

National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011

The NPS-REG provides for the for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities, such that the proportion of New Zealand's electricity generated from renewable energy sources increases to a level that meets or exceeds the New Zealand Government's national target for renewable electricity generation.

Of particular relevance to this proposal, the policies seek that decision-makers recognise the benefits of renewable electricity generation including increasing electricity generation capacity while avoiding, reducing or displacing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing local supplies through diversification of type and location of generation. The policies also seek that regard is had to meeting or exceeding the New Zealand Government's national target for the generation of electricity from renewable resources.

There is also clear direction to have 'particular regard' to the need to locate renewable electricity generation facilities where the renewable energy resource is available, and the location of the existing distribution network with regard to connecting to the national grid. The NPS-REG also enables the use of offsetting measures or environmental compensation to address residual environmental effects of establishing the renewable electricity facility.

The policies also clearly set out matters that district councils must address objectives, policies and methods including:

- providing for the development, operation, maintenance, and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities using solar, biomass, tidal, wave and ocean current energy resources to the extent applicable to the region or district.
- Providing for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of small and community-scale distributed renewable electricity generation from any renewable energy source to the extent applicable to the region or district.

Small and community-scale distributed electricity generation means renewable electricity generation for the purpose of using electricity on a particular site, or supplying an immediate community, or connecting into the distribution network.

Canterbury Regional Policy Statement

Relevant objectives and policies

Chapter 5 – Land Use and Infrastructure

Objective 5.2.2 Integration of land-use and regionally significant infrastructure (Wider Region)

In relation to the integration of land use and regionally significant infrastructure:

1. To recognise the benefits of enabling people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and health and safety and to provide for infrastructure that is regionally significant to the extent that it promotes sustainable management in accordance with the RMA.
2. To achieve patterns and sequencing of land-use with regionally significant infrastructure in the wider region so that:
 - (a) development does not result in adverse effects on the operation, use and development of regionally significant infrastructure.
 - (b) adverse effects resulting from the development or operation of regionally significant infrastructure are avoided, remedied or mitigated as fully as practicable.
 - (c) there is increased sustainability, efficiency and liveability.

Policy 5.3.2 Development conditions (Wider Region)

To enable development including regionally significant infrastructure which:

1. ensure that adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated, including where these would compromise or foreclose:
 - (a) existing or consented regionally significant infrastructure;
 - (b) options for accommodating the consolidated growth and development of existing urban areas;
 - (c) the productivity of the region's soil resources, without regard to the need to make appropriate use of soil which is valued for existing or foreseeable future primary production, or through further fragmentation of rural land;
 - (d) the protection of sources of water for community supplies;
 - (e) significant natural and physical resources;
2. avoid or mitigate:
 - (a) natural and other hazards, or land uses that would likely result in increases in the frequency and/or severity of hazards;
 - (b) reverse sensitivity effects and conflicts between incompatible activities, including identified mineral extraction areas; and
3. integrate with:
 - (a) the efficient and effective provision, maintenance or upgrade of infrastructure; and
 - (b) transport networks, connections and modes so as to provide for the sustainable and efficient movement of people, goods and services, and a logical, permeable and safe transport system.

5.3.9 Regionally significant infrastructure (Wider Region)

In relation to regionally significant infrastructure (including transport hubs):

1. avoid development which constrains the ability of this infrastructure to be developed and used without time or other operational constraints that may arise from adverse effects relating to reverse sensitivity or safety;
2. provide for the continuation of existing infrastructure, including its maintenance and operation, without prejudice to any future decision that may be required for the ongoing operation or expansion of that infrastructure; and
3. provide for the expansion of existing infrastructure and development of new infrastructure, while:
 - (a) recognising the logistical, technical or operational constraints of this infrastructure and any need to locate activities where a natural or physical resource base exists;
 - (b) avoiding any adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources and cultural values and where this is not practicable, remedying or mitigating them, and appropriately controlling other adverse effects on the environment; and
 - (c) when determining any proposal within a sensitive environment (including any environment the subject of section 6 of the RMA), requiring that alternative sites, routes, methods and design of all components and associated structures are considered so that the proposal satisfies sections 5(2)(a) – (c) as fully as is practicable.

