

Council Information Session/Workshop

NOTES

Date: Tuesday 2 July 2024
Time: 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Venue: Council Chambers, Civic Offices,
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch
Zoom Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6439418430?omn=86418455067>
Meeting ID: 643 941 8430

Present

Chairperson	Mayor Phil Mauger
Deputy Chairperson	Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter
Members	Councillor Kelly Barber
	Councillor Melanie Coker
	Councillor Celeste Donovan
	Councillor Tyrone Fields
	Councillor James Gough
	Councillor Tyla Harrison-Hunt
	Councillor Victoria Henstock
	Councillor Yani Johanson
	Councillor Aaron Keown
	Councillor Sam MacDonald
	Councillor Jake McLellan
	Councillor Andrei Moore
	Councillor Mark Peters
	Councillor Tim Scandrett
	Councillor Sara Templeton

Principal Advisor
Mary Richardson
Interim Chief Executive
Tel: 941 8999

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Please Note:
This forum has no decision-making powers and is purely for information sharing.

The agenda was dealt with in the following order.

1. Apologies Ngā Whakapāha

Mayor – absent for afternoon session
Councillor Cotter – attended via Zoom
Councillor Gough – apology for lateness
Councillor Scandrett – apology
Councillor Harrison-Hunt – attended on Zoom

2. Legal Update – Public Excluded

3. Draft Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (RPS) - Policy Directions Council Briefing, Seminar or Workshop Recommendation

Councillor Cotter, Councillor Keown attended via Zoom
Councillor Fields arrived at 1.30pm
Present: Darren Bridgett – Team Leader City Planning and Environment Canterbury Staff: Meg Buddle, Senior Planner; Amanda Thompson, Team Leader Strategy and Planning; Paul Thompson, Principal Planner

Background

- Needs to fit in with Council District Plan.
- This new RPS is quite different to the current one. It is more integrated.

Urban form

- Aims to align UF with Greater Christchurch Spatial Partnership. Focuses on targeted spatial strategies.

Natural Hazards

- Aims to lower natural hazards. There is an integrated approach, urban form and development shows where future developments should go, and take into account natural hazards.
- There is also a climate adaptation policy. Wants to take away barriers for mitigation and adaptation. Hoping to go further in the future.

Airport noise

- There is a lot of feedback on the shift of noise contours around the airport. Anything more than 50db has to be avoided unless in certain areas nearer the airport.

Fresh Water

- Builds on the work by the CWMS. Changed to align with Natural policy strategy.
- 4 Proposed FMUs in the Christchurch district.
- The proposed freshwater boundaries are catchment based.

Where to from here

- Staff are working on this and will bring it back to Council to sign off by August 7 2024.

Questions/Discussions

Councillor MacDonald - What has changed Airport contours? Are we looking at reducing noise contour from 55db to 50db?

Response: It is currently at 50db. The area for 50db noise contours is larger than the 55db contour. Hard noise management starts at 50db. We are ensuring that the airport will be operational at all costs – this is what the policy is trying to achieve. We are consolidating the national guidelines with our developments. We feel we could achieve protection of the airports operations while undergoing suburban intensification.

If you are in the old 55db area then the new policy won't change much for you. But any new property developments in that noise contour must meet this new design policy. If there are areas on the properties such as a backyard or a balcony, the onus is on the developer to show there will be no backward effect on noise.

Are we able to protect the airport in future years as more houses are built?

Response: We think we are getting the balance right (for protecting the airport operations and suburban noise management). A lot of airports around the country use the 55db line. But we are expecting a lot of feedback on airport protection. However it is noted that only Auckland has a 24/7 airport like Christchurch.

This policy does aim to underline the long-term effect on airport. The contours that are in place today are still expected to be effective until 2084 – the noise boundaries are not currently being reached. So the current contours are projecting out many years. We are also seeking feedback so let us know if you do not think it is balanced.

Councillor Henstock - Do other airports use the same noise capacity markings as Christchurch?

Response: We do not know about other airports. But this is a holistic approach.

Are the other airports operating on an average scale for noise detection?

Response: We are not sure off the top of our heads but we (ECan) can review notes and get back to Councillors.

What is some of the feedback that has already been received about the noise contours?

Response: We have not received any written feedback, but it is more general on both sides some agree some don't.

Regarding the community groups – who are you doing pre consultation with?

Response: There are around 150 groups we are consulting with. Generally these are people who have engaged with us during the campaign, and the usual key stakeholder groups. We are going as broad as we can to get the most balanced approach as possible.

Regarding the national directions, what is the timeline for these to be provided and the timeframe for funding?

