



Energy and Infrastructure S.32

May 2022



YOUR PLAN OUR FUTURE
TIMARU DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW
LAND USE PLAN

Timaru District Council

Section 32 Report **Energy and Infrastructure**

May 2022

Contents

1	Infrastructure and Energy	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Community / Stakeholder / Iwi Engagement	1
1.2	Strategic directions	2
1.3	Problem definition	4
1.4	Statutory and Planning Context	1
2	Approach to Evaluation.....	14
2.1	Scale and significance	15
2.2	Approach to managing infrastructure and energy	20
2.3	Changes proposed	20
2.4	Quantification of Costs and Benefits	21
2.5	Choice of Evaluation Method(s)	21
2.6	Proposed objectives.....	21
3	Evaluation of Objectives	22
4	Identification of Options	26
5	Evaluation of Options	27
5.1	Evaluation table.....	27
5.2	Risk of Acting or Not Acting.....	32
6	Preferred Option	33

1 Infrastructure and Energy

1.1 Introduction

This report contains a section 32 evaluation of the objectives, policies, and methods relating to the Infrastructure and Energy chapter in the Proposed Timaru District Plan. Public stormwater services (network infrastructure) are addressed in this document, while private stormwater management (for example onsite collection and initial treatment) is addressed in a separate specific section 32. Transport infrastructure is also addressed in a separate transport section 32. Infrastructure and energy activities within sensitive environment overlays are covered in the sensitive environment overlay section 32s.

Infrastructure is commonplace and expected throughout the District to support existing and proposed settlements and enable people and communities to meet their social, economic and cultural needs. Therefore, the Proposed District Plan should recognise the critical ongoing function network utilities and strategic infrastructure have within the District, and provide for their ongoing operation, maintenance, and upgrade while managing the adverse effects of network utilities and strategic infrastructure on surrounding land-uses and the environment. It should also ensure that efficient operation, maintenance, repair or upgrading of network infrastructure utilities is not constrained or compromised by other activities.

1.2 Community / Stakeholder / Iwi Engagement

Engagement with various groups and parties was undertaken as part of preliminary work carried out to inform the District Plan review. This included scoping with various parties such as government agencies and Te Runanga o Arowhenua. Drop-in sessions were held with the public. A draft discussion document was released and public open days were held. Feedback from the public and stakeholders on the discussion documents was summarised and workshopped with the Council's Environmental Services Committee.

A summary document named Community Feedback and Initial Committee Direction on Discussion Documents was then prepared. This document summarised the feedback received and the Committee's initial direction. The summary document was published in September 2017. This document was publicised by way of public notices, and by sending letters to those who had made feedback on the discussion documents. ¹

The Community Feedback document provides a good basis for the section 32 analysis. Topics 8 and 9 in the discussion document summarise matters for energy and utilities & infrastructure respectively.

With regard to strategies that inform the Proposed District Plan, and have been through significant consultation in themselves, this includes the Timaru District 2045 Draft Growth Management Strategy (adopted in May 2018) and the Timaru District Council 50 Year Infrastructure Strategy 2018 – 2068 (adopted in June 2018).

More detailed descriptions of consultation undertaken is included in the Overview Section 32 report.

Draft District Plan Consultation

The Council issued a draft district plan for consultation for feedback between 7 October to 31 December 2020. Submissions on the draft plan were received from a range of stakeholders, including agencies, PrimePort, the agricultural / horticultural sector, infrastructure providers

¹ <https://www.timaru.govt.nz/services/planning/district-plan/district-plan-review/discussion-documents>

and the development community. Council staff have worked through the feedback received and amended and updated the provisions as appropriate. A summary of the feedback received on the Energy and Infrastructure Chapter is below:

- Submitters generally supported the approach of providing for regionally significant infrastructure;
- Some submitters wanted stronger references to functional and operational needs for infrastructure required to be located within sensitive environments;
- Some submitters raised queries re the application of specific provisions for infrastructure such as the national grid, overhead lines, and Port of Timaru and sought detailed changes;
- Some submitters queried the definitions of upgrading and minor upgrading;
- Differences in approach to underground and above ground infrastructure and maintenance and repair of existing infrastructure versus new infrastructure received a number of submissions, with a more permissive regime sought for the former in both cases;
- The farming sector raised concerns over the status of new open drains for agricultural and horticultural purposes;
- New and updated bird strike provisions for Timaru Airport were sought by the Timaru District Council.

1.2 Strategic directions

The Strategic Directions chapter of the Proposed District Plan sets out the overarching directions for the sustainable management of growth, land use and development of the Timaru District. These provisions have been informed by the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement 2013 and the Timaru District 2045 Growth Management Strategy which addresses growth and development in the district and sets out a spatial framework for its management. They support achieving a district that has a sustainable lifestyle, a thriving and innovative economy and a strong identity.

The directions include specific provision for infrastructure, as specified in provision SD-08 (Infrastructure), as follows:

SD-08	Infrastructure
Across the District:	
i. improved accessibility and multimodal connectivity is provided through a safe and efficient transportation network that is able to adapt to technological changes;	
ii. the provision of new network infrastructure is integrated and co-ordinated with the nature, timing and sequencing of new development;	
iii. drinking water supplies are protected from the adverse effects of subdivision, use and development;	
iv. the benefits of regionally significant infrastructure and lifeline utilities are recognised and their safe, efficient and effective establishment, operation, maintenance, renewal and upgrading and development is enabled while managing adverse effects appropriately.	

SD-O1 Residential Areas and Activities

1. There is sufficient residential development capacity in existing and proposed urban areas to meet demand and household choice, provided through:
 - a. the use of existing zoned greenfield areas;
 - b. a range of densities in existing urban areas; and
 - c. higher residential densities in close proximity to the Timaru and Geraldine town centres, and Highfield Village Mall.
 - d. The new General Residential Zone areas.
2. limited rural residential development opportunities are provided where they concentrate and are attached to existing urban areas, achieve a coordinated pattern of development and are capable of efficiently connecting to reticulated sewer and water infrastructure; and
3. limited residential opportunities are maintained in existing rural settlements, subject to adequate servicing.

SD-O2 The Natural and Historic Environment

The district's natural and historic environment is managed so that:

1. the health and wellbeing of the community are recognised as being linked to the natural environment;
2. an integrated management approach is adopted that recognises that all parts of the environment are interdependent;
3. the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands and waterbodies is preserved and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development;
4. important landscapes and features are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development;
5. significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna are identified and their values recognised, protected and where appropriate, enhanced;
6. the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems and resources is safeguarded for future generations;
7. the important contribution of historic heritage to the district's character and identity is recognised, and significant heritage and its values are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

SD-O3 Climate Change

The effects of climate change are recognised and an integrated management approach is adopted, including through:

- i. taking climate change into account in natural hazards management;
- ii. enabling the community to adapt to climate change;
- iii. encouraging efficiency in urban form and settlement patterns.

SD-O4 Natural Hazards

Natural hazards risks are addressed so that:

- i. areas subject to natural hazards and risk are identified;
- ii. development is avoided in areas where the risks of natural hazards to people, property and infrastructure are assessed as being unacceptable; and
- iii. for other areas, natural hazards risks are appropriately mitigated.

UFD-O1 Settlement Patterns

A consolidated and integrated settlement pattern that:

1. efficiently accommodates future growth and capacity for commercial, industrial, community and residential activities, primarily within the urban areas of the Timaru township, and the existing townships of Temuka, Geraldine, and Pleasant Point;
2. is integrated with the efficient use of infrastructure;
3. reduces adverse effects on the environment, including energy consumption, carbon emissions and water use;
4. protects drinking water supplies from the adverse effects of subdivision, use and development;
5. is well-designed, of a good quality, recognises existing character and amenity, and is attractive and functional to residents, business and visitors;
6. avoids areas with important natural, cultural and character values;
7. minimises the loss of versatile soils;
8. enables kaika nohoaka to occur on ancestral lands;
9. avoids locating new growth in areas where the impacts from natural hazards are unacceptable or which would require additional hazard mitigation; and
10. controls the location of activities, primarily by zoning, to minimise conflicts between incompatible activities and avoid these where there may be significant adverse effects.

The above provisions are part of the connection between the Proposed District Plan, the Growth Management Strategy, the Infrastructure Strategy and objectives of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement. The strategic directions provide an overarching framework for the Plan and give direction for the content of the infrastructure and energy provisions.

1.3 Problem definition

The 2016 Energy, and Utilities and Infrastructure Discussion documents², Community Feedback and Initial Committee Direction on Discussion Documents³ include resource management issues that need to be addressed as part of the district plan. These are:

- To what extent should the District Plan encourage renewable energy generation and the transmission of electricity to give effect to national and regional planning documents?
- Should the District Plan pro-actively recognise and provide for the specific requirements and adverse effects of electricity generation and transmission infrastructure, in contrast to other land uses generally?
- To what extent should the District Plan regulate energy conservation and efficiency of energy use?
- The need for the strategic integration of infrastructure and land use.
- Should all new powerlines, and renewals, replacement and upgrading of over 50 metres in length of overhead lines be installed underground?
- Should the maximum permitted height for telecommunications installations in the Rural 1 Zone be increased?
- Should the District Plan encourage water conservation and water efficiency through collection, use and reuse of water and retention and treatment of stormwater?