5.3.12 Rural production (Wider Region)

Maintain and enhance natural and physical resources contributing to Canterbury's overall rural productive economy in areas which are valued for existing or foreseeable future primary production, by:

1. avoiding development, and/or fragmentation which:
 - a. forecloses the ability to make appropriate use of that land for primary production; and/or
 - b. results in reverse sensitivity effects that limit or precludes primary production.
2. enabling tourism, employment and recreational development in rural areas, provided that it:
 - a. is consistent and compatible with rural character, activities, and an open rural environment;
 - b. has a direct relationship with or is dependent upon rural activities, rural resources or raw material inputs sourced from within the rural area;
 - c. is not likely to result in proliferation of employment (including that associated with industrial activities) that is not linked to activities or raw material inputs sourced from within the rural areas; and
 - d. is of a scale that would not compromise the primary focus for accommodating growth in consolidate, well designed and more sustainable development patterns. and;
3. ensuring that rural land use intensification does not contributed to significant cumulative adverse effects on water quality and quantity.

Chapter 9 - Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

Objective 9.2.1 Halting the decline of Canterbury's ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity.

The decline in the quality and quantity of Canterbury's ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity is halted and their life-supporting capacity and mauri safeguarded.

9.2.2 Restoration or enhancement of ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity.

Restoration or enhancement of ecosystem functioning and indigenous biodiversity, in appropriate locations, particularly where it can contribute to Canterbury's distinctive natural character and identity and to the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of its people and communities.

9.2.3 Protection of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats

Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna are identified and their values and ecosystem functions protected.

9.3 Policies

9.3.1 Protecting significant natural areas

1. Significance, with respect to ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, will be determined by assessing areas and habitats against the following matters:

- a. Representativeness
- b. Rarity or distinctive features
- c. Diversity and pattern
- d. Ecological context

The assessment of each matter will be made using the criteria listed in Appendix 3.

2. Areas or habitats are considered to be significant if they meet one or more of the criteria in Appendix 3.
3. Areas identified as significant will be protected to ensure no net loss of indigenous biodiversity or indigenous biodiversity values as a result of land use activities

Chapter 12 - Landscapes

12.2 OBJECTIVES

12.2.2 Identification and management of other landscapes

The identification and management of other important landscapes that are not outstanding natural landscapes. Other important landscapes may include:

1. natural character
2. amenity
3. historic and cultural heritage

12.3 POLICIES

12.3.3 Identification and management of other important landscapes

Identifying and managing other important landscapes that are not outstanding natural landscapes, for natural character, historic cultural, historic heritage and amenity purposes

Chapter 15 – Soils

15.2.1 Maintenance of soil quality

Maintenance and improvement of the quality of Canterbury's soil to safeguard their mauri, their life supporting capacity, their health and their productive capacity.

Policies

15.3.1 Avoid remedy or mitigate soil degradation

In relation to soil:

1. to ensure that land-uses and land management practices avoid significant long-term adverse effects on soil quality, and to remedy or mitigate significant soil degradation where it has occurred, or is occurring; and
2. to promote land-use practices that maintain and improve soil quality

Chapter 16: Energy

The definition of 'regionally significant infrastructure' in the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS) includes:

6. National, regional and local renewable electricity generation activities of any scale.
7. The electricity transmission network.
14. Electricity distribution network.

Renewable electricity generation is defined as 'The generation of electricity from solar, wind, hydroelectricity, geothermal, biomass, tidal, wave, or ocean current energy sources.'

Renewable electricity generation activities are defined as 'The construction, operation and maintenance of structures associated with renewable electricity generation. This includes small and community-scale distributed generation activities, the system of electricity conveyance required to convey electricity to the distribution network and/or the national grid, and electricity storage technologies associated with renewable electricity.'

Objective 16.2.2 Promote a diverse and secure supply of energy

Reliable and resilient generation and supply of energy for the region, and wider contributions beyond Canterbury, with a particular emphasis on renewable energy, which:

1. provides for the appropriate use of the region's renewable resources to generate energy;
2. reduces dependency on fossil fuels;
3. improves the efficient end-use of energy;
4. minimises transmission losses;
5. is diverse in the location, type and scale of renewable energy development;
6. recognises the locational constraints in the development of renewable electricity generation activities; and
 - (a) avoids any adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources and cultural values or where this is not practicable, remedies or mitigates; and
 - (b) appropriately controls other adverse effects on the environment.

