



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.



TRANSPORTATION

Environment Southland 0800 768 845



The roading network in Southland is a vital link for many of the province's small communities and also for the businesses spread across the region.

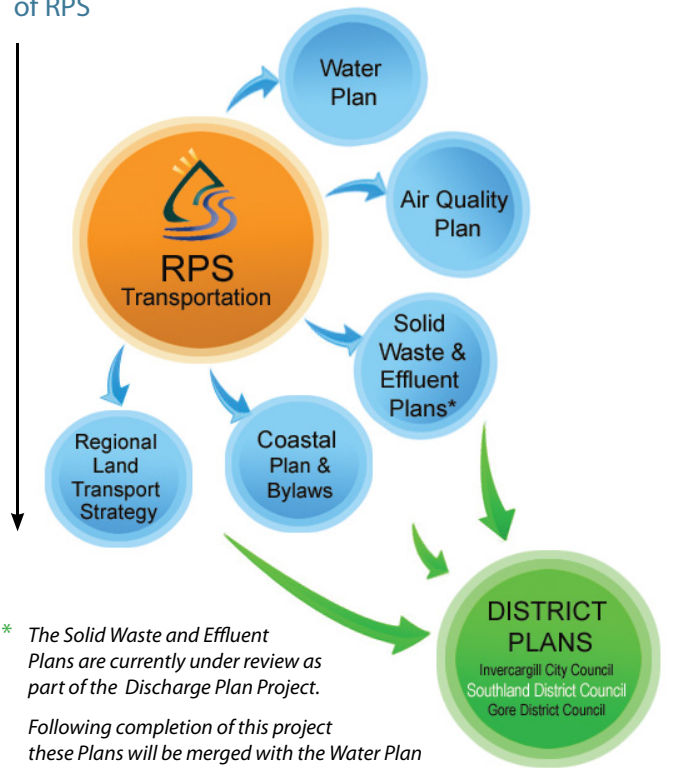
There are also key air and ferry services to communities such as Milford Sound and Stewart Island. Therefore integrating land use with the transportation network to minimise the adverse effects on the environment needs to be taken into account.

Issues

These are some of the transportation issues facing Southland:

- An inefficient transportation system.
- Growth in rural/residential development.
- Increasing levels of tourism and effect on traffic.
- Road crashes.
- New transport options including roads, monorails and tunnels.
- Cruise ship increases.
- Insufficient promotion of walking and cycling.
- Inefficient and limited public transport.
- Lack of environmentally friendly transport options.
- Roading needs of expanding industries.
- Maintain and improve inter-regional transport.

Implementation of RPS



* The Solid Waste and Effluent Plans are currently under review as part of the Discharge Plan Project.

Following completion of this project these Plans will be merged with the Water Plan creating one overall Plan dealing with all discharges.

Options

There are several possible approaches for the Regional Policy Statement to address the region's transportation issues:

- Set clear and strategic targets.
- Accommodate changing community needs.
- Incorporate walking, cycling and public transport mode options.
- Integrated transport and land use planning.
- Use national targets to direct regional policy.

What do you think?

What is your ideal vision for Southland's transport system?

What areas would you like to see prioritised—reduced emissions, cleaner-burning vehicles, safer modes of travel, public transport?

How important is it to provide strategic management of regional transport systems and urban design principles? Should intensification of development be encouraged to enable better public transport services and more walking and cycling options?

How might Southland's councils work together to ensure that the transport system is more integrated between modes, land use, and urban design/planning?





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).

The Southland District has nearly 5000km of roads, the biggest network for any local authority in New Zealand.



TRANSPORTATION

Southland District Council 0800 732 732

Issues

Transportation issues that need to be addressed in the District Plan review include:

- Southland's dependence on an efficient roading network.
- Importance of sea and air transport links to Stewart Island.
- The potential economic and social costs and benefits of any new link between Queenstown and Milford Sound.
- Transportation issues associated with residential 'lifestyle' block development.
- Increased pressure on roads from rural landuse changes.
- The potential for greater pedestrian and cycle traffic.
- The potential for greater use of the existing rail network.



Options

Options for addressing some of these issues include:

- Encouraging new developments to incorporate alternative transportation links such as cycleways and walking tracks.
- Requiring an appropriate level of financial contributions for roading where costs arise from land use change.
- Consolidating residential development in existing urban areas to minimise unnecessary traffic.

What do you think?

Should rural land use change require resource consent so that appropriate financial contributions for roading are obtained?

Should Council encourage the use and development of alternative modes of transport where feasible for example rail, cycling and walking?

Should Council investigate the development of public transport services in the district?



Comments & Feedback

Please send your comments and feedback via email by 31 July 2009 to service@es.govt.nz or in hard copy to: Environment Southland, Private Bag 90116, Invercargill 9840.

Further information is available from both Council's websites: www.es.govt.nz and www.southlanddc.govt.nz or by phoning either council.