

Proposed Regional Land and Water Plan - Information Sheet

Background

The Proposed Regional Land and Water Plan combines three of the Council's Resource Management Plans:

- Proposed Land and Riverbed Management Plan;
- Proposed Water Management Plan; and,
- Regional Plan for Discharges to Land.

While the merge is primarily to reformat the three plans into one for greater efficiency and ease of use, it has provided an opportunity to fine tune the plans and make some minor improvements. A considerable amount of background information and some appendices have been removed, mostly from the Discharge to Land Plan as this is the oldest of the three plans. The main changes proposed are to the Poutini Ngai Tahu Chapter, management of the Lake Brunner catchment, and certain introductions and explanations.

There have also been amendments to several rules in the Plan including those relating to the management of the Lake Brunner catchment, and changes to the permitted on-site sewage effluent discharge to land rule, and the permitted stormwater discharge rules. There are several other minor changes to policies and rules to improve their implementation, however most of the merged Plan has been a direct transfer of text and combining text where required.

All deletions are shown in the three original Plans as ~~struckthrough text~~. The only new wording in the Proposed Regional Land and Water Plan is shown in *italicized, and underlined text*. Schedules 12 and 15 are policies that were outside of the Plan and have been included for completeness.

A merged plan Conversion Table has also been prepared. This table shows the old numbering for Chapters, Objectives, Policies, Rules, and Schedules and matches it up to their new numbering in the merged Plan.

Section 32 Reports

Section 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires an evaluation of certain provisions in a proposed regional plan before it is publicly notified for submissions. Several Section 32 Reports have been prepared to evaluate the proposed changes to various objectives, policies, rules and methods in the Proposed Regional Land and Water Plan. The reports are available on the Council website www.wcrc.govt.nz and include:

- Proposed change to the Lake Brunner catchment objectives, policies, and rules;
- Proposed change to the permitted on-site sewage effluent discharge to land rule;
- Proposed change to the permitted stormwater discharge rules; and,
- Proposed changes to other objectives, policies, rules, and methods.

Wetland Variation

Chapter 5 (Wetland Management) of the Proposed Plan is currently under appeal and subject to change by Environment Court decision. There may also be additional changes to Rules and Schedules and these will be inserted as directed by the Court upon their decision and will not be open to the public submission process. Variation 2 (Wetlands) is currently awaiting a Council hearing having recently been publicly notified and submissions received. Variation 2 is still shown in the original Proposed Land and Riverbed Management Plan in its Variation format as italicized and underlined, but has been transferred to the merged Plan as plain text. Submissions on Variation 2 closed in August 2009.

How to make a Submission

Any person may make a submission on the Proposed Regional Land and Water Plan.

Written submissions should be addressed to:

The Chief Executive Officer
West Coast Regional Council
P. O. Box 66
Greymouth 7840

Please ensure that we receive your submission by **5:00pm, Friday 15 October 2010**.

Your submission should state:

- Your full name and address for service.
- The specific provisions of the Proposed Plan to which your submission relates: i.e. which objective, policy, rule, or method you are referring to.
- The nature of your submission, whether you support or oppose the specific provisions, or wish to have amendments made.
- The precise details of the decision that you wish the West Coast Regional Council to make, giving reasons for any changes.
- Whether or not you wish to be heard at a hearing in support of your submission. Whether, if others make a similar submission, you would or would not be prepared to consider presenting a joint case with them at any hearing.

Your submission must be signed and dated and you may use the attached form on which to make a submission.

Following receipt of written submissions, the Council will adopt the following procedure:

- A summary of submissions will be prepared.
- By way of public notice, advice will be given of the places where the summary of submissions and the submissions themselves can be inspected.
- Further submissions will be called for, by a date to be notified, supporting or opposing the submissions lodged. Any person may make a further submission.
- The Council will hold public hearings, if required.
- The Council will make its decisions and notify submitters of these.
- Any person who lodges a submission or further submission, who is not satisfied with the Council's decisions and the changes that may be made to the Proposed Plan, may then refer the matters to the Environment Court.
- Once all matters referred to the Environment Court are resolved, the document will be made operative.

If you wish to obtain further information on the Proposed Regional Land and Water Plan, you can write to P.O. Box 66, Greymouth 7840, or contact the Council on free phone 0508 800 118.