Policy 16.3.3 Benefits of renewable energy generation facilities

To recognise and provide for the local, regional and national benefits when considering proposed or existing renewable energy generation facilities, having particular regard to the following:

1. maintaining or increasing electricity generation capacity while avoiding, reducing or displacing greenhouse gas emissions;
2. maintaining or increasing the security of supply at local and regional levels, and also wider contributions beyond Canterbury; by diversifying the type and/or location of electricity generation;
3. using renewable natural resources rather than finite resources;
4. the reversibility of the adverse effects on the environment of some renewable electricity generation facilities;
5. avoiding reliance on imported fuels for the purposes of generating electricity; and
6. assisting in meeting international climate obligations.

Policy 16.3.5 — Efficient, reliable and resilient electricity generation within Canterbury

To recognise and provide for efficient, reliable and resilient electricity generation within Canterbury by:

1. avoiding subdivision, use and development which limits the generation capacity from existing or consented electricity generation infrastructure to be used, upgraded or maintained;
2. enabling the upgrade of existing, or development of new electricity generation infrastructure, with a particular emphasis on encouraging the operation, maintenance and upgrade of renewable electricity generation activities and associated infrastructure:
 - (a) having particular regard to the locational, functional, operational or technical constraints that result in renewable electricity generation activities being located or designed in the manner proposed;
 - (b) provided that, as a result of site, design and method selection:
 - (i) the adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources or cultural values are avoided, or where this is not practicable remedied, mitigated or offset; and
 - (ii) other adverse effects on the environment are appropriately controlled.
3. providing for activities associated with the investigation, identification and assessment of potential sites and energy sources for renewable electricity generation;
4. maintaining the generation output and enabling the maximum electricity supply benefit to be obtained from the existing electricity generation facilities within Canterbury, where this can be achieved without resulting in additional significant adverse effects on the environment which are not fully offset or compensated.

Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

Section 3 Objectives

- 3.1 Land and water are managed as integrated natural resources to recognise and enable Ngāi Tahu culture, traditions, customary uses and relationships with land and water.
- 3.2 Water management applies the ethic of ki uta ki tai – from the mountains to the sea – and land and water are managed as integrated natural resources recognising the connectivity between surface water and groundwater, and between fresh water, land and the coast.
- 3.3 Nationally and regionally significant infrastructure is enabled and is resilient and positively contributes to economic, cultural and social wellbeing through its efficient and effective operation, on-going maintenance, repair, development and upgrading.
- 3.5 Land uses continue to develop and change in response to socio-economic and community demand.
- 3.8 The quality and quantity of water in fresh water bodies and their catchments is managed to safeguard the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems and ecosystem processes, including ensuring sufficient flow and quality of water to support the habitat and feeding, breeding, migratory and other behavioural requirements of indigenous species, nesting birds and, where appropriate, trout and salmon.
- 3.8A High quality fresh water is available to meet actual and reasonably foreseeable needs for community drinking water supplies.
- 3.11 Water is recognised as an enabler of the economic and social wellbeing of the region.
Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan
- 3.12 When setting and managing within limits, regard is had to community outcomes for water quality and quantity.
- 3.13 Groundwater resources remain a sustainable source of high quality water which is available for abstraction while supporting base flows or levels in surface water bodies, springs and wetlands and avoiding salt-water intrusion.
- 3.23 Soils are healthy and productive, and human-induced erosion and contamination are minimised.
- 3.24 All activities operate at good environmental practice or better to optimise efficient resource use and protect the region's fresh water resources from quality and quantity degradation.

Strategic Policies

- 4.1 Lakes, rivers, wetlands and aquifers will meet the fresh water outcomes set in Sections 6 to 15 within the specified timeframes. If outcomes have not been established for a catchment, then each type of lake, river or aquifer should meet the outcomes set out in Table 1 by 2030.
- 4.2 The management of lakes, rivers, wetlands and aquifers will take account of the fresh water outcomes, water quantity limits and the individual and cumulative effects of land uses, discharges and abstractions will meet the water quality limits set in Sections 6 to 15 or Schedule 8 and the individual and cumulative effects of abstractions will meet the water quantity limits in Sections 6 to 15.
- 4.5 Water is managed through the setting of limits to safeguard the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems, support customary uses, and provide for community drinking-water supplies and stock water, as a first priority and to meet the needs of people and communities for water for

irrigation, hydro-electricity generation and other economic activities and to maintain river flows and lake levels needed for recreational activities, as a second priority.

