

Environment Southland

Final decisions

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – 29 February 2024

prepared by the staff Regional Climate Change Working Group following the hearing and deliberations – 16 May, 20 May and 20 June 2024

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – final decisions July 2024

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy: endorsed for consultation

- Southland District Council: 24 January 2024
- Invercargill City Council: 30 January 2024
- Gore District Council: 7 February 2024
- Environment Southland: 8 February 2024

proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy: released 29 February, with engagement portal opened on Environment Southland website to coincide with the beginning of the Invercargill City Council LTP consultation process

Submissions 29 February – 8 May 2024:

48 submissions received:

- 1 via ICC LTP process
- 33 directly on proposed RCCS
- 14 via ES LTP process

In addition, 12 late submissions via the ES LTP process (received by 5pm 13 May 2024). These late submissions were accepted.

Hearings 16 and 20 May 2024:

16 submitters were scheduled to be heard:

- 10 in person
- 5 online via zoom
- 1 apology on the day

Deliberations – 20 May and 20 June 2024.

CONSIDERATION OF THEMES ARISING FROM SUBMISSIONS AND HEARINGS – 20 MAY 2024:

Theme	RCCWG Hearing Panel Response	Changes to the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy
<p>Councils identifying climate change as a priority</p>	<p>The hearing panel started with a high-level consideration of whether there is mandate for the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy. It was noted that in terms of numbers, one of the patterns that emerged were that those submissions that were ‘against’ were often individuals; compared to those submissions that were ‘for’ were often from organisations representing larger groups of people.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered that it is probably not possible to achieve a 100% mandate on a topic such as regional climate change. The hearing panel recalled the 2023 community climate change perceptions survey which had also provided an indication for mandate. Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority..</p> <p>The hearing panel noted the overwhelming support for climate adaptation activities, acknowledgement that the climate is changing, and agreement that local government have a role in ensuring the resilience of communities.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that fewer submitters supported mitigation activities, however it was important to note that central and local government have obligations in relation to emissions reduction.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amendments to the foreword to reflect key themes arising from the submission and hearing process. ▪ Amendments to the principles and aspirations as noted in this report.
<p>Science underpinning climate change action</p>	<p>The hearing panel considered the support for science underpinning the strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is quite a bit of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stronger acknowledgement within the strategy of the importance of science and mātauranga underpinning climate change action with an additional paragraph on page 8 to state: <i>Science and mātauranga are fundamental to guiding a regional response to a changing climate.</i> ▪ Stronger acknowledgement that the gaps in regional science and information with an additional paragraph on page 8 to state: <i>While there is an abundance of international and national climate</i>

		<p><i>related science, there is currently still work to be done to ensure we understand the implications of this science for our region.</i></p> <p>In addition, the gaps in the regional science and information will be addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Mistrust of the science informing Council on what climate change is i.e. 'that it is outdated', 'that it is incorrect', 'the science is flawed'</p>	<p>The hearing panel considered the submissions relating to the mistrust of the science informing the strategy and that there was varying degrees of acceptance or not, of climate change.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that some submitters were contesting the science and citing alternative sources of science that underpinned their opinions on climate change. It was noted that often these opinions differed to direction the Regional Climate Change Working Group had received internationally and nationally.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered that there was limited value in debating this as part of these deliberations, but that instead that this sentiment be carried through as a consideration as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revision of the foreword to acknowledge the varying degrees of trust in the climate change related science. ▪ Acknowledgement within the strategy that irrespective of individual belief on the nature of climate change, as local government we are obliged to consider international science and use this to inform a precautionary approach towards adaptation with an additional paragraph on page 8 to state: <p><i>It is acknowledged that there are divergent views on climate 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.</i></p> <p>Changes beyond the scope of the Regional Climate Change Strategy, which could be addressed by the development of a regional Framework for Action are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The accessibility of data could also be improved, possibly via the progress of the regional data repository which is currently in development; <p>In addition, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>That the climate has been changing for millions of years and will continue to do so. Scepticism of climate change i.e. 'that it is a hoax', 'that it is a joke'</p>	<p>The hearing panel discussed this theme and acknowledged that there were a number of presentations that were challenging anthropogenic causes of climate change.</p> <p>The hearing panel also noted that these submitters often referred to climate change as a normal function of the earth's cycles. Some of these submitters agreed that this could still result in sea level changes for</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acknowledgement of the varying degrees of acceptance within our community of the causes of a changing climate in the foreword, with amendments on second paragraph on page 6 as follows:

	<p>example and that there is still a need for resilience to extreme weather events regardless of the cause.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged that the causes of climate change continue to be contested. The hearing panel noted that anthropogenic causes of climate change is accepted nationally and internationally and the Regional Climate Change Working Group is required to proceed on this basis. The hearing panel also noted that regardless of the causes of a changing climate, local government has a role to ensure community resilience.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered that there was limited value in debating the causes of a changing climate as part of these deliberations, but that the varying views around the causes of climate change be taken into consideration as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p><i>While the concept of a changing climate has been something that ‘will happen sometime in the future’, it is now accepted. 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 already experiencing a changing climate, such as the effects of increasing severe weather events and sea level rise.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acknowledgement that regardless of the causes of climate change it is still important for local government to address, with the addition of a new paragraph to page 6 as follows: <p><i>Regardless of the causes of changes to our climate, local government are obliged to respond proactively and ensure long-term community resilience.</i></p> <p>In addition, the general sentiment can also help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>That climate change action in Southland will not make any difference to climate change globally</p>	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged concerns that climate change action in Southland may not make a significant difference globally, however also that New Zealand is often a small player on a global scale and that we still need to ‘do our bit’ as even the smallest bit of action can make a difference.</p> <p>The hearing panel also noted that local government currently has a statutory role to address the changing climate.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Opposition to modelling</p>	<p>The hearing panel noted there were a number of comments about the use of RCP 8.5, however this is not actually something that is stated in the strategy. Instead aspiration 9 indicates that agreeing on climate change scenarios is something that the Regional Climate Change Working Group are aspiring to. The panel considered that making progress on this aspiration will be important as part of the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel also noted that there were a number of challenges of how GHG inventories are calculated. However that this is governed by standards and this is not something that can be addressed as part of this strategy.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>

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	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged that this remains something that is contested. However considered that there was limited value in debating this as part of these deliberations, but that instead carry this sentiment through as a consideration as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action. In particular, the hearing panel noted that getting the modelling right, will be important to address as part of phase 2.</p>	
Support for modelling	<p>The hearing panel noted that modelling of a variety of scenarios would be important to help inform an assessment of what is acceptable community risk as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
Support for the collaborative approach being taken	<p>The hearing panel noted that there was a strong mandate and support for a collaborative, regional response to climate change.</p> <p>The hearing panel also acknowledged that a number of submitters that had been heard, who also commented that they would like to become a part of this collaborative process. In addition there were many comments about the need to be more inclusive and transparent about the process.</p> <p>It was noted that aspiration 11 supports a broader engagement approach being undertaken. The hearing panel agreed that this is something to consider as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>Refinements were made to the 'Framework for Action' illustration on page 18, to reflect that mana whenua and community consultation has been an important aspect of refining the strategy; along with proposed mana whenua and community collaboration being an important part of the development of the Framework for Action.</p> <p>In addition, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action. In particular with how to create action pathways towards achieving aspiration 11.</p>
That consideration of equity is required, as the impacts of climate change on communities will not be experienced equally	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged the concern that the impacts of climate change will not be experienced equally and considered whether the strategy needed to be more explicit about this.</p> <p>It was noted that the 'tree diagram' on 13 refers to equity as part of the principle Kotahitanga <i>Inclusivity</i>, however this was not carried through into the detailed principle over the page. The hearing panel agreed that this is a key term and it should be carried over into the detailed version of the principle as well.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to include stronger acknowledgement of the need for the consideration of equity, with the additional wording to the principle of Kotahitanga <i>Inclusivity</i>, 3rd bullet point on page 14 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Create a fair and equitable transition to our future'. <p>In addition, that equity would also be an important consideration as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
Support (with some recommending an earlier goal) for Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050	<p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged that there were submitters that</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The addition of a new paragraph at the start of page 11 as follows:

