

Meeting of the:

Strategy and Policy Committee Rautaki me Mahere

Wednesday 8 May 2024 at 10.00am

Environment Southland Council Chamber, 220 North Road, Invercargill

24/S&P/19

Committee Members

Cr Lyndal Ludlow (Chair)
Cr Neville Cook
Cr Paul Evans
Cr Alastair Gibson

Cr Robert Guyton
Cr Peter McDonald
Cr Jeremy McPhail
Cr Jon Pemberton
Cr Phil Morrison

Cr Maurice Rodway (Deputy)
Cr Eric Roy
Stewart Bull (*mana whenua appointee*)
Ann Wakefield (*mana whenua appointee*)
Chairman Nicol Horrell (*ex officio*)

Agenda

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- 2 Apologies I Ngā pa pouri
- 3 Declarations of interest
- 4 Public forum, petitions and deputations I He huinga tuku korero
- 5 Confirmation of minutes I Whakau korero
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- 7 Questions I Patai
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- 11 Public excluded business



Rachael Millar
General Manager
Strategy, Science and Engagement



Lucy Hicks
General Manager
Policy and Government Reform

Terms of reference – Strategy and Policy Committee

Council assigns to the committee responsibilities from time to time, and the committee provides advice and reports back to Council on:

- 1 The provision of governance oversight into the development and review of plans, policies, strategies and bylaws
- 2 The recommendation to notify proposed changes or variations to proposed plans, policies strategies and bylaws
- 3 The governance oversight of consultation related to regional plans, policies and strategies
- 4 The appointment of hearing committees or panels to hear submissions on regional policies, plans and strategies
- 5 Undertaking Water and Land Plan associated project work
- 6 The receipt, and if necessary endorsement of scientific studies/reports, receipt of SOE reports and/or score cards
- 7 The compiling of submissions to government as needed (if the Council timetable does not provide for the same).

Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road Invercargill
Wednesday 27 March at 10.00 am



Present:

Cr Lyndal Ludlow (Chair)
Chairman N Horrell (ex officio)
Cr Neville Cook
Cr Paul Evans
Cr Alastair Gibson
Cr Robert Guyton
Cr Jeremy McPhail
Cr Phil Morrison
Cr Jon Pemberton
Cr Maurice Rodway (by Zoom)
Cr Eric Roy
Ms Ann Wakefield (Mana whenua representative)
Mr Stewart Bull (Mana whenua representative)

Also Present:

Ms Rachael Miller (GM Science Strategy and Engagement)
Ms Lucy Hicks (GM Policy and Government Reform)
Mr Dave Gibbs (Strategy and Partnerships Manager)
Mrs Liz Devery (Regional Planning Manager)
Mrs Mikayla Wass (Meeting Secretary)

1 Welcome I Haere mai

Cr Ludlow welcomed everyone to the Strategy and Policy committee meeting for Wednesday, 27 March 2024, and opened with a karakia.

2 Apologies

There were no apologies.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Public forum, petitions and deputations I He huiuga tuku korero

Thriving Southland

Tessa Millar and Pip Standish from Thriving Southland presented on the upcoming Balance Farm Environment Awards. They gave an overview of the awards which included those involved, the ceremony and event itself and the regional supreme winner open days. They advised that a limited number of tickets were still available if Councillors were interested in attending. Staff were to follow-up on this matter.

COIN South

Cathy Peters from COIN South spoke to the meeting, noting that COIN South was an innovation network for Southland start-ups looking to scale-up beyond the region. She spoke to her presentation which provided an update on their activities, focus areas and noted that Environment Southland was a core strategic partner.

5 Confirmation of minutes

Resolved:

Moved by Cr Roy and seconded by Cr McPhail, that the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting, held on 21 February 2024, be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

6 Notification of extraordinary and urgent business | He panui autaiā hei totoia pakihi

There were no extraordinary items or urgent business tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

7 Questions | Patai

There were no questions asked by the membership.

8 Chairman and councillors reports

Cr Rodway noted that as he was attending via zoom, he would postpone his presentation on the Farm Forester field day until the next committee meeting.

Cr Evans spoke to his report (a copy of which was tabled) which included updates on the LGNZ Zone 5-6 meeting in Christchurch.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Cook, Seconded Cr Morrison, that the Chairman and Councillors reports be received.

Carried

9 Staff reports

9.1 Climate Change Update

This item was to provide an update of progress being made in the climate change and community resilience portfolio including the Regional Climate Change Working Group (RCCWG), the proposed organisational emissions reduction approach and the Regional Climate Change Perceptions Survey report.

It was agreed that Cr Morrison would speak to the RCCWG meeting the following day about drafting a statement on how the 'March for Climate' event could fit with the existing work programme.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell and seconded Cr Evans that the Strategy and Policy Committee receive the report 'Climate change and community resilience update'.

Carried

9.2 Water and Land Update

The purpose of this item was to update Councillors on the water and land portfolio work that had advanced since the last update to the Strategy and Policy committee on 21 February 2024. Mrs Devery noted that since the writing of the report one time extension had been given for Tranche 3, water quantity matters.

Discussions took place on topics including Plan Change Tuatahi, Regulation Changes and the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy and seconded Cr McPhail, that the Strategy and Policy Committee receive the report 'Water and land portfolio update'.

Carried

9.3 Group Update

This item was to give an update on the working being carried out by the Strategy, Science and Engagement Group and the Policy and Government Reform Group.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell and seconded Cr Pemberton, that the Strategy and Policy Committee receive the report 'Group update report'.

Carried

9.4 Update of Councillor Requests and Actions

This report captured Councillor requests and actions that had occurred during Strategy and Policy Committee meetings and provided an update on how the requests were being responded to. It was noted that this would be a standing item on the agenda going forward.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Pemberton and seconded Cr Guyton that the Strategy and Policy Committee receive the report 'Update of Councillor requests and actions'

Carried

10 Public excluded business | He hui pakihi e hara mo te iwi

There was no public excluded business.

Termination

There being no further business, Cr Ludlow closed the meeting with a karakia at 11:55 am

9.1 Update on the Beyond 2025 Long Term Plan

Objective ID: A1081024

Report by: Bobbi Brown, Great South

Approved by: Rachael Millar, General Manager Strategy, Science and Engagement



Purpose

Bobbi Brown will provide a verbal update on progress to implement the Beyond 2025 Long Term Plan with particular focus on the Unified Data Systems (data repository and dashboards) and housing. There will also be brief updates on water, aquaculture and energy.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Strategy and Policy Committee resolve to:

- 1 Receive the report "Update on the Beyond 2025 Long Term Plan"

9.2 Science update - Air quality monitoring

Objective ID: A1071290

Report by: Nick Talbot, Team Leader Air Quality and Terrestrial

Approved by: Rachael Millar, GM Strategy Science and Engagement

Purpose

To update Council on the air quality monitoring programme with a focus on Particulate Matter of 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}). Also, monitoring results from a recent Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) study are provided and discussed.

Summary

This item provides an overview of the air quality monitoring programme including an update on the latest monitoring results. The focus is on PM_{2.5} results in relation to proposed new National Environmental Standards. Moreover, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) results from a recent three-month monitoring campaign by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency are also presented.

The purpose of the air quality monitoring programme is to ensure that Environment Southland has the scientific information it requires to assess the state of Murihiku Southland's ambient air quality and to support progress towards meeting the health-focused National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NESAQ). Continuous air quality monitoring began in 2003 in Invercargill and 2004 in Gore. These sites are within the region's two gazetted airsheds. Periodic monitoring of air quality in other towns across the region is ongoing.