4.7 Resource consents for new or existing activities will not be granted if the granting would cause a water quality or quantity limit set in Sections 6 to 15 to be breached or further over allocation (water quality and/or water quantity) to occur or in the absence of any water quality standards in Sections 6 to 15, the limits set in Schedule 8 to be breached. Replacement consents, or new consents for existing activities may be granted to:

- (a) allow the continuation of existing activities at the same or lesser rate or scale, provided the consent contains conditions that contribute to the phasing out of the over allocation (water quality and/or water quantity) within a specified timeframe; or
- (b) exceed the allocation limit (water quality and/or water quantity) to a minor extent and in the short-term if that exceedance is part of a proposal to phase out the overallocation within a specified timeframe included in Sections 6 to 15 of this Plan.

Activity and Resource Policies

Discharges of Contaminants to land or water

4.13 For other discharges of contaminants into or onto land where it may enter water or to surface water bodies or groundwater (excluding those passive discharges to which Policy 4.26 applies), the effects of any discharge are minimised by the use of measures that:

- (a) first, avoid the production of the contaminant;
- (b) secondly, reuse, recovers or recycles the contaminant;
- (c) thirdly, minimise the volume or amount of the discharge; or
- (d) finally, wherever practical utilise land-based treatment, a wetland constructed to treat contaminants or a designed treatment system prior to discharge; and
- (e) in the case of surface water, results in a discharge that after reasonable mixing meets the receiving water standards in Schedule 5 or does not result in any further degradation in water quality in any receiving surface waterbody that does not meet the water quality standards in Schedule 5 or any applicable water conservation order.

4.14 Any discharge of a contaminant into or onto land where it may enter groundwater (excluding those passive discharges to which Policy 4.26 applies):

- (a) will not exceed the natural capacity of the soil to treat or remove the contaminant; and
- (b) will not exceed available water storage capacity of the soil; and
- (c) where meeting (a) and (b) is not practicable, the discharge will:
 - (i) meet any nutrient limits in Schedule 8 or Sections 6 to 15 of this Plan; and
 - (ii) utilise the best practicable option to ensure the size of any contaminant plume is as small as is reasonably practicable; and
 - (iia) ensure there is sufficient distance between the point of discharge, any other discharge and drinking-water supplies to allow for the natural decay or attenuation of pathogenic micro-organisms in the contaminant plume; and
 - (iii) not result in the accumulation of pathogens, or a persistent or toxic contaminant that would render the land unsuitable for agriculture, commercial, domestic, cultural or recreational use or water unsuitable as a source of potable water or for agriculture; and
 - (iv) not raise groundwater levels so that land drainage is impeded.

- 4.14B Have regard to Ngāi Tahu values, and in particular those expressed within an iwi management plan, when considering applications for discharges which may adversely affect statutory acknowledgement areas, nohoanga sites, surface waterbodies, silent file areas, culturally significant sites, Heritage New Zealand sites, any listed archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes, identified in this Plan, any relevant district plan, or in any iwi management plan.

Stormwater and community wastewater systems

- 4.17 Stormwater run-off volumes and peak flows are managed so that they do not cause or exacerbate the risk of inundation, erosion or damage to property or infrastructure downstream or risks to human safety.

Earthworks, land excavation and deposition of material into land over aquifers

- 4.18 The loss or discharge of sediment or sediment-laden water and other contaminants to surface water from earthworks, including roading, works in the bed of a river or lake, land development or construction, is avoided, and if this is not achievable, the best practicable option is used to minimise the loss or discharge to water.
- 4.19 The discharge of contaminants to groundwater from earthworks, excavation, waste collection or disposal sites and contaminated land is avoided or minimised by ensuring that:
- (a) activities are sited, designed and managed to avoid the contamination of groundwater;
 - (b) existing or closed landfills and contaminated land are managed and monitored where appropriate to minimise any contamination of groundwater; and
 - (c) there is sufficient thickness of undisturbed sediment in the confining layer over the Coastal Confined Aquifer System to prevent the entry of contaminants into the aquifer or an upward hydraulic gradient is present which would prevent aquifer contamination.
- 4.22 Sedimentation of water bodies as a result of land clearance, earthworks and cultivation is avoided or minimised by the adoption of control methods and technologies, such as maintaining continuous vegetation cover adjacent to water bodies, or capturing surface run-off to remove sediment and other contaminants or by methods such as direct drilling crops and cultivation that follows the contours of a paddock.