	<p>requested the consideration of an earlier regional net zero GHG goal, however on balance there was not enough mandate for this.</p> <p>It was noted that those submitters in support of an earlier regional net zero GHG goal are likely to already be undertaking their own measurements and actions towards achieving this as individuals/organisations. The hearing panel considered that aspiration 7 implies that the first step that needs to be undertaken for local government is to understanding its role as part of this.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed to not make any change to the regional net zero GHG goal. However, it was noted the organisations could still establish an earlier organisational net zero GHG goal.</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The addition of a new paragraph on page 16 as follows: <i>In setting the aspirations, Councils have chosen to align with national legislation and direction and work towards a regional net zero goal of 2050.</i>
<p>Opposition to Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050</p>	<p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered that the opposition to becoming a net zero region by 2050 was related to (1) the idea that the focus shouldn't be on CO2 emissions and (2) that there is opposition based on assumptions of how local government may act based on aspiration 7.</p> <p>The hearing panel determined that in part this may be due to the word 'leading' stated in aspiration 7, when collective action will be important to achieving a regional net zero GHG goal of 2050. The hearing panel concluded that the word 'enabling' would more accurately describe what needs to happen to achieve a regional net zero GHG goal of 2050 and that 'understanding the local government role' needs to be progressed urgently as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The addition of a new paragraph at the start of page 11 as follows: <i>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.</i> ▪ The addition of a new paragraph on page 16 as follows: <i>In setting the aspirations, Councils have chosen to align with national legislation and direction and work towards a regional net zero goal of 2050.</i> <p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to clarify aspiration 7 on page 16 to replace the word 'leading' with the word 'enabling', so that it now states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>7. Councils understand their role in leading enabling Murihiku Southland to become a net zero region by 2050.</i> <p>In addition, the hearing panel intends to progress gaining an understanding of the local government role as part of aspiration 7 urgently as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Recommendations for refinements of the aspirations</p>	<p><u>Advocacy of aspirations nationally:</u> The hearing panel considered submissions regarding the geographic extent of Southland, compared to Southland's GDP, the amount of GHG</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to more strongly acknowledge the need for regional advocacy nationally, with additional wording on page 15 as follows:</p>

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	<p>that is produced in Southland, as well as the natural carbon sinks we have within Southland. The hearing panel discussed and determined that as a region we need to do what we can to advocate for our region nationally. But that this is not limited to the net zero aspirations, but the adaptation aspirations as well.</p> <p><u>Measurability of aspirations:</u> The hearing panel considered the concern raised by some submitters that the aspirations as they are currently written are not measurable. The hearing panel agreed that this is something that is intended to be addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action. As part of phase 2, it is intended that there will be consideration of various pathways towards achieving the aspirations and that there could be different metrics that accompany these pathways.</p> <p><u>Similarity between aspirations 3 and 8</u> The hearing panel considered that the purpose of aspiration 3 relates to both mitigation and adaptation, while aspiration 8 is specific to adaptation. The hearing panel agreed that there is a need to keep both aspirations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>'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';</i> <p>In addition, the potential for advocacy nationally can also help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of the measurability of the aspirations. It is intended that appropriate metrics will be determined as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of the similarity between aspirations 3 and 8.</p>
<p>Opposition to the aspirations to generate regional climate change action</p>	<p>The hearing panel considered this in general terms and reflected back that this had been discussed as part of working through whether there was enough mandate for the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy to be developed.</p> <p>The hearing panel also noted that individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>That the strategy is not enough on its own and action needs to be taken</p>	<p>The hearing panel noted that the proposed regional climate change strategy was only intended to be phase 1, as the foundation for considering what action needs to be taken.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this concern is likely to be addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Concern about the cost to ratepayers of regional climate change action</p>	<p>The hearing panel considered the investment concerns, the potential cost to ratepayers and the risk of bankrupting future generations. However the hearing panel noted that there is also a cost of inaction. The hearing panel noted that at this stage costs the strategy does not</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to reference the consideration of affordability and cost-effectiveness of action more explicitly.</p>

	<p>provide an indication of costs associated with regional climate change action and that the concern is likely a result of anticipation of what might be included in phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>At this stage what specific actions or investments might occur in response to the aspirations has not been determined. The hearing panel appreciated ideas that had been put forward as part of submissions that could be considered as part of the phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel also noted that there is clearly not unlimited resources to progress regional climate change action and that it is important to explicitly state that affordability and cost-effectiveness are key considerations as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that an additional paragraph on page 18 should be included that references the need for a full understanding of costs and opportunity costs associated with action pathways that are developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional wording to the third paragraph on page 18 so that it now states: <p><i>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 costs) 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.</i></p> <p>In addition this general sentiment can help also inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Support and opposition to a broader engagement approach being taken</p>	<p>The hearing panel noted that the strategy as it is currently written expresses a commitment to building understanding and building a community of learning – that the Regional Climate Change Working Group does not currently know all the answers but there is a desire to develop this understanding over time and to share this knowledge in a way that is transparent and inclusive.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that a number of groups had signalled their interested in being involved in and provide assistance to Regional Climate Change Working Group progressing into the next stage. These included people and organisations that support and oppose the current strategy. The hearing panel agreed that the diagram on page 18 could be improved to confirm the intent of taking a broader engagement approach as part of phase 2, developing the regional Framework for Action. This could either be by including additional text in this diagram, or by better illustrating this connection.</p> <p>The hearing panel also noted that some submitters referred to unwanted anxiety that a broader engagement approach may create. The hearing panel considered various ways that engagement could be tailored and that these ideas could be considered more thoroughly as part of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to amend the illustration on page 18 to reflect the intention to take a broader engagement approach to phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action. In particular, that this illustration notes ongoing mana whenua and community collaboration being an important part of the development of the Framework for Action.</p> <p>In addition, the importance of ensuring that a tailored engagement approach is considered as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>

	The hearing panel agreed that as part of feeding back on submissions as part of this process, a question could be posed to each submitter regarding their preferences for engagement.	
Additional aspects deliberated on:	RCCWG Hearing Panel Response	Changes to the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy
Precautionary approach	<p>It was noted that the word ‘precautionary’ is not currently referred to in the strategy, however it is implied. The hearing panel considered whether a precautionary approach needs to be made more explicit. The hearing panel considered whether the concept of an iterative approach conflicts with a precautionary approach or aligns with a precautionary approach (as per the principle Mōhiotanga <i>Understanding</i>). Alongside this whether it is instead something that fits more with the principle of Kaitiakitanga <i>Guardianship</i>.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that a precautionary approach in this context is making decisions on the basis of the information available, but being prepared to change these decisions (iteratively) as information improves over time. The hearing panel directed that a stand alone bullet point be drafted to address this as part of the principle Kaitiakitanga <i>Guardianship</i>. The hearing panel also reviewed aspiration 8 with the precautionary approach in mind. The consideration was that the words ‘fully understand’ implies a cautious approach, when what was intended is a precautionary approach. The hearing panel agreed that it is appropriate to delete the word ‘fully’ from aspiration 8.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to include an additional bullet point to refer to the precautionary approach, as part of the detailed principle of Kaitiakitanga <i>Guardianship</i>. This principle now states:</p> <p>Kaitiakitanga <i>Guardianship</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>In addition, changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to remove the word ‘fully’ from aspiration 8, so that it now states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We fully understand the risks and opportunities to our communities associated with the impact of our changing climate on Murihiku Southland.
Ensuring transparency	<p>The hearing panel agreed that ensuring transparency is important and considered whether this needs to be more explicitly stated as part of the strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel directed that an amendment to Communications and Engagement Aspiration 11 be drafted by staff.</p>	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to more strongly acknowledge the importance of transparency, with an amendment to aspiration 11, on page 17, so that it now states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Consideration of nature based solutions	The hearing panel considered some submitters comments that nature-based-solutions should be more explicitly stated in the strategy as a preferable option to consider.	<p>Changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to acknowledge nature-based-solutions as another example as part of the footnote for aspiration 10, on page 16; so that it now states:</p> <p>** Examples are: carbon forestry, sustainable transport, water availability, waste management,</p>

