



**ARA POUTAMA AOTEAROA THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:  
SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSED OTAGO REGIONAL  
POLICY STATEMENT**

**To:** Otago Regional Council  
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**Dunedin 9054**

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**Submitter:** Ara Poutama Aotearoa, the Department of Corrections  
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Ara Poutama Aotearoa, the Department of Corrections (“Ara Poutama” or “the Department”) makes the submissions on the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement (the “PORPS”) in the **attached** document.

The Department confirms it could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

The Department would like to be heard in support of its submission. If other submitters make a similar submission, the Department will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.



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**Andrea Millar – Manager, Resource Management and Land Management**

For and on behalf of Ara Poutama Aotearoa, the Department of Corrections

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2021

## **Introduction**

Ara Poutama Aotearoa, the Department of Corrections (“Ara Poutama” or “the Department”) is responsible under the Corrections Act 2004 for enforcing sentences and orders of the criminal court and the New Zealand parole board. In meeting this responsibility, the Department establishes and operates custodial and non-custodial corrections sites, monitors people in the care of the Department serving their sentences in the community and provides supported and transitional accommodation to assist the rehabilitation and/or reintegration of people back into the community.

The Department considers that its services enable people and communities to provide for their social and cultural well-being, and therefore those activities and services contribute to the sustainable management purpose of the RMA.

### **Custodial Corrections Facilities**

Custodial corrections facilities include prisons, and detention facilities and may include non-custodial transitional accommodation for people with high and complex needs, who have completed a prison sentence and are being supported and prepared for reintegration and transition back into the community. Non-custodial rehabilitation activities and programmes may also occur on site.

Within the Otago Region, the Department operates the Otago Corrections Facility, which is located at Narrowdale Road, Milburn. The site is zoned Rural in the Clutha District Plan, and is subject to designation D32A, with the Minister of Corrections being the Requiring Authority.

### **Non-Custodial Community Corrections Sites**

Non-custodial community corrections sites include service centres and community work facilities and are essential social infrastructure. Non-custodial services and their associated infrastructure play a valuable role in reducing reoffending. Community work helps offenders learn vital skills and to give back to their community, and in return the community benefits from improved amenities.

The service centres provide for probation, rehabilitation and reintegration services. Offenders report to probation officers as required by the courts or as conditions of parole. The Department’s staff also use service centres to undertake assessments and compile reports for the courts, police and probation officers. Service centres may also be used as administrative bases for staff involved in community-based activities. The overall activity is effectively one of an office where the generic activities involved are meetings and workshop type sessions, activities which are common in other office environments.

In addition to these service centres, the Department operates community work facilities. Community work is a sentence where offenders are required to undertake unpaid work for non-profit organisations and community projects. Offenders will report to a community work facility where they subsequently travel to their community work project under the supervision of a Community Work Supervisor. The community work facilities can be large sites with yard-based activities and large equipment and/or vehicle storage. Service centres and community work facilities may also be co-located on the same site.

Community corrections sites support offenders living in that community. The Department therefore looks to locate its sites in areas accessible to offenders, and near other supporting government agencies. Commonly, sites are therefore located in commercial or business areas, but may also be located in industrial areas, where large lots and accessibility suit the yard-based nature of some operations.

The Department operates the following non-custodial community corrections sites in the Otago region:

- Dunedin Central Community Corrections – 100 Lower Stuart Street, Dunedin.
- Dunedin South Community Corrections – 97 King Edward Street, South Dunedin.
- Oamaru Community Corrections – 10 Wear Street, Oamaru.
- South Otago Community Corrections – 62 Narrowdale Road, Milburn.
- Balclutha Community Corrections – 7 Renfew Street, Balclutha.
- Alexandra Community Corrections – 1 Dunorling Street, Alexandra.
- Queenstown Community Corrections – 12/204 Von House, Hawthorne Drive, Queenstown.

### **Supported and Transitional Accommodation**

The Department operates residential units in the community throughout New Zealand. Whilst there is a range of housing, rehabilitation, reintegration and support provided in these facilities (depending on the needs of the residents), generally the activity can be described as supported and/or transitional residential housing. This service provides housing and other support for some people in the Department's care to assist with their rehabilitation, transition and integration back into the community. This may be for people following their release from prison, but also those on bail or community-based sentences (such as home detention).

The Courts may sentence an offender to home detention as an alternative to imprisonment. Individuals on home detention serve a home-based sentence at a suitable and approved residence and are electronically monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is an increasingly common sentence for many individuals in the Department's care who otherwise would have received a short prison sentence for their offending (they can be sentenced to home detention from 14 days to one year). People on a home detention sentence are required to remain at a typical residential dwelling. Some people released from prison, may also be paroled on to a specific address where they receive support to reintegrate into the community.