OPERATIVE SELWYN DISTRICT PLAN

NATURAL RESOURCES

LAND AND SOIL — OBJECTIVES

Objective B1.1.1

Adverse effects of activities on the District's land and soil resources are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Objective B1.1.2

People and their property are not affected by contaminated soil or unstable land and any adverse effects on the environment are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Objective B1.1.3

Promote the sustainable management of the soil resources of the District.

SOIL DAMAGE

Policy B1.1.6

Encourage initiatives by Environment Canterbury and landowners to reduce the adverse effects of activities on soil structure and soil erosion.

VEGETATION AND ECOSYSTEMS — OBJECTIVES

Objectives B1.2.1

Significant areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna are recognised and protected and enhancing areas of indigenous vegetation is encouraged.

Objective B1.2.4

The potential adverse effects from activities on areas of indigenous vegetation, habitats of indigenous fauna, and indigenous biodiversity and functioning are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Policy B1.2.6

Adverse effects on indigenous ecosystems, vegetation and habitat should be avoided, remedied or mitigated where these areas are important for maintaining the indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem functions and natural character of the District.

WATER — OBJECTIVES

Objective B1.3.1

Contamination of ground water or surface water is avoided and/or mitigated and water quality improved in degraded waterbodies through changes in land management practices and controls on land uses likely to cause waterbody contamination.

Objective B1.3.6

Land use activities, and particularly earthworks, forestry, vegetation clearance and modification, and agricultural activities, are managed within catchments and riparian areas to protect water quantity and quality, aquatic habitat, and natural character.

Policy B1.3.1

To pursue integrated, catchment-based approaches to the management of the District's water resources in conjunction with the Regional Council.

B1.4 OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES

CANTERBURY PLAINS AND TE WAIHORA/LAKE ELLESMERE

Policy B1.4.12

Recognise that the land between the Christchurch City and a line extending from West Melton to Tai Tapu is identified in the RPS as providing a significant 'rural' landscape in contrast with the 'urban' landscape of the City.

PART B

2 PHYSICAL RESOURCES

TRANSPORT NETWORKS — OBJECTIVES

ROAD, PATHWAYS, RAIL AND AIRFIELDS

Objective B2.1.1

An integrated approach to land use and transport planning to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the District's roads, pathways, railway lines and airfields is not compromised by adverse effects from activities on surrounding land or by residential growth.

Policy B2.1.2

Manage effects of activities on the safe and efficient operation of the District's existing and planned road network, considering the classification and function of each road in the hierarchy.

Policy B2.1.4(a)

Ensure all sites, allotments or properties have legal access to a legal road which is formed to the standard necessary to meet the needs of the activity considering:

- the number and type of vehicle movements generated by the activity;
- the road classification and function; and
- any pedestrian, cycle, public transport or other access required by the activity.

Policy B2.1.9

Ensure buildings are set back a sufficient distance from road boundaries to maintain good visibility for pedestrians and motorists, to allow safe access and egress.

Policy B2.1.10

Ensure vehicle crossings, intersections, pathways, roadside signs and noticeboards are designed and positioned to ensure good visibility for all road users, and to allow safe passage, access and egress.

Policy B2.1.13

Avoid planting trees or hedges in positions or allow them to grow to heights where they will shade roads for prolonged periods during winter.

UTILITIES — OBJECTIVES

Objective B2.2.1

Utilities are recognised as essential tools for people's economic and social well-being, and to mitigate effects of other activities, on the environment.

Objective B2.2.2

The provision of utilities where any adverse effects on the environment and on people's health, safety and wellbeing is managed having regard to the scale, appearance, location and operational requirements of utilities.