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	<p>The hearing panel noted that it may be a bit premature to conclude that this will be a definite way forward, but that it is an example of option that can be explored as part of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that it would be appropriate to reference nature-based-solutions as another example in the footnote for aspiration 10.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>In addition that nature-based-solutions will be a consideration as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Consideration of gravel</p>	<p>The hearing panel noted that there were a number of submitters that raised concerns about gravel.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that these concerns are likely to be addressed in some way as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>	<p>No changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy based on the consideration of this theme. However, the general sentiment can help inform phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
<p>Consideration of the accuracy of the regional GHG graph on page 12</p>	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged that several submitters raised concerns about the accuracy of the regional GHG illustration on page 12 of the proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there seemed to be confusion about whether the work that was undertaken by Great South was focused on gross emissions and/or net emissions. The hearing panel also noted that the intention of providing this illustration is to provide a snapshot.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered that it may be appropriate to provide a bit more explanatory detail on page 12 of the strategy, but that it would be appropriate that further information first be sought from Great South to assist with clarifying this matter.</p>	<p>Further information has been requested from Great South regarding clarifying regional gross and regional net emissions illustrated on page 12 of proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>Proposed changes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy to include amendments on page 10-12 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional explanatory text on page 10 to state: <p><i>In 2018, a baseline emission inventory for the region was established. This was undertaken following the methodology outlined in the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (WRI, 2021) and Measuring emissions: A guide for organisations (MfE 2023).</i></p> <p><i>This baseline inventory highlighted that we all contribute to our regional...</i></p> <p>...</p> ▪ An addition to the footnote on page 10 to read: <p><i>* 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).</i></p> ▪ The replacement of the word ‘overall’ with the word NET, in the main paragraph on page 12 so that it states: <p><i>Southland regional net greenhouse gas emissions 2018 to 2022 as</i></p>

		<p>measured by Great South. This graph illustrates that overall net regional greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 14.8% from 2018 to 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two additional footnotes on page 12 to state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * CO₂e stands for ‘carbon dioxide equivalent’ to enable the comparison to six key GHG gases: carbon dioxide (CO₂), 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 data limitations for other sources of sequestration). ▪ Changes to the graph on page 12 to more clearly label the ‘y’ axis and to split the key so that emissions sources and sequestration sources are labelled. <p>The addition of the key words and associated definitions, into the glossary as follows:</p> <p>CO₂e – Includes the six GHGs: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).</p> <p>Gross emissions - Gross emissions include emissions include emissions from the following key sectors: Transport; energy and industry; agriculture; waste; fluorinated gases. Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.</p> <p>Net emissions - Net emissions refer to the overall balance of emissions and carbon dioxide removals (sequestration). Ministry for the Environment (2022) Emissions Reduction Plan.</p> <p>Sequestration – The process of storing carbon in a carbon pool IPCC (2023) AR6 Glossary https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/glossary/</p>
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DRAFT DECISIONS ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED BY 5pm 8 MAY 2024:

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
Submitters Being Heard			
02	<p>Laura Pope on behalf of Vince Barry, NPHS Te Waipounamu Health New Zealand Whatu Ora</p> <p><i>In person</i></p>	<p>Submitter commends the development of the Southland Regional Climate Change Strategy and is supportive of it. Recommends that equity is considered across the strategy as the health and wellbeing impacts of climate change on the communities will not be experienced equally.</p> <p>Do you agree with aspirations for Southland Councils to generate regional climate change action – submitter is broadly supportive, but has some recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aspiration 1 – commends aspiration 1; - Aspiration 2 – supports aspiration 2 noting that this also supports equitable outcomes; - Aspiration 3 – notes similarity between aspiration 3 and aspiration 8, but with the addition of aspiration 3 explicitly discussing the desire to “act courageously, building resilience to respond and thrive”. Submitter suggests that aspiration 3 could be edited to focus solely on this point, whereas aspiration 8 can capture the desire to fully understand the impacts of climate change on Southland; - Aspiration 4 – suggests that it is not clear what “meaningful change” looks like, or what will be meaningfully changed. Also suggests that the timeline be shortened to 10 years; - Aspirations 5, 6 & 7 – supports these aspirations; - Aspiration 12 – notes the strategy mentions the need for climate change mitigation and adaptation, however, none of the aspirations make explicit reference to climate change adaptation, therefore recommends that aspiration 12 be edited to “We support individuals, businesses, community groups and organisations to understand the impacts of climate change; and we work alongside them to support them in adapting to climate change”. <p>Do you support Southland becoming a Net Zero region by 2050 or earlier? – strongly supports Southland becoming a Net Zero region by 2050.</p> <p>What local climate change impact are you most concerned about? – most concerned about the health and wellbeing impacts of climate change. Notes that the actions developed by the strategy can lessen the impacts of climate hazards on health and wellbeing. Notes also the strategy has a critical role to play in strengthening community resilience to climate change through supporting initiatives and community organisations that build connectedness and social capital.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged the importance of equity. The hearing panel agreed that the strategy could be strengthened in relation to equity, with additional wording to the principle of Kotahitanga Inclusivity, 3rd bullet point on page 14 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ‘Create a fair and equitable transition to our future’. <p>In addition, the hearing panel agreed that equity would also be an important consideration as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered this submitter’s comments in relation to the aspirations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No change to aspiration 1, 2, 5, 6 & 7 in relation to this submission. - Aspiration 3 and 8: the hearing panel considered that the purpose of aspiration 3 relates to both mitigation and adaptation, while aspiration 8 is specific to adaptation. The hearing panel agreed that there is a need to keep both aspirations. - Aspiration 4: the hearing panel considered that the measurement of ‘meaningful change’ will be progressed as part of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. However, the hearing panel did make changes to aspiration 4 to remove the reference to ‘one generation equating to 25 years’ but instead replaced this with the term ‘within our generation’. - Aspiration 12 – the hearing panel considered that the purpose of this aspiration relates to both mitigation and adaptation and no changes were drafted in relation to this submission. <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages that the measurement of the aspirations is something that can be addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged the submitter’s concern about the health and</p>