Supported and transitional community accommodation units provide necessary facilities, such as sleeping, cooking, bathing and toilet facilities, which encompass a typical household living scenario; and a typical residential dwelling is utilised for such purposes. People living in transitional accommodation are not detained on site, the same as anyone else living in the community, except that some people are electronically monitored and/or supervised. In some instances, supervisory staff are present on-site to provide support on a 24 hour a day, seven day a week basis, but do not reside there. In other instances, supervisory staff will provide support on a part-time basis.

In summary, Ara Poutama is responsible for a range of supported and transitional accommodation activities, which vary in nature and scale, of all which fall within the ambit of a residential activity.

### **The Department's Submission on the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement**

The Department has a vested interest in the implications that the PORPS may have on the establishment and operation of custodial and non-custodial facilities, and transitional and supported accommodation. The Department's specific submissions on the PORPS are outlined in the following table.

## Submissions

PORPS Provision	Submission	Relief Sought (additions shown in <u>underline</u> , deletions shown in <del>strikethrough</del> )
<p>Part 1 – Introduction and General Provisions / Interpretation / Definitions – Definition of “Regionally Significant Infrastructure”</p>	<p><b>Oppose</b></p> <p>The Department seeks the inclusion of Otago Corrections Facility and community corrections activity in the definition of “Regionally Significant Infrastructure”.</p> <p>Regionally significant infrastructure should not be limited to transportation and network utility infrastructure and should also include essential social infrastructure.</p> <p>Otago Corrections Facility provides for the custodial detention of persons and community corrections activities provide support services for persons on community sentences under the Corrections Act 2004. “Community Corrections Activity” is defined in the National Planning Standards as: <i>the use of land and buildings for non-custodial services for safety, welfare and community purposes, including probation, rehabilitation and reintegration services, assessments, reporting, workshops and programmes, administration, and a meeting point for community works groups.</i></p> <p>Otago Corrections Facility and community corrections activities provide facilities and services which deliver important social and cultural benefits for people and communities. Those benefits are significant and comparable to other similar facilities that are referenced in the definition of “Regionally Significant Infrastructure”, including defence facilities.</p> <p>Defining these activities as “Regionally Significant Infrastructure”, would result in the relevant objectives and policies in Part 3 – Domains and Topics / Topics / EIT – Energy, Infrastructure, and Transport applying. Those objectives and policies are enabling and protective of such infrastructure, while at the same time requiring it minimises adverse effects on the environment. That policy framework is appropriate to apply to these activities given their significance and benefits.</p>	<p>1. Add Otago Corrections Facility and community corrections activity to the list of activities in the definition of “Regionally Significant Infrastructure” as follows:</p> <p><i>means:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>roads classified as being of regional importance in accordance with the One Network Road Classification,</i></li> <li>2. <i>electricity sub-transmission infrastructure,</i></li> <li>3. <i>renewable electricity generation facilities that connect with the local distribution network but not including renewable electricity generation facilities designed and operated principally for supplying a single premise or facility,</i></li> <li>4. <i>telecommunication and radiocommunication facilities,</i></li> <li>5. <i>facilities for public transport, including terminals and stations,</i></li> <li>6. <i>the following airports: Dunedin, Queenstown, Wanaka, Alexandra, Balclutha, Cromwell, Oamaru, Taieri,</i></li> <li>7. <i>navigation infrastructure associated with airports and commercial ports which are nationally or regionally significant,</i></li> <li>8. <i>defence facilities,</i></li> <li>9. <i>community drinking water abstraction, supply treatment and distribution infrastructure that provides no fewer than 25 households with drinking water for not less than 90 days each calendar year, and community water supply abstraction, treatment and distribution infrastructure (excluding delivery systems or infrastructure primarily deployed for the delivery of water for irrigation of land or rural agricultural drinking-water supplies),</i></li> <li>10. <i>community stormwater infrastructure,</i></li> </ol>

PORPS Provision	Submission	Relief Sought (additions shown in <u>underline</u> , deletions shown in <del>strikethrough</del> )
		<p>11. <i>wastewater and sewage collection, treatment and disposal infrastructure serving no fewer than 25 households, and</i></p> <p>12. <i>Otago Regional Council's hazard mitigation works including flood protection infrastructure and drainage schemes.</i></p> <p><u>13. Otago Corrections Facility and community corrections activity.</u></p> <p>2. Any consequential amendments required to give effect to this relief.</p>
<p>Part 1 – Introduction and General Provisions / Interpretation / Definitions – Definition of “Additional Infrastructure”</p>	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The Department requests the definition of “Additional Infrastructure” is retained.</p> <p>The definition of “Additional Infrastructure” is consistent with the wording provided for in the National Policy Statement for Urban Development (NPS-UD).</p> <p>The definition captures social infrastructure, such as supported and transitional housing, which is essential social infrastructure and plays a valuable role in building strong and resilient communities. They enable people and communities to provide for their social and cultural well-being to achieve the purpose of the RMA and give effect to the NPS-UD.</p>	<p>1. Retain the definition of “Additional Infrastructure”</p>
<p>Part 3 – Domains and Topics / Topics / EIT – Energy, Infrastructure, and Transport – Objective EIT-INF-O4</p>	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The Department requests that Objective EIT-INF-O4 is retained.</p> <p>Objective EIT-INF-O4 appropriately seeks efficient, effective, and resilient infrastructure enables the people and communities of Otago to provide for their social and cultural wellbeing, their health and safety, and supports sustainable economic development and growth within the region within environmental limits.</p> <p>It is appropriate that infrastructure that enables people and communities to provide for their social and cultural well-being to achieve the purpose of the RMA, including regionally significant essential social infrastructure such as the Otago Corrections Facility and community corrections activity.</p>	<p>1. Retain Objective EIT-INF-O4.</p>