Policy B2.2.5(a)

Avoid siting utility structures or buildings on hilltops in the margins of lakes or rivers or in areas identified as outstanding natural features and landscapes, sites with special cultural values (Silent File Areas, Wāhi Taonga Sites and Management Areas or Mahinga Kai Sites) or Heritage Sites in the Plan, unless operational necessity makes this impractical.

Policy B2.2.6

Require utility structures to be made of low reflective materials.

Policy B2.2.10

Enable the provision of utility networks that serve extensive areas to be located in rural areas commensurate with operational requirements.

3 PEOPLE'S HEALTH, SAFETY AND VALUES

CULTURE AND HISTORIC HERITAGE — OBJECTIVES

Objective B3.3.1

Sites of Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Taonga, Mahinga kai and other importance to Tāngata Whenua are protected in partnership with local Rūnanga and landholders.

Policy B3.3.2

Recognise and protect sites of cultural importance to local Rūnanga through fostering a partnership between landholders and local Rūnanga.

Policy B3.3.4

Protect areas identified in the Plan as Wāhi Taonga Sites, Wāhi Taonga Management Areas and Mahinga Kai sites, from inappropriate damage or destruction.

QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT — OBJECTIVES

Objective B3.4.1

The District's rural area is a pleasant place to live and work in.

Objective B3.4.2

A variety of activities are provided for in the rural area, while maintaining rural character and avoiding reverse sensitivity effects.

Policy B3.4.1

Recognise the Rural zone as an area where a variety of activities occur and maintain environmental standards that allows for primary production and other business activities to operate.

Policy B3.4.3

Avoid, remedy or mitigate significant adverse effects of activities on the amenity values of the rural area.

Policy B3.4.6

Maintain low levels of building density in the Rural zone and the predominance of vegetation cover.

Policy B3.4.7

Avoid high rise buildings or highly reflective utility structures.

NOISE AND VIBRATION

Policy B3.4.13

Recognise temporary noise associated with short-term, seasonal activities as part of the rural environment, but ensure continuous or regular noise is at a level which does not disturb people indoors on adjoining properties.

DUST

Policy B3.4.16

Mitigate nuisance effects on adjoining dwellings caused by dust from earthworks, or stockpiled material.

Policy B3.4.18

Ensure buildings are setback a sufficient distance from property boundaries to:

- (a) Enable boundary trees and hedges to be maintained;
- (b) Maintain privacy and outlook for houses on small allotments; and
- (c) Encourage a sense of distance between buildings and between buildings and road boundaries where practical.

PROPOSED SELWYN DISTRICT PLAN

Strategic Directions

SD-IR-Objectives

Community Needs

SD-IR-O1 The important infrastructure needs of the community are fulfilled, and their operation is protected.

Effects of Important Infrastructure

SD-IR-O2 The development, upgrade, maintenance, and operation of all important infrastructure is enabled in a way that minimises adverse effects, while having regard to the practical constraints and the logistical and technical practicalities associated with important infrastructure.

Natural Hazards

SD-IR-O3 The risk from natural hazards, including the effects of climate change, to people, property, and important infrastructure is not increased, other than where necessary to provide for important infrastructure that has no reasonable alternative.

Mana Whenua Values

SD-MWV-Objectives

Partnership with Ngāi Tahu

SD-MWV-O1 Strengthen the partnership between the Council and Ngāi Tahu by recognising the cultural significance of Selwyn to Ngāi Tahu and Te Taumutu and Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga by:

1. Promoting active and meaningful participation by those who hold mana whenua in the resource management decision-making process;
2. Recognising that only those who hold mana whenua can identify their relationship with their culture, traditions, ancestral lands, waterbodies, wāhi tapu and other taonga;
3. Enabling the exercise of kaitiakitanga by those who hold mana whenua over Selwyn;
4. Providing for the contemporary connections, cultural and spiritual values held by tāngata whenua; and
5. Continuing to enable tāngata whenua to protect, develop and use Māori Land in a way which is consistent with their culture, traditions and aspirations.

Energy and Infrastructure

EI-Objectives and Policies

EI-Objectives

EI-O1 Important infrastructure is:

1. efficient, effective, and resilient, and
2. provides and distributes essential and secure services as part of local, regional, or national networks, including in emergencies; and
3. integrates with urban development and land uses throughout the district; and
4. enables people and communities to provide for their wellbeing.

