APPENDIX K

Otago Regional Council Proposed Regional Policy Statement
Objectives and Policies

Relevant objectives and policies in the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Otago

Objective 2.1 The values of Otago's natural and physical resources are recognised, maintained and enhanced.

Policy 2.1.2 Managing for the values of beds of rivers and lakes, wetlands, and their margins
Recognise the values of beds of rivers and lakes, wetlands, and their margins, and manage them to:

a) Protect or restore their natural functioning; and
b) Protect outstanding water bodies and wetlands; and
c) Maintain good water quality, or enhance it where it has been degraded; and
d) Maintain ecosystem health and indigenous biodiversity; and
e) Retain the range and extent of habitats supported; and
f) Maintain or enhance natural character; and
g) Protect Kāi Tahu values; and
h) Provide for other cultural values; and
i) Maintain their aesthetic and amenity values; and
j) Avoid the adverse effects of pest species, prevent their introduction and reduce their spread; and
k) Mitigate the adverse effects of natural hazards, including flooding and erosion; and
l) Maintain bank stability

Policy 2.1.6 Managing for ecosystem and indigenous biodiversity values

Recognise the values of ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, and manage ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, to:

a) Maintain or enhance ecosystem health and indigenous biodiversity; and
b) Maintain or enhance areas of predominantly indigenous vegetation; and
c) Buffer or link existing ecosystems; and
d) Protect important hydrological services, including the services provided by tussock grassland; and
e) Protect natural resources and processes that support indigenous biodiversity; and
f) Maintain habitats of indigenous species that are important for recreational, commercial, cultural or customary purposes; and
g) Protect biodiversity significant to Kāi Tahu; and
h) Avoid the adverse effects of pest species, prevent their introduction and reduce their spread.

Policy 2.1.7 Recognising the values of natural features, landscapes, and seascapes

Recognise the values of natural features, landscapes, seascapes and the coastal environment are derived from the following attributes, as detailed in Schedule 4:

a) Biophysical attributes, including:

i. Natural science factors;
ii. The presence of water;
iii. Vegetation (indigenous and introduced);
iv. The natural darkness of the night sky;

b) Sensory attributes, including:
i. Legibility or expressiveness;
ii. Aesthetic values;
iii. Transient values, including nature's sounds;
iv. Wild or scenic values;

c) Associative attributes, including:
i. Whether the values are shared and recognised;
ii. Cultural and spiritual values for Kāi Tahu;
iii. Historical and heritage associations.

Objective 2.2 Otago's significant and highly valued natural resources are identified, and protected or enhanced to maintain their distinctiveness.

Policy 2.2.1 Identifying areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.

Identify areas and values of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, using the attributes detailed in Schedule 5.

Policy 2.2.2 Managing significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.

Protect and enhance the values of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, by:

a) Avoiding adverse effects on those values which contribute to the area or habitat being significant; and
b) Avoiding significant adverse effects on other values of the area or habitat; and
c) Assessing the significance of adverse effects on those values, as detailed in Schedule 3; and
d) Remediating, when adverse effects cannot be avoided; and
e) Mitigating where adverse effects cannot be avoided or remediated; and
f) Encouraging enhancement of those areas and values.

Policy 2.2.3 Identifying outstanding natural features, landscapes and seascapes. Identify areas and values of outstanding natural features, landscapes and seascapes, using the attributes as detailed in Schedule 4.

Policy 2.2.4 Managing outstanding natural features, landscapes, and seascapes.

Protect, enhance and restore the values of outstanding natural features, landscapes and seascapes, by:

a) Avoiding adverse effects on those values which contribute to the significance of the natural feature, landscape or seascape; and

b) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects on other values; and

c) Assessing the significance of adverse effects on values, as detailed in Schedule 3; and

d) Recognising and providing for positive contributions of existing introduced species to those values; and

e) Controlling the adverse effects of pest species, preventing their introduction and reducing their spread; and

f) Encouraging enhancement of those areas and values

Policy 2.2.5 Identifying special amenity landscapes and highly valued natural features.