In addition, the following higher-level issues also apply:

² <https://www.timaru.govt.nz/services/planning/district-plan/district-plan-review/discussion-documents>

³ <https://www.timaru.govt.nz/services/planning/district-plan/district-plan-review/discussion-documents>

- Network utilities have important functions and enable people and communities to provide for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing, but the adverse effects of network utilities on the environment need to be avoided, remedied or mitigated. The positive effects of network utilities may be realised locally, regionally or nationally.
- There are functional and operational needs of network utilities that need to be recognised.
- Other activities can constrain or compromise the efficient operation, maintenance, repair or upgrading of network utilities.
- Need to ensure that network utilities are coordinated with and meet the needs of existing and planned activities and enable the growth, development economic well-being of the district.
- The functional and technical constraints of energy activities and how this is balanced against adverse effects on the environment.
- The potential amenity impacts on special features, rural character and established rural communities.
- The need to provide for renewable electricity generation at small and large scales.
- The need to better manage stormwater effects as close to source as possible, including on site as part of both large comprehensive and small scale infill developments to manage flood hazard, maintain water quality and enhance degraded freshwater and marine systems.

The Proposed District Plan needs to address these matters satisfactorily, including through the utilisation of up-to-date standards and methods of approach.

Relevant documents to consider in ensuring the above include:

Title	Author	Date	Brief Synopsis	Link
National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008	New Zealand Government	10 April 2008	<p>The National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 provides a high-level framework that gives guidance across New Zealand for the management and future planning of the national grid. It acknowledges the national significance of the national grid, which has to be considered in local decision making on resource management, gives guidance to local decision makers in the management of the impacts of the transmission network on its environment and recognises the national benefits we all get from electricity transmission, such as better security of supply of electricity.</p> <p>A more detailed description of the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission is included at section 1.5 of this assessment.</p>	https://www.mfe.govt.nz/node/11921
Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009	New Zealand Government	14 December 2009	<p>The National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities 2009 sets out a national framework of permissions and consent requirements for activities on existing electricity transmission lines, including the operation, maintenance and upgrading of existing lines. This includes which transmission activities are permitted, subject to conditions to control the environmental effects. The National Environmental Standards only applies to existing high voltage electricity transmission lines and does not apply to the construction of new transmission lines, substations or electricity distribution lines – these are the lines carrying electricity from regional substations to electricity users</p> <p>The standards take precedence over any rules in a District Plan relating to the operation, maintenance, upgrading, relocation and removal of high-voltage transmission network that forms part of the national grid that existed on 14 January 2010.</p> <p>A more detailed description of the National Environmental Standards on Electricity Transmission Activities (NESETA) is included at section 1.5 of this assessment.</p>	http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2009/0397/latest/DLM2626036.html
The National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011	New Zealand Government	14 April 2011	<p>Identifies renewable electricity generation activities as a matter of national importance and sets out one Objective and 14 Policies. The policy direction is to be given effect to in regional and district plans.</p>	https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/nps-reg-2011.pdf

Title	Author	Date	Brief Synopsis	Link
<p>National Policy Statement on Urban Development</p> <p><i>Note: this replaces the NPSUDC 2016</i></p>	New Zealand Government	23 July 2020	<p>The NPS-UD 2020 recognises the national significance of: having well-functioning urban environments that enable all people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing, and for their health and safety, now and into the future providing sufficient development capacity to meet the different needs of people and communities.</p>	<p>https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/national-policy-statements/national-policy-statement-urban-development/</p>
National Planning Standards	Minister for the Environment	April 2019	<p>The National Planning Standards seek to assist with planning systems by providing a nationally consistent structure, format, definitions, noise and vibration metrics and electronic functionality and accessibility for regional policy statements, regional plans, district plans and combined plans under the Resource Management Act 1991 ("RMA"). The planning standards do not alter the effect or outcomes of policy statements or plans. A more detailed description of the National Planning Standards is included at section 1.5 of this assessment.</p>	<p>https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/RMA/national-planning-standards.pdf</p>
National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities 2016	New Zealand Government	21 November 2016	<p>The National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities 2008 provide for a nationally consistent planning framework for radio-frequency fields of all telecommunication facilities and low impact and telecommunications infrastructure on road reserves. The standards take precedence over any rules in the District Plan relating to telecommunication or radiocommunication facilities located within a road reserve. A more detailed description of the National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities (NESTF) is included at section 1.5 of this assessment.</p>	<p>http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2016/0281/latest/DLM6697001.html?search=qs_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg_National+Environmental+Standards+for+Telecommunication+Facilities+resel_25_h&p=1&sr=1</p>
Canterbury Regional Policy Statement 2013	Canterbury Regional Council	15 January 2013	<p>District Plans must give effect to the Regional Policy Statement. The Canterbury Regional Policy Statement provides an overview of the resource management issues in the Canterbury region, and the objectives, policies and methods to achieve integrated management of natural and physical resources. These methods include directions for provisions in district and regional plans.</p>	<p>https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-regional-policy-statement/</p>

Title	Author	Date	Brief Synopsis	Link
			<p>The Canterbury Regional Policy Statement includes Chapter 5 which specifies provisions for Land-Use and Infrastructure and includes a chapter on energy.</p> <p>A more detailed description of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement is included at section 1.5 of this assessment.</p>	
Iwi Management Plan of Kati Huirapa	Te Runanga o Arowhenua	July 1992	The Iwi Management Plan is a living document that includes identification of Iwi values and outcomes sought.	https://api.ecan.govt.nz/TrimPublicAPI/documents/download/2738399
New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement	Department of Conservation	2010	The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 has policy recognition for the presence of infrastructure in the coastal environment and the importance it plays in providing for the social, cultural and wellbeing of people and communities	https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/coastal-management/nz-coastal-policy-statement-2010.pdf
The Utilities Access Act	New Zealand Government	2010	Sets out requirements for utility operators and corridor managers to coordinate work done in transport corridors by complying with the processes and rules set out in the national code of practice that regulates access to transport corridors. Sets out the purpose and contents of the Code and how it is to be developed.	http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2010/0098/latest/whole.html

Other legislation and policy documents that are relevant and have been considered in preparing this Proposed District Plan include:

- Timaru District Council Construction Standard Specifications
<https://www.timaru.govt.nz/council/publications/construction-standard-specifications>
- The Timaru District Growth Management Strategy
<https://www.timaru.govt.nz/services/planning/district-plan/district-plan-review/growth-management-strategy>
- The Timaru Infrastructure Strategy
https://www.timaru.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/183644/LTP-2018-28-Draft-Infrastructure-Strategy-2018-69.pdf
- The Timaru District Stormwater Strategy 2018-2048
https://www.timaru.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/124957/1078874-Timaru-District-Stormwater-Strategy-2018-2048-Published-Version-June-2017.pdf
- Telecommunications Act 2001;
- Electricity Act 1992;
- Gas Act 1992;
- New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances 2001;
- National Code of Practice for Utility Operators;
- Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003;
- NZS 2772.1:1999 Radiofrequency Fields - Maximum Exposure Levels;
- NZS 4404:2010 Land Development and Subdivision Infrastructure; and
- SNZ PAS 4509:2008 New Zealand Fire Service Firefighting Water Supplies Code of Practice

1.3.1 Other District Plans

In developing an understanding of the approaches taken to address key resource management issues (as described above), an examination of other District Plans has been undertaken as set out in the table below. The Mackenzie District Plan has not been assessed in relation to this topic due to its age (2004).

Plan	Local Authority	Description of Approach
<p>New Plymouth Proposed District Plan The proposed plan was publicly notified on 23 September 2019. Hearings are currently underway. https://www.newplymouthnz.com/Council/Council-Documents/Plans-and-Strategies/District-Plan/Proposed-District-Plan</p>	<p>New Plymouth District Council</p>	<p>The section 32 analysis for the New Plymouth Proposed District Plan proposes a series of rules which start from a base of assigning an activity status to most activities such as permitted or discretionary. Specific standards are then applied, including for the purpose of managing activities within close proximity to infrastructure.</p>
<p>Ashburton District Plan The District Plan became fully operative on 25 August 2014. https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/our-services/planning-guidance-and-resource-consents/district-plan/Pages/default.aspx</p>	<p>Ashburton District Council</p>	<p>The District Plan includes a chapter on Utilities, Energy and Designations (Chapter 14). This chapter includes a series of rules which start from a base of assigning an activity status to most activities such as permitted or discretionary. A range of standards are then applied for these activities such as limiting utility structures within areas of a high flood risk.</p>
<p>Waimate District Plan The District Plan became fully operative on 28 February 2014. https://www.waimatedc.govt.nz/property-rates/planning-and-resource-consents</p>	<p>Waimate District Council</p>	<p>The District Plan includes a section on utilities (Section 11). This section includes a series of rules which start from a base of assigning an activity status to most activities such as permitted or discretionary. A limited range of standards are then applied for these activities such as works within outstanding natural landscapes. It is noted that the start of section 11 includes information regarding precedence. This includes that rules contained in Section 11 take precedence over any other zone rules that may apply to utilities in the District Plan.</p>

1.4 Statutory and Planning Context

The previous section included the identification of various documents of relevance to the drafting of the Proposed District Plan. Many of these documents fall under the umbrella of the Resource Management Act 1991, and the combination of the Act and other documents place requirements on those provisions to be included in the Proposed District Plan. These requirements are outlined below.