Monitoring of ambient air quality in Murihiku Southland indicates encouraging results. Although the Invercargill or Gore airsheds are not yet meeting the NESAQ standards, analysis suggests improvements have occurred in both Invercargill and Gore.

Environment Southland has undertaken research in Invercargill (2023) and upcoming in Gore (2024) to better understand the spatial variation of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} in advance of possible changes to the NESAQ. Currently the NESAQ has no PM_{2.5} standards, however, a national standard of 25 µg/m³ was proposed several years ago but has been repeatedly delayed in consultation. The study results indicate the Invercargill air quality site is located in an appropriate location for peak concentrations in PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, however, the Gore site may need to be relocated for representative PM_{2.5} monitoring. The upcoming Gore research will help further assess this need.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Strategy and Policy Committee resolve to:

- 1 Receive the report "Air Quality 2023"
- 2 Receive results from the Waka Kotahi and NIWA Invercargill nitrogen dioxide investigation

Background

In 2004, the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NESAQ) came into force to set a guaranteed minimum level of health protection for all New Zealanders. The NESAQ outline ambient air quality thresholds for five contaminants: carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone, PM₁₀ and sulphur dioxide (SO₂). Historic risk assessments completed by Environment Southland identified PM₁₀ as the main contaminant of concern for the region.

PM₁₀ is the shorthand description for airborne particles (solid and liquid) smaller than 10 microns in diameter. The PM₁₀ standard outlined in the NESAQ requires that 24-hour average concentrations do not exceed 50 µg m⁻³ (micrograms of contaminant per cubic metre of air). The NESAQ allows for one exceedance of the PM₁₀ standard in each airshed per year. Southland has two gazetted airsheds, Invercargill and Gore.

During 2024, Invercargill exceeded the $50 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ three times over winter while Gore did not exceed the NESAQ standard. The remainder of the Southland region also makes up a third un gazetted airshed, which includes towns such as Winton, Te Anau and Matura.

Environment Southland has been monitoring PM_{10} in Invercargill since 2003 and in Gore since 2004. Periodic monitoring of PM_{10} has also occurred in Winton, Te Anau, Riverton, Matura, Bluff, Wallacetown and Edendale. Environment Southland also monitors $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ (particles smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter) in Invercargill, Gore and Winton in preparation for the expected changes to the NESAQ. Ministry for the Environment (MfE) consulted on proposed changes to the NESAQ early in 2020 where it was proposed to introduce a $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ standard. MfE has since advised that the review process has been delayed as it considers how the proposed $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ standards will fit into the Resource Management Reform programme. A release date of 2027 has been indicated.

Poor air quality adversely affects the health of the community and increased particulate concentrations have been linked to decreased lung function, heart attack and premature death. Children, the elderly and people with existing respiratory conditions have a higher risk of adverse health outcomes. These effects were highlighted in the latest Health and Air Pollution in New Zealand (HAPINZ 3) report released in 2022 (Kuschel et al, 2022). The key findings of HAPINZ 3 were reported to Council in a briefing on the 3rd August 2022.

Trends in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations for Invercargill and Gore

$\text{PM}_{2.5}$ is currently monitored at Pomona Street, Invercargill and Main Street, Gore. Both sites utilise an optical method (T640x) for data collection. Data collection started at both sites at the end of 2018. The T640x instrument gathers both PM_{10} and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ data. MfE have proposed a standard for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ of $25 \mu\text{g/m}^3$ over 24-hours which, according to the latest MfE guidance, is planned to be in place by 2027. When the 24-hour mean of $25 \mu\text{g/m}^3$ was first mooted this was seen as a reasonable balance between exposure risk to human health and setting an achievable goal. Since then, The World Health Organisation (WHO) has set a maximum 24-hour exposure limit of $15 \mu\text{g/m}^3$. It is unlikely that NZ would follow this guidance straight away, but rather, might look to work their way towards that goal. Given the suggested upcoming $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ changes, it is of interest to see how compliant Southland airsheds are against both $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ values ($25 \mu\text{g/m}^3$ and $15 \mu\text{g/m}^3$).

The long-term trends in Invercargill and Gore have been evaluated using the TheilSen estimator, a more robust method than the typically used least squares regression. The results of that evaluation can be seen in Figures 1 and 2. The data is a relatively short timeframe when considering trends, however, the plots still offer important insight when considered together with the information provided in Table 1.

Both figures show that there have been statistically significant (99.9% confidence level) reductions in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations over the period of 2019-2023. While the trend is encouraging, it will need to continue if the proposed $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ standards are to be met.



Figure 1: TheilSen 5-year trend plot using monthly $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations for Invercargill (2019-2023 inclusive). Trend is indicated by the solid red line, with the confidence intervals identified using dotted line.

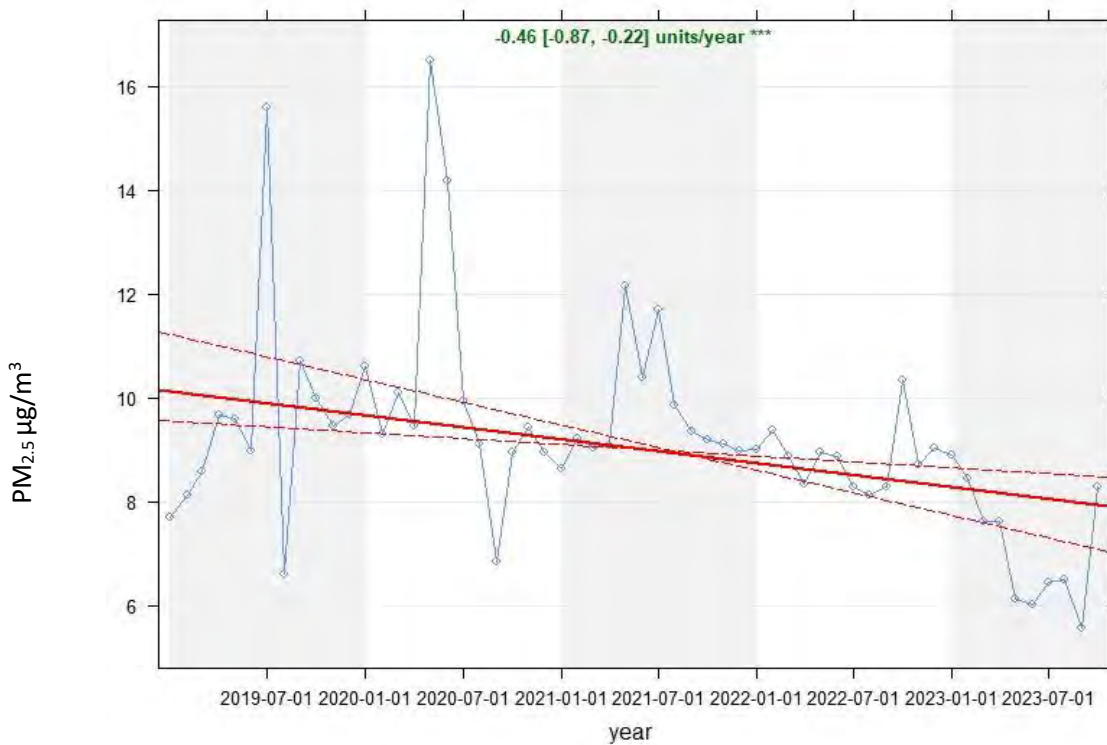


Figure 2: TheilSen trend plot using monthly $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations for Gore (2019-2023 inclusive). Trend is indicated by the solid red line, with the confidence intervals identified using dotted lines.