Identify areas and values of special amenity landscape or natural features which are highly valued for their contribution to the amenity or quality of the environment, but which are not outstanding, using the attributes detailed in Schedule 4.

Policy 2.2.6 Managing special amenity landscapes and highly valued natural features.

Protect or enhance the values of special amenity landscapes and highly valued natural features, by:

a) Avoiding significant adverse effects on those values which contribute to the special amenity of the landscape or high value of the natural feature; and

b) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects on other values; and

c) Assessing the significance of adverse effects on those values, as detailed in Schedule 3; and

d) Recognising and providing for positive contributions of existing introduced species to those values; and

e) Controlling the adverse effects of pest species, preventing their introduction and reducing their spread; and

f) Encouraging enhancement of those values.

Objective 2.3 Natural resource systems and interdependencies are recognised and sustained

Policy 2.3.1 Applying an integrated management approach among resources.

Apply an integrated approach to the management of Otago's natural and physical resources, to achieve sustainable management, by:

a) Taking into account the impacts of management of one resource on the values of another, or on the environment in general; and

b) Recognising that the form and function of a resource may extend beyond the immediate, or directly adjacent, area of interest.

Policy 2.3.2 Applying an integrated management approach within a resource.

Apply an integrated management approach within a natural and physical resource, to achieve sustainable management, by:

a) Ensuring that resource objectives are complementary across administrative boundaries; and

b) Ensuring that effects of activities on the whole of a resource are considered when that resource is managed by sub-units.

Communities in Otago are resilient, safe and healthy

Objective 3.1 Protection, use and development of natural and physical resources recognises environmental constraints.

Policy 3.1.1 Recognising natural and physical environmental constraints.

Recognise the natural and physical environmental constraints of an area, the effects of those constraints on activities, and the effects of those activities on those constraints, including:

a) The availability of natural resources necessary to sustain the activity; and
b) The ecosystem services the activity is dependent on; and
c) The sensitivity of the natural and physical resources to adverse effects from the proposed activity/land use; and
d) Exposure of the activity to natural and technological hazard risks; and
e) The functional necessity for the activity to be located where there are significant constraints.

Objective 3.2 Risk that natural hazards pose to Otago's communities are minimised.

Policy 3.2.1 Identifying natural hazards.

Identify natural hazards that may adversely affect Otago’s communities, including hazards of low likelihood and high consequence.

Policy 3.2.2 Assessing natural hazard likelihood.

Assess the likelihood of natural hazard events occurring, having regard to a timeframe of no less than 100 years, including by considering:

a) Hazard type and characteristics;
b) Multiple and cascading hazards;
c) Cumulative effects, including from multiple hazards with different risks;
d) Effects of climate change;
e) Using the best available information for calculating likelihood;
f) Exacerbating factors.

Policy 3.2.3 Assessing natural hazard consequence.

Assess the consequences of natural hazard events, including by considering:

a) The nature of activities in the area;
b) Individual and community vulnerability;
c) Impact on individual and community health and safety;
d) Impact on social, cultural and economic wellbeing;
e) Impact on infrastructure and property, including access and services;
f) Risk reduction and hazard mitigation measures;

g) Lifeline utilities, essential and emergency services, and their co-dependence;

h) Implications for civil defence agencies and emergency services;

i) Cumulative effects;

j) Factors that may exacerbate a hazard event

Policy 3.2.4 Managing natural hazard risk.

Manage natural hazard risk, including with regard to:

a) The risk they pose, considering the likelihood and consequences of natural hazard events; and

b) The implications of residual risk, including the risk remaining after implementing or undertaking risk reduction and hazard mitigation measures; and

c) The community's tolerance of that risk, now and in the future, including the community's ability and willingness to prepare for and adapt to that risk, and respond to an event; and

d) The changing nature of tolerability and risk; and

e) Sensitivity of activities to risk.

Policy 3.2.5 Assessing activities for natural hazard risk

Assess activities for natural hazard risk, by considering:

a) The natural hazard risk identified, including residual risk; and

b) Any measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate those risks, including relocation and recovery methods; and

c) The long term viability and affordability of those measures; and

d) Flow-on effects of the risk to other activities, individuals and communities; and

e) The availability of, and ability to provide, lifeline utilities, and essential and emergency services, during and after a natural hazard event.

