



**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.



# NATURAL HAZARDS

Environment Southland 0800 768 845

Because of Southland's long coastline and many rivers and streams, the province is susceptible to many natural hazards such as coastal erosion, storms and flooding.

Southland and in particular Fiordland also can expect earthquakes.

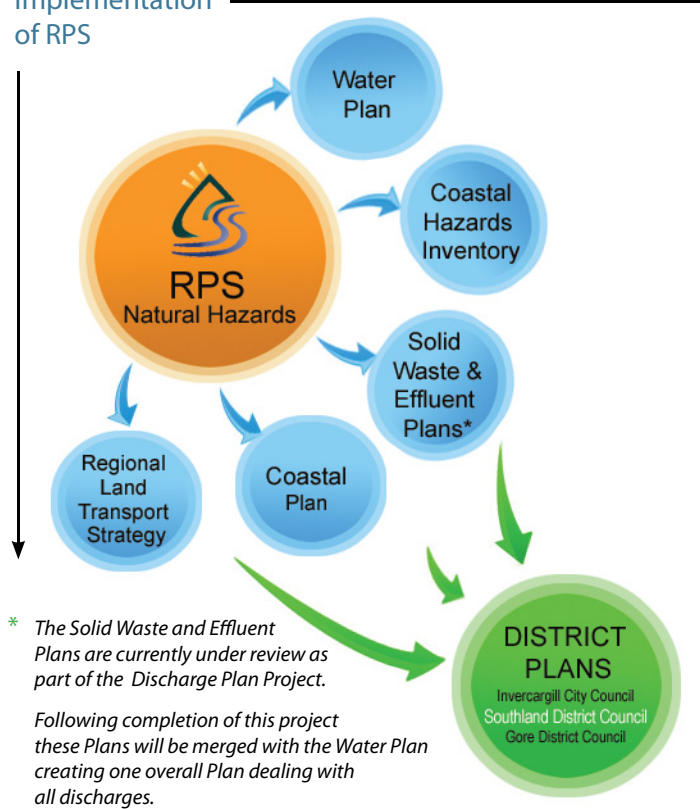
The need to ensure people's safety and reduce the effects of hazards must be managed.

## Issues

Some of the critical natural hazard issues facing Southland are:

- Intensity and frequency of natural hazards due to climate change.
- Need for better individual and community planning and preparation.
- Increasing development in flood hazard areas.
- Need for increased coordination between agencies.

## Implementation of RPS



## Options

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

- Develop interagency processes to ensure that all available information is used when considering new development, hazard planning, etc.
- Direct councils to act with all available (albeit often insufficient) information.
- Promote hazard risk assessments in the consent process to highlight at-risk areas.
- Ensure security of all hazard-mitigation structures (i.e. floodbanks).
- Direct planning documents to include greater emphasis of hazard risks.
- Create 'hazard maps' that detail hazard events and at-risk areas.

## What do you think?

What other aspects of natural hazard management in Southland should we consider?

Would it be helpful if the Regional Policy Statement identified priorities and specified plans for action for natural hazard response?





## 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 is susceptible to a number of natural hazards. Development pressure is occurring in some hazard prone areas including parts of the coastline and in areas subject to flooding.*



# ▶▶▶ NATURAL HAZARDS

Southland District Council 0800 732 732

## Issues

*Natural hazards issues relevant to the District Plan review include:*

- How to manage development pressure in areas susceptible to flooding, coastal erosion, geological hazards such as land instability, sea level rise and tsunami.
- Land use activities can increase natural hazard risks.
- Parts of the coastline are under threat from sea level rise and erosion – damage to roads and properties from these hazards is likely to increase in the future.
- Climate change has the potential to increase the frequency and intensity of some natural hazard events.
- Economic impact of natural hazards on individuals and communities.
- Public awareness of the potential for natural hazards - as time passes people forget past floods and other natural hazard events.



## Options

*Options for addressing these issues are:*

- A stronger regulatory stance to prevent or more tightly control future development on particularly hazard prone areas.
- Education and information about natural hazards and previous hazards events.
- Ensuring all hazard information relating to specific properties is clearly noted on LIMs.
- Requiring building platforms to be located on areas of higher ground on properties.
- Highlighting areas susceptible to natural hazards in District Planning maps.

## What do you think?

*Should natural hazards be highlighted more prominently in the District Plan?*

*How can Council best avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of natural hazard events?*

*Has the District Council dealt appropriately with recent developments in areas subject to natural hazard events?*



## Comments & Feedback

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

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and [www.southlanddc.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz) or by  
phoning either council.*