EI-O2 Important infrastructure is located, designed, and operated to manage adverse effects on the physical and natural environment.

EI-O3 The operation and security of important infrastructure is not compromised by other activities.

EI-O4 An increased renewable electricity generation output for national, regional, and local use while mitigating adverse effects on the environment and sensitive activities.

EI-O5 To have greater small and community-scale renewable electricity generation, with generation surplus supplied to the national electricity distribution network.

EI-Policies

General

EI-P1 Recognise the benefits and national, regional, and local importance of important infrastructure by:

1. enabling the operation, maintenance, and removal of existing important infrastructure throughout the District;
2. providing for replacement and upgrades, including new technologies, to network utilities, and the development of new network utilities.
3. providing for the functions and responsibilities of network utilities as lifeline utilities during an emergency.
4. acknowledging that important infrastructure can have a functional need or operational need to locate in a particular area, including areas with high natural, visual amenity, or cultural value.

EI-P2 Minimise the adverse effects of important infrastructure, and renewable electricity generation on the physical and natural environment by:

1. encouraging the co-location of structures and facilities where efficient and practicable.
2. locating, designing and operating development while minimising the effects on, the amenity values of the surrounding environment, public access and the health and safety of people.
3. limiting the presence and effects of development within Outstanding Natural Landscapes, Visual Amenity Landscapes, areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna, sites of historic heritage and site and areas of significance to Māori to those which:
 - a. are recognised as important infrastructure; and
 - b. can demonstrate an operational or functional requirement for the location; and
 - c. can demonstrate through site, route or method selection the minimisation of effects on the environment; and
 - d. integrate design measures and management methods to mitigate adverse effects.
4. requiring restoration of indigenous biodiversity and habitat following construction in areas of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna, and the on-going monitoring of that restoration.
5. considering biodiversity off-setting or compensation where the loss of significant indigenous vegetation cannot be restored and significant habitats of indigenous fauna or wetlands cannot be fully mitigated where the adverse effects cannot be avoided or remedied.
6. Using the substantial upgrade of important infrastructure and renewable electricity generation as an opportunity to reduce existing adverse effects.

EI-P4 Manage the adverse effects from the construction and operation of important infrastructure, and renewable electricity generation including noise, and vibration by requiring compliance with standards and regulations.

EI-P9 Provide for renewable electricity generation and renewable electricity generation activities across the District, while having particular regard to:

1. The potential benefits of the proposed activity, particularly contributions to national energy objectives or renewable electricity generation targets;
2. The technical and operational requirements of renewable electricity generation and renewable electricity generation activities;
3. The availability of renewable electricity generation sources;
4. The location and efficient use of existing electricity generation and distribution infrastructure;
5. The potential to provide an affordable, self-sufficient source of electricity to individuals and small communities.

Transport

TRAN-Objectives and Policies

TRAN-Objectives

TRAN-O2 Land transport corridors and land transport infrastructure are protected from incompatible land use activities and subdivision development.

TRAN-Policies

Integrated land use, subdivision, and transport planning

TRAN-P4

Manage the adverse effects of activities within the General Rural Zone that exceed the maximum number of vehicle movements for each site.

TRAN-P11 Manage vehicle access, vehicle crossings and manoeuvring areas to maintain the safe and efficient operation of land transport corridors and land transport infrastructure by:

1. Requiring all sites to have access to a road and to ensure that this access is constructed to the appropriate formation standards and is compatible with the network road classification;
2. Avoiding the need to reverse vehicles onto the strategic transport network;
3. Avoiding the establishment of new accessways and vehicle crossings to roads that require access across a rail line; and
4. Minimising the need to reverse onto Collector and Local Roads through the provision of appropriate on-site manoeuvring areas.
5. Managing the effects of land transport infrastructure and corridors

Natural Hazards

NH-Objectives and Policies

NH-Objectives

NH-O1 New subdivision, use, and development, other than new important infrastructure and land transport infrastructure:

1. is avoided in areas where the risks from natural hazards to people, property and infrastructure are assessed as being unacceptable; and
2. in all other areas, is undertaken in a manner that ensures that the risks of natural hazards to people, property and infrastructure are appropriately mitigated.

