

Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Otago - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I find the Proposed Regional Policy Statement?

The Proposed RPS is available on the council's website, or you can request a copy that can be mailed out.

The Proposed RPS is also available for viewing at ORC offices, public libraries and city and district council offices, throughout Otago.

2. What date do the submissions close?

Friday the 24th of July 2015 – 5pm.

3. Where do I send my submission?

You can make submissions in the following ways:

- Online www.orc.govt.nz
- Email to rps@orc.govt.nz
- Post to Freepost 497, Proposed RPS, Otago Regional Council, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054 (Or complete the submission form attached and freepost)
- Deliver to Otago Regional Council offices at:
70 Stafford Street, Dunedin
Dunorling Street, Alexandra

4. How do I write a submission?

Under the RMA, submissions must be in the "prescribed form", which is to be found in the Resource Management (Forms, Fees and Procedure) Regulations 2003. The submission form attached to the brochure follows this prescribed form. Even if you make your submission on a blank page, please provide the information included in the submission form attached to the brochure. For information, key information includes:

- Your name and details, for service of submitter (including contact person)
- Name of the proposed policy statement you are submitting on
- The specific provisions you are submitting on and whether you support or oppose the provision
- The decision that you would like ORC to make, including:
 - Any amendment of text you wish to be made

- The reason why you seek the decision
- Whether you wish to be heard by the hearing panel
- Your signature (unless the submission is electronic)
- Whether you could gain an advantage in trade competition through your submission

You can use the guidance document developed by MfE and available online:

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/everyday-guide-rma-making-submission-about-proposed-plan-or-plan-change>

5. What happens next, after submissions are received?

After submissions are received, Council prepares a summary of decisions requested, which is publicly notified. Any person representing a relevant aspect of the public interest, or having an interest in the proposed RPS greater than the general public may make a further submission on any decision requested.

After all submissions and further submissions are received, Council prepares an Officers' report and recommends amendments to the Proposed Regional Statement in light of the submissions received. This report is sent to all those who wish to present their submission in person to the Hearing Committee, and is placed on the ORC website.

The Hearing Committee listens to any submitter or further submitter wishing to be heard. They consider all evidence before them in making their recommendations to Council on any amendment to the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.

Council then makes its decision on the Regional Policy Statement, and releases the decision. Any person having lodged a submission or further submission can then appeal Council's decision to the Environment Court.

6. How can I make sure that my submission has been taken into account?

Your submission should appear in the summary of decisions requested which will be publicly notified once all submissions are received and processed. The Officers' report prepared by Council's staff considers any request that you have made.

You have the opportunity to be heard by the Hearing Committee, who makes recommendations to Council regarding any changes to the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.

7. Am I allowed to withdraw my submission?

Yes. This must be done in writing. If you do withdraw your submission, then be aware that Council will not be able to consider any matters you raised.

8. Will my submission and private details be publicly available?

Yes, this includes all your contact details. This information will be available on ORC website (which may make it searchable via the internet). Only under exceptional circumstances would this information not be made available, as this is a public process.

9. What does the box “wishes to be heard” mean?

If you tick the box “wishes to be heard”, you will be contacted by Council when hearings are organised, so you can present your submission to the hearing panel in person. You can change your mind about presenting your submission at any time before the hearing.

10. I have already sent comments on the RPS! Why do it again?

Earlier consultation on the RPS was informal and used to develop the proposed RPS. It does not provide the formal rights of a submission. Making a submission at this stage of the process allows you to:

- Be heard by the hearing panel, before they present their recommendations to Council,
- Appeal Council’s decisions, if you wish to do so.

11. I have sent comments on the consultation draft, and issues and options. Have those comments been received?

All previous comments on the Issues and Options consultation and consultation draft can be viewed here (<http://www.orc.govt.nz/Publications-and-Reports/Regional-Policies-and-Plans/Regional-Policy-Statement/Otago-Regional-Policy-Statement-Review/Otago-Regional-Policy-Statement-Review-Feedback/>). They have been used in preparing the Proposed RPS.

12. What is the difference between the RPS and the Long Term Plan?

The Regional Policy Statement and the Long Term Plan have very different functions:

- The Long Term Plan details the activities that will be undertaken by the ORC in the next 10 years, the budget requirements and tax implications of those activities. It deals with all Council services, including pest management, drainage schemes etc., and also the development of regional plans, and the processing of consent applications, for the management of water, air and the coast.

- The Regional Policy Statement drives resource management decisions made by city, district and regional councils in Otago, i.e. decisions on regional and district plans, consents and subdivisions.

As a result, the Regional Policy Statement has less direct impact on budget and overall council activities than the Long Term Plan, but will have more direct impacts on what activities are allowed in the region.

13. I have just lodged a submission on the Long Term Plan, why should I submit on the RPS?

As explained above, the Long Term Plan and Regional Policy Statement have two very different functions and results. They are prepared through two different processes, and submissions on the Long Term Plan cannot be considered as submissions to the Regional Policy Statement and vice versa.

14. Can my submission to the Long Term Plan be taken into account for the RPS?

No.