

# Regional Policy Statement Review

## Discussion Document

Social, community, economic , environmental  
and cultural well-being – where does the balance  
lie for the West Coast for the coming decade?

Finding  
the balance



This is the  
chance to  
have YOUR  
say!

“It is often the most critical infrastructure, or projects that will bring about the most significant positive economic or social effects, that will also result in the most significant potential adverse effects. ...

...If regional policy statements do not recognise appropriately the positive effects that arise from regionally significant infrastructure or development projects then over time, fewer of these projects will achieve consent.”

B. Matheson & R. McVeagh 2013  
Resource Management Journal 2013

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# Background

- The purpose of the RMA is sustainable management
- It is about the enablement of social, cultural and economic well beings
- RPS needs to promote positive effects as well as avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects

However...

- Current drafting of RPS focusses on addressing adverse effects but is silent on positive effects
- As a result we have an unbalanced RPS

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# Regional Council Role

- An advocate for the region
- Coordinating the enablement of positive social and economic effects
- Set out how the Region is to sustainably manage their natural and physical resources
  - Outlined in its broadest sense in the RPS
  - Carries through into District and Regional Plans

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# A New Direction for Council

- Opportunity to take a new approach
- To be more proactive in our communities – WCRC take a leading role
- Recognition that the RPS should be about more than just environmental factors
- Enable West Coaster's to be a part of this from the beginning

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THE WEST COAST  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Discussion Document

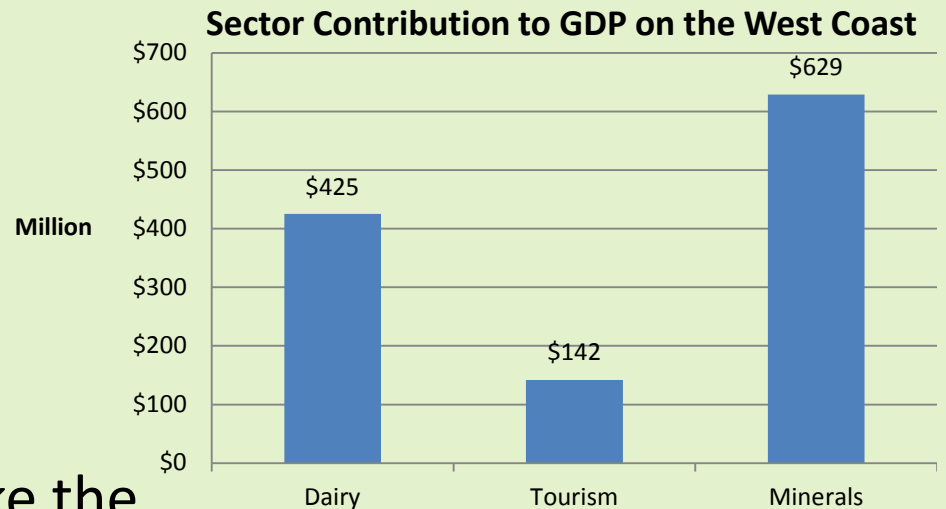
- First stage of the RPS review
- Identifies two new regionally significant issues:
  1. Promoting positive effects – using and developing our natural resources; and
  2. Sustainable communities
- New issues will stand alongside the environmental ones and be overarching in their application
- Its about finding the balance in:
  - Plan development; and
  - Resource consent hearings



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# Promoting positive effects: using and developing our resources

- Reliance on natural and physical resources for our economic and social well being
- Primarily based around:
  - Mineral extraction;
  - Dairy; and
  - Tourism.
- Limited land available - therefore we need to make the most of what we have



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# Sustainable Communities

- Growth and development of communities a priority
- An enabling RPS to promote sustainable businesses and grow employment: more families, more services.
- An inviting region welcoming to investors to do business on the West Coast
- Development of good quality and clear regulation:
  - Prompt and timely consenting processes
  - Transparent and consistent enforcement of consent conditions, protecting our communities interests.

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# What we need now...

- You as a District Champion
- Help in getting the word out



This is the chance to have YOUR say!

# Questions...

Finding  
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