

Part III

20. Integration of Resource Management Processes

20.1 Introduction

Integrated resource management has two key elements:

- (1) ensuring that the impacts of management of one resource on another, or on the environment generally, are taken into account; and
- (2) ensuring that agencies involved in resource management work together in an effective and co-ordinated way to promote sustainable management.

Of these (1) above has already been dealt with in Part II of this Regional Policy Statement. Inter-agency co-ordination and co-operation particularly between the Regional Council and territorial authorities is essential for ensuring that matters addressed in Part II are efficiently and effectively implemented. It is also necessary to have processes for dealing with:

- (a) new issues of regional significance as they arise; and
- (b) issues which cross local authority boundaries or issues between territorial authorities, or between regions.

20.2 Inter-agency Co-ordination of Processes

The Regional Council seeks to establish working relationships and protocols with other resource management agencies. The desired outcome is that as new inter-agency issues emerge, agreed processes are followed by the relevant authorities and as far as possible the issues resolved

without recourse to the Environment Court. The approaches the Regional Council intends to pursue include:

- (1) the formation of inter-agency committees, working parties or other liaison mechanisms. As appropriate this will include representation from non-statutory organisations such as runanga or sector interest groups. Inter-regional and regional/territorial committees at Councillor and staff level should be established;
- (2) the use of joint consent hearings with other local authorities when there are consent applications in which both have an interest;
- (3) promotion of joint investigations where appropriate;
- (4) promotion of the policies in this Regional Policy Statement to territorial authorities. This will include formal and informal participation in planning processes undertaken by them;
- (5) the presentation of submissions on the annual plans of territorial authorities as necessary to seek the appropriate allocation of resources to give effect to resource management policies in district plans;
- (6) the use of statutory processes of the RM Act where there are inter-agency issues which cannot be resolved and the effects on the environment are of regional significance;
- (7) meetings with Nga Upoko ki Waitaha, the chiefs of the ten runanga within the region.

20.3 Processes for Resolving Cross-Boundary Issues

Cross-boundary issues involving the jurisdiction of the Regional Council and one or more other local authorities or other agencies can arise from:

- (i) differences in policies or methods; and
- (ii) adverse effects of activities in one jurisdiction transferring/occurring in another.

For the following reasons there is considerable potential for such issues to arise:

- (a) Territorial authority boundaries usually do not match catchment boundaries.
- (b) Waitaki District Council has territory in both Otago and Canterbury regions.
- (c) The northern neighbours, Tasman and Marlborough District Councils, have both district and regional responsibilities. Their management approach to issues will be necessarily different from that of Canterbury. In addition Canterbury has regional boundaries with Otago and West Coast Regional Councils.
- (d) There is a need for a joint relationship between territorial authorities and the Regional Council in managing the coastal environment.
- (e) There are several Ngai Tahu hapu which may have interests across regional and district council boundaries. These include Ngati Kuri in the north, Kati Huirapa in the south and the boundary with Tai Poutini on the West Coast.
- (f) Utility operators with national networks.

Where a new cross-boundary issue arises the Regional Council will refer the matter to the appropriate inter-agency committee or forum as described in Chapter 20.2. The aim in the first instance would be to seek a jointly agreed solution.

20.4 Regional Significance

The term "regional significance" as used in the RM Act qualifies one function of the Regional Council and to some extent what may be provided for in the Regional Policy Statement. The term is not defined in the RM Act.

“Regional significance” is a test for when the Regional Council may prepare objectives and policies about the effects of the use, development, or protection of land (section 30(1)(b) of the RM Act). The same term is also used as a test of whether the Regional Policy Statement may include matters that would normally be dealt with only in a district plan (section 62(1)).

There are two important points to note. First, in section 30(1)(b) it is not areas of land (or any values that are associated with that land) that must be of regional significance, but the effects of the use, development or protection of land. Secondly, in section 62(1) it is matters from Part II of the Second Schedule (described as “matters related to districts”) that must be of regional significance before being provided for in the Regional Policy Statement.

The purpose of the following list of criteria labelled "(1) Matters" may be either to make possible:

- (i) The identification of areas of land, or in some cases values, that are considered to be regionally important; or
- (ii) Resolution of which matters from Part II of the Second Schedule should be provided for in the Regional Policy Statement in accordance with section 62(1).

Note: Identifying areas or values (point (i)) is a preliminary step to determining whether effects of the use, development, or protection of land are of regional significance under section 30(1)(b) of the RM Act.

The purpose of 20.4 is only to provide a means of assessing regional significance where that precise term applies to regional councils in the RM Act. It should not be inferred that regional functions under section 30, other than the 30(1)(b) function, are subject to the test of regional significance.

(1) Matters

A matter is of regional significance when it concerns:

- (a) Species, communities and habitats that are predominantly endemic to Canterbury, or threatened or unusual within the region, or any other indigenous species, communities or habitats which, in the manner of their occurrence are or were recognisable as being unique to or characteristic of the Canterbury region;
- (b) Existing indigenous ecosystems and associated ecological processes that are or were unique to, characteristic of the Canterbury region;
- (c) Threatened (as determined by national criteria) species and communities of indigenous flora or fauna;
- (d) Essential habitat linkages, or connectivity between species, communities, habitats or ecosystems that meet criteria (a), (b) or (c) above.

