Otago Regional Council

Regional Policy Statement
Review

Consultation Draft
26 November 2014

Abbreviations

ORC	Otago Regional Council
RMA	Resource Management Act 1991
RPS	Regional Policy Statement

Chairpersons Foreword

To be inserted

PART A: Introduction

Overview

The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) puts forward a high level policy framework for sustainable integrated management of Otago's resources and identifies the regionally significant issues that must be addressed to implement that framework. It gives effect to requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The framework has been developed to leverage the best of the distinct life-style Otago has to offer: outstanding and wild environments, prosperity, abundant recreational opportunities, a sense of rich local history, self-sufficiency, and community pride. It seeks to provide for the values held by tangata whenua and the priorities expressed by the wider Otago community.

Continued prosperity and wellbeing is essential to ensuring the community is equipped to face the environmental, economic, cultural and social changes of the 21st century, and to provide opportunities for all people to realise their aspirations. A thriving and healthy natural environment is vital to sustaining wellbeing.

The Otago Region

Regional description and map to be inserted

RPS Framework

Three inter-related outcomes are sought in managing the region's resources:

- Otago has high quality natural resources and ecosystems
- Communities in Otago are resilient
- People are able to use and enjoy our natural and built environment

They provide the framework for sustainable, integrated management of resource use for us and for the generations that come after us - *Mo tatou, a mo ka uri a muri ake nei.*

These outcomes form the chapters of Part B, out of which fall the inter-related objectives and policies.

In summary:

1. Otago has high quality natural resources and ecosystems

Society relies heavily on the systems and services of the natural environment.

This chapter addresses our fundamental reliance on natural resources and ecosystem services to sustain us, our way of life, cultural identity and our economy: agriculture and tourism, Otago's biggest earners, both rely on having a great environment. It deals with the resources that are most important to us, and the inherent qualities of the natural environment that give it value beyond human use.

2. Communities in Otago are resilient

For the Otago community to thrive in the future, we need to ensure that we are prepared for effects of expected and unexpected change.

This chapter deals with our response to natural hazards, and resilience to future effects such as climate change.

3. People are able to use and enjoy our natural and built environment.

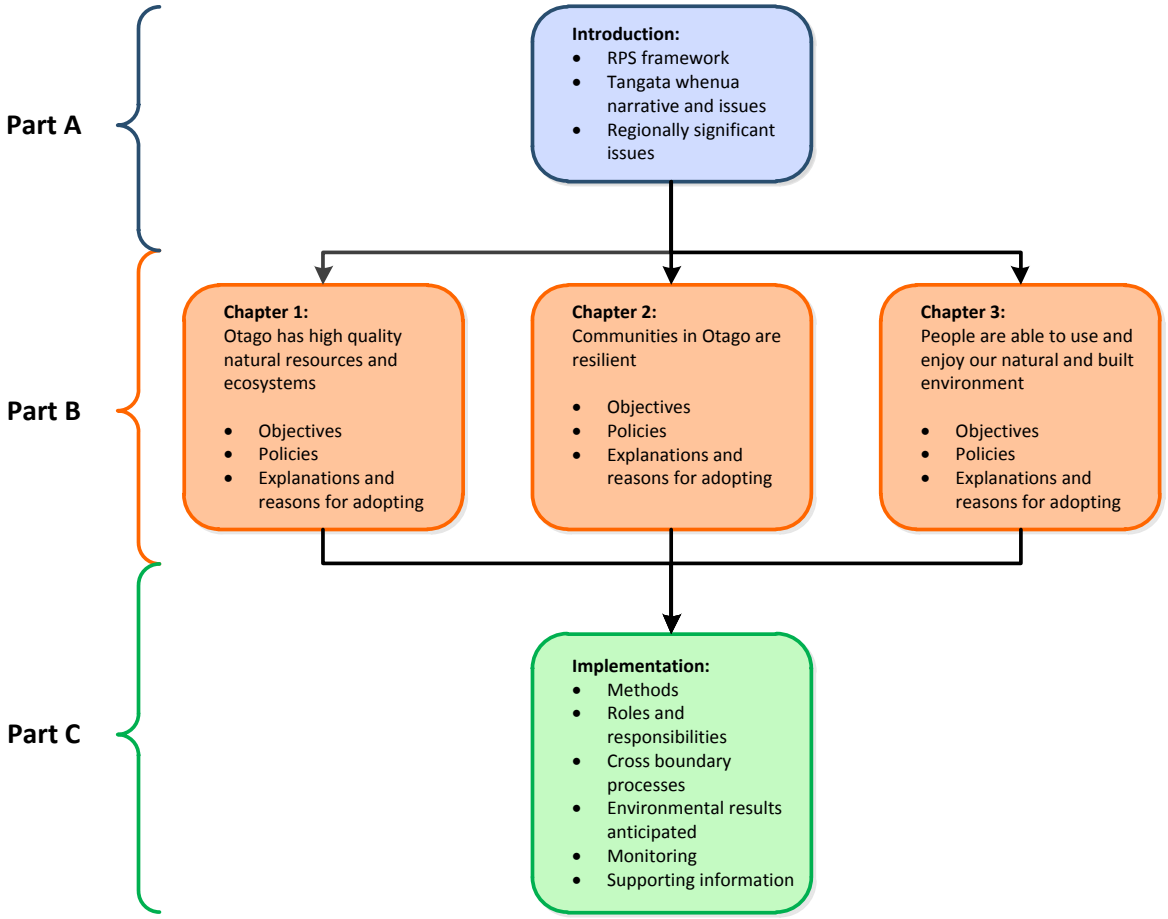
Our individual and community wellbeing is built on use and development of resources.

This chapter builds on the previous chapters by enabling people to use the natural and physical environment for enjoyment and making a living, while ensuring resources are sustained. It also deals with managing conflicting or incompatible uses, hazardous substances and waste.

The methods and schedules for giving effect to the objectives and policies are set out in Part C. The respective roles of the regional and local councils and the monitoring framework are also specified here.

The regionally significant issues are identified together with a table showing how these are addressed through the objectives and policies framework.

RPS Framework Diagram



Tangata Whenua Perspective

This section is to be written in consultation with the Manawhenua working group.

The section will cover:

1. A narrative discussion of tangata whenua relationships and values, including:
a) Who the tangata whenua are, their relationship to the Otago region, and the papatipu rūnaka who hold manawhenua over certain areas.
b) Discussion of the holistic approach to management implicit in ki uta ki tai, and the of interconnection of land and people.
c) The importance of customary practice and access to important places.
d) The right of tangata whenua to determine what is important to them, and the responsibility of authorities to be aware of the circumstances that might lead to concerns.
e) Important concepts to be taken into account.

2. Resource management issues of significance to tangata whenua.
3. Map.

The values and issues identified in this section will be reflected through the policies in the RPS, and supported by additional information in the schedules section, providing detail on Statutory Acknowledgement areas and particular interests that may be affected by planning or consenting decisions (Schedules 5 and 6). There will also be a glossary of terms included in Part D.

Regionally Significant Issues

This section describes the regionally significant issues for Otago, and links to the relevant objectives and policies.

1. Otago has high quality natural resources and ecosystems

Otago's distinctive and iconic landscapes, high quality natural resources, and natural heritage are a cornerstone of Otago's identity, and are essential to the well-being of the community. Our natural and physical resources are not only valuable for their amenity, quality and usability, but are also an anchor for social and spiritual values, our heritage and link to our ancestry.

Economic prosperity fundamentally relies on wise use of the resources we have. Otago economic wellbeing is inextricably linked with the quality of its rural environments. Forestry, farming and mining all form significant parts of our Gross Domestic Product. However, the quality of those resources, and the many ecosystem services they provide us, are vulnerable to a number of threats.

Issue 1: Cumulative effects of human activities on natural resources

Most threats to Otago's natural resources result from the cumulative effect of human activities. Hence, air quality issues mostly result from the cumulative emissions of domestic solid fuel burners in winter, and water quality degradation, from the cumulative effect of land use on Otago's rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

Those cumulative effects can only be reduced to acceptable levels if people take responsibility for their effects on the environment, actively seek to reduce them, and take pride in their environmental stewardship.

Issue 2: Managing complex interconnections between natural resources

The environment is a dynamic and complex system, which cannot be reflected perfectly in the allocation of roles and responsibilities under the RMA.

Achieving the environmental objectives for Otago therefore requires coordinated efforts from decision-makers, at the local, regional and national levels. Such coordination needs to go beyond the realm of resource management, and cut across all other interventions that can affect Otago's natural and physical resources.

Issue 3: Incorporating tangata whenua values in resource management decisions

Tangata whenua have ancestral and contemporary relationships with Otago's landscape and resources, and take responsibility for exercising kaitiakitanga of Otago's natural resources and ecosystems. Those relationships need to be recognised and provided for in the management of Otago's natural and physical resources, so they continue and are passed on to future generations.

Issue 4: Spreading of pest species

Pest species in Otago have significant adverse effects on many values, including the conservation of indigenous species, outstanding landscapes, water yield in dry catchments, and the productive use of land.

Pest control requires a multi-facetted approach, and resource management decisions can contribute to reducing the risk of pest spread.

2. Communities in Otago are resilient

New Zealand, as a country, has been shaped by powerful geological forces, which are still at play, and have the potential to dramatically affect Otago's communities. Other human-induced changes and shocks can affect the communities.

Individuals and communities need to be prepared to any future changes.

Issue 5: Vulnerability to natural hazards

Otago has been, and will be, subject to a number of natural events which have the potential to injure people, and damage property or infrastructure, such as floods, landslides or earthquakes. Those events are beyond our control, but their consequences on people's health, safety, and well-being can be mitigated. Despite taking the best precautions, shocks do occur, whether naturally or from human activities. Regulation can only mitigate effects and contingency plans must be in place to address residual risk.

It is important to ensure that our communities are located in safe areas, that they have continued access to essential services, and that Otago's most hazard prone areas are used for appropriate activities.

Issue 6: Adapting to climate change

Climate change is expected to have significant effects on Otago's communities, in particular in coastal areas. It will bring higher sea levels and increase the frequency and severity of natural hazards. Flood protection and stormwater systems may not be able to cope with heavier rain and we may not have enough water stored to cope with droughts.

Despite a degree of uncertainty around the scale of these effects we need to prepare for climate change now to ensure that Otago's communities will not suffer in the future.

Issue 7: Responding to fuel and energy pressures

While rich in renewable electricity generation potential, Otago is an importer of fossil fuels, and constraints on energy and fuel supply could affect the way we live. The finite nature of fossil fuels could lead to more volatile fuel prices, which may result in higher food prices, increase transport costs and reduce mobility.

It is possible to design Otago's settlements in a way that decreases our dependency on transport and energy, and therefore increase our resilience to those changes.

3. People are able to use and enjoy the natural environment

Otago's natural resources support a number of values, which are all important to our communities: they support the primary production sector, which is a significant part to Otago's economy, but they also support important recreational and amenity values, heritage and cultural values, and aesthetic values.

Issue 8: Managing uses and values of natural resources to avoid conflict

We need to provide for ways to use our natural and physical resources to the best advantage, while providing for all the values which are important to the community.

This requires that our use of resources is as efficient as possible, and that we allow as much flexibility as possible to optimise resource allocation at all times.

Issue 9: Minimising nuisance from incompatible activities

The acceptability of adverse effects can depend on the surrounding activities: for example, industrial activities often cause nuisance which makes them incompatible with residential developments. In some contexts, locating sensitive activities close to important infrastructure has the potential to limit the ability to operate or develop that infrastructure as expected.

Sound planning often requires separation of those activities, so all the activities on which our communities depend on can be carried out in appropriate environments.

Issue 10: Locationally constrained activities

Some developments can only occur in specific places, and some of their adverse effects may be unavoidable. For example, windfarms often need to be located on ridges, and can have significant impact on landscape values.

We need to be clear about where such adverse effects can be accommodated, and where they cannot because of other outstanding values

Issue 11: Adapting urban form to the carrying capacity of the environment

The environmental effects of urban communities are often mitigated by community infrastructure, such as wastewater, or waste disposal facilities. This infrastructure is not always affordable to rural communities.

It is essential to ensure good coordination between community growth and the development of infrastructure to ensure that settlements are sustainable, and to ensure the health and safety of all people in Otago.

Issue 12: Making better urban areas

Urban design has a strong influence on people's lifestyle and their quality of life. In the past, urban development has not always had regard to the natural environment. Likewise, streets have been built to accommodate cars, but may not provide for cycling and walking as well.

