

Notice is hereby given of the

Strategy and Policy Committee - Rautaki me Mahere

Wednesday 16 October 2024 at 10:00 am

Environment Southland Council chamber, 220 North Road, Invercargill
24/S&P/58

Committee Members:

Cr Lyndal Ludlow (Chair)
Cr Neville Cook
Cr Paul Evans
Cr Alastair Gibson
Cr Robert Guyton
Cr Peter McDonald
Cr Jermey McPhail

Cr Jon Pemberton
Cr Phil Morrison
Cr Maurice Rodway
Cr Eric Roy
Chairman Nicol Horrell
Mr Stewart Bull (Mana whenua representative)
Mrs Ann Wakefield (Mana whenua representative)

Agenda

This meeting will be livestreamed through YouTube and will be available to view on our website.
<https://www.es.govt.nz/about-us/live-stream>

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Rachael Millar

General Manager, Strategy, Policy and Science

RECOMMENDATIONS IN COUNCIL REPORTS ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS COUNCIL POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED BY COUNCIL

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 by-laws;
2. the recommendation to notify proposed changes or variations to proposed plans, policies, strategies and by-laws;
3. the governance oversight of consultation related to regional policies, plans 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 same).

1 Welcome I Haere mai

2 Apologies I Ngā pa pouri

At the time of the agenda closing, no apologies had been received for this meeting.

3 Declarations of interest

At the time of the agenda closing. No declarations of interest had been received for this meeting.

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

At the time of the agenda closing, no public forum, petitions or deputations were received for the meeting.

5 Confirmation of minutes I Whakau korero

Attached are the minutes from the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held 12 September 2024.

Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee - Rautaki me Mahere

Held at Environment Southland, 220 North Road, Invercargill
Thursday 12 September 2024 at 1:00 pm



Present:

Cr Lyndal Ludlow (Chair)
Cr Paul Evans
Cr Alistair Gibson
Cr Peter McDonald
Cr Jeremy McPhail
Cr Jon Pemberton
Cr Phil Morrison
Cr Maurice Rodway (Deputy)
Cr Eric Roy
Chairman Nicol Horrell (ex officio)
Mr Stewart Bull (Mana whenua representative)
Ms Ann Wakefield (Mana whenua representative)

Mrs Rachael Millar (General Manager Strategy, Science and Engagement)
Mrs Mikayla Wass (Committee Advisor)

1 Welcome I Haere mai

The chairperson welcomed everyone to the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting for Thursday 12 September 2024, and opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 Apologies I Ngā pa pouri

Resolved:

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Cr Morrison that apologies be accepted on behalf of Cr Cook and Cr Guyton.

Carried

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made by councillors.

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4 Public forum, petitions and deputations | He huinga tuku korero

Students from Woodlands Primary school, Jacob Annan and Lily McIntyre, were in attendance to speak about their Science Fair projects, both of which won prizes sponsored by Environment Southland.

Staff from the catchment integration team provided an overview and background of the Science Fair. Lily's project was based around peat and Jacobs project was about natural filters.

5 Confirmation of minutes | Whakau korero

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Rodway that the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on 31 July 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

6 Notification of extraordinary items/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

Cr Ludlow noted that she had circulated a question to Councillors and staff prior to the meeting. It was as follows:

"The Invercargill City Council is soon to be consulting on the possible reclassification of part of the Donovan Park land. Will ES consider submitting during the consultation period given the importance of sustainability as cities grow? Councillors may wish to comment on any number of issues including sustainable city design and development in relation to climate change, productive land use, transport and energy requirements?"

It was clarified that Environment Southland had engaged with the Donovan Park proposal around the best use of the park land. If rezoning was to happen then it would need to go through a plan change process, at that stage Environment Southland would then submit any concerns.

8 Chairman and councillors reports | Ngā purongo-a-tumuaki me ngā kaunihera

There were no Chairman or Councillor reports.



9 Reports

9.1 Freshwater Work Programme

The purpose of this item was to outline the organisation's revised freshwater work programme, based on Council direction at recent workshops. The report sought confirmation that the plan change to give full effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (known as Plan Change Tuatahi) would not be notified this triennium, given the Government review of the National Policy Statement. It was noted that in line with Government direction, the plan change would be notified by 2027, and earlier if practicable depending on the timing of the revised National Policy Statement.

Staff also outlined an approach to rolling out catchment planning, which would sit outside of the regulatory obligations and would evolve through Phase 1.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr Pemberton that Council receive the report – Freshwater Work Programme.

Carried

Resolved:

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Cr Gibson that Council approve that changes to the Southland Water and Land Plan and Regional Policy Statement giving full effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management will be notified by the end of 2027, and earlier if practicable.

Carried

Cr McPhail against

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr McDonald that Council direct staff to continue scoping a plan change to the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan and Regional Policy Statement to set long-term goals, address minor issues and enable improved environmental practice for notification in the first half of 2025.

Carried

Cr McPhail against

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Gibson that Council confirm an organisational focus on catchment level planning and working with the community and stakeholders at both the catchment and property scale to encourage positive action.

Carried

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**Motion:**

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Pemberton that Council note the following messaging:

- a. Environment Southland encourages and supports positive action to improve freshwater.
- b. over the next two years we will be working with our communities to develop catchment plans that detail the actions the community wishes to take to improve freshwater.
- c. coming together to achieve meaningful change at a catchment scale is important. While those responsible for the greatest environmental impact will need to make a greater contribution, everyone must play their part.
- d. the practice of grandparenting will not be part of our future approach to managing freshwater
- e. we encourage people to reduce losses and uptake improved environmental practice now.
- f. limits will form part of the 2027 plan change but what these will look like is yet to be determined. A baseline or reference period may be used in the future, and we encourage landowners to record information from the last 10 years (e.g. a reference period of July 2014 to June 2019) on land use area and type, stock types and numbers, fertiliser use, and actions adopted on-farm.

Amendment:

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Mr Bull that the following messaging be amended to read:

- f. limits will form part of the 2027 plan change but what these will look like is yet to be determined.

Lost

Amendment:

Moved Cr McDonald, seconded Cr Pemberton that the following messaging be amended to read:

- f. limits will form part of the 2027 plan change but what these will look like is yet to be determined. A reference period will be used in the future, and we encourage landowners to record information from the last 10 years (e.g. a reference period of July 2014 to June 2019) on land use area and type, stock types and numbers, fertiliser use, and actions adopted on-farm.

Carried

Cr McPhail against

Cr Rodway against

The amendment became the motion, and that motion was put as follows.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McDonald, seconded Cr Pemberton that Council note the following messaging:

- a. Environment Southland encourages and supports positive action to improve freshwater.
- b. over the next two years we will be working with our communities to develop catchment plans that detail the actions the community wishes to take to improve freshwater.
- c. coming together to achieve meaningful change at a catchment scale is important. While those responsible for the greatest environmental impact will need to make a greater contribution, everyone must play their part.

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- d. the practice of grandparenting will not be part of our future approach to managing freshwater
- e. we encourage people to reduce losses and uptake improved environmental practice now.
- f. limits will form part of the 2027 plan change but what these will look like is yet to be determined. A reference period will be used in the future, and we encourage landowners to record information from the last 10 years (e.g. a reference period of July 2014 to June 2019) on land use area and type, stock types and numbers, fertiliser use, and actions adopted on-farm.

Carried
Cr McPhail against

2:59 pm - At this time Chairman Horrell left the meeting.

3.00 pm - 3:15pm - During this time the meeting adjourned for a 15 minute break.

9.2 Preparation of the Biocontrol Application of Chilean Flame Creeper Leaf beetle to Environment Protection Authority

This item was to update council on the Environment Southland Chilean Flame Creeper leaf beetle biocontrol application which had been prepared for the Environment Protection Authority. It also informed council about the Environment Canterbury Darwin's Barberry rust fungus biocontrol and the renewal of the Darwin's barberry flower weevil applications.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Cr Gibson that Council:

- 1 receive the report - Preparation of the Biocontrol Application of Chilean Flame Creeper Leaf beetle to Environment Protection Authority.
- 2 note that staff are applying to the Environmental Protection Authority to assess the Chilean Flame Creeper leaf beetle for release.
- 3 note there will be a submission process through Environmental Protection Authority later in the year for two Darwin's barberry agents.

Carried

9.3 Consultation on the second emissions reduction plan

The purpose of this item was to provide background information relating to the current consultation on New Zealand's second emissions reduction plan, and gather feedback and obtain approval for Environment Southland's draft submission. It was noted that due to the change in the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting date, the submission had already been entered, and retrospective approval was being sought instead.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr Gibson that Council:

- 1 receive the report - Consultation on the second emissions reduction plan.
- 2 retrospectively approve the submission on the second emissions reduction plan.

Carried

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9.4 Letter of Support for PCE's recommendations on freshwater models

This item sought approval for sending the draft letter included in the agenda to the Minister for the Environment regarding the recent report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment on freshwater models. Ms Millar advised that Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku had fed-back directly on the PCE's report, and suggested the letter be amended to include a statement that this letter be read alongside that feedback.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Rodway, seconded Cr Morrison that Council:

- 1 receive the report - Letter of Support for PCE's recommendations on freshwater models.
- 2 approve the content of the letter.

Carried

9.5 Regional Coastal Plan Review update

The purpose of this item was to update council on the Regional Coastal Plan review current work streams whilst providing in more detail for the 'targeted workstreams'.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McDonald, seconded Cr Pemberton that Council receive the report – Regional Coastal Plan Review

Carried

9.6 Science update (Wetland extent)

Due to staff availability and meeting time constraints it was agreed that this item would be deferred to the Ordinary meeting of Council on 25 September 2024.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Pemberton, seconded Cr McDonald that Council defer this item to the Ordinary meeting of Council on 25 September 2024.

Carried

9.7 Wetland Update

Due to staff availability and meeting time constraints it was agreed that this item would be deferred to the Ordinary meeting of Council on 25 September 2024.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Pemberton, seconded Cr McDonald that Council defer this item to the Ordinary meeting of Council on 25 September 2024.

Carried

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9.8 Government Policy and Legislation Monitor

The purpose of this item was to inform Councillors and internal staff on recent national legislation and policy changes that could affect Environment Southland's operation.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McDonald, seconded Cr Morrison that Council receive the report - Government Policy and Legislation Monitor.

Carried

9.9 Group Work Update

This item updated Councillors on the work being carried out by the Strategy, Policy and Science Group.

Staff noted that they would provide further information to Council on the following topics:

- New River Estuary; this could be included as a workshop or topic paper at a subsequent Strategy and Policy Committee meeting
- Reporting on city contaminants impacts to waterways (including impacts of the car storage facility on Bay Road)

Resolved:

Moved Cr Pemberton, seconded Cr McDonald that Council receive the report – Group Programme Update

Carried

9.10 Update on Councillor Requests and Actions

The purpose of this item was to capture Councillor requests and actions that had occurred during Strategy and Policy Committee meetings and provides an update on how these are being responded to.

It was noted that Councillors would like a communication workshop to contribute to the design of the Freshwater Work Programme Communications. It was noted that this would be added as a topic to a workshop in the near future.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McPhail, seconded Cr Morrison that Council receive the report - Update on Councillor Requests and Actions.

Carried

10 Extraordinary/urgent business | Panui autia hei totoia pakihi

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

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11 Public excluded business I He hui pakihi e hara mo te iwi

There were no public excluded items.

12 Termination

There being no further business, the chairperson closed the meeting at 3.56 pm.

6 Notification of extraordinary items/urgent business I He panui autaiā hei totoia pakihi

At the time of the agenda closing, no notifications of extraordinary or urgent business had been received for the meeting.

7 Questions I Patai

At the time of the agenda closing, no questions had been received for the meeting.

8 Chairman and councillors reports I Ngā purongo-a- tumuaki me ngā kaunihera

At the time of the agenda closing, no Councillor Reports were received for the meeting.

9 Reports

9.1 Revised Regional Climate Change Strategy

Report by: Anke Habgood, Senior Strategy Advisor

Approved by: Rachael Millar, General Manager Strategy, Policy & Science

Report Date: 16 October 2024

Purpose

This item recommends the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy for adoption by the Environment Southland Strategy & Policy Committee.

Summary

The revised Regional Climate Change Strategy has been in development since early 2023. This has been a collaborative inter-agency undertaking, with Environment Southland working alongside Te Ao Mārama Inc, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council.

The Strategy is the cumulation of many collaborative workshop discussions; collective efforts to develop the principles and aspirations; as well as undertaking formal public consultation resulting in a revised product.

Recommendation

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

- 1 Receive the report - Revised Regional Climate Change Strategy.
- 2 Note the changes made to the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy, resulting from the deliberations by the Regional Climate Change Working Group hearing panel.
- 3 Note recent considerations made by our RCCWG partner agencies to endorse/adopt the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy.
- 4 Adopt the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy.

Background

Following a regional climate change hui in July 2022, Environment Southland and Te Ao Mārama have brought together a staff-level regional climate change working group, which has met regularly since October 2022.

In addition, a governance-level regional climate change working group (RCCWG) has also been established, which held regular meetings and workshops throughout 2023 to develop a proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy (RCCS) – phase 1 of the RCCWG workplan. The governance-level group is not a formal joint committee and does not have formal delegations.

The proposed RCCS was endorsed for consultation by each local government agency earlier this year. It went live on the Environment Southland website on 29 February 2024, to coincide with the release of the Invercargill City Council Long-term Plan consultation document for 2024-34. The engagement portal was open until 8 May 2024.

An inter-agency RCCWG hearing panel was established to enable the proposed strategy to be heard by representatives from all agencies. Hearings were held 16 May, with deliberations held 20 May and 20 June 2024.

Submissions, hearing and deliberations process

The proposed RCCS attracted 60 submissions (including 12 late submissions).

A summary of submissions, as well as full copies of submissions was made publicly available and circulated to the Regional Climate Change Working Group 10 May 2024; with late submissions being circulated 15 May 2024.

Key themes in submissions were as follows:

- *Level of support for progressing a collaborative climate change strategy –support and opposition, but overall support for a collaborative approach.*
- *Principles – more consideration of equity requested.*
- *Aspirations – some in favour and some opposed to Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050, some suggestions for refinements of aspirations.*
- *Framework for Action – councils need to take action, however there are concerns about costs to ratepayers.*
- *Other matters raised – need for precautionary approach, transparency, consideration of nature-based solutions, gravel, accuracy of regional emissions graph.*

The hearing panel held a meeting 16 May 2024 and at this meeting, 15 submitters took the opportunity to be heard (10 in person and 5 online).

The hearing panel began deliberations at their meeting 20 May 2024, reflecting on all of the submissions they had received and in particular, determining how to address key themes that had arisen.

The hearing panel concluded deliberations 20 June 2024 by working through the changes that had been made to the proposed strategy as a result of earlier deliberations, considering draft decisions and further deliberating on some aspects of the submissions that had not yet been addressed by the earlier consideration of themes.

Revised Regional Climate Change Strategy

Staff have made changes to the proposed RCCS based on direction received from the RCCWG hearing panel 20 May and 20 June 2024. This document is currently called the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy (revised RCCS).

The Regional Climate Change Working Group hearing panel requested that letters to all submitters be sent notifying each submitter of the decisions that have been made at the conclusion of the formal consultation process. This was to ensure that submitters were updated on the process and were able to attend their relevant Council or Board meeting if they wished.

The revised RCCS has been recommended to each partner agency for consideration and endorsement/adoption at the following Council and Board meetings:

1. Environment Southland Climate Change Sub-committee – 14 August 2024
2. Gore District Council – 20 August 2024
3. Te Ao Mārama Inc Board – 26 August and 23 September 2024
4. Invercargill City Council – 27 August 2024
5. Southland District Council – 2 October 2024
6. Environment Southland Strategy & Policy Committee – 16 October 2024

As co-chair of the RCCWG and chair of the RCCWG hearing panel, Cr Morrison attended the vast majority of the Council and Board meetings held by our partner agencies. Cr Morrison spoke to the process to date, the content of the revised Strategy and answered questions that arose.

A package of documents were prepared to assist the concluding steps of the process and these documents were provided to the Environment Southland Climate Change Sub-committee for their consideration at their most recent meeting, 14 August 2024. This package of documents was also provided to all partner agencies to support their individual processes.

Adoption and endorsement of the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy

At the meeting of the Environment Southland Climate Change Sub-committee, held 14 August 2024 the sub-committee endorsed the revised Strategy and unanimously recommended it to the Environment Southland Strategy & Policy Committee for adoption.

The Gore District Council adopted the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy at their Council meeting held 20 August, with three Councillors voting against.

The Invercargill City Council unanimously adopted the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy at their Council meeting held 27 August.

The Te Ao Mārama Board considered the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy at their Board meeting held 26 August. There was robust discussion, however the Board requested additional time to fully consider the revised Strategy. The Te Ao Mārama Board again considered the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy at their next Board meeting held 23 September. At this meeting the Te Ao Mārama Board endorsed the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy.

The Southland District Council considered the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy at a Council workshop 2 October, at which there was a robust discussion. This was followed by formal consideration of the Strategy at their Council meeting held after their workshop. During the Council meeting Southland District Council adopted the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy, with one Councillor voting against.

Some key themes that arose from this process of consideration by each of the agencies were concerns about the cost implications of adopting the strategy; the length of time that it had taken to produce the strategy considering the need for action; as well as the need for much broader engagement with our communities on this topic going forward.

Risks/Opportunities

The risks and implications of climate change are being felt across New Zealand, and failure to act represents a risk to Environment Southland.

Views of affected parties

These have recently been collected and collated as part of the Community Climate Change Perceptions survey report in September 2023.

These have also recently been considered as part of the formal public consultation process for the proposed RCCS, held alongside the Environment Southland Long-term Plan process. The RCCWG hearing panel considered the 60 submissions received, deliberated and made improvements to the Strategy accordingly.

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		

Compliance with Significance and Engagement Policy

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Considerations

Financial implications

The financial implications are being worked through on an ongoing basis to ensure this workstream can continue to progress as planned. Most of the financial implications are likely to be assessed with more clarity and depth as part of the development of the regional Framework for Action.

Legal implications

The Resource Management Act requires councils to consider the effects of climate change on their communities and incorporate climate change into existing frameworks, plans, projects and standard decision-making procedures.

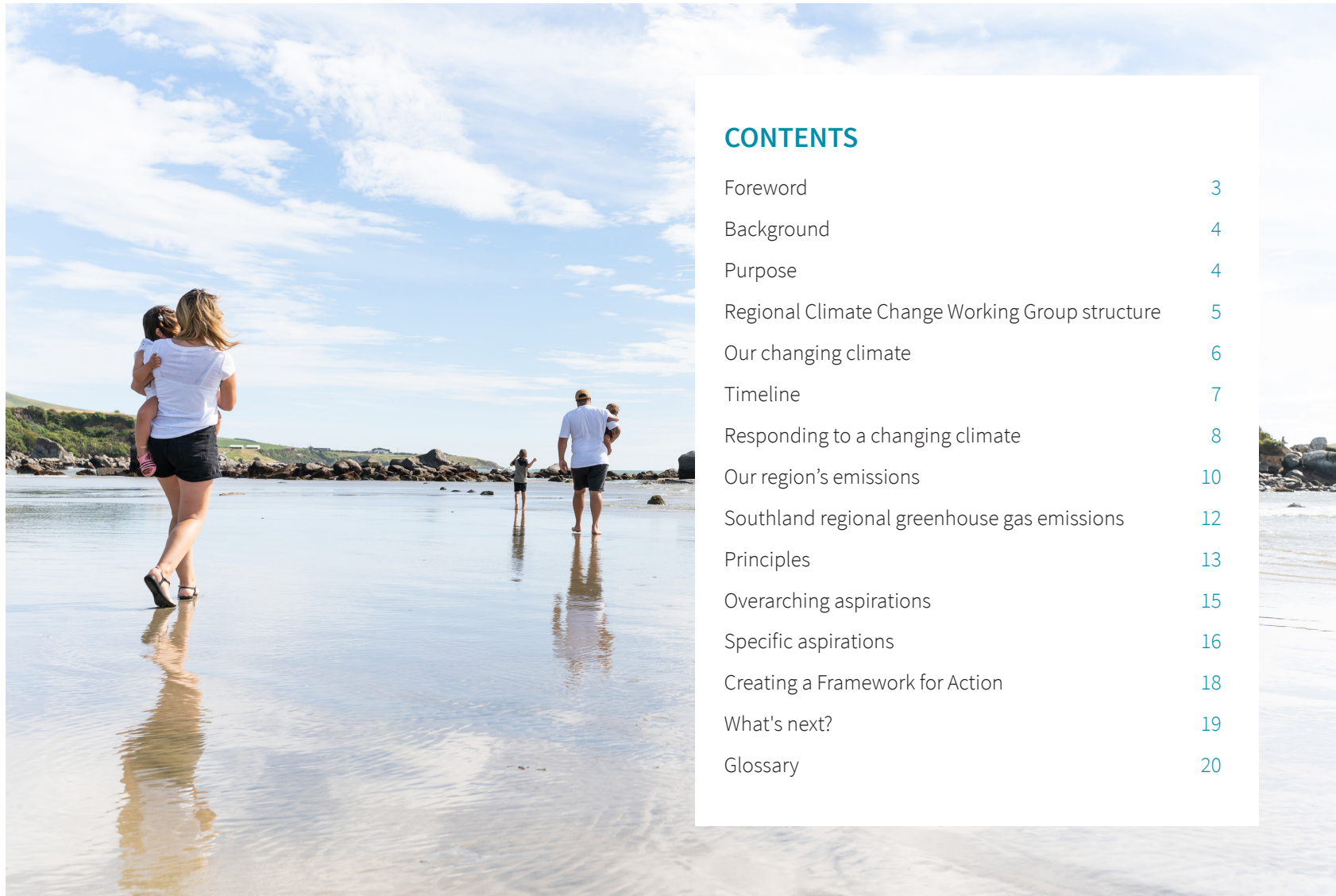
Attachments

1. revised Murihiku Southland Regional Climate Change Strategy - 22 July 2024 [9.1.1 - 24 pages]



Regional Climate Change Strategy for Murihiku Southland Phase One





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Foreword

Murihiku Southland Councils, alongside Te Ao Mārama Inc, are committed to a collaborative and inclusive approach in defining our regional strategic response to a changing climate.

