

Regional Policy Statement Review



May 2014

Introduction

What is the Regional Policy Statement (RPS)?

What does the RPS mean to you?

Why are we reviewing it?

What do we hope to achieve?

How can you provide feedback?

Otago Regional Policy Statement

WHAT IS THE RPS?

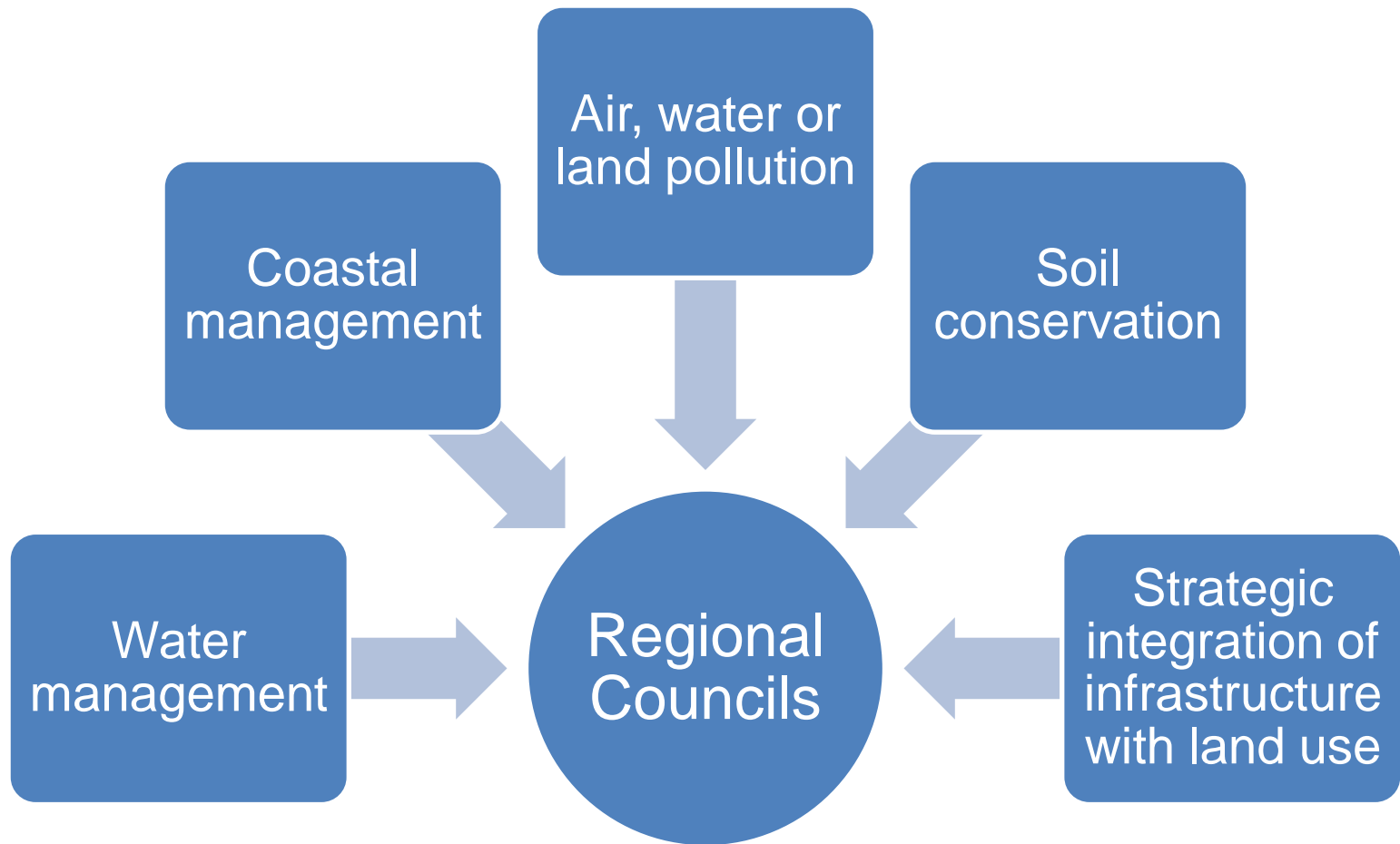
What is the RPS?

- The Resource Management Act (RMA) requires each regional council to prepare a *regional policy statement*
- The purpose of the RPS is to provide an overview of the region's resource management issues & facilitate an integrated approach to dealing with them
- The RPS establishes a directional framework for regional and district plans.

