension: Early planning on how to spread your project's impact beyond the core group, and allocate funding.

Available support and resources

Catchment Group networks: Get connected! Try to find an existing network that helps link projects, builds capability, and provides advocacy support, or reach out to other groups yourself.

Funding: Funding gives you access to expertise and technology, making things happen on the ground.

Embrace challenges

Managing the regulatory burden: Changing regulations can create delays and frustrate those wanting to make a difference. While this is beyond the Catchment Groups' control, staying informed and raising awareness with those who can advocate for change is key.

Creating space for tricky conversations: Catchment Groups are in a position of influence and can create conversations, allowing farmers to gradually connect with science, practical solutions, and trust-building.

Engaging with local rūnanga: Building relationships takes time. Keep local rūnanga engaged in any way you can (invite them to events, involve them in the committee, etc), and start as early as possible.

Catchment group insights: check out the feedback from successful catchment groups at thrivingsouthland.co.nz/catchment-groups