The RMA prescribes how district plans are to align with other instruments, and this is summarised in the table below.

Statutory document	Alignment requirement for Proposed District Plan	Comment
NZCPS	Give effect to	Implement according to the applicable policy statement's intentions.
NPS/NES		
CRPS		
Regional Coastal Environment Plan	Not be inconsistent with	Are the provisions of the Proposed DP compatible with the provisions of these higher order documents? Do the provisions alter the essential nature or character of what the higher order documents allow or provide for?
Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan		
Specific management plans and strategies prepared under other legislation	Have regard to	Give genuine attention and thought to the matter As above.
Ashburton District Plan	Have regard to the extent to which there is a need for consistency	
Waimate District Plan		
Westland District Plan		
Mackenzie District Plan		
Iwi Management Plan of Kati Huirapa	Take into account	Address the matter and record
Te Whakatau Kaupapa Ngai Tahu Resource Management Strategy for the Canterbury Region		

1.4.1 Resource Management Act 1991

The RMA sets out in section 31 the functions of territorial authorities. The key function for the district council is the integrated management of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources of the district. When referring to “natural and physical resources” it is important to recognise that the RMA includes land, water, air, soil, minerals, and energy, all forms of plants and animals (whether indigenous to New Zealand or introduced), and all structures.

Section 5 sets out the purpose of the RMA, which is to promote sustainable management of natural and physical resources, and is explained more in Section 5(2):

In this Act, sustainable management means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety.

Section 6 of the RMA specifically requires that the Council recognise and provide for matters of national importance. There are no Section 6 matters of national importance that are directly relevant to the proposed infrastructure and energy provisions. However, the overlay topics (e.g. outstanding natural features and landscapes and indigenous biodiversity) address matters of national importance and contain network utility provisions – reference should be made to the section 32 reports for those topics.

Section 7 of the RMA requires the Council to have particular regard to the following matters:

- (b) *The efficient use and development of natural and physical resources.*
- (b)(a) *The efficiency of the end use of energy*
- (c) *The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values.*
- (f) *Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment.*
- (j) *The benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy*

Section 8 of the RMA requires the district council to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi). Tangata whenua, through iwi authorities have been consulted as part of the District Plan review process. This feedback has informed the section 32 evaluation, and the obligation to make informed decisions based on that consultation is noted.

All of the above matters are relevant when considering network utilities and ensuring their safe, efficient, and sustainable development, operation, maintenance, and upgrading, while also managing potential adverse effects on the environment.

1.4.2 National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008

The National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission (NPSET) recognises the national significance of the electricity transmission network (being the National Grid owned and operated by Transpower). The NPSET provides the following direction for the District Plan:

- Existing assets (e.g. transmission lines) should be able to be reasonably and effectively operated, maintained, upgraded and developed (Policies 2 and 5).
- Technical and operational constraints of the network should be recognised (Policy 3).
- For new transmission or major upgrades, decision-makers must recognise and provide for the effective development of the network and consider how the route, site and method selection have avoided, remedied or mitigated adverse effects (Policies 2 and 4).
- For major upgrades, where possible, existing adverse effects, including effects on sensitive activities, should be reduced (Policy 6).
- In urban environments, adverse effects on urban amenity should be minimised (i.e. reduced to the extent feasible), and adverse effects on town centres and on areas of

high recreational value or amenity and existing sensitive areas should be avoided (Policy 7).

- In rural environments, planning and development of the transmission system should seek to avoid adverse effects on outstanding natural landscapes, areas of high natural character, areas of high recreation value and amenity, and existing sensitive activities (i.e. avoided where possible) (Policy 8).
- Policies 10 and 11 guide the management of activities undertaken by other parties, and the associated potential adverse effects on the transmission network. Policy 10 requires decision makers to manage activities to ensure that the operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the network is not compromised and avoid reverse sensitivity effects on the transmission network. Direct effects of activities which may include physically obstructing maintenance access, earthworks that may undermine support structures or reduce safe clearance distances, and activities creating electrical safety hazards also have to be managed to give effect to Policy 10.
- Identify the National Grid on the Planning Maps.

1.4.3 National Environmental Standards on Electricity Transmission Activities 2009

The National Environmental Standards on Electricity Transmission Activities (NESETA) assists councils to implement some aspects of the NPSET policies relating to the existing high voltage transmission network. The NESETA sets out the regulations for the operation, maintenance, and upgrade of existing high voltage electricity transmission lines. Existing transmission lines are transmission lines that were operating, or able to be operated, at 14 January 2010. It specifies that electricity transmission activities are permitted, subject to terms and conditions. Activities that are permitted include:

- Operating existing transmission lines.
- Maintaining conductors (wires) and adding a limited number of conductors provided limits on electric and magnetic fields are not exceeded.
- Signs on transmission line support structures (within specified size limits).
- Strengthening, upgrading and replacing support structures and foundations.

All other electricity transmission activities and any new transmission activities are to be considered and managed through the District Plan.

1.4.4 National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities 2016

The National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities (NESTF) provides national standards for telecommunication facilities and their support structures located within the road reserve. The standards do not provide nationalised methods for facilities within residential, commercial, rural, or industrial zones, other than radio frequency limits and measures. Regional and district plans generally cannot provide alternative rules that are either more lenient or restrictive than a national environmental standard.

The NESTF seeks to provide nation-wide consistency in regulations for the following activities:

- Cabinets in the road reserve, outside the road reserve and on buildings.
- Antennas on existing poles in the road reserve.
- Replacement, upgrading and co-location of existing poles and antennas outside road reserve (with different conditions on residential and non-residential areas).
- New poles and antennas in rural areas.
- Antennas on buildings (above a permitted height in residential areas).
- Small-cell units on existing structures.
- Telecommunications lines (underground, on the ground, and overhead).

1.4.5 National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation

The National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 (NPSREG) identifies renewable electricity generation activities as a matter of national importance and sets out one Objective and 14 Policies. The policy direction is to be given effect to in regional and district plans. In summary, the direction for the Energy provisions are:

- Policies A & B: To ensure the national, regional and local benefits of renewable electricity generation are recognised and provided for, and acknowledging NZ's target for generation from renewable sources and the requirement of the significant developments to meet this target.
- Policy C1: To acknowledge the range of constraints to renewable electricity development projects and that these are factored into decision making.
- Policy C2: To have regard to offsetting measures or environmental compensation.
- Policy D: To manage reverse sensitivity effects on existing renewable electricity generation activities.
- Policies E1 – E4: To provide for the development, operation, maintenance, and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities, where applicable to energy resources in the district.
- Policy F: To provide for small-scale renewable electricity generation activities.
- Policy G: To provide for the identification and assessment of potential sites and energy sources.

1.4.6 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (Freshwater NPS 2020) builds on and recasts the Freshwater NPS 2014. It provides local authorities with direction on how they should manage freshwater under the RMA. It seeks:

- The management of freshwater in a way that 'gives effect' to Te Mana o te Wai:
 - through involving tangata whenua
 - working with tangata whenua and communities to set out long-term visions in the regional policy statement and by
 - prioritising the health and wellbeing of water bodies, then the essential needs of people, followed by other uses.
- The improvement of degraded water bodies, and maintenance or improvement of all others using baselines defined in the NPS.
- An expanded national objectives framework that includes:
 - two additional values - threatened species and mahinga kai – which join ecosystem health and human health for recreation, as compulsory values;
 - a requirement for councils to develop plan objectives that describe the environmental outcome sought for all values (including an objective for each of the five individual components of ecosystem health);

- new attributes, aimed specifically at providing for ecosystem health, include Fish (IBI), sediment, macroinvertebrates (MCI and QMCI), and dissolved oxygen; councils will have to develop action plans and/or set limits on resource use to achieve these attributes;
- a tougher national bottom line for the attribute Nitrate Toxicity to protect 95% of species from toxic effects (up from 80%);
- no national bottom lines for dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) or dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) (as consulted on) but there is a requirement to manage these attributes as they relate to periphyton and other ecosystem health attributes;
- The avoidance of any further loss or degradation of wetlands and streams, the mapping of existing wetlands and encouragement of their restoration.
- The setting of an aquatic life objective for fish and the identification of and work towards target outcomes for fish abundance, diversity and passage and in-stream barriers to fish passage over time.
- The monitoring and reporting annually on freshwater (including the data used); a requirement to publish a synthesis report every five years containing a single ecosystem health score and responding to any deterioration.

1.4.7 National Code of Practice for Utility Operators Access to Transport Corridors

The National Code of Practice for Utility Operators' (the Code) is a legislated requirement under the Utilities Access Act 2010. The Code applies to the activities of all transport corridor managers and utility operators throughout New Zealand. It provides a nationally consistent and cooperative framework for corridor managers and utility operators, to manage transport corridors while also providing for the access rights of utility operators

The Code was developed as an industry-lead initiative to define the roles of the various stakeholders in the management of access to the transport corridors (road and rail) by utility operators. Representatives of all utilities, local authorities, the NZ Transport Agency and KiwiRail have collaboratively developed the Code and it underwent several rounds of public consultation before being approved by the Government.

