

Objectives and Policies

Partially Operative Plan – Objectives and Policies

Strategic Directions

SD-DI-O1

Selwyn is an attractive and pleasant place to live, work, and visit, where development:

1. takes into account the existing and anticipated character of individual communities;
2. is well-connected, safe, accessible, and resilient; and
3. enhances environmental, economic, cultural, social and health outcomes for the benefit of the entire District.

SD-DI-O2

Selwyn's prosperous economy and community well-being are supported through the efficient use of land, resources, and infrastructure, while ensuring existing activities are protected from incompatible activities and reverse sensitivity effects.

SD-DI-O3

Land and water resources are managed through an integrated approach, which recognises both the importance of ki uta ki tai to Ngāi Tahu and communities, and the inter-relationship between ecosystems and natural processes.

SD-DI-O4

Places, landscapes, features, and indigenous biodiversity which make an important contribution to Selwyn's environment, cultural heritage, or are of spiritual importance to Ngāi Tahu, are identified, recognised for their values, and protected for future generations.

SD-DI-O6

Outside of defined urban growth areas Selwyn's highly productive land is retained for rural production activities and rural communities retain their rural character.

SD-IR-O3

The risk from natural hazards, including the effects of climate change, to people, property, and important infrastructure is either:

1. not increased, other than where necessary to provide for important infrastructure that has no reasonable alternative; or
2. is managed to an acceptable level.

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-O4

Optimise and increase renewable electricity generation outputs for national, regional, and local use while minimising adverse effects on the environment and sensitive activities.

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, natural character areas, areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna, sites of historic heritage and sites and areas of significance to Māori to those which:
 - a. are recognised as important infrastructure; and
 - b. can demonstrate an operational, technical or functional requirement for the location, or there are practical constraints requiring it to locate in a particular area with high natural, visual amenity, cultural, or historic heritage value; 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. considering biodiversity off-setting in accordance with EIB-SCHED5 or compensation where the loss of significant indigenous vegetation or the effects on significant habitats of indigenous fauna or wetlands cannot be avoided, remedied, or mitigated.
5. using the substantial upgrade of important infrastructure and renewable electricity generation as an opportunity to reduce existing adverse effects, where the efficiency, effectiveness or resilience of the important infrastructure or renewable electricity generation is not compromised.
6. providing for the maintenance, operation, upgrade or expansion of important infrastructure on highly productive land where there is a functional or operational requirement to locate the infrastructure on that land whilst:
 - a. minimising or mitigating any actual or potential cumulative loss of highly productive land; and
 - b. avoiding if possible, or otherwise mitigating, any actual or potential reverse sensitivity effects on land-based primary production activities.

EI-P4

Manage the adverse effects from the construction and operation of important infrastructure, and renewable electricity generation, including noise and vibration.

EI-P5

Avoid radio, electric, and magnetic fields that do not meet the applicable and recognised standards or guidelines.

EI-P7

Enable renewable electricity generation investigations provided that adverse effects on areas of 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 are mitigated.

EI-P9

Provide for 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, renewable electricity generation targets, or climate change mitigation;
2. The technical and operational requirements of 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.

Transportation

TRAN-O1

People and places are connected through safe, efficient, and effective land transport corridors and land transport infrastructure for all transport modes, which are well integrated with land use activities and subdivision development and reduce dependency on private motor vehicles.

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-P7

Recognise and protect the function of the District's land transport network and systems by managing land use activities and subdivision development to ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and goods by:

1. Avoiding significant adverse effects and minimising other adverse effects from activities on the safe, efficient and effective operation of land transport corridors and land transport infrastructure, particularly where it may reduce safe and efficient traffic flows within the strategic transport network and links with Christchurch City;
2. Ensuring land transport corridors and land transport infrastructure can efficiently and effectively provide for the volume and type of transport movements based on the network road classifications; and
3. Requiring the design, positioning, and maintenance of accessways, corner splays, vehicle crossings, intersections, footpaths, plantings, and signs to ensure appropriate sightline visibility is provided to road users to support safe and efficient vehicle, pedestrian, and cycle movements.