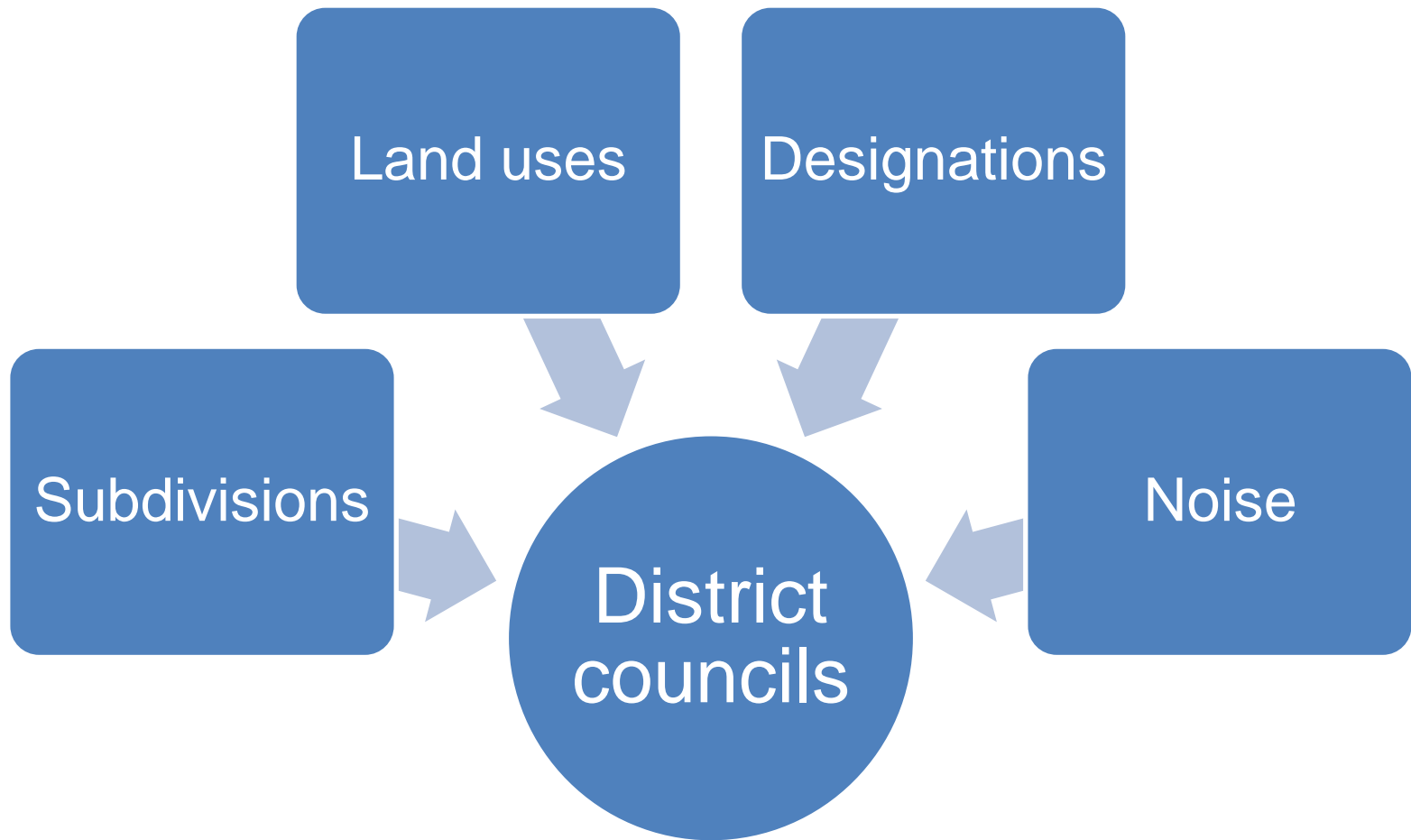
The Otago Region



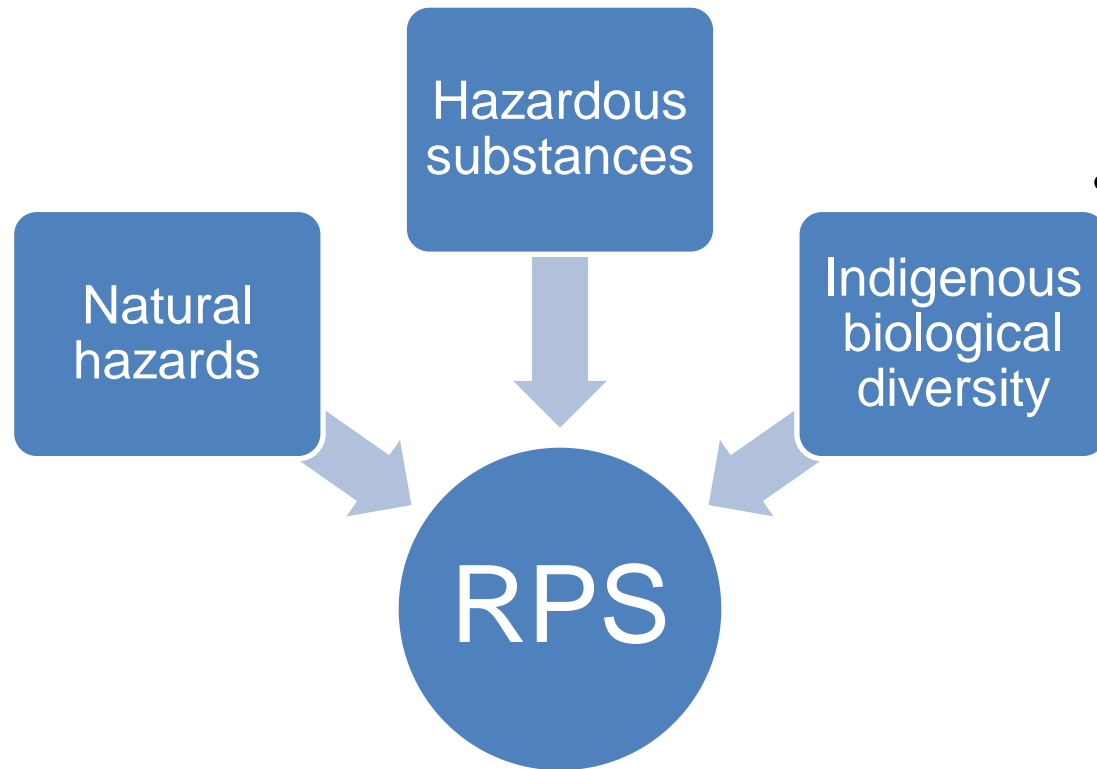
Functions of Regional Councils



Functions of District Councils



Functions to be allocated through the RPS



- These functions are not specifically assigned to either district or regional councils by the RMA and who does what needs to be clearly established through the RPS

What is the RPS?

Regionally Significant Issues can include:

- Widespread problems:
