

Do you work with Catchment Groups?

Thriving Southland's independent research by Scarlatti explored what helped four Southland Catchment Group's build stronger participation and deliver meaningful outcomes. We share what we discovered in this one-pager, and a more detailed report is available.

Project ownership is best in the hands of the community

Support: The most successful local initiatives and projects start and grow from within communities. It was found that the most successful relationships with Catchment Groups happened when those organisations didn't try and control, push for recognition or overshadow.

Respect that farmers drive real change: Support achieves the greatest impact – and recognition – when communities are enabled to lead with solutions that work for their land and water.

Back communities with more than just funding: Money is often the difference between an idea and action, but so is help with admin, resource sharing, capability building, and advocacy.

Farmers valued rural professionals who...

Keep science relatable: Farmers value practical insights, farmers, where science is connected to their daily practices when we communicate the data with them.

Make time for building relationships: Farmer's buy-in makes work more relevant and useful, especially if they are an active part of our process.

Take a whole-farm view: Prioritise solutions that fit farmers' business goals and financial realities.

Have the capability to deliver on time: Respect project timelines and follow through.

Advocate for the conditions that make progress possible

Push for smarter regulation: Those committed to making positive change are calling for a better regulatory environment that backs community-led progress.

Recognise the cost of bureaucracy: Overly complex or slow processes drain energy, trust, money, and time. Wherever possible, streamline requirements and speak up when red tape is getting in the way of practical actions.

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