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 Roads through the provision of appropriate on-site manoeuvring areas.

Contaminated Land

CL-O1

Human health and the environment are protected from the adverse effects of the use of contaminated land.

Natural Hazards

NH-O1

New subdivision, use, and development, (except for new important infrastructure and land transport infrastructure where NH-O2 applies instead):

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-P1

Avoid new subdivision, use, or development of land in high hazard areas (except for important infrastructure and land transport infrastructure where NH-P2 applies instead), unless the subdivision, use or development either:

1. is
 - a. not likely to result in loss of life or serious injuries; and
 - b. is not likely to suffer significant damage or loss; and
 - c. is not likely to require new or upgraded natural hazard mitigation works to mitigate or avoid the natural hazard; and either is:

d. not likely to exacerbate the effects of the natural hazard;
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.

Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori

SASM-O1

The historic and contemporary relationship of Ngāi Tahu mana whenua with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and wāhi taonga within the Selwyn District is recognised and protected.

SASM-P1

Recognise and protect Ngāi Tahu cultural values in identified Sites and Areas of Significance to Ngāi Tahu by:

- a. avoiding any damage or disturbance to urupā except for activities associated with the identification or protection of such sites, or for interments in, such sites, which are undertaken by the relevant rūnanga;
- b. protecting identified wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga from disturbance, damage, or destruction, and ensure activities do not adversely affect them;
- c. avoiding buildings within wāhi tapu identified as a maunga;
- d. limiting earthworks to those areas that have been previously disturbed by cultivation, building foundations or other earthworks, and controlling the depth of any excavation;
- e. enabling opportunities for enhancement of cultural and ecological values within identified Sites and Areas of Significance to Ngāi Tahu, particularly where associated with mahinga kai.

SASM-P4

To encourage and facilitate the engagement of landowners and resource consent applicants with the relevant rūnanga prior to them undertaking activities and/or applying for resource consent, within or adjacent to Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori). Where prior applicant engagement has not been undertaken Council will consult with the relevant rūnanga.

Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

ECO-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, 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.

ECO-P3

Outside of Significant Natural Areas, provide for small scale or low impact activities that may have minor adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values where:

1. they are of wider environmental or community benefit, or
2. they enable continuation of existing activities.

ECO-P6

Protect Threatened or At Risk Species and their habitats by avoiding significant adverse effects and avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects of activities on those species and their habitats.

Earthworks

EW-O1

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

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

Minimise any adverse visual effects, loss of privacy, dust nuisance, or shading adverse effects during and on completion of earthworks.

Noise

NOISE-O1

The health and wellbeing of people and communities and their amenity values are protected from adverse noise effects, consistent with the anticipated outcomes for the receiving environment.

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-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, those activities that directly support primary production and have a functional or operational need to locate with the General Rural Zone and important infrastructure, to operate without being compromised by incompatible sensitive activities and reverse sensitivity effects;
4. retains a contrast in character to urban areas; and
5. protects highly productive land.

GRUZ-P1

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

1. retaining a low overall building density;
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;
4. retaining a clear delineation and contrast between the district's rural areas and urban areas; and
5. recognising that primary production activities can produce noise, dust, odour and traffic that may be noticeable to residents and visitors to the General Rural Zone.

GRUZ-P1A

Avoid the inappropriate use and development of highly productive land, except as provided for by the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022.

GRUZ-P7

Avoid reverse sensitivity effects on:

1. lawfully authorised or established primary production activities;
2. activities that have a direct relationship with, or are dependent, on primary production; and
3. important infrastructure.

Canterbury Regional Policy Statement – Objectives and Policies

Chapter 5 – Land Use and Infrastructure

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.

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 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.

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

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.

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.

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.