We acknowledge the mandate from our communities to do so and recognise the role of local government in supporting community resilience. It is essential our regional approach continues to build trust, confidence and capacity for ongoing community cooperation.

While the scientific consensus supports the reality of global climate change and its impacts, we recognise that some individuals and groups within our community continue to question this. It is important to address these differing perspectives while firmly grounding our response in the best available science to ensure the resilience and well-being of our region.

Murihiku Southland is not alone in addressing the challenges and opportunities of a changing climate. We are part of a global community responding to a shared crisis. We are able to learn from the experiences and efforts of others, both within Aotearoa New Zealand and abroad. However, we also recognise the distinctive character of our regional needs. Our actions will be guided by an appropriate mix of global and local knowledge including mātauranga Māori, ensuring the choices we make remain tailored to our unique environment, economy, and communities.

In aligning with national policy, this strategy distinguishes between the two pillars of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. Mitigation involves the decarbonisation of our economy, as well as widespread behavioural change. This will be a challenging journey but it's an important pathway for our community to minimise the escalating impacts of a changing climate. There is significant scope to learn from others, benchmark, and leverage technology as we pursue our net-zero greenhouse gas goals. Our region is on a pleasing pathway, with the 2022 measurements indicating that regional emissions have been reduced by 14.8% since 2018.

Alongside mitigation, adaptation pathways may be the more demanding of the two. As New Zealand's Climate Change Commissioner, Rodd Carr, stated in a presentation at Environment Southland in September 2022: *“Adaptation is going to be one of the most challenging conversations local and regional governments have to have, because adaptation is inherently local – it is inherently about communities directly affected by the changed climate.”*

Accepting this challenge, it is important to recognise that the pursuit of climate change mitigation and adaptation are two pillars which often intersect, offering a path toward resilience and sustainability. While opportunities may not always be immediately evident, we embrace the notion that actions to reduce emissions might enhance our adaptive capacity, and adaptation measures may contribute to mitigation efforts. This synergy highlights the importance of a holistic and flexible approach in response to the complex challenges and opportunities posed by a changing climate.

Finally, it is recognised that this strategy is framed against a backdrop of uncertainty in an increasingly

changing world. Yet, given the potential consequences and costs of indecision, delay, and inaction, we need to do what we can with what we have now. Thus, we subscribe to the notion that local government agencies have a dual role – to lead as well as empower others to act. We understand that in navigating the complexities of a changing climate, we may not always ‘get it right’. But we believe that purposeful action accompanied by reflexive learning are essential elements of our response.

This challenge is ours to meet – and with humility *māhaki*, resolve *māia*, and commitment *manawanui*, together *kotahitanga*, we can secure Murihiku Southland for future generations. Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei.

**Environment Southland Councillor,
Phil Morrison and Te Ao Mārama (TAMI)
Kaupapa Taiao Manager, Dean Whaanga**
*Co-chairs, Murihiku Southland Regional
Climate Change Working Group*

Background

At a regional hui held in July 2022, recognising our strong mutual interdependence, it was agreed that local government agencies need to work together to establish a regional approach to respond to Murihiku Southland’s changing climate.

Environment Southland and Te Ao Mārama initiated discussions to create an inter-agency working group as a starting point for bringing Councils together – with Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council being key partners in developing a regional approach. Great South, as Southland’s regional economic development agency have also been involved.

This strategic collaboration will initially be defined and guided by two key documents as follows.

Phase One

Regional Climate Change Strategy for Murihiku Southland (this strategy) defining how local government agencies will work together (principles) and toward what outcomes that work will focus (aspirations).

Phase Two

Regional Framework for Action (being developed) which will define and prioritise the specific actions and initiatives needed to realise the outcomes being aspired to. It is expected the Regional Framework for Action will:

- Enable each individual local government agency to create Action Plans that align with the aspirations set out in this strategy.
- Evaluate the merits of and define the continuing or new collaborative actions to which local government agencies will commit.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration beyond local government – empowering the aspirations, energies, and creativity of communities and industry.

Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to unite the efforts of our four local government councils, Te Ao Mārama Inc and Great South to support a cohesive response to help protect our environmental, economic, cultural and social wellbeing against the effects of a changing climate by agreeing on broad principles and aspirations.

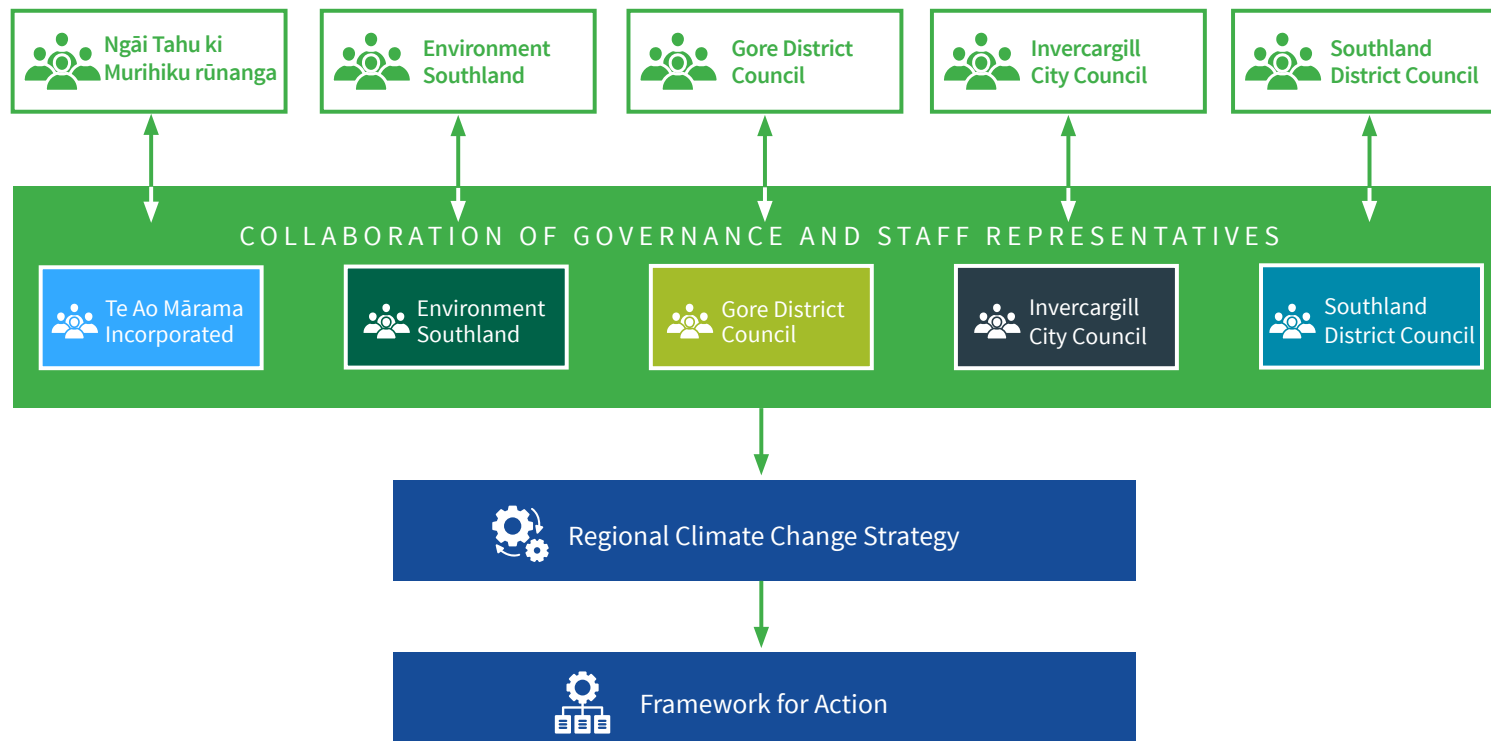
This strategy will enable local government agencies and our communities to work together efficiently and effectively, optimising the use of resources and expertise for the benefit of all ratepayers towards a resilient future for our region.





Regional Climate Change Working Group structure

The Regional Climate Change Working Group (RCCWG) was established in early 2023 with governance representatives from each council and Te Ao Mārama Inc, supported by a staff level inter-agency group. This informal working group has been instrumental in enabling cross-agency discussions and collaboration to progress strategy development (phase one). It is envisaged that phase two will involve extending collaboration beyond the existing structure of this working group.



Our changing climate

Our global, national and regional understanding of the changing climate has developed over time; though this has significantly accelerated during the past decade.

Within Murihiku Southland there are still some that dispute that human activities are contributing to a changing climate. However, it is generally acknowledged that our region is experiencing the effects of a changing climate, such as increasing severe weather events and sea level rise.

Some parts of Murihiku Southland are already prone to river flooding, coastal inundation and erosion. Recent events include the Mataura catchment flooding in February 2020 (which also affected Fiordland), as well as all catchments experiencing significant flooding in September 2023.

In contrast, during the summers of 2021-22 and 2022-23 dry spells and drought conditions were experienced in many parts of our region.

These severe weather events often have serious economic, social and environmental impacts on the region. When these kinds of significant weather events are projected into the future, it can be daunting and overwhelming to consider.

Determining what on-the-ground action can be pursued as individuals and as communities right now, could change the course of this future. Understanding the opportunities (and opportunity costs) of investing in resilience versus the costs of post-event recovery will be an important consideration.

Regardless of the causes of changes to our climate, local government are obliged to respond proactively and ensure long-term community resilience. Southland must also be prepared to grasp opportunities arising from a changing climate.

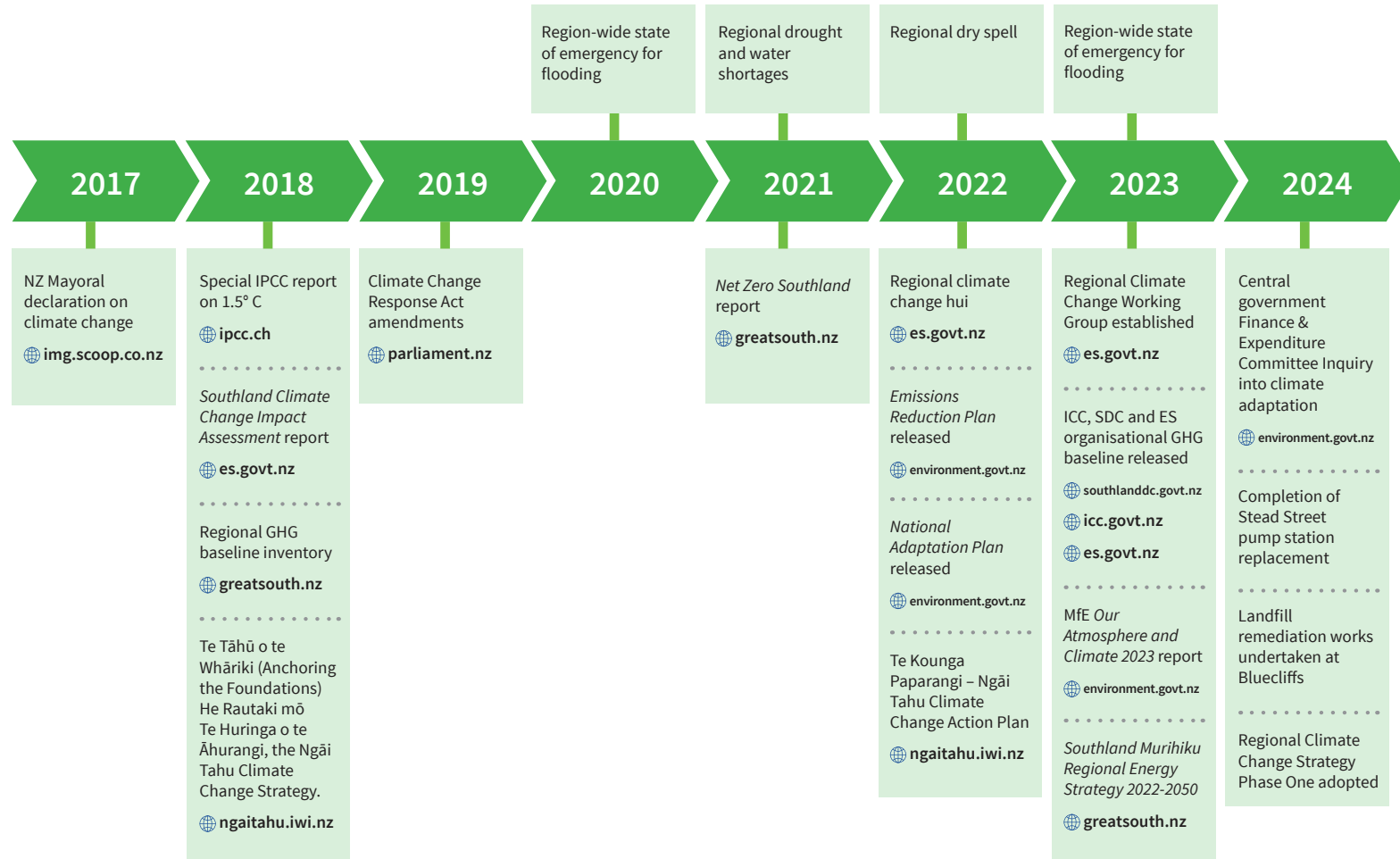
This climate change strategy seeks to guide this journey for the Murihiku Southland region.



The Mataura River in flood at Gore, February 2020.



Timeline



Responding to a changing climate

Local government's role

Collective and collaborative regional leadership is important to enable the implications of a changing climate to be considered for the Murihiku Southland region. A core purpose of local government is to promote community wellbeing in the present and in the future. This is at the heart of how our local government agencies need to work together towards a more resilient future.

The Climate Change Response Act 2002 directs the development of clear and stable climate change policies, in order for New Zealand to meet its international obligations and administer a greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme. While New Zealand's resource management legislation is in the midst of significant and ongoing reforms, national policy directions currently issued under the Resource Management Act 1991 relating to freshwater, biodiversity, and coastal management require decision-makers to consider the need for enhancing climate resilience. The resource management reforms aim to ensure that appropriate regard is given to the implications of a changing climate among other national priorities, including community wellbeing.

Environment Southland as the regional council, has specific responsibilities for example, managing flood risk under various pieces of legislation including the Local Government Act 2002 and Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941.

Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council also have a range of obligations to consider natural hazard risks in planning and infrastructure decisions.

Emergency Management Southland has the responsibility for the delivery of emergency management responses if a significant climate related event was to occur.

While historically flood banks have been the main solution for protecting communities at risk, over the longer term there is a need to redesign the way we manage our catchments ensuring consideration of a wider range of solutions to help manage this risk.

Science and mātauranga are fundamental to guiding a regional response to a changing climate. It is acknowledged that there are divergent

views on climate change science, however local government is required to adopt best practice approaches, including using international science and national guidance to inform a precautionary approach towards adaptation.

While there is an abundance of international and national climate related science, there is currently still work to be done to ensure we understand the implications of this science for our region.

A crucial step towards regional leadership is an opportunity for each agency to carry out individual organisational efforts to support this work. This is important, not only for role modelling, but also ensuring each agency understands what is required to enable the support of others; as well as contributing towards a collective community effort.

For the Murihiku Southland region, this climate change strategy is a key step for local government agencies in undertaking this journey.

Environment Southland as the regional council, has specific responsibilities, for example, managing flood risk under various pieces of legislation including the Local Government Act 2002 and Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941.

Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council also have a range of obligations to consider natural hazard risks in planning and infrastructure decisions.





Key components of this strategy

Following the international and national lead, this strategy focuses on two key strands – mitigation and adaptation. Communication and engagement are needed to support these two inter-connected strands of the climate change conversation.

Mitigation

Mitigation is the human actions to reduce emissions by sources; or enhance removals of greenhouse gases. At a national level this is guided by the Emissions Reduction Plan. Examples include increasing the energy efficiency of homes and offices; or replacing a coal boiler with a renewable electric-powered one. An example of increasing the removal of greenhouse gases is growing new trees to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

This strategy guides the development of future action in relation to each of these key components.



Adaptation

Adaptation is the process of adjusting to actual or expected climate variability and its effects. At a national level this is guided by the National Adaptation Plan. Examples of adaptation include managed retreat, land-use changes, and investment in climate resilient infrastructure.

This process is inherently local and about communities directly affected by the changing climate. In addition, the inter-generational ramifications are an important consideration as our collective grandchildren and future generations will face increasing consequences of a changing climate.

Strategy review

This strategy has been written within a national context of ongoing revisions to the legislative framework, not only for climate change policy, resource management but also local government reform. It will be reviewed by June 2025 to ensure it remains current and aligned with anticipated national legislative and policy changes.

The principles, aspirations and strategy as a whole are a starting point of a long-term partnership and journey. It is anticipated that the next iteration of this strategy will extend beyond the needs of local government with greater consideration of the needs of key stakeholders and our communities.

Our region's emissions



Regional emissions inventory

In 2018, a baseline emissions inventory for the region was established*, following the methodology in the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (WRI, 2015), City Inventory Reporting and Information System (CIRIS) and the IPCC's AR5. Each time regional emissions have been measured, the baseline inventory has been updated to reflect changes in methodology, most recently to utilise the Global Protocol for Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (WRI, 2021) and Measuring emissions: A guide for organisations (MfE, 2023).

This baseline inventory highlighted that we all contribute to our regional emissions profile, as individuals, communities, businesses and industry.

This profile indicated that with 12% of New Zealand's total land area and producing 15% of New Zealand's tradeable exports, Southland (with only 2% of New Zealand's population in 2018) contributed 9.7% of New Zealand's gross emissions*.

It is best practice for this kind of regional inventory to be updated on a regular 3 or 5-yearly cycle in order to monitor changes over time. This inventory has been repeated regularly by Great South** since 2020, which has indicated a progressive downward trend in regional net emissions compared to the 2018 baseline. Great South will continue to report against the 2018 baseline annually and plays an important role in supporting local businesses to measure and reduce emissions, assisting the region's net zero greenhouse gas journey.

* *Southland Regional Carbon Footprint 2018* – www.greatsouth.nz/resources/southlands-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2018 (please refer to this report for an understanding of the methodology used and the data sources).

** Great South is a council-controlled organisation, jointly owned by Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council, Gore District Council, Environment Southland, Invercargill Licensing Trust, Maitara Licensing Trust, Southland Chamber of Commerce, Southern Institute of Technology and Community Trust South. It is Southland's regional development agency which facilitates the implementation of the B2025 Southland Long Term Plan, as well as supporting the regional emissions reduction journey by working with businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions across the region.

Regional emissions modelling

Further to the emissions inventory work, Great South (working alongside MfE and the Tindall Foundation) has undertaken regional emissions modelling as part of developing a carbon neutral advantage programme. The Net Zero Southland 2050 report (March 2021) provides direction on potential economic mitigation pathways for Southland.

Part of this modelling seeks to understand the economic value of emissions reduction, which could enable our region to contribute towards achieving national net zero emissions by 2050. It also notes that a low emission economy would provide Southland with major opportunities to support economic and social prosperity while mitigating the risks posed by a changing climate.

Regional emissions reductions pathways

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019, sets the national target to reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases (except biogenic methane) to zero by 2050.

Our region is already on a net zero greenhouse gas journey and while some progress has been made since the 2018 baseline inventory, achieving this goal will involve individuals, communities, businesses and industries all evaluating their contribution/s.

In 2018 our region contributed 9.7% of the country's emissions. This has reduced by 14.8%, to contribute 8.2% of the country's emissions in 2022. This is due to the decarbonisation of fossil-fuelled boilers and a systematic

reduction in emissions for agriculture, energy, transport, manufacturing and waste. Partnerships with EECA, Government, the private and public sector as well as educational outreach has created the impetus for the success of this programme.

Achieving net zero greenhouse gases by 2050, will require everyone to play their part. In the short-term, local government agencies in Murihiku Southland are focusing on ensuring each organisation is on track to achieving net zero goals; while the longer-term focus is determining how local government should best play its part regionally.