Policy 3.2.6 Avoiding increased natural hazard risk

Avoid increasing natural hazard risk, including by:

a) Avoiding activities that significantly increase risk, including displacement of risk off-site; and

b) Encouraging design that facilitates:

   i. Recovery from natural hazard events; or

   ii. Relocation to areas of lower risk.

Policy 3.2.7 Reducing existing natural hazard risk.

Reduce existing natural hazard risk, including by:

a) Encouraging activities that:

   i. Reduce risk; or

   ii. Reduce community vulnerability; and

b) Discouraging activities that:

i. Increase risk; or
ii. Increase community vulnerability; and

c) Considering the use of exit strategies for areas of significant risk; and

d) Encouraging design that facilitates:

i. Recovery from natural hazard events or
ii. Relocation to areas of lower risk; and

e) Relocating lifeline utilities, and facilities for essential and emergency service, to areas of reduced risk, where appropriate and practicable; and

f) Enabling development, upgrade, maintenance and operation of lifeline utilities and facilities for essential and emergency services; and

g) Re-assessing natural hazard risk, and community tolerance of that risk, following significant natural hazard events.

Policy 3.2.9 Protecting features and systems that provide hazard mitigation.
Protect, restore, enhance and promote the use of natural or modified features and systems, which contribute to mitigating the effects of both natural hazards and climate change.

Objective 3.4 Good quality infrastructure and services meet community needs

Policy 3.4.1 Integrating infrastructure with land use.

Achieve the strategic integration of infrastructure with land use, by:

a) Recognising functional needs of infrastructure of regional or national importance; and

b) Designing infrastructure to take into account:

i. Actual and reasonably foreseeable land use change; and
ii. The current population and projected demographic changes; and
iii. Actual and reasonably foreseeable change in supply of, and demand for, infrastructure services; and
iv. Natural and physical resource constraints; and
v. Effects on the values of natural and physical resources; and
vi. Co-dependence with other infrastructural services; and
vii. The effects of climate change on the long term viability of that infrastructure; and

c) Managing urban growth:

i. Within areas that have sufficient infrastructure capacity; or
ii. Where infrastructure services can be upgraded or extended efficiently and effectively; and

d) Co-ordinating the design and development of infrastructure with the staging of land use change, including with:

i. Structural design and release of land for new urban development; or
ii. Structural redesign and redevelopment within existing urban areas.

Policy 3.4.2 Managing infrastructure activities.

Manage infrastructure activities, to:

a) Maintain or enhance the health and safety of the community; and

b) Reduce adverse effects of those activities, including cumulative adverse effects on natural and physical resources; and

c) Support economic, social and community activities; and

d) Improve efficiency of use of natural resources; and

e) Protect infrastructure corridors for infrastructure needs, now and for the future; and

f) Increase the ability of communities to respond and adapt to emergencies, and disruptive or natural hazard events; and

g) Protect the functioning of lifeline utilities and essential or emergency services.

Objective 3.7 Urban areas are well designed, sustainable and reflect local character

Policy 3.7.1 Using the principles of good urban design.

Encourage the use of good urban design principles in subdivision and development in urban areas, as detailed in Schedule 6, to:

a) Provide a resilient, safe and healthy community, including through use of crime prevention through environmental design principles; and

b) Ensure that the built form relates well to its natural environment, including by:

    i. Reflecting natural features such as rivers, lakes, wetlands and topography; and

    ii. ii. Providing for ecological corridors in urban areas; and

    iii. Protecting areas of indigenous biodiversity and habitat for indigenous fauna; and

    iv. Encouraging use of low impact design techniques; and

    v. Encouraging construction of warmer buildings; and

c) Reduce risk from natural hazards, including by avoiding areas of significant risk; and

d) Ensure good access and connectivity within and between communities; and

e) Create a sense of identity, including by recognising features of heritage and cultural importance; and

f) Create areas where people can live, work and play, including by:

    i. Enabling a diverse range of housing, commercial, industrial and service activities; and

    ii. Enabling a diverse range of social and cultural opportunities.