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		<p>Do you have any other comments? – supports guiding principles, particularly “Hauora, Wellbeing – interconnectedness of a healthy environment for community wellbeing and resilience” as it enables equitable and health-centred responses to climate change.</p> <p>Also supports next steps of the strategy and asks that the committee consider partnering with NPHS Te Waipounamu in the next steps to provide a health lens over climate change actions as they are developed.</p> <p>The submitter would also like to offer support by providing Climate Change and Health workshops.</p>	<p>wellbeing impacts of climate change and envisages that this could be considered as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>This submitter's interest in being involved as part of a collaborative approach to phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action was noted. The hearing panel thanks this submitter for their offer of providing climate change and health workshops and considers this could be useful as progress is made as part of phase 2.</p>
23	<p>Doug Fraser <i>In person</i></p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Comments that while Local Government may aspire to generate a climate action plan, it has neither the capacity or responsibility to quantify a community response. The presumption of developing a Southland Strategy without first quantifying their own footprint (not planned until 2026) and using data that lacks scientific rigour defies logic; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier. Using data supplied by Great South lacks credibility; - is concerned that the political drive to net zero has created barriers to a prosperous viable community; <p>Comments that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the process is flawed; - no ratepayer input sought until now ensuring there is no wider examination of the strategy; - there is no apparent cost benefit analysis or commitment to complete such an analysis; - there is no supporting evidence for the statement “we fully understand the risks and opportunities to our communities”; - the strategy reports councils will “create regional pathways for action” e.g. carbon forestry which is commercial decision, not one for local government; - aspirations 11, 12 and 13 are essentially propaganda. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>It is noted that Environment Southland, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council have all taken steps to undertake an organisational GHG inventory to understand their own footprint. Gore District Council is planning to complete their first organisational GHG inventory before 2026.</p> <p>The hearing panel requested further information from Great South to reassess the information on pages 10, 11 and 12 of the proposed strategy and changes were made to improve the communication of Great South inventory data used and illustrated in the strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the feedback on the process to date and acknowledges that phase 1 of this work has been largely local government-focused, ensuring the key local government partner agencies were able reach agreement on a way forward. The hearing panel envisages that as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action collaboration will extend beyond the key local government agencies.</p>
04	<p>Federated Farmers of NZ (Jason Herrick)</p>	<p>Submitter agrees with the importance of including science in the collective values. Considers there is potential risk with aspiration 4 “we will create meaningful change within one generation” or 25 years as that timeframe may not be enough</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p>

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	<i>In person</i>	<p>to be able to record or measure change.</p> <p>Submitter supports the science led approach and encourages a robust and transparent science led approach that addresses rural communities and catchment issues.</p> <p>Notes the primary sector in Southland represents many generational farms with a stewardship view of their properties in terms of their future generations. Suggests the wording for 4 could be adjusted to “We will create meaningful change and inspire future generations to continue this work”.</p> <p>Submitter would like to see early engagement with stakeholders including the primary sector to ensure a robust future plan is in place.</p> <p>Acknowledges the sensible approach taken of a joint approach by all four councils in this strategy to ensure transparency, collaboration, and engagement. Having a collaborative approach that involves early engagement and stakeholders will help identify and address issues early.</p> <p>Submitter refers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - point 8 “we fully understand the risks and opportunities to our communities associated with the impact of our changing climate on Murihiku Southland” and comments the term “communities” needs to be interpreted broadly to encompass the full range of people, places, environments, that this includes; - point 9 “councils align on climate change scenarios to inform key regional decisions”. Comments that a collaborative and transparent process that engages directly with rural communities is preferred; - point 10 “collaborate to create regional pathways for action, acknowledging the inter-connectedness of specific issues”. Views the collaborative approach as a good thing but would like to ensure that the rural sector are part of these collaborations. <p>Submitter refers to the Ministry for the Environment grant for the climate adaption project “Murihiku Slow the Flow” and comments it would like to see where this project has got to in terms of its project milestones, especially in terms of its involvement with the local rural communities.</p>	<p>The hearing panel envisages that the measurement of the aspirations is something that can be addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel has made some changes to the proposed strategy to strengthen the expectation of transparency as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered potential changes to aspiration 4 decided to remove the reference to ‘one generation equating to 25 years’ but instead replaced this with the term ‘within our generation’. The hearing panel also determined that the measurement of ‘meaningful change’ will be progressed as part of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges that phase 1 of this work has been largely local government-focused, ensuring the key local government partner agencies were able reach agreement on a way forward. The hearing panel envisages that as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action collaboration will extend beyond the key local government agencies.</p> <p>The hearing panel agrees that the term ‘communities’ should be interpreted to encompass the full range of people, places and their environments.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages additional collaboration as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action will include the rural sector and rural communities.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> Slow the Flow update A core philosophy of the Murihiku Slow the Flow Project is to go where the energy is, and compliment work already underway. The nature-based solutions chosen for the Upper Mataura Pilot will be supported by the local community. Initial engagement has primarily been with the Catchment Liaison Committees, and more recently discussions with Thriving Southland to identify Catchment Groups interested in being part of the pilot. The aim is to work with 1-2 Catchment Groups where the nature-based solution stormwater mitigations can be model then ground truthed. One of the assessment criteria for the mitigations is their benefit to farm systems. If Federated Farmers would like further information please contact Project Manager Ella Lawton: ella.lawton@es.govt.nz.</p>
17	Noel J Peterson <i>(apology on 16 May)</i>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agrees with the aspirations to generate climate change action, though the process seems to slow and lacks the high profile and priority it deserves; - supports Southland becoming a net zero region earlier than 2050. Considers that by 2034 should be the priority for effective climate education to be installed, mitigation and adaptation strategies should be well understood 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - and underway; - mostly concerned about lack of climate education. A change in community attitude is urgently needed and climate change needs to be seen as a priority. All councils need to be proactive in providing effective climate education; - comments that the strategy needs to provide education regarding practical climate neutral lifestyle choices. 	<p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the lack of climate education and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p>
05	<p>University of Otago (Department of Geology) (Dr Rebecca McLeod)</p> <p><i>Via zoom</i></p>	<p>Submitter broadly supports the “net-zero target for Southland by 2050 or before” statement and feels it is important to point out that it views this statement as feasible and very likely beneficial to the region.</p> <p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supports the measure-to-manage approach of establishing a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory; - encourages the efforts to use these principles to broaden support for communities; - notes that the focus of the strategy is very much on changing climate (extreme weather events, flooding, drought), and there is scant reference to sea level rise. Suggests that projected sea level rise and the potential implications of that on Murihiku Southland is expanded upon. <p>Submitter comments in alignment with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - aspiration 2, its programme identifies specific opportunities under aspiration 7 and notes increasing recognition of natural infrastructure and become a fruitful way to combine understanding from science and mātauranga; - aspiration 7, considers there is considerable potential in managing for blue carbon sequestration, as well as enhanced carbon uptake and burial in Fiordland’s sediment stores and significant wetlands; - aspiration 10, emphasises the potential to work with research organisations such as its programme and its participants to develop the substantial potential for carbon sequestration and transitions to net zero emissions. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p>The hearing panel determined that additional wording referencing sea level rise, coastal inundation and erosion on page 6 of the strategy would be appropriate in response to this submission.</p>
30	<p>Michael Weusten</p> <p><i>In person</i></p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as the science is far from settled and any focus on CO2 reduction must be absolutely treated with caution and resistance to invest in mitigation efforts. Any focus on Real Pollution Reduction (non CO₂) should be fully supported; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050, for the reasons set out above; - has no concerns regarding local climate change impact. All resources should 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of</p>

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		<p>be focused on Real Infrastructure Investment and Sensible Compliance Legislation.</p> <p>Comments that the strategy, if implemented, must be extremely wary of expensive "World Changing" contribution and initiatives that will have negligible world impact but severe local costs and restrictions.</p>	<p>natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
25	<p>Jane and Bradley Sycamore (Mr Ian McIntosh speaking on behalf)</p> <p>Via Zoom</p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Has concerns with the subjectiveness of the pending programme, as opposed to having rigorously objective aims based on sound science; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 as the concept has poor foundations and can only affect the local productive economy and the region's citizens wealth; - is not concerned about local climate change impact; <p>Comments that it is important that Councils in the region make decisions that can be, under full interrogation, defended.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered many comments in relation to science underpinning this strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
24	<p>Peter Foster</p> <p>Via Zoom</p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Comments that nothing done in Southland will have any effect whatsoever on climate. It will, however, cost ratepayers a huge sum - have you costed out your policies?; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier as net zero will simply destroy the economy for no gain whatsoever; - is not concerned about local climate change impact because the concern arises because most people do not understand the difference between 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>