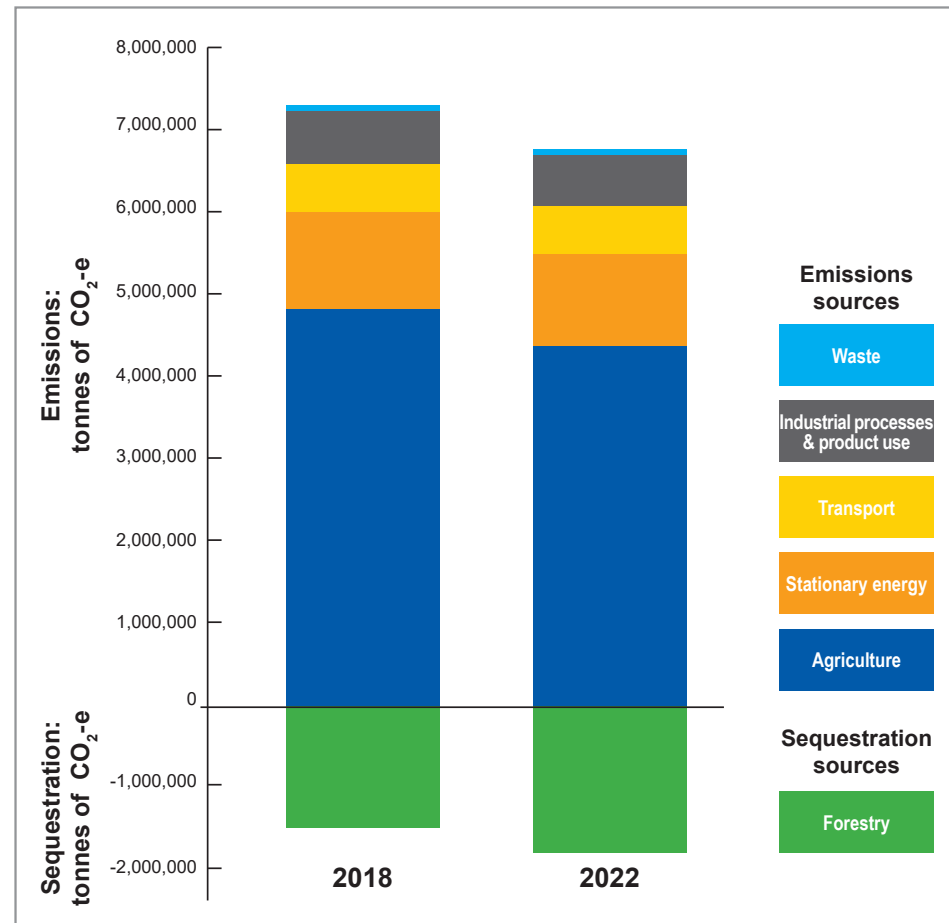
Southland regional greenhouse gas emissions

Southland regional net greenhouse gas emissions 2018 and 2022 as measured by Great South. This graph illustrates that net regional greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 14.8% from 2018 to 2022.

	2018	2022
Tonnes of CO₂-e		
Total GROSS emissions CO ₂ -e*	7,308,128	6,753,059
Total CO ₂ -e sequestered**	-1,498,508	-1,805,554
Total NET emissions CO₂-e	5,809,620	4,947,505

* CO₂-e stands for 'carbon dioxide equivalent' to enable the comparison to six key GHG gases: carbon dioxide (CO₂-e), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).


** Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. The regional emissions inventory currently only includes forestry related sequestration (due to current regional data limitations for other sources of sequestration).



Southland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for 2022 – www.greatsouth.nz/resources

Principles

Principles provide direction on ways of working together to create a regional response to the impact of a changing climate on Murihiku Southland. The seven principles provide the foundation for regional efforts to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by our changing climate and associated environmental effects such as sea-level rise, indigenous biodiversity loss and biosecurity incursions.



Kaitiakitanga Guardianship – our responsibility to protect the essential life-supporting capacity of our environment, balancing the wellbeing of our present and future generations.

Mōhiotanga Understanding – effective risk evaluation and an evolving, iterative management approach, which fosters a future-focused community of learning.

Whakamana Empowerment – facilitate innovative and bold pathways for action while nurturing the resilience of our youth, in preparation for their future.

Whakarāneinei Anticipation – adopting a data-driven approach in developing proactive action plans, prioritising long-term thinking and reinvestment in our environmental capital.

Hauora Wellbeing – the interconnectedness of a healthy environment for community wellbeing and resilience.

Kotahitanga Inclusivity – transparent sharing of knowledge for a fair and equitable transition towards our future.

Mahitahi Alignment – a comprehensive, inclusive, collaborative approach that facilitates consistency and synergy and enables informed and balanced decision-making.

Detailed principles

These principles will guide how Murihiku Southland local government agencies will work together, including prioritising to determine regional action.

They highlight the importance of recognising mutual dependencies and for example, taking a catchment focused and/or community focused approach to working across boundaries and prioritising the key issues.

These Murihiku Southland principles can be understood in more detail as follows.

Kaitiakitanga *Guardianship*

- Recognise our duty of care to safeguard our environment's fundamental life supporting capacity.
- Adopt a precautionary approach towards mitigating and adapting to the effects of a changing climate.
- Create a balanced framework, which supports many inter-connected strands.
- Value the wellbeing and livelihoods of our present and future generations.

Hauora *Wellbeing*

- Live with and understand how everything is connected.
- Recognise a healthy, functioning environment is inherent to our individual and collective wellbeing(s).
- Enhance community and environmental resilience in the face of change.

Whakarāneinei *Anticipation*

- Think and act with a long-term perspective, valuing and reinvesting in our environmental capital.
- Create proactive pathways for action, doing what we can now with what we know now.
- Ensure relevant regional science and information underpins a data-led approach.

Mōhiotanga *Understanding*

- Understand risks and look for potential ways to avoid, mitigate and manage risk.
- Pursue iterative management, adapting our approach as we learn and know better.
- Sow the seeds of how our future may be different, creating a broad community of learning.

Kotahitanga *Inclusivity*

- Share knowledge widely and transparently.
- Proactively consider those most vulnerable and voices least heard.
- Create a fair and equitable transition to our future.

Whakamana *Empowerment*

- Enable courageous pathways for action, inspiring individual and collective action.
- Look for opportunities and respond with innovation and creativity.
- Support our young people to understand, participate and be resilient in the face of their future – offering them hope.

Mahitahi *Alignment*

- Think ki uta ki tai – mountains to the sea, considering the effects in every direction and across boundaries.
- Adopt a united, integrated, consistent, and holistic approach enabling informed and balanced decision-making.
- Foster collaboration among various stakeholders, businesses, community groups and individuals.



Overarching aspirations

Our collective values spanning science, beliefs and hopes for the future, come together to form our aspirations for our regional response to a changing climate.

They provide an agreed 'direction of travel' for local government agencies, which can be improved and modified as the journey progresses.

Ongoing cross-agency discussions will help develop and implement aligned pathways towards these aspirations. These pathways will include managing the effects of a changing climate as well as capitalising on potential opportunities that may benefit the region, keeping in mind the importance of ensuring that our future generations will also have the best possible opportunities. Additional specific aspirations may be developed, as part of the journey towards creating a Framework for Action.

The following aspirations reflect the collective intent of local government agencies to support and advocate for effective responses to our changing climate across Murihiku Southland.

In addition to these overarching aspirations, further aspirations provide a direction regarding mitigation, adaptation as well as communications and engagement as per the key focus areas of this strategy.

Our aspirations

- 1 Te Mana o Te Ao Tūroa – the mana of the environment is valued and respected enabling our people to be responsive as our climate changes.
- 2 Science and Mātauranga underpins our response to our changing climate in Murihiku Southland.
- 3 We understand the changes, challenges and opportunities associated with our changing climate and will act courageously, building resilience to respond and thrive.
- 4 We will create meaningful change within our generation and inspire future generations to continue this work.



Specific aspirations

Mitigation

Local government agencies need to collectively contribute towards mitigating the changing climate by reducing organisational emissions, offsetting if necessary and becoming more sustainable organisations. This will also enable Councils to understand the challenges businesses and other organisations face in reducing emissions and aid the efforts towards developing a best practice consistent approach.

Each agency is on their own organisational learning journey, of which measuring organisational greenhouse gas emissions is a first step towards understanding how these emissions can be reduced.

Councils are also working on understanding their mitigation role within the community. This is an important step towards being able to support the aspiration of becoming a net zero region.

In setting the aspirations, Councils have chosen to align with national legislation and direction and work towards becoming a net zero region by 2050.

5 Environment Southland, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council and Great South will be net zero* organisations by 2050 or earlier.

6 By June 2026**, all four Councils will measure their organisational greenhouse gas baseline and develop emissions reductions targets for progressive reduction of greenhouse gas emissions toward 2050.

7 Councils understand their role in enabling Murihiku Southland to become a net zero region by 2050.

* Net zero refers to the reduction of organisational greenhouse gas emissions to a net zero level.

** This date is being referenced to ensure the direction resulting from organisational baseline measuring of greenhouse gas emissions, can be incorporated into planning as part of the LTP cycle 2027-2037.

Adaptation

The changing climate will significantly impact our communities, ecosystems and natural resources. It is likely to result in changes to land use, not only in terms of where people live, but also the location of key infrastructure, where and how businesses operate and how natural resources are used. It is therefore important to ensure that local government agencies understand the risks and opportunities this presents, in order to consider the regional spatial planning implications.

Adaptation is about undertaking actions to minimise threats or to maximise opportunities resulting from the impact of a changing climate. A first step to this is that Councils will need to align on climate change scenarios to inform regional planning decisions; as well as collaborate to consider regional issues anew with a climate change lens.

8 We understand the risks and opportunities to our communities associated with the impact of our changing climate on Murihiku Southland.

9 Councils align on climate change scenarios to inform key regional decisions.*

10 We collaborate to create regional pathways for action**, acknowledging the inter-connectedness of specific issues.

* This is important as local government agencies collectively work towards planning for the LTP cycle 2027-2037, however it is also relevant for regional decisions in a broader sense as well.

** Examples are: carbon forestry, sustainable transport, water availability, waste management, biodiversity, nature-based solutions etc. The intention is that these RCCWG discussions will be ongoing and aligned pathways for action will be able to be incorporated into the planning for the LTP cycle 2027-2037 and beyond.



Communications and engagement

It is clear that as a community we are all at different stages of learning and understanding about the implications of a changing climate for our region. It is important to bring people on the journey, of which Councils are also a part, so that we can learn from each other and contribute to increasing collective knowledge.

Councils have a role to play to find ways of supporting people's learning, wherever they might be at on their journey responding to our changing climate. In particular, our young people will face increasing implications as the climate changes and are therefore a key audience to engage and empower.

11 We build a regional community of learning; collectively and openly improving our understanding of the complexity of our changing climate and its implications for Murihiku Southland.

12 We support individuals, businesses, community groups, and organisations to start and progress their journey responding to our changing climate.

13 We engage our children and young people to empower active participation in ongoing climate change conversations.



Creating a Framework for Action

This strategy sets out how local government agencies will work together towards these aspirations. The key next step for the Regional Climate Change Working Group is to develop a Framework for Action (phase two).

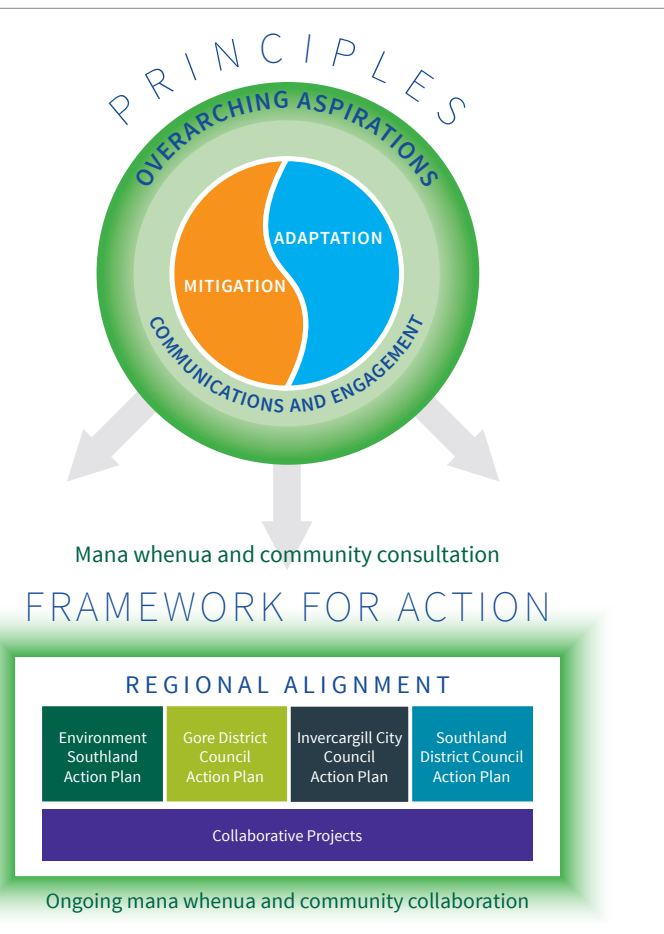
The purpose is to create 'regional action pathways' focusing on where there will be regional benefit. The pathways will highlight where agencies can collaborate and align, enabling each agency to progress these in their own way. It will be important to determine what the ongoing steps will be and the role and responsibilities of each agency to support these pathways.

The resulting pathways will inform the setting of regional priorities. There is a need for a balanced assessment and understanding of costs of action and inaction (economic, social, cultural and environmental) to help inform future long-term planning cycles; keeping in mind the agreed principle of doing what we can now, with what we have now.

Partnerships with key stakeholders and wider Murihiku Southland communities will be important to input, influence and support the progression of these pathways.

Framework for Action

It is envisaged that the Framework for Action will follow the structured approach set out in this strategy. It will enable iterative planning, providing direction for both mitigation as well as adaptation pathways.



What's next?

Science and information are very important to understanding the regional implications of a changing climate.

Regional LiDAR data mapping has been commissioned.

Work is also underway to develop a scope for updating and expanding the 2018 NIWA regional climate change report using updated global and national projections. Following the national work, regional climate, hydrological and sea level rise projections will be developed, which will increase the understanding of which areas of our region are most vulnerable and what this might mean for changes in land-use.

As our collective understanding of human risk, significance and environmental impacts develops, this will enable iterative risk assessment and reflexive learning.

The Regional Climate Change Working Group plans to develop a proposal for setting up a wider Murihiku regional climate change forum to enable this learning to be widely shared*. The purpose of this forum will be to ensure the climate change conversation becomes more inclusive for individuals, businesses, community groups, and organisations that would like to be involved. This is likely to be a key initial stepping stone towards building a regional community of learning to support information sharing as well as on-the-ground action taking place.

It is also important to acknowledge that at any time our region may be subjected to a significant climate related event and preparation for these will aid our capacity for resilience. Emergency Management Southland provide significant resources enabling individuals, businesses and our communities to 'be ready' if this was to occur.

In the meantime, the Regional Climate Change Working Group will continue to progress a regional Framework for Action with a sense of urgency. Determining what on-the-ground action can be pursued as individuals and as communities is important to achieve a more resilient future.



* The concept of a wider regional climate change forum was also a recommendation of the *Beyond 2025 Southland Regional Long Term Plan* prepared by Great South, June 2023.

Glossary

Adaptation	In human systems, the process of adjusting to actual or expected climate and its effects, to moderate harm or take advantage of beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjusting to actual climate and its effects. Human intervention may help these systems to adjust to expected climate and its effects. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Aspirations	Aspirations provide a regionally agreed 'direction of travel' and do not specify how something will be achieved. Collective discussions will be ongoing to develop and implement aligned pathways for how these aspirations will be achieved.
Baseline	An initial set of critical observations or data used for comparison or a control. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
B2025	Beyond 2025 – the project lead by Great South to develop a Regional Long Term Plan for Murihiku Southland.
Climate	Informally, the average weather over a period ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. In more formal terms, a statistical description of the mean and variability of quantities, usually of surface variables such as temperature, precipitation and wind, averaged over a period (typically 30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization). More broadly, climate is the state, including a statistical description, of the climate system. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Climate Change	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (eg, by using statistical tests) by changes or trends in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades to centuries. Includes natural internal climate processes and external climate forcings such as variations in solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) definition of climate change specifically links it to direct or indirect human causes, as: “a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods”. The UNFCCC thus makes a distinction between climate change attributable to human activities altering the atmospheric composition and climate variability attributable to natural causes. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Climate Change Commission (CCC)	A Crown entity that gives independent, expert advice to the Government on climate change matters and monitors progress towards the Government’s mitigation and adaptation goals. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
Climate Change Scenario	A plausible description of how the future may develop based on a coherent and internally consistent set of assumptions about key driving forces (e.g., rate of technological change, prices) and relationships. Note that scenarios are neither predictions nor forecasts, but are used to provide a view of the implications of developments and actions. IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/
Climate projection	A potential future evolution of a quantity or set of quantities, often computed with the aid of a model. Unlike predictions, projections are conditional on assumptions concerning, for example, future socio-economic and technological developments that may or may not be realised. IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/



Climate resilience	The ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to the impacts of a changing climate, including the impacts that we can anticipate and the impacts of extreme events. It involves planning now for sea-level rise and more frequent flooding. It is also about being ready to respond to extreme events such as forest fires or extreme floods, and to trends in precipitation and temperature that emerge over time such as droughts. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Climate variability	Deviations of climate variables from a given mean state (including the occurrence of extremes, etc.) at all spatial and temporal scales beyond that of individual weather events. Variability may be intrinsic, due to fluctuations of processes internal to the climate system (internal variability), or extrinsic, due to variations in natural or anthropogenic external forcing (forced variability) IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/
CO₂-e	CO ₂ -e stands for 'carbon dioxide equivalent' to enable the comparison to six key GHG gases: carbon dioxide (CO ₂ -e), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆).
Decarbonise	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions e.g. through the use of low-emissions power sources and electrification. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
Drought	An exceptionally long period of water shortage for existing ecosystems and the human population (due to low rainfall, high temperature and/or wind). Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Dynamic adaptive pathways planning (DAPP)	A framework that supports climate adaptation decision-making by developing a series of actions over time (pathways). It is based on the idea of making decisions as conditions change, before severe damage occurs, and as existing policies and decisions prove no longer fit for purpose. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Emergency management	The process of applying knowledge, measures and practices that are necessary or desirable for the safety of the public or property, and are designed to guard against, prevent, reduce, recover from or overcome any hazard, harm or loss associated with any emergency. Activities include planning, organising, coordinating and implementing those measures, knowledge and practices. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Emergency Management Southland (EMS)	Emergency Management Southland (EMS) was established by the four local government agencies in Murihiku Southland and is responsible for the delivery of Civil Defence and Emergency Management responses throughout this region. As part of this, Emergency Management Southland coordinates the 24/7 operation of the Emergency Coordination Centre which facilitates planning and operational activity during an event. Emergency Management Southland (2023) About US
Environment Southland	Environment Southland is a regional council as defined under the Local Government Act 2002. Environment Southland is responsible for the sustainable management of Southland's natural resources - land, water, air and coast - in partnership with the community.
Emissions	In the context of climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases, precursors of greenhouse gases and aerosols caused by human activities. These activities include the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, land use and land-use change, livestock production, fertilisation, waste management and industrial processes. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Emissions reduction plan	A plan that sets out the policies and strategies to meet emissions budgets by reducing emissions and increasing removals. A new emissions reduction plan must be in place before the beginning of each emissions budget period. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.

Extreme weather event	An event that is rare at a particular place and time of year. What is ‘extreme weather’ may vary from place to place in an absolute sense. The measure of what is ‘rare’ may also vary but it involves the occurrence of a value of a weather or climate variable above (or below) a threshold value near the upper (or lower) ends of the range of observed values of the variable. In general, an extreme weather event would be as rare as, or rarer than, the 10th or 90th percentile of a probability density function estimated from observations. When a pattern of extreme weather persists for some time, such as a season, it may be classified as an extreme climate event, especially if it yields an average or total that is itself extreme (eg, high temperature, drought or heavy rainfall over a season). Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan. <i>While not explicitly stated, extreme weather events are linked to wider climatic changes as a whole, and as such, intertwined with our changing climate. The actual magnitude and frequency of events may continue to change and need to be assessed against new baselines as climate change takes effect.</i>
Flood	An event where the normal boundaries of a stream or other water body overflow, or water builds up over areas that are not normally underwater. Floods can be caused by unusually heavy rain – for example, during storms and cyclones. Floods include river (fluvial) floods, flash floods, urban floods, rain (pluvial) floods, sewer floods, coastal floods and glacial lake outburst floods. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Framework for Action	Phase two: The Framework for Action will provide clarity on how local government agencies in Southland will collectively achieve the aspirations outlined in this strategy; as well as focusing where there will be regional benefit for agencies to collaborate and potentially align on.
Gore District Council	Gore District Council is a territorial authority as defined under the Local Government Act 2002.
Great South	Great South is a Council-controlled organisation, jointly owned by ICC, SDC, GDC, ES, Invercargill Licensing Trust, Maitaia Licensing Trust, Southland Chamber of Commerce, SIT and its member Community Trust South. It is Southland’s regional development agency which facilitates the implementation of the B2025 Southland Long Term Plan; as well as supporting the regional emissions reduction journey by working with businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions across the region.
Greenhouse gases (GHG)	Atmospheric gases that trap or absorb heat and contribute to climate change. The gases covered by the Climate Change Response Act 2002 are carbon dioxide (CO ₂ -e), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆). Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
Gross emissions	Gross emissions include emissions from the following key sectors: Transport; energy and industry; agriculture; waste; fluorinated gases. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
Hazard	The potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced physical event or trend that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, as well as damage and loss to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, ecosystems and environmental resources. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Invercargill City Council	Invercargill City Council is a territorial authority as defined under the Local Government Act 2002.