NH-O2 Important infrastructure and land transport infrastructure is only located within areas of significant natural hazard risk where there is no reasonable alternative and the important

infrastructure or land transport infrastructure is designed so as not to exacerbate natural hazard risk to people and property.

NH-Policies

NH-P3 Restrict new subdivision, use or development of land in areas outside high hazard areas but known to be vulnerable to a natural hazard, unless any potential risk of loss of life or damage to property is adequately mitigated.

Flood Hazards

NH-P12 Manage earthworks undertaken in the Waimakariri Flood Management Overlay and the Plains Flood Management Overlay to ensure that they do not exacerbate flooding on any other property by displacing or diverting floodwater on surrounding land.

Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

EIB-Objectives

EIB-O1

Indigenous biodiversity within the district is managed through the exercise of kaitiakitanga and stewardship, in order that:

1. Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna are protected to ensure no net loss of indigenous biodiversity, and
2. Other indigenous biodiversity values are maintained and enhanced, and
3. The restoration and enhancement of areas of indigenous biodiversity is encouraged and supported.

EIB-O2 The relationship of Ngāi Tahu whānui, and their customs and traditions, with indigenous biodiversity is recognised and provided for, including through:

1. Facilitation and support for the exercise of kaitiakitanga in relation to indigenous species and habitats; and
2. Maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of habitats that sustain mahinga kai; and
3. Enabling customary use of taonga species.

EIB-Policies

EIB-P4 Avoid the clearance of indigenous vegetation, and any earthworks or plantation forestry within scheduled Significant Natural Areas, and those other areas that meet the criteria set out in EIB-SCHED1, where the activity would adversely affect indigenous biodiversity values.

EIB-P5 Avoid the clearance of vegetation and earthworks, where these activities would adversely affect indigenous biodiversity values relating to specified indigenous species that have been identified as being of ecological significance.

EIB-P11 Avoid planting pest tree and plant species that would affect indigenous biodiversity values.

Earthworks

EW-Objectives

EW-O1 Earthworks are undertaken in a manner that limits adverse effects on the surrounding environment.

EW-Policies

EW-P1 Enable temporary, small-scale earthworks activities, while managing those with the potential to create adverse visual amenity, sediment, and nuisance effects beyond site boundaries.

EW-P3 Manage earthworks to limit erosion, inundation or siltation so that it does not impede the functioning of natural biological and physical processes.

EW-P4 Require that during and on completion of earthworks any visual impact, loss of privacy, dust nuisance, and shading from earthworks does not detract from the amenity values and quality of the environment.

Noise

NOISE-Objectives

NOISE-O1 The health and wellbeing of people and communities and their amenity values are protected from significant levels of noise.

NOISE-O2 Important infrastructure which generates noise is protected from reverse sensitivity effects.

NOISE-Policies

NOISE-P1 Manage noise effects by setting:

1. Maximum noise limits to reflect the character and amenity of each zone;
2. Limits on the location, frequency, and duration of specific activities that generate noise;
3. A vibration standard.

General Rural Zone

GRUZ-Objectives and Policies

Objectives

GRUZ-O1 Subdivision, use, and development in rural areas that:

1. supports, maintains, or enhances the function and form, character, and amenity value of rural areas;
2. prioritises primary production, over other activities to recognise its importance to the economy and wellbeing of the district;
3. allows primary production to operate without being compromised by reverse sensitivity; and
4. retains a contrast in character to urban areas.

Policies

General

GRUZ-P1

Maintain or enhance rural character and amenity values of rural areas by:

1. retaining a low overall building density, and predominance of vegetation cover;
2. enabling primary production while managing adverse effects of intensive primary production, and mineral extractive industries;
3. managing the density and location of residential development; and
4. retaining a clear delineation and contrast between the district's rural areas and urban areas, including Christchurch City.

Economic Activity

GRUZ-P4 Provide for the economic development potential of the rural area by enabling a range of activities that:

1. have a direct relationship with, or are dependent on, primary production;
2. have a functional need, or operational need to locate in the rural area;
3. represent an efficient use of natural and physical resources; and
4. maintain or enhance the character and amenity values of the surrounding area.

Reverse Sensitivity

GRUZ-P7 Avoid reverse sensitivity effects on lawfully established primary production activities.