PORPS Provision	Submission	Relief Sought (additions shown in <u>underline</u> , deletions shown in <del>strikethrough</del> )
Part 3 – Domains and Topics / Topics / EIT – Energy, Infrastructure, and Transport – Policy EIT-INF-P10	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The Department requests that Policy EIT-INF-P10 is retained.</p> <p>Policy EIT-INF-P10 appropriately requires decision making on the allocation or use of natural and physical resources take into account the needs of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure.</p> <p>It is appropriate that the allocation and use of natural and physical resources takes into account the continued operation, use, and development of regionally significant infrastructure to achieve the purpose of the RMA, including essential social infrastructure such as the Otago Corrections Facility and community corrections activity.</p>	1. Retain Policy EIT-INF-P10.
Part 3 – Domains and Topics / Topics / EIT – Energy, Infrastructure, and Transport – Policy EIT-INF-P12	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The Department requests that Policy EIT-INF-P12 is retained.</p> <p>Policy EIT-INF-P12 appropriately requires upgrades and development of regionally significant infrastructure is provided for, while ensuring it is designed and located as far as practicable to maintain functionality during natural hazards and is as far as practicable co-ordinated with long-term land use planning.</p> <p>It is appropriate that the upgrading and development of regionally significant infrastructure is provided for to achieve the purpose of the RMA, including essential social infrastructure such as the Otago Corrections Facility and community corrections activity.</p>	1. Retain Policy EIT-INF-P12.
Part 3 – Domains and Topics / Topics / EIT – Energy, Infrastructure, and Transport – Policy EIT-INF-P15	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The Department requests that Policy EIT-INF-P15 is retained.</p> <p>Policy EIT-INF-P15 appropriately requires the establishment of activities be avoided where it may result in reverse sensitivity effects on or compromise the functional or operational needs of regionally significant infrastructure.</p> <p>It is appropriate to protect the operation of regionally significant infrastructure from other activities to achieve the purpose of the RMA, including essential social infrastructure such as the Otago Corrections Facility and community corrections activity.</p>	1. Retain Policy EIT-INF-P15.

PORPS Provision	Submission	Relief Sought (additions shown in <u>underline</u> , deletions shown in <del>strikethrough</del> )
Part 3 – Domains and Topics / Topics / EIT – Energy, Infrastructure, and Transport – Policy EIT-INF-P17	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The Department requests that Policy EIT-INF-P17 is retained.</p> <p>Policy EIT-INF-P17 appropriately requires “Additional Infrastructure” required to service existing and expected urban growth demands to be provided for.</p> <p>“Additional Infrastructure” as defined in the PORPS includes social infrastructure, such as supported and transitional housing. It is appropriate to provide for such activities which are essential social infrastructure and play a valuable role in building strong and resilient communities. They enable people and communities to provide for their social and cultural well-being to achieve the purpose of the RMA and give effect to the NPS-UD.</p>	<p>1. Retain Policy EIT-INF-P17.</p>
Part 3 – Domains and Topics / Topics / UFD – Urban Form and Development – Objective UFD-O2	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>The Department requests that Objective UFD-O2 is retained.</p> <p>Objective UFD-O2 appropriately seeks that development of Otago’s urban areas improves housing choice and allows non-residential activities to meet the needs of communities in appropriate locations.</p> <p>It is appropriate that improved housing choice including supported and transitional accommodation, and non-residential activities such community corrections activities are provided for in appropriate locations in urban areas. Such activities are essential social infrastructure and enable people and communities to provide for their social and cultural well-being to achieve the purpose of the RMA and give effect to the NPS-UD.</p>	<p>1. Retain Objective UFD-O2.</p>

## RPS

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**From:** Maurice Dale <Maurice.Dale@boffamiskell.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 September 2021 2:57 p.m.  
**To:** RPS  
**Cc:** HURRELL, Philippa (WELLHO)  
**Subject:** Ara Poutama Department of Corrections - Submission on Proposed Otago RPS  
**Attachments:** Ara Poutama Department of Corrections - Submission on Proposed Otago RPS.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Submission - Central Government

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a submission from Ara Poutama Department of Corrections on the Proposed Otago RPS.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Kind regards

**Maurice Dale** | Planner | Principal

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