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	The United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC is organised into three working groups and a task force: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group I (WGI) – physical science basis • Working Group II (WGII) – impacts, adaptation and vulnerability • Working Group III (WGIII) – mitigation • Task Force on national greenhouse gas inventories. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging is a remote sensing method. It uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) from the LiDAR instrument to the Earth. These are used to create 3D models and maps of objects and environments.
Long Term Plan (LTP)	Called the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) prior to 2012, the Long term plan is a document required under the Local Government Act 2002 that sets out a local authority’s priorities in the medium to long term.
Mana	Prestige, authority, control, power, influence, status, spiritual power, charisma. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Mātauranga	Māori knowledge systems and worldviews, including traditional concepts. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
MfE	Ministry for the Environment
Mitigation (of a changing climate)	In the context of climate change, a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Nature Based Solutions	Solutions that are inspired and supported by nature and are cost effective, and at the same time provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features (eg, vegetation and water features) and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions. For example, using vegetation (eg, street trees or green roofs) or water elements (eg, rivers or water-treatment facilities) can help reduce heat in urban areas or support stormwater and flood management. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Net emissions	Net emissions refer to the overall balance of emissions and carbon dioxide removals (sequestration). Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NIWA	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
Net Zero	A target of completely negating the greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activity. This can be done by balancing emissions and removals or by eliminating the production of emissions in the first place. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.
Pathway	The evolution of natural and/or human systems over time towards a future state. Pathway concepts range from sets of quantitative and qualitative scenarios or narratives of potential futures to solution-oriented, decision-making processes to achieve desirable social goals. Pathway approaches typically focus on biophysical, techno-economic and/or socio-behavioural changes, and involve various dynamics, goals and participants across different scales. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.

Principles	Principles provide direction on agencies' collective agreed way of working together to create a regional response to the impact of a changing climate on Murihiku Southland.
Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs)	Scenarios that include time series of emissions and concentrations of the full suite of greenhouse gases and aerosols and chemically active gases, as well as land use/land cover (Moss et al., 2008; van Vuuren et al., 2011). IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/
RCCS	Regional Climate Change Strategy (this strategy).
RCCWG	Regional Climate Change Working Group, which consists of governance representatives from Environment Southland, Te Ao Mārama, Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council as key partners in developing a regional approach to a changing climate.
Resilience/resilient	The capacity of interconnected social, economic and ecological systems to cope with a hazardous event, trend or disturbance, by responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure. Resilience is a positive attribute when it allows systems to maintain their capacity to adapt, learn and/or transform. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy for which there is an expectation that this will be legislated for as a requirement to be produced regionally as part of the ongoing RMA reforms.
Sea level rise	Change to the height of sea levels over time, which may occur globally or locally. Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.
Sequestration	The process of storing carbon in a carbon pool. IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/
Southland District Council	Southland District Council is a territorial authority as defined under the Local Government Act 2002.
Southland Mayoral Forum	The Southland Mayoral Forum includes the Mayors and Deputy Mayors from all four local government agencies in Southland. There is a standing invitation for all Rūnanga chairs or nominee, to attend meetings of the Southland Mayoral Forum. Te Ao Mārama Inc. also reports directly to their Board representing Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Rūnanga.
Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs)	A scenario that describes a plausible future in terms of population, gross domestic product (GDP), and other socio-economic factors relevant to understanding the implications of climate change. IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://apps.ipcc.ch/glossary/
Te Ao Mārama Inc.	Te Ao Mārama Inc. looks after mana whenua interests in resource management and other aspects related to local government in Southland. It is authorised to represent Ngāi Tahu papatipu rūnanga in Murihiku/Southland. It is involved in the protection of the spiritual and cultural values of the region, including wahi tapu (sacred places), mahinga kai (gathering of food and resources) and other natural resources. Te Ao Mārama Inc. reports directly to their Board representing Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Rūnanga.
Wellbeing	The health, happiness and prosperity of an individual or group. It can cover material wellbeing (eg, income and wealth, jobs and earnings, and housing), health (eg, health status and work-life balance), security (eg, personal security and environmental quality), social relations (eg, social connection, subjective wellbeing, cultural identity and education) and freedom of choice and action (eg, civic engagement and governance). Ministry for the Environment (2022) National Adaptation Plan.

9.2 The Mineral Potential of New Zealand and draft Critical Minerals List

Report by: Shana Lee, Policy Planner
Approved by: Rachael Millar, General Manager Strategy, Policy & Science
Report Date: 16 October 2024

Purpose

To brief the Strategy and Policy committee on the contents of two recent Government reports – a stocktake on NZ’s known mineral potential and a draft critical minerals list.

The item also provides an overview of the local resource extraction industry.

These pieces of information are designed to inform discussion on the potential regional implications of the ongoing national policy reform.

Summary

The coalition Government is currently reforming policies related to the resource extraction sector as part of a broader initiative to stimulate economic activity. The 'Mineral Potential of New Zealand' report and the draft 'Critical Minerals List' are intended to offer an evidential basis for future policy and investment decisions. Consideration of the reports’ findings, and existing knowledge of the local resource extraction sector provides an opportunity for an informed discussion about the sector's future trajectory and the relevant regional implications.

Recommendation

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

- 1 Receive the reports - The Mineral Potential of New Zealand and draft Critical Minerals List.

Background

National policy reform of resource extraction sector

To promote the expansion of resource extraction activities in New Zealand, the Government is progressing a package of policy reform. A national strategy is currently being prepared to set policy directions through 2040. At the same time, a revision of the Crown Minerals Act is also underway to reauthorise oil and gas exploration and to stimulate the mineral extraction sector in general. To provide the necessary information base, two reports have been prepared: the 'Mineral Potential of New Zealand' (the stocktake report), which was released on 29 August, and the draft 'Critical Minerals List'(the list), released on 15 September.

	July	August	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Minerals Strategy for NZ to 2040	Consultation	In development		Release*	Implementation*	
Stocktake of Mineral Potential of New Zealand Report	In development	Release				
Critical Minerals List Report	In development		Release			
Amendments to the Crown Minerals Act	In development		Bill released	Consultation	Implementation*	

**Indicative timeframe only.*

Table 1. Components of national policy reform relating to resource extraction

Mineral Potential of New Zealand

The Mineral Potential of New Zealand report was prepared by GNS Science Consultancy, commissioned by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. The purpose was to describe New Zealand's aggregate, mineral, and coal resources, indicating their in-ground mineral potential to identify opportunities and priorities for policy decisions and investment in the mining sector.

The Report is divided into two parts. Part 1 providing background materials, including New Zealand's geological history, as well as brief descriptions of individual mineral commodities, and summaries of resources estimates. Part 2 contains more in-depth information on individual mineral commodities, including the mineral types, specific locations, and known quantities. Part 1 also includes conclusions, and recommendations for future works.

As noted in the report, active tectonics meant that New Zealand is rich in diverse mineral resources, including gold, iron ore, and various non-metallic minerals. Key resources are found in areas such as Waihi and Macraes, with significant prospects for both short-term and long-term exploration, including hard-rock gold and non-metallic minerals. Emerging opportunities also exist for discovering antimony, offshore polymetallic deposits, and phosphorite. However, challenges such as reduced research activity, environmental concerns, and inadequate modern data coverage have affected the sector. Recommendations for future work include quantifying mineral resources, developing a new research strategy focused on critical minerals, conducting scientific studies on mineral formation and exploration, exploring offshore resources, and improving data access and local aggregate sourcing. Please refer to the attached Executive Summary for more details on the opportunities, challenges and recommendations for New Zealand's mineral extraction sector. A full copy of the report is available [here](#).

Stocktake of Southland's mineral deposits

This report provides the following information about the minerals known to occur in Southland.

- **Gold (Au):** Gold placers in Southland are found in riverbeds and glacial gravel.
- **Magnesium (Mg):** Compounds containing Magnesite occur in several places in Southland, but it appears that all known deposits are small, and access is difficult.
- **Nickel (Ni):** Nickel deposits have been discovered in Longwood Range. It is possible that certain geologies identified near Riverton and on the Northern coastline of Stewart Island also host magmatic nickel and cobalt deposits.
- **Platinum group metals:** Small quantities were recovered in Southland in the late 1800s and early 1900s as a by-product of placer gold mining. The Waiau River and various prospects peripheral to the Longwood Complex present the main opportunities for commercial extraction. Several beach-sand deposits, including beaches on the southeast Catlins coast such as Waikawa may be prospective. These are primarily placer gold prospects with potential for by-product platinum group metals.
- **Rare earth minerals:** Rare earth minerals are used for high-strength magnets in electric vehicles and wind turbines. They occur in heavy-mineral-rich beach placers in Fiordland, various other places in Southland and at Port Pegasus on Rakiura / Stewart Island as well as within certain dikes, rocks and clays.
- **Titanium (Ti):** Titanium is used in paints, polymers and aerospace industry production. Compounds containing Titanium are found in Southland beaches at Coal River, Grace Burn, Te Waewae Bay, Orepuki and Riverton, as well as on several beaches on the northeast coast of Rakiura / Stewart Island.
- **Zirconium (Zr):** Zirconium has industrial uses as a refractory (resistant to high temperature) and opacifier (add opacity). Compounds containing Zirconium are known to occur in gravel and sand deposits in Orepuki and Waikawa Valley.

- **Serpentine [(Mg,Fe)₃Si₂O₅(OH)₄]:** occur in different types of minerals. Its uses include as concrete aggregate, fertiliser, decorative stone in building, and ornamental purposes such as jewellery and carvings. It is currently being extracted at Mossburn quarry and at Greenhills near Bluff.
- **Silica (SiO₂):** Silica is a general term for silicon dioxide, a chemical compound found in various forms in nature, including Quartz, which is a specific crystalline form of silica. Silica is useful for the production of various chemicals, aluminium alloys, semi-conductors and solar panels. Quartz gravels are widespread in Southland and have potential for silicon metal production. Raw silica from Pebbly Hills is currently being investigated for this use by Silicon Metal Industries (NZ) Ltd.
- **Coal:** The bulk of New Zealand's coal resources are lignite (brown coal) in the south of the South Island. The eastern Southland lignite fields are New Zealand's largest known fossil fuel energy resource with extensive multiple coal seams running underground. Investigations have looked at developing the Southland lignite resources with a variety of projects, including the production of liquid fuels and fertiliser and as a petrochemical feedstock. Coal consumption, however, is limited by the generally declining market due to the need to reduce emissions by substituting coal with renewable energy sources.

Draft Critical Minerals List

The draft critical minerals list identifies minerals that are essential to New Zealand's economic functions, are in demand by international partners, and face high risks to supply domestically and internationally. The Government may use the list to investigate and pursue specific actions for securing better access to these minerals. The draft list has been attached to this item and additional background information is available [here](#).

The minerals identified in the stocktake report as occurring in Southland and included on the draft list are Silicon, Platinum Group Metals, Rare Earth Elements, Nickel, Magnesium, Zirconium, as well as Aggregate and Sand.

Brief history of Southland's resource extraction industry¹

The extraction of metal and mineral resources was one of fundamental industries for Southland's development. Māori extracted pounamu from riverbed stones and gravels, and quarried other types of stone for tool-making. The first discovery of gold deposits happened in the Maitai River, and by the 1860s, alluvial gold deposits were extracted on Waikaia and Waikaka rivers. Gold mining fluctuated over the next century, with major activity at locations such as Waimumu stream and Round Hill at the edge of the Longwoods. Recently, 80,000 ounces (about 2267.96 kg) of gold were produced over six years at Waikaia.

Coal deposits were discovered as early as the 1860s in the north of Ōtautau, and significant coal mines developed around Nightcaps, Ōhai, New Brighton, Wairio, Mossburn and Maitai. The coal ranged from extensive lignite deposits (a low-grade coal) to sub-bituminous coal (a high-grade coal). Today coal mining is still in operation in the Ōhai, Nightcaps and Waimumu areas (near Maitai), new technology making it possible to access and extend previously abandoned coal seams. Greenbriar Limited became the largest stakeholder in coal mining after taking over Ōhai Coal Mine and New Vale/Goodwin Mine at Waimumu from previous owner Solid Energy New Zealand in 2017.

Extraction of limestone also features strongly in the local mining and quarrying sector, with the early operations commencing as early as 1915. AB Lime is the biggest limeworks in Southland, employing about 30 staff members. Ravensdown also operates a lime quarry at Dipton which has been operational since 1920, with various owners before Ravensdown. It has the capacity to produce over 80,000 tonnes of limestone a year.

¹ This section is based on the information compiled by staff in two separate reports: *The Southland Economic Project: Urban and Industry* (2018), available [here](#), and *Southland's Social Context: Assessment of the region* (2021), available [here](#).

There are other mineral resources commercially extracted in Southland. Serpentine is used to manufacture magnesium rich agricultural fertiliser and salt lick. The extraction process involves using a digger to extract serpentine rock, which is then crushed, processed, and transported for storage and distribution. Aggregates, sand and gravel are also extracted in significant quantities for domestic use and export. Southern Aggregates Limited operates a hard rock quarry at Greenhills near Bluff and a sand and aggregate plant at Ōreti Beach.

From the 19th century some exploration and extraction of oil and oil shale (a fine-grained mudstone) occurred in central and western Southland, particularly at Orepuki, but it was short-lived. Off Southland's coast, the Great South Basin (500,000 km²) is one of the largest potential oil and gas field in New Zealand. Since the 1970's, companies have obtained exploration permits and undertook exploration aided by advances in seismic surveying and drilling technology. Since 2020, a ban on oil and gas exploration has halted these activities.

Future of mining and quarrying in Southland

How the local mining industry evolves will be significantly affected by several factors, including the market situation, technological advancements and regulatory settings. The report anticipates that as the demand for renewable energy generation and storage grows, prices of various 'green' minerals, such as Rare Earth Elements, Nickel, and Silicon, will rise over time. The increase in price will likely enhance profit margins, increasing the likelihood of mineral exploration and extraction activities in Southland, and potentially bringing regional economic benefits. Additionally, technological advancements are likely to reduce exploration and production costs. They may also contribute towards the discovery of new deposits in the region.

The current and upcoming national policy changes are likely to streamline regulations for developers, enhancing the profitability of relevant businesses. On the other hand, effective regulations are crucial for addressing negative impacts on the local environment, society, and culture. The centrally driven Fast Track Approvals process and the reform of other legislation can significantly reduce the level of control that Environment Southland has over resource extraction activities.

This raises some concerns. Coal extraction leads to emissions issues, and gravel extraction could harm river ecosystems if not properly managed. Furthermore, the proposed lifting of the ban on oil and gas exploration could trigger exploration in the Great South Basin, necessitating a comprehensive assessment and mitigation of potential impacts on the marine environment.

Next steps

Staff will closely monitor the relevant national policy developments and facilitate further discussions of their implications once more details become available.

For the current review of regional plans, the potential expansion of the resource extraction industry within Southland should be considered during the plan review processes to ensure robust regulatory frameworks are in place for addressing their adverse environmental effects.

Government's announcement on 6 October on the Fast Track Approvals Bill suggests that no mining projects within Southland will be approved by the Expert Panel in the first tranche of decisions. New applications for mining within Southland, however, may be made in the future if market conditions become more favourable. Given Environment Southland will have an opportunity to provide input at the early stage of the process, it is advisable for Environment Southland to engage proactively with potential applicants.

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

Attachments

1. Executive summary - The mineral potential of New Zealand — Part 1_ Overview of New Zealand’s mineral [9.2.1 - 5 pages]
2. Draft critical minerals list for public consultation [9.2.2 - 1 page]
3. map of New Zealand geology and mineral deposits [9.2.3 - 1 page]
4. Map of New Zealand offshore minerals [9.2.4 - 1 page]

**The mineral potential of New Zealand –
Part 1: Overview of New Zealand’s mineral deposits
and their resources**

AB Christie
MP Hill

RG Barker
SM Rooyakkers

RL Brathwaite
CEJ de Ronde

**GNS Science Consultancy Report 2024/62A
July 2024**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Past and Current Exploration in New Zealand

New Zealand's major mineral products are gold and ironsands, with coal production declining over recent years. Gold production is dominated by mines at Macraes in Otago and Waihi in the Coromandel Peninsula (Waikato). Some silver is mined as a co-product of gold mining, largely at Waihi. Heavy-mineral sands are mined from the west coast of both main islands: titanomagnetite with by-product vanadium in the North Island and ilmenite with by-product garnet, zircon and monazite from the South Island. Coal is mined dominantly from Waikato (industrial and power generation), the west coast of the South Island (export) and Otago/Southland (local industry). Non-metallic mineral mining is dominated by aggregate and sand.

Onshore exploration since the 1980s has focused on hard-rock and placer gold, as well as placer ironsands. Brownfields exploration near existing deposits or mines has been most successful over the past 50 years, and greenfields exploration has also made new discoveries. Offshore exploration has included placer ironsand, placer gold, hydrothermal massive sulfide deposits and phosphorite nodules. Scientific and industry cruises have highlighted the mineral potential of Kermadec Arc seafloor massive sulfides, Campbell Plateau ferromanganese nodules and Chatham Rise phosphorite nodules.

Geological Setting of New Zealand's Mineral Potential

Geologically, New Zealand is relatively young and tectonically active, sitting astride the Australian/Pacific plate boundary. New Zealand's mineral potential is determined by its geological history and current tectonics. Two prolonged periods of mountain building separated by a period with very little tectonic activity provide the context for a variety of mineral deposits described in this report.

Marine sedimentary rocks present in the South Island formed along the edge of a subduction zone on the margin of the supercontinent Gondwana between ~500 and 360 Ma (million years ago). Similar rocks are also found in southeast Australia. They host similar mineral deposits, for example, the Reefton (New Zealand) and Victoria (Australia) goldfields. Magmatic intrusions into these rocks have associated tin, tungsten and molybdenum deposits. Sedimentary rocks that formed from ~200 to 100 Ma in both the North and South Islands host manganese and copper deposits. Parts were deeply buried and metamorphosed to schist that hosts gold ± tungsten ± antimony deposits in Otago (including Macraes) and Marlborough.

Subduction ceased about 100 Ma, followed by separation of our continent from Australia and Antarctica at about 80 Ma. The Zealandia region was tectonically quiet for an extended period, and a series of sedimentary basins formed around the margins. These basins contain petroleum, coal and limestone deposits.

As the current plate boundary started to develop about 25 Ma and the landscape uplifted into mountain ranges, placer gold and coal measures were deposited in Otago and Southland. Active volcanism associated with the active plate boundary began in the Miocene and led to the deposition of epithermal gold-silver in Northland, the Coromandel and the Taupō Volcanic Zone, as well as porphyry copper. Seafloor massive sulfide mineralisation is found at several submarine volcanoes in the southern sections of the Kermadec volcanic arc.

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Rapid uplift and erosion of the Southern Alps over the last 2–5 Ma formed gold placers in rivers and glacial outwash terraces in Westland and Otago. Ilmenite-garnet-gold placer deposits formed along and offshore of the west coast of the South Island. Titanomagnetite from the erosion of volcanoes formed placer deposits along and offshore of the west coast of the North Island. Phosphate was deposited on the Chatham Rise, and an extensive ferromanganese nodule field was formed at abyssal depths south of New Zealand adjacent to the Campbell Plateau in the southwest Pacific Ocean.

Future Exploration of New Zealand’s Mineral Potential

Exploration to mining is a staged process that can take from 5 to 30 years. Ongoing mineral exploration is required to maintain the supply of mined materials. It is common for a succession of companies to explore each prospect, and it is crucial that previous results are available for current and potential new explorers. Fewer than 1% of prospects will result in a producing mine. Total expenditure on exploration in New Zealand since 2015 has been well below that for the previous decade.

This report summarises classification of resources (Section 7), onshore metallic minerals (Section 8), onshore aggregate and non-metallic minerals (Section 9), coal (Section 10), offshore metallic minerals (Section 11) and offshore non-metallic minerals (Section 12). More detail is provided in the Part 2 document of this report (Christie et al. 2024).

Challenges for Future Exploration and Mining in New Zealand

- International perception of New Zealand for mineral prospectivity and exploration investment.
- Reduction in minerals research and funding across New Zealand research organisations over the past decade with loss of capability.
- An out-of-date national minerals research strategy (NZMIA 2002; Straterra 2012) to guide research priorities.
- Limited post-processing and refining capability in New Zealand results in out-sourcing of value-added work overseas.
- Environmental concerns and public perception of the impacts of exploration and mining.
- Limited coverage of New Zealand by modern airborne geophysical and soil geochemical data.