There is a clear statistically significant declining trend in $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations for both Invercargill and Gore (Figures 1 and 2). There is a subtle difference between the two sites. The plots seem to indicate that Gore has continued to reduce concentrations over the monitoring period, whilst Invercargill has seen little change in concentrations since the peak during 2019.

When looking at the 24-hr averaged PM_{2.5} data for each day over the past five years for both Invercargill and Gore (Table 1). On average, over the five years, Invercargill exceeded the 25 µg/m³ standard 23 times and Gore 11 times. For the WHO value of 15 µg/m³, Invercargill exceeded this value on average 58 times over the past five years whilst Gore exceeded it 46 times.

How well would Southland airsheds meet the proposed PM_{2.5} standards?

Table 1: the number of days when PM_{2.5} concentrations ‘exceeded’ Levels based on the WHO 24-hr value of 15 µg/m³ and proposed New Zealand value of 25 µg/m³

Date	PM _{2.5} Exceedance level			
	Invercargill		Gore	
	25 µg/m ³	15 µg/m ³	25 µg/m ³	15 µg/m ³
2019	9	33	13	61
2020	36	72	22	70
2021	25	73	6	35
2022	21	61	9	44
2023	22	49	5	20

When comparing the average 24-hr concentrations (Table 1) with the trend plots (Figures 1 and 2), the details within the trend analysis become more apparent. For Invercargill, overall, there has been just a steady decrease in the number of high PM_{2.5} days over the past five years (with yearly variability to be expected). In comparison, Gore has shown a more marked decrease in such days. The PM_{2.5} findings show that, although there has been some improvements in PM₁₀ concentrations towards meeting NESAQ, Southland would still have some way to go to meet even the most liberal standard of 25 µg/m³.

Highlighting the seasonality of PM_{2.5} concentrations

PM_{2.5} is a subset of the PM₁₀ size fraction, that is, all PM_{2.5} is counted within the mass of the PM₁₀ measurements. The usefulness of monitoring PM_{2.5} is that PM_{2.5} is largely emitted from anthropogenic sources, smoke, diesel, volatiles for industrial processes etc. Conversely, PM₁₀ is dominated by heavier, larger particles that are often naturally emitted such as sea salt, dust, pollen, etc. This is important to understand in terms of policy for Environment Southland due to how these different sources combine to increase concentrations at key times of the year.

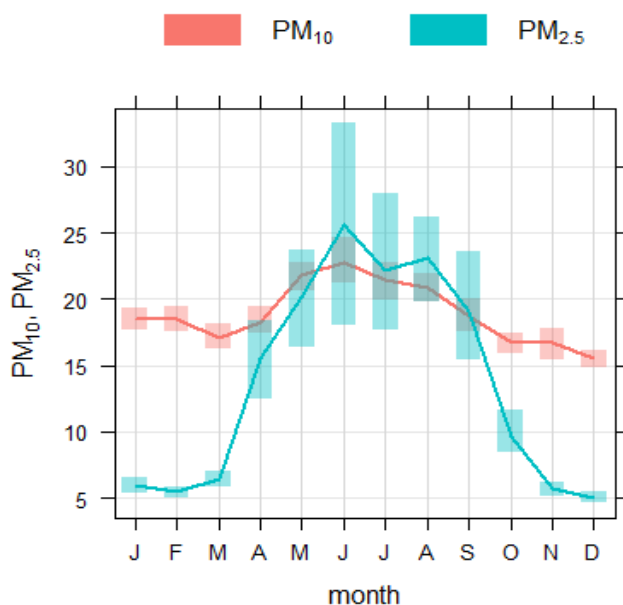


Figure 3: Monthly breakdown of PM₁₀ (red) and PM_{2.5} (aqua) concentrations (µg/m³) by month for Invercargill.

Figure 3 shows that all year round, PM_{10} tends to be steady at around $20 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, whilst for the summer months, $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations are a small proportion of the PM_{10} . This is a result of the low output of smoke from home heating during the warmer months and also favourable atmospheric conditions in summertime for increased mixing out, due to convective ground heating and no inversions from cold nights. Natural sources such as dust and pollen are more likely to remain airborne longer during summer therefore allowing their concentrations to increase. Between April and September, the $PM_{10}/PM_{2.5}$ proportion changes markedly, with $PM_{2.5}$ becoming a major contributing factor. The $PM_{2.5}$ combined with the stable PM_{10} both combine to create these days of very high pollution concentrations which can exceed the NESAQ PM_{10} standard of $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Preliminary results from nitrogen dioxide monitoring across Invercargill

For three months during 2023, Waka Kotahi and NIWA set up NO_2 monitoring across various locations of Invercargill. The aim of the study was to compare NO_2 concentrations with those modelled in the HAPINZ 3 report (Kuschel et al, 2022). HAPINZ 3 suggested that the health of Invercargill residents is being detrimentally impacted by NO_2 emissions. The NO_2 data used in HAPINZ 3 were largely derived from modelling using just one or two data points in Invercargill and extrapolating data from similar towns across the Motu. Given the uncertainties inherent in such modelling work, real data has been collected to validate and correct the assumptions made. Several different types were located for monitoring and the data separated out to represent each site. These sites are identified on the x-axis in the boxplots of Figure 4.

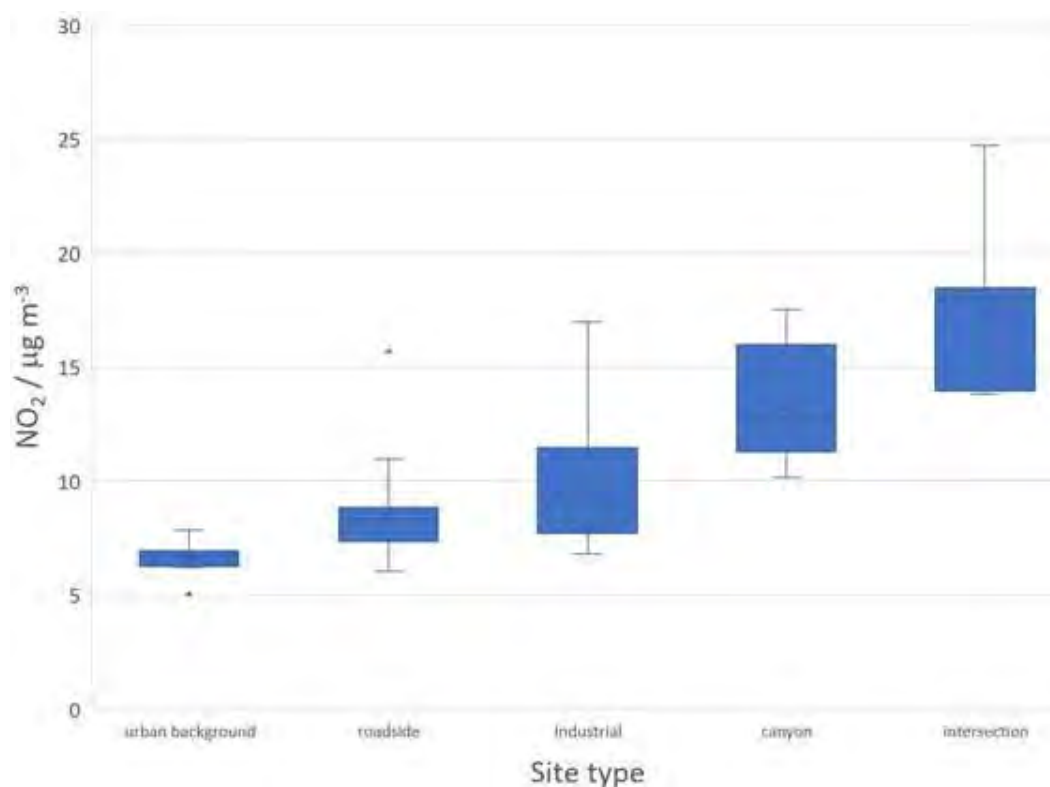


Figure 4: Distribution of observed NO_2 (adjusted to estimate annual mean) by site types across Invercargill (boxplots – boxes represent 25th-75th percentile – whiskers show 95th percentile, black line represents median).