 - Problems that are relevant throughout a significant proportion of the region eg wilding tree species
- Cross boundary issues:
 - A problem or resource that crosses council boundaries and which requires an integrated response. eg significant landscapes do not stop at district boundaries
- Scarce resources:
 - Presence of a natural or physical resource that is scarce or unique and under potential threat. eg water, outstanding natural landscapes, or species found only in Otago

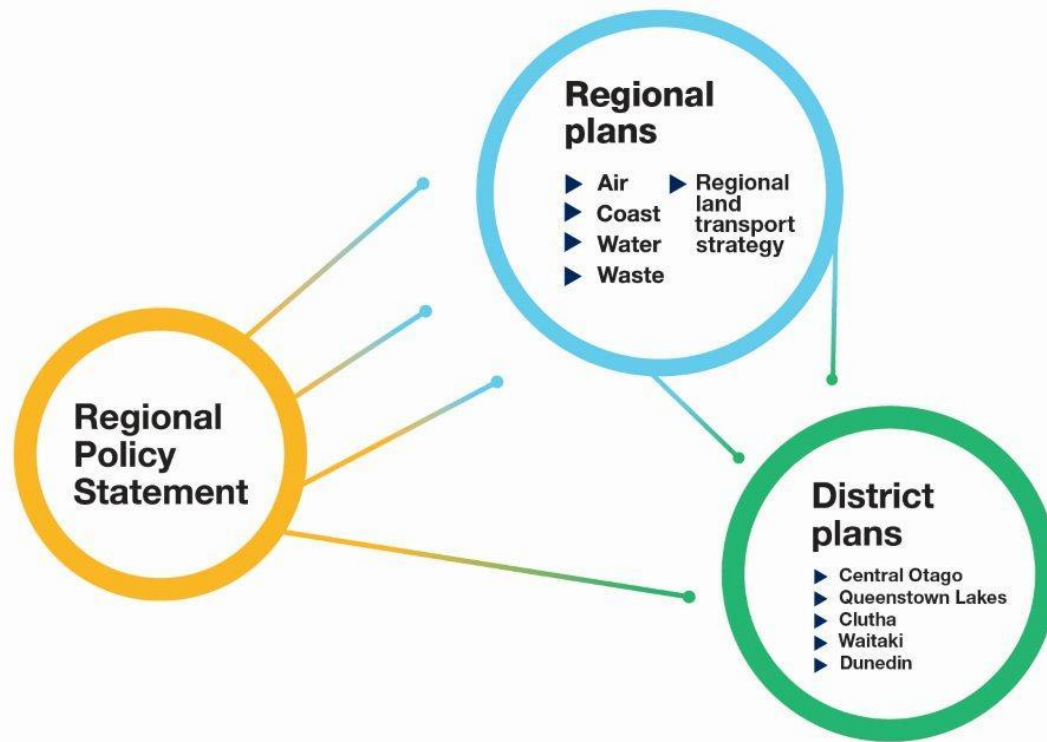
What is the RPS?