Our towns need to contribute to people's well-being, through a better integration of ecosystems into urban areas, better walking and cycling facilities, and vibrant town centres. This could improve urban amenity, reduce the use of energy and enhance indigenous biodiversity.

Issue 13: Ensuring access to the natural environment

Access to the natural environment, in particular to mountains, coastal areas, rivers, lakes, or wetlands, is highly valued by everyone. Subdivision and development can limit access to people's places of enjoyment, affect the way of life for tangata whenua, or provide opportunities to enhance this access. We need to make all possible efforts, and take advantage of every opportunity, to ensure public access to Otago's natural environment.

PART B.1 Otago has high quality natural resources and ecosystems

Otago's economy is reliant on its natural resources. Our modern lifestyles and quality of life depend on the quality of our natural resources. Beyond that, our natural resources and our environment define our identity, as individuals and as communities. Some of our natural resources are unique, either to New Zealand or to Otago.

It is critical to protect the quality of Otago's natural resources, and to identify resources which we want to preserve for future generations.

Objective 1.1 Otago natural resources are of high quality, and support healthy ecosystems and a good quality of life

Some of the many values of our natural resources may conflict with each other: we depend on water for food production, yet we want water for healthy rivers; our health partly depends on the quality of the air we breathe, but our fireplaces are the main source of air pollution in Otago towns. A good quality resource management framework balances all the values attached to our resources, and identifies those which need protection.

Freshwater

Policy 1.1.1 Managing for freshwater values

Manage the allocation and use of freshwater, and the effects of land use on water, in order to:

a) Ensure Otago rivers, lakes, wetlands, and aquifers support healthy ecosystems; and
b) Retain the range of habitats provided by freshwater; and
c) Allow for the economic use of freshwater within a sustainable range; and
d) Maintain good water quality, or enhance it where it has been degraded; and
e) Maintain good water quality in the coastal marine area, or enhance it; and
f) Maintain or enhance coastal values; and
g) Retain the quality and reliability of existing drinking water supplies; and
h) Protect tangata whenua values; and
i) Provide for other cultural values; and
j) Protect important recreation values; and
k) Avoid the spreading of pest species.

Policy 1.1.2 Identifying outstanding water bodies

Identify outstanding water bodies using the following criteria:

a) A high degree of naturalness;
b) Exceptional aesthetic or landscape values;
c) Significant tangata whenua cultural values;
d) Significant recreational values;
e) Significant ecological values.

Policy 1.1.3 Protecting outstanding water bodies

Protect the values of outstanding water bodies, by:

a) Avoiding significant adverse effects on those values, including cumulative effects; and
b) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects on those values.

Policy 1.1.4 Protecting important hydrological ecosystem services

Protect important hydrological services provided by wetlands or tussock grasslands, including:

a) The regulation of flows and flood risk mitigation; and
b) The positive impact of wetlands on water quality; and
c) The role of tussock grasslands for sustaining water yields in Otago's dry areas.

Policy 1.1.5 Recognising the values supported by river morphology

Recognise the importance of river morphology, and associated natural processes, for:

a) The habitat values supported by rivers; and
b) The rivers' aesthetic and amenity values; and
c) The operation and maintenance of structures and infrastructure on, over or on the margins of the beds of rivers.

Coastal water

Policy 1.1.6 Managing for important coastal water values

Manage the use of coastal water, in order to:

a) Ensure the coast supports healthy ecosystems; and
b) Retain the range of habitats provided by the coastal marine area; and
c) Allow for the economic use of coastal water within a sustainable range; and
d) Maintain water quality, or enhance it where it has been degraded; and
e) Maintain or enhance coastal values; and
f) Protect tangata whenua values; and
g) Provide for other cultural values; and
h) Protect important recreation values; and
i) Avoid the spreading of pest species.

Air

Policy 1.1.7 Managing for air values

Manage discharges to air, and the effects of land use and air, in order to:

a) Maintain good ambient air quality that supports human health, or enhance it where it has been degraded; and
b) Ensure air quality supports important tangata whenua values; and
c) Ensure air quality supports important cultural and amenity values.

Soil

Policy 1.1.8 Managing the values of soil

Manage the effects of land use on soil, in order to:

a) Support the biological activity in soils; and
b) Retain the soil biodiversity; and
c) Retain soil's function in the cycling of nutrients, water, energy and other elements through the biosphere; and
d) Maintain or enhance soil's function as an environmental buffer or filter for the effects of human activities; and
e) Provide for food production; and
f) Retain soil's ability to act as a repository for heritage objects; and
g) Maintain the social and cultural values associated with soil.

Policy 1.1.9 Identifying highly valued soil resources

Identify highly valued soil resources by using the following criteria:

a) Degree of versatility for primary production; or
b) Significance in providing environmental buffering services; or
c) Degree of rarity.

Policy 1.1.10 Protecting highly valued soil resources

Protect soils which are highly valued for their rarity or for any significant environmental buffering services they provide.

Biodiversity

Policy 1.1.11 Recognising ecosystem services

Recognise the range of ecosystem services associated with natural resources in order to maintain or enhance their contribution to Otago regional wellbeing.

Interface between land, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and coast

Policy 1.1.12 Managing riparian margins

Protect, maintain or restore wetlands, and riparian margins along the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes, in order to:

a) Maintain or enhance ecosystem health, both in-stream and along the margins; and
b) Support the maintenance or enhancement of indigenous biodiversity and contribute to ecological corridors; and
c) Reduce risks of erosion; and
d) Recognise the effects of climate change;
e) Maintain or enhance the natural functioning of the adjacent sea, river or lake, including the formation of wetland areas, and estuaries in the coastal environment; and
f) Maintain or enhance tangata whenua and public access to rivers, lakes, wetlands and the coastal environment; and
g) Contribute to the achievement of a good quality urban environment, as detailed in Schedule 1.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 1.2 Otago's natural resources are managed in an integrated way

Our resources are interconnected, and the use of one can affect the values of the other: for example, vegetation cover on land impacts on water quality, erosion risk, and catchment hydrology. Similarly, the water quality in our rivers affects the health of the coastal ecosystems. Accordingly, the management of natural resources needs to be integrated.

Policy 1.2.1 Applying a relevant spatial scale

Apply a relevant spatial scale for the management of natural resources, which recognises the interconnections and dependencies between natural resources and processes, including by:

a) Adopting a catchment-based approach to freshwater management, that:
    i. Provides for the values of interconnected water bodies and coastal water; and
    ii. Recognises the linkages between water quality, flows, water levels, and the natural functioning of rivers, lakes, wetlands, and aquifers, and the ecosystems they support; and
b) Recognising that the physical form and function of a resource or value may extend beyond the immediate area of interest.

Policy 1.2.2 Integrating land use management with water management

Integrate land use management with freshwater management by:

a) Setting freshwater objectives that take into account:
    i The contribution of water in landscapes, seascapes or natural features identified as outstanding or highly valued by tangata whenua or local communities; and
    ii The interactions between freshwater and land-based ecosystems; and
b) Setting land use controls that are consistent with the achievement of those freshwater objectives; and
c) Coordinating the management of rivers' morphology and hydrology; and
d) Setting processes between territorial authorities and the regional council, to ensure consistency between land use control and water management.

Policy 1.2.3 Integrating land use management with the management of air discharges

Integrate land use management with the management of discharges to air by:

a) Setting emission standards that take into account the foreseeable demographic changes, and their effects on cumulative emissions; and
b) Setting land use controls that are consistent with the achievement of air quality standards and emissions standards, and the potential for nuisance effects; and
c) Setting collaborative processes between territorial authorities and the regional council, to ensure consistency between land use control and the management of discharges to air.

Policy 1.2.4 Identifying the extent of the coastal environment

Identify the landward extent of the coastal environment using the following criteria:

a) Area or landform dominated by coastal vegetation or habitat of indigenous coastal species; and
b) Landforms and the margins of landforms where active coastal processes, influences or qualities are significant ; and
c) Any landscapes or features, including coastal escarpments, which contribute to the natural character, visual quality or amenity values of the coast; and
d) Any physical resource or built form, including infrastructure, that has modified the coastal environment and retain a connection to or derive character from connection to the coast; and
e) The relationship of tangata whenua with the coastal environment.

Policy 1.2.5 Integrating for the management of the coastal environment

Integrate land use management or control of activities in the coastal environment by:

a) Recognising coastal objectives that take into account:
    i. The natural character of the coast; and
    ii. The contribution of water in the coastal environment to landscapes and seascapes; and
    iii. Natural features and landscapes identified as outstanding or highly valued by tangata whenua or local communities; and
    iv. The interactions between coastal and land-based ecosystems; and
b) Setting land use controls that are consistent with the achievement of coastal water quality standards, and the potential for nuisance effects; and
c) Setting collaborative processes between territorial authorities and the regional council, to ensure consistency between land use control and the management of discharges to the coastal marine area.

Policy 1.2.6 Integrating for the protection of indigenous biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem health

Integrate controls to achieve healthy ecosystems, by:

a) Having regard to indigenous biodiversity values; and
b) Managing land use, having regard to freshwater and coastal water ecosystem values; and
c) Managing water, having regard to land-based and water ecosystem values; and
d) Setting clear roles and responsibilities for the management of wetlands and indigenous biodiversity.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 1.3 Otago's significant and highly-valued natural resources are identified, and protected or enhanced

Otago features unique landscapes, natural features and areas of indigenous biodiversity which are nationally or regionally important. Giving these features a higher level of protection ensures they will be retained, while consumptive use of resources will be directed to areas where adverse effects are more acceptable.

Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna

Policy 1.3.1 Identifying areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna

Identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, using the following criteria:

a) Representativeness;
b) Rarity;
c) Wetlands;
d) Diversity;
e) Distinctiveness;
f) Ecological context;

as detailed in Schedule 2.

Policy 1.3.2 Protecting significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna

Protect and enhance the values of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, by:

a) Avoiding adverse effects on the values which contribute to the significance of the area or habitat; and
b) Assessing the significance of adverse effects in accordance with the criteria in Schedule 3; and
c) Encouraging the planting of naturally occurring locally sourced indigenous species and the creation of habitats for indigenous species; and
d) Recognising particular positive contributions of exotic species to those values, and providing for their ongoing contribution; and
e) Minimising the adverse effects of pests animal and plants on those values.

Policy 1.3.3 Maintaining or enhancing indigenous biodiversity

Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity values by:

a) Minimising adverse effects of subdivision, use and development on:
    i. Areas of predominantly indigenous vegetation; and

ii. Areas that support indigenous biodiversity values by buffering or linking existing ecosystems; and
iii. Natural resources and processes that support indigenous biodiversity; and
iv. Habitats of indigenous species that are important for recreational, commercial, or customary or cultural purposes; and
v. Biodiversity significant to tangata whenua: and

b) Promoting the restoration, rehabilitation or creation of habitats when:
i. It encourages the natural regeneration of indigenous species; or
ii. It buffers or links ecosystems, habitats and areas of significance that contribute to ecological corridors; or
iii. It maintains or enhances the provision of significant indigenous ecosystem services; and

c) Avoiding, or reducing as far as practicable, the spread of pest species.

Outstanding natural features, landscapes and seascapes

Policy 1.3.4 Identifying outstanding natural features, landscapes and seascapes

Identify outstanding natural features, landscapes and seascapes, using the following factors:

a) Biophysical attributes, including:
i. Natural science factors;
ii. The presence of water;
iii. Vegetation (native and exotic); and

b) Sensory attributes, including:
i. Legibility or expressiveness;
ii. Aesthetic values;
iii. Transient values, including nature's sounds;
iv. Wild or scenic values; and

c) Associative attributes, including:
i. Whether the values are shared and recognised;
ii. Cultural and spiritual values for tangata whenua;
iii. Historical and heritage associations.

as detailed in Schedule 4.

Policy 1.3.5 Protecting outstanding natural features, landscapes, and seascapes

Protect, enhance and restore the values of outstanding natural features, landscapes and seascapes, by:

a) Avoiding adverse effects on those values which contribute to the significance of the natural feature, landscape or seascape; and
b) Assessing the significance of adverse effects in accordance with the criteria in Schedule 3; and
c) Minimising the adverse effects of pests animal and plants on those values; and
d) Encouraging enhancement or restoration to increase their naturalness.