Strengths and Opportunities for Future Exploration and Mining in New Zealand

- New Zealand has both ancient and currently active hydrothermal systems producing epithermal and orogenic gold deposits and is a natural laboratory that demonstrates mineral forming systems.
- World-class gold mines at Waihi and Macraes.
- Reported Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) and N43-101 resources that include at least 10 million ounces of gold and 700 Mt (million tonnes) of iron ore.
- Availability of digital data for mineral exploration and the National Core Store.
- Modern mining operations and innovative extraction methods.
- Several prospects where sufficient exploration has already established potential for development leading to production (Section 15.5).

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- **Short-term:** Hard-rock gold exploration at Wharekirauponga, Coromandel; Snowy River, Reefton; and the Rise & Shine shear zone, Otago.
- **Longer-term:** Hard-rock gold at Neavesville, Coromandel, and Sams Creek, Nelson; placer gold in the West Coast, Marlborough, Otago and Southland regions; West Coast heavy mineral sands and (with market development) non-metallic minerals, e.g. silica, bentonite, diatomite, limestone, perlite, pumice, serpentinite and zeolite.
- Numerous potential exploration prospects, including antimony from Reefton, new gold discoveries, offshore polymetallic mineral deposits, phosphorite on the Chatham Rise and ferromanganese nodules from the Southern Ocean.
- Potential for minerals research to suggest mineral deposit types currently not known in New Zealand.

Recommendations for Further Work

- Establish New Zealand's mineral wealth potential by undertaking a geologic and economic assessment to quantify the current known and estimated undiscovered mineral resources and their potential value.
- Develop a new national minerals research strategy following the release of the Critical Minerals List.
- Undertake new scientific research to demonstrate new mineral potential:
 - Green and critical mineral studies (e.g. for lithium, nickel, platinum group metals and rare earth elements) to advance understanding of New Zealand's endowment.
 - Evaluate (in 4D) regional metallogenesis of specific districts and regions in terms of tectonic setting, geological and structural evolution, genesis of metalliferous plutons and potential fertility of source rocks, with recognition of the influences and controls of these parameters on the formation of mineral deposits.
 - Identify metal sources, transport pathways and deposition mechanisms for mineral deposit formation.
 - Identify footprints and vectors of key mineral-deposit types to characterise exploration targets and their deposit architecture.
 - Encourage research and exploration of New Zealand's offshore resources to investigate their potential, including a holistic overview of prospective seafloor hydrothermal systems for their massive sulfide potential (copper, gold, zinc, barium, etc.).
 - Identify aggregate and sand sources closer to markets to reduce transport-related costs and carbon emissions.
 - Undertake materials research to develop new uses of minerals and greater share of the value chain in New Zealand.
- Streamline access to key mineral exploration datasets and relevant research.

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Active mining:
Number of active mining operations and their production:

• Aggregate	600	>40 Mt
• Limestone	>68	1.2 Mt
• Coal	17	3 Mt
• Alluvial gold	120	31,700 oz
• Hard-rock gold	2	182,800 oz
• Hard-rock silver	1	120,100 oz
• Ironsand	2	>2 Mt
• Ilmenite sand	1	
• Other industrial minerals (more than 20 operations, including perlite, pumice, serpentinite and zeolite).		
• By-product vanadium, garnet and rare earth elements.		

Active production highlights:

- Aggregate – building our roads and buildings (250 t in the average house).
- Limestone – down on the farm with fertiliser and farm tracks.
- Ironsand – putting the roof over our heads with steel.
- Heavy mineral sand – providing industrial minerals and rare earth elements.
- Gold and silver for export revenues.
- Halloysite – the world’s whitest clay for high-quality ceramics.
- Diatomite – for pozzolan cement, reducing our carbon footprint in concrete.
- Zeolite – diverse uses, including cleaning spills and pollutants, water treatment and filters, conditioners for sports turf and slow-release fertiliser.

Potential import substitution of fertiliser minerals:

- Phosphorous: eastern side of the North and South Islands and offshore on the Chatham Rise.
- Potassium: East Coast glauconite.
- Sulphur: Central North Island.

Assisting the road to carbon neutrality with exploration for:

- Lithium for electric car batteries.
- Diatomite for pozzolan cement, reducing our carbon footprint in concrete.
- Rare earth elements for wind turbines, electric car batteries, energy-efficient light bulbs and efficient motors/generators.
- Platinum Group Elements for catalytic converters to reduce emissions in petrol and diesel vehicles.
- Low-silica rocks for carbon dioxide sequestration.

Increased exports of niche market minerals, for example:

- Amorphous silica
- Diatomite
- Perlite
- Pumice
- Zeolite

Research on new applications for minerals:

- Inductive power charging of electric vehicle batteries using ironsand (GNS Science and University of Auckland)
- Converting coal to carbon foam for use in many thermal, mechanical and electrical applications (New Zealand Institute for Minerals to Materials Research [NZIMMR]).

Value-add to mineral exports:

- Increased processing in New Zealand for ironsands, ilmenite sand and some industrial minerals.

Research on new processing technology:

- Extraction of lithium and other metals from fluid used by the geothermal power industry (Geo40).
- Zero-carbon manufacture of iron using hydrogen instead of coal (Victoria University of Wellington).
- Improving recovery of gold in placer gold plants (NZIMMR)

Draft Critical Mineral List



Appendix A: New Zealand Draft Critical Minerals List (Details)

Mineral	Key identified use(s)	Supply Risk Score	NZ Demand	NZ Production	International Partner Critical Minerals List				
					USA	UK	EU	AUS	CAN
Fluorspar	Used in aluminium production, insulating foams, refrigerants and steel	8.90	Direct Demand	N/A	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Gallium	PV cells, electronics (semiconductors)	8.90	Indirect Demand	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Silicon	Glass, casting sand, nanomaterials and electronics	7.80	Direct Demand	Current producer (unquantified)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chromium	key alloying element in steels	7.58	Direct Demand	Potential future producer	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Antimony	Crucial for defence applications, EVs and medical	7.25	Direct Demand	Potential future producer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Germanium	Electronics (semiconductors)	7.20	Indirect Demand	N/A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Platinum Group Metals ¹	Catalysts, hydrogen fuel cells, EVs, electronics and communications	7.18	Direct Demand	Potential future producer	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Aluminium	Packaging, automotive, aerospace, defence	7.05	Direct Demand	Current producer	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Rare Earth Elements ²	Permanent magnets, glass polishing, ceramics, metal alloys, LEDs, lasers	6.95	Direct Demand	Current producer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tungsten	Drilling, mining, cutting	6.95	Indirect Demand	Potential future producer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Zinc	Anodising and corrosion protection	6.88	Direct Demand	N/A	Y	N	N	N	Y
Molybdenum	Common alloying element for steels and high temp alloys	6.75	Direct Demand	N/A	N	N	N	Y	Y
Indium	Electronics, solders, batteries, PV cells, bearings	6.58	Indirect Demand	N/A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Graphite	Battery and energy storage applications	6.58	Direct Demand	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nickel	Alloying in steel, stainless steel, batteries and energy storage applications	6.53	Direct Demand	N/A	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Bismuth	Data storage	6.35	Direct Demand	Potential future producer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tellurium	PV cells, electronics	6.33	Direct Demand	N/A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Vanadium	Steel and titanium alloys, catalysts, magnets, coatings, battery and energy storage systems	6.30	Direct Demand	Current producer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Selenium	Agricultural uses as well as PV cells and electronics	6.23	Direct Demand	N/A	N	N	N	Y	N
Niobium	High-temperature superalloys	6.13	Indirect Demand	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Manganese	Used in steels, aluminium alloys, batteries, catalysts, glass, fertilisers and electronics	5.93	Direct Demand	N/A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Cobalt	Battery and energy storage applications, steel alloys	5.88	Direct Demand	Potential future producer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Arsenic	Treatment of wood and electronics including semiconductors	5.83	Indirect Demand	Current producer (unquantified)	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Copper	Power transmission, electronics and EVs	5.65	Direct Demand	Potential future producer	N	N	N	N	Y
Strontium	Magnets, alloys and paints	5.58	Direct Demand	N/A	N	N	Y	N	N
Cesium	Cancer treatments, electronics and optics, space and PV cells	5.50	Indirect Demand	Potential future producer	Y	N	N	N	Y
Rubidium	Medical and electronics	5.50	International Partner Demand	Potential future producer	Y	N	N	N	N
Boron	Permanent magnets, electronics, PV cells	5.48	Direct Demand	N/A	N	N	Y	N	N
Magnesium	lightweight alloys	5.35	Direct Demand	Potential future producer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Titanium	Aerospace parts, medical implants	5.28	Direct Demand	Current producer	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Zirconium	Fuel cells, auto catalysts, bearings	5.18	Direct Demand	Current producer (unquantified)	Y	N	N	Y	N
Beryllium	Critical aerospace parts	5.10	International Partner Demand	N/A	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Potassium (Potash)	Agriculture fertilisers	5.08	Direct Demand	N/A	N	N	N	N	Y
Phosphate	Agriculture fertilisers, battery and energy storage applications	4.23	Direct Demand	Potential future producer	N	N	Y	N	N
Aggregate & Sand	Roading and construction	3.43	Direct Demand	Current producer	N	N	N	N	N

1. Platinum Group Metals include Iridium, Osmium, Palladium, Platinum, Rhodium and Ruthenium.
 2. Rare Earth Elements include Cerium, Dysprosium, Erbium, Europium, Gadolinium, Holmium, Lanthanum, Lutetium, Neodymium, Praseodymium, Promethium, Samarium, Scandium, Terbium, Thulium, Ytterbium and Yttrium.

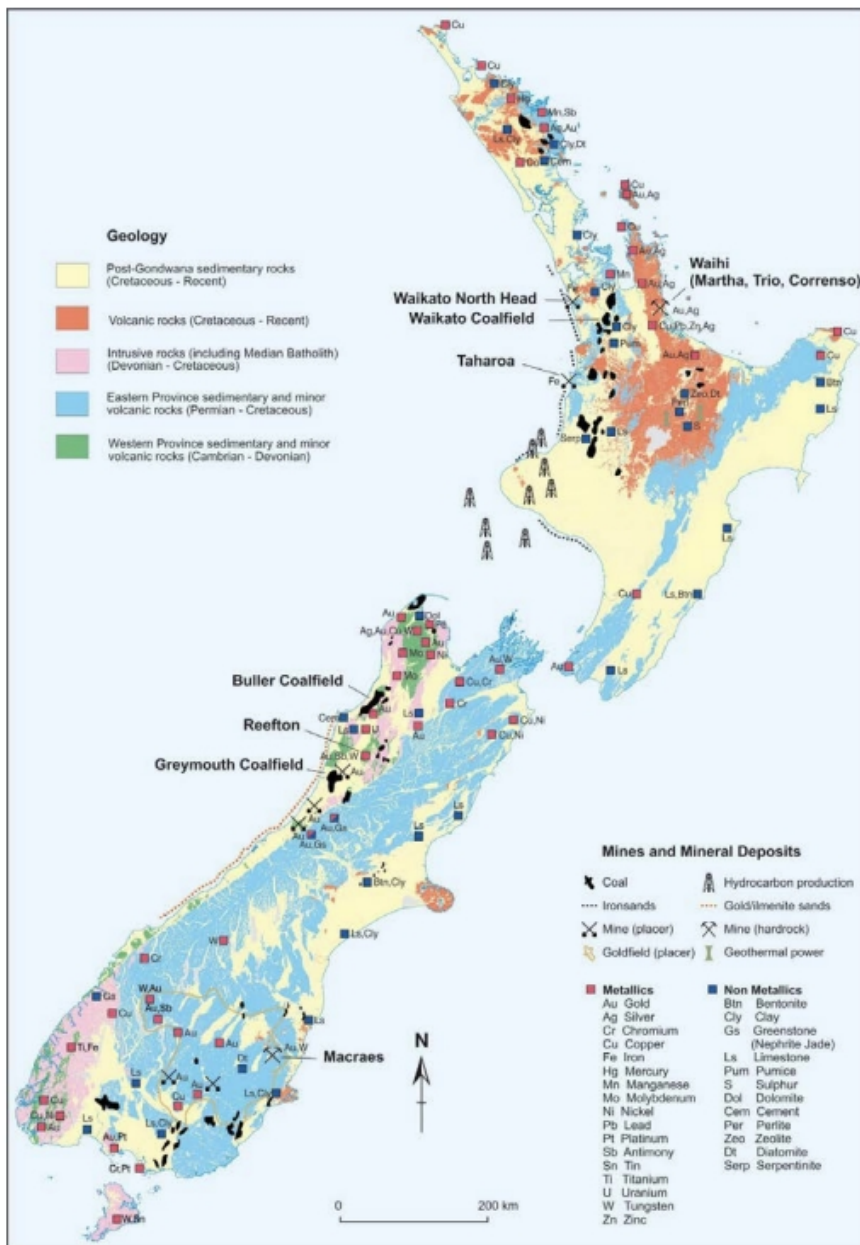


Figure 1.1 New Zealand geology and mineral deposits (after Christie and Barker [2013]).

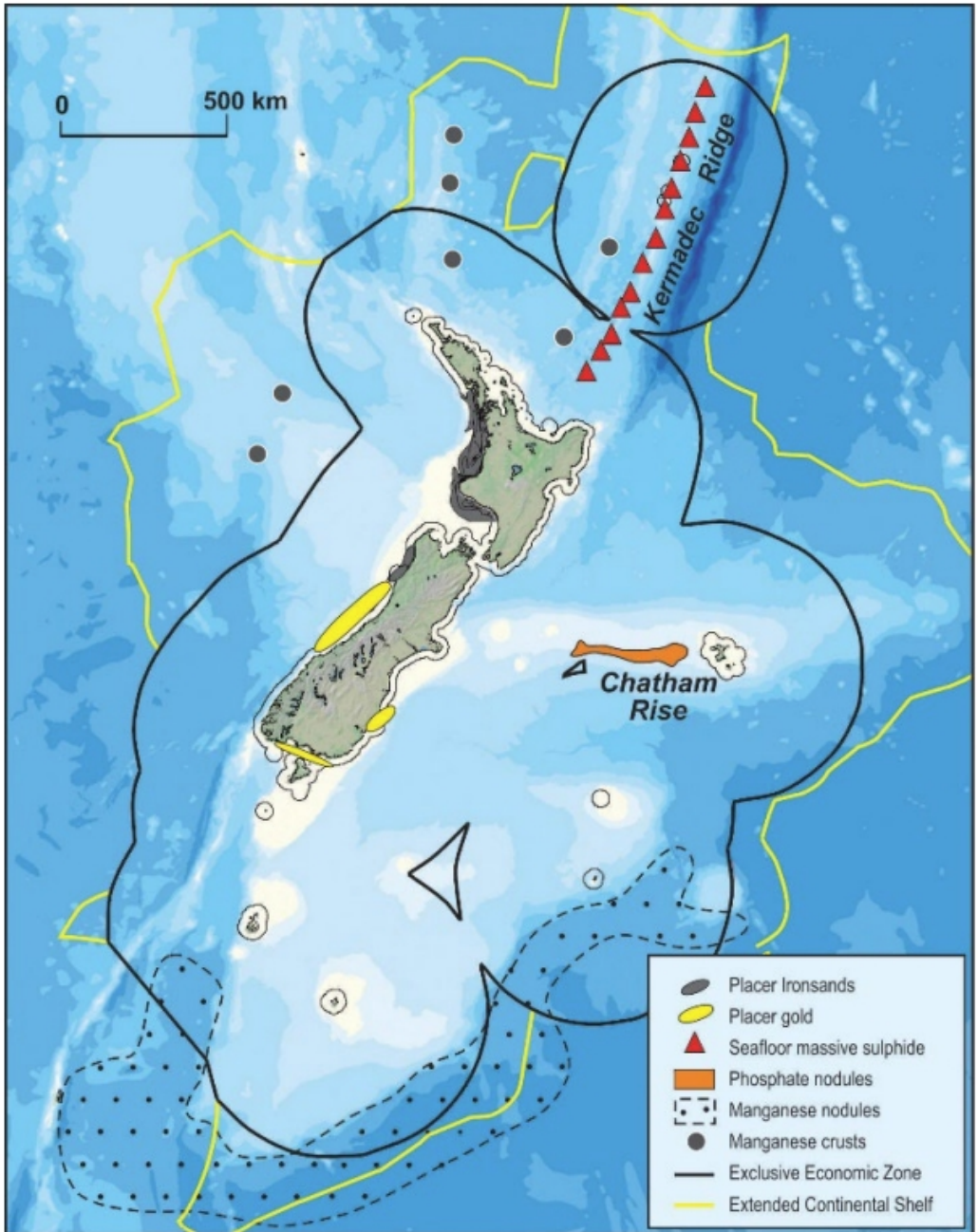


Figure 1.2 Offshore minerals (after Christie and Barker [2013]).
Environment Southland (Southland Regional Council)

9.3 Government Legislation and Policy Monitor

Report by: Shana Lee, Policy Planner

Approved by: Rachael Millar, General Manager Strategy, Policy & Science

Report Date: 16 October 2024

Purpose

To update the Strategy and Policy committee and internal staff on recent national legislation and policy changes that may impact Environment Southland's operations, with the goal of building a knowledge base for effective engagement with Central Government and preparing for successful implementation.

Summary

The latest policy updates regarding the central government reform agenda include the progress of the broad resource management reform, and the Fast Track Approvals Bill. The Treaty Principles Bill is being drafted and is anticipated to be released in November, though its future remains uncertain. In infrastructure, the Government is working on a National Infrastructure Plan, with a blueprint for Regional Deals made available and the launch of the National Infrastructure Agency set for December 1.

Recommendation

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

- 1 Receive the report - Government Legislation and Policy Monitor.

Background

Since the last update, the central government has advanced discussions on various policy areas outlined in the Coalition agreement. Notably, details on broader resource reform are becoming clearer. Staff have been participating in online engagements led by the relevant Ministry to ensure that regional government perspectives are included in policy development. Discussions to date have covered energy generation, aquaculture, and infrastructure.

The final version of the Fast Track Approvals Bill is yet to be released. However, there have been official announcements regarding some changes, and it is expected to be passed into law by the end of the year, with the possibility of it occurring soon.

As for the Treaty Principles Bill, which has been stirring national debates, discussions have progressed within the Cabinet, and its framework is becoming clearer. The Bill is currently being drafted by the parliamentary drafting committee, with a release anticipated in November. Provided the National Party maintains the current position, the Bill is unlikely to progress to become law but there is a potential for significant ramifications.

Various policies related to infrastructure are also being developed and implemented. While developing the National Infrastructure Plan, which is scheduled for release next year, the government has introduced a blueprint for Regional Deals to support local development. Additionally, the National Infrastructure Agency is set to be launched on December 1.

For specific details on these matters and other policy changes, please refer to the attached Monitor document.

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

Attachments

1. 2024 09 Government Policy and Legi [9.3.1 - 23 pages]

Government Policy and Legislation Monitor

Updated: 9 October 2024

This monthly document monitors the most significant of the policy and legislation changes the coalition government is driving across various areas. All information is publicly available or received via formal channels such as letters from ministries and correspondence from LGNZ, Taituarā, and Te Uru Kahika. To make it easier to follow, updates to the previous version have been marked in red.

