



## REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT (RPS)

*The RPS sets the environmental, cultural and economic priorities for Southland's future.*

City, district and regional plans must "give effect to", or implement, the vision in the RPS.

As Councils, working together in an integrated manner is essential to strengthen the region's communities, economy and environment for now and for the future.



# BIODIVERSITY

Environment Southland 0800 768 845



Southland is rich in native plants, animals and their eco-systems.

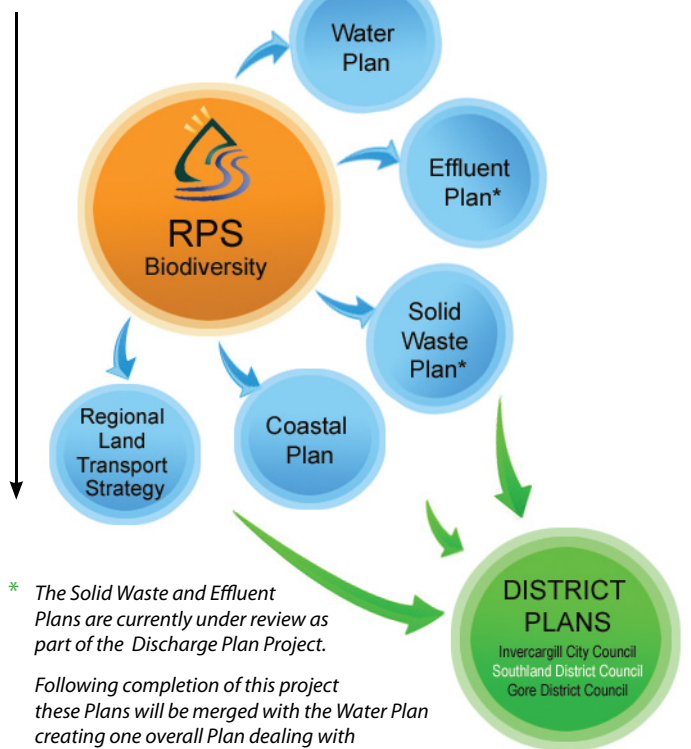
The biodiversity of the province provides economic and environmental benefits and the need to protect and enhance this is essential.

## Issues

*Some of the critical issues facing Southland's biodiversity are:*

- Vegetation clearance and wetland drainage on significant wildlife habitat.
- Predation by pest animals and displacement by pest plants.
- Waterway pollution threatening habitat.
- Diverting waterways.
- Growth of oil, lignite and forestry industries.
- Tourists and tourist facilities.
- Lack of baseline information.

## Implementation of RPS



## Options

*The following are possible approaches to address Southland's biodiversity issues:*

- Endorse community actions by promoting Biodiversity Southland's biodiversity strategy.
- Develop a combined agency Land Plan.
- Adopt national biodiversity principles.
- Develop regional criteria for biodiversity protection.
- Regulate consent conditions.
- Enhance awareness through environmental education.

## What do you think?

*What are the biggest threats to Southland's indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna?*

*What is your vision for biodiversity in Southland?*

*Which options do you believe will best address the identified concerns?*

*Can you think of other ways to deal with these issues?*





## DISTRICT PLAN

The Southland District Plan is the primary document that manages land use and development within the Southland District. The Plan is required to give effect to the Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

*Southland District is home to many important native plant and animal species and habitats. Many remaining areas of native tussock grassland, indigenous forest and wetland are under pressure from land use change and development.*



# BIODIVERSITY

Southland District Council 0800 732 732

## Issues

*Some of the biodiversity issues relevant to the District Plan review are:*

- Areas of significant wetlands and tussock grasslands do not have the same level of protection as native forests in the existing Plan.
- The use of existing Plan rules relating to the modification of indigenous vegetation have been problematic.
- Changes in land use patterns and intensification of existing land use is placing pressure on remaining areas of indigenous flora and fauna, with the Waituna area being one example.
- There is a lack of information about significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of flora and fauna located on private land in the District.
- Management of native vegetation in Maori ownership needs to be appropriately provided for.



## Options

*Several options have been identified to address these issues, including:*

- Continued regulatory approach to significant vegetation removal with refinement of existing District Plan rule.
- Research and information gathering.
- Non-regulatory approaches to preservation of significant natural areas, rates relief, use of covenants, purchase of land for reserves.
- Education and provision of information and guidelines.
- Support for landcare and other similar community groups.

## What do you think?

*Should specific priority be given to protecting areas under significant development pressure, such as the Waituna area?*

*How should Council engage with private land owners about protecting indigenous vegetation on their properties?*



## Comments & Feedback

*Please send your comments and feedback via email by 31 July 2009 to [service@es.govt.nz](mailto:service@es.govt.nz) or in hard copy to:*

*Environment Southland  
Private Bag 90116, Invercargill 9840.*

*Further information: [www.es.govt.nz](http://www.es.govt.nz) and [www.southlanddc.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz) or by phoning either council.*