



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.



URBAN

Environment Southland 0800 768 845



Southland has many urban settlements, ranging in size from Invercargill with nearly 50,000 people down to villages of less than 20 houses.

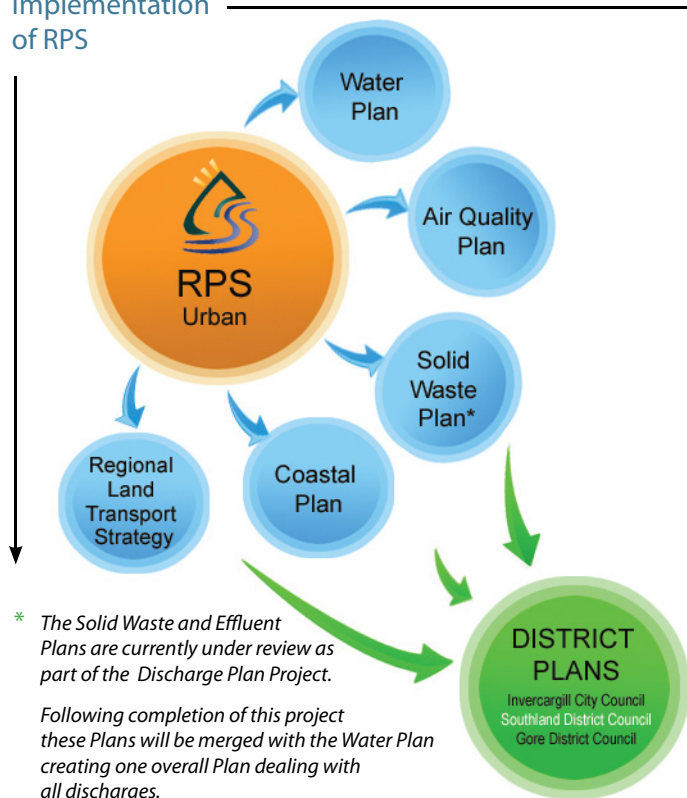
Concentration of dwellings, people and infrastructure means a concentration of environmental effects and these need to be considered.

Issues

Some of the critical issues facing Southland's urban environment are:

- Urban expansion and rural lifestyle development.
- The effect of land use practices on water and transportation.
- Onsite wastewater disposal in non-reticulated urban areas.
- Technological advancements.
- Aesthetic values.
- Need for sustainable development.
- Population growth/decline.
- Legislative requirements for infrastructure development.

Implementation of RPS



Options

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

- Strategically plan for urban development, land use patterns, areas of open space, and transport.
- Work with local government to plan, provide infrastructure and deliver services.
- Provide guidance to developers and individuals about building.
- Utilise new technologies to enhance urban environments.

What do you think?

What role should the Regional Policy Statement play with respect to issues of quality urban development?

Are there character neighbourhoods in Southland that need heritage protection, or at least some form of public recognition?

Should the Regional Policy Statement direct councils to deal with future pressures to Southland communities?





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 are more than 28 urban communities in Southland District, ranging in size from the three largest towns of Winton, Te Anau and Riverton, down to small settlements of less than 40 people.



▶▶▶ URBAN

Southland District Council 0800 732 732

Issues

Urban issues affecting Southland District are:

- Significant urban growth in some townships.
- Provision of infrastructure – water, wastewater, stormwater services and roading.
- Protecting cultural heritage.
- Urban development standards such as controls on height of buildings, density, noise, signage and yard requirements.
- Some smaller urban areas do not have reticulated services and rely on septic tank systems.
- Residential amenity issues and the quality of the urban built environment.



Options

Options suggested for the review of the District Plan are:

- Structure plans.
- Growth management strategies.
- Developing frameworks that provide direction to where future urban development and growth can occur.
- Consolidation of development within existing urban areas particularly where there is existing capacity.
- Providing for higher density development in growing townships.
- Development and use of non-regulatory design guidelines.
- Development of rules to preserve high-value productive rural land adjoining growing urban areas.

What do you think?

Should the Southland District Council take a more proactive approach to limiting urban sprawl in growth 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.*