

UNDER **Resource Management Act 1991**

IN THE MATTER Proposed Regional Policy Statement

BETWEEN **Otago Regional Council**
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AND **David Anthony van der Zwet**
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Submitter 0011

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF DAVID ANTHONY VAN DER ZWET

My name David Anthony van der Zwet and I am a Teir 2 miner. I currently suction dredge mine on the Arrow River. My current suction dredging operation complies with the permitted activity rules for suction dredge mining in the current regional plan. Mining is an Established industry within the Otago region, and there are at least 150 mining and exploration permits throughout the region

My concern is that the proposed policy statement, RPS, is largely silent with respect to the extractive industry in Otago and does not give clear direction to create suitable rules for the extractive industry.

Measurable environmental outcomes have to be provided in the RPS, in its current form the RPS does not give any direction for suitable fit for purpose Regional and District Plans to follow.

The following objectives and policies need to be incorporated into the RPS.

Objective X.X

Sufficient land is managed and protected for economic production

Policy X.X.1

Manage activities in rural areas and support the region's economy and communities, by:

- a) Enabling primary production and other rural activities that support that production;
- b) Providing for mineral exploration, extraction and processing;

Policy X.X.2

To recognise the functional needs of mineral exploration, extraction and processing activities to locate where the resource exists.

Policy X.X.3

Manage adverse effects from the exploration, extraction and processing of minerals, by:

a) Giving preference to avoiding their location in the following:

- i. Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna in the coastal environment;
- ii. Outstanding natural character in the coastal environment;
- iii. Outstanding natural features and natural landscapes, including seascapes, in the coastal environment;
- iv. Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna beyond the coastal environment;
- v. Outstanding natural character in areas beyond the coastal environment;
- vi. Outstanding natural features and landscapes beyond the coastal environment;
- vii. Outstanding water bodies or wetlands;
- viii. Places or areas containing historic heritage of regional or national significance where the effects on that historic heritage cannot be avoided;

b) Where it is not practicable to avoid locating in the areas listed in a) above due to the functional needs of that activity, the activity shall:

- i. Avoid, remedy or mitigate, as necessary, adverse effects on values in order to maintain the outstanding or significant nature,
- ii. Consider first biological diversity offsetting, and then biological diversity compensation for residual adverse effects,
- iii. Consider environmental compensation if adverse effects on indigenous biological diversity, cannot practically be avoided, remedied or mitigated;
- iv. Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating adverse effects on other values including highly valued natural features, landscapes and seascapes in order to maintain their high values;
- v. Reducing unavoidable adverse effects by staging development for longer term activities and progressively rehabilitating the site, where possible.

With these Objectives and Policies being adopted into the RPS, Regional and District plans will then have the ability to formulate rules with respect to the extractive industry.

David Anthony van der Zwet
Submitter