

## Canterbury Regional Policy Statement

The Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS) became operative on 15 January 2013. The CRPS 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. The methods include directions for provisions in district and regional plans.

The following are the relevant Objectives and Policies of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (**CRPS**) as they relate to the Proposal.

### Chapter 5 – Land-use and Infrastructure

#### Objective 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) ...
- (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) ...
  - (c) *encourages sustainable economic development by enabling business activities in appropriate locations;*
  - (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 the resources and infrastructure;*
  - (h) ...
  - (i) *avoids conflicts between incompatible activities.*

#### Objective 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 infrastructure.*
  - (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.*

#### Policy 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) ...;*
  - (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;*
  - (e) significant natural and physical resources;*
- (2) 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.*

### **Policy 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) ...; and*
- (2) where amenity values, the quality of the environment, and the character of an area are maintained, or appropriately enhanced.*

### **Policy 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.*

### **Policy 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.*

## **Chapter 7 - Fresh Water**

### **Objective 7.2.1**

*Sustainable management of fresh water*

*The region's fresh water resources are sustainably managed to enable people and communities to provide for their economic and social well-being through abstracting and/or using water for irrigation, hydro-electricity generation and other economic activities, and for recreational and amenity values, and any economic and social activities associated with those values, providing:*

- (1) *the life-supporting capacity ecosystem processes, and indigenous species and their associated freshwater ecosystems and mauri of the fresh water is safe-guarded;*
- (2) *the natural character values of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins are preserved and these areas are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development and where appropriate restored or enhanced; and*
- (3) *any actual or reasonably foreseeable requirements for community and stockwater supplies and customary uses, are provided for.*

### **Objective 7.2.3**

*Protection of intrinsic value of waterbodies and their riparian zones*

*The overall quality of freshwater in the region is maintained or improved, and the life supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species and their associated fresh water ecosystems are safeguarded.*

### **Objective 7.2.4**

*Integrated management of fresh water resources*

*Fresh water is sustainably managed in an integrated way within and across catchments, between activities, and between agencies and people with interests in water management in the community, considering:*

- (1) *the Ngāi Tahu ethic of Ki Uta Ki Tai (from the mountains to the sea);*
- (2) *the interconnectivity of surface water and groundwater;*
- (3) *the effects of land uses and intensification of land uses on demand for water and on water quality; and*
- (4) *kaitiakitanga and the ethic of stewardship; and*
- (5) *any net benefits of using water, and water infrastructure, and the significance of those benefits to the Canterbury region.*

### **Policy 7.3.1**

*Adverse effects of activities on the natural character of fresh water*

### **Policy 7.3.2**

*Natural character of braided rivers and lakes*

*To maintain the natural character of braided rivers, and of natural lakes by:*

- (1) *subject to clause (3), by prohibiting the damming of each of the main-stem of the Clarence, Waiau, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Rakaia, Rangitata and Waitaki rivers;*
- (2) *in respect of every other braided river in the region; by ensuring any damming of a braided river does not reduce the braided character of the the main stem;*
- (3) *in respect of every natural lake by limiting any use of the lake for water storage so its level does not exceed or fall below the upper or lower levels of its natural operating range;*
- (4) *clauses 1 – 3 do not restrict continued operation, maintenance or upgrading of any water storage scheme, irrigation scheme or hydro-electricity generation scheme for which lawful consent was in effect when this regional policy statement becomes operative, subject to the activity:*
  - a) *remaining a similar scale, intensity and character; and*
  - b) *not resulting in any additional significant adverse effect on the natural character of the river or lake.*

### **Policy 7.3.3**

*Enhancing fresh water environments and biodiversity*

*To promote, and where appropriate require the protection, restoration and improvement of lakes, rivers, wetlands and their riparian zones and associated Ngāi Tahu values, and to:*

- (1) *identify and protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats, sites of significant cultural value, wetlands, lakes and lagoons/hapua, and other outstanding water bodies; and*
- (2) *require the maintenance and promote the enhancement of indigenous biodiversity, inland basin ecosystems and riparian zones; and*
- (3) *promote, facilitate or undertake pest control.*