Index

The following colour coding is used throughout:



The format is as follows:

Policy area	
Legislation/policy name	Announcements, dates, and signals
	ES staff involvement and implications and next steps

Updates

Resource Management	
<i>Overview of RMA reform programme</i>	<p>The Coalition Government has committed to a three-phase reform of the resource management system, as follows:</p> <p>Phase 1: repeal the Natural and Built Environment Act (NBA) and Spatial Planning Act (SPA) (complete);</p> <p>Phase 2A: progress the Fast-Track Approvals Bill, a consenting and permitting regime for regionally and nationally significant projects;</p> <p>Phase 2B: progress targeted legislative changes to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) by late 2024, along with proposals to amend, review or develop many national direction instruments; and</p> <p>Phase 3: replace the current RMA with new resource management legislation.</p> <p>Budget 2024 provides \$92.2m over four years to deliver the Government’s resource management reforms, including fast-track consenting legislation, Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 amendments, updates to national direction and RMA replacement legislation.</p>

	<p>This is the only new funding provided under Vote Environment in Budget 2024</p>
	<p>The ‘three phase’ language is a useful tool for understanding the components of the work programme. The impact and outlook for Environment Southland are outlined in separate discussions below.</p>
<p><i>Fast-Track Approvals Bill (Phase 2A)</i></p>	<p>The Fast-Track Approvals Bill is intended to expedite the approval process for regionally and nationally significant development projects. The original Bill was released in March 2024 and underwent a high-profile public consultation, which resulted in the Select Committee receiving approximately 27,000 written submissions. The Committee is currently considering the details of the bill with a report to the Parliament due on 18 October 2024. Enactment is likely to follow shortly after.</p> <p>The original design required that, to access the fast-track approvals process, a project is either listed in Part A of Schedule 2 or project owners apply to the joint Ministers. A project would then be referred to an expert panel to assess the project and make a recommendation to the joint Ministers, who would then determine whether the approvals should be granted or declined. It is notable that, relative to the previous Covid-era fast-track regime, the process has been widened to include approvals (and bundles of approvals) under a range of legislation. This means applicants for various development projects such as infrastructure, housing, resource extraction and aquaculture will only permission from one under the fast-track process, provided they are regionally or nationally significant, are consistent with the purpose of the Bill and meet the other eligibility criteria found in clause 17.</p> <p>On 25 August 2024, <u>the Cabinet announced</u> several recommendations signalling significant potential changes. The changes include giving the final decision-making authority to the expert panel instead of the Ministers, making the Minister for Infrastructure responsible for referring projects to the expert panel, broadening the expertise basis of the expert panels to include expertise in environmental matters and Māori development, and extending timeframes for comments at the referral and panel stages. It has also recommended that applicants are made to include information on previous decisions by approving authorities, including previous court decisions, in their applications for the referring Minister to consider.</p> <p>However, the Cabinet did not make any recommendations regarding the overarching framework for decision making. This framework is driven by the purpose of the bill which mandates decision-makers to prioritise the facilitation of infrastructure and development projects over other fundamental values safeguarded by various other laws.</p>
	<p>In addition to a written submission (Objective ID: A1068838), the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager for Policy and Government Reform submitted orally to the Select Committee on 17 May, highlighting the need to balance environmental and economic benefits and to enable regional</p>

	<p>councils’ input through timely provision of relevant information regarding applications.</p> <p>The longer-term impacts of the Bill on Environment Southland will depend on its final form, and where and how often the new consenting powers are applied in our region. Once a project gets consented through the fast-track process, it would be the responsibility of the usual consenting authority to implement and monitor the consent, hence significant resourcing implications.</p> <p>The Cabinet’s announcement made on 25 August revealed that, out of 384 applications for the Fast Track process, 14 came from the Southland region. Successful projects would be included in Part A of Schedule 2 of the Bill and be eligible for going through the Fast Track Approvals process.</p> <p>The implications of the bill are currently being explored. Environment Southland will need to establish appropriate processes to be able to provide comments on Fast Track Approval applications within a compressed timeframe.</p>
<p><i>RM (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill (Phase 2B - RM Amendment Bill No.1)</i></p>	<p>The Government was planning to introduce two major RMA amendment Bills in 2024. Following public consultation, the Primary Production Committee is currently considering the details of RM Amendment Bill No. 1. It is expected to report back to the House on or around 30 September 2024 with enactment likely to follow shortly afterward.</p> <p>This Bill No. 1, released on May 23, proposed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exclude the NPS-FM's (National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management) hierarchy of obligations from resource consenting. 2. Repeal the low slope map and related stock exclusion regulations. 3. Repeal intensive winter grazing regulations from the NES-F (National Environmental Standard for Freshwater). 4. Align coal mining provisions with other mineral extraction activities under the NPS-IB (National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity), NPS-FM, and NES-F. 5. Suspend for three years the NPS-IB's requirement for councils to identify and include new SNAs (Significant Natural Areas) in district plans.
	<p>Environment Southland provided our written submission to the Select Committee and orally submitted to the Committee on 17 July 2024.</p> <p>The proposed changes in the Bill relating to freshwater management are likely to have limited impact on Environment Southland’s operations, as our regional plan (pSWLP) has Te Mana o te Wai incorporated, and already contains regional rules for managing intensive winter grazing and stock exclusion. However, our written submission raised concerns regarding coal extraction, the risks associated with streamlining of consultation processes, and the suspension of SNA progress. Additional comments on these issues will be made during the oral submission.</p>

	<p>To address the confusion among residents regarding intensive winter grazing and stock exclusion, Environment Southland has been investing resources to develop and deliver a unified message to the farming communities. Relevant teams are engaging with these communities, and necessary information, including factsheets, is readily available on our website.</p>
<p><i>RM Amendment Bill No. 2 (Phase 2B)</i></p>	<p>The Government is currently testing initial policy proposals of this Bill with Treaty partners and stakeholders, including local government. The proposals are intended to deliver objectives for <u>Electrify NZ</u>, <u>Infrastructure for the Future</u>, <u>Going for Housing Growth</u> and <u>Getting Back to Farming</u>.</p> <p>In late March, the Minister responsible for RMA Reform sought feedback from the sector on what could be included in the second Bill. Te Uru Kahika provided high-level suggestions, with input from the Special Interest Group network.</p> <p>During an engagement workshop held in August, the Ministry for the Environment advised us that the Bill may include measures to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primary sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce regulatory overlap between the RMA and Fisheries Act 1996 • Provide efficient consent processing for wood processing facilities • Update consents in an efficient manner (including marine farm consents) • Improve freshwater farm plans 2. Housing and urban development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review housing rules relating to Medium Density Residential Standards • New regulation-making power for emergency responses • Ability decline land-use consents or attach conditions where there are significant natural hazard risks 3. Infrastructure and energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Default consent duration of 35 years for renewable energy • Reduce consent processing time • Amend consents information requirements • Default lapse period for designations of 10 years • Extend requiring status to housing and other service providers, including Kainga Ora, ports, and emergency services. • Remove or simplify alternatives test and reduce assessment requirements • Extend port permits by 20 years <p>This Bill is expected to be introduced in late 2024 and become law mid 2025 after going through a Select Committee process, including public consultation.</p>
	<p>Staff have been supporting the Ministry in the policy development process by providing feedback through regular online meetings of managers, as well as several one-off targeted discussions focused on specific topics, attended by representatives from local councils across New Zealand.</p>
<p><i>National Direction</i></p>	<p>In a speech to the New Zealand Planning Institute, the Minister for RMA Reform advised that, aside from the “straightforward priority amendments” that will be included in the RMA amendment Bills, all other work on national direction will</p>

<p><i>Programme (Phase 2 B)</i></p>	<p>be combined into a single process (the 'integrated national direction package') which will take 18-24 months to complete.</p> <p>The Ministry advised that 7 new National Direction instruments will be developed, and 14 existing instruments will be amended through 3 packages for decision-making.</p> <p>It is currently testing initial policy proposals with Treaty partners and stakeholders. Such engagement is likely to continue until the end of October. Formal consultation is planned for early 2025 with cabinet decisions to come mid 2025.</p> <p>The RMA Reform Minister, Chris Bishop, will be delegated the National Direction-making RMA functions with the exception of the NZ Coastal Policy Statement, which the Conservation Minister has statutory responsibility for.</p> <p>The proposals are intended to deliver objectives for Electrify NZ, Infrastructure for the Future, Going for Housing Growth and Getting Back to Farming. Below list has been provided by the Ministry.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primary sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NPS-Freshwater Management ○ NES-Freshwater ○ NPS-Indigenous Biodiversity ○ NES-Commercial Forestry ○ NES-Drinking Water ○ NES-Marine Aquaculture ○ Stock Exclusion Regulations • New national direction for water storage 2. Housing and urban development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to NPS-Urban Development and NPS-Highly Productive Land • New National Direction for housing targets, granny flats and papakāinga. • New national direction for Natural Hazard Management • New national environmental standards for heritage bundled into the housing package. 3. Infrastructure and energy – phase 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to NPS-Renewable Electricity Generation, NPS-Electricity Transmission, NES-Electricity Transmission Activities, NES-Telecommunications Facilities • Amendments to NZ Coastal Policy Statement • New national direction for distribution • New NPS-infrastructure 4. Infrastructure and energy – Future rolling programme
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New national direction to enable a broader range of renewable energy activities without consent • New NES for infrastructure
	<p>Staff have been assisting the Ministry through regular online meetings attended by managers of local authorities as well as one-off targeted webinars involving technical experts from local councils. It is anticipated that Environment Southland will continue to actively engage in the consultation process and participate in the formal parliamentary procedures, working closely with Te Uru Kahika, Taituarā and other stakeholder bodies.</p> <p>The implications of these various policy changes are set out in the next table. Environment Southland is likely to work alongside and receive support from Te Uru Kahika, Taituarā and Local Government New Zealand to navigate the consultation process.</p>
<i>RMA replacement legislation (Phase 3)</i>	<p>The final component of the Government’s reform programme is a permanent replacement for the RMA. Early messages about the new legislation include that it will be based on ‘the enjoyment of property rights’, will promote access to housing and other basic human needs alongside environmental protection, and that there are likely to be two pieces of legislation, separating urban and spatial planning from environmental protection.</p> <p>The Minister for RM reform has advised that the ‘heavy lifting’ for the new legislation will be carried out by an Expert Ministerial Advisory Group, yet to be announced.</p> <p>The Ministry for the Environment’s indicative work programme estimates that cabinet decisions on new legislation will be taken in late 2024, the legislation drafted in the first half of 2025, a select committee process in the latter half of 2025 and the new legislation in place in early 2026.</p>
	<p>Environment Southland is likely to respond to the new legislation through stakeholder processes and engagement with the Select Committee.</p>
<i>Freshwater Farm Plans</i>	<p>Government announced on 3 September that the rollout of farm plans will be paused pending improvement of the farm plan system to make it more cost-effective, and fit-for-purpose. A principle of the review is that the time and cost of completing a plan should line up with the level of risk to freshwater from the farming operation.</p>
	<p>As part of a nationwide rollout, Southland and several other regions had been implementing Freshwater Farm Plans in specific areas.</p> <p>Regardless of the proposed pause in the national rollout, the Appendix N provisions of Southland’s Water and Land Plan regarding farm environmental plans in Southland will apply.</p>

	<p>We are working actively with Government to make sure the implications for the Southland region associated with the pause in the national rollout are understood and managed.</p>
<p><i>Clarify discharge consenting</i></p>	<p>On 9 August, Agriculture Minister Todd McClay announced clarifications will be made concerning discharge consenting provisions in the Resource Management Act to provide certainty for agricultural and horticultural producers, making sure councils continue to manage discharge consents in a practical way. Cabinet have agreed to make time critical amendments to section 107 of the RMA so that councils and consent applicants have legal clarity, and the certainty they need to plan ahead.</p> <p>This announcement is in response to a recent High Court decision, <i>Environmental Law Initiative v Canterbury Regional Council [2024] NZHC 612</i>. The judgment raised the bar for consenting discharges from agricultural activities, particularly when significant adverse effects on aquatic life are involved.</p>
	<p>Given the large number of farming operations across Southland and associated discharge consents, the abovementioned Court decision and any legislative changes affecting its application will likely have a significant impact on our consenting process.</p>

National direction – individual national policy statement & environmental standard

<p><i>NPS Indigenous Biodiversity</i></p>	<p>The first RMA amendment Bill suspended the NPS-IB requirement for councils to identify new Significant Natural Areas(SNAs) for three years.</p> <p>The scope of the review of NPS-IB include criteria for identifying SNAs, assessment and identification processes, and the management of land subject to SNAs. There may be other changes as part of the integrated national direction package. The public would have an opportunity to provide feedback on these changes in the first quarter of 2025.</p>
	<p>The current obligation to map SNAs sits primarily with Territorial Authorities but Environment Southland has a strong interest in the wider objectives of the policy and expressed concerns about the continuing loss of indigenous areas in its submission.</p>

<p><i>NPS & NES Freshwater Management</i></p>	<p>Cabinet agreed in December 2023 to replace the NPS-FM. Councils will receive an extra three years, until 31 December 2027, to notify their freshwater plan changes. It appears that NPS-FM will be amended, instead of being replaced.</p> <p>The first RMA amendment Bill introduced in May 2024 removes obligations for individual resource consent applications and decisions to apply Te Mana o Te Wai.</p> <p>Details of additional amendments to NPS-FM and NES-FM to be facilitated through the National Direction Programme have not yet been made available.</p>
	<p>The NPS & NES-FM are central to Environment Southland’s policy making , and related operations on the ground. The Regional Policy Statement and all of Southland’s regional plans are required to be consistent with national direction, including the NPS & NES-FM.</p>
<p><i>NPS Highly Productive Land</i></p>	<p>In Augst 2024 the NPS-HPL 2022 was amended. The changes brought in with this amendment support the development of “specified infrastructure”, indoor primary production and greenhouse activities. It had been signalled that amendments were anticipated which would exclude LUC3 land from being classified as highly productive. In the updated version it still contains LUC3 land.</p>
	<p>The changes do not have a significant impact on Environment Southland.</p> <p>Environment Southland is currently involved in a regional mapping process as a response to the existing NPS-HPL. This work is still required.</p> <p>A recent Environment Court decision has provided clarity on a specific matter: landowners cannot seek to reclassify their land’s LUC classification ahead of the regional mapping exercise.</p>
<p><i>NPS Urban Development</i></p>	<p>Changes to the NPS-UD are expected to be part of the RMA amendment Bill No.2 (Phase 2B), including changes to mixed-use zoning rules to encourage density and an increased mix of residential and business activities in some places, such as homes above shops and restaurants.</p>
	<p>The proposed changes to NPS-UD are expected to have a minimal impact on Southland, as the policies primarily target tier 1 and 2 centres, none of which are located within Southland. However, general rules aimed at enhancing land use efficiency and urban development could still influence the region.</p>
<p><i>New national direction for Natural Hazard Management</i></p>	<p>From September to November 2023, the Government sought feedback on a proposed NPS-NHD (National Policy Statement for Natural Hazard Decision-making). This was described as a first step from the Central Government to provide additional support for local government to manage risks to people</p>

	<p>and property from natural hazards such as floods, landslides and coastal inundation.</p> <p>The Government has signalled that it will develop new national direction for Natural Hazard Management as part of the National Direction Programme. It will provide directions on “how to identify natural hazards, assess the risk they pose, and how to respond to that risk through planning controls.”</p>
	<p>Environment Southland staff will continue a watching brief.</p>
<p><i>NES Commercial Forestry</i></p>	<p>Regulations are to be streamlined by reversing parts of the regulations which allowed for increased council discretion for afforestation, and reviewing forestry slash management. It will be achieved by repealing regulation 6(4A) and amending regulation 6(1)(A), and improve slash management standards to clarify rules around low-risk slash.</p>
	<p>The proposed policy change would take away Environment Southland’s ability to set more stringent rules for managing afforestation activities in general, reverting back to the earlier situation where more stringent regional rules are only allowed in situations specified in Regulation 6. Examples include where a relevant rule is implementation NPS-FM, or provides for the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes.</p>
<p><i>NPS Renewable Electricity Generation</i></p>	<p>To progress the Coalition Government’s commitments to begin doubling renewable energy production, the Government is updating the National Policy Statement on Renewable Energy Generation and National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission.</p> <p>Based on the information provided by the Ministry for the Environment, various proposals are likely to be included in the RM bill No. 2 and the National Direction Programme. Proposals under consideration include shortening the consenting process to 1 year, extending the consent lapse period to 10 years, and increasing the minimum consent durations for all relevant consents to 35 years. Additional policy options include providing for ‘decision-making in one place’, creating a tailored effects management hierarchy system, defining significant environmental values to apply to these activities, and streamlining the consenting process for electricity distribution.</p>
	<p>The proposals will likely have a significant impact on Environment Southland’s operations and the communities within Southland, which holds significant potential for renewal energy projects due to its abundant natural resources. However, there is also a considerable risk of negatively affecting areas of high environmental and cultural value.</p> <p>Staff have been engaging with the Ministry through targeted online meetings and will continue to participate in the discussions.</p>

Coastal Matters	
<i>NES Marine Aquaculture</i>	<p>Recognising the critical role of marine aquaculture in both regional and national economies, the Government sought to achieve regulatory consistency for the industry by establishing this NES. They became effective from December 2020 with a three-year review undertaken last year. It was in line with the Government's Aquaculture Strategy. The goals of NES-MA (National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture) include enhancing regulatory consistency, ensuring proper environmental management, and fostering industry confidence to stimulate investment.</p> <p style="color: red;">It is being reviewed as part of the Resource Management Reform phase 2B package to be available for consultation early 2025.</p>
	<p>Environment Southland provided written feedback in June 2024 during the three-year review, responding to various questions posed by the Ministry, many of which were addressing biosecurity concerns.</p>
<i>Introduction of 20-year extension to the duration of port consents</i>	<p>New Zealand's various ports existed before the introduction of the Resource Management Act (RMA) in 1991. With the implementation of the RMA, existing port activities were given a transitional period until September 2026, spanning 25 years. Activities initiated thereafter have been subject to standard application procedures for permits. With only two years remaining in the special transitional period for the basic port activities, the government is considering extending this adaptation period by an additional 20 years.</p> <p>The Government announced its intention to include the relevant policy proposals in the RM Amendment Bill No. 2, which is expected to be released later this year.</p>
	<p>Environment Southland conveyed our input through an online meeting with the representatives from the Ministry of Transport in June 2024. A written submission will be prepared once the relevant Bill becomes available. Staff will keep a watching brief.</p>
<i>RMA (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits of Marine Farms) Amendment Bill</i>	<p>The Government introduced this Bill in May 2024 to implement one of the policy programmes set out in the Coalition Agreement which is to “deliver longer durations for marine farming permits and remove regulations that impede the productivity and enormous potential of the seafood sector”</p> <p>This Bill would extend the current duration of all coastal permits currently issued under the RMA authorising aquaculture by 20 years, but not beyond 2050. The extension would automatically cover all of the RMA consents needed for a marine farm. While the Bill provides a mechanism for consent authorities to review consent conditions of extended consents, its use is severely limited as cost recovery has not been provided for.</p> <p style="color: red;">The Bill passed into law on 27 August 2024, largely as introduced, with some minor drafting changes.</p>

	<p>Southland currently has 55 existing consented aquaculture activities of which 85% are concentrated in Big Glory Bay, 18% Bluff Harbour and the remainder in several other areas in Foveaux Strait. Most have been established since the mid 1990's and 45 aquaculture consents will be expiring in January 2025. Given this background, automatic extension of existing marine consents is likely to prevent the effective regional governance of these activities.</p> <p>Environment Southland provided a written submission (Objective ID: A1103212) to the Primary Production Committee and the Chairman and GM Policy and Government Reform presented orally to the Committee on 24 June 2024, emphasizing the efficiency in using existing planning tools to manage marine farms to achieve balanced outcomes, and the need to retain regional council's ability to review conditions and recover costs.</p> <p>The ensuing legislation is anticipated to significantly influence the ongoing review of the Regional Coastal Plan, as national oversight and intervention expand, potentially diminishing the regulatory authority of regional councils overall. Throughout the review process, it will be crucial to establish adequate regulatory and non-regulatory measures to safeguard the diverse environmental, cultural, and social values that could be negatively impacted by the inability to modify relevant permit conditions.</p>
<i>Providing for offshore renewable energy generation</i>	<p>On 26 August 2024, the Government announced plans to develop a separate regulatory regime for offshore renewable energy generation. It is anticipated that a Bill will be introduced by the end of 2024 as part of the Resource Management Reform Phase 2B and passed into law by mid-2025.</p>
	<p>This proposal is likely to have a substantial impact on the management of marine resources within Southland's coastal waters and directly affect the current review of the regional coastal plan. Staff will provide updates on opportunities for participation in the consultation process.</p>

Climate Change	
<i>Adaptation Inquiry</i>	<p>In late 2023, the Environment Committee sought submissions on an inquiry into community-led retreat and climate adaptation funding, started by the previous government. Environment Southland participated in the process by engaging with Taituarā and LGNZ, which provided written submissions to the Committee.</p> <p>The Minister for Climate Change Hon Simon Watts is currently undertaking a new climate adaptation inquiry, with support from political parties across the House. The purpose of the inquiry, led by the Finance and Expenditure Committee, is to develop guiding objectives and principles for the design of a climate adaptation framework for New Zealand.</p> <p>The approximately 150 public submissions made to the previous inquiry will be considered in the new inquiry; the Committee is currently considering the</p>

	<p>content of new/updated submissions. Any associated legislation is expected to be introduced in early 2025.</p> <p>The Ministry for the Environment has established an independent reference group to support policy development for the adaptation framework. Its website includes the following summary of what the framework will do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adaptation framework will set out the Government’s approach to sharing the costs of adapting to climate change. • It will help communities and businesses know what investment will happen in their area, for example whether the council will build flood protection infrastructure, and what support will be available to help with recovery from events like slips or floods. • It will cover proactive choices to protect from foreseeable risks, and long-term recovery after a severe weather event happens. <p>The Finance and Expenditure Committee is expected to report back to the Parliament soon.</p>
	<p>Environment Southland staff will continue a watching brief on this work.</p>
<p><i>National hazard information to be included in LIMs</i></p>	<p>The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) will be consulting in the coming months on draft regulations that will support councils implement recent amendments to the LGOIMA to improve natural hazard information disclosure in LIMs.</p> <p>Key amendments include a purpose to ensure that natural hazard information in LIMs is understandable, a requirement that regional councils must provide territorial authorities with natural hazard information, and a limitation of legal liability for local authorities when making available natural hazard information in good faith in LIMs.</p> <p>The draft regulations are likely to address how councils can meet the new requirements, additional information to make natural hazard information more understandable, and how that information is summarised and presented.</p>
	<p>The regulations will impact how Environment makes natural hazard information available to the relevant users. Staff will keep a watching brief.</p>
<p><i>National Climate Change Strategy</i></p>	<p>On 10 July 2024, the Government released its climate change strategy ‘Responding to a changing climate’, setting out its approach to how it will deliver on New Zealand’s climate goals.</p> <p>The strategy is focused on five pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure is resilient and communities are well prepared • Credible markets support the climate transition • Clean energy is abundant and affordable • World-leading climate innovation boosts the economy • Nature-based solutions address climate change.