The background sites (Figure 4) represents a cul-de-sac or quiet avenue in Invercargill and show the lowest concentrations of NO_2 . These urban background sites are between $5-10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and are comparable to urban background sites in other regions. Roadside locations were only slightly higher, showing that although monitored close to a busy road, if there are no high-sided buildings alongside, the pollutants can easily disperse and dilute to keep concentrations low. Industrial sites show a greater variability of concentrations, likely dependent of the type of industry, amount of traffic/truck flow to the workspace. The orientation of the building and location of the industry may also be a factor.

Street canyon settings offer the second highest concentrations of NO₂. Street canyons reverse the comments on roadside (NO₂) with both dilution and mixing out of the pollutant reduced. This allows for elevated concentrations to be reached, often in areas where there are more pedestrians (under canopies and street awnings for example).

Intersections offer the highest levels of NO₂ across Invercargill. This is due to both idling vehicles and the use of fuel when pulling away from a stationary positions. The build-up of traffic at these sites also increases concentrations. Traffic lights are likely to be worse than roundabouts for pollution build up.

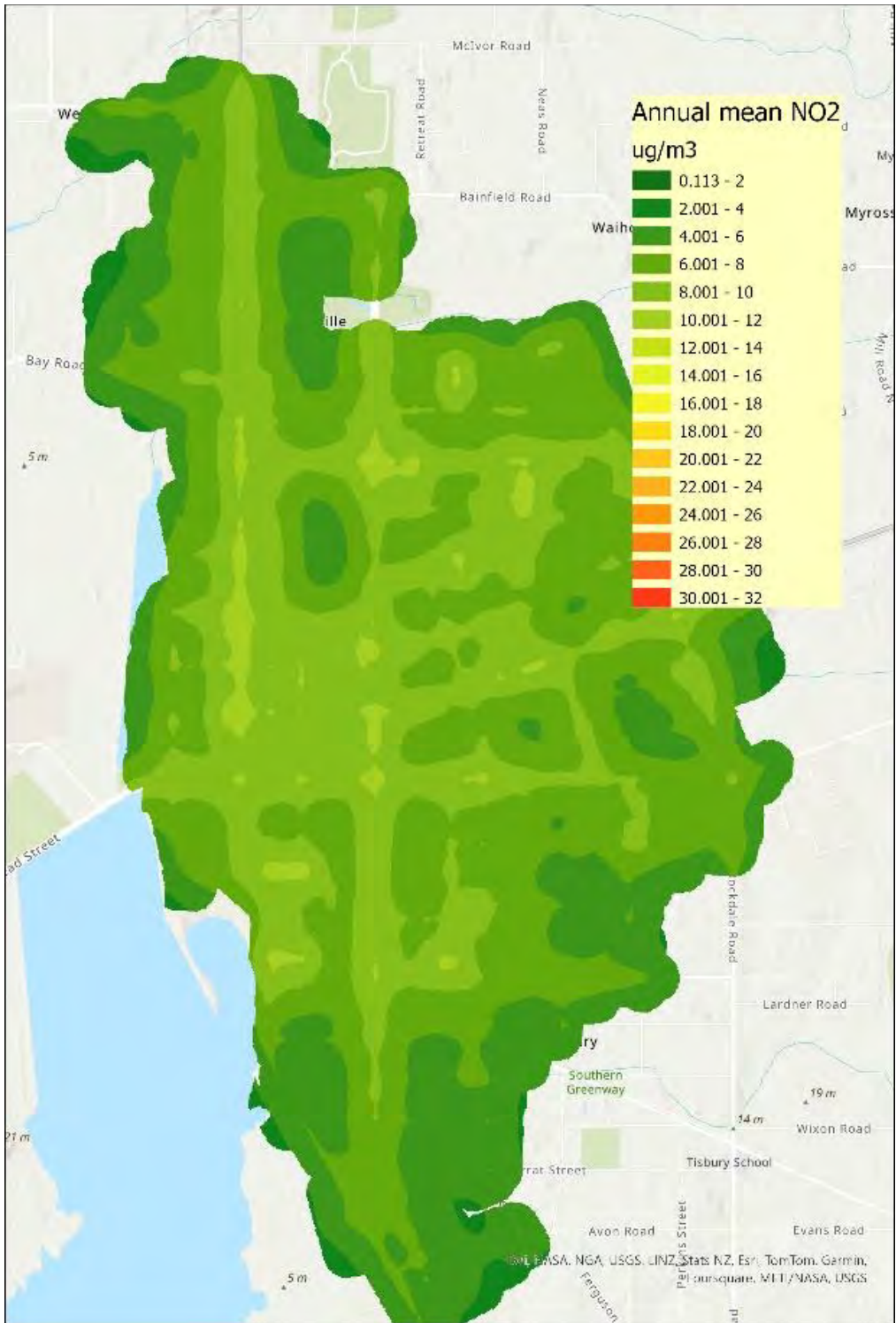


Figure 5: NIWA model of NO₂ in the absence of larger buildings/sheltering and without the impact of high emissions around intersections (i.e. this is what MOST people are exposed to MOST of the time).

Although levels remain quite low across Invercargill, there are a lot of people who are consistently exposed to these quite low levels (Figure 5). This becomes important to understand with new WHO guidelines for NO₂ concentrations set at 10 µg/m³ annual average and 25 µg/m³ 24-hour mean. Note that WHO have dropped the annual average down from their previous guidance level of 40 µg/m³. The statement which came with this was that studies globally have shown that actually there is no safe level of exposure to NO₂ (WHO, 2021). Figure 5 shows that there are a lot of streets where that 10 µg/m³ value is exceeded. In New Zealand, short-term exposure to NO₂ is assessed against the NESAQ 1-hour average standard of 200 µg/m³. There is no daily or annual standard for NO₂.

The latest epidemiological evidence provided by WHO indicated long-term chronic impacts becoming of major concern rather than short term exposure acute effects (WHO, 2021). There is no certainty that MfE will adjust its guidance for NO₂ accordingly.

Future work and next steps

This winter NIWA and ES are working together to install a dense network of sensors are being installed for two months across Gore. This will allow us to better understand the spatial concentrations across the Gore airshed in terms of particulate monitoring. Understanding that Gore burns a tonne more coal a night than Invercargill. The results from this monitoring campaign will help direct where information campaigns should be focused, as well as further assess whether the location of the Gore air quality shed is in a suitable place to provide accurate assessments of Gores’ air.

Staff are considering next steps in terms of the preliminary nitrogen dioxide monitoring results and will comment on this further at the meeting.

A report on the wider air quality portfolio will come to the June Strategy and Policy Committee including Breathe Easy activities and recommended next steps for the Clean Air Loans Scheme.