Response: Have not been told a timeline yet, but we do expect some funding for natural hazards; hopefully still available with the new government.

Where is the data coming from about the highly productive land?

Response: It is high productive if it meets certain zoning criteria; it must meet a soil quality qualification and then another qualification for a geographically significant area. There is a step methodology to follow to ensure these are met, but it does allow for regional variation. For example, if there is an established horticultural society that does not rely on the best soil, then we may class that as highly productive for that type of activity.

Councillor Templeton - Regarding fresh water, we have the protection of aquifers on Christchurch side of Waimakariri. Will there be some on the other side of the Waimakariri too?

A: That is the role of the new freshwater visions - identifying the key issues for the areas. It will be up to the freshwater unit in that area to identify what is needed.

Regarding urban form, will density requirements be in place for FCS?

Response: Yes they are in the current draft. There are 25 currently but we do not expect them all to stay in the draft.

Regarding natural hazards, is the adaptation piece in line with our adaption framework?

Response: Our policy for that is high level, so we believe it will be aligned, but we will need to talk to CCC staff to check. There have been some discussions to this effect, but it is about asking TAS to show the risks. This policy would be regarding private property but it is more about directing what to do, rather than funding it. We hope the central government will do this.

Councillor Peters - How wide is consultation?

A: We have consulted with groups that have been engaged in the process. For example, there have been some developers involved through the Greater Christchurch Spatial Partnership (GCSP). Our consultation is wide reaching, but we have limited it to some degree because of staff resources. But everyone will get an opportunity to contribute.

What about quarry work?

Response: We agree it will be great to get feedback on quarry work.

Cllr Moore

Q: Regarding the airport noise, what can you build now and what can you do after this policy implemented.

A: Houses need to meet a noise standard of 40db inside. For new builds it is easy to meet that internal standard.

Q: To enable builds will it still need permission from CCC?

A: Yes.

Q: What are the oppositional concerns? Why has there been resistance to replacing old houses with new quieter homes?

A: When you go from one house to medium density, you are tripling the amount of people so you are tripling the potential risk of people being annoyed by noise. Old houses are noisier, so it would restrict people from changing their homes.

Q: Has the university/student housing been included on the consultation list?

A: We are not sure off the top of our heads if the university is in the consult list.

Cllr Johanson

Q: I am concerned about finding balance in the industrial areas in Heathcote. Has there been any thought put into protecting the waterways in this area?

A: In terms of freshwater package, it has a more stringent provision for the preservation of fresh water. There is emphasis on catchments and community lead responses, which are all tools for the community for when the RPS is implements. It devises tools to assist when implementing the new stronger provisions.

Q: Will there be greater setbacks for developments to protect this?

A: The RPS is the high-level policy document. It will get more specific in the integrated plans, and this will be able to show any anticipated setbacks (estimated to be implemented in 2028).

Q: Have the Ports been consulted?

A: We have met with Ports and other concerned community groups on all topics in the RPS.

Q: What about noise and diesel fumes? Are there any sort of requirements on environmental impacts?

A: The RPS aims to utilise the minimise or mitigate approach; constraining activities from damaging environment but still letting people do their activities. There are a number of ways to approach this. These are similar to the current RPS so if there is feedback then let us know.

Cllr Keown

Q: What is the definition of coastal degradation?

A: This is high issue level. There is no definition in the proposed RPS, but in the slide it refers to avoiding making the water quality worse.

Q: Regarding airport noise, are property owners who have made the most noise included in the consultation for the airport contour lines?

A: Yes they are.

Q: What is highly productive land?

A: Highly productive land refers to the quality of soil.

Q: Regarding airport noise contours, who decides on the 50db?

A: it goes back to people going to decide on the policy document. So, ECan councillors, Runanga, public notification then it will become a hearings panel. They will decide on final policy document. It is similar to district plan process.

Q: Regarding the modelling being applicable until 2084, are we factoring in that airplanes will get quieter?

A: The modelling is based on current aircraft technology. The North to South runway will not get quieter for the bigger aircrafts.

Cllr Donovan

Q: The RPS does not mention indigenous biodiversity – where does that fit?

A: Please provide your feedback on this if it is important to you. We had to cut down on emphasis on this due to timing restraints, but there is a whole chapter on it in the RPS.

People are currently providing feedback. On 7 August we will come back to Council for feedback.

Cllr Donovan wants to make sure we have eyes on the indigenous biodiversity.

4. OARC Co-governance Establishment Committee

Item Postponed

5. Te Kaha Update – Public Excluded

Meeting concluded at 3.31pm.