Other special amenity landscapes

Policy 1.3.6 Identifying special amenity landscapes

Identify special amenity landscapes or natural features which are valued as matters of national, regional or local importance for their contribution to the amenity or quality of the environment, using criteria in Schedule 4.

Policy 1.3.7 Protecting special amenity landscapes

Protect or enhance the values of special amenity landscapes by:

a) Avoiding significant adverse effects and avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects on those values which contribute to the special amenity of the landscape; and
b) Assessing the significance of adverse effects on special amenity landscapes in accordance with the criteria in Schedule 3; and
c) Recognising particular positive contributions of exotic species to those values, and providing for their ongoing contribution; and
d) Minimising the adverse effects of pests animal and plants on those values; and
e) Encouraging enhancement to increase their special amenity values.

Areas of high and outstanding natural character in the coastal environment

Policy 1.3.8 Identifying areas of high and outstanding natural character in the coastal environment

Identify areas of high and outstanding natural character in the coastal environment, using the following criteria:

a) Natural elements, processes and patterns; or
b) Biophysical, ecological, geological and geomorphological aspects; or
c) Natural landforms such as headlands, peninsulas, cliffs, dunes, wetlands, estuaries, reefs, freshwater springs and surf breaks; or
d) The natural movement of water and sediment; or
e) The natural darkness of the night sky; or
f) Places or areas that are wild or scenic; or;
g) A range of natural character from pristine to modified; or;
h) Experiential attributes, including the sounds and smell of the sea; and their context or setting.

Policy 1.3.9 Preserving or enhancing the natural character of the coastal environment

Preserve or enhance the natural character of the coastal environment, by:

a) Avoiding adverse effects on those values which contribute to the outstanding natural character of an area; and

b) Avoiding significant adverse effects and avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects on those values which contribute to the natural character of other areas of the coastal environment; and
c) Assessing the significance of adverse effects on the natural character of the coastal environment in accordance with the criteria in Schedule 3; and
d) Recognising the particular contribution of exotic species to the natural character of the coastal environment, and providing for their ongoing contribution; and
e) Promoting the restoration or rehabilitation of the natural character of the coastal environment in areas where the environment has been degraded; and
f) Encouraging the establishment of indigenous riparian vegetation; and
g) Managing pest animals and plants in areas where this will maintain enhance or restore the natural character of the coastal environment.

Policy 1.3.10 Recognising surf breaks of national importance

Recognise the following Otago surf breaks as being of national significance:
a) Karitane;
b) Papatowai;
c) The Spit;
d) Whareakeake;
and protect them from the adverse effects of:
    i. Activities on the natural and physical processes contributing to the creation of those surf breaks; and
    ii. Access to, or use and enjoyment of the surf breaks.

Natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins

Policy 1.3.11 Preserving and enhancing natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins

Preserve and enhance the natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins by:
a) Maintaining, enhancing or restoring riparian margins; and
b) Identifying and protecting any significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna; and
c) Identifying and protecting any outstanding natural features, landscapes and seascapes, the values of which depend on any river, lake or wetland; and
d) Promoting the restoration or rehabilitation of their natural character; and
e) Maintaining, enhancing or restoring their natural functioning ; and
f) Encouraging the establishment of indigenous riparian vegetation.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 1.4 Tangata whenua are able to maintain or deepen their relationship with the natural environment

The mythology, traditions, culture and life of tangata whenua are intricately linked with the natural environment of the region. The RMA requires their values are recognised and provided for.

Policy 1.4.1 Identifying sites of cultural significance to tangata whenua

Identify sites of cultural significance to tangata whenua, using one or more of the following criteria, as detailed in Schedule 5.

Policy 1.4.2 Protecting sites of cultural significance to tangata whenua

Avoid adverse effects on the values of the sites of cultural significance to tangata whenua.

Policy 1.4.3 Providing for tangata whenua values

Reflect tangata whenua values in resource management planning documents and resource consent decisions, by:

a) Setting consultative decision-making processes with tangata whenua; and
b) Taking into account any relevant iwi resource management document; and
c) Require that consent authorities, as part of consent applications, forward summaries of resource consent applications to the runanga representing tangata whenua; and
d) Have regard to tangata whenua interests in the statutory acknowledgement areas listed in Schedule 6; and
e) Have regard to the tangata whenua interests that may be affected by planning and consent decisions detailed in Schedule 5.

Methods for this section are under development

PART B.2 Communities in Otago are resilient

Otago is subject to a number of natural hazards and to the effects of climate change, and relies heavily on energy, imported goods, and fossil fuels.

Consequently, the way in which we live is at risk from expected and unexpected shocks, disruptions and changes. These events have the potential to affect our economic, cultural, social and environmental wellbeing.

Ensuring Otago's communities operate in a manner that maximises our ability to prepare for such events will help us minimise the effects of any disruptions we face.

Objective 2.1 Risk that natural hazards pose to Otago's communities is reduced

Natural hazards can injure or kill people and damage property, create stress and fear, affect the operation of infrastructure, and impact on the economy.

Natural hazards can also be exacerbated. For example, an increase in the extent of hard surfaces increases stormwater runoff, which can exacerbate flooding and erosion. Accordingly, natural hazards should be identified and managed appropriately, so that the risk that they pose is reduced as much as possible.

Policy 2.1.1 Identifying natural hazards

Identify natural hazards that may adversely affect Otago's communities.

Policy 2.1.2 Assessing natural hazard likelihood

Assess the likelihood of natural hazard events occurring, having regard to a planning timeframe of no less than 100 years including by considering:

a) Hazard type and characteristics;
b) Multiple and cascading hazards;
c) Cumulative effects;
d) Effects of climate change;
e) Exacerbating factors;
f) Residual risk.

Policy 2.1.3 Assessing natural hazard consequence

Assess the consequences of natural hazard events including by considering:

a) Nature of land use and development;

b) Impact on individual and community health and safety;
c) Impact on social, cultural and economic wellbeing;
d) Individual and community vulnerability;
e) Infrastructure and property damage, including access and services;
f) Risk reduction and mitigation measures;
g) Lifeline utilities and essential services;
h) Implications for civil defence agencies and emergency services;
i) Exacerbating factors;
j) Residual risk.

Policy 2.1.4 Assessing and managing natural hazard risk

Assess and manage natural hazard risk, and the current and future community's tolerance of that risk, having considered the consequences and likelihood of natural hazard events.

Policy 2.1.5 Managing natural hazard risk in subdivision, use and development decisions

Assess the suitability of any zoning, rezoning or activity with regard to:
a) Risk identified; and,
b) Any proposed measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate those risks, including relocation and recovery methods; and,
c) The long term viability of those measures in b above; and,
d) Flow-on effects on the risk of other uses; and,
e) The availability of, or ability to provide, services including waste and water infrastructure, lifeline utilities and emergency services, during and after a natural hazard event.

Policy 2.1.6 Reducing existing natural hazard risk

Reduce natural hazard risk as low as reasonably practicable wherever possible, including by:
a) Encouraging zoning, activities or changes in land use that reduce risk or community vulnerability; and
b) Considering the use of exit strategies where the level of risk is too high for the community; and
c) Encouraging designs that enable relocation or recovery from natural hazard events; and
d) Relocating lifeline utilities to areas of reduced risk where appropriate and practicable; and
e) Enabling development, upgrade, maintenance and operation of lifeline utilities; and
f) Re-assessing natural hazard risk, and tolerance of risk following significant natural hazard events

Policy 2.1.7 Avoiding new intolerable natural hazard risk

Manage activities so that natural hazard risk does not increase beyond tolerable levels, including by:
a) Avoiding zoning, activities or changes in land use which increase risk beyond tolerable levels; and
b) Encouraging designs that enable relocation or recovery from natural hazard events,.

Policy 2.1.8 Applying a precautionary Approach

Apply a precautionary approach to the identification, assessment and management of natural hazard risk, where the risk is uncertain or unknown, but potentially significant or irreversible.

Policy 2.1.9 Protecting, features and systems that provide hazard mitigation

Protect, enhance or restore natural, modified or built features and systems, which contribute to mitigating the effects of natural hazards.

Policy 2.1.10 Mitigating natural hazards

Give preference to risk management approaches that reduce the need for hard mitigation structures and similar engineering interventions and enable hard protection structures only when:

a) The risk cannot be reasonably avoided; and
b) There are no reasonable alternatives; and
c) It would not result in an increase in risk, including displacement of risk off-site; and
d) The adverse effects can be adequately managed; and
e) It is viable in the reasonably foreseeable long term; and
f) It is not located on public land unless there is significant public or environmental benefit in doing so.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 2.2 Otago's communities are prepared for shock events and system disruptions

A number of disruptions could affect Otago's communities, some of which are expected and some of which could happen without warning. For example, a flood could exceed the design capacity of the flood bank system.

Further, the way in which disruptions and shock can occur may be rapid or gradual. Therefore, the more Otago's communities are prepared for and able to respond to these events, the better they will be able to cope and recover when they do happen.

Policy 2.2.1 Using an adaptive management approach

Use adaptive management techniques as appropriate, or require their use where necessary, in order to:

a) Manage uncertainty of information or effects; or
b) Allow for improvements in understanding; or
c) Allow the ability to respond to changes; or
d) Reduce risk or effects over time; or
e) Ease transitions; or
f) Improve long-term management.

Policy 2.2.2 Enhancing community resilience

Enhance each community's ability to prepare for, adapt to and cope with the effects of risks, shocks, and disruptive events.

Policy 2.2.3 Protecting the level of service of hazard mitigation, lifeline utilities and essential services

Protect the level of service provided by any natural or engineered hazard mitigation measure, lifeline utility or essential service, including by:

a) Avoiding significant adverse effects, including reverse sensitivity effects, on the level of service of the feature, structure or service; and
b) Maintaining the ability to access the feature, structure or service for maintenance and operational purposes; and
c) Enabling any other activity that is required to maintain this level of service subject to meeting environmental baselines.

Policy 2.2.4 Requiring lifeline utilities and essential services design

Require that lifeline utilities and essential services:

a) Are designed to maintain their integrity and function, as far as practicable, during and after natural hazard events; and
b) Recognise the operational co-dependence on other lifeline utilities and essential services.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 2.3 Otago's communities are prepared for and able to adapt to the effects of climate change

In Otago, climate change will bring higher sea levels and increase the frequency and severity of climate related natural hazards. Flood mitigation and stormwater systems may not be able to cope with heavier rain and we may not have enough water stored to cope with the expected increase in droughts. On the other hand there may be benefits from higher temperatures. The potential adverse impacts of climate change on Otago should be considered and planned for so that they can be reduced.

Policy 2.3.1 Adapting to climate change

Ensure Otago's people and communities are able to adapt to the effects of climate change by:

a) Taking into account the effects of climate change over no less than 100 years, including, by
    i. Using a predicted sea level rise of 1 metre by 2115, relative to 1990 mean sea level; and
    ii. Beyond 2115, adding an additional 10 mm per year; and
b) Using the most up-to-date and relevant climate change information available, for climate change effects other than sea level rise; and
c) Enabling any activity that reduces or mitigates the effects of climate change, so long as the achievement of environmental objectives is not compromised; and
d) Applying a precautionary approach in the consideration of the effects of climate change, where there is scientific uncertainty, but potentially significant or irreversible effects.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 2.4 Energy supplies are secure and sustainable

Otago is an importer of fossil fuels and constraints on energy and fuel supply affect the way we live. For example, more volatile fuel prices may result in higher food prices, increase transport costs and reduce mobility. By increasing our use of renewable electricity and reducing reliance on fossil fuels we can help Otago to have more secure and sustainable energy supplies.

Renewable electricity supply

Policy 2.4.1 Benefiting from renewable electricity generation and transmission

Enable the development, upgrade, maintenance and operation of renewable electricity generation and transmission activities, at different scales and from different sources, when:

a) It maintains or increases the security of electricity supply at a local, regional, or national level; or
b) It replaces non-renewable energy sources.

Policy 2.4.2 Managing adverse effects from renewable electricity generation and transmission

Minimise adverse effects from renewable electricity generation or transmission activities, by:

a) Giving preference to the avoidance of adverse effects when reasonably practicable; and
b) Requiring adequate remediation or mitigation of the adverse effects that cannot be avoided; and
c) Requiring all residual adverse effects to be adequately offset.