The Code enables access by utility operators to transport corridors to be managed in a way that:

- maximises the benefit to the public while ensuring that all utility operators are treated fairly and reasonably
- ensures that disruptions to transport corridors and utility services caused by work by another party are kept to a minimum, while maintaining safety
- provides a nationally consistent approach to managing access to transport corridors; and
- provides for corridor managers to place reasonable conditions on utility operators by agreement, balancing perceived risks of the activities with costs collectively.

Specifically, the code recognises that transport corridors are utility corridors and there is no primacy of one utility over another. The beneficiaries of this pragmatic approach are the same community and businesses which the transport corridors and utility operators share as customers.

The Code requires corridor managers to coordinate the work of the various utilities within their districts, including their own, in a way which ensures the best outcomes for all New Zealanders in terms of the performance and longevity of the utility services and the transport corridor.

An updated version 2 of the Code was approved on 27 February 2019 and came into force on 15 July 2019.

1.4.8 National Policy Statement on Urban Development

The NPS-UD 2020 recognises the national significance of:

- having well-functioning urban environments that enable all people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing, and for their health and safety, now and into the future; and
- providing sufficient development capacity to meet the different needs of people and communities.

The NPS-UD 2020 requires councils to plan well for growth and ensure a well-functioning urban environment for all people, communities and future generations. This includes:

- ensuring urban development occurs in a way that takes into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (te Tiriti o Waitangi);
- ensuring that plans make room for growth both 'up' and 'out', and that rules are not unnecessarily constraining growth;
- developing, monitoring and maintaining an evidence base about demand, supply and prices for housing and land to inform planning decisions; and
- aligning and coordinating planning across urban areas.

The NPS-UD 2020 contains objectives and policies that councils must give effect to in their resource management decisions. The objectives and high-level policies of the NPS-UD 2020 apply to all councils that have all or part of an urban environment within their district or region (however, some policies apply only to tier 1 or tier 2 councils – see explanation below).

Overview of the requirements

The NPS-UD 2020 is made up of objectives and policies which are grouped as follows:

- Strategic planning for growth;
- Making room for growth;
- Housing affordability;
- Climate change;
- Enabling opportunities for development;
- Ensuring plan content provides for expected levels of development;
- Providing for intensification;
- Responsive planning;
- Removing minimum car parking requirements; and
- Decision-making.

The NPS-UD applies to all urban environments, categorised into the three tiers. The three tiers were informed by population size and growth rates. This approach allows the most directive policies to be targeted towards the largest and fastest growing urban centres, where the greatest benefits will be realised. The following section explains how this targeted system works.

Timaru District is a tier three district because the Timaru has an urban environment that consists of a housing and labour market of at least 10,000 people. As such, the Council is required to give effect to all the NPS objectives and the following policies:

Policy 1: Planning decisions contribute to well-functioning urban environments, which are urban environments that, as a minimum:

- (a) have or enable a variety of homes that:
 - (i) meet the needs, in terms of type, price, and location, of different households; and

- (ii) enable Māori to express their cultural traditions and norms; and
- (b) have or enable a variety of sites that are suitable for different business sectors in terms of location and site size; and
- (c) have good accessibility for all people between housing, jobs, community services, natural spaces, and open spaces, including by way of public or active transport; and
- (d) support, and limit as much as possible adverse impacts on, the competitive operation of land and development markets; and
- (e) support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and
- (f) are resilient to the likely current and future effects of climate change.

Policy 2: Tier 1, 2, and 3 local authorities, at all times, provide at least sufficient development capacity to meet expected demand for housing and for business land over the short term, medium term, and long term.

Policy 5: Regional policy statements and district plans applying to tier 2 and 3 urban environments enable heights and density of urban form commensurate with the greater of:

- (a) the level of accessibility by existing or planned active or public transport to a range of commercial activities and community services; or
- (b) relative demand for housing and business use in that location.

Policy 6: When making planning decisions that affect urban environments, decision-makers have particular regard to the following matters:

- (a) the planned urban built form anticipated by those RMA planning documents that have given effect to this National Policy Statement;
- (b) that the planned urban built form in those RMA planning documents may involve significant changes to an area, and those changes:
 - (i) may detract from amenity values appreciated by some people but improve amenity values appreciated by other people, communities, and future generations, including by providing increased and varied housing densities and types; and
 - (ii) are not, of themselves, an adverse effect;
- (c) the benefits of urban development that are consistent with well-functioning urban environments (as described in Policy 1);
- (d) any relevant contribution that will be made to meeting the requirements of this National Policy Statement to provide or realise development capacity;
- (e) the likely current and future effects of climate change.

Policy 8: Local authority decisions affecting urban environments are responsive to plan changes that would add significantly to development capacity and contribute to well-functioning urban environments, even if the development capacity is:

- (a) unanticipated by RMA planning documents; or
- (b) out-of-sequence with planned land release.

Policy 9: Local authorities, in taking account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) in relation to urban environments, must:

- (a) involve hapū and iwi in the preparation of RMA planning documents and any FDSs by undertaking effective consultation that is early, meaningful and, as far as practicable, in accordance with tikanga Māori; and
- (b) when preparing RMA planning documents and FDSs, take into account the values and aspirations of hapū and iwi for urban development; and
- (c) provide opportunities in appropriate circumstances for Māori involvement in decision-making on resource consents, designations, heritage orders, and water conservation orders, including in relation to sites of significance to Māori; and
- (d) issues of cultural significance; and
- (e) operate in a way that is consistent with iwi participation legislation.

Policy 10: Tier 1, 2, and 3 local authorities:

- (a) that share jurisdiction over urban environments work together when implementing this National Policy Statement; and
- (b) engage with providers of development infrastructure and additional infrastructure to achieve integrated land use and infrastructure planning; and
- (c) engage with the development sector to identify significant opportunities for urban development.

Policy 11: In relation to car parking:

- (a) the district plans of tier 1, 2, and 3 territorial authorities do not set minimum car parking rate requirements, other than for accessible car parks; and
- (b) tier 1, 2, and 3 local authorities are strongly encouraged to manage effects associated with the supply and demand of car parking through comprehensive parking management plans.

1.4.9 National Planning Standards

Released in April 2019, the purpose of the National Planning Standards (planning standards) is to improve consistency in plan and policy statement structure, format and content.

The standards were introduced as part of the 2017 amendments to the RMA. Their development is enabled by sections 58B–58J of the RMA. They support implementation of other national direction such as national policy statements and help people to comply with the procedural principles of the RMA.

For energy, infrastructure and transport, guidance is located in Section 7 of the standards which states:

5. *Provisions relating to energy, infrastructure and transport that are not specific to the Special purpose zones chapter or sections must be located in one or more chapters under the Energy, infrastructure and transport heading. These provisions may include:*
 - a. *statement about the status of transport corridors eg, the adjoining zoning applies to the centre line of mapped roads*
 - b. *noise-related metrics and noise measurement methods relating to energy, infrastructure and transport, which must be consistent with the 15. Noise and vibration metrics Standard*
 - c. *the management of reverse sensitivity effects between infrastructure and other activities.*
6. *The chapters under the Energy, infrastructure and transport heading must include cross-references to any energy, infrastructure and transport provisions in a Special purpose zones chapter or sections.*
7. *Zone chapters must include cross-references to relevant provisions under the Energy, infrastructure and transport heading.*
8. *All chapters must be included alphabetically.*

1.4.10 Canterbury Regional Policy Statement

The key provisions of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS) of direct relevance to this topic include:

Chapter 5 – Land Use And Infrastructure

The CRPS includes objectives seeking:

5.2.1 Location, design and function of development (Entire Region)

Development is located and designed so that it functions in a way that:

1. *achieves consolidated, well designed and sustainable growth in and around existing urban areas as the primary focus for accommodating the region's growth; and*

2. *enables people and communities, including future generations, to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and health and safety; and which:*
 - a. *maintains, and where appropriate, enhances the overall quality of the natural environment of the Canterbury region, including its coastal environment, outstanding natural features and landscapes, and natural values;*
 - b. *provides sufficient housing choice to meet the region's housing needs;*
 - c. *encourages sustainable economic development by enabling business activities in appropriate locations;*

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*
 - 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.*
 - d. *minimises energy use and/or improves energy efficiency;*
 - e. *enables rural activities that support the rural environment including primary production;*
 - f. *is compatible with, and will result in the continued safe, efficient and effective use of regionally significant infrastructure;*
 - g. *avoids adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources including regionally significant infrastructure, and where avoidance is impracticable, remedies or mitigates those effects on those resources and infrastructure;*
 - h. *facilitates the establishment of papakāinga and marae; and*
 - i. *avoids conflicts between incompatible activities.*

On the basis of the above objectives the CRPS includes policies seeking:

5.3.1 Regional growth (Wider Region)

To provide, as the primary focus for meeting the wider region's growth needs, sustainable development patterns that:

1. *ensure that any*
 - a. *urban growth; and*
 - b. *limited rural residential development occur in a form that concentrates, or is attached to, existing urban areas and promotes a coordinated pattern of development;*
2. *encourage within urban areas, housing choice, recreation and community facilities, and business opportunities of a character and form that supports urban consolidation;*
3. *promote energy efficiency in urban forms, transport patterns, site location and subdivision layout;*
4. *maintain and enhance the sense of identity and character of the region's urban areas; and*
5. *encourage high quality urban design, including the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values.*

