

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.

LANDSCAPES AND NATURAL FEATURES

Environment Southland 0800 768 845

Southland is made up of rolling hills, plains, mountains, river valleys, bush and coastline, many with unique features that give the province its character.

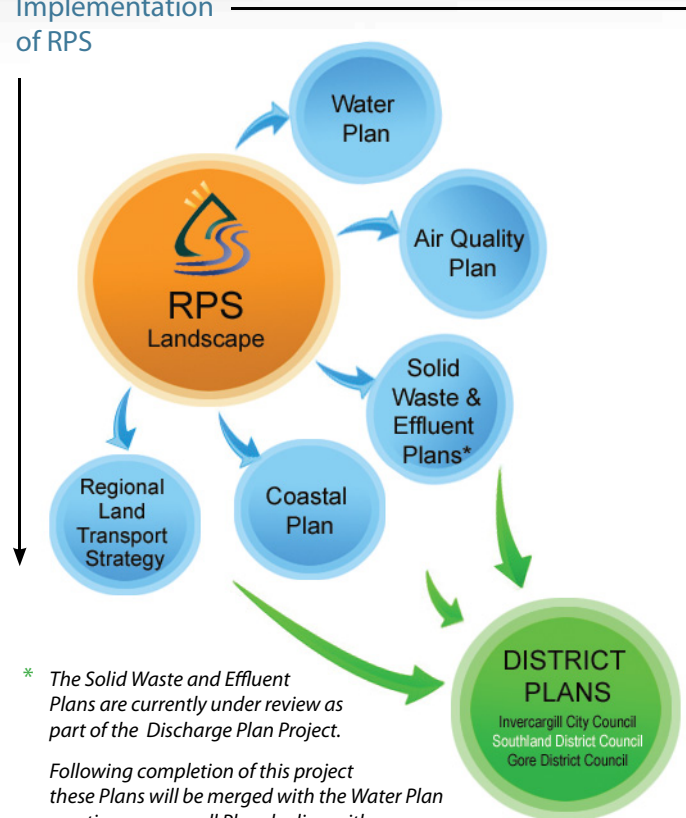
These landscapes need protecting from inappropriate development.

Issues

These are some of the critical landscape and natural feature issues facing Southland:

- Legislation changes requiring the management of important landscapes and natural features.
- New national policies on development.
- Lack of united approach by the Regional and District Councils for landscape protection.

Implementation of RPS



* The Solid Waste and Effluent Plans are currently under review as part of the Discharge Plan Project.

Following completion of this project these Plans will be merged with the Water Plan creating one overall Plan dealing with all discharges.

Options

These are some possible approaches for the Regional Policy Statement to address the region's landscape issues:

- The current regional/district approaches would remain.
- Limited Regional Policy authority with greater District Council leadership
- Greater Regional Policy authority with less District Council leadership
- Another approach, or a combination of approaches.

What do you think?

How should the RPS protect and manage important landscapes and natural features in Southland?

What methods should be used to achieve these aims? Rules or other methods including self-regulation, education and information, and economic incentives?





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).

There is a wide variety of landscapes located throughout the Southland District. Coastal, rural and mountain landscapes give parts of the district their own unique and distinctive character.



LANDSCAPES AND NATURAL FEATURES

Southland District Council 0800 732 732

Issues

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

- Increased levels of development in some parts of the district are having an impact on key landscapes.
- Particular hotspots, such as parts of the Southland coast and the Te Anau Basin, have seen significant subdivision and development growth.
- Impacts on landscape from the removal of native vegetation.
- Impact of mining activities, and landscape implications of significant increases in levels of gravel extraction.
- Inappropriate land management practices.
- Significant habitats being threatened by unsuitable activities.
- Legislation changes around natural features.
- Windfarm developments.



Options

Options for addressing some of these issues include:

- Detailed landscape assessments and studies.
- Stricter limits on land use in order to protect outstanding landscapes and features.
- Identifying areas that are suitable for development and directing and encouraging growth in these areas.
- Recognising the important role rural landuse activity plays in preserving and maintaining many of the district's significant landscapes.
- The development and use of non-regulatory design and development guidelines to maintain and enhance landscapes.

What do you think?

What significant landscapes in Southland need to be protected?

How should these areas be managed and protected?



Comments & Feedback

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

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