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		<p>the output of speculative climate models and rock solid tide gauge data.</p> <p>Comments that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No reduction in CO2 in Southland will have any effect on Southland weather. The effect of CO2 is global. Comments that from hundreds of peer reviewed publications, increased CO2 adds a little to warming but is clearly not the driving factor. 	<p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged concerns that climate change action in Southland may not make a significant difference globally, however also that New Zealand is often a small player on a global scale and that we still need to ‘do our bit’ as even the smallest bit of action can make a difference.</p>
03	<p>Forest & Bird (Jen Miller)</p> <p><i>Via Zoom</i></p>	<p>Submitter supports a pan-council collaborative approach towards climate change and responds as follows:</p> <p>Aspirations – supported, in particular acknowledging the mana of the natural world. Considers that when addressing climate change impacts, nature should be at its centre.</p> <p>Nature-based solutions – comments that nature-based solutions are approaches that utilise the inherent power of nature to address various environmental challenges while providing co-benefits to human societies. They play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide and help safeguard numerous plant and animal species. They also contribute to mental and physical wellbeing.</p> <p>Land use change – considers the need for land use change must be given priority. It is not sustainable to continue to have the region relying so heavily on the dairy industry and intense agriculture generally. The strategy needs to refer to the importance of engaging with communities, business and industries concerning the inevitability of land use change, for example, looking at opportunities for lower impact food growing. Suggests including a specific aspiration to develop policies to deal with the potential for an ever-increasing risk of flooding, and the impact on the Southland economy and the communities and individuals that are affected by heavy rainfall events.</p> <p>Room for rivers – considers Council must invest in prioritising “making room for rivers” as the preferred approach for river management and flood protection.</p> <p>Carbon reduction – comments the stated goal to achieve zero carbon by 2050 does not reflect the impacts climate change is having now and considers Council should aspire to achieving the goal at the very least by 2040. Comments that Dunedin City Council has set a goal to become a zero carbon city by 2030, and strongly encourages Council to adopt a similar process.</p> <p>Wetlands – comments that wetlands are an important tool in achieving the</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges this submitter’s support of the collaborative approach to date and the aspirations in the proposed strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel has referred to nature-based-solutions as another example in the footnote to aspiration 10, but that generally the consideration and evaluation of nature-based-solutions will be part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>

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		<p>Council's zero goal, therefore the strategy should reflect the environmental, cultural and economic value of maintaining and restoring wetlands. Any outcome of the future action plan should include investment in wetland restoration projects, particularly on council-owned land.</p> <p>Mining – comments that coal mining can no longer be sanctioned if climate change is to be seriously addressed. Would like to see a more specific goal to no longer allow for new or expanded coal mining in the region.</p> <p>Pest control – Comments that browsing of ungulates, especially deer, undermines native forest integrity that act as carbon storage and considers the strategy needs to refer to the need to ensure forests are able to flourish by working with communities to reduce browsing mammals.</p> <p>Te Mana o Te Taiao – considers that councils should explicitly state that the strategy recognises that nature is at the heart of the Aotearoa New Zealand economy.</p>	
22	<p>Geoff Scott <i>In person</i></p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier; <p>has concerns about all of the unscientific data.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered many comments in relation to science underpinning this strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
16	Katie Allan	The submitter:	Overall, the hearing panel considered that there was a level of support for the

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	Via Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier; - has no concerns about local climate change impact. 	<p>identification of climate change as an issue that needs to be addressed and agreed that there is enough mandate to continue to pursue this work as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered many comments in relation to science underpinning this strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
18	Jaspreet Bopari Via Zoom	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as net zero is not an economically or environmentally viable strategy. The models used for climate change leave a lot to be desired; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050. We need to focus on the practical steps to manage and maintain our infrastructure; - concerned about the overzealous misguided and futile attempts to stop climate change. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered many comments in relation to science underpinning this strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>

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			<p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
60 – split with LTP submission	<p>The future is Rail (Dave MacPherson)</p> <p><i>Via Zoom</i></p>	<p>Net Zero CO₂ emissions by 2050 - submitter comments that it is not enough to have a policy. Asks what actions will ensure this?</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
24B	<p>Don Nicholson</p> <p><i>In person</i></p>	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Comments that is far from clear that any special regional climate action is useful. i.e. could make a difference even at great cost. Notes the foreword is vague (let alone the whole document) and asks on what basis was this concept developed and by whom. A serious omission is that the document no appendix/links to documents; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier economically, socially and morally it will fail citizens; - is not concerned about local climate change impact and notes that it is not hard to find data that exposes a much more moderate climate reality compared to the extreme climate modelling used within New Zealand councils. <p>Comments that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - legislated climate policy has given significant privilege and revenue gain, all at great cost to ratepayers, taxpayers and general consumers. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel considered many comments in relation to science underpinning this strategy. The hearing panel noted that the principles and aspirations already provide direction that science and mātauranga are fundamental to this strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>

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Submitters Not Being Heard			
01 Via ICC submission	Sandra Cooper	<p>Comments that Climate Change Strategy is a joke, commenting that what New Zealand is trying to do is completely irrelevant in the big scheme of things, when you look at 1,100 coal mines China is putting in this year. Selling land for foreign investors i.e. Ikea to plant pine trees is a joke. Should look at planting native trees instead and stop carbon credit buying with pine trees.</p> <p>Further comments on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excessive land use to dairy farming as poor use of land and high emissions; - going electric is huge cost to environment – wait until better system/cars are invented; - subsidise solar panels for housing; - wind turbines are non-recyclable and blades have to be buried – look at alternative cylindrical ones; - coal and gas from New Zealand brought back so importing less reduces costs and reduces emissions, as cost to environment to import is huge; - look at projects that are beneficial in sense they will save money, reduce costs, reduce maintenance – environmental impact little relevance. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
53 – split with LTP submission	Laura Pope on behalf of Vince Barry, NPHS Te Waipounamu Health New Zealand Whatu Ora	<p>Submitter commends Council for identifying climate change as a key priority and acknowledging that the region is experiencing an increase in climate related events.</p> <p>The submitter agrees with using modelling to assist with regional planning and to help ensure that the current flood protection assets can withstand scenarios to an agree level of protection.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged this submission in support, in particular for the use of modelling to assist with regional planning.</p>
06	Community Trust South (Jess Domigan)	<p>Do you support Southland becoming net zero? – yes, the submitter’s strategic aspiration articulates its commitment to sustainability and climate and under this priority will prioritise supporting communities to connect to their environment so that it can thrive for future generations.</p> <p>Do you agree with regional action? – yes, the submitter commends the strategy’s purpose to unite the efforts of the four local government councils, Te Ao Mārama Inc and Great South to support a cohesive and efficient, of working giving a collaborative approach to solutions whereby community organisations are partners in the process of developing a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>What local climate change impact are you most concerned about? - notes the</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges this submitter’s support of the collaborative approach to date. The hearing panel envisages that as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action collaboration will extend beyond the key local government agencies and be more inclusive of community partners.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged the importance of equity. The hearing panel agreed that the strategy could be strengthened in relation to equity, with additional</p>