Policy 2.4.3 Managing locationally-constrained renewable electricity generation and transmission activities

Enable the development of renewable electricity generation and transmission activities, in areas supporting resources identified as matters of national importance or highly valued, when those activities:

a) Need to locate in the proposed area; and
b) Are nationally or regionally significant; or
c) Increase the ability of communities to respond and adapt to emergencies; and
d) All unavoidable adverse effects from the development, maintenance or operation of the infrastructure are appropriately remedied or mitigated.

Policy 2.4.4 Using existing renewable electricity generation structures and facilities

Give preference to the use of existing structures or facilities to increase the region's renewable electricity generation capacity over developing new structures in new locations.

Policy 2.4.5 Protecting existing renewable electricity generation activities

Protect the generation output of nationally or regionally significant renewable electricity generation activities, by:

a) Avoiding significant adverse effects, including reverse sensitivity effects, on those activities; and
b) Avoiding any other adverse effects, or remedying or mitigating them adequately where avoidance is not possible; and
c) Taking into account the needs of nationally and regionally significant electricity generation activities when allocating natural resources.

Policy 2.4.6 Protecting electricity transmission activities

Protect electricity transmission activities by:

a) Avoiding significant adverse effects, including reverse sensitivity effects, on electricity transmission activities; and
b) Avoiding any other adverse effects on electricity transmission activities, or remedying or mitigating them appropriately where avoidance is not possible.

Fossil Fuel Supply

Policy 2.4.7 Managing adverse effects from extraction of gas and other fossil fuels

Manage the adverse effects from the exploration or extraction of gas and other fossil fuels by:

a) Avoiding the actual and potential adverse effects from the exploration or extraction of gas and other fossil fuels, on:
    i. Significant ecosystem values; and
    ii. The health and safety of the community; and
    iii. Significant landscapes and seascapes and other coastal values
b) Avoiding any other adverse effects, or remedying or mitigating them appropriately when avoidance is not possible.

Policy 2.4.8 Assessing adverse effects from extraction of gas and other fossil fuels

Apply a precautionary approach when assessing the actual and potential adverse effects from the exploration and extraction of gas and other fossil fuels, where the risk is uncertain or unknown, but potentially significant or irreversible.

Energy demand

Policy 2.4.9 Reducing reliance on fossil fuels

Reduce Otago's communities' reliance on fossil fuels by:

a) Ensuring that urban areas offer transport infrastructure which:

i. Places a high priority on walking; cycling; and public transport where appropriate; and
ii. Maximises pedestrian connectivity; and
iii. Provides for public transport where appropriate; and
iv. Integrates roading, cycling and walking networks, and the land uses they serve; and

b) Encouraging the use of alternative technologies that have the potential to decrease reliance on fossil fuels is enabled; and
c) Encouraging the use of passive solar gain is maximised.

Policy 2.4.10 Promoting energy efficiency

Promote energy efficiency and conservation.

Methods for this section are under development

PART B.3 People are able to use and enjoy Otago's natural and built environment

The use of natural and physical resources underpins economic and community activity in Otago. However due to the dynamic and highly interconnected nature of the environment the sustainable management of our resources requires consideration of the adverse effects of resource use on the environment and on other resource users.

Objective 3.1 Positive effects of resource use on the natural environment are maximised and negative effects are avoided or minimised.

Any use of natural or physical resources has the potential to adversely affect the quality of the environment. It is important to recognise and provide for the use of those resources, while ensuring that their impact on the quality of those resources is acceptable.

Water

Policy 3.1.1 Managing effect of subdivision and development on water

Manage subdivisions and developments in a way that:

a) Ensures the reasonable foreseeable needs of the community and existing water users for drinking water can be satisfactorily met; and
b) Minimises the adverse effects of an increase in impervious areas; and
c) Minimises adverse effects on:
    i. Freshwater ecosystem values; and
    ii. The natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins.

Policy 3.1.2 Managing land use change and catchment yield

Manage the adverse effects of land use change on water yield by:

a) Avoiding any significant reduction in water yield in dry catchments by:
    i. Identifying dry catchments that are vulnerable to water yield changes; and
    ii. Avoiding any extension of forestry in such catchments; and
    iii. Controlling wilding trees; and
b) Addressing the effects of tussock grassland conversion on flooding risks and catchment yields.

Policy 3.1.3 Discharging to water

Manage the adverse effects of discharges to water, by:

a) Avoiding discharges that are objectionable or offensive; and
b) Enabling discharges which meet environmental baseline requirements; and
c) Giving preference to discharges to land.

Soil

Policy 3.1.4 Avoiding of soil erosion

Avoid significant soil erosion resulting from the use of land, and as far as practicable remedy or mitigate significant soil erosion where it has occurred, having particular regard to maintaining the vegetative cover of erosion prone land.

Policy 3.1.5 Protecting soil quality

Protect soil quality by:

a) Minimising the accumulation of chemicals in soil, including through inappropriate application of fertiliser or other discharge to land, that:
    i. May reduce the suitability of the soil resource for food production; or
    ii. Have potential adverse effects on human or animal health; or
    iii. May reduce the range of future uses of the soil resource; or
    iv. Soil ecology; or
b) Minimising the physical degradation of soil by activities, including:
    i. Disturbance; and
    ii. Compaction; and
    iii. Destruction; and
    iv. Removal or translocation of topsoil; and
    v. Over-watering.

Extraction of Alluvial Material & Sand

Policy 3.1.6 Extracting alluvial materials and sand

Manage extraction of alluvial materials and sand by:

a) Giving preference to land-based extraction; and
b) Recognising that the extraction of alluvial material or sand from the beds of rivers or lakes, or in the coastal marine area, may contribute to reducing flood risk
c) Minimising adverse effects of extraction, including from:
    i. River form and function; and
    ii. Water quality; and
    iii. Aquatic, river and riparian ecosystem values; and
    iv. The natural character of the coastal environment or waterbodies and their margins; and

v. Significant values of tangata whenua; and
vi. Important recreational and amenity values; and
vii. The spread of pest species.

Air

Policy 3.1.7 Discharging to air

Avoid discharges to air which:
a) Are objectionable in terms of tangata whenua values; or
b) Are objectionable in terms of other cultural or amenity values; or
c) Have significant adverse effects on human health and ecosystems.

Policy 3.1.8 Applying emission standards on domestic fuel burners

Apply emission standards to domestic fuel burners, in order to achieve ambient air quality that supports good human health while ensuring homes in Otago have adequate heating.

Policy 3.1.9 Managing emissions from new developments in at risk areas

Require use of low or no-emission heating systems in new subdivisions and developments in areas where there is:
a) Poor air quality; or
b) Risk of poor air quality given the local climatic, geographical and demographic context.

Policy 3.1.10 Promoting innovative solutions

Enable the adoption of innovative solutions for air quality, including by promoting the development and adoption of new technologies that reduce individual or cumulative emissions to air.

Policy 3.1.11 Avoiding introduction and spread of pest plants and animals

Give preference to avoiding the introduction or spread of pest plants and animals and otherwise adequately remedy or mitigate their adverse effects.

Policy 3.1.12 Avoiding adverse effects of hazardous substances

Avoid actual or potential adverse effects from the discharge, use, storage or disposal of hazardous substances in areas of high risk or sensitivity, including the following locations:
a) Community drinking water protection areas, or within proximity to a community drinking water supply such that there is a no risk of contamination of that drinking water source; or
b) Identified aquifers, where there is risk of contamination; or
c) Within the coastal marine area and in the beds of lakes and rivers; or

d) Within any area identified as being sensitive to the potential effects of hazardous substances, including but not limited to, sites of significance to tangata whenua such as wāhi tapu, urupā, or customary food gathering areas, institutions and residential areas; or
e) Areas subject to intolerable natural hazard risk.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 3.2 Resources are used efficiently and in a way that minimises conflict

Many of the resources we rely on for wellbeing and economic activity finite and under pressure from different uses. Inappropriate resource use can limit its availability for other activities, restrict access to resources and create conflict between activities. Adverse effects of activities may be direct, indirect or cumulative. Diverse approaches may be required to deal with the diversity of effects.

Policy 3.2.1 Maximising benefits

Give preference to activities and solutions that maximise the positive benefits of resource allocation and use, including those that enhance:

a) Environmental values; or
b) Tangata whenua values; or
c) Other cultural values; or
d) Social wellbeing, including public health and safety; or
e) Community resilience.

Policy 3.2.2 Requiring efficient resource use

Require that the subdivision, use and development of natural and physical resources are undertaken in a manner, and at a rate, which is efficient with regard to its purpose, so that it:

a) Minimises conflict with other resource uses; and
b) Minimises the generation of waste and discharges.

Policy 3.2.3 Minimising conflicts between water uses and users

Minimise conflicts between water uses and users by:

a) Requiring the efficient use of water; and
b) Encouraging the development of water management groups that maximise the use of water by collectively coordinating the take and use of water; and
c) Enabling the development or upgrade of infrastructure that increases efficient use, or reduces cumulative contaminant discharges to water.

Policy 3.2.4 Managing cumulative effects

Manage the cumulative effects of activities on Otago's natural resources by:

a) Requiring the efficient use of natural resources; and
b) Enabling the development of community solutions, including infrastructure development, where this will minimise the community's cumulative impact; and
c) Requiring the use of best environmental management practices; and
d) Managing urban growth in a way that minimises/reduces the environmental impact of the whole community.

Policy 3.2.5 Providing for activities that generate adverse effects

Manage the use and development of land and discharges to the environment to:

a) Avoid significant adverse impacts on human health or amenity by reducing exposure to activities that may generate adverse effects; and
b) Regulate activities that use or discharge noxious or dangerous substances to control off site effects that may be adverse to human health or safety; and
c) Recognise and providing for the operation and development of activities that have the potential to generate adverse effects, including industrial and rural productive activities.

Policy 3.2.6 Minimising reverse sensitivity

Minimise reverse sensitivity effects by:

a) Managing new subdivision, use and development so that incompatible land uses are separated; and
b) Setting standards appropriate for the planned land use activities; and
c) Requiring adverse effect mitigation where necessary.

Policy 3.2.7 Reducing unavoidable adverse effects

Reduce unavoidable adverse effects of activities by:

a) Staging development for longer term activities; and
b) Progressively rehabilitating the site where possible.

Policy 3.2.8 Providing for offsetting

Provide for the offsetting of adverse effects when those adverse effects cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated while ensuring that the offsetting measures:

a) Are provided onsite where possible; and
b) Provide a benefit of the same nature.

Policy 3.2.9 Requiring adoption of best environmental management practices

Require the adoption of best environmental management practices and new technologies that minimise the adverse effects of subdivision, use and development on:

a) The availability of natural resources for other uses; and
b) The ecosystem, tangata whenua, cultural and social values supported by those resources.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 3.3 Tangata whenua values are able to be expressed in the use and development of ancestral lands

The use and recognition of sites of significance to tangata whenua is integral to their ability to exercise kaitiaki in Otago and is enshrined in the principles of the Resource Management Act. More consistent recognition of matters of importance to tangata whenua will enhance their economic, social and cultural well-being.

Policy 3.3.1 Enabling use of ancestral land

Provide for the ongoing use and development of marae and papakāinga when undertaken by tangata whenua on their ancestral land.

Policy 3.3.2 Enabling access to sites of cultural importance for tangata whenua

Enable access to sites of cultural importance to tangata whenua by:

a) Managing wāhi tapu and wāhi taoka in a culturally appropriate manner; and
b) Facilitating access of tangata whenua to sites of cultural importance, in negotiation with owners of private land where necessary.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 3.4 Public access to areas of value to the community is maintained or enhanced

Access to our natural environment is highly valued by the people of Otago and contributes significantly to our tourism economy. Subdivision and development can provide opportunities for better access or limit access to more sensitive places

Policy 3.4.1 Maintaining and enhancing public access

Maintain and, where possible, enhance public access to the natural environment, including to the coast, lakes, rivers and their margins, unless restricting access is necessary to:

a) Protect public health and safety; or
b) Protect the natural heritage and ecosystem values of sensitive natural areas or habitats; or
c) Protect identified sites and values associated with historic heritage or cultural significance to tangata whenua.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 3.5 Good quality infrastructure meets community needs.

Roads, water supply, waste services, electricity transmission and telecommunication networks support our communities, economy, and health and safety. Although the development of infrastructure can have impacts on the environment it can also help reduce adverse effects. The establishment and operation of infrastructure requires significant investment. Integrating infrastructure with urban growth and development is essential to ensure it occurs in a sustainable and efficient manner.

