

AGENDA ITEM NO:	SUBJECT MATTER: REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW
REPORT: Council	DATE OF MEETING: 7 December 2006
FILE REFERENCES:	PORTFOLIO: Democratic PROJECT: Regional Policy Statement Review OUTPUT:
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the review of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS).

ATTACHMENTS

None.

SCOPING REPORT

The CRPS scoping report has now been amended on the basis of comments received from consultees. Copies of the final version have been sent to all identified stakeholders (District Councils; Statutory Consultees; key organisations).

TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT

The proposed amendment to the triennial agreement was sent to all Canterbury territorial authorities. To date (24 November) responses have been received from three District Councils: Mackenzie were to discuss it at their next meeting; Kaikoura had approved it, and; Waimakariri had requested more detailed consultation processes be incorporated within the Triennial Agreement. In response to Waimakariri District Council, Environment Canterbury staff advise that while further details of the consultation process can be agreed, these are, for a variety of reasons, best kept outside of the Triennial Agreement.

CONSULTATION WITH MAORI

During October hui were held in Christchurch and Waiho to discuss the process and issues in relation to Maori. These were chaired by Cr Cunningham and included a presentation followed by wide-ranging discussion. These are being followed by individual meetings with ranganga and the establishment of a working group to review Chapters 5 & 6 of the 1998 CRPS. Input to the review of the other chapters will also be required as the process proceeds.

SETTLEMENT AND TRANSPORT OUTSIDE OF THE UDS AREA

The CRPS Scoping Paper recommended that there be a Change to the CRPS to incorporate reviewed policies for settlement and transport for the wider region and that this be notified at the same time as the Urban Development Strategy (UDS) Change. Over the last 6 weeks the timeframe for the UDS component has been accelerated with a proposed notification date of July 2007. This revised timeline for the UDS would potentially compromise the quality and process for collaborative input to the review of the wider regional settlement policies. As a result, it is now proposed that the changes to the existing CRPS policies for settlement outside the UDS area be incorporated in the main review, rather than released with the UDS. This would also mitigate other risks associated with the early review of the region-wide settlement policies. For example, to some extent the UDS Change relies on the existing CRPS policies and having these open for review at the same time may hinder the UDS process. Releasing the settlement policies as part of the main review would also provide greater opportunity for integrating settlement and infrastructure with other changes.

LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICERS MEETING

ECan and district council staff met in Rolleston on 20 November to discuss settlement and related infrastructure outside of the UDS area, versatile soils, natural hazards and landscape issues. The discussions were constructive and staff will be working over coming months to develop and analyse policy options. It is anticipated that these policy options will be ready for political input in March 2007.

CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT

As signalled in the scoping report, work has commenced on a report on the impacts of climate change in Canterbury and the policy implications this may have for the CRPS. This work is progressing well and has now been sent for peer review. It is intended that this document will provide input to a number of chapters of the CRPS.

ISSUES MAPPING EXERCISE

The issues mapping exercise referred to in the scoping report has been completed. Documentation has been produced for each subject area (e.g. water, settlement *etc*), setting out the existing issues and whether they remain relevant, any new issues that have been identified, and the relationship between different issues. This documentation will help inform the review of each chapter and the integration between chapters.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report.