Policy 3.7.2 Encouraging use of low impact design techniques.

Encourage the use of low impact design techniques in subdivision and development, to:

a) Reduce potential adverse environmental effects, including on water and air quality; or

b) Mitigate the effects of natural hazards and climate change; or

c) Enhance amenity; or

d) Enhance habitat for indigenous species and biodiversity values.

Objective 3.8 Urban growth is well designed and integrates effectively with adjoining urban and rural environments

Policy 3.8.1 Managing for urban growth

Manage urban growth and creation of new urban land in a strategic and co-ordinated way, by:

a) Ensuring there is sufficient residential, commercial and industrial land capacity, to cater for demand for such land, projected over at least the next 10 years; and

b) Co-ordinating urban growth and extension of urban areas with relevant infrastructure development programmes, to:

   i. Provide infrastructure in an efficient and effective way; and

   ii. Avoid additional costs that arise from unplanned infrastructure expansion; and

c) Identifying future growth areas that:

   i. Minimise adverse effects on rural productivity, including loss of highly valued soils or creating competing urban demand for water and other resources; and

   ii. Maintain or enhance significant biodiversity, landscape or natural character values; and

   iii. Maintain important cultural or heritage values; and

   iv. Avoid land with significant risk from natural hazards; and

d) Considering the need for urban growth boundaries to control urban expansion; and

e) Ensuring efficient use of land; and

f) Requiring the use of low or no-emission heating systems in buildings, when ambient air quality in or near the growth area is:

   i. Below standards for human health; or

   ii. Vulnerable to degradation given the local climatic and geographical context; and

g) Giving effect to the principles of good urban design, as detailed in Schedule 6; and

h) Giving effect to the principles of crime prevention through environmental design.

Policy 3.8.2 Controlling growth where there are identified urban growth boundaries or future urban development areas.

Where urban growth boundaries, as detailed in Schedule 8, or future urban development areas, are needed to control urban expansion, control the release of land within those boundaries or areas, by:

a) Staging development, using identified triggers to release new stages for development; or

b) Releasing land in a way that ensures a logical spatial development, and efficient use of existing land and infrastructure before new land is released; and

c) Avoiding urban development beyond the urban growth boundary or future urban development area.

People are able to use and enjoy Otago's natural and built environment.

Objective 4.4 Otago's communities can make the most of the natural and built resources available for use

Policy 4.4.3 Encouraging environmental enhancement.

Encourage activities which contribute to enhancing the natural environment, including to:

a) Improve water quality; or

b) Protect or restore habitat for indigenous species; or

c) Regenerate indigenous species; or

d) Mitigate natural hazards; or

e) Restore the natural character of wetlands; or

f) Improve the health and resilience of:

i. Ecosystems supporting indigenous biodiversity; or

ii. Important ecosystem services, including pollination; or

g) Improve access to rivers, lakes, wetlands and their margins; or

h) Buffer or link ecosystems, habitats and areas of significance that contribute to ecological corridors; or

i) Control pest species.

Objective 4.5 Adverse effects of using and enjoying Otago's natural and built environment are minimised

Policy 4.5.7 Enabling offsetting of indigenous biodiversity.

Enable offsetting of adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values, only when:

a) The activities causing those effects have a functional necessity to locate in significant or outstanding areas; and

b) Those effects cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated; and

c) Those effects do not result in the loss of irreplaceable or vulnerable biodiversity.

Policy 4.5.8 Offsetting for indigenous biodiversity.

Provide for offsetting for indigenous biodiversity, when it is enabled, by ensuring that:

a) The offset achieves no net loss and preferably a net gain in indigenous biodiversity values; and

b) The offset is undertaken close to the location of development, where this will result in the best ecological outcome; and

c) The ecological values being achieved are the same or similar to those being lost; and

d) The positive ecological outcomes of the offset last at least as long as the impact of the activity, if practicable.