References

- *Kuschel et al (2022). Health and air pollution in New Zealand 2016 (HAPINZ 3.0): Volume 1 – Finding and implications. Report prepared by G Kuschel, J Metcalfe, S Sridhar, P Davy, K Hastings, K Mason, T Denne, J Berentson-Shaw, S Bell, S Hales, J Atkinson and A Woodward for Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Health, Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, March 2022.*
- *Longley, I Coulson, Somerville, E, 2021 Spatial Variation of PM2.5 in Gore during winter 2021, NIWA Report, prepared for Environment Southland.*
- *Wilton, Emily, 2022, Gore Emission Inventory; Environet Ltd; Released April 2023*
- *Wilton, Emily, 2022, Invercargill Emission Inventory; Environet Ltd, Released March 2023*
- *WHO. 2021. Bonn: WHO European Centre for Environment and Health WHO global air quality guidelines: particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide.*

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources	X		
Diverse opportunities to make a living			x
Communities empowered and resilient	X		
Communities expressing their diversity	X		

9.3 Water and land portfolio update

Objective ID: A1076008

Report by: Liz Devery, Policy and Planning Manager

Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Policy and Government Reform



Purpose

To provide an update on the water and land portfolio work that has advanced since the last update to this committee on 27 March 2024.

Summary

The implementation of the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP) with the majority of provisions no longer subject to appeal. An extraordinary Council meeting is scheduled (8 May) to seek the endorsement to make these provisions operative.

The implementation of the pSWLP involves the continued development of the Southland approach to Farm Plans. Regional training opportunities for those interested in becoming certifiers (or suitably qualified people) for both the national regulations and the Proposed Southland Water and Land farm plans are underway.

The scope the Plan Change Tuatahi workstream is being reviewed. Next steps will continue to build on the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan provisions, a focus on specific issues within Southland and continue to look at non-regulatory elements to achieve freshwater outcomes. A plan to address the region's objectives in relation to water related matters will be ready for consultation and notification over the next 12 months.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Strategy and Policy Committee resolve to:

1. Receive the report "Water and land portfolio update".

Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP) appeals

There are a few matters that remain live with the Environment Court. Since our last report, there has been no changes in regard to the water quantity tranche of matters that relate to the appeals on Policy 42 and Appendix L.5. An update on that matter is due to be filed with the Environment Court on 31 May 2024.

The High Court appeal relating to Rule 24 Incidental Discharge was heard on 31 October. A decision was issued on 9 April 2024. The decision touched on a number of matters of appeal that were raised by the parties, particularly in relation to the scope of the Environment Court appeals, the application of s70 of the RMA to diffuse discharges, and the relationship between proposed Rule 24 and s70 of the RMA. The implications of that decision and options of how to respond to the decision are being worked through.

The other matter before High Court relates to a proposed Rule 78A on 'Weed and sediment removal for drainage maintenance'. The parties to that appeal have filed a memorandum seeking the adjournment of that appeal and a working group is to be established to advance a resolution to these appeals.

Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan implementation

Staff are progressing with an implementation plan for the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP). Those provisions that have been through the Environment Court process and that are no longer subject to appeal have been prepared to be made operative. This requires a formal decision from full Council as they hold the delegation to make decisions on plans under the Resource Management Act.

The rollout of farm environmental management plans under the pSWLP and the national freshwater farm plan provisions within Southland is being reviewed to ensure efficiencies for landholders whilst moving towards the environmental outcomes sought through these tools. Certification training has commenced with regional

training workshops held in April 2024. Further regional certification training opportunities have been set for later in the year. This training is seeking to ensure that there is a farm environmental management plan checking system that meets the requirements of both the national regulations and the Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan. This training is an important step towards ensuring that both the national objectives and those set out in the Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan are understood and pathways towards meeting these objectives are built into on-farm actions.

Plan Change Tuatahi

Staff are working towards a revised scope for Plan Change programme that will align with the direction given at the February 2024 Strategy and Policy meeting. At a high level, governance approved progressing some form of Plan Change Tuatahi, but with a focus on a Southland solution to freshwater in a manner that is driven by the objectives in the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan, the values identified through engagement, and the Southland context.

This work intends revise the approach and enable a focus on the issues within the Southland context. The exact nature of the scope of this programme is being developed. There is significant work underway to pull the best information available to Council together to develop catchment scale summaries. These will assist in informing appropriate direction of both regulatory and non-regulatory actions at region and catchment scale.

Catchment Planning

Two projects are underway working with Te Ao Marama and the community to develop approaches to catchment planning.

The first is in the Waikawa catchment where the first phase of work is drawing to a close. External contractors, funded by MfE, have assisted to gather information from mana whenua, the community and various agencies working in Waikawa. This information has been documented in the form of a story map, a GIS based tool that gives visual representation. A list of actions has been assembled that reflects a range of interests in the catchment. The next phase of the project is being developed that creates longevity for those involved, and seeks to widen the level of engagement. Feedback on the Waikawa Storymap has confirmed the need for further discussion in the community, and to convert the action list into a plan of action linked to outcomes (that can be measured) with timeframes and funding attached.

The second project is in the Waihopai Catchment, and is certainly in an information gathering phase. Thus far there has been extensive internal engagement reflecting the depth of knowledge that the organisation has about the catchment. Initial engagement with iwi has been undertaken, and there is an intention to undertake targeted communication externally based on project scope (with an intention to undertake wider engagement in the future). It is evident from the discussions to date that a plan which articulates outcomes (that are measurable) as set out in our values and objectives work, and a set of co-ordinated actions would be enormously beneficial.

Intensive Winter Grazing

A calendar of actions has been developed to support good outcomes for intensive winter grazing activities across the region. The calendar reflects that the practices which occur during May to September are heavily influenced by the crop establishment phase that occurs in Spring. We have approached the issue from a cross organisational perspective, reflecting compliance, communications, consents and planning as well as working externally with agencies and individual farmers. Our recent pro-active engagement programme has been initiated, and roadside assessments undertaken. We gathered 109 observations, which include examples of positive practice. These have been triaged and are now confirming our response.

Next steps

Staff will continue to provide regular updates to the Strategy and Policy Committee.

Staff are progressing with the work programme and are developing a programme of works in partnership with Te Ao Marama Inc.

Fit with strategic framework

OUTCOME	CONTRIBUTES	DETRACTS	NOT APPLICABLE
Managed access to quality natural resources	X		
Diverse opportunities to make a living	X		
Communities empowered and resilient	X		
Communities expressing their diversity	X		

The framework set above is from 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. The work described in this paper is a core function of Council, and is related to current obligations to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.

Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

The engagement relating to the water and land portfolio is being undertaken in accordance with the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Considerations

Financial and legal implications

There are no financial or legal considerations associated with this report.

9.4 Group Programme Update

Objective ID: A1076041

Report by: Liz Devery, Regional Planning Manager, Marcus Roy, Policy and Government Manager and Dave Gibbs, Strategy and Partnership Manager

Approved by: Lucy Hicks, General Manager Policy and Government Reform and Rachael Millar General Manager Strategy, Science and Engagement



Purpose

This report is an update on the work being carried out by the Strategy, Science and Engagement Group and the Policy and Government Reform Group.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Strategy and Policy Committee resolve to:

1. Receive the report "Group Update Report".

Background

The Strategy, Science & Engagement Group are responsible for:

- Developing clear strategy, corporate plans and defined priorities
- Providing coordination and support for the management and successful performance of the organisation's key groups of activities/portfolios – air quality, biosecurity and biodiversity, climate change and community resilience, coast and marine, regional leadership, and water and land
- Leading the generation and reporting of data and insights
- Identifying and managing strategic relationships and partnerships
- Overseeing formal stakeholder and community engagement processes across the organisation
- Providing centralised communications functions
- Delivering science capability

The Policy and Government Reform Group are responsible for:

- Developing resource management and regional plan-making
- Providing policy advice
- Providing drafting leadership
- Monitoring plan effectiveness
- Managing the review of, and Council's response to, national direction and reform

Matters of interest

Information about national and regional matters of interest is outlined below. Tables of current and future consultations are attached.

