

AGENDA ITEM NO:	SUBJECT MATTER: Review of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS).
REPORT: Regional Planning Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 12 November 2008
FILE REFERENCES: RPS/2008/PREP/CONS	PORTFOLIO: Democratic PROJECT: Regional Policy Statement Review OUTPUT: : A reviewed CRPS
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the feedback that was received to date during the latest stakeholder consultation round on the RPS review and the review process going forward.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

BACKGROUND

As required under the RMA, the RPS is currently being reviewed. The review process Environment Canterbury has chosen to adopt involves significant consultation with key stakeholders.

At its meetings in July and August 2008, the Council gave approval for Environment Canterbury staff to undertake preliminary consultation with key stakeholders on the following draft chapters:

- Urban and Rural Development
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Heritage
- Waste
- Contaminated Land
- Hazardous Substances

The RPS review team has now largely completed this latest consultation round with Territorial Authority politicians and staff, central government departments and other non local government stakeholders such as Federated Farmers, Meridian Energy and the Canterbury Manufacturers Association.

All stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide written feedback (till the end of October). At the time of writing this report written feedback had only been received from the Hurunui District Council.

Of note, some stakeholders have chosen to undertake differing processes for providing feedback. Kaikoura District Council delegated authority to their staff make comment on behalf of the Council and the staff have been engaged with the review team throughout the drafting process. Christchurch City Council staff are presenting recommendations for responses to their Planning and Regulatory Committee (two to three draft chapters a month, beginning in October 2008), which are then to be ratified by Council. The Waimakiriri District Council has not been able to find an appropriate date to meet with the RPS review team at the time of writing this report and it has been suggested that an alternative process may need to be considered for this Council.

THE PROPOSAL

To inform the Committee of feedback received to date regarding draft chapters of the RPS and the review process going forward.

CONSIDERATION OF THE OPTIONS

Not applicable, as no options are proposed in this information only report.

CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING POLICY PLANS OR LEGISLATION

Not applicable, as no options are proposed in this information only report.

VIEWS OF AFFECTED AND INTERESTED PARTIES

General Observations

The consultation meetings that have taken place with Territorial Authorities (TAs) during this current consultation round have been positive and productive, with many good comments made. The presentations and resulting discussions have been comprehensive, as sufficient time was allocated by the TAs to this item.

The TAs presented to have all thanked Environment Canterbury and the RPS staff for the effort taken to engage with them on this review.

Specific Feedback

Draft Urban and Rural Development Chapter

This chapter is considered by many stakeholders to be the key strategic chapter for the RPS. The chapter was generally received very well by all TAs.

As a general observation, in districts where there is less development pressure, the Chapter is seen as overly constraining, while in districts with more development

pressure, the chapter is viewed as a useful tool to ensure good planning practice into the future.

There were six key areas emerging from the consultation which require further consideration. These are:

1. The scope of the chapter - this is not yet fully clear, particularly in relation to what the term 'rural development' encompasses;
2. What is regionally significant infrastructure - parties generally sought additions to those listed, for example, stock-water schemes, Ashburton Airport and the 'core' of the local electricity transmission network;
3. The two way obligation between regionally significant infrastructure and surrounding land use – a mix of views were expressed;
4. The strength of Policy 2;
5. The relevance of a number of the policies for smaller districts with low development pressure; and
6. The positioning of rural productive land and versatile soil.

The consultation responses did not raise any issues that would require the drafting team to go back to the drawing board with this chapter as a whole at this stage.

Draft Air Quality Chapter

This chapter was received well, albeit there were concerns expressed by some at the NRRP air quality provisions and the NES for air quality. Some suggestions were made to make minor changes that will improve the chapter from the stakeholders' perspective. Consultation did not bring any major problems to light with the chapter. However, three key matters require further consideration:

1. The manner in which the issues are expressed.
2. The approach to be used in relation to existing high quality ambient air.
3. The strength of the reverse sensitivity policy.

The consultation responses did not raise any issues that would require the drafting team to make any significant changes.

Draft Energy Chapter

This chapter was generally supported by stakeholders. Stakeholders from the generation and transmission sectors were happy with the chapter content. Some TAs had particular concerns around how much the chapter enables transmission and (to a lesser degree) generation activities to occur. It was generally understood however that the RPS must give effect to the NPS on Electricity Transmission. With regard to generation, it was understood that the national benefits of additional generation capacity needed to be recognised within the RPS.

The consultation responses did not raise any issues that would require the drafting team to make any significant changes.

Draft Heritage Chapter

The draft heritage chapter was particularly well received by TAs as it was clear that the Regional Council had listened to their recommendations to leave the management of this issue to them where possible. While providing more clarity than the existing RPS on the management of historic heritage, the chapter still allows considerable flexibility for local decision making. No major flaws were identified, but some minor improvements were suggested.

Draft Waste Chapter

The draft waste chapter was also well received. In general the chapter was viewed as non-threatening as it does not require changes to the way TAs manage waste. No major flaws were identified, but some minor improvements were suggested.

Draft Contaminated Land Chapter

The overwhelming majority of stakeholders considered the proposed approach to contaminated land management in the draft chapter was pragmatic and common sense. Some minor improvements were identified.

Draft Hazardous Substances Chapter

The TAs appeared to be supportive of the proposed delineation of functions for the control of land use in relation to hazardous substances management. It was considered that the proposed approach was common sense.

Federated Farmers were wary of the chapter as it was felt that between HSNO and RMA legislation there is an unacceptable level of bureaucracy in the management of hazardous substances. It was accepted however, that the RPS can not be silent on the issue. Some minor improvements were identified.

Process from Here

Staff intend to consider making changes to the draft chapters in accordance with the feedback received. The chapters will then effectively be 'parked' until mid to late 2009 when it is intended that the whole revised RPS document will be extensively work-shopped with TA staff then at RPC prior to adoption and notification. While the draft chapters are parked, work will proceed on Section 32 analyses and indicator development for the chapters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Regional Planning Committee receives this report.