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;*
- 2. *significant natural and physical resources; 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.*

5.3.3 Management of development (Wider Region)

To ensure that substantial developments are designed and built to be of a high-quality, and are robust and resilient:

- 1. *through promoting, where appropriate, a diversity of residential, employment and recreational choices, for individuals and communities associated with the substantial development; and*
- 2. *where amenity values, the quality of the environment, and the character of an area are maintained, or appropriately enhanced.*

5.3.5 Servicing development for potable water, and sewage and stormwater disposal (Wider Region)

Within the wider region, ensure development is appropriately and efficiently served for the collection, treatment, disposal or re-use of sewage and stormwater, and the provision of potable water, by:

- 1. *avoiding development which will not be served in a timely manner to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on the environment and human health; and*
- 2. *requiring these services to be designed, built, managed or upgraded to maximise their on-going effectiveness.*

5.3.6 Sewerage, stormwater and potable water infrastructure (Wider Region)

Within the wider region:

- 1. *Avoid development which constrains the on-going ability of the existing sewerage, stormwater, and potable water supply infrastructure to be developed and used.*
- 2. *Enable sewerage, stormwater, and potable water infrastructure to be developed and used, provided that, as a result of its location and design:*
 - a. *the adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources are avoided, or where this is not practicable, mitigated; and*
 - b. *other adverse effects on the environment are appropriately controlled.*
- 3. *Discourage sewerage, stormwater and potable water supply infrastructure which will promote development in locations which do not meet Policy 5.3.1.*

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.*

5.3.10 Telecommunication infrastructure (Wider Region)

Within the wider region:

- 1. *Avoid development which constrains the ability of telecommunication infrastructure in Canterbury to be developed and used.*
- 2. *Enable telecommunication infrastructure to be developed and used provided that, as a result of its location and design;*
 - a. *the adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources and cultural values are avoided, or where this is not practicable, remedied, mitigated; and*
 - b. *other adverse effects on the environment are appropriately controlled.*

5.3.11 Community-scale irrigation, stockwater and rural drainage infrastructure (Wider Region)

In relation to established and consented community-scale irrigation, stockwater and rural drainage infrastructure:

- 1. *Avoid development which constrains the ability of this infrastructure in Canterbury to be operated, maintained and upgraded;*
- 2. *Enable this infrastructure to be operated, maintained, and upgraded in Canterbury to more effectively and efficiently transport consented water provided that, as a result of its location and design:*
 - a. *The adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources and cultural values are avoided, or where this is not practicable, mitigated; and*
 - b. *other adverse effects on the environment are appropriately managed.*

CRPS Chapter 16 - Energy

The CRPS includes objectives seeking:

16.2.1 Efficient use of energy

Development is located and designed to enable the efficient use of energy, including:

- 1. *maintaining an urban form that shortens trip distances*
- 2. *planning for efficient transport, including freight*
- 3. *encouraging energy-efficient urban design principles*
- 4. *reduction of energy waste*
- 5. *avoiding impacts on the ability to operate energy infrastructure efficiently.*

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.*

On the basis of the above objectives the CRPS includes policies seeking:

16.3.1 Efficient use of energy

To promote the efficient end-use of energy.

16.3.2 Small and community scale distributed renewable electricity generation

Encourage and provide for the operation maintenance and development of small and community scale distributed renewable electricity generation provided that:

- 1. any adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources or cultural values are avoided, or where this is not practicable, remedied or mitigated; and*
- 2. other adverse effects on the environment are appropriately controlled.*

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.*

16.3.4 Reliable and resilient electricity transmission network within Canterbury

To encourage a reliable and resilient national electricity transmission network within Canterbury by:

- 1. having particular regard to the local, regional and national benefits when considering operation, maintenance, upgrade or development of the electricity transmission network;*
- 2. avoiding subdivision, use and development including urban or semi urban development patterns, which would otherwise limit the ability of the electricity transmission network to be operated, maintained, upgraded and developed;*
- 3. enabling the operational, maintenance, upgrade, and development of the electricity transmission network provided that, as a result of route, site and method selection, where:*
 - a. the adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources or cultural values are avoided, or where this is not practicable, remedied or mitigated; and*
 - b. other adverse effects on the environment are appropriately controlled.*

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.*

1.4.11 National Planning Template Example of Infrastructure Provisions

A number of network utility operators have prepared an ‘of the shelf’ set of provisions for infrastructure (network utilities) consistent with the national planning standards that can be adopted by District Councils around the country. These provisions have been tested by a number of Councils recently (for example New Plymouth and Waimakariri) and appear to be relatively robust.

1.4.12 Other Documents

Other relevant documents for the drafting of the District Plan include:

Document	Description	Relevance
Canterbury Regional Coastal Environment Plan 2005	The Regional Coastal Environment Plan 2005 recognises the need to protect existing network utility infrastructure, where such infrastructure is located adjacent to or within the coastal marine area. The Plan also recognises the importance of enabling the Ports of Lyttleton and Timaru to operate efficiently and effectively. In particular, the Plan features a number of exceptions from rules where works in the coastal marine area are being undertaken to protect a network utility.	Relevant to infrastructure in the coastal environment.
Land and Water Regional Plan	Sets objectives, policies and rules for how land and water is managed in Canterbury region.	Relevant to all parts of the District Plan.
Iwi Management Plan of Kāti Huirapa	Documents Te Runanga o Arowhenua resource management values	General relevance to the whole District Plan and specific relevance to drafting Tangata whenua chapters
Timaru District 2045 Growth Management Strategy	Sets the direction for 30 years of planning for growth in Timaru District.	In drafting the Infrastructure and energy chapter, and zoning provisions.
Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2068	Sets out the priorities for waste minimisation, land	In drafting the Infrastructure and energy chapter, and zoning provisions.

	transport and Water Supply, Stormwater & sewer.	
Timaru District Stormwater Strategy 2018-2048	Sets an integrated approach to urban stormwater management	In drafting the Infrastructure and energy chapter, and zoning provisions.
Timaru District Economic Development Strategy 2015-35	Sets goals for economic development	General relevance to the whole District Plan.
Long Term Plan 2018-28	Identifies spending commitments by Timaru District Council for ten years.	General relevance to drafting of the whole District Plan
Te Whakatau Kaupapa Ngai Tahu Resource Management Strategy for the Canterbury Region	Documents Ngai Tahu views on resource management in Canterbury	General relevance to drafting of the whole District Plan
Ashburton, Waimate and Mackenzie District Plans	District Plans for adjacent territorial authorities.	In the drafting of the Cross-boundary issues section.
Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan	Concerns managing hazard and risk.	In drafting the Environment risks chapter and sections.

2 Approach to Evaluation

An assessment of the scale and significance of a proposal at a high level is required at the start of the planning process. The RMA requires that this report contain a level of detail that corresponds with the scale and significance of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of this proposal.

This section of the RMA requires that:

New proposals must be examined for their appropriateness in achieving the purpose of the RMA.

The benefits and costs, and risks of new policies and rules on the community, the economy and the environment need to be clearly identified and assessed.

All advice received from iwi authorities and the response to the advice needs to be summarised.

The analysis must be documented, so stakeholders and decision-makers can understand the rationale for policy choices.

Criteria have been developed for determining scale and significance as part of the evaluation framework, and the proposal has been screened against these criteria. A ranking approach has been applied from low to medium and high to indicate where on the continuum of scale and significance the proposal falls.

For a full plan review, scale and significance should be assessed for different parts of a proposed plan as well as for the plan as a whole. This is because some parts of a proposed plan

may result in different impacts and therefore differing levels of analysis. The outcome of the below assessment assists in determining the extent to which matters are relevant and what is required. For example, if Scale and Significance is low, then quantification is less likely to be required, and detail of options and evaluation can be brief.

2.1 Scale and significance

As per above the below tables assess the implications of the potential provisions of the Proposed District Plan:

Issue: Providing for the installation and maintenance of infrastructure, including for energy		
Degree of change from the Operative Plan	<p>The operative district plan does not contain a specific chapter or section on energy and infrastructure.</p> <p>Chapter 5 (Solid Waste, Liquid Waste and Hazardous Substances Management) and Chapter 9 (Services and Infrastructure) in Part B of the District Plan, provides the policy framework for services and infrastructure. The rules applying to services and infrastructure are addressed on a zone by zone basis, with some additional matters dealt with in Part D of the District Plan by General Rules 6.5.3.3, 6.6 and 6.11.</p> <p>The current District Plan addresses the issue of high energy consumption and the need for improved energy efficiency and energy conservation, but only at a very high level.</p> <p>An approach where specific chapters on energy and infrastructure are included will be a substantial change in the format and application of provisions. The existing plan does not explicitly recognise the benefits of regionally significant infrastructure.</p>	Medium
Effects on matters of national importance	<p>Energy and infrastructure are not specifically identified as matters of national importance in section 6 of the RMA. As such, provisions which potentially increase the ability to install and maintain energy and infrastructure are likely to have a lesser impact on matters of national importance.</p> <p>The integration of infrastructure and land use is an important component of achieving the NPS on Urban Development 2020.</p> <p>It is also recognised that the potential provisions will more closely align with documents such as national policy statements.</p>	Medium
Scale of effects – geographically (local, district wide, regional, national).	<p>Energy and Infrastructure is generally spread across the District with a greater concentration in built up areas.</p>	Medium