Policy 3.5.1 Integrating infrastructure with land use

Achieve the strategic integration of infrastructure with land use by:

a) Ensuring infrastructure supports the long term needs of the community, taking into account:
    i. The actual and foreseeable land use changes in the region; and
    ii. Demographic changes to the local or regional community; and
    iii. The effects of climate change on the foreseeable needs of the community; and
b) Managing land use in a way that maximises the use of existing infrastructure, and minimises the costs to ratepayers of infrastructure expansion, where possible.

Policy 3.5.2 Recognising benefits of infrastructure

Recognise the benefits of infrastructure development, upgrade, maintenance and operation in:

a) Ensuring the health and safety of the community; and
b) Increasing the ability of communities to respond and adapt to emergencies; and
c) Improving access to markets, and creating significant trading and economic opportunities; and
d) Improving efficiency of the use of natural resources.

Policy 3.5.3 Providing for locationally-constrained infrastructure

Enable the development of infrastructure in areas supporting resources identified as matters of national importance or highly valued, when:

a) The infrastructure needs to locate in the proposed area; or
b) The infrastructure:
    i. Is nationally or regionally significant; or
    ii. Is essential to the health and safety of the community; or
    iii. Increases the ability of communities to respond and adapt to emergencies; or
c) All unavoidable adverse effects from the development, maintenance or operation of the infrastructure are appropriately remedied or mitigated.

Policy 3.5.4 Managing urban growth and infrastructure services

Manage the growth and development of urban areas in order to achieve a sustainable supply of land for urban purposes:

a) Plan for sustainable rates of land uptake; and
b) Provide a choice of brownfield and greenfield development options for the development and/or redevelopment of existing urban areas in preference to only greenfield development; and
c) Ensure the quantity of land being released at any one time has satisfactory access to infrastructure services; and
d) Promote urban growth and development within areas that have existing infrastructure capacity or where infrastructure can be efficiently upgraded; and
e) Require provision or upgrading of significant infrastructure to be coordinated with the structure and sequencing of growth and development.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 3.6 Urban areas are well designed, sustainable and reflect local character

The quality of our urban environment can affect quality of life and community viability. We need coherent, durable, site-appropriate built environments with easy connectivity and access to key services that recognise the distinctive character of the region. Poor quality or badly co-ordinated development presents risks socially, environmentally, and economically.

Integrating the natural environment into our urban areas has been shown to achieve multiple benefits. Ideally, urban environments are permeable for environmental systems – blue and green corridors and urban design choices can allow natural processes to continue through and around our everyday activities with minimal adverse impact to either.

Built Environment

Policy 3.6.1 Ensuring responsive design

Ensure subdivision and development is designed to respond positively to site and its context by having regard to urban design principles outlined in Schedule 1.

Policy 3.6.2 Requiring higher standards for buildings

Require subdivision design and development to maximise solar gain and encourage the adoption of standards of built form and insulation above the requirements of the Building Act 2004 to reflect the colder climatic conditions and energy costs of living in the region.

Policy 3.6.3 Encouraging use of low impact design techniques

Encourage the use of low impact design techniques where they may:

a) Reduce potential adverse environmental effects, including on water quality; or
b) Mitigate the effects of natural hazards; or
c) Enhance amenity; or
d) Enhance habitat or indigenous biodiversity values.

Urban design

Policy 3.6.4 Maximising urban connectivity

Maximise connectivity within new urban areas and between new urban areas and existing or proposed urban areas to provide for a range of travel options and ensure a high standard of amenity and safety for pedestrians and cyclists to promote alternative transport options.

Policy 3.6.5 Encouraging accessibility

Encourage development in urban areas to be designed to cater for the access needs of people of all ages and abilities.

Policy 3.6.6 Encouraging diversity of housing

Encourage subdivision and residential development in urban areas to provide for a range of dwelling types and sizes to reflect the housing needs of households of different sizes and incomes.

Policy 3.6.7 Encouraging adaptive use

Encourage development within urban commercial areas to be designed to accommodate changes of use over time.

Policy 3.6.8 Requiring urban safety and amenity

Require new development to positively contribute to the safety and amenity of streets and neighbourhoods.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 3.7 Urban areas accommodate needs for economic activity and growth effectively and efficiently

We need to provide for ways of developing our urban environments that reduce environmental impact. Concentration of activities in urban areas creates economies of scale for the development and maintenance of community infrastructure and supports social infrastructure such as health care and educational facilities. This can also reduce pressure on the surrounding productive and natural environment.

Policy 3.7.1 Establishing urban limits

Establish urban limits for Queenstown and Dunedin so that urban activities may only occur within those limits.

Policy 3.7.2 Expanding beyond urban limits

Provide for expansion of urban activities beyond the urban limits of Dunedin or Queenstown, only when:

a) No suitable locations are available within the urban limit; and
b) Infrastructure services necessary for the activity are available; and
c) Reverse sensitivity effects are avoided.

Policy 3.7.3 Managing the effects of commercial and industrial activities

Provide specific areas to accommodate the effects of industrial and commercial activities needed to support economic growth in Otago.

Policy 3.7.4 Providing for commercial and industrial land uses

Recognise the finite nature of areas suitable and available for commercial and industrial activities by providing:

a) provisions to manage the scale and intensity of effects of activities anticipated
b) sufficient supply of appropriate land for commercial and industrial activities, and
c) exclusion of activities that may result in reverse sensitivity issues or inefficient use of this resource

Policy 3.7.5 Managing fragmentation of rural land

Manage subdivision, use and development of rural and, in order to:

a) avoid development or fragmentation of land which undermines or forecloses the potential of rural land for primary production or future comprehensive residential development near urban areas.

b) Have particular regard to whether the proposal will result in a loss of the productive potential of highly versatile soil, unless
    i. the land adjoins an existing urban area and there is no other land suitable for urban expansion; and
    ii. where highly versatile soils are needed for urban expansion, any change of land use from rural activities achieves an appropriate and highly efficient form of urban development
    iii. reverse sensitivity effects on rural productive activities can be avoided.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 3.8 Dunedin and Queenstown commercial cores are retained and enhanced

Identifying commercial cores and providing limited exceptions for expansion beyond these help protect the vitality and vibrancy of those central business districts from the effects of commercial dispersal.

Policy 3.8.1 Identifying commercial cores

Identify the commercial cores of Dunedin and Queenstown.

Policy 3.8.2 Expanding beyond commercial cores

Provide for the expansion of areas of commercial activity beyond the commercial cores of Dunedin and Queenstown, only when:

a) No suitable locations are available within the commercial core; and
b) Infrastructure services necessary for the activity are available; and
c) Reverse sensitivity issues are avoided.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 3.9 Historic heritage resources contribute to the region's character and sense of identity.

Otago is a province rich in historic heritage and includes heritage places and areas that are recognised as nationally, regionally and locally important. Our historic heritage resources make significant contributions to our regional identity and tourism economy. Identification of these resources is a prerequisite to affording them a level of protection commensurate with their significance and providing for their continued role in our daily lives. The use of common criteria identifying historic heritage provides a more efficient and consistent approach across the region, while allowing local variation.

Wahi tupuna are places of cultural significance to Kai Tahu and may be defined by their location, as well as by their purpose and relationship with natural features.

Policy 3.9.1 Recognising heritage themes

Recognise the following elements as characteristic or important to Otago's historic heritage:

a) Residential and commercial buildings;
b) Māori cultural and heritage values;
c) Early 19/20th century pastoral sites;
d) Early surveying, communications & transport, including roads, bridges and routes;
e) Early industrial heritage, including mills and brickworks;
f) Gold mining systems & settlements;
g) Dredge & ship wrecks;
h) Coastal heritage, particularly tangata whenua occupation sites & those associated with early European activity such as whaling;
i) Memorials.

Policy 3.9.2 Identifying historic heritage

Identify historic heritage places, areas and landscapes of local, regional and national significance using criteria consistent with the following:

a) Physical values, including:
    i. Archaeological information;
    ii. Architecture;
    iii. Technology;
    iv. Scientific;
    v. Rarity;
    vi. Representativeness;
    vii. Integrity;
    viii. Vulnerability;
    ix. Context or group
b) Historic values, including:
    i. People;

ii. Events;
iii. Patterns;

c) Cultural values, including:
iv. Identity;
v. Public esteem;
vi. Commemorative;
vii. Education;
viii. Tangata whenua
ix. Statutory recognition.

As detailed in Schedule 7.

Policy 3.9.3 Protecting significant historic heritage

Protect historic heritage places and areas from the adverse effects of inappropriate activities including:

a) Historic places and areas that have been identified as nationally, regionally or locally significant; and
b) Unidentified archaeological sites or areas, wāhi tapu or wāhi taoka with significant historic heritage values, immediately upon discovery.

Policy 3.9.4 Managing historic heritage values

Manage effects on historic heritage values by:

a) Ensuring subdivision, use and development is appropriate in terms of maintaining:
i. Heritage values of the place or area; and
ii. The relationship and historical associations between places within heritage landscapes; and
iii. Visual or physical qualities that make the heritage place or area iconic, rare or scarce at the national, regional or district level; and
b) Assessing the significance of adverse effect on the heritage place or area in terms of the criteria for significance in Schedule 3; and
c) Encouraging the integration of historic heritage values into new activities in both rural and urban areas; and
d) Enabling adaptive reuse of historic heritage places and areas where heritage values can be maintained.

Policy 3.9.5 Enabling tangata whenua relationships with wahi tupuna

Take into account and enable the relationship of tangata whenua with the environment by:

a) Identifying wahi tupuna (ancestral/cultural landscapes, places of significance and the historical and traditional associations and practices with those sites); and
b) Managing these sites and associations by taking into account as part of environmental assessments for resource consents and plan changes such that the sites are maintained, enhanced and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development; and

c) Recognising traditional place names in council planning documents, educational material and street naming.

Policy 3.9.6 Upgrading historic heritage

Enable the appropriate repair, reconstruction, upgrading, reuse or strengthening of historic heritage buildings and their surrounds in a manner that expresses their heritage values.

Methods for this section are under development

Objective 3.10 Hazardous substances and waste materials do not harm human health or the quality of the environment in Otago

Waste materials are an end product of resource use and must be carefully managed to aoid creating environmental problems. Hazardous substances are dangerous but essential components of some activities. Hazardous substances and waste should be managed to avoid creating environmental problems or adversely affecting human health.

Policy 3.10.1 Integrating management of hazardous substances and waste

Promote an integrated approach to the management of hazardous substances and waste in Otago.

Policy 3.10.2 Managing use and storage of hazardous substances

Manage the use and storage of hazardous substances to:

a) Minimise risks associated with natural hazard events; and
b) Require that hazardous facilities are resilient to potential damage caused by natural hazards to avoid unintended discharges; and
c) Avoid unintended discharges or other adverse effects, including risks to individuals' physical and cultural health, property, and the contamination of air, land, and water.

Policy 3.10.3 Reducing hazardous substances

Promote management practices to prevent or mitigate adverse effects of the use of hazardous substances on the environment, including reducing their use wherever practicable.

Policy 3.10.4 Using authorised facilities

Require that the disposal of hazardous substances is undertaken in an environmentally safe manner at authorized facilities.

Policy 3.10.5 Developing facilities for transfer of waste and hazardous waste

Enable the development of facilities for the storage and transfer of waste and hazardous waste for safe disposal in appropriate facilities in a manner which avoids or mitigates the adverse environmental effects of the storage, processing, handling, transportation and disposal of waste material.

Policy 3.10.6 Understanding waste management

Improve understanding of trends in the generation and disposal of solid waste and hazardous substances in Otago and the associated environmental effects.

Policy 3.10.7 Managing waste streams

Manage all waste streams in Otago in a manner consistent with the following hierarchy of responses:

a) Reduction in waste generated;
b) Reuse of waste;
c) Recycling of waste;
d) Recovery of resources from waste;
e) Management of residual waste to authorised landfill;

Policy 3.10.8 Identifying contaminated land

Identify sites of known or potentially contaminated land in Otago.

Policy 3.10.9 Managing the use of contaminated land

Manage the use of contaminated land to ensure the protection of people and the environment from actual or potential adverse effects by:

a) Requiring a site investigation be undertaken to determine the nature or extent of any contamination where there is a proposal for subdivision, use or development of potentially contaminated land; and
b) Requiring an assessment of associated environmental risks from any contamination; and
c) Ongoing monitoring of contaminant levels and associated risks; and
d) Remediation of contaminated sites to an appropriate level.

