

## Chapter 4

# CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES AND INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

### PREAMBLE

The West Coast Regional Council shares a boundary with three other regional councils: Southland, Otago and Canterbury. There are three district councils within the Council's region and the Council shares boundaries with Tasman, Hurunui, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, MacKenzie, Waitaki, Queenstown/Lakes and Southland district councils.

Section 61(2)(b) of the Act requires the Regional Council in preparation of the RPS to have regard to:

*The extent to which the regional policy statement needs to be consistent with the policy statements and plans of adjacent regional councils;*

and under section 62(1)(h) requires the Regional Council to state:

*The processes to be used to deal with issues which cross local authority boundaries, and issues between territorial authorities or between regions;...*

These provisions make it clear that the RPS should identify and provide a means of maintaining consistency and compatibility in the way in which issues that:

1. traverse the boundaries of neighbouring regional councils or,
2. are common to two or more territorial local authorities wholly or partially contained in the region are addressed.

Further section 75(2)(c) of the Act requires that district plans (prepared by territorial authorities) shall not be inconsistent with:

*The regional policy statement, or any regional plan of its region in regard to any matter of regional significance or for which the regional council has primary responsibility under Part IV.*

While the onus of this provision is on territorial authorities to maintain this consistency, this can, in practical terms, best be achieved by the Regional Council consulting with territorial authorities as district plans are undergoing preparation or change.

A function of the Regional Council as set out under section 30(1)(a) of the Act is:

*The establishment, implementation and review of objectives, policies and methods to achieve the integrated management of natural and physical resources of the region:*

To achieve this, the RPS must:

- ?? Take into account sections 61(2)(b), 62(1)(h) and 75(2)(c); and
- ?? Where possible ensure consistency and compatibility with the policies of other statutory bodies carrying out complementary functions such as the Department of Conservation and
- ?? Ensure that there is consistency within the RPS itself in the way issues are dealt with.

**ISSUE 4. Cross boundary issues and/or matters which require an integrated approach between different local authorities within the region, neighbouring regions and neighbouring district councils outside the region and official agencies carrying out related or complementary functions include:**

**Administrative:**

- a) Any differences in approach to resolution of resource management issues of a regional nature in the upper Buller River catchment, administered by Tasman District Council;
- b) Contingency planning for spills of hazardous substances;
- c) The transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes and substances;
- d) Inter-regional consistency in approaches to the production and transmission of energy;
- e) Co-ordinated control and funding of pests and weeds;
- f) Overlaps between local authority geographic boundaries and those of government departments and other statutory authorities;
- g) The region's land transport network and the movement of road and rail traffic;
- h) The monitoring and control of tuberculosis infection of livestock from possums and feral deer;
- i) Complementary Regional Council and district council functions, and
- j) Complementary Regional Council and government department functions.

**Physical:**

- a) Protection of historic sites through an inter agency approach;
- b) Effects of land use on communities;
- c) Movement of contaminated water and the extent of ground water resources;
- d) Effects of activities on the coast and the effects of coastal processes on land;
- e) Downstream effects of taking, using, damming or diversion of water;
- f) Discharge of contaminants into the air or water or onto land;
- g) The effects of natural hazards, and
- h) Loss of ecological, aesthetic and productive values due to pests and weeds.

Some of the above issues rarely cross boundaries. The carriage of air pollution across regional or district boundaries has not been an issue of concern on the West Coast. However the spread of noxious weeds and pests is a distinct possibility.

The upper Buller catchment is administered by the Tasman District Council. Here the Regional Council's main interest is in the potential of activities to impact on the lower Buller. Flood monitoring of the upper Buller

catchment should continue.

Resource management issues of common concern to Buller, Grey and Westland district councils may require a joint approach. An example of this is a need for uniformity in environmental standards that apply to landfill siting and design and the possibility of developing single facilities to serve the needs of adjacent district councils.

Resource consent applications that cross district council boundaries should be jointly heard and processed.

Other cross boundary issues are not physical but relate to complementary inter agency administrative functions. For example the Regional Council is responsible for the regulation of whitebait stands and managing the effects of activities that might adversely affect a whitebait spawning habitat. The Department of Conservation is responsible for managing the fishery itself. Co-ordinated management and decision-making on such issues is essential to ensure that there is an integrated approach to the management of this and similarly affected natural and physical resources.

Section 61 of the Act states that the Regional Council shall have regard to *...any management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts,...* Examples of this on the West Coast are conservation management strategies and management plans prepared by the Department of Conservation.

With resource consent applications for activities that have a potential to affect a wide range of interested parties, inter agency dialogue is essential.

**OBJECTIVE 4.0 Consistent and coordinated resource management planning processes to achieve effective integrated management of the region's natural and physical resources.**

## **CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES AND INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

***POLICY 4 Promote co-operation and an integrated approach in the:***

- a) Development of regional and district plans;***
- b) Response to issues that cross regional or district boundaries;***
- c) Inter agency co-operation in the management of natural and physical resources; and***
- d) Collection, sharing and use of information on natural and physical resources.***

Cross reference  
policy 4.1  
with all other  
policies in this RPS

## **METHODS**

- 4.1 Consult with neighbouring regional and district councils and other affected parties to ensure that there is a consistent approach to management of cross boundary issues such as the functions of network utility operators as defined under section 166 of the Act. Promote and encourage the development of protocols with these agencies to achieve such consistency and to provide greater certainty as to when such consultation should occur.

- 4.2 Promote and encourage regular cross boundary consultation, mutual free information sharing, use of pre-hearing conferences and meetings, joint working groups, joint council committees and other joint approaches between appropriate territorial local authorities, regional councils and key regulatory agencies to consider and resolve cross boundary issues.
- 4.3 Liaise with the Tasman District Council to develop policies and procedures, acceptable to the Regional Council, to deal with resource consent issues in the upper Buller catchment.
- 4.4 Combine with the appropriate district and regional councils in jointly processing resource consent applications that cross administrative boundaries.
- 4.5 Consult all relevant agencies and other affected parties when resource consent applications have the potential to affect the manner in which they manage natural and physical resources.
- 4.6 Prepare submissions to regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans of adjacent and constituent local authorities; and to strategies and plans being developed by other relevant agencies.
- 4.7 Regulate activities by way of rules in regional plans rather than by way of *ad hoc* individual resource consents.
- 4.8 Develop policies and rules in regional plans that are consistent with this RPS.

## **EXPLANATION**

Policy 4.1 is intended to encourage inter agency co-operation at all levels where the Act is in operation. This will ensure consistency of approach on resource management issues in cases where they cross geographic boundaries and by those agencies that carry out complementary roles. Information is often the key to being able to develop and establish an integrated approach to resource management issues.

Section 62(1)(h) of the Act requires coverage of processes to deal with cross boundary issues.

If there was no co-ordinated approach to issues of cross boundary significance, nor any semblance of inter agency co-operation, each regional and district council and other statutory authorities with an interest would deal with issues in isolation from the other. This would cause conflicts in approaches to resource management issues and, contrary to the Act, result in a lack of integration of functions.

All local authorities and agencies exercising functions and powers under the Act can play a part in promoting integrated management and resolution of cross boundary issues.

Policy 4.1 also recognises that resolution of any particular resource

management issue cannot be addressed in isolation from other issues, or the related, or complementary functions of the Crown or statutory agencies.

#### **ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS**

- 4.1 Co-ordination of resource management functions at the regional and district council level.
- 4.2 Co-ordinated approaches to resource management issues with other agencies and between different statutes.