	It is considered the implications of any provisions will be district wide.	
Scale of effects on people (how many will be affected – single landowners, multiple landowners, neighbourhoods, the public generally, future generations?).	<p>Infrastructure and energy are matters for the public generally and provisions for and protecting infrastructure and energy will have an impact for current and future generations.</p> <p>The proposal will introduce changes which could include differences in effects on people. These changes will be consistent with the national planning example so a more specific and defined approach is taken which assists in controlling any potential changes in effects.</p>	Medium
Scale of effects on those with specific interests, e.g., Tangata Whenua	<p>The scale of effect for infrastructure providers, such as Transpower, is considered higher as the proposal will provide an approach more consistent with national policy. This is considered to be a positive effect for such an organisation.</p> <p>It is not considered other infrastructure providers will be significantly affected as much of the proposed provisions are consistent with the national planning example provisions which have been through extensive public consultation.</p>	Medium
Degree of policy risk – does it involve effects that have been considered implicitly or explicitly by higher order documents? Does it involve effects addressed by other standards/commonly accepted best practice?	The proposed provisions will better align with national policy direction and best practice.	Low
Likelihood of increased costs or restrictions on individuals, communities or businesses.	The proposed provisions will provide a more defined approach that is consistent with the national planning example.	Low
Overall Assessment of Scale and Significance		Medium

Issue: Managing the potential effects of energy and infrastructure on the environment		
Degree of change from the Operative Plan	<p>The operative district plan does not contain a specific chapter or section on energy and infrastructure.</p> <p>Chapter 5 (Solid Waste, Liquid Waste and Hazardous Substances Management) and Chapter 9 (Services and Infrastructure) in Part B of the District Plan, provides the policy framework for services and infrastructure.</p>	Medium

	<p>The rules applying to services and infrastructure are addressed on a zone by zone basis, with some additional matters dealt with in Part D of the District Plan by General Rules 6.5.3.3, 6.6 and 6.11.</p> <p>The current District Plan addresses the issue of high energy consumption and the need for improved energy efficiency and energy conservation, but only at a very high level. The existing plan does not explicitly recognise the benefits of regionally significant infrastructure.</p> <p>An approach where specific chapters on energy and infrastructure are included will be a substantial change in the format and application of provisions.</p> <p>This will assist in being able to apply more specific controls on infrastructure including potential environmental effects.</p>	
Effects on matters of national importance	<p>Energy and infrastructure are not specifically identified as matters of national importance in section 6 of the RMA. As such, provisions which provide more specific controls on Energy and Infrastructure are likely to have a lesser impact on matters of national importance.</p> <p>It is also recognised that the potential provisions will more closely align with documents such as national policy statements.</p>	Medium
Scale of effects – geographically (local, district wide, regional, national).	<p>Energy and Infrastructure is generally spread across the District with a greater concentration in built up areas. It is considered the implications of any provisions will be district wide.</p>	Medium
Scale of effects on people (how many will be affected – single landowners, multiple landowners, neighbourhoods, the public generally, future generations?).	<p>Infrastructure and energy are matters for the public generally and provisions for and protecting infrastructure and energy will have an impact for current and future generations.</p> <p>The proposal will introduce changes which could include differences in effects on people. These changes will be consistent with nationally applied provisions so a more specific and defined approach is taken which assists in controlling any potential changes in effects.</p>	Medium
Scale of effects on those with specific interests, e.g., Tangata Whenua	<p>The scale of effect for infrastructure providers, such as Transpower, is considered higher as the proposal will provide an approach more consistent with national</p>	Medium

	<p>policy. This is considered to be a positive effect for such an organisation.</p> <p>It is not considered other infrastructure providers will be significantly affected as much as the proposed provisions are consistent with previous national wide provisions which have been through extensive public consultation.</p>	
<p>Degree of policy risk – does it involve effects that have been considered implicitly or explicitly by higher order documents? Does it involve effects addressed by other standards/commonly accepted best practice?</p>	<p>The proposed provisions will better align with national policy direction.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Likelihood of increased costs or restrictions on individuals, communities or businesses.</p>	<p>The proposed provisions will provide a more defined approach that is consistent with national policy. It is not considered the proposed provisions will introduce a greater or different scale of effect particularly for those organisations operating infrastructure.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Overall Assessment of Scale and Significance</p>		<p>Medium</p>

<p>Issue: Managing activities that may have an effect on energy and infrastructure</p>		
<p>Degree of change from the Operative Plan</p>	<p>The operative district plan does not contain a specific chapter or section on energy and infrastructure.</p> <p>Chapter 5 (Solid Waste, Liquid Waste and Hazardous Substances Management) and Chapter 9 (Services and Infrastructure) in Part B of the District Plan, provides the policy framework for services and infrastructure. The rules applying to services and infrastructure are addressed on a zone by zone basis, with some additional matters dealt with in Part D of the District Plan by General Rules 6.5.3.3, 6.6 and 6.11.</p> <p>The current District Plan addresses the issue of high energy consumption and the need for improved energy efficiency and energy conservation, but only at a very high level.</p> <p>An approach where specific chapters on energy and infrastructure are included will be a substantial change in the format and application of provisions.</p> <p>The provisions also introduce controls on activities, such as setbacks from regionally significant</p>	<p>Medium</p>

	infrastructure, which will provide greater protection for infrastructure.	
Effects on matters of national importance	<p>Energy and infrastructure are not specifically identified as matters of national importance in section 6 of the RMA. As such, provisions which potentially increase protection of energy and infrastructure are likely to have a lesser impact on matters of national importance.</p> <p>It is also recognised that the potential provisions will more closely align with documents such as national policy statements.</p>	Medium
Scale of effects – geographically (local, district wide, regional, national).	<p>Energy and Infrastructure is generally spread across the District with a greater concentration in built up areas.</p> <p>It is considered the implications of any provisions will be district wide.</p>	Medium
Scale of effects on people (how many will be affected – single landowners, multiple landowners, neighbourhoods, the public generally, future generations?).	<p>Infrastructure and energy are matters for the public generally and provisions for and protecting infrastructure and energy will have an impact for current and future generations.</p> <p>The proposal will introduce changes which could include differences in effects on people. These changes will be consistent with nationally applied provisions so a more specific and defined approach is taken which assists in controlling any potential changes in effects including on infrastructure.</p>	Medium
Scale of effects on those with specific interests, e.g., Tangata Whenua	<p>The scale of effect for infrastructure providers, such as Transpower, is considered higher as the proposal will provide an approach more consistent with national policy. This is considered to be a positive effect for such an organisation.</p> <p>It is not considered other organisations will be significantly affected as much of the proposed provisions are consistent with nationwide provisions which have been through extensive public consultation.</p>	Medium
Degree of policy risk – does it involve effects that have been considered implicitly or explicitly by higher order documents? Does it involve effects	The proposed provisions will better align with national policy.	Low

addressed by other standards/commonly accepted best practice?		
Likelihood of increased costs or restrictions on individuals, communities or businesses.	The proposed provisions will provide a more defined approach that is consistent with national policy.	Low
Overall Assessment of Scale and Significance		Medium

2.2 Approach to managing infrastructure and energy

The objective and policy framework is intended to provide clear direction on the necessity to ensure that regionally significant infrastructure and stormwater including its ongoing operation, maintenance, and upgrading is provided throughout the District to support existing and proposed settlements and enable people and communities to meet their social, economic and cultural needs. This is to be done while also ensuring that the adverse effects of all infrastructure on the surrounding land-uses and the environment is appropriately managed.

Infrastructure within the sensitive environment overlays are subject to the overlay provisions which typically require a more rigorous assessment of adverse effects.

2.3 Changes proposed

Operative Plan	Proposed Plan
<p>The rules applying to services and infrastructure are addressed on a zone-by-zone basis, with some additional matters dealt with in the General Rules.</p> <p>The issue of high energy consumption and the need for improved energy efficiency and energy conservation is covered at a policy level.</p>	<p>Includes specific chapters on energy and infrastructure with specific rules on providing for infrastructure and the management of the adverse effects.</p>
<p>The objectives and policies seek to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of infrastructure but also ensure an adequate level of infrastructure is provided to enable the efficient use and development.</p>	<p>Same as for the operative plan, however it also better addresses regionally significant infrastructure and the need for coordination between provision of infrastructure and development and land.</p>
<p>Rules are contained in various zones.</p>	<p>All rules for infrastructure (except private stormwater management and transport) are contained in one chapter which allows a plan user to read the relevant provisions in one place. This is a more efficient and effective approach overall for plan users, including infrastructure providers and those assessing any resource consent applications.</p>

2.4 Quantification of Costs and Benefits

Quantification of costs and benefits has not been specifically undertaken for this topic. The costs and benefits of the proposed provisions will apply across the whole district but will vary depending on the nature and scale of infrastructure within a specific area. For example, electricity transmission infrastructure may provide electricity across the South Island which provides a greater benefit compared to a local network line which may serve a few homes in a street.

The scale of the benefits and costs are difficult to value in monetary terms, but generally it is recognised that energy and infrastructure plays a vital role in the well-being of New Zealand, its people and the environment.

2.5 Choice of Evaluation Method(s)

The approach to evaluation for this topic is a qualitative cost-benefit analysis as the issue is of medium significance and because it is difficult to monetise the benefits and costs.

