



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.



ENERGY RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Environment Southland 0800 768 845

Southland has significant potential for future development in energy resources, as it has large deposits of lignite and coal and also the possibility of oil in the Great South Basin.

The province already has one wind farm and there is the prospect of two more. However, there is also more demand for energy and infrastructure development.

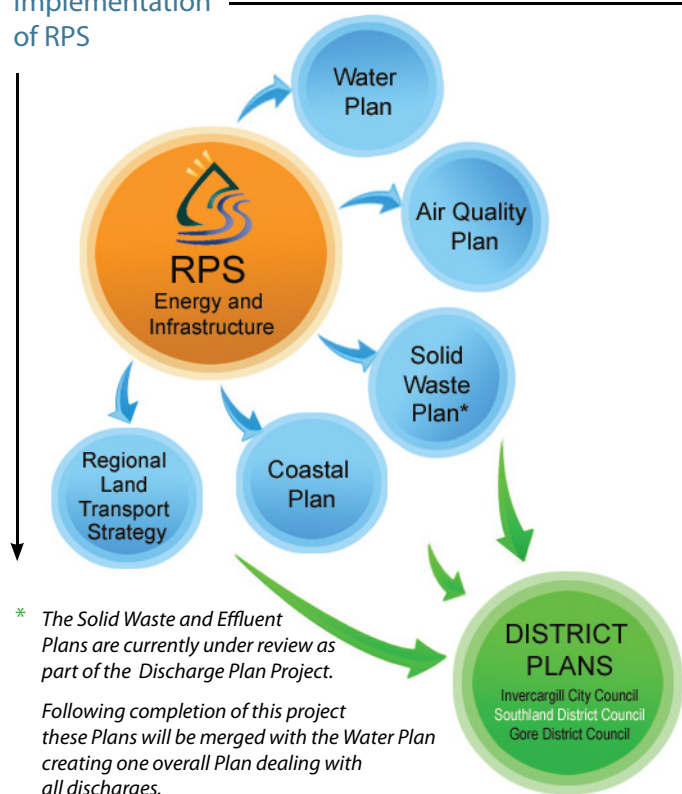
The need for energy efficiency and the sustainable extraction of resources and development of infrastructure needs to be managed.

Issues

Some of the critical issues facing Southland's energy resources and infrastructure are:

- Limited supply of energy resources.
- Lack of efficient and alternative energy technologies.
- Lack of fossil fuel alternatives.
- Lack of awareness about energy efficiency and conservation.
- Need to 'give effect' to recent changes in national policy.
- Effects of greenhouse gas emissions on the environment.
- Need for better electricity infrastructure.

Implementation of RPS



Options

The following are possible approaches to address Southland's energy resources and infrastructure issues:

- Consider the National Energy Strategy 'Powering Our Future'.
- Develop a regional energy strategy.
- Apply RMA amendments for issues including the use and development of renewable energy.
- Form relationships with the energy sector to advance Southland's energy aims.
- Raise awareness about energy efficiency and conservation.
- Promote the need for central government to "import" and "export" energy from Southland.
- Improve and speed up the process for development of new energy resources.

What do you think?

What do you think about Southland's vast lignite resources? Should the region promote their development for energy use?

Given limitations on electricity transmission, should Environment Southland develop an integrated energy plan that would provide security of supply and business opportunities?

Should the Regional Policy Statement support and promote energy conservation and efficiency in Southland?





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).

It is estimated that 72% of New Zealand's recoverable coal resource is located in Southland. Mineral extraction activity in the district is expected to increase in the future.



▶▶▶ ENERGY RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Southland District Council 0800 732 732

Issues

The issues relevant to energy and infrastructure and the review of the District Plan are:

- Potential for future development of energy resources in the Southland District.
- The environmental effects of new energy developments.
- Encouraging energy efficiency and energy-efficient technologies.
- The benefits of the use and development of renewable energy.
- Maintenance and enhancement of existing infrastructure.
- The need to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.



Options

Options for addressing these issues:

- Potentially, greater facilitation by Council of energy initiatives, such as energy efficiency programmes.
- Providing funding to assist with energy programmes.
- Investing in energy projects.
- Advocating Southland's energy needs to Central Government.
- Investigating alternative means of energy supply.
- Recognising advantages in the upgrading of existing energy facilities in certain circumstances.

What do you think?

How could Council be involved in energy efficiency initiatives?

How should the District Plan recognise the benefits of using and developing renewable sources of energy?



Comments & Feedback

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

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