



REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT (RPS)

The RPS sets the environmental, cultural and economic priorities for Southland's future.

City, district and regional plans must "give effect to", or implement, the vision in the RPS.

As Councils, working together in an integrated manner is essential to strengthen the region's communities, economy and environment for now and for the future.



COASTAL

Environment Southland 0800 768 845



The coastline is an important part of the Southland lifestyle and its environment has unique ecological values which need protecting for the future.

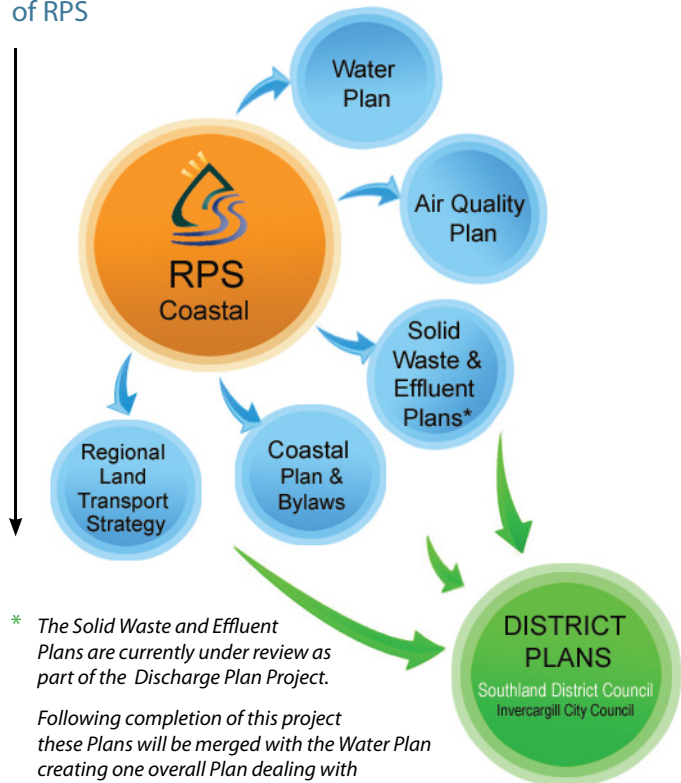
What people do on the land has major impacts on the health of the sea and its coast and the sea can also have serious effects on coastal settlements and property.

Issues

Some of the critical issues facing Southland's coastal environments are:

- Location, design and provision of infrastructure.
- Protection of heritage values.
- Defining 'inappropriate' coastal use and development.
- Conflict between marine users' access and coastal margin development.
- Increased coastal erosion and storm events.
- Disposal of hazardous substances/waste along coastlines.
- Potential impacts of vehicular, human or stock access.
- Lack of information about the coastal marine area.
- Threat from marine pests.

Implementation of RPS



Options

The following are possible approaches to address Southland's biodiversity issues:

- Investigate impacts of landuse activities on coastal areas.
- Develop policy to mitigate further damage from landuse activities.
- Develop policy to anticipate climate change risks to coast.
- Protect natural character and features, landscapes, heritage, and ecosystems.
- Integrate Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 and Fisheries Act 1996 into regional and district councils' coastal management responsibilities.

What do you think?

What are priority areas for action in our coastal environment?

What are your thoughts on coastal development versus the loss of natural character?

Should the Regional Policy Statement identify coastal areas appropriate for development?





DISTRICT PLAN

The Southland District Plan is the primary document that manages land use and development within the Southland District. The Plan is required to give effect to the Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

The Southland District's coastline is over 3,000km long, and its coastal environments extremely varied. The dynamic nature of the coastal environment gives rise to a number of specific coastal issues.



▶▶▶ COASTAL

Southland District Council 0800 732 732

Issues

Coastal issues that need to be considered as part of the District Plan review include:

- Increased levels of subdivision and development in coastal areas of the district.
- Impact of new development on coastal landscapes.
- Water, wastewater and roading issues associated with coastal development.
- The implications of climate change and sea level rise for low lying coastal areas, townships and communities.
- Recognising the significance of the coast to Maori.
- Public access to coastal areas.



Comments & Feedback

Please send your comments and feedback via email by 31 July 2009 to service@es.govt.nz or in hard copy to:

*Environment Southland
Private Bag 90116, Invercargill 9840.*

*Further information: www.es.govt.nz
and www.southlanddc.govt.nz or by
phoning either council.*

Options

Options for addressing these issues are:

- Consolidation of coastal development within existing coastal settlements (e.g Orepuki and Colac Bay) as opposed to allowing this development to occur in isolated pockets.
- Identifying coastal areas that are suitable for development and directing and encouraging growth in these areas.
- Identifying and protecting coastal areas that may not be suitable for development and discouraging development from these areas.
- Recognition and protection of outstanding coastal natural features and landscapes.
- Recognising the important role rural landuse activity plays in preserving significant coastal landscapes.
- The development and use of non-regulatory design and development guidelines.
- Recognising the importance of public access to coastal areas and maintaining and enhancing public access through resource consent processes.

What do you think?

Should significant parts of the coast be protected from further development?