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		<p>potential for existing inequities to be reinforced through the impacts of climate change and is concerned about this potential specifically looking at housing, food security and the impact of flood and droughts on not only livelihoods but on individual and community wellbeing.</p>	<p>wording to the principle of Kotahitanga Inclusivity, 3rd bullet point on page 14 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Create a fair and equitable transition to our future'. <p>In addition, the hearing panel agreed that equity, housing, food security etc. would also be important considerations as part of phase 2, the development of the regional Framework for Action.</p>
07	Southland District Council (Deborah-Ann Smith-Harding)	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agrees with the aspirations for Southland councils to generate regional climate change action; - supports Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050; - is concerned about damage to businesses and residential buildings due to flooding. <p>Notes that Council needs to protect its assets at all costs, the cost of prevention is less than cost re-build.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged this submission in support, in particular for investment into minimising the risks of a changing climate.</p>
08	Karen Maw	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action as the strategy is based on outdated data sets from the IPCC are the sole source of data provided by government to regional councils; - does not support becoming a net zero region by 2050 as it is based on the assumption that carbon dioxide is a "greenhouse" gas and that global temperatures are increasing, but does not take into account historical temperatures which indicate temperatures have declined since the 1930s; - has no concerns about climate change, but is concerned that a natural gas that is essential for life has been vilified and is being used to restrict activities; - comments ES would do better to focus on activities that disrupt river catchment flows. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
09	Mike Douglass	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agrees with the aspirations to generate climate change action; - supports becoming a net zero region by 2050; 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is most concerned about sea level and temperature rise. 	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p>The hearing panel determined that additional wording referencing sea level rise, coastal inundation and erosion on page 6 of the strategy would be appropriate in response to this submission.</p>
10 Split with LTP submission	John Turner	<p>Comments that climate has been changing for millions of years and will continue to do so. You cannot fight nature, so stop spending monies on hypothetical events.</p> <p>Comments that biggest problem “we have” has been created by those that want to protect our waterways and do not allow the extraction of gravel. He feels those responsible for these actions need to be held personally accountable.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged that the causes of climate change continue to be contested. The hearing panel noted that anthropogenic causes of climate change is accepted nationally and internationally and the Regional Climate Change Working Group is required to proceed on this basis. The hearing panel also noted that regardless of the causes of a changing climate, local government has a role to ensure community resilience.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that gravel related issues could be addressed as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p>
11	Leah Hourston	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Notes that climate has changed in the past and will continue to change as that is what it does, and historical climate graphs show that we are currently between ice ages and CO₂ levels are relatively low. Submitter comments that there is a need to plan for flood protection, but concentrating on reducing emissions is going to cost a lot of money and will not “fix” climate change; - has no concerns about local climate change impact; - comments that decisions be made on up-to-date “science” and not just modelling; - comments that net zero is a joke and should not be a goal. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>

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12	Wendy Anderson	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Considers solutions are much easier if councils cut red tape and over regulation to reduce problem areas. Needs more peer reviewed research from models overseas; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier, as it's never going to be achieved and doesn't need to be; - considers research is not robust and models being used are being discredited overseas where there are larger populations and a stronger base of scientists. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
13	Paul Wright	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as NZ contributes to less than 1% of the world's carbon emissions; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier; - considers the only concern about local climate change impact is the waste of ratepayers money that councils spend on it. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
14	Colin Lawry	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as he believes the science being used is not correct and the impact of climate change is grossly overstated; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier, as the current race to net zero is causing issues in other areas of the environment and life in general; - comments that Southland's flood plain topography has been formed by water and will always be at risk of flooding events through heavy rainfall events; - agrees that climate is changing but that trying to slow it down is pointless and notes adaption is the only long-term solution. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050</p>

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			and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.
15	John McIntyre	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Councils should not be working on a strategy as it is highly controversial and likely to be very costly to ratepayers with little gain; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier. There are climate scientists that disagree with going net zero and councils need to hear their reasons for this before proceeding with this proposal; - has no concerns about local climate change impact. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
19	Maddie van de Wetering	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agrees with the aspirations to generate climate change action; - supports Southland becoming a net zero region earlier than 2050; - is concerned about warming sea water affecting marine life and making it easier for pests to make it currently pest free islands; - comments it would be good to see something more than aspirations to make a plan. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the threat to marine life from climate change and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p>
20	Gretchen Wilson	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as she believes the science being used is not correct and the impact of climate change is grossly overstated; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier, as no life on earth would be sustainable, we require carbon to live; - comments that Southland is a flood plain and floods have always occurred on the flood plains; - agrees that climate is changing and always will. Trying is pointless and a waste of money and notes adaption is the only long-term solution. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in</p>

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			<p>the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
21	Lester Wilson	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action and believes the most extreme system has been chosen to base the figures on; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier, as there would be no life on earth if there is no carbon; - comments that Southland is a flood plain and floods have always occurred on the flood plains; - comments that climate is constantly changing and we cannot stop it. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged that there are some diverging views on climate science, however local government is required to adopt best practice approaches, including using international science and guidance to inform a precautionary approach towards adaptation.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
26	Janet McDonald	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 as the science is not settled re manmade climate change. It relies on models endorsed by the UN. Objects to spending money on climate change industry that will not result in change to world temperatures. Asks is there any costings of the price to pay to move the temperature even minutely. <p>Comments that mitigation of adverse weather events (e.g. flooding) at the lowest</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p>

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		degree necessary would be acceptable.	<p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
27	Murray McDonald	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as the weather has not noticeably changed in 66 years. We don't need to bankrupt the country for no obvious gain; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050. <p>Comments that gravel from rivers should be cleaned out to mitigate possible flooding. Do not need to spend money on the climate industry and extra staff associated with this.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that gravel related issues could be addressed as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p>
28	Wallace Takitimu Community Board (Tony Philpott)	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as the board believes the science being used isn't correct and the impact of human induced climate change is grossly overstated; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050, as the current race to net zero is causing foreseen and unforeseen issues in other areas of the environment and life in general; - notes that Southland's flood plain has been formed by and will always be at risk of flooding; 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is quite a bit of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agrees that the climate is changing, it always has and always will. Trying to slow it down is pointless and notes adaptation is the only long-term solution. 	<p>in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p>
29	Fiona McCabe	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050. This is a political hoax. NZ contributes to less than 1% of carbon emission. We also have enough trees. Just an excuse for unnecessary red tape; - has no concerns regarding local climate change impact. <p>Comments that Councils are using out-of-date data and extreme RCP to fudge the result they want.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
40 – split with LTP submission	Lindsay Strudwicke	<p>Submitter considers Environment Southland simply goes along with the agenda supplied by government non-scientists and asks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prove/access climate change in Southland; - How can we address real findings; - Why are we having unnecessary regulations and taxes put on us when New Zealand contributes to less than 1% of the world’s carbon emission. In New Zealand we have more than enough trees to offset any carbon emissions. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>

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			<p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
41 – split with LTP submission	Shona Strudwicke	Submission is identical to submission 40 – see above.	Response as above.
42	Matt Mason	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050; - has concerns about local flooding events. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p>
43	Bridget Mason	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action as the aspirations are based on flawed scientific data; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050. People are struggling and pushing this agenda will only achieve political gain. Focus on building up and supporting communities; - has concerns about flooding related to regular rainfall events, which impacts on all of Southland through cost to business, people not getting to school or work and the repairs that are required. An expense to all ratepayers. <p>Comments that change is happening to climate. Pushing an expensive agenda will not solve it.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>

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No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – Submission	Draft decisions and reasons
44	Raymond Broome	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action. Global warming is a crock and is being used to control the population; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050. Mother nature will control, not the globalists; - has no concerns about local climate change impact, where is the proof of honest reporting of climate change. Comments “wake up to this fraud”. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and that local government currently has a statutory role to address this. It was noted that while there could have been consideration of establishing an earlier regional net zero goal, it is not currently possible to establish a later net zero goal.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
45	Fiona Bruce	<p>The submitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not agree with the aspirations to generate climate change action, as she believes climate change is not the main issue. Would like to see a strategy that embraces practical steps like building and maintaining stopbanks and having a good civil defence plan; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050, as the science for greenhouse gas emissions is still in debate. Would rather promote care for the environment in general, with reduction of chemicals, pollutants and threats to biodiversity and a trend toward more natural solutions; - has concerns that lots of ratepayer funds will go trying to solve unsubstantiated outcomes. <p>Suggests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - take a broader look at the differing scientific viewpoints; - understand what the modelled data is being used; - research the historical trend in sea level changes. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
59 – split with LTP submission	Christine Whybrew for Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga	<p>Submitter recognises the adverse effect of climate change on historic heritage and supports the development and implementation of the Regional Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Resilience Projects.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the threat to historic</p>