2.6 Proposed objectives

This section of the report evaluates the proposed objectives as to whether they are the most appropriate to achieve the purpose of the Act.

Objective

EI-O1 Regionally Significant Infrastructure

Effective, resilient, efficient and safe Regionally Significant Infrastructure and lifeline utilities that:

1. provides essential and secure services, including in emergencies; and
2. facilitates local, regional, national or international connectivity; and
3. contributes to the economy and supports a high standard of living; and
4. is aligned and integrates with the timing and location of urban development; and
5. enables people and communities to provide for their health, safety and wellbeing.

EI-02 Adverse effects of Regionally Significant Infrastructure

The adverse effects of regionally significant infrastructure and lifeline utilities:

1. are avoided in sensitive environments unless there is a functional or operational need for the infrastructure to be in that location, in which case they must be remedied or mitigated; and
2. are avoided, remedied or mitigated to achieve the relevant objectives for the underlying zone in other areas.

EI-03 Adverse effects of other infrastructure

The adverse effects of other infrastructure:

1. are avoided on the identified characteristics and values of the sensitive environments the infrastructure is located within; and
2. are avoided, remedied or mitigated to achieve the relevant objectives for the underlying zone in other areas.

EI-04 Adverse effects on Regionally Significant Infrastructure and lifeline utilities

The efficient operation, maintenance, repair, upgrading or development of Regionally Significant Infrastructure and lifeline utilities are not constrained or compromised by the adverse effects of subdivision, use and development, including reverse sensitivity effects.

EI-05 Amateur radio configurations

Amateur radio configurations are able to be efficiently established with minimal adverse effects on the surrounding environment.

3 Evaluation of Objectives

The table below sets out how the proposed objectives set out above achieve the purpose of the RMA.

Category	Criteria	Comments
Relevance	Directed to addressing a resource management issue	<p>Option 1: Partly Achieves The operative district plan does not specifically address the need for coordination of infrastructure with existing development and planned growth and it does not address regionally significant infrastructure.</p> <p>Option 2: Achieves The proposed objective addresses the need for coordination of infrastructure with existing development and planned growth while also managing the adverse effects of both regionally significant infrastructure and other infrastructure on surrounding land use and the environment.</p>

	<p>Focused on achieving the purpose of the Act</p>	<p>Option 1: Partly Achieves The objectives involve matters of national significance in relation to s6(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (h) insofar as infrastructure may from time to time occur or be proposed within those areas identified. It also relates to section 7 matters, in particular the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources, the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values (s7 (b), (ba), (c) and (f)). However, they do not specifically address regional infrastructure.</p> <p>Option 2: Achieves The proposed objectives are considered to be consistent with the purpose and principles of the RMA, as they will assist in enabling people and communities to provide for their social and economic well-being and for their health and safety. The inclusion of resilience as a desired characteristic of infrastructure is considered to be consistent with section 6(h) as it links with the management of significant risk of natural hazards. The objectives are also considered to be consistent with section 7(b) as they will assist in avoiding the inefficient use and development of infrastructure resources.</p>
	<p>Assists a council to carry out its statutory functions</p>	<p>Option 1: Partly Achieves This approach does not specifically manage the effects of use, development or protection of land associated natural and physical resources in relation to infrastructure provision, including regionally significant infrastructure.</p> <p>Option 2: Achieves The objectives are more aligned with s31(1)(a) as the objectives cover, the management of the effects of use, development or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources.</p>

	Within scope of higher-level documents	<p>Option 1: Partially Achieves The operative district plan does not fully address the need for coordination between provision of infrastructure and development and land use or provide for regionally significant infrastructure as required by the CRPS.</p> <p>Option 2: Achieves The proposed objectives give effect to the NPS-UD, specifically Objective 6 which seeks that local authority decisions on urban development that affect urban environments are integrated with infrastructure planning and funding decisions and Policy 10 that requires local authorities to engage with providers of development infrastructure and additional infrastructure to achieve integrated land use and infrastructure planning.</p>
Feasibility	Acceptable level of uncertainty and risk	<p>Option 1: Partially Achieves The district plan does not specifically address the integration of infrastructure provision with land use and development, creating an unacceptable level of uncertainty.</p> <p>Option 2: Achieved The outcome sought in relation to the provision of infrastructure to meet existing and planned needs provides greater certainty to people and the community. There is no identified risk associated with the objective. The provisions have been guided by the National Utilities Group example provisions which have been tested with infrastructure providers.</p>
	Realistically able to be achieved within council's powers, skills and resources	<p>Option 1: Partially Achieves The operative district plan contains some relevant objectives within the scope of the Council's functions and responsibilities under the RMA.</p> <p>Option 2: Achieves The provision of some infrastructure, such as three waters infrastructure as provided</p>

		<p>for in the objectives, is the Council's responsibility, and its planning is set out under the Council's Long-Term Plan. The land use development pattern to be serviced by infrastructure is also a function of the district plan framework, and therefore also within Council's control to a degree, acknowledging that consenting and plan change processes can be outside of the Council's control when progressed to appeal stages. Other infrastructure is delivered by other infrastructure providers.</p>
Acceptability	Consistent with identified iwi/Māori and community outcomes	<p>Option 1: Partially achieves The district plan contains no directly relevant objectives for infrastructure and energy.</p> <p>Option 2: Achieves The proposed objectives are consistent with community feedback which supported including provisions to recognise the benefits of and provide for infrastructure, renewable energy, and the encouragement of small and community scale renewable energy generating facilities, while managing adverse effects from and on the infrastructure. The community supported the integration of infrastructure with land use.</p>
	Will not result in unjustifiably high costs on the community or parts of the community	<p>Option 1: Partially Achieves There is currently a lack of clarity in relation to the provision of infrastructure and integration with land use and development, which has the potential to create uncertainty and impose costs (monetary and non-monetary) on people and the community. Misaligned or out-of-sequence development or provision of infrastructure has the potential to impose significant costs on infrastructure providers, which include public organisations including Council. Similarly, a lack of provision of sufficient development infrastructure to</p>

		<p>support urban development has the potential to impose significant costs on developers, and consequently on people and the community as a whole through delays, financial costs for inefficient development of infrastructure, increased rates to provide for new infrastructure and upgrades of existing infrastructure to meet increased demand and potential cost escalation of developed land.</p> <p>Option 2: Achieves The objectives do not create unjustifiably high costs on the community. The outcome sought through the objectives would ensure that costs associated with the provision of infrastructure are minimised through its integration with existing and planned development, which will avoid inefficient land use development and infrastructure costs which can result from misaligned or out-of-sequence development. Additionally, costs to the community will also be minimised in the long term through this infrastructure being safe, efficient and resilient.</p>
--	--	---

4 Identification of Options

Option 1: Status Quo

This option involves a continuation of the operative Plan provisions including the current policies and rules.

Option 2: Standalone infrastructure and energy chapter

An infrastructure and energy chapter with objectives and policies that give effect to higher order planning documents including relevant national policy statements, national environmental standards, the CRPS.

5 Evaluation of Options

5.1 Evaluation table

OPTION 1 <i>Status-quo</i>			
Benefits Environmental	Economic	Social	Cultural
The existing provisions have environmental benefits by requiring resource consents for some infrastructure to ensure that adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated	There may be savings in terms of time and cost for applicants and the Council if the existing provisions were to be carried over, as the Council and community are familiar with these provisions.	The provisions have social wellbeing benefits with the need to provide for network infrastructure	The provisions have some cultural wellbeing benefits as they support community well-being and as adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated
Costs Environmental	Economic	Social	Cultural
<p>The provisions address environmental effects of infrastructure. There is no evidence to suggest that the status quo approach is resulting in significant environmental costs.</p> <p>However, the policies contain no guidance around the assessment of regionally significant infrastructure which provides national, regional and local benefits but also have the potential to have significant adverse effects on the environment,</p>	<p>The district plan does not include provisions addressing reverse sensitivity effects of infrastructure. This may have direct economic effects on the providers of that infrastructure, and indirect effects on the economy of the District if the infrastructure were to be compromised because of reverse sensitivity effects.</p> <p>There is some regulatory uncertainty in the existing provisions for addressing adverse effects on regionally significant infrastructure, as the relevant policy refers to 'adverse effects of development, including servicing infrastructure' without further specificity.</p>	<p>There is no evidence that the status quo approach currently results in social costs. However, the lack of specific provisions addressing the protection of regionally significant infrastructure has the potential to result in reverse sensitivity effects on that other infrastructure. If the effective functioning of the infrastructure were to become compromised, this would have indirect effect on social wellbeing</p>	<p>There is no evidence that the status quo approach is resulting in cultural costs</p>