	<p>While the climate strategy outlines the Government’s overall approach to the climate response, the second emissions reduction plan will form the basis of the Government’s response to reduce New Zealand’s emissions in line with our targets.</p>
	<p>Staff discussed the details of the strategy with Councillors at the workshop held on 24 July 2024.</p>
<p><i>Second Emissions Reduction Plan</i></p>	<p>On 17 July 2024, the consultation on the draft second Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP2) commenced. It will close on 25 August 2024. ERP2 is part of a comprehensive national climate response framework that includes emissions reduction budgets, plans, risk assessments, and ongoing monitoring and reporting. It sets out actions needed to reduce emissions to meet the second emissions budget for the years 2026–2030.</p> <p>Being ‘on track’ to meet the second emissions budget is one of the nine recently announced Government Targets – the only environmental target. This emissions budget is set at the national level with no regional specificity.</p> <p>The policy proposals have been categorised into five climate change priority areas being energy, transport, agriculture, forestry and waste. It also relies heavily on the Emissions Trading Scheme pricing to drive net emission reductions.</p> <p>The document also outlines seven key policies which the Government believes will have the greatest impact on reducing emissions, alongside other actions in each sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing renewable energy by reducing the consenting burden through Electrify NZ • Targeting 10,000 public EV chargers by 2030 • Lowering agricultural emissions by giving farmers the tools to reduce emissions and through fair and sustainable pricing of on-farm agricultural emissions by 2030 • Investing in resource recovery through the Waste Minimisation Fund • Improving organic waste and landfill gas capture • Improving public transport • Investigating carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS)
	<p>Environment Southland has an interest in engaging with this programme of work to ensure it advances the interests of the Southland Region and enables effective collaboration across central and local government. Our submission was developed with input from staff and governance.</p> <p>Environment Southland’s submission focused on addressing the risks associated with the projected failure to meet long-term emissions reduction targets, evaluating the 'least-cost' and 'net-based' approaches, and advocating for system-wide changes. Additionally, it was pointed out that there is a need to empower local governments to play a more significant role in climate change responses. Staff will provide an update when the final ERP2 becomes available.</p>

<p><i>Review of biogenic methane targets</i></p>	<p>The Government has commissioned an independent review of biogenic methane targets. A panel of five experts has been tasked with producing “estimates of biogenic methane emissions reductions needed in 2050 and 2100 to achieve and maintain a state of no additional warming from New Zealand’s biogenic methane emissions relative to 2017 levels of warming”.</p> <p>They commenced their work in June 2024 and will report back to the Government by the end of this year. The MfE’s website states that the Government will consider their work alongside the Climate Change Commission’s review of the 2050 targets.</p>
	<p>Staff will keep watching brief on this matter and provide updates as developments occur.</p>
<p><i>Natural Hazards Insurance Act</i></p>	<p>This Act came into effect on 1 July 2024, replacing the Earthquake Commission Act 1993. It establishes the objectives, principles, and operational mechanisms for the newly named Natural Hazards Commission. The primary goal of the Commission is to minimise the impact of natural hazards on individuals, property, and communities. In alignment with this goal, the Commission assists homeowners affected by natural disasters, contingent upon them having private insurance coverage. To further support homeowners throughout the claims process, a Code of Insured Persons’ Rights and an external dispute resolution scheme have been introduced.</p>
	<p>This Act enhances the efficiency of insurance claims processing for natural hazards such as flooding and earthquakes, thereby benefiting the Southland community at large.</p>
<p><i>Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Scheme Agricultural Obligations) Amendment Bill</i></p>	<p>This Bill was introduced to Parliament on 20 June and underwent public consultation. until the end of July. passed its First Reading on 25 June, and is now proceeding through the select committee process. Public consultation closed on 28 July 2024.</p> <p>This Bill amends the Climate Change Response Act 2002(CCRA) to remove agriculture activities from the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme. It supports the Government’s coalition agreements and the National Party’s manifesto commitment to keep agriculture out of the NZ ETS. It also aligns with Action 12 of the Coalition Government’s Action Plan for New Zealand for the second quarter of 2024.</p> <p>Under the current terms of the CCRA, agricultural processors must surrender New Zealand units (NZUs) for emissions starting January 2025, and animal farmers must report their emissions and surrender NZUs starting January 2027. The amendments are considered to be necessary because processor-level pricing may not effectively incentivise emission reductions, a single price for all gases conflicts with New Zealand's split-gas targets, and including farms in the NZ ETS would pose administrative and cost challenges contrary to the government's stance.</p>

	<p>The potential exclusion of agriculture activities from the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme is expected to have substantial implications for the Southland region, as the presence and the rate of agricultural levy significantly influence future land use patterns and the makeup of the regional economy. At the national level, investments will be needed to identify and pursue alternative methods for achieving the necessary reduction in GHG emissions, given this Bill is likely to encourage the current status quo in land use.</p> <p>Staff will provide an update when the report of the Select Committee becomes available.</p>
<i>Review of Industrial allocation settings for ETS</i>	<p>The last review took place in 2010. The review began in 2020 and will ensure that free allocations more accurately reflect emissions by firms receiving allocations. They are designed to preserve incentives to reduce emissions, while avoiding emissions leakage. Updated regulations are expected to be published later in 2024.</p>
	<p>Staff will keep a watching brief.</p>
<i>Climate Change Commission's first annual monitoring report on emissions reductions</i>	<p>On 30 July, He Pou a Rangi - Climate Change Commission released its first annual monitoring report on emissions reductions, which assesses progress against the 2050 target, emissions budgets and the first emissions reduction plan.</p> <p>The Commission asked four key questions, including progress made in emissions reductions to date, national progress towards meeting the first emissions budget for 2022–2025, national progress towards meeting the second emissions budget (2026–2030) and the third emissions budget (2031–2035) and the 2050 target, under current emissions reduction policies and plans, and what is needed for Aotearoa New Zealand to be on track for future emissions budgets and the 2050 target.</p> <p>The assessment shows there is an urgent need to strengthen policies and strategies to put Aotearoa New Zealand on track to meet future emissions budgets and the 2050 target, including the 2030 biogenic methane component of the target.</p> <p>An at a glance summary for decision makers can be accessed here.</p>
	<p>Considering that the report highlights the need to strengthen policies and strategies at every level, staff will continue to engage with relevant agencies to influence national policy and facilitate necessary regional discussions for progressing actions to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
<i>Climate Change Commission's first progress report on the implementation of the first</i>	<p>On 15 August, the Commission released its first-ever monitoring report on the government's national adaptation plan, which was released in 2022. Its report provides an independent, evidence-based assessment of how effective the plan is and how its implementation is progressing.</p>

<p><i>National Adaptation Plan</i></p>	<p>Concluding that Aotearoa New Zealand is not adapting to climate change at the scale or pace that is needed, the report made nine recommendations: seven focused on helping the country shift from the current reactive approach to a more proactive one, and two on improving national adaptation planning and monitoring.</p> <p>The report will be delivered every two years. More details can be accessed here. The Government is legally mandated to consider the advice of the Climate Change Commission.</p>
	<p>The report may aid the Government in the current adaptation inquiry. Staff will closely monitor any relevant developments.</p>

<h3>Mining of Minerals</h3>	
<p>Draft Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040</p>	<p>The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is currently developing Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040 with public consultation closed on 31 July 2024. The ministry aims to stimulate economic growth by achieving a twofold increase in exports from the minerals sector to \$2 Billion by 2035.</p>
	<p>Policy changes on the extraction of minerals can have a substantial impact on Southland’s economy, environment as well as Environment Southland’s operations. It appears that Southland may have significant reserves of some minerals including coal, which may bring economic gains in favourable market conditions if supported by feasible technologies. To ensure such gains do not come at the cost of disproportional damage to the environment, it is crucial to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to assess, monitor, and manage the adverse environmental effects of mining.</p> <p>Staff will continue to keep a watching brief on this work.</p>
<p>Amendment to the Crown Minerals Act 1991</p>	<p>The Government is proposing a package of changes to the Crown Minerals Act 1991 to address gas security challenges and increase revenue from mining activities. The package includes the reverse of the 2018 ban on new petroleum exploration outside onshore Taranaki, changes to how petroleum exploration permits are allocated, and changes to signal to the international market that New Zealand is ‘open for business’.</p> <p>The Government appears to be currently engaging with stakeholders with a view to releasing a relevant Bill for public consultation in the second half of 2024.</p>
	<p>Staff will keep a watching brief and report on any new developments.</p>
<p>Critical Minerals List & Stocktake of NZ’s known</p>	<p>The Government has released a stocktake of NZ’s known mineral potential (28 August 2024) and a draft critical minerals list (September 2024) to underly a strategic, considered approach to developing the country’s resources and strengthening mineral resilience.</p>

<p>mineral potential</p>	<p>The Stocktake of Mineral Potential of New Zealand report provides a stocktake of NZ's known mineral potential. It is supplemented by a draft Critical Minerals List, which identifies the domestic and imported minerals pivotal to the economy but which may be at risk of supply disruptions, and the potential opportunities to meet these needs domestically. A final draft list is expected to become available in December.</p>
	<p>The content of the final Critical Minerals List may have some impact on Southland given the drive by the Central Government to improve national capabilities for extraction and processing of these minerals. Staff will provide an update when the final list becomes available.</p>

<h3>Te Tiriti legislation</h3>	
<p>Treaty Principles Bill</p>	<p>The National-ACT's coalition agreement commits to introducing and passing a Treaty Principles Bill through a first reading in 2024. The Bill aims to define the principles of the Treaty, which have primarily been defined by courts.</p> <p>Cabinet has agreed for the following principles to be included in the Bill</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civil Government: The Government of New Zealand has full power to govern, and Parliament has full power to make laws. They do so in the best interests of everyone, and in accordance with the rule of law and the maintenance of a free and democratic society. 2. Rights of Hapū and Iwi Māori: The Crown recognises the rights that hapū and iwi had when they signed the Treaty. The Crown will respect and protect those rights. Those rights differ from the rights everyone has a reasonable expectation to enjoy only when they are specified in legislation, Treaty settlements, or other agreement with the Crown. 3. Right to Equality: Everyone is equal before the law and is entitled to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination. Everyone is entitled to the equal enjoyment of the same fundamental human rights without discrimination. <p>A Bill is now being drafted and Cabinet will consider it before it is introduced to Parliament in November.</p> <p>National and New Zealand First have agreed to support the Bill to the select committee stage but have refused so far to commit any support beyond that.</p>
	<p>Introducing the Treaty Principles Bill is likely to catalyse debate and discussion about the treaty in a range of settings, including local authorities. Depending on how the matter progresses, proactive engagement with mana whenua and other stakeholders via Te Uru Kahika, and Te Ao Mārama Incorporated may be appropriate, as well as any opportunities for staff to become informed and take part in discussions.</p>

<p>References in legislation</p>	<p>The National-NZ First coalition agreement promises to review of all legislation, aside from Treaty settlements, that include reference to the “principles” of the Treaty of Waitangi. The agreement also includes a pledge to replace all such references with specific words relating to the relevance and application of the Treaty or repeal the references.</p> <p>It is not yet clear how this policy will be progressed or how it might interact with the Treaty Principles Bill.</p> <p>Media reports indicate that at least 40 acts containing Treaty principles clauses are likely to undergo review, while there is uncertainty about an additional 22 acts that also reference the Treaty of Waitangi.</p>
	<p>See discussion for the previous item. Any Environment Southland engagement on these changes would likely be conducted in partnership with mana whenua.</p>

<p>Te Ao Māori legislation</p>	
<p>Māori wards</p>	<p>A Bill was introduced to reinstate the right to a local referendum on the establishment or ongoing use of Māori wards and Māori constituencies. This includes requiring a poll, at the next local body elections, on any Māori wards and Māori constituencies established without a poll. The Bill was passed into law on 30 July 2024.</p>
	<p>The legislation does not directly impact Environment Southland. Council has appointed four mana whenua representatives to Committee roles, enabled under a different part of the Local Government Act 2002.</p>

<p>Three Waters</p>	
<p><i>Local Water Done Well</i></p>	<p>On 5 April, the Government made announcements on its replacement three waters policy, Local Water Done Well.</p> <p>Two Bills were expected. The first Bill, the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Bill, was passed into law on 27 August 2024. It provides the framework and transitional arrangements for the new water services system, including a requirement for local authorities to submit a water services delivery plan within 12 months.</p> <p>The second Bill, the Local Government Water Services Bill, will outline a regime of economic regulation and new structural and financial tools for councils, including establishment of a financially independent CCO and the ability to borrow from the Local Government Funding Agency Limited. It will also set up the regulatory backstop powers referred to in the manifesto and consider the empowering legislation for Taumata Arowai. This Bill is expected to be introduced in December 2024 and passed by mid-2025.</p>

	<p>While there is limited detail available regarding the planned CCO model, the Minister for Local Government has been reported as saying that he expected councils to join with at least two others to “dilute” the ownership of new CCOs. This and similar comments are motivating groups of councils to explore cross-council and cross-regional options for delivery.</p> <p>Local Water Done Well does not require any specific form of engagement with Mana Whenua. DIA’s guidance for water services delivery plans states that it will be up to councils to determine how best to engage with their communities as part of the development process.</p> <p>The policy apparently does not include financial support for councils either with infrastructure needs or with the cost of undertaking service delivery planning or making changes to delivery.</p>
	<p>The Joint Otago and Southland Mayoral Forum agreed in February 2024 to explore options for working together on water services delivery across the two regions.</p> <p>Otago and Southland Chief Executives have been jointly tasked with delivering a detailed scope of work, with timeframes still to be agreed. The scope of work will canvass options for assessing collaboration and shared services approaches as well as the implications of different entity/CCO models.</p> <p>It will be unlikely all Territorial Authorities will have an agreed approach to collaboration or delivery. Accordingly, a continuum of collaboration and delivery options and opportunities needs to be available to suit the variety of situations.</p> <p>The joint Otago and Southland water services investigation is expected to include collective engagement with Ngāi Tahu and Rūnaka, with details to be agreed.</p> <p>It is not yet clear how the proposed changes to wastewater standards being developed by Taumata Arowai will interact with Southland’s RPS and pSWLP. Further work will be undertaken to understand this better once the Bill is enacted and work commences on the standards.</p>

Transport	
<p><i>Transport Government Policy Statement (GPS)</i></p>	<p>The Government Policy Statement (GPS) on land transport guides the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA), KiwiRail and local authorities on land transport investment. The Government released a final GPS in June 2024.</p> <p>It prioritises roads – including an overhauled Roads of National Significance programme – and reduced funding in real terms for public and active transport. The previous government had budgeted up to \$3.2b on public transport infrastructure and \$2.8b for public transport services over the next</p>

	<p>three years. The current Government has reduced this to \$2.1bn and \$2.3bn respectively.</p> <p>The GPS expects that local government will seek additional revenue from public transport fares and other third-party revenue.</p>
	<p>The South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group and the Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees submitted on the draft GPS with input from Environment Southland staff.</p> <p>Staff have undertaken the necessary modifications were made to align the Regional Land Transport Plan with the final GPS.</p>

<h3 style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 5px;">Other Infrastructure</h3>	
<p><i>National Infrastructure Plan</i></p>	<p>The Government reported on the progress with the development of the 30-year National Infrastructure Plan that will set out infrastructure priorities for New Zealand. It will outline infrastructure needs over the next 30 years, planned investments over the next 10-15 years, and recommendations on priority projects and reforms.</p> <p>It is led by Infrastructure Commission and will build on the work undertaken to date on the New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>The plan will consist of four components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Infrastructure Needs Assessment which provides analysis of New Zealand’s long-term needs – and what we can afford – across the next 5-30 years 2. A strengthened National Infrastructure Pipeline which will provide a national view of upcoming projects in the next ten years 3. The Infrastructure Priorities Programme (IPP) which will involve a structured independent review of unfunded projects and initiatives, and 4. Priority reforms, which will improve the way we select, invest in, deliver and maintain our infrastructure. <p>Infrastructure Commission launched IPP website providing the public with opportunities to submit a proposal for infrastructure priorities. The first round of priority proposals will be published in April next year, and the second round in June.</p> <p>The National Infrastructure Plan is expected to be delivered in December 2025. Further details are available here.</p>
	<p>If Southland’s key infrastructure needs are incorporated into the infrastructure priorities, it could benefit both regional well-being and our organisation’s operations. Regional flood prevention infrastructure can be an example of a high infrastructure priority. It may be beneficial to engage with regional partners to clarify our position and take appropriate actions in a timely manner.</p>

<p><i>National Infrastructure Agency</i></p>	<p>On 28 August, the Government announced that its new National Infrastructure Agency (NIA) is to launch on 1 December. Repurposed from Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP), the NIA will serve as the Crown’s primary interface for receiving unsolicited proposals and facilitating private sector investments in infrastructure. It will partner with various agencies and local governments on projects involving private finance and will administer Central Government infrastructure funds.</p> <p>The NIA aims to address the capability gap in utilizing private finance and complex procurement models, such as Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and value capture mechanisms. By integrating expertise into relevant agencies, the NIA will streamline processes and ensure transparency and efficiency in private investments. The agency will also oversee innovative funding tools, including tolling and levies, and support Regional Deals.</p> <p>In terms of its role and interactions, the NIA will collaborate closely with other key entities in the infrastructure sector. The Infrastructure Commission will continue as the Government’s independent strategic advisor on long-term infrastructure strategy, while the Treasury will handle PPP policy and support the Minister for Infrastructure. Rau Paenga will focus on project delivery services for agencies with limited infrastructure capabilities.</p>
	<p>Staff will continue to monitor the relevant developments.</p>
<p><i>City/regional deals</i></p>	<p>On 22 August, the Government released a strategic framework to establish Regional Deals between central and local government to drive economic growth and deliver the infrastructure. It outlines the high-level principles and processes for developing and managing Regional Deals. A staged approach is to be used for rolling out Regional Deals around the country with up to five regions invited to provide straightforward basic proposals. These proposals will be considered by the Government before finalising New Zealand’s first Regional Deal in 2025.</p> <p>Selection of regions for Regional Deals will be made by Ministers using a set of standardised criteria, resulting in selected regions receiving a letter of invitation from the Minister of Local Government. Guidance will be issued later to local government to advise on what they will need to provide to be eligible for a Regional Deal.</p> <p>The Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group will be supported by the Department of Internal Affairs with support from relevant agencies as required. The National Infrastructure Agency may also play a key role in developing deals.</p>
	<p>The implications of this initiative for Southland are currently unclear. Staff will engage with regional partners as well as the relevant ministries to gain a clearer understanding of our position and to identify potential opportunities.</p>
<p><i>Regional Infrastructure Fund</i></p>	<p>The National-NZ First coalition agreement includes a commitment to establish a Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) with \$1.2 Billion in capital funding over the Parliamentary term. The fund will be overseen by the Minister for Regional Development, Hon Shane Jones, and Minister for Infrastructure, Hon Chris Bishop.</p>

	<p>Budget 2024 includes details on the Fund, which provides a total of \$1.2b over four years. There are two main project categories for funding allocations: resilience infrastructure (“projects that improve a region’s ability to absorb, adapt and/or respond to stresses and shocks”) and enabling infrastructure (“shared services, innovations facilities and solutions that connect multiple businesses and communities”).</p> <p>Information from Kānoa (MBIE’s Regional Economic Development and Investment) on the fund states that “The RIF will create Crown regional assets, primarily through loan and equity investments, supported by grants in certain circumstances.” This is similar to Kānoa-administered funds of recent years, but differs from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF, 2018-2021) which primarily offered grant funding.</p> <p>A series of nationwide summits to discuss regional priorities, aspirations and opportunities will be held over the next six to eight months, with the first commencing in Nelson on August 12. The 15 summits will facilitate conversations about progressing regional economic growth and opportunities to drive productivity, prosperity, and resilience through the Government’s recently launched Regional Infrastructure Fund.</p> <p>The Regional Infrastructure Fund co-investment is being made available for the 42 flood resilience projects announced in Budget 2024. The Government will fund 60 percent of the cost, with the relevant local authority co-investing the balance. Councils, businesses and community with infrastructure projects that support regional priorities can also apply for funding.</p>
	<p>For Southland, the RIF co-investment scheme currently covers Aparima Catchment Flood Protection Scheme Upgrade, Ōreti River Catchment Flood Protection Upgrade Project, and Te Anau Basin Catchment Flood Management Project.</p> <p>Environment Southland staff will consider any other opportunities associated with the RIF as more information becomes available.</p>

Other Updates	
<i>Future for Local Government Review</i>	<p>on 5 July 2024, it was announced that the Government has concluded the Future for Local Government Review and will not be responding to the review’s recommendations.</p>
<i>Local Government System Improvements</i>	<p>On 21 August, it was announced that the Cabinet has made four decisions to improve the local government system improvements. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline the purpose provisions in the Local Government Act to get councils back to basics; • Investigate performance benchmarks for local councils; • Investigate options to limit council expenditure on 'nice-to-haves; and • Review the transparency and accountability rules that apply to councils.