National

Fast-track Approval Bill

Submissions on the Fast-track Approval Bill closed on 19 April. Environment Southland submitted supporting the intent of fast-track legislation, and suggested changes to improve the outcomes anticipated from the Bill. The Minister has called for agencies and businesses to submit projects or developments for consideration to be processed under the fast track process. Projects can be submitted for consideration until 3 May. Once published, assessment of possible projects are likely to occur in Southland can commence. RMA amendment Bills

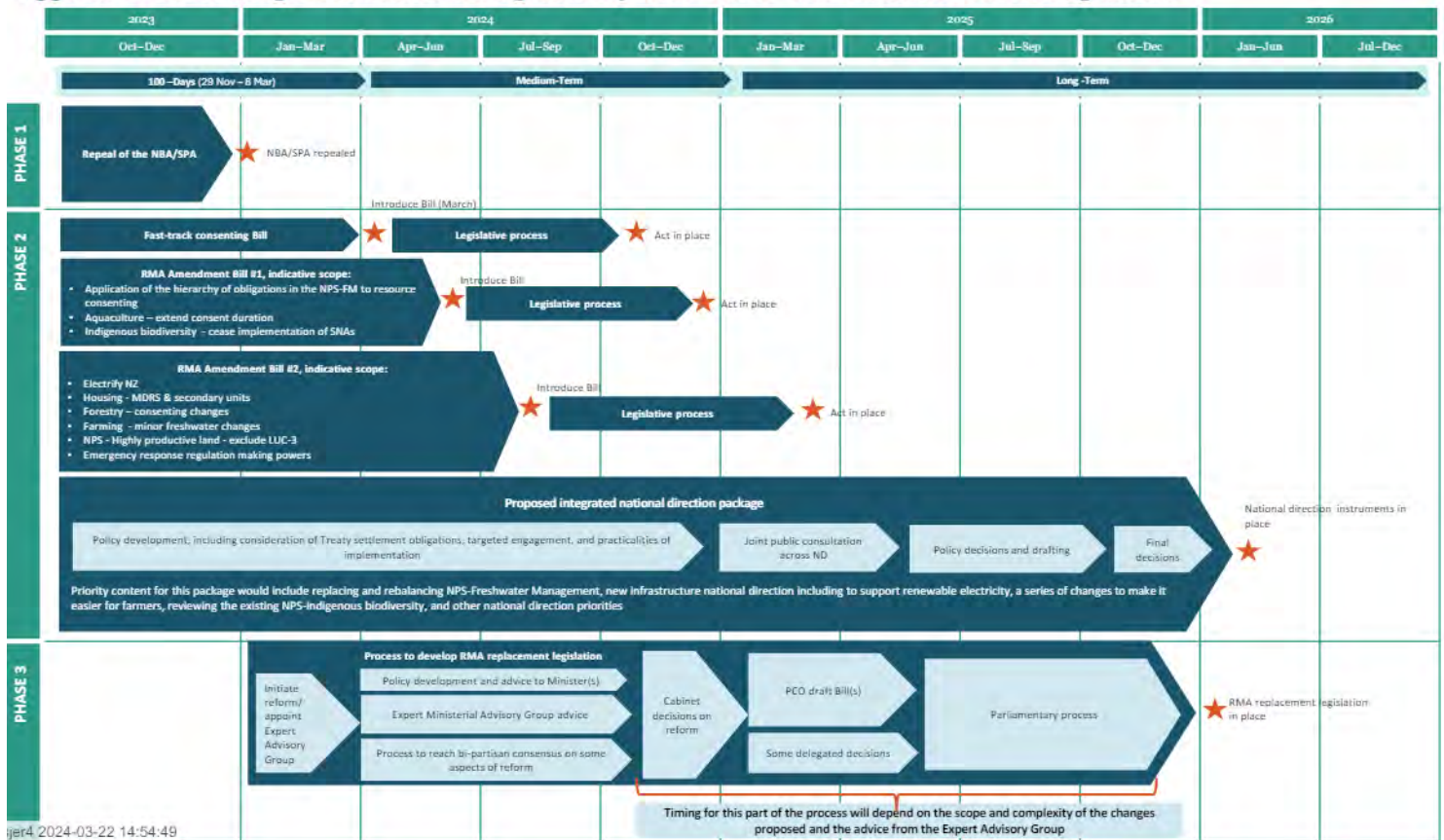
Government has indicated there will be two RMA amendment Bills this year, the first proposed in May will:

- Make it clear that, while the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) is being reviewed and replaced, resource consent applicants no longer need to demonstrate their proposed activities follow the Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy of obligations, as set out in the NPS-FM.
- Amend stock exclusion regulations in relation to sloped land.
- Repeal intensive winter grazing regulations.
- Align the consenting pathway for coal mining with the pathway for other mining activities in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB), NPS-FM, and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-F).
- Suspend the NPS-IB requirement for councils to identify new Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) for three years.

The second Bill will be introduced to parliament later in 2024 and it will focus on housing supply and renewable energy. The second Bill will also potentially touch on farming and minor freshwater changes, the NPS on Highly Productive Land, emergency response regulation making powers.

A timeline of anticipated RMA reform has been provided by the Ministry for the Environment (below), which shows the phasing of various components and how they anticipate the stages for the reform to progress over the next two years.

Appendix 1: Reforming the Resource Management System - Three-Year Indicative Work Programme



Potential extensions to permits for Ports

The current indication from central government is that coastal permits for ports across the country may be extended by 20 years. <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-consults-extending-coastal-permits-ports>.

The changes are proposed to be included in the second RMA amendment Bill which will be introduced to parliament later in 2024.

South Port has some consents, such as for dredging, but the majority of operational activities are managed through a Deed of Agreement with Environment Southland. The Regional Coastal Plan (RCP), through Rules, allows for certain discharges of contaminants to land, water, and air as a permitted activity in the Bluff Port Zone, provided that they are undertaken in accordance with the Deed of Agreement. Given that the Deed is not a permit, it seems that South Port will not be broadly affected. Once there is more details available, we will provide a further briefing for Council. This will connect to the review of Southland's Regional Coastal Plan and potential future regulatory approaches to the management of the site.

Update on Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022

Since the report tabled at Strategy and Policy in February 2024, there has been a further change to the Dam Safety regulations. In February, the regulations applied to all the 'Dams' that fell under the definition of a '**Classifiable Dam**' as specified in Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022 being:

- 4 metres or higher and store 20,000 or more cubic metres volume of water or other fluid; or
- 1 metre or higher and store 40,000 or more cubic metres volume of water or other fluid.

There has been a subsequent change and now the regulations only apply to those that are:

- 4 metres or higher and store 20,000 or more cubic metres volume of water or other fluid

This reduces the impact of the regulations on the general public and the immediate demands that would have been placed on the resource of specially qualified Recognised Engineers that would be required to undertake the Potential Impact Classifications (PIC).

The objectives of the regulations to ensure that classifiable dams are well operated, maintained and regularly monitored remain.

Regional

Transport planning – RLTP Update

The consultation period for the Otago Southland Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) mid-term review closed on 19 April 2024. 58 submissions have been received and are being processed with Hearings to be held over the period of 23 May till 4 June.

A Regional Transport Committee meeting is scheduled for the start of July 2024 for the Hearing Panel to make its recommendations on the RLTP. Council will be presented a report to consider approving the submission of RLTP to NZTA in July.

Regional Coastal Plan Review

Staff are continuing to work on the review of the Regional Coastal Plan for Southland. A workshop was held in April to get an understanding of current Environment Southland jurisdiction and ongoing management arrangements relating to cruise ships. Acknowledging that cruise ships are only one Fiordland user group, the wider discussion looked at the potential approach to determining the carrying capacity within Fiordland. Following on from that workshop, staff are progressing with the Fiordland carrying capacity work to develop a mixed approach of in intrinsic, physical and perception criteria.