Policy 3.10.10 Avoiding new contaminated land

Avoid the creation of new contaminated land in Otago.

Methods for this section are under development

PART C: Implementation

Roles and Responsibilities

Under development in consultation with city and district councils

The following table sets roles and responsibilities for the regional, city and district councils of Otago taking into account:

a) Statutory responsibilities; and
b) Where the costs and benefits of the responsibility fall; and
c) Roles and responsibilities currently being exercised; and
d) The potential to minimise conflicts of interests within and between local authorities in Otago.

MATTER	REGIONAL COUNCIL	CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCILS
Air: Air quality in urban airsheds Dust management	Primary responsibility through Air Plan. Strategic direction through RPS to avoid exacerbation of issues through land management of new urban areas.	Management of land use effects through District Plan: Management of dust Consideration of odour issues Management of land use activities in relation to sensitive activities and reverse sensitivity issues Potential restrictions on solid fuel burners in sensitive airsheds
Noise	Responsible for noise in the CMA	Responsible for noise issues on land
Coast: NZ Coastal Policy Statement directions	Under development	Under development
Natural character: NZCPS guidance on coast Lakes, rivers & wetlands	Primary responsibility for coastal marine area, seascapes. RPS establishes criteria and policies. Generally, natural character is addressed through policies for other valued resources.	Primary responsibility for land use controls through District Plan: natural character, including of coastal environment, up to the coastal marine area boundary. Generally, natural character is addressed through policies for other resources e.g. riparian management, landscape protection, vegetation rules & significant sites.

MATTER	REGIONAL COUNCIL	CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCILS
Water quantity: Land use changes in water short catchments can significantly affect water available for use, including a reduction in downstream supply.	RPS establishes policy for when water quantity needs to be considered in land use controls. Regional Pest Strategy deals with particular wilding species.	Primary responsibility for land use controls through District Plan: restricting establishment of activities that may affect water quantity: e.g. forestry; wilding species control.
Indigenous biodiversity: Ongoing loss of indigenous biodiversity	RPS establishes criteria and policies support protection of areas of significance and general indigenous vegetation clearance rules. Primary responsibility for significant freshwater and coastal water biodiversity in Water Plan and Coast Plan.	Primary responsibility for land use control through District Plan: subdivision design; vegetation clearance; protection at a local level etc. Collaboration between ORC and TLAs for the protection of biodiversity along margins of rivers, lakes and wetlands.
Wetlands	Sets objectives and policies for the management of wetlands Sets control for the drainage of wetlands	Complement regional provisions by controlling vegetation clearance, cultivation and grazing on wetlands.
Land / beds of lakes, rivers, wetlands	ORC – land under rivers, lakes and wetlands [may delegate consenting structures to TLAs e.g. QLDC]	TLAs, land outside rivers, lakes and wetlands
Rivers & watercourses In urban areas, where rivers may be modified or piped over some sections	Primary responsibility for discharge management and activities or effects relating to rivers [as defined in RMA] through Water Plan	Responsible for TA pipes/infrastructure systems.
Minerals	Effects of extraction in the beds of lakes, rivers and wetlands (habitat, river form and flow, flood hazard, structural integrity etc)	Effects of extraction outside the beds of lakes, rivers and wetlands (landscape, noise)
Soil	Soil conservation	Effects of the use of land on soil conservation

MATTER	REGIONAL COUNCIL	CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCILS
Contaminated land: NES focus on human health	Identify contaminated land sites. Maintain register of contaminated land. Require regionally/nationally consistent approach to data management. Primary responsibility for discharge management through Air and Water Plans, addressing wider effects than just human health. Amend Waste Plan accordingly.	Primary role for land use control through District Plan: subdivision and land use consideration; rules for disturbance. Provide information to ORC for register of contaminated land.
Waste: Regional role on waste minimisation reduced by Waste Minimisation Act.	Primary responsibility for discharge management through Water Plan and Air Plan. Amend Waste Plan to avoid duplication with TA functions and with discharge controls in other regional plans.	Primary responsibility for land use control through District Plan. Main role through Waste Minimisation Act.
Hazardous substances: Responsibility for management of different aspects of hazardous substances	Primary responsibility for discharge management through Air and Water Plans. Amend Waste Plan accordingly. Enforcement through RMA.	Primary role for land use control through District Plan: land use consent consideration. Enforcement through HSNO, together with other agencies – Worksafe, Maritime NZ, LTSA.
Natural hazards: General overlap exists in natural hazard roles	Primary responsibility for the development of objectives, policies, rules and methods for: land in coastal marine area and the beds of lakes, rivers and wetlands other land in regard to existing use rights and defences against water	Primary responsibility for development objectives, policies, rules and methods for: the subdivision, use and development of land, excluding land in the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes, rivers and wetlands

Implementation Programme

This section is under development and will set out the key actions that will be undertaken by ORC and the City and District Councils to give effect to the RPS

Anticipated Environmental Results and Monitoring Programme

Under development

This table sets out the anticipated environmental results and key indicators that will be used for monitoring the effectiveness of the RPS

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS	KEY INDICATORS
1. Otago's physical and biological environmental resources of outstanding quality and high value are identified and protected. 2. Otago's ecosystems are healthy and fully functional and are buffered from the effects of land use activities. 3. Otago's biodiversity is maintained.	1. Development of a comprehensive public inventory that documents the location and extent of Otago's outstanding biological and physical resources (freshwater including groundwater, coastal water, hydrological ecosystems, soils and soil ecosystems). 2. Five year monitoring shows that the spatial extent and state of health of items in this inventory are better, or no worse, than at the time this Policy Statement became operational (need current baselines). 3. Measurable for biodiversity 4. The comparative extent of healthy riparian margins, measured by average percent cover of riparian vegetation, has increased from the time this Policy Statement became operational (need current baseline).
4. The effects of land use activities (e.g. residential/urban uses, forestry, farming) are consistent with policy objectives for other, connected, natural resources (surface and ground water, air, soils). 5. The effects of water take and discharge to parts of Otago's water systems (tributaries, groundwater) are consistent with policy objectives for connected water systems (e.g. rivers and wetlands; aquifers and rivers) and for the entire freshwater system (from the mountains to the coast). 6. The effects of resource use are consistent with policy objectives for ecosystems and biodiversity.	1. Recommendation and evaluation reports provide evidence that the connectedness of Otago's resources has been considered in resource management decision-making. 2. There is evidence of information sharing (e.g. joint data infrastructure), close collaboration, joint monitoring, joint management (where appropriate), and joint consideration of consent/permit applications among local authorities. 3. There is a joint repository for management standards that ensures the whole of a biological or physical resource (system) is managed to the same environmental standards as connected individual systems or system components throughout Otago. 4. There is no evidence of unmanaged adverse effects that impact indirectly on resources.
7. Areas of significant *indigenous vegetation* and habitats of indigenous fauna in Otago are identified, protected, and remain healthy and fully functional.	1. Development of a public inventory that documents the location and extent of Otago's outstanding and significant areas of indigenous vegetation, natural character, and highly valued land- and seascapes. 2. Five year monitoring shows that the quality,

8. Communities have decided which of their land and seascapes, over and above those recognised at a national level, hold special amenity value and require a degree of protection. 9. There is a register of outstanding natural features and areas of outstanding and high natural character among Otago's freshwater bodies and coastline, and the quality and extent of areas in this register are protected or enhanced.	value, and extent of items in this inventory are no worse, or better, than at the time this Policy Statement became operational (need current baselines). 3. An Otago (indigenous) *biodiversity index* is established and the value of indexed items does not decrease from the time the baseline was established (need current baseline).
10. Sites of cultural significance to tangata whenua in Otago are identified and protected. 11. Tangata whenua values are respected. 12. Tangata whenua are informed of non-notified consents in Otago at a level and scope that meets their requirements.	1. An index of Otago's sites of significance to tangata whenua is established under guidance from tangata whenua. 2. Surveys and direct feedback demonstrate that Tangata whenua are satisfied with their level of participation in Otago's resource management decision-making processes and agree that their cultural values are respected and their significant sites are protected.
13. Otago's people and communities are aware of the nature and potential severity of natural hazard risks in the region. 14. There are no new developments in areas of intolerable natural hazard risk. 15. Communities are not exposed to new intolerable hazard risk and unavoidable risk from natural hazards is reduced to tolerable levels. 16. Natural features that protect communities form hazards are protected or enhanced.	1. There is evidence (recommendation and evaluation reports) that decision-making on new subdivisions, and the use and development of resources is guided by natural hazard risk tolerability. 2. Unavoidable hazard risk to communities is reduced. 3. There is evidence (infrastructure investment) that natural hazard risk reduction preferentially occurs through soft or natural measures.
17. Communities are prepared for system disruptions and shock events. 18. Uncertainty associated with the risk of system disruptions and shock events is managed through adaptive management techniques. 19. Opportunities to improve future resilience provided by actual systems	1. There is evidence for adaptive responses to systems changes. 2. CEDM is satisfied that lifeline services continuity and upgrades are enabled, functional interdependence among different services is maintained, and reverse sensitivity has not affected lifeline services function. 3. Annual reports/other reports of publicly owned

disruptions will be used. 20. Functional continuity of Otago's interdependent lifeline and essential services is enabled across the region.	infrastructure assets show no preventable reduction in service levels or security of supply. 4. Community surveys show that communities are aware of and prepared for economic or natural systems shocks.
21. Otago's communities reduce their exposure to, and adapt to, foreseeable adverse effects of climate change. 22. Otago's communities minimise their contribution to climate change processes.	1. Community surveys show that Otago's communities are better prepared to cope with climate change (needs current baseline). 2. There is evidence (e.g. recommendation reports) that decision-making on subdivision and the use and development of Otago's resources considers the foreseeable effects of climate change, including sea level rise.
23. New energy generation in Otago is based on renewable energy and existing renewable energy generation is protected from adverse effects. 24. Effects of existing fossil fuel based energy generation on the environment and communities are minimised and Otago's reliance on fossil fuel is reduced. 25. Locationally constrained renewable energy generation and transmission structures are enabled. 26. All energy generation and transmission minimises adverse effects on environment and communities. 27. Energy is not wasted in Otago.	1. The ratio of average residential fossil fuel energy consumption to renewable energy consumption in Otago has decreased (current baseline). 2. Surveys or records show that Otago's overall energy consumption per resident has not increased. Or The rate of increase of energy consumption per Otago resident has declined. 3. Fossil fuel extraction has no adverse effect on Otago's natural environment 4. Otago's energy generation and transmission structures are not affected by reverse sensitivity (measured by nuisance complaints records).
28. Adverse effects of land use, development and subdivision on water quantity and water quality are minimised. 29. Otago's air quality is maintained at NES levels or below. 30. Adverse effects of land use, development and subdivision on soil erosion and soil quality are minimised. 31. Gravel and sand extraction occur where they benefit plan objectives. 32. Pests that adversely impact on	1. The quality and quantity of Otago's common-pool natural resources (water, air, significant soils) is maintained from the time this Policy Statement becomes operational. 2. There is evidence that innovative solutions that benefit environmental and human well-being are actively encouraged. 3. Soil monitoring reveals no loss of soil due to erosion. 4. Soil monitoring at key sites reveals no decrease in soil quality indicators (soil biota, carbon content and pH levels). 5. Evidence that gravel and sand extraction from land greatly exceeds that from the beds of rivers, lakes and the coastal marine area. 6. Evidence from consents records that gravel and

