

FORMAT OF THE PLAN

The District Plan is a formal legal document which is prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991. The Resource Management Act gives the District Council the responsibility to prepare a District Plan. The District Plan is aimed at achieving the purpose of the Act which is set out in section 5 of the Act. It is:

"...to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources"

This is the first District Plan prepared by the Banks Peninsula District Council. The District covers an area that was formerly administered by four territorial local authorities before 1989. Those local authorities were Lyttelton Borough and the Counties of Akaroa, Mt Herbert and Wairewa. Each local authority prepared and administered its own District Scheme. This District Plan will replace all the previous District Schemes and it covers all of the land and the surface of water bodies within Banks Peninsula District.

The District Plan is divided into seven parts, together with Appendices and Planning maps. The contents of each of the parts is outlined below:

PART I – OVERVIEW OF THE DISTRICT PLAN

This part describes how the District Plan has been developed and how the plan deals with the responsibilities for territorial local authorities which are set out in the Resource Management Act.

PART II – THE ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES OF THE DISTRICT

This part of the District Plan outlines the geological events and settlement process, which have shaped the environment of Banks Peninsula. This section also describes the important natural and physical resources of the District.

PART III – DISTRICT WIDE ISSUES, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Part III relates to the whole of the District. This part sets out the important resource management issues that apply throughout the District and states the District-wide objectives that are sought to be achieved by the plan.

PART IV – FEATURES OF DISTRICT WIDE IMPORTANCE

This part of the Plan addresses particular areas located throughout Banks Peninsula which are important in contributing to the overall amenity of the District. They include elements of both the natural and physical environment. Included in this part of the Plan are the coastline areas of significant landscape value,

cultural heritage sites and significant trees. Part IV of the Plan contains provisions aimed at protecting and enhancing the character and values of those features and places.

PART V – ZONES

The District is divided into Zones. Each Zone has a combination of natural and physical resources, which make it distinctive. The boundaries of these Zones are shown on the planning maps.

The issues specific to each particular Zone are set out as are the objectives which the Council seeks to achieve. Policies relating to the objectives for Zones are also stated in this part of the Plan. Policies will be used to guide the Council when it makes decisions about activities within a particular Zone.

This part of the Plan also contains the methods, including rules and standards, which apply to the various Zones, together with the criteria for the assessment of applications.

PART VI – GENERAL PROVISIONS

The provisions in this part of the Plan apply to the entire District. They apply when particular activities are proposed or undertaken. This part of the Plan includes resource consent procedures, subdivision standards, financial contributions, standards for parking and access, control of hazardous substances, natural hazards, provision for utilities and controls over noise.

PART VII – DEFINITIONS

This part of the Plan explains words and terms which have a special meaning in the Plan provisions. It sets out a clear interpretation of those words and terms in order to reduce uncertainty.

APPENDICES

The appendices identify and list designations, protected and notable buildings, objects and sites, archaeological sites and notable trees.

The appendices contain guidelines to assist persons establishing forests and siting buildings in the Rural, Rural-Residential and Akaroa Hill Slopes Zones and modifying existing buildings or erecting new buildings in the Residential Conservation and Town Centre Zones. Guidelines are also provided for signs.

The appendices also contain a glossary of terms used in assessing noise, diagrams showing the formation of vehicle crossings and a schedule of hazardous substances referred to in Chapter 37.

DISTRICT PLAN MAPS

The District Plan includes a series of Planning maps which together cover the whole District. The maps show:

- Zone boundaries.
- The location of areas referred to in Part IV of the Plan.
- Natural hazard areas.
- Designations (also refer to Appendix II).
- Archaeological sites including 'silent file' areas.