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		<p>Supports Council’s long-term planning and factoring the effects into infrastructure decision making.</p> <p>Comments that the Regional Climate Change Strategy and subsequent individual council plan should include measures to avoid or reduce climate change impacts on historic heritage wherever possible and encourage the maintenance and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings.</p>	<p>heritage from climate change and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p>
73 – split with LTP submission	Matt Couldrey	<p>Submitter would like to see further investment in lowering emissions, as well as the proposed increase in operating expenditure for when large floods occur due to climate change.</p>	<p>The hearing panel acknowledged this submission in support for investment in lowering emissions and regional adaptation measures.</p>
78 – split with LTP Submission	Karen Broome	<p>Submitter comments that continual climate change scaremongering is akin to gaslighting people. Climate change has been happening since the beginning of time. It is flaunted as a reason to control and implement all sorts of financial burdens onto people and affects their wellbeing. It is a tool used by those in power to further manipulate society.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p>
108 – split with LTP submission	Graeme Humphries	<p>Submitter objects to the decision of banning of coal for home heating. Comments that this “a joke”. There are other fuels that are currently being used to keep things moving worldwide. Reminds that the planet has had much greater levels of CO₂ millions of years ago and this when most of the oil, gas and coal reserves were made.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged that the causes of climate change continue to be contested. The hearing panel noted that anthropogenic causes of climate change is accepted nationally and internationally and the Regional Climate Change Working Group is required to proceed on this basis. The hearing panel also noted that regardless of the causes of a changing climate, local government has a role to ensure community resilience.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as</p>

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			<p>part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
<p>110 - split with LTP submission</p>	<p>H Kowalewski</p>	<p>Submitter comments that the regional climate strategy is based on faulty science, as there is no evidence that the NIWA predictions are based on fact, or are even science.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
<p>111 - split with LTP submission</p>	<p>M Kowalewski</p>	<p>Submitter refers statement that you “must” follow NIWA’s predictions and suggests that “you must follow ratepayer’s preferences”.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
<p>123 - split with LTP submission</p>	<p>Troy Fowler</p>	<p>Submitter comments that the climate change information is wrong.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
<p>125 - split with LTP submission</p>	<p>Lyndon Murphy</p>	<p>Submitter comments that the information ES is using is not the correct information.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p>

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			<p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>
128 – split with LTP submission	Judy-Diane Leith	<p>Submitter asks “Where is ES getting their data for the so-called effects of a changing climate?” Comments that the climate has always had fluctuating weather patterns and flooding and asks where is the evidence ES is basing their big push on to renew/create the flood protection infrastructure, and why is ES wanting to do this work with borrowed money? The work should not be done without secured funds.</p> <p>Submitter also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disagrees with Council’s aspirations to generate climate change action; - does not support Southland becoming a net zero region by 2050 or earlier; - considers climate is a scam to generate money and needs to be completely abolished. New Zealand has enough trees, bush and scrub to offset any carbon emissions. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>

SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED BY 5pm 13 MAY 2024 AND ACCEPTED AS LATE SUBMISSIONS:

No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – LATE Submissions	Draft decisions and reasons
Submitters Being Heard			
157 – split with LTP submission	Jacob Smyth (on behalf of Fish and Game) <i>In person</i>	<p>The submitter strongly supports the intent of Climate Change Strategy to unite the efforts of the four local government councils in Southland, Te Ao Mārama Inc., and Great South to address climate change through mitigation and adaptation. This includes the four key aspirations of the Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>Combating climate change and mitigating its impacts are one of the most significant challenges facing Southland and the proposed strategy is a good start. In addition, local government agencies should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contribute to achieving New Zealand’s emission reduction targets. This includes considering the emissions from activities that can occur under their respective plans by way of both permitted activities and consents granted; and - mitigate the impacts of climate change on communities, including making room for rivers, wetland restoration and floodplain management through the managed / strategic retreat of vulnerable infrastructure and upgrading over time of infrastructure that is no longer fit for purpose. <p>Managed retreat where property and / or infrastructure are at risk due to water body proximity needs to be actively addressed by SRC, especially in the context of increased climate extreme events. SRC needs to engage with the community to understand the need for managed retreat.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that this submitter’s support for the collaborative approach to date; as well their endorsement of the four key aspirations.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges that phase 1 of this work has been largely local government focused ensuring the key local government partner agencies were able reach agreement on a way forward. The hearing panel envisages that as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action collaboration will extend beyond the key local government agencies.</p>
196	Dave Diack <i>In person</i>	<p>The submitter states the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fewer people are dying of climate-related disasters than ever, with there being a 98% drop in climate related deaths in the last decade compared to a century ago - The impressions from watching the news is misleading and makes it challenging to get climate change policy right - The falling number of climate-related deaths are due to innovation allowing humanity to better adapt to disasters - Sensible adaptation means that despite higher sea levels, fewer people than ever will be flooded - Understanding the bigger picture more accurately will improve chances of more effective policies - To help countries achieve fewer disaster deaths, we should promote prosperity, adaptation and resilience - Weather disasters are just one aspect of climate change 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p>

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No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – LATE Submissions	Draft decisions and reasons
Submitters Not Being Heard			
46	Robb Stevens (on behalf of Fonterra)	<p>The submitter welcomes the opportunity to comment on the ‘Proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy for Murihiku Southland Phase One’.</p> <p>The submitter recognises the challenges and opportunities of transitioning to a low-emissions economy and are committed to reducing their reliance on fossil fuels and investing in renewable energy alternatives.</p> <p>The submitter has a 2050 target of net zero emissions and plans to end their use of coal by 2037 and reduce their scope one and two emissions in absolute terms by 50% in 2030 from a 2018 baseline. Overall, 55% of their manufacturing emissions are from coal and 18% from fossil gas, with the rest coming from co-gen and electricity. This is a major reason for prioritising the decarbonisation of their coal reliant South Island sites first.</p> <p>The submitter considers the following principles should inform the design and delivery of the climate change strategy for Southland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affordable, secure and sustainable energy is critical – this involves reducing costs associated with energy use; ensuring our sites have a secure and reliable energy supply; and reducing emissions as quickly as possible; - Accelerating our decarbonisation – this involves using less and emitting less; - Leveraging national targets for local action – this includes supporting national targets to achieve NZ’s international climate change obligation; <p>The submitter considers that the application of these key overall principles can ensure that Southland plays its part in tackling climate change, while enhancing its social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being and resilience.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submitter sharing their own pathway and reasoning for working towards this same objective.</p> <p>The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
164 – split with LTP submission	Allan Baird	<p>The submitter notes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the amount of capital grants local government agencies have received during the past 3 years on shovel ready projects, some of which had climate change justifications - that spending rate payers money will add more pain to the region in the form of debt to be repaid, ‘on a notion that we may still be at risk from flooding assess from climate change modelling’ - that there has been local and central government investment in LiDAR, but it needs to look at the data on gravel build-up around critical 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel notes this submission and envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional</p>