Regionally Significant Issues can include:

- Resource use conflict:
 - Managing the conflict between key resource uses eg the provision of strategic infrastructure, rural land uses and lifestyle development
- Cumulative impacts:
 - Significant cumulative effects arising from resource use eg impacts of land use on water quantity, landscape impacts of development
- Extreme localized effects:
 - When localised effects are so extreme as to devastate a local community. eg natural hazards

The RPS will influence what people and communities can and cannot do when using natural resources, subdividing, developing land or undertaking a land use activity.

WHAT DOES THE RPS MEAN TO YOU?



The role of regional policy statements under the hierarchy of planning documents established by the RMA

- Initially it was only required that local authorities were not inconsistent with regional policy statements
- Since the 2005 amendment to the RMA district and regional plans have to give effect to the RPS

WHY ARE WE REVIEWING IT?

Why are we reviewing it?

The RMA requires us to initiate a review every 10 years

There have been many changes since the RPS was developed:

- the RMA has been amended twelve times
- three new National Policy Statements & five National Environmental Standards have been developed
- the global economy has boomed, and crashed
- our population has increased
- traditional rural land uses have changed, and
- we are placing increasing pressure on our natural and physical resources

Or possibly more relevantly – what would you like to achieve?

**WHAT DO WE HOPE TO
ACHIEVE?**

What do we hope to achieve?

District & City councils have sought:

- Collaborative development with district councils
- Rapid development of the RPS to inform district plan review processes
- Focus on higher level direction, integrated management & coordination of activities across region
- District councils agreed to provide input to identify local variations/ issues

What do we hope to achieve?

- An enabling document
 - But clearer environmental bottom lines
- Direction on management of resources
 - but not trying to pick winners
- Integrated management
 - better coordination of activities between councils
- Efficiency across the region
 - greater adoption of common approaches between councils
- Build on regional commonalities
 - but recognizing unique variations in districts when necessary

What do we hope to achieve?

Better management of our resources to ensure

- Good natural resources
- Good quality of life
- Resilient communities

Looking after our resources

- Making more efficient use of natural resources
 - eg more collaborative community based approaches to managing our resources such as water
- Minimising our impact on the environment
 - eg providing stronger policy direction to ensure those who are polluting pay the costs, rather than the wider community
- Protecting our natural environment & ecosystems
 - eg Adoption of a consistent approach to identifying significant landscapes or areas of indigenous biodiversity – but actual mapping could be done at a district level
- Managing unavoidable effects
 - eg require offsetting of adverse effects on ecosystems when those effects cannot be avoided
- Recognising interconnections
 - eg setting objectives that reflect the complexity of the environment and ensure decision makers consider these connections



Maximising use and enjoyment of the environment

- Getting to enjoy our surroundings
 - eg promote the provision of public access to the natural environment and to lakes, rivers, wetlands and the coast in particular
- Otago's rich heritage
 - eg adopt a consistent approach to identify heritage features
- Providing quality and choice
 - eg Direct new urban areas to provide a range of housing choice, recreation and community facilities
- Making better urban areas
 - eg encourage development of blue and green corridors to link streams and reserves



Preparing for future challenges

- Adapting to climate change
 - eg providing direction, such as specific standards for sea level rise
- Dealing with natural hazards
 - eg avoiding development in hazard prone areas
- Stopping natural hazards getting worse
 - eg ensuring that planning decisions minimise the effects of development on natural hazard risk
- Fuel and energy pressures
 - eg promoting compact settlements and transport infrastructure that caters for different modes of transport, (including public transport, walking and cycling)



Location is everything

- Managing our infrastructure
 - eg enable the development of essential infrastructure where it provides better services even if it creates environmental impacts
- Using resources wisely
 - eg recognising the importance of high class soils for food production
- Encouraging compact development
 - eg prioritise development in locations where services and infrastructure already exist over those that require new or extended services and infrastructure
- Separating incompatible land uses
 - eg separating more sensitive populations from activities that adversely affect health



**HOW CAN YOU PROVIDE
FEEDBACK?**

How can you provide feedback?

Key questions we are seeking your opinion on:

- What in Otago is important to you?
- What are the major issues facing Otago?
- How should these issues should be addressed?

How can you provide feedback?

Fill in the freepost feedback form attached to the Otago's Future Issues and Options paper distributed throughout Otago.

Other options include:

Fill in the feedback form online: www.orc.govt.nz

Email us your feedback: rps@orc.govt.nz

We will use the feedback you provide us to help us form the consultative draft of the RPS.

You will be able to provide further comment at the consultation draft and notification stages.

Next Steps



- Our ability to meet this timeline will be dependant on a high level of collaboration with local councils
- Key dates estimated include:
 - Release consultation draft in September 2014
 - Notify proposed RPS December 2014 / Jan 2015



What path should we be on?