

Infrastructure and Energy

Issues

Safe and efficient regionally significant infrastructure is vital to meet the community's social, cultural and economic wellbeing. It is therefore important to enable its ongoing operation, maintenance, upgrading and establishment where possible. However, poorly designed or inappropriately located infrastructure can adversely affect amenity values and the District's sensitive environments such as important landscapes.

Operative District Plan Approach

The Operative District Plan manages infrastructure on a zone by zone basis with some additional matters in the general rules section. These provisions do not fully give effect to the more recent national level standards and policies on electricity generation and transmission or telecommunications, nor support the provision and operation of regionally significant infrastructure as required by the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement. The issue of high energy consumption and the need for improved energy efficiency and energy conservation is only covered at a policy level.

Draft Plan Approach

The draft District Plan co-locates the majority of infrastructure provisions within an Infrastructure and Energy Chapter (transport and stormwater are located in their own chapters and infrastructure is also managed in the sensitive environment overlay provisions). The provisions have been updated in accordance with national level standards and policies and expressly cover regionally significant infrastructure including Timaru Airport, the Port of Timaru, the electricity transmission and distribution network, telecommunications facilities and sewage collection, treatment and disposal networks.



Changes

Key changes include:

Permitting maintenance and repair of existing infrastructure

Permitting new underground infrastructure and minor upgrading

Permitting upgrading and new above ground telecommunications and radio communications subject to standards

Requiring consent for new overhead electricity and telecommunications lines

Requiring consent for new aboveground water supply, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure

Permitting solar cells, solar hot water systems and small-scale wind turbines for small scale renewable electricity generation, subject to standards

Requiring consent for large scale renewable electricity generation.

Reasons

These changes recognise the importance of regionally significant infrastructure, give effect to higher order planning documents and manage the adverse effects from more significant infrastructure.

What it Means in Practice

Infrastructure will continue to support the Timaru District as it changes and grows.



The Port of Timaru