Summary

PROJECT / PROGRAMME	KEY OBJECTIVES
Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP)	Completion of Environment Court hearings on the pSWLP appeals Topic B matters following mediation. Preparation for the future plan change (Plan Change Tuatahi) to be notified this triennium.
Coastal Plan	Stage 2 includes discussion papers and workshops with Council and the TAMI Board on provision details. This further work will continue throughout 2023 and 2024.
Air	A review of the Clean Air Loans Scheme. A further review of the Air Plan will be advanced once the revised NESAQ is released.
Hazards Management	Ongoing provision of hazard advice and support to communities. Ongoing work underway to update advice.
Transport Management	Co-ordinate approach through the Combined Regional Transport Committees (RTCs). Manage stock effluent dumpsites across the Southland region. Completed development of new Regional Land Transport Plan.
Regional Policy Statement (RPS)	The RPS is being revised to include freshwater visions and implement the National Planning Standards.
Strategic Planning and Reporting	Including the Long-term Plan, Annual Plan and associated reporting, along with supporting tools such as a performance management and monitoring framework, insights programme, business planning tools and organisational strategies.
Climate Change and Community Resilience	The joint development and implementation of a Murihiku Southland Regional Climate Change Strategy with regional partners. A review of Environment Southland's Climate Action Plan.
Environmental Monitoring	Ongoing (and long-term) monitoring of the region's water, air, land and coastal resources.
Science Strategy and Investigations	Strategic science and investigations for the region.
Strategic Communications	Strategic communications relating to Environment Southland's activities and community engagement.

2023/2024 “Action ahead” summary

	NEXT MILESTONES	STATUS	RELEVANT DATES
1. pSWLP & limit setting	A large portion of the provisions in the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan have been settled through the Court process. Staff are focussed on the implementation of the Environment Court decisions. A council decision is being sought to make those provisions that are no longer subject to appeal, operative. There remains matters that have not yet been resolved. An appeal that raised water quantity related matters is still in Environment Court. A joint memorandum signed by the parties involved in the appeal relating to drainage maintenance is seeking an adjournment of that appeal. The parties involved are actively working through matters raised in the Court to see if there is an alternative means of addressing the various concerns. High Court issued a decision on Rule 24 – Incidental Discharge. A number of options to respond to the findings of the Court that are being considered.	In progress	May 2024
	The scope of the refocused Plan Change Tuatahi, given the changes in national direction, is being developed for Council discussion in May and endorsement in June 2024.	In progress	April 2025
2. Coastal Plan	A Surface Water Activity Plan Change was notified in July 2022 to address increasing intensification of these activities in Fiordland. The provisions have been referred to the Minister for Conservation for approval of the provisions accepted by Council.	In progress	Early 2024
	Provision drafting for the wider RCP review continues using the substantial direction already received from councillors and TAMI Board members. A workshop was held in April to get an understanding of ongoing management arrangements relating to cruise ships and a wider discussion on the forward approach to carrying capacity.	In progress	End 2024/start 2025
3. Air	Council received and workshopped the Clean Air Loans Scheme (CALs) review reports in late 2023. A recommendation for Council to discontinue the CALs will be tabled at the next Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on Wednesday 19 June 2024 following further discussion with Invercargill City Council and Gore District Council staff.	In progress	Mid 2024
4. Hazards Management	LiDAR capture for the majority of the region is available. There remains data from small areas of the region that are being reviewed and corrected prior to release.	In progress	Start 2024
	The Southland Natural Hazards Portal is live and will continue to be updated as further information is received.	In progress	Ongoing

5. Transport Management	The Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) consultation has recently closed on 19 April.	In progress	April 2024
6. RPS	Following the decision of Council late in 2022, the review of the Regional Policy Statement is focused on the required freshwater changes and is being developed as part of Plan Change Tuatahi. Any potential changes identified as required through the Southland Coastal Plan Review process are also being considered.	In progress	April 2025
7. Strategic Planning and Reporting	Work on the 2024-34 Long-term Plan (LTP) continues with the Consultation Document open for public consultation until 6 May 2024, with hearings and deliberations scheduled for mid-May.	In progress	Ongoing
8. Climate Change and Community Resilience	A Climate Change Sub-Committee meeting will be held in May. The proposed Regional Climate Change strategy, endorsed by all Councils at respective Council meetings in late January and early February 2024, is currently open for public feedback (closing 8 May 2024). The focus of the Regional Climate Change Working Group (RCCWG) for 2024 is to begin the second phase of determining collaborative pathways to achieve the aspirations set out in the proposed strategy. An inter-agency report from the group's workshop on 28 March 2024 is <u>attached</u> .	In progress	Ongoing
9. Environmental Monitoring	Regular State of the Environment monitoring continues along with hydrological work and servicing of data requests.	In progress	Ongoing
10. Science Strategy and Investigations	Scientific work to inform policy development processes, as well as advice and technical input into consent applications, compliance matters, submissions, national science projects, working groups state of the environment monitoring and science investigations continues. Key activities include the conclusion of summer monitoring programmes (such as recreational waters, biomonitoring, estuary and marine monitoring), support for Plan Change Tuatahi, the Waiau River bioenergetic model and Waituna Lagoon monitoring and reporting.	In progress	Ongoing
11. Strategic Communications	Key activities include supporting community engagement at various events around the region and responding to emerging issues. The next Envirosouth is at the printers. A significant emphasis at present is Long-term Plan consultation and communications.	In progress	Ongoing

Current, relevant initiatives open for consultation

NAME OF INITIATIVE	LEAD AGENCY	DUE DATE	DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
Fast track consenting Fast-track Approvals Bill - New Zealand Parliament (www.parliament.nz)	Environment Committee	19 April 2024	Legislation to meet the Government’s 100-day commitment to develop a permanent fast-track consenting regime. NB the carried over Natural and Built Environment Act regime will apply until this legislation is passed. Fast track consenting is for consents, concessions, Wildlife Act, Freshwater regulations, marine concessions, reserves and aquaculture. Supplementary Analysis Report: Fast-track Approvals Bill The Treasury New Zealand.	Submitted in support and suggested changes to improve outcomes. Awaiting list of Southland/Otago projects to be published.
Provide Advice for Preparation of Emissions Budgets https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/preparing-advice-on-emissions-budgets/	Climate Change Commission	31 May 2024	Every five years, the Climate Change Commission must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review emissions budgets that are already set – they may recommend a budget be revised if there have been changes to the way emissions are measured or reported, or if significant changes have affected the considerations on which the emissions budget was originally based. recommend the maximum level of the next emissions budget. 	Maintain watching Brief
Review of the 2050 Emissions Target https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/advice-to-government-topic/review-of-the-2050-emissions-target/	Climate Change Commission	31 May 2024	The Commission must review emissions budgets every five years starting in 2024. At the same time as this, they must provide independent expert advice on whether any changes should be made to Aotearoa New Zealand’s legislated 2050 targets. These could be changes to what the targets are, what gases they apply to, when the targets have to be met by, and how much can be met in Aotearoa New Zealand or paid for overseas.	Maintain watching Brief
Local Water Done Well Bill	MfE	March / April	The first of two projected bills giving effect to Local Water Done Well, this will focus on the proposed service delivery plans.	Maintain watching Brief
Amendments to the Hazardous Substances (Importers and Manufacturers Notice	EPA	28 March 2024	The changes relate to the information required from businesses that import and manufacture chemicals. The changes seek to improve how chemicals are managed in New Zealand under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act).	No action planned. Watching brief.

