



NATURAL HAZARDS - Summary of Community Feedback

Issues

- Concern about development on and of land prone to natural hazards.
- More consistency between Environment Southland and Southland District Council was requested, along with consistency in decision making over time.
- Private property rights balanced by Council responsibility/obligations. Personal responsibility needs to be balanced with the education and protection of individuals and organisations from lack of knowledge.
- Education for new residents in historically flood prone areas needed, with access to natural hazard information, in particular flooding and coastal issues important.
- More direction needed on how communities are expected to become more resilient.
- Recognition needed of the importance of lifeline infrastructure.

Options

- Support for focused land use controls for flood prone land, with some wanting a stronger regulatory stance and others preferring a non-regulatory approach.
- Support for a regulatory stance on activities that may increase the likelihood of natural hazard risk.
- Support for providing emergency work provisions, especially for lifeline infrastructure.
- Support for hazard mapping, accessible databases and for hazard information continuing to be put on Land Information Memorandum reports.

Councils' Commentary

Environment Southland and the Southland District Council both recognise the importance of each agency in the region's response to natural hazards.

Both councils consider a combination of both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to address the issue of natural hazards.

Ongoing development of interagency processes is proposed to ensure all information is used when considering development proposals.

Councils should continue to create hazard maps which are available to the public. Councils will also revisit and refine existing hazard information.

An ongoing education programme is also proposed to increase public awareness of natural hazards.