	<p>More details on this initiative are available here. The Government will make final policy decisions later this year.</p>
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9.4 Coastal Plan Update

Report by: Liz Devery, Regional Planning Manager

Approved by: Rachael Millar, General Manager Strategy, Policy & Science

Report Date: 16 October 2024

Purpose

To provide an update of the current work streams underway for the Regional Coastal Plan review, and detail for the ‘targeted workstreams.’

To provide an update on progress with Plan Change 5 to the Regional Coastal Plan for Southland – Surface Water Activities on the internal waters of Fiordland from Yates Point to Puysegur Point.

Summary

The review of the Regional Coastal Plan for Southland (Regional Coastal Plan) began in 2017, and significant work has been completed.

On the 12 September 2024, the Strategy and Policy Committee was briefed on the history of the review of the Regional Coastal Plan, the work streams (including targeted work streams) and the direction given for those work streams by governance. This report addresses advances to the work that have been progressed since that September report.

There has been significant advances in progressing the final steps for making the decisions operative from Plan Change 5 Plan Change 5 to the Regional Coastal Plan for Southland – Surface Water Activities on the internal waters of Fiordland from Yates Point to Puysegur Point. The Final Seal of Approval has been received from the Minister of Conservation.

Recommendation

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

- 1 Receive the report - Coastal Plan Update.

Background

[Regional Coastal Plan Update - Targeted Work streams](#)

Environment Southland continues to work with Te Ao Mārama on the Regional Coastal Plan review to ensure appropriate input and guidance into the plan drafting, especially on topics such as Biodiversity, Bluff Harbour Zone and Aquaculture.

Council has been previously briefed on the development of the cultural landscape methodology, Āpiti Hono Tātai Hono. Te Ao Mārama Inc. (on behalf of Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku) are preparing some guidance relating to this approach in Southland. These inputs are intended to ensure the Regional Coastal Plan review aligns with rūnanga aspirations.

Bluff Harbour Zone

Engagement is continuing with South Port operational staff to support the development of policy solutions to fulfil legal, policy requirements and be logistically feasible. A draft of the proposed interim Deed of Agreement has been prepared by legal and initial discussions with South Port undertaken at the Annual South Port Discharge Agreement Meeting on 26 September. A verbal update may be provided if required.

The drafting process for the new Deed of Agreement and the provisions for the proposed Regional Coastal Plan are continuing to be developed. Staff are working with Te Ao Mārama Inc. to progress the interim Deed of Agreement solution and enable continuing development of policy direction. A decision will be required by

Councillors to enable the new Deed of Agreement to be finalised as an interim operational solution for South Port while we move to a new Regional Coastal Plan.

Fiordland

The Fiordland Working Group completed their initial meeting on 13 September 2024, with the second meeting scheduled for 8 October 2024.

Participants include representatives from Mana Whenua, Fiordland Marine Guardians, commercial operators, recreational users and commercial fishing. The Group is testing and providing feedback and suggestions on approaches to manage activities that potentially result in adverse environmental effects. The Group's focus is limited to surface water activities and anchorages, moorings and other vessel related structures. They are not a decision-making body, however their feedback will be invaluable in the development of provisions for the proposed Regional Coastal Plan.

The second session was used to discuss the different approaches used to determine carrying capacity for an area. In this session, the Group focused on issues relevant to Doubtful Sound and all adjoining Fiords. The next session will be held during the last week of October and will focus on issues in the area south of Doubtful Sound. The following two sessions will focus on Thompson and Milford Sounds respectively. Environment Southland and Department of Conservation staff will continue to support the Group for the remaining sessions.

Staff await further comment from Te Ao Mārama Inc. on the draft approach proposed and potential involvement in the process going forward.

Aquaculture

A Council and TAMI Board workshop was held on 9 October, and a verbal update is available if required. The workshop sought to canvas the regulatory changes being progressed by central government relating to aquaculture. Potential implications and opportunities for aquaculture development in Southland were also addressed. The workshop provided guidance for the planning team for the development of a consenting framework for potential open-ocean aquaculture developments in Southland as well as renewal of existing marine farming operations. TAMI staff provided input into the development of the workshop and helped to facilitate the session.

Natural Hazards

The next steps required to progress the natural hazards workstream in relation to the coastal environment have been determined and are being investigated. These will allow for the determination of how far the proposed Regional Coastal Plan can go in the management of natural hazards in the coastal environment, based on the information we currently have available. The options being considered are whether natural hazard management policy is kept at high level providing general direction only, or whether more specific, targeted direction is developed and included in the proposed Regional Coastal Plan. Work is progressing alongside the Climate Change Committee to determine the effectiveness of a potential dynamic adaptive pathway planning process.

Community Engagement

A communications plan has been developed to gain community feedback on the values we are upholding in the proposed Regional Coastal Plan. Previous community engagement was undertaken in 2018-2019 with the Share Your Wai campaign, to determine the values held by the community for freshwater in Southland. The values identified in that process provided insight into community values for the coastal environment. The engagement is set up to test this insight.

A set of values and a series of questions have been developed with a coastal lens, to provide the community a chance to feedback on the direction for the proposed Regional Coastal Plan. Opportunity will be provided

for comment on values that hold importance to our communities in the coastal marine area, as well as the ability to show valued locations on a digital map. Community engagement is proposed over November 2024.

Regional Coastal Plan Update – Timeline



Plan Change 5 to the Regional Coastal Plan

Following the decision of the Hearing Panel on Plan Change 5 – Surface Water Activities on the internal waters of Fiordland from Yates Point to Puysegur Point, Council adopted the recommendations. The provisions were referred to the Minister of Conservation as required under the Resource Management Act 1991 for approval in April 2024. The approval from Minister Potaka was received on 30 September 2024. No changes to the recommendations were required.

A public notice has been placed advertising the operative date for the provisions impacted by the Plan Change. These provisions will be deemed operative from Monday 21 October 2024.

Copies of the changes have been made available to the parties required under cl 20 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act, and the public libraries.

Plan Change 5 laid down a foundation for policy direction in Fiordland and the outcomes of that plan change forms some of the basis for the review of provisions in the Regional Coastal Plan review.

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

Attachments

Nil

9.5 Freshwater policy update

Report by: Liz Devery, Regional Planning Manager

Approved by: Rachael Millar, General Manager Strategy, Policy & Science

Report Date: 16 October 2024

Purpose

To provide an update on the water and land planning and policy work that has advanced since the last update to this committee on 16 September 2024.

Recommendation

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

- 1 Receive the report - Freshwater policy update.

Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP) appeals

There are a few matters relating to the pSWLP that remain live with the Environment Court. Since our last report, there has been no changes in relation to the remaining water quantity matters that relate to the appeals on Policy 42 and Appendix L.5.

The parties to the High Court appeal relating to a proposed Rule 78A on 'Weed and sediment removal for drainage maintenance' met a number of times and are progressing with their work on potential resolutions. On the basis of a joint memorandum filed by the parties, an adjournment has been agreed to by the Court with the matter next set down for the end of February 2025.

Environment Southland, appealing part of the High Court decision relating to Rule 24 Incidental Discharge. This appeal relates to the potential implications of the High Court's interpretation of s70 of the Resource Management Act and its application in the Southland context. A sitting with the Court of Appeal on Environment Southland's appeal on part of the High Court decision relating to Rule 24 Incidental Discharge was held at the end of August 2024. It is also noted that the recent select committee report on the Resource Management Amendment Bill indicated a change to the consent provisions for discharges. No changes to s70 were included in this round of legislative review but the regional sector has provided feedback to ministry staff on the implications of retaining the provision in its current form.

Farm Plans

The implementation of farm environmental management plans is progressing. Government has announced their intention to change elements of the national farm plan regulations and details of these changes are expected in the next few months. In the interim, all catchments in Southland have been 'turned on' through the current Order in Council and are required to meet regulatory timeframes set in the national regulations. There continues to remain a farm environmental management plan requirement embedded through various rules in the Water and Land Plan.

We are currently working with Ministry officials to manage the implications of the planned pause on the national rollout of freshwater farm plans within the region.

Freshwater Plan Changes

An agreement was made in the September Strategy and Policy Committee to phase the review of the Southland Water and Land Plan. Stakeholder engagement opportunities have begun, with briefings in early October. A broad Southland solution to freshwater management will involve a mix of regulatory and non-regulatory actions developed and implemented across a generation. It is acknowledged that the success of this action will require community understanding and ongoing engagement.

A more detailed outline of engagement proposals for the progression of the 2025 phase of changes will be workshopped later in October with Councillors and Te Ao Marama Board members. However examples of work that is underway include the work on Rule 78, referenced above. Conversations with consents consultants have been building on the wealth of information on potential implementation improvements. There has also been discussions with some stakeholders on potential regulatory barriers for the construction of wetlands.

Fit with strategic framework

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

Attachments

Nil

9.6 Policy and Strategy Group update

Report by: {author-name}, {position}

Approved by: Rachael Millar, General Manager Strategy, Policy & Science

Report Date: 16 October 2024

Purpose

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

Summary

There are various projects progressing forward across the group from consultation to policy development.

Recommendation

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

- 1 Receive the report - Group Programme Update

Background

The Strategy, Policy and Science Group are responsible for:

- Developing clear strategy, corporate plans and defined priorities
- Proving 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
- Delivering science capability
- 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.

The group is also currently responsible for:

- Overseeing formal stakeholder and community engagement processes across the organisation
- Providing centralised communications functions

Matters of interest

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

National

An update on national legislative changes has been captured in the Policy Monitor paper which is a separate item on the agenda.

Minister Bishop made an announcement on Friday 20 September regarding the cabinet decisions on the core design features of the new resource management system. The new system will:

- Narrow the scope of the resource management system to focus on managing actual effects on the environment.

- Establish two Acts with clear and distinct purposes – one to manage environmental effects arising from activities, and another to enable urban development and infrastructure.
- Strengthen and clarify the role of environmental limits and how they are to be developed.
- Provide for greater use of national standards to reduce the need for resource consents and simplify council plans. This would mean that an activity which complies with the standards cannot be subject to a consent requirement.
- Shift the focus away from consenting before activities can get underway, and towards compliance, monitoring and enforcement of activities' compliance with national standards.
- Use spatial planning and a simplified designation process to lower the cost of future infrastructure.
- Realise efficiencies by requiring one regulatory plan per region, jointly prepared by regional and district councils.
- Provide for a rapid, low-cost resolution of disputes between neighbours and between property owners and councils, with the potential for a new Planning Tribunal (or equivalent).
- Uphold Treaty of Waitangi settlements and the Crown's obligations.
- Provide faster and cheaper processes with less reliance on litigation, contained within shorter and simpler legislation that is more accessible.

The new legislation is proposed to be introduced to parliament in the new year and will be passed this parliamentary term.

Regional

Aquaculture

Great South is in the process of developing a Southland Aquaculture Strategy to outline the various components in the region that would be impacted by aquaculture development. It will be industry focused and look at the activities within the coastal marine area, land-based aquaculture, supporting industries, supply chain and workforce. The strategy is expected to be finalised in the new year.

Transport Planning

The development of a programme to ensure the Regional Land Transport Plan for the 2027/31 period has commenced. This programme will set out the requirements for sector engagement for the Regional Transport Committee and Council commencing in early 2025 through to submission of the Regional Land Transport Plan in April 2027.

The Government released a new Setting of Speed Limits Rule on the 1st October. The new rule removes the requirement for Regional Transport Committees to prepare and coordinate a Regional Speed Management Plan that incorporates speed limits for all of the region's roads. Setting of speed limits now reverts back to the Road Controlling Authorities without Regional coordination.

Summary

PROJECT / PROGRAMME	KEY OBJECTIVES
Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP)	Completion of Environment Court hearings on the pSWLP appeals. Development of a plan change to further address the objectives set in the pSWLP.
Coastal Plan	Carry out a review of the Regional Coastal Plan for Southland with a view to notification in early 2025
Air	Reviewing and preparing a consolidated approach for air.
Hazards Management	Ongoing provision of hazard advice and support to communities.
Transport Management	Co-ordinate approach through the Combined Regional Transport Committees (RTCs). Manage stock effluent dumpsites across the Southland region.
Regional Policy Statement (RPS)	Review of the RPS to address freshwater and coastal and marine environment objectives
Strategic planning and reporting	Support the development of the 2025/26 Annual Plan, 2023/24 Annual Report, and initial planning for the 2027-37 Long-term Plan. Facilitate all associated reporting, along with support tools such as a performance management and monitoring framework, insights programme, business planning tools, and organisational strategies.
Climate Change and community resilience	Joint development and implementation of a Murihiku Southland Regional Climate Change Strategy with regional partners. 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

2024/2025 “action ahead” summary

	NEXT MILSTONES	STATUS	RELEVANT DATES
1.pSWLP & Plan Change Tuatahi	Progress with the outstanding appeal relating to Rule 78 Weed and Sediment Removal in Modified Water Courses is being made with a working group made up of representatives from the appeal parties outside of the formal Court setting. The group has met both online and in person. A joint memorandum was issued by the parties updating the Court on progress. An adjournment has been granted with the next case management conference scheduled for 26 February 2025	In progress	26 February 2025
	A sitting with the Court of Appeal on matters related to Rule 24 Incidental Discharge from Farming was held on 28 August 2024. No date has been given for potential release of the decision.		
	A programme plan for the first part of the Plan Change Tuatahi process has been developed following the decisions made at the last Strategy and Policy Committee and will include targeted stakeholder engagement likely over November. Stakeholder and Regional Forum briefings were held in early October 2024.	In progress	October-2024
2.Regional Coastal Plan (RCP)	The decisions on Plan Change 5 Surface Water Activities have been approved by the Minister of Conservation. The provisions will be operative from 21 October 2024	In progress	21 October 2024
	Work continues on the wider review of RCP that seeks to align it with the current NZ Coastal Policy Statement and to address issues relating to our coastal environment. Targeted engagement has commenced, with community engagement proposed for November 2024	In progress	End 2024/start 2025
3. Air	Work will begin on a review of our approach to air in late spring/early summer with the goal of having a plan for winter 2025 by the end of the third quarter 2024/25.	In progress	End third quarter 2024/25
4.Hazards Management	LiDAR capture for the region is now publicly available via the LINZ website.	Complete	2024
	The Southland Natural Hazards Portal is live and the provision of hazard advice and support to communities.	Ongoing	Ongoing
5.Transport Management	Planning is underway for the next review Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP)	In progress	2031
6.Regional Policy Statement (RPS)	An efficiency and effectiveness review of the Regional Policy Statement for Southland has been commissioned. It is expected to be finalised by the end of this calendar year	In progress	End of 2024
	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 the review of the freshwater and coastal policy frameworks underway.	In progress	End of 2024

7.Strategic Planning and Reporting	The 2023-24 Annual Report and associated Summary will be adopted at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 23 October 2024.	In progress	Q2 2024/25 for adoption
	The first Council workshop for the 2025/26 Annual Plan is complete with two more scheduled in 2024 in November and December. Community engagement is a high priority for the development of the Annual Plan.	In progress	End Q4 2024/25
8.Climate Change and Community Resilience	The Southland Regional Climate Change strategy is in the process of being adopted by the agencies. Gore District Council and Invercargill City Council and Te Ao Marama Incorporated have adopted the Strategy. Environment Southland is considering the revised strategy at this meeting. Southland District Council considered it at their meeting on 2 October 2024. Establishing a framework for action is the next phase of the project and is currently underway.	In progress	On going
9.Environmental Monitoring	Regular long-term monitoring continues along with hydrological work and servicing of data requests.	In progress	On going
10.Science Strategy and Investigations	Scientific work to inform and support policy development processes, advice and technical input into consent applications, compliance matters, submissions, national science projects, and working groups. In addition, long-term monitoring and science investigations continue. Key activities include the delivery of the Catchment Summaries that compile the available science information relating to freshwater and estuaries, the Waiau River bioenergetic model, Waituna Lagoon monitoring and reporting, the Waiau River bioenergetic model, the Maituna overallocation project, validation of wetland mapping and involvement in the Moving the Middle research project.	In progress	On going

Upcoming consultation

Name of initiative	Agency engaging	Likely timing	Description
Biosecurity Act 1993 Review consultation	MPI	Consultation closes on 29 November	Consultation is underway to understand what changes are needed to biosecurity regulations in New Zealand as the legislation is now 30 years old.
Repeal of Good Friday and Easter Sunday as Restricted Trading Days (Shop Trading and Sale of Alcohol) Amendment Bill 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	Private Member’s Bill	TBC	The Bill allows more or less unfettered shop trading and sale of alcohol on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. 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. This Bill awaits first reading. (Latest intelligence suggest first reading and referral to a Committee is likely)
Public Works (Prohibition on the Compulsory Acquisition of Māori Land) Amendment Bill https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/member/2024/0042/latest/LMS958235.html?search=y%20bill%202024%20bc%20current%2025%20a&p=1	Private Member’s Bill	TBC	This bill amends the Public Works Act 1981 to protect Māori freehold and Māori customary land from being acquired for public works under that Act. This Bill awaits first reading. (Given recent PWA announcements this Bill appears unlikely to proceed).
Resource Management Act Amendment Bill #2	MfE	September	This amendment Bill will (indicative list): enable housing growth, including making the Medium Density Residential Standards optional for councils and secondary units – ie granny flats speed up consenting timeframes for renewable energy and wood processing support the government’s “Infrastructure for the Future” plan speed up the process for making national direction under the RMA amend national direction on highly productive land to allow more productive activities including housing - exclude LUC-3 introduce emergency response regulations to enable effective responses to emergencies and contribute to long-term recovery.

			Plus potentially other targeted amendments suggested by Councils and other key stakeholders.
Consultation on proposals for inclusion in the next implementation plan for Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and Aotearoa New Zealand's response to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	DOC	Late 2024	Consultation on proposals for inclusion in the next implementation plan.
Building Act Amendment (and regulations)	TBC	2024/25	Plans to reform the building consent system to make it more affordable to build a home. It intends to review the Building Code to bring in a streamlined risk-based consenting regime.
Land Transport Management Act (Time of Use Charging) Amendment Bill	TBC	Very soon (leg to be passed in 2024)	Sets out the legal framework for time of use charging (see the Cabinet paper – Land Transport Revenue Action Plan: Time of Use Charging)
Disability Parking infringement fees regulations (This one is speculative – we’re not sure whether this actually requires consultation)	TBC	Soon or not at all	Gives effect the Government announcements that these fees are to be increased.
LIMS Regulations	DIA	Sept 2024	The draft regulations are likely to address how councils can meet the new requirements; additional information to make natural hazard information more understandable; and how that information is summarised and presented.
Granny Flats Legislation	TBC	Late 2024	Making it possible to build 60m2 secondary dwellings without building consent.
Remote Building Inspections	MBIE	Late 2024	Proposals to make virtual building inspections the ‘default’ option.
Local Government Amendment Bill	TBC	Late 2024	Bill to amend the Local Government Act 2002 (and possibly other legislation) to give effect to commitments made in the Prime Minister’s ‘back to basics’ speech on 21 August. There may be several Bills of this nature over the next 12 months.
Treaty Principles Bill	Select Committee	Late 2024	Bill to amend or remove references to Te Tiriti principles from legislation NB – National committed to support the Bill to Select Committee, support beyond

			this stage (and therefore future progress of this Bill) is uncertain.
Local Water Done Well Bill #2	TBC	December 2024	Framework for economic regulation and the more detailed powers and duties of the water CCOs (possibly including additional charging powers)
Integrated National Direction Package - RMA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend/replace National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity • New Infrastructure National Direction • New National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 	MfE	Jan-March 2025	Single process for integrated direction – with some exceptions Priority content for this package would include replacing and rebalancing NPS-Freshwater Management, new infrastructure national direction – national direction on energy infrastructure could be on its own track, a series of changes to make it easier for farmers, reviewing the existing NPS-indigenous biodiversity, and other national direction priorities https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/Work-Programme-for-Reforming-the-Resource-Management-System.pdf
New National Direction on Energy Infrastructure	MfE	TBC	Potential for New National Policy Statement on Renewable Energy Generation
Land Transport Management Act Amendment Bill	Ministry of Transport	TBC	Amending the Land Transport Management Act

Fit with strategic framework

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

Attachments

Nil

9.7 Update on Councillor Requests and Actions

Report by: Mikayla Wass, Personal Assistant

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

Report Date: 16 October 2024

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 the 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
June 2024	Action: Staff to bring a more detailed report to a subsequent meeting on options for managing commercial forestry in Southland. Information to include regulation within the RPMP and any alternative changes/regulation that could be covered in W&LP, costs and timeframes.	This is being progressed and will be presented to a Strategy and Policy Committee meeting before the end of the year.
July 2024	Request: Clarification needed around Marine Farm waste and feed practices.	Staff are following up on getting an aquaculture expert/industry expert to provide more information to Councillors.
September 2024	Action: Staff to provide further information on New River Estuary	This will be included as a workshop or topic paper at a subsequent Strategy and Policy Committee meeting before the end of the year.
September 2024	Request: Reporting on city contaminants impacts to waterways	As above.
September 2024	Request: Councillors would like a communications workshop to contribute to the design of the Freshwater Work Programme Communications	This topic will be included as one of the freshwater workshops being held this month and next.

Attachments

Nil

10 Extraordinary/urgent business | Panui autia hei totoia pakihi

No notifications of extraordinary or urgent business were received.

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

There was no Public Excluded business.