NAME OF INITIATIVE	LEAD AGENCY	DUE DATE	DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
2015 - Discussion document https://www.epa.govt.nz/public-consultations/in-progress/proposal-importers-and-manufacturers-notice/				
Privacy Amendment Bill (added 6 December 2023) Privacy Amendment Bill 292-1 (2023), Government Bill Contents – New Zealand Legislation		TBC	The Bill creates a new privacy principle that individuals must be notified when there is indirect collection of personal information by a third party. The key purpose of this bill is to improve transparency for individuals about the collection of their personal information and better enable individuals to exercise their privacy rights.	No action planned
Repeal of Good Friday and Easter Sunday as Restricted Trading Days (Shop Trading and Sale of Alcohol) Amendment Bill	Private Member's Bill	TBC	The Bill allows more or less unfettered shop trading and sale of alcohol on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It is a matter for shop owner discretion. Among other things, the provisions empowering you to set a local policy on shop trading would be removed. The default restriction on the sale and supply of alcohol on these days would be repealed. Repeal of Good Friday and Easter Sunday as Restricted Trading Days (Shop Trading and Sale of Alcohol) Amendment Bill 38-1 (2024), Members Bill Contents – New Zealand Legislation	No action planned
Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Constituencies) Amendment Bill	DIA	May	This Bill repeals the Māori wards legislation of the previous Government and reinstates the poll provisions for establishing Māori wards. The changes will bring back the 5% threshold for petitions calling for a binding poll.	Maintain watching Brief

			Councils that have established Māori wards/constituencies in 2023 for the 2025 local elections will be required to either hold a poll on the establishment of their Māori wards in their 2025 election or if councils do not wish to hold a poll, those councils will be given the opportunity to reverse or rescind their decision to disestablish those wards later this year. If Councils do hold a poll its outcome will be binding for the 2028 and 2031 local elections.	
Resource Management Act Amendment Bill (Te Mana o te Wai)	MfE	May / June 2024	Bill to change the hierarchy of obligations created by Te Mana o Te Wai in the NPS Freshwater, extending the duration of marine farm consents, and ceasing the implementation of new Significant Natural Areas for three years to enable a thorough review of their operation.	Potential submission
RMA replacement legislation	Environment Select Committee MfE	End of 2024 / 2025 Most likely in 2025	Bill/s to replace the RMA with new resource management legislation based on the enjoyment of property rights, while ensuring good environmental outcomes. Looks at splitting urban/spatial planning from environmental protection.	SIG groups developing feedback on what they would like in, out or changed to feed up to government,
National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity	MfE	TBC	Amend/replace National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity	Maintain watching Brief
New National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management	MfE / Board of Inquiry	TBC 2025?	Cabinet has agreed to replace the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) 'to better reflect the interests of all water users.'	Maintain watching Brief
New National Policy Statement on Renewable Energy Generation	MfE	TBC	New National Policy Statement on Renewable Energy Generation	Maintain watching Brief
Land Transport Management Act Amendment Bill	Ministry of Transport	TBC	Amending the Land Transport Management Act	Maintain watching Brief



Regional Climate Change Working Group report

To: Environment Southland
Te Ao Mārama Board
Gore District Council
Invercargill City Council
Southland District Council

Meeting Date: Wednesday 8 May 2024

From: Staff-level Regional Climate Change Working group

Purpose

This report provides all Councils and the Te Ao Mārama Board with an update on the governance-level Regional Climate Change Working Group workshop, held on 28 March 2024.

Recommendation

That councils and the Te Ao Mārama Board receive the report “Regional Climate Change Working Group report”.

Background

Following a Regional Climate Change Hui in July 2022, Environment Southland and Te Ao Mārama brought together a staff-level regional climate change working group, which has met regularly since October 2022. A governance-level regional climate change working group (RCCWG) was established in February 2023.

The RCCWG met seven times throughout 2023 to develop a proposed regional climate change strategy. Phase 2 of this work has now commenced with an initial RCCWG workshop 1 February 2024, to begin developing a regional framework for action.

The governance-level group is not a formal joint committee and does not have formal delegations. It is supported by the staff-level working group.

Phase 1: Proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy

The proposed Regional Climate Change strategy was endorsed by all Councils for consultation, late January / early February 2024. Environment Southland is co-ordinating public feedback on the proposed strategy on behalf of all of the agencies involved, via the Environment Southland LTP consultation document 2024 – 2034.

The strategy and associated engagement portal has been live on the Environment Southland website since 29 February and consultation will close 8 May 2024. A special hearing process will be held (placeholder dates 16 and 20 May) to enable



the consideration of feedback before finalisation and adoption of the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy in approximately mid-2024.

Phase 2: RCCWG workshop – 28 March 2024

The focus of the most recent RCCWG workshop was the development of pathways to achieve the communications and engagement aspirations (11, 12 and 13) of the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy.

The previous workshop (1 February) was the starting point for these discussions; as well as the regional community climate change perceptions survey report and a stocktake of existing and proposed projects in relation to these aspirations.

The RCCWG workshop 28 March, was an opportunity to delve further into potential options and considering which of these could be explored further. As part of workshopping potential synergies across the communications and engagement aspirations were also identified. It is expected that the direction from this workshop will become the platform for the next RCCWG workshop schedule 23 May, which will be focusing on the adaptation aspirations (8, 9 and 10).

Next steps

1. The proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy consultation process will close 8 May 2024; with a special hearing and deliberations to take place during May;
2. The revised Regional Climate Change Strategy will be put forward to each agency for individual consideration and final approval by mid-2024;
3. The next RCCWG phase 2 workshop will be held 23 May 2024 focusing on the adaptation aspirations and how the application of the DAPP model could assist us with long-term adaptation planning;

Key messages

- The RCCWG welcomes the opportunity and the value from having Great South staff join us for our phase two work;
- It was positive and motivational to explore the range of potential pathways forward for the communication and engagement aspirations;
- Our communication and engagement aspirations are foundational in supporting our mitigation and adaptation aspirations;
- RCCWG participants were surprised by how many good ideas emerged within a short time;
- It is important that we continue to demonstrate regional leadership by example, walking the talk with respect to climate change actions;

9.5 Update on Councillor Requests and Actions

Objective ID: A1080708

Report by: Mikayla Wass, Meeting Secretary

Approved by: Rachael Millar, General Manager Strategy, Science and Engagement



Purpose

This report captures Councillor requests and actions that have occurred during Strategy and Policy Committee meetings and provides an update on how these are being responded to.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Strategy and Policy Committee resolve to:

- 1 Receive the report “Update on Councillor Requests and Actions”

Report

The following table summarises requests from Councillors that have occurred in recent months:

Date	Councillor Request/Action	Update
November 2023	Action: To have a report presented at the next Climate Change sub-committee meeting on the 12-month work programme for meeting our emissions reductions targets.	Work has commenced on this with a Climate Change sub-committee meeting due to be held before the end of May 2024.
February 2024	Request: For a wetland development workshop with external experts.	This is being built into the series of water and land workshops. We expect this topic to be covered by June 2024 at the latest.
February 2024	Request: For farmers using stock shelters to attend a council workshop.	As above.
March 2024	Action: For staff to organise tickets for Councillors interested in attending the Balance Farm Environment Awards.	Tickets have been provided to those interested.
April 2024	Action: For staff to advise how the Government’s intention to extend the existing coastal permits for ports for 20yrs might play out through our Coastal Plan work.	Staff will provide an update prior to the June Strategy and Policy Committee meeting.