### **Policy 7.3.4**

*Water quantity*

*In relation to the management of water quantity:*

- (1) *to manage the abstraction of surface water and groundwater by establishing environmental flow regimes and water allocation regimes which:*
    - (a) *manage the hydrological connections of surface water, groundwater and the coastal environment;*
    - (b) *avoid long-term decline in groundwater levels and saltwater intrusion of coastal groundwater resources;*
    - (c) *protect the flows, freshes and flow variability required to safeguard the life-supporting capacity, mauri, ecosystem processes and indigenous species including their associated ecosystems and protect the natural character values of fresh water bodies in the catchment, including any flows required to transport sediment, to open the river mouth, or to flush coastal lagoons;*
    - (d) *provide for any existing or reasonably foreseeable needs of surface water or groundwater for individual, marae or community drinking water or stockwater supplies;*
    - (e) *support the exercise of customary uses, including any flows required to maintain wetlands or water quality for customary uses; and*
    - (f) *support any flow requirements needed to maintain water quality in the catchment;*
- and, having satisfied the requirements in (a) to (f), provide for:*
- (g) *recreational values (including the patterns and timing of flow variability desired by recreational users) and amenity values; and*
  - (h) *any actual or reasonably foreseeable demand for abstraction (for uses other than those listed in (d) above), unless Policy 7.3.4(2) applies;*

*and*

- (2) *Where the quantum of water allocated for abstraction from a water body is at or exceeds the maximum amount provided for in an environmental flow and water allocation regime:*

- (a) *avoid any additional allocation of water for abstraction or any other action which would result in further over-allocation; and*
- (b) *set a timeframe for identifying and undertaking actions to effectively phase out over-allocation; and*
- (c) *effectively addresses any adverse effects of over- allocation in the interim.*

**Policy 7.3.5**

*Water quantity and land uses*

*To avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of land uses on the flow of water in surface water bodies or the recharge of groundwater by:*

- (1) *controlling the diversion of rainfall run-off over land, and changes in land uses, site coverage or land drainage patterns that will, either singularly or cumulatively, adversely affect the quantity or rate of water flowing into surface water bodies or the rate of groundwater recharge; and*
- (2) *managing the planting or spread of exotic vegetation species in catchments where, either singularly or cumulatively, those species are or are likely to have significant adverse effects on flows in surface water bodies.*

**Policy 7.3.6**

*Fresh water quality*

*In relation to water quality:*

- (1) *to establish and implement minimum water quality standards for surface water and groundwater resources in the region, which are appropriate for each water body considering:*
  - (a) *the values associated with maintaining life supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species including their associated ecosystems, and natural character of the water body;*
  - (b) *any current and reasonably foreseeable requirement to use the water for individual, marae or community drinking water or stockwater supplies, customary uses or contact recreation;*
  - (c) *the cultural significance of the fresh water body and any conditions or restrictions on the discharge of contaminants that may be necessary or appropriate to protect those values; and*
  - (d) *any other current or reasonably foreseeable values or uses;*
- and*
- (2) *to manage activities which may affect water quality (including land uses), singularly or cumulatively, to maintain water quality at or above the minimum standard set for that water body.*
- and*
- (3) *where water quality is below the minimum water quality standard set for that water body, to avoid any additional allocation of water for abstraction from that water body and any additional discharge of contaminants to that water body, where any further abstraction or discharges, either singularly or cumulatively, may further adversely affect the water quality in that water body:*
  - (a) *until the water quality standards for that water body are met; or*
  - (b) *unless the activities are undertaken as part of an integrated solution to water management in the catchment in accordance with Policy 7.3.9, which provides for the redress of water quality within that water body within a specified timeframe.*

**Policy 7.3.8**

*Efficient allocation and use of fresh water*

*To improve efficiency in the allocation and use of fresh water by:*

- (1) *ensuring the infrastructure used to reticulate and apply water is highly efficient relative to the nature of the activity, for any new take or use of water;*
- (2) *ensuring the infrastructure used to reticulate and apply water is increasingly efficient (where not already highly efficient) for existing takes and uses of water, having regard to:*