environmental, economic, cultural, or social values of Otago's communities are controlled or eradicated.	sand extraction from the beds of rivers or lakes or in the coastal marine area has been directed to benefit specific plan objectives.
33. Water is allocated in a manner that protects Otago's water dependent ecosystems and preserves the natural character of fresh water bodies. 34. Cumulative effects are assessed as part of the resource management decision process. 35. Public investment is used to mitigate resource degradation from cumulative effects that were not foreseeable and that are unable to be allocated to individual originators. 36. There is sufficient industrial and commercial land to enable Otago's economy to grow. 37. Best practices and novel technology are required for new and renewed resource consents.	1. The quantity of water in Otago's water bodies is sufficient to permit healthy ecosystems at all times 2. Monitoring reveals no evidence of resource degradation due to many minor effects. 3. The number of adjudicated resource use and resource user conflicts has declined. 4. Activities that generate adverse effects are located and managed to minimise offsite effects. 5. Consent and consent renewal conditions reflect the requirement for best practice and technology upgrades.
38. Tangata whenua are able to access sites of cultural importance and to develop ancestral land.	Tangata whenua are satisfied that sites of cultural importance can be accessed and that ancestral land can be used and developed.
39. Otago's sites of cultural significance and Otago's environment and coast line are accessible by the public.	1. No reasonable complaints from the public about perceived lack of access to Otago's natural environment. Or At least 80% of Otago's residents are satisfied with the level of access to Otago's natural environment. 2. Tangata whenua have no reasonable complaints or concerns about the accessibility and management of tupuna whenua.
40. Infrastructure is only put in place when its benefits for the environment or society outweigh its costs. 41. Adverse effects of locationally constrained infrastructure are mitigated or offset.	1. Otago's infrastructure investment is efficient and effective (auditors' reports). 2. Community surveys show that 80% of Otago's residents are satisfied that the capacity and capability of Otago's infrastructure meet community needs.
42. Urban design integrates natural features and results in safe and well-connected urban areas that impact minimally on the	1. There is an increase in the number and diversity of natural features integrated into Otago's urban areas from the time this Policy Statement becomes

environment. 43. Otago's housing diversity reflects and meets the needs of its diverse communities. 44. Flexible design of commercial premises and infrastructure permits their adaptive re-use 45. Public infrastructure provides access for all abilities 46. Otago's building standards are adapted to provide maximal protection from the colder than average conditions in Dunedin and to minimise environmental impact.	operational. 2. There is a measurable increase in the diversity of dwelling types and sizes, and 80% of Otago's residents consider their houses energy efficient. 3. At least 75% of Otago's residents feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (70.7% in 2008). 4. Transport infrastructure design contributes to a gradual reduction in the percentage of roads and highways that pose a personal risk as measured by KiwiRap, and a decline in preventable accident statistics, as measured by Police/NZTA statistics. 5. The use of active transport has increased (by 15%) compared to the 2014 average, as measured by public transport patronage, amount of fuel sold, number of motorised vehicles registered, and proportion of household income spent on.
47. Urban sprawl in Otago's towns is contained and future sprawl is avoided. 48. Productive rural land is protected from fragmentation. There is no soil erosion and Otago's soils retain their quality.	1. Otago's urban areas only grow once existing re-development opportunities have been exhausted. 2. Urban areas grow in a compact manner and 100% of subdivision and building consents are issued for sites located within urban growth boundaries. Or Urban areas grow in a compact manner and, where urban growth boundaries exist, 100% of subdivision and building consents are issued for sites located within these boundaries. 3. Consent records demonstrate that there is sufficient land zoned for Otago's industrial and commercial activities to satisfy demand, and land uses incompatible with industrial uses are separated from this zone. 4. There is no (net) loss of productive rural land, and the number of parcels of productive land has not increased.
49. Otago's urban centres are vibrant and commercial development in town centres is given strong preference to alternative locations.	1.Consent records show that there is a gradual decline of existing, and no new, commercial activity outside of designated commercial centres. Or Commercial activity growth is confined to areas designated for such activity at the time this Policy Statement becomes operational. 2. There are minimal well-reasoned exceptions to development beyond urban limits.

50. There is a comprehensive register of Otago's historic heritage, and significant items in this register are protected. 51. Other items in Otago's heritage register are managed so adaptive use that protects heritage values is enabled. 52. Wahi tupuna are identified and protected and traditional place names are used in official documents.	1. There is a comprehensive inventory of Otago's historic (and natural) heritage resources and there is no loss of items in this inventory. 2. There is evidence non-significant heritage is sympathetically restored and adapted for modern uses. 3. Tangata whenua are satisfied that wahi tupuna are protected and managed well.
53. Otago's Waste streams are managed in a safe, efficient, an integrated manner that minimises adverse effects on the environment. 54. The location and extent of contaminated land in Otago is publicly known. 55. No new contaminated land is created. 56. Otago's communities are not exposed to hazardous substances.	1. There is evidence that Otago manages and co-ordinates waste streams for efficient re-cycling or disposal. 2. There are no complaints from the public or from HSNO inspectors about exposure to hazardous substances or hazardous waste. 3. There are no unrecorded landfills and there is no avoidable resource contamination from hazardous substances or waste. 4. There is a comprehensive inventory of contaminated land. 5. All contaminated land is managed according to statutory requirements.

Logic Table

This table will identify the regionally significant issues and how they are addressed throughout the RPS, for example:

Issue 1 Cumulative effects of human activities on natural resources	Issue 2	…
Policy 1.1.1 Managing for freshwater values Policy ….	Policy …	

Example table only

Logic Table – Issues of Significance to Iwi

This table will identify the issues of significance to Iwi and how they are addressed throughout the RPS, for example:

Issue 1 …	Issue 2	…
Policy number Policy title	Policy …	

Example table only

Subject Reference Table

This table will identify subjects and how they are addressed throughout the RPS, for example:

Integrated Management	Water	…
Policy 1.2.1 Applying a relevant spatial scale Policy ….	Policy 1.1.1 Managing for freshwater values	

*Example table only*PART D: Schedules

Schedule 1 Urban form and design

Good quality urban design offers a safe and enjoyable setting for people to work, live and play in, and fosters a positive relationship between the community and its natural environment. It caters to the needs of all, offers many lifestyle choices, and supports a healthy community. It also contributes to the community's identity and cohesion, and reflects the community values.

1. A safe and enjoyable environment	a. Provides lively and pleasant places for people to enjoy b. Reflects the importance of community spaces c. Protect public open space, and improves the quality, quantity and distribution of local open space over the long-term d. Creates transport networks that are safer e. Creates safe, attractive and secure pathways and links between centres and landmarks and neighbourhoods f. Provides a comfortable and safe urban environment g. Considers the impact of design on people's health h. Avoids or mitigate the effects of natural and man-made hazards
2. A positive relationship between the community and its natural environment	a. Has regard to the suitability of development in regard to the viability of required resources such as water b. Provides a positive contribution to the environmental health of urban streams, and the coastal environment c. Manages the use of resources carefully, through environmentally responsive and sustainable design solutions d. Minimises the effects of increased impervious surfaces and manages contamination e. Promotes the maintenance, enhancement or protection of natural resources f. Recognises features or values which warrant protection or preservation g. Utilises green technologies in the design and construction of buildings and infrastructure h. Facilitates green networks that link public and private open space i. Promotes innovation and resource use efficiency j. Promotes energy efficiency in transport and urban form, including site layout and building design k. Incorporates renewable energy sources and passive solar gain
3. Supports a healthy community, and offers many choices and opportunities	a. Ensures urban environments provide opportunities for all, especially the disadvantaged b. Supports design which are flexible and adaptable and which will remain useful over the long term c. Facilitates access to services and efficient movements of goods and people d. Promotes transport networks that are safe, legible, attractive and well connected e. Provides for public transport, roading, cycling and walking networks that are integrated with each other and the land uses they serve

	f. Places a high priority on walking, cycling and public transport g. Provides environments that encourage people to become more physically active h. Maximises pedestrian connectivity i. Results in buildings that are adapted to local climatic conditions j. Acknowledges the need for a diverse range of housing and creates a range of housing opportunities and choices k. Ensures public spaces are accessible by everybody, including people with disabilities
4. Contributes to the community's identity and cohesion, and reflect the community values	a. Builds upon physical and cultural identity b. Celebrates cultural identity and recognise the heritage values of a place c. Provides formal and informal opportunities for social and cultural interaction

Schedule 2 Criteria for the assessment of the significance indigenous vegetation and habitat of indigenous fauna

The significance of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitat of indigenous fauna are assessed against the following criteria.

Note that Council holds additional information to inform decision making on these criteria including the rationale for criteria and examples of areas representing these criteria in Otago.

1. Representativeness	An area that is an example of an indigenous vegetation type or habitat that is representative of that which formerly covered the Ecological District.
2. Rarity	An area that supports: a. An indigenous species that is threatened, at risk, or uncommon, nationally or within an ecological district; b. Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna that has been reduced to less than 20% of its former extent nationally, regionally or within a relevant land environment, ecological district, or freshwater environment.; c. Indigenous vegetation and habitats within originally rare ecosystems.
3. Wetlands	It is an area of naturally occurring wetland habitat that supports indigenous vegetation and indigenous fauna. Excludes artificial wetlands maintained for or in connection with the operation of infrastructure.
4. Diversity	An area that supports a highly diverse assemblage of flora or fauna or consists of a diverse range of vegetation and habitat types. The degree of diversity should be referenced to specific communities i.e levels of diversity varying significantly between communities and habitat types.
5. Distinctiveness	An area that supports or provides habitat for: a. Indigenous species at their distributional limit within Otago or nationally; b. Indigenous species that are endemic to the Otago region; c. Indigenous vegetation or an association of indigenous species that is distinctive, of restricted occurrence, or has developed as a result of an unusual environmental factor or combinations of factors.
6. Ecological Context	The relationship of the area with its surroundings, including: a. An area that has important connectivity value allowing dispersal of indigenous fauna between different areas; b. An important buffering function that helps to protect the values of an adjacent area or feature; c. An area that is important for indigenous fauna during some part of their life cycle, either regularly or an irregular basis, e.g. for feeding, nesting, breeding, or refuges from predation.

Schedule 3 Significance threshold

When determining the extent to which adverse effects may be 'significant', refer to the following matters:

1. Status of resources	The importance of the resource—locally, regionally or nationally (Effects on rare or limited resources are usually considered more significant than impacts on common or abundant resources.).
2. Proportion of resource affected / area of influence	The size of the area affected by the activity will often influence the degree of impact (i.e. affecting a large area will generally be significant). Affecting a large proportion of a limited area or resource will tend to be significant.
3. Persistence of effect	The duration and frequency of effect. (For example, long-term or recurring effects as permanent or long-term changes are usually more significant than temporary ones. The ability of the resource to recover after the activities are complete is related to this effect.)
4. Sensitivity of resources	The effect on the area and its sensitivity to change (The sensitivity and vulnerability of the resource and its capacity to accommodate change without compromising the values of the feature or area. Impacts to sensitive resources are usually more significant than impacts to those that are relatively resilient to impacts.).
5. Reversibility or irreversibility	Whether the effect is reversible or irreversible. Irreversibility will generally be more significant (depending also on nature and scale), and reversibility the converse.
6. Probability of effect	The likelihood of an adverse effect resulting from the activity. Unforeseen effects can be more significant than anticipated effects. (Adopting a precautionary approach may reduce the likelihood of adverse effects occurring.)
7. Cumulative effects	The accumulation of impacts over time and space resulting from the combination of effects from one activity/development or the combination of effects from a number of activities. Cumulative effects can be greater in significance than any individual effect from an activity (for example, loss of multiple important indigenous sites).
8. Degree of change	The character and degree of modification, damage, loss or destruction that will result from the activity. Activities that result in a high degree of change are generally more significant.
9. Magnitude of effect	The scale and extent of possible effects caused by an activity (for example on the number of sites affected, on spatial distribution etc.). Activities that have a large magnitude of effect are generally more significant.

Schedule 4 Criteria for the identification of natural features and landscapes

The identification of natural features and landscapes will be based on, but not limited to, the following factors:

1. Biophysical attributes	a. Natural science factors, including geological, topographical, ecological and dynamic components; b. The presence of water including in seas, lakes, rivers and streams; c. Vegetation (native and exotic);
2. Sensory attributes	a. Legibility or expressiveness—how obviously the feature or landscape demonstrates its formative processes; b. Aesthetic values including memorability and naturalness; c. Transient values including presence of wildlife or other values at certain times of the day or year; d. Wild or scenic values;
3. Associative attributes	a. Whether the values are shared and recognised; b. Cultural and spiritual values for tangata whenua, identified by working, as far as practicable, in accordance with tikanga Māori; including their expression as cultural landscapes and features; c. Historical and heritage associations

Schedule 5 Tangata whenua interests that may be affected by planning and consent decisions

Under development in consultation with the Manawhenua working group.

Schedule 6 Statutory Acknowledgements

Under development in consultation with the Manawhenua working group.