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No.	Name	proposed Regional Climate Change Strategy – LATE Submissions	Draft decisions and reasons
		<p>infrastructure and facilitate its removal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that the existing bank infrastructure needs to be properly maintained before diverting new funds into topping up banks - that any new bank infrastructure should be supported by the Catchment Liaison Committees. 	<p>Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that gravel related issues could be addressed as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action.</p>
171 – split with LTP submission	Glenda Bell	<p>The submitter queries what evidence there is for increasingly intense flood events as a result of frequent, severe and enduring weather events. The submitter suggests that Environment Southland exercises due diligence and look up all past records to build up an accurate picture of climatic events over the past 200 or more years; and that if this analysis was completed it would indicate that storms and intense events are less frequent nowadays than in the past.</p> <p>The submitter also comments that ‘science is never absolute! It is always fluid, and forever changing, and it must always be open and transparent – to allow for it to be constantly assessed, tested, evaluated, accepted, rejected, modified...’</p> <p>The submitter states that what is proposed in the ES LTP is unaffordable and unreasonable, unnecessary and not justifiable as there is ‘No climate crisis’.</p>	<p>Overall the hearing panel considered that there was a level of support for the Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledged that there are some diverging views on climate science, however local government is required to adopt best practice approaches, including using international science and guidance to inform a precautionary approach towards adaptation.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
181 – split with LTP submission	Rachael Moore (on behalf of Department of Conservation)	<p>The submitter states that Department of Conservation supports Environment Southland taking a Southland-wide approach to climate change and implementing and reviewing the Murihiku Southland Regional Climate Change Strategy (the Strategy).</p> <p>The Department of Conservation endorses the Strategy's four key aspirations.</p> <p>The Department of Conservation endorses Environment Southland's continued investment in its climate adaptation science and modelling programme.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that this submitter's support for the collaborative approach to date; as well their endorsement of the four key aspirations and ES's continued investment in the climate adaptation science and modelling programme.</p>
184 – split with LTP	Kate Lindsay (on behalf of QEII Trust)	<p>The submitter supports the development of a Regional Climate Change Strategy that seeks to reduce climate impacts on our indigenous biodiversity.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p>

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submission		<p>The submitter states that ‘the effects of climate change are already being documented within our native ecosystems and that these predicted impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes in the distributional range and diversity of invasive plants and animals. - Changes in ecosystem function due to pressures such as increased seed predation and changing temperatures. - Increasing flood events and sea level rise causing ecosystem ‘squeeze’ when ecosystems cannot retreat inland or spread because they are hemmed in by intensive land use activities. - Increased fire risk which is of particular concern where wide-scale land-use change to exotic forestry is still occurring. <p>The submitter also states that many ecosystems can withstand some climate change related pressures if they are in a healthy state or large enough to have resilience. Ensuring environmental resilience in the face of climate change needs to be part of the regional strategy.</p>	<p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the threat to natural heritage from climate change and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p>
189 – split with LTP submission	Alison & Roger Copland	<p>The submitter states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ‘Climate change’ is also known as ‘the weather’. - ‘CO2 is what sustains all life on this planet, without it all plants, trees and people die!!!’ - Environment Southland need to do their due diligence and research the subject extensively. <p>The submitter is concerned that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there is a risk that after spending millions of ratepayer funds that the science that is being adhered to is incorrect. - ‘engagement’ with children and youth on ‘climate change’ is having a negative impact on their wellbeing, they are fearful of their future and this ‘conversation’ with them needs to stop. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel accepts that there is a consensus view of international and national science that underpins the notion of a changing climate, however there are still gaps in our regional knowledge of the impacts.</p> <p>The hearing panel agreed that this is something that will be important to address as part of the development of phase 2, the regional Framework for Action. But that in the interim, the Framework for Action needs to be developed based on science and information currently available.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>The hearing panel specifically deliberated regarding this submitter’s concern regarding the potential negative impact on children and youth. The hearing panel considered that future generations are likely to be the most impacted by a changing climate and that the purpose of aspiration 13 is to encourage and empower young people to be part of a conversation about their future. No changes were made to the strategy based on this aspect of this submission.</p>

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197 – split with LTP submission	Jenny Campbell (Forest and Bird)	<p>The submitter comments that their strategic objectives include being ‘Climate Centred: Ensuring our country does everything we can to keep the climate safe for all life on Earth. The impact of climate change will be at the centre of everything we do.’</p> <p>The submitter supports climate resilience projects and considers Murihiku to be vulnerable.</p> <p>The submitter states that nature based solutions ‘play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide. Forests, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems act as carbon sinks, sequestering large amounts of carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Restoring and conserving indigenous forests, implementing indigenous afforestation and reforestation projects, and protecting coastal ecosystems like estuaries all contribute to carbon sequestration, helping to stabilise the climate’.</p> <p>In addition, that Environment Southland needs to be mindful of coastal erosion and coastal processes as some communities are already very vulnerable.</p> <p>The submitter suggests that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a ‘zero carbon’ strategy is developed as it would be much more ambitious and advantageous to the Murihiku region. - adapting to climate change is much more than emissions reduction. Nature based solutions / room for the rivers are both methods of achieving climate resilience as well as increasing biodiversity and community wellbeing. - active transport options need to be considered. For example ‘cycle lanes & trails need to be further developed in conjunction with other Councils in Murihiku with safety paramount. Encouraging more people to use cycling as a means of fitness and improved health; while reducing carbon emissions and getting cars off the roads, reducing congestion and accidents. Walking paths need to be fully maintained for use as well for the same reasons.’. 	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the threat to natural heritage and coastal processes from climate change and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p> <p>The hearing panel noted that there is a national objective to achieve net zero by 2050 and acknowledged this submission in support. The hearing panel thanks the submitter for the ideas provided that can be considered as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
201 – split with LTP submission	Jesse Bythell	<p>The submitter expresses appreciation for the opportunity to submit and agrees that Southland needs a regional strategy to coordinate a climate change response.</p> <p>The submitter notes that our natural heritage is one of the many things under threat from climate change and that ‘without reducing the impacts of climate change we will find our ability protect and enhance biodiversity becomes much harder, for example with an increasing range of pest animals and plants able to live in Southland or increasing floods/slips etc. damaging fences or negatively affecting ecosystems’.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>The hearing panel acknowledges the submitter’s concern about the threat to natural heritage from climate change and envisages this being addressed as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action to achieve the aspirations as set out in the proposed strategy.</p> <p>While noting the website does carry relevant information at</p>

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		<p>The submitter also notes that they were not aware that this had been open for public consultation and have not had a chance to read the document or comment on it in any detail and suggests that some more current information needs to be added to the ES website under sections like 'Plans and Strategies' or 'Climate Resilience' or 'Environment>Climate'.</p>	<p>https://www.es.govt.nz/environment/climate-change, the hearing panel thanks the submitter for the feedback associated with improving the ES website.</p>
215B – split with LTP submission	Murray McDonald	<p>The submitter states that 'The Climate Change industry needs to be unfunded and money used to provide necessary infrastructure'.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p>
316 – split with LTP submission	Russell Cook	<p>The submitter disagrees that any needs to be done re: increased rainfall events. The submitters comments that climate change is not happening and that predictions are conjecture.</p> <p>The submitter suggests 'to wait until it happens before spending millions on floodbanks that will never be needed'.</p> <p>The submitter queries what Environment Southland's GHG emissions are and how much can be attributed to 'staff driving expensive 4WDs all around'.</p>	<p>Overall, the hearing panel considered that there is a mandate to pursue a collaborative local government response to climate change as a regional priority.</p> <p>Individual councils have legislative obligations to take steps to reduce the impacts of natural hazards on communities, and to consider climate change in a range of decision-making processes.</p> <p>The hearing panel envisages addressing issues of cost and opportunity costs as part of phase 2, the development of a regional Framework for Action.</p> <p>It is noted that Environment Southland, Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council have all taken steps to undertake an organisational GHG inventory to understand their own footprint. In addition, these agencies are currently undertaking work to determine how these footprints could be reduced. Gore District Council is planning to complete their first organisational GHG inventory before 2026.</p>