<p>especially in sensitive environments. While recognising those benefits is very important, it also needs to be balanced against the potential adverse effects, particularly in relation to sites and areas which have significant values or qualities. Without specific guidance, adverse effects on these areas may not be appropriately managed</p>			
<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>The existing provisions are not currently as efficient as they could be in achieving the objectives, as there are identified environmental costs in not providing guidance on how to manage the effects of regionally significant infrastructure that has the potential to have significant adverse effects, and not specifically providing policy guidance on the protection of regionally significant infrastructure other than the National Grid.</p>		
<p>Effectiveness</p>	<p>There is no evidence to suggest that the existing provisions are not effective in achieving the objectives of the district plan, as far as the scope of the provisions allows. However, there are issues with the effectiveness of these provisions in relation to protection of regionally significant infrastructure from adverse effects of other activities that is not addressed in the policies and methods.</p>		
<p>Strategic Direction(s)</p>	<p>The existing provisions do not fully align with the strategic directions specifically about the management of regionally significant infrastructure.</p>		
<p>Overall Appropriateness of Option 1</p>	<p>Option 1, has benefits in terms of familiarity to the public and plan users, however, it is not the is the most appropriate way to achieve the preferred objectives as the approach does not sufficiently deal with reverse sensitivity and the management of regionally significant infrastructure.</p>		

<p>OPTION 2 <i>Preferred option – a standalone revised infrastructure and energy chapter</i></p>			
<p>Benefits Environmental</p>	<p>Economic</p>	<p>Social</p>	<p>Cultural</p>
<p>The provisions relating to recognising the</p>	<p>The availability and capacity of necessary infrastructure is</p>	<p>The availability and capacity of infrastructure is</p>	<p>There will be direct and indirect cultural benefits as a result</p>

<p>benefits of regionally significant infrastructure will have direct environmental benefits. The policies incorporate reference to the sensitive environment overlays in providing policy direction for the acceptability of adverse effects of development within those areas. As such, this provides stronger direction for the appropriate management of adverse effects on the environment within these more sensitive areas and will likely result in better environmental outcomes.</p> <p>The policies contained in the Infrastructure chapter and the associated rules contained in other chapters for building, structures and activities within the National Grid Yard and the Corridor may have indirect environmental benefits, through restricting development within these areas. While likely of relatively low environmental value and still subject to human modification, the provisions will</p>	<p>critical for the economic functioning of the District, including economic and employment growth.</p> <p>The provisions covering the recognition of and provision for regionally significant infrastructure will likely have indirect economic benefits. Infrastructure has high capital costs, which is often borne by the community through public entities. Greater certainty for infrastructure providers that the benefits of regionally significant infrastructure at different geographic scales will be recognised through any required consenting processes will likely assist in progressing these projects through their initial stages and may result in smoother consenting process and the completion of more capital projects, which in turn will enable economic development in the District.</p> <p>The protection of regionally significant infrastructure will have direct economic benefits. The provisions limited development in the vicinity of the National Grid will ensure that the</p>	<p>critical for social wellbeing in the District. Infrastructure enables people and communities to undertake a range of activities that support their social wellbeing. Changes that improve the efficiency and effectiveness infrastructure will correspondingly provide improved social benefits.</p> <p>The provisions seeking to recognise and provide for regionally significant infrastructure will have indirect social benefits, as they will assist in ensuring that regionally significant infrastructure is continued to be provided in the future.</p> <p>Similarly, the proposed provisions for the protection of regionally significant infrastructure will have indirect social benefits by ensuring that these facilities are not compromised by adjacent development, and that their services continue to provide for socially beneficial activities</p>	<p>of these provisions. Cultural benefits will include national, regional and local benefits to people and communities derived from the provision and protection of regionally significant infrastructure which enable people to undertake a range of activities that support their cultural wellbeing which rely on the availability of energy, communications, and the three water networks. In addition, the policies provide policy direction for adverse effects of development within sensitive environments overlays including sites and areas of significance to Kāti Huirapa.</p>
--	---	---	--

<p>nonetheless likely result in lower levels of development within these areas and decrease the risk to human safety from being located proximate to these.</p> <p>The direct environmental benefits of the provisions include the policy direction provided to minimise adverse effects on the environment. This provides greater direction than the district plan. The provisions recognise that effects on the environment will result from the establishment, operation, maintenance and repair, and upgrade of infrastructure, but sets out that these should be as low as possible</p>	<p>network is not compromised by adjacent development, including subdivision. Such development has the potential to affect infrastructure through reverse sensitivity effects, potentially resulting in constraints on their operation and use, or more directly through regulatory or other requirements on infrastructure providers to ensure the health and safety of people and communities that may be affected by their operations. By protecting those networks through the district plan provisions, the potential direct financial costs of their safe and effective functioning compromised by adjacent development can be avoided</p>		
<p>Costs Environmental</p>	<p>Economic</p>	<p>Social</p>	<p>Cultural</p>
<p>There are not considered to be any direct or indirect environmental costs of the proposed provisions related to the protection of regionally significant infrastructure, which include restrictions placed on activities, buildings and</p>	<p>There are not considered to be any direct or indirect economic costs in relation to the provisions for recognising and providing for regionally significant infrastructure.</p> <p>The proposed provisions relating to the protection of regionally significant infrastructure from</p>	<p>There are unlikely to be any social costs associated with the proposed provisions relating to recognising and providing for infrastructure and regionally significant Infrastructure. The provisions will likely result in social benefits.</p>	<p>It is unlikely there will be cultural costs as a result of these provisions. Sites and areas of significance to Māori and cultural landscapes will be provided for through district-wide overlays, which are addressed in separate provisions for infrastructure</p>

<p>structures within certain distances of the National Grid. These provisions protect existing infrastructure, and therefore are restrictive of development within certain areas which could otherwise lead to potential adverse effects on environmental values.</p> <p>The provisions relating to recognising the benefits of regionally significant infrastructure include those providing for the upgrade and development the National Grid may have both direct and indirect environmental costs.</p> <p>While the provisions enable a range of infrastructure to be established, operated, maintained and repaired, and upgraded, these provisions relate only to sites outside of overlays. As such, these activities will also be subject to the requirements of the rules relating to infrastructure within overlays, ensuring that any effects on environmental</p>	<p>adverse effects will have direct and indirect economic costs.</p> <p>Direct costs include consenting costs where applicants want to undertake an activity that does not meet permitted standards. This includes the cost of procuring any expert advice required as well as the cost of consent processing.</p> <p>There will minor short-term costs to district plan users and the Council planning team as they build familiarity with the new provisions</p>		
---	--	--	--

<p>values associated with sites and areas identified through the overlays will be managed through the policies and rules relevant to that overlay, and any costs associated with effects on environmental values will be acceptable.</p>			
<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>The proposed provisions are considered to be a highly efficient means for achieving the objectives given the above assessment of costs and benefits.</p> <p>The potential environmental, social, economic and cultural costs associated with the proposed provisions are considered to be relatively low overall, acknowledging that there will be some economic costs to affected landowners. However, the potential benefits of the proposed provisions, particularly economic and social benefits, are considered to be relatively high, with environmental and cultural benefits also expected to be realised, due to the critical nature of infrastructure in providing for social, economic and cultural wellbeing, and the incorporation of more directive environment considerations into the proposed provisions.</p>		
<p>Effectiveness</p>	<p>The proposed provisions are considered to be a highly effective means of meeting the objectives as they will provide increased social, economic and cultural benefits as outlined above.</p> <p>Including clear policy guidance for the provision for and recognition of regionally significant infrastructure gives effect to requirements in the CRPS and is therefore highly effective. They will provide effective guidance to decision makers when considering proposals for regionally significant infrastructure.</p> <p>The proposed provisions incorporate provisions to protect regionally significant infrastructure These are therefore also expected to be effective.</p>		
<p>Strategic Direction(s)</p>	<p>The proposed provisions achieve the strategic directions that relate to the management of regionally significant infrastructure as set out in SD-01, SD-02, SD-04 and SD-08.</p>		
<p>Overall Appropriateness of Option 2</p>	<p>This option is the most appropriate way to achieve the preferred objectives as it achieves the best balance between costs and benefits taking environmental, social, economic and cultural factors into consideration, and will be effective and efficient methods for sustainably managing natural and physical resources.</p>		

5.2 Risk of Acting or Not Acting

It is considered that there is certain and sufficient information on which to base the proposed policies and methods as:

- The proposed provisions will address the identified resource management issues;

- They directly respond to objectives and policies contained in the CRPS and relevant national policy statements and national environmental standards;
- The proposed provisions bring the plan into line with best-practice, consistent with provisions in other second-generation District Plans throughout New Zealand.

6 Preferred Option

The proposed approach to the provisions for infrastructure is intended to create a separate district wide chapter, in recognition of the applicability of these provisions across the district and the need for regulatory certainty by infrastructure providers. This is different than the status quo which does not include a specific chapter for infrastructure, with provisions contained in the various zones. Further, the status quo does not provide for regionally significant infrastructure.

The preferred provisions generally enable regionally significant infrastructure outside of sensitive environment overlays as permitted activities in all zones, with standards controlling adverse effect (rules for infrastructure within the sensitive environment overlays are subject to the overlay provisions which typically require a more rigorous assessment of adverse effects). As such, a certain level of adverse effects is anticipated, but these are considered acceptable taking into consideration the benefits of regionally significant infrastructure to the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of people and communities. The functional and operational requirements of location are also considered.

The acceptability and management of more significant effects of proposals which do not comply with the standards will generally be assessed through a restricted discretionary consent, including the use of conditions. Given the restricted nature of the effects, a restricted discretionary activity status is an appropriate and proportionate response. Some activities with potential for more than minor adverse effects are identified with a more restrictive activity status.

Overall, it is considered that the preferred provisions are the most appropriate given that the benefits outweigh the costs, and that they will be effective at achieving the outcomes sought.