- (a) the nature of the activity;
  - (b) the benefits and costs of achieving a higher level of efficiency;
  - (c) practicable options to implement any change required; and
  - (d) the physical environment in which the activity takes place.
- (3) ensuring the quantities of water allocated, as part of a water allocation regime or by grant of water permit, is no more than is necessary for the proposed use for all activities, including urban uses and municipal supplies;
- (4) recognising the importance of reliability in supply for irrigation;
- (5) recognising the potential for efficiency in infrastructure through combined uses of water and energy efficient infrastructure; and
- (6) promoting the integrated management and use of fresh water resources within or across catchments.

### **Policy 7.3.10**

#### *Harvest & storage of fresh water*

To recognise the potential benefits of harvesting and storing surface water for:

- (1) improving the reliability of irrigation water and therefore efficiency of use;
- (2) improving the storage potential and generation output of hydro-electricity generation activities;
- (3) increasing the irrigated land area in Canterbury;
- (4) providing resilience to the impacts of climate change on the productivity and economy of Canterbury;
- (5) reducing pressure on surface water bodies, especially foothill and lowland streams, during periods of low flow;

and facilitate the conversion of resource consents to abstract water under 'run of river' conditions to takes to storage, where this can be done under conditions which maintain or enhance the surface water body.

### **Policy 7.3.11**

#### *Existing activities and infrastructure*

In relation to existing activities and infrastructure:

- (1) to recognise and provide for the continuation of existing hydro-electricity generation and irrigation schemes, and other activities which involve substantial investment in infrastructure; but
- (2) require improvements in water use efficiency and reductions in adverse environmental effects of these activities, where appropriate.

## **Chapter 10 – Beds of Rivers and Lakes and their Riparian Zones**

### **Objective 10.2.1**

*Provision for activities in beds and riparian zones and protection and enhancement of bed and riparian zone values*

*Enable subdivision, use and development of river and lake beds and their riparian zones while protecting all significant values of those areas, and enhancing those values in appropriate locations.*

### **Objective 10.2.2**

*Maintenance of flood- carrying capacity of rivers*

*To maintain the flood carrying capacity of rivers.*

### **Objective 10.2.4**

*Public and Ngāi Tahu access to and along rivers and lakes Maintenance and enhancement of public and Ngāi Tahu access to and along rivers and lakes.*

### **Policy 10.3.1**

*Activities in river and lake beds and their riparian zones*

*To provide for activities in river and lake beds and their riparian zones, including the planting and removal of vegetation and the removal of bed material, while:*

- (1) recognising the implications of the activity on the whole catchment;*
- (2) ensuring that significant bed and riparian zone values are maintained or enhanced; or*
- (3) avoiding significant adverse effects on the values of those beds and their riparian zones, unless they are necessary for the maintenance, operation, upgrade, and repair of essential structures, or for the prevention of losses from floods, in which case significant adverse effects should be mitigated or remedied.*

**Policy 10.3.2**

*Protection and enhancement of areas of river and lake beds and their riparian zones*

**Policy 10.3.5**

*Maintenance and enhancement of public and Ngāi Tahu access*

*To promote the maintenance and enhancement of public and Ngāi Tahu access to and along the beds of rivers and lakes, and to ensure that subdivision use and development does not result in inappropriate loss of existing access, subject to:*

- (1) protecting public health and safety, and avoiding conflict between different types of access;*
- (2) avoiding adverse effects on the values of the beds, or stability of banks;*
- (3) protecting Ngāi Tahu cultural values and sites of significance from inappropriate public access;*
- (4) protecting the stability, performance and operation of essential structures in, on, under or over the beds;*
- (5) ensuring the integrity of flood-protection vegetation is maintained;*
- (6) avoiding conflicts with the legal rights and lawful activities of owners/occupiers of river or lake beds and adjacent land, or of the owners/operators of infrastructure in, on, under or over the bed; and*
- (7) engaging with the Walking Access Commission to identify and negotiate issues around public access.*