In identifying these matters and those of (a), (b), (c) or (d) above, factors to be considered include whether a site, place or area is:

- (i) Identified as a Recommended Area for Protection in a Protected Natural Areas Report;
- (ii) A Special Site of Wildlife Interest identified in the SSWI database;
- (iii) A wetland identified in the Oceania Wetlands Inventory;
- (iv) An Area of Significant Conservation Value; or
- (v) An area of indigenous vegetation or habitat administered under the Conservation Act 1987 or any Act in its first schedule.

The fact that a particular site, place, or area is listed above will not necessarily mean that the site, place, or area is of regional significance. The Regional Council or other parties should take criteria (a) to (k) into account together with other relevant considerations, in deciding whether or not a site, place, or area is of regional significance. **It is acknowledged that some site information in data bases may have changed or contain inaccuracies and may require verification.**

- (e) Landscapes and natural features that are distinctive, unique to, characteristic of, or outstanding within the Canterbury region, including the processes that maintain them;
- (f) Soils of ecological or scientific value.

In identifying soils, landscapes and natural features, factors to be considered include whether a site, place or area is:

- (i) Identified as being a regionally outstanding landscape or natural feature in the Canterbury Regional Landscape Study;
- (ii) A geopreservation site of regional significance and/or identified in the Geopreservation Inventory of the New Zealand Geological Society;
- (iii) An area identified as an Area of Significant Conservation Value;
- (iv) An area identified as a Recommended Area for Protection in a Protected Natural Areas Report; or
- (v) In the sub-alpine or alpine zone.

The fact that a particular site, place, or area is listed above will not necessarily mean that the site, place, or area is of regional significance. The Regional Council or other parties should take criteria (a) to (k) into account together with other relevant considerations, in deciding whether or not a site, place, or area is of regional significance. **It is acknowledged that some site information in data bases may have changed or contain inaccuracies and may require verification.**

- (g) Heritage sites, places or areas that contribute to or reflect the cultural or spiritual identity, or evolution of the Canterbury region, including the different stages of human occupation.

In selecting these heritage sites, places or areas, factors to be considered include:

- (i) The extent to which the place reflects important or representative aspects of Canterbury's or New Zealand's history;
- (ii) The association of the place with the events, persons, or ideas of importance in Canterbury's or New Zealand's history;
- (iii) The potential of the place to provide knowledge of Canterbury's or New Zealand's history;

- (iv) The importance of the place to Tangata Whenua;
- (v) The community association with, or public esteem for, the place;
- (vi) The potential of the place for public education;
- (vii) The technical accomplishment or value or design of the place;
- (viii) The symbolic or commemorative value of the place;
- (ix) The importance of historic places which date from periods of early settlement in Canterbury;
- (x) Rare types of historic place;
- (xi) The extent to which the place forms part of a wider historical and cultural complex or historical and cultural landscape;
- (xii) The integrity and state of preservation.

The fact that a particular site, place, or area meets these criteria will not necessarily mean that the site, place, or area is of regional significance. The Regional Council or other parties should take these criteria and criteria (a) to (k) into account together with other relevant considerations, in deciding whether or not a site, place, or area is of regional significance. **It is acknowledged that some site information in data bases may have changed or contain inaccuracies and may require verification.**

- (h) Values and natural and physical resources of recognised national or international significance;
- (i) Sites or places that have important recreational or other amenity value to the Canterbury region;
- (j) Structures and infrastructures that are necessary to the social, economic or cultural functioning of the Canterbury community, for example, the Port of Lyttelton; or
- (k) A resource management matter considered by Tangata Whenua to be of greater than local importance provided it is agreed that there will be a net benefit in dealing with it at the regional level.

(2) Regionally significant effects

An effect is of regional significance if it has the potential to materially enhance or detract from any matter in 20.4(1).

In determining what is material the following factors will be taken into account:

- (a) Whether there is likely to be substantial modification of identified values, including substantial damage, loss, restoration or enhancement;
- (b) Whether any effects are likely to be long term;
- (c) Whether any short term effects are likely to be widespread;
- (d) Whether ecological resilience is likely to be affected;
- (e) Whether, and to what extent, there is likely to be an increase or decrease in scientific or educational value to the regional or national community;

- (f) Whether any effects are of widespread public concern within the region;
- (g) Whether any effects which although minor, short term or infrequent, become material when taken cumulatively, including whether any effects are potentially of high probability, or, if potentially of low probability, have a high potential impact;
- (h) Whether any effects are of widespread concern to Tangata Whenua within the region;
- (i) Whether any effect is likely to lead to irreversible changes (other than minor changes); and
- (j) Whether there are likely to be any effects on the ability of structures and infrastructures to function in a safe and efficient manner.