

Southland REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT AND DISTRICT PLAN *Reviews*

One Vision

Environment Southland and Southland District Council have decided to work together in the initial consultation stages of the review of the Regional Policy Statement and District Plan.

This is to avoid inconsistencies between the two plans, to engage with the public and key stakeholders in a focussed manner, to minimise duplication and to achieve time and cost efficiencies.

From this, 13 issues and options papers have been written and then summarised on a series of A4 cards.



What is a Regional Policy

A Regional Policy Statement (RPS) is a mandatory high-level overview that sets resource management directions for a region. It shows how a region will achieve integrated management of natural and physical resources.

Regional and district plans are directed by a RPS, as they sit below the RPS in the hierarchy of planning documents.

A RPS has two main roles:

- To address regionally significant issues in an integrated way
- To allocate responsibilities to regional, district and city councils

Regional and district plans must “give effect” to the policies within a RPS. Therefore the contents of a RPS will directly influence what councils do and how best to achieve a consistent approach to resource management.

The RPS can help achieve community outcomes and help prioritise the delivery of services through the Long Term Council Community Plan and annual plan processes.

The second-generation RPS will guide Southland planning documents for the next 10 years.

What is a District Plan

The District Plan sets out Southland District Council’s policies and objectives for managing the natural and physical resources of the Southland District.

The District Plan is the primary document that manages land use and development within the District.

It consists of maps, objectives, policies and rules and sets out which activities are permitted and which require resource consent.

Council is required to prepare a District Plan under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

The new District Plan will be the second generation District Plan since the RMA was enacted.

Under the RMA, the new District Plan must “give effect” to the policies of Environment Southland’s Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

This is one of the reasons why the two councils are working together – to ensure the plan is consistent with the RPS.

The second-generation Southland District Plan will guide the development of the District for the next 10 years and beyond.