Schedule 7 Criteria for the identification of historic heritage values

Items, places and areas of historic heritage value are assessed against the following matters:

Physical values

1. Archaeological information	Does the place or area have the potential to contribute information about the human history of the region, or to current archaeological research questions, through investigation using archaeological methods?
2. Architecture	Is the place significant because of its design, form, scale, materials, ornamentation, style, period, craftsmanship or other architectural element?
3. Technology	Does the place demonstrate innovative or important methods of construction or design, does it contain unusual construction materials, is it an early example of the use of a particular construction technique or does it have the potential to contribute information about technological history?
4. Scientific	Does the area or place have the potential to provide scientific information about the history of the region?
5. Rarity	Is the place or area, or are features within it, unique, unusual, uncommon or rare at a district, regional or national level or in relation to particular historical themes?
6. Representativeness	Is the place or area a good example of its class, for example, in terms of design, type, features, use, technology or time period?
7. Integrity	Does the place have integrity, retaining significant features from its time of construction, or later periods when important modifications or additions were carried out?
8. Vulnerability	Is the place vulnerable to deterioration or destruction or is threatened by land use activities.
9. Context or Group	Is the place or area part of a group of heritage places, a landscape, a townscape or setting which when considered as a whole amplify the heritage values of the place and group/ landscape or extend its significance?

Historic values

1. People	Is the place associated with the life or works of a well-known or important individual, group or organisation?
2. Events	Is the place associated with an important event in local, regional or national history?
3. Patterns	Is the place associated with important aspects, processes, themes or patterns of local, regional or national history?

Cultural values

4. Identity	Is the place or area a focus of community, regional or national identity or sense of place, and does it provide evidence of cultural or historical continuity?
5. Public esteem	Is the place held in high public esteem for its heritage or aesthetic values or as a focus of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment?
6. Commemorative	Does the place have symbolic or commemorative significance to people who use or have used it, or to the descendants of such people, as a result of its special interest, character, landmark, amenity or visual appeal?
7. Education	Could the place contribute, through public education, to people's awareness, understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures?
8. Tangata whenua	Is the place important to tangata whenua for traditional, spiritual, cultural or historical reasons?
9. Statutory recognition	Does the place or area have recognition in New Zealand legislation or international law including: World Heritage Listing under the World Heritage Convention 1972; registration under the Historic Places Act 1993; is it an archaeological site as defined by the Historic Places Act 1993; is it a statutory acknowledgement under claim settlement legislation; or is it recognised by special legislation?

Schedule 8 Subdivision, use and development matters for consideration

Under development, to be compiled from policies

Schedule 9 Statutory Framework

The purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources (section 5, RMA). Regional, city and district councils are responsible for achieving sustainable resource management within their area of authority.

Under sections 59 to 62 of the RMA, regional councils must always have a regional policy statement to achieve the purpose of the RMA, by providing an overview of:

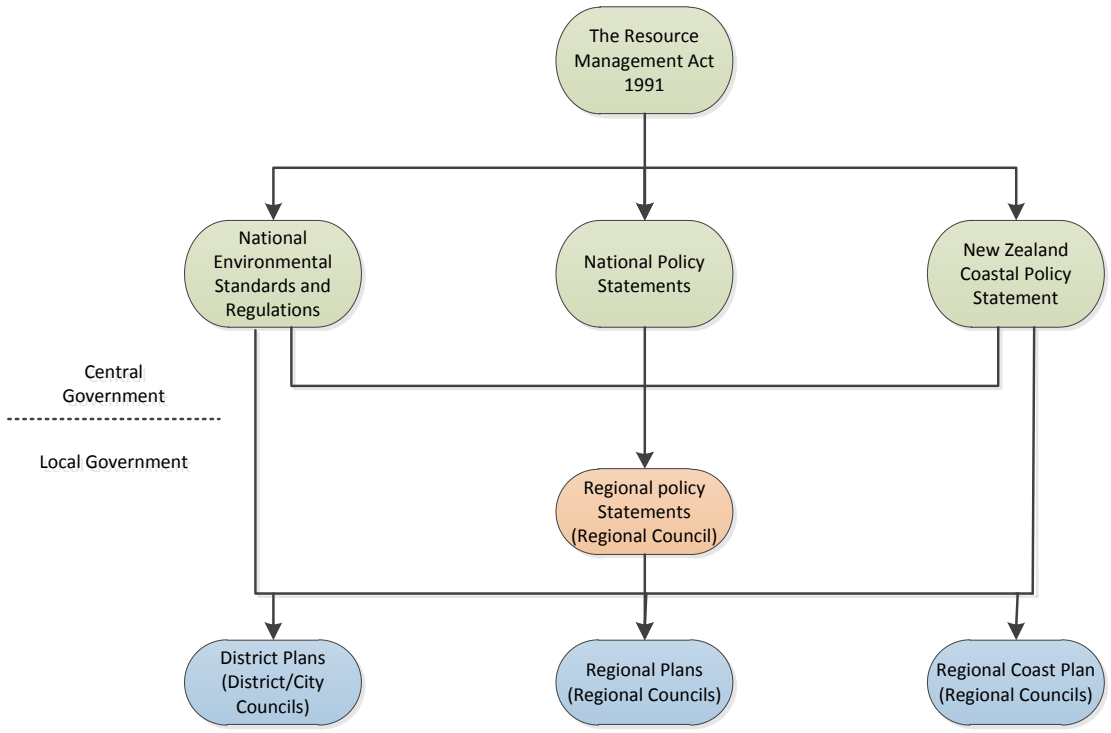
- The resource management issues of the region; and
- Policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the natural and physical resources of the whole region.

Regional policy statements operate within a wider legislative and policy framework. A regional policy statement must give effect to National Policy Statements, and not be inconsistent with any water conservation order. It must also take into account any planning document. For Otago, these are:

- Kai Tahu ki Otago Natural Resource Management Plans 2005 and 1995
- Ngai Tahu ki Murihiku Natural Resource and Environmental Iwi Management Plan 2008

Regional and district plans must give effect to a regional policy statement.

Regional and local government, in implementing the RPS and any regional and district plans, must comply with the requirements of other legislation, notably the Local Government Act 2002.



Glossary

Under development

Climate change means a change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and that is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

Ecosystem A system of interacting terrestrial or aquatic living organisms within their natural and physical environment.

Ecosystem services are the resources and processes the environment provides that people benefit from (for example purification of water and air, pollination of plants and decomposition of waste).

Effect includes any:

a) Positive or adverse effects; and
b) Temporary or permanent effect; and
c) Past, present or future effect; and
d) Any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects –
e) regardless of the scale, intensity, duration or frequency of the effect, and also includes any –
f) Potential effect of high probability; and
g) Potential effect of low probability which has a high potential impact.

Emergency has the meaning set out in section 4 of the Civil Defence Emergency Act 2002.

Essential services include hospitals and health services, schools, public transport and essential commercial activities for civil defence purposes.

Hazardous substance includes, but is not limited to, any substance defined in Section 2 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 as a hazardous substance, non-toxic environmentally damaging substances, medicines in dosage form, hazardous biological substances and radioactive substances.

Infrastructure means

a) pipelines that distribute or transmit natural or manufactured gas, petroleum, biofuel, or geothermal energy;
b) a network for the purpose of telecommunication as defined in section 5 of the Telecommunications Act 2001;
c) a network for the purpose of radiocommunication as defined in section 2(1) of the Radiocommunications Act 1989;
d) facilities for the generation of electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, excluding facilities, lines, and support structures if a person—
e) uses them in connection with the generation of electricity for the person's use; and
f) does not use them to generate any electricity for supply to any other person;

g) a water supply distribution system, including a system for irrigation;
h) a drainage or sewerage system;
i) structures for transport on land by cycleways, rail, roads, walkways, or any other means;
j) facilities for the loading or unloading of cargo or passengers transported on land by any means;
k) an airport as defined in section 2 of the Airport Authorities Act 1966;
l) a navigation installation as defined in section 2 of the Civil Aviation Act 1990;
m) facilities for the loading or unloading of cargo or passengers carried by sea, including a port related commercial undertaking as defined in section 2(1) of the Port Companies Act 1988;
n) anything described as a network utility operation in regulations made for the purposes of the definition of "network utility operator" in section 166 of the Resource Management Act 1991;
o) Solid waste disposal facilities;
p) Engineered hazard mitigation measures.

Lifeline utilities has the meaning set out in section 4 of the Civil Defence Emergency Act 2002.

Natural hazard includes any atmospheric or earth or water related occurrence (including earthquake, tsunami, erosion, volcanic and geothermal activity, landslip, subsidence, sedimentation, wind, drought, fire, or flooding) the action of which adversely affects or may adversely affect human life, property, or other aspects of the environment.

Network infrastructure has the meaning set out in section 197(2) of the Local Government Act 2002.

Renewable electricity generation the generation of electricity from solar, wind, hydro electricity, geothermal, biomass, tidal, wave, or ocean current energy sources.

Residual risk is the risk remaining after the implementation or undertaking of risk management measures.

Versatile soils are that part of the soil resource that will support the widest range of productive uses with the least inputs (Classes I and II under the Land-use Capability Classification System).

Glossary of Maori Terms

Under development

Kaitiakitaka The active protection and responsibility for natural and physical resources by tāngata whenua. The RMA defines Kaitiakitaka as "the exercise of guardianship by the tāngata whenua of an area in accordance with tikanga Māori in relation to natural and physical resources; and includes the ethic of stewardship". While a useful shorthand, kaitiakitaka is a much wider cultural concept than pure guardianship, and is fundamental to the relationship between tangata whenua and the environment. The responsibility of kaitiakitaka is twofold: first, there is the ultimate aim of protecting mauri and, secondly, there is the duty to pass the environment to future generations in a state which is as good as, or better than, the current state. It entails an active exercise of responsibility in a manner beneficial to the resource.

Ki Uta Ki Tai A whole of landscape approach, understanding and managing interconnected resources and ecosystems from the mountains to the sea.

Mahika Kai
Mahinga kai is the customary gathering of food and natural materials and the places where those resources are gathered. It refers to the whole resource chain, from mountain top to the ocean floor and encompasses social and educational elements (e.g. intergenerational transfer of knowledge) as well as the process of food gathering. It includes the way it is gathered, the place where it is gathered, and the actual resource itself.

Food has a strong social and cultural meaning. Manākitaka is the custom of being aware of and caring for the needs of your guests. In turn, the mana of the tāngata whenua is both upheld and enhanced. Food is a fundamental way of expressing this ethos and the exchange of local food and resources, and manākitaka are also a statement of identity. The loss of the ability of tāngata whenua to provide for guests in this way can also be seen as a loss of mana.

Mana whenua Traditional authority over particular areas. Mana whenua is determined by whakapapa (genealogical ties), and confers traditional customary authority over an area. Once acquired, mana whenua is secured and maintained by ahi kā (continued occupation and resource use).

Ritenga Customs protocols and laws that regulate actions and behaviour related to the physical environment, to sustain wellbeing. These are expressed through the concepts of Tapu (sacred), rahui (restricted), noa (relaxed).

Tikanga Customary practice values and protocols

Rakatirataka Traditionally, rakatirataka incorporates the right to make, alter and enforce decisions pertaining to how a resource is to be used and managed, and by whom (in accordance with kawa and tikanga).

Tangata whenua Local people, hosts, indigenous people of the land - people born of the whenua, i.e. of the placenta and of the land where the people's ancestors have lived and where their placenta are buried

Taoka Taoka are treasures, things highly prized and important to Kāi Tahu, derived from the atua (gods) and left by the tupuna (ancestors) to provide and sustain life. All natural resources – air, land, water, and indigenous biodiversity – are taoka, as are particular important sites.

Taoka Tuku iho Intergenerational protection of highly valued Taoka, passed from one generation to the next, in a caring and respectful manner.

Tea o turoa Intergenerational concept of resource sustainability

Wairua The spirit or source of existence and all life.

Wāhi Taoka Places that reflect a relationship with resources and materials such as artefacts and weaving, building and tool making materials.

Wāhi tapu The term wāhi tapu is used for sacred sites or areas held in reverence according to local tribal custom and history. Some wāhi tapu sites are important to the whole iwi, while others are important to individual whānau or hapū. They may be associated with creation stories of tāngata whenua, particular events, such as battles or ceremonies; sacred locations, such as where whenua or placenta is buried; or other valued sites, such as where a particular valued resource is found. Of all wāhi tapu, urupā (burial sites) are the most significant.

Whakapapa Ancestral lineage, genealogical connections, relationships, links to ecosystems connection, lineage or genealogy between humans and nature. An understanding of the total environment and its connections through whakapapa

Wahi Tupuna The cultural landscape that reflects the long association of tangata whenua with the Dunedin area.