

Part 2 – District-Wide Matters

Section: Strategic Direction

Introduction

This section of the District Plan sets out the overarching strategic direction for the District Plan. This strategic direction responds to those resource management issues that are of particular importance to the Mackenzie District, matters of national and regional importance that are particularly relevant within the District, or issues that traverse more complex matters. The matters addressed in these chapters are then responded to, in an integrated and more detailed manner, across multiple chapters of the District Plan.

For the purposes of preparing, changing, interpreting, and implementing the District Plan, all objectives and policies in other chapters of this District Plan are to be read and achieved in a manner consistent with the strategic objectives. There is no hierarchy between the stated objectives. No one Strategic Objective has primacy over another strategic objective and the Strategic Objectives should be read as a whole.

Chapter: ATC – A Thriving Community

Introduction

The Mackenzie District is home to those who live here and is a popular destination for tourists who want to explore its natural beauty. It is host to a range of businesses, including many within and servicing the District's rural areas, as well as those supporting tourism and other industries. To thrive, the District needs residents, businesses and visitors, as well as a range of infrastructure and other facilities to support them.

The range of activities within the District have different characteristics and effects, which can result in potential conflicts between activities. While some activities have effects that are not compatible with others, all these different activities form part of the community. It is therefore necessary for the District Plan to manage the effects of activities to ensure that the District remains an area that people want to live, work and play in, as well as visit. Such management needs to be targeted so that it does not undermine the social, economic and cultural well-being of the community. This includes being cognisant that there are a number of economic and social challenges that the District is facing or may face in future. Examples include the longer term effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic on the hospitality and tourism sector and the impacts of climate change on the primary production sector. It is important that the District Plan is sufficiently flexible to support opportunities that may arise or be pursued within the District, where they will benefit the community's social, economic and cultural well-being and are compatible with the other outcomes sought across the District Plan.

The District is predominately rural in nature, with a range of activities undertaken in rural areas. The rural area is therefore very important to the District's economy and its social fabric. Many of these rural areas also contain resources that have significant natural values, such as outstanding natural landscapes and significant indigenous biodiversity.

There is a range of locally, regionally and nationally important infrastructure located within the District. Infrastructure is necessary to support the functioning of the community, both within and beyond the District, but its establishment and operation can have adverse effects. While needing to appropriately manage its effects, the continued ability for this infrastructure to operate, as well as development of new infrastructure is important to the well-being of the community of Mackenzie,

Canterbury and nationally. This includes the contribution that renewable electricity generation and transmission assets located in the District make to the nation.

The District Plan must give effect to the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation, the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission, and the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement, which provide direction on how these particular infrastructure activities are to be recognised and provided for in district plans.

Changes can also occur within the District that have the potential to impact on the community's wellbeing. These range from the effects of climate change on resource availability and use and the impacts of natural hazards, along with the associated economic and social disruption that can result, to changes in technology that can support community wellbeing. It is important that the District Plan is sufficiently flexible to support opportunities that may arise or be pursued within the District, where they improve resilience and the ability for the community to adapt/respond to change.

Strategic Objectives	
ATC-O1	Live, Work, Play and Visit
The Mackenzie District is a desirable place to live, work, play and visit, where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. there are a range of living options, businesses, and recreation activities to meet community needs; 2. activities that are important to the community's social, economic and cultural well-being, including appropriate economic development opportunities, are provided for; and 3. the amenity values and character of different areas are maintained or enhanced. 	
ATC-O2	Rural Areas
The significant contribution of rural areas to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the District is recognised and provided for.	
ATC-O3	Infrastructure
The importance of infrastructure to the District and beyond is recognised and provided for.	
ATC-O4	Renewable Electricity
The local, regional and national benefits of the District's renewable electricity generation and electricity transmission assets are recognised and their development, operation, maintenance and upgrade are provided for.	
ATC-O5	Adaptation and resilience
The approach to managing resources allows the community to be resilient and adapt appropriately to change, including the effects of climate change.	

Chapter: MW – Mana Whenua

Introduction

The strong connection Mana Whenua have with the Mackenzie Basin has meant they have developed a deep sense of responsibility to care for it, as it has cared for them and those who came before them. This way of life is known as kaitiakitanga and incorporates the responsibility to ensure that the whenua and wai will continue to provide for those who come after us.

For mana whenua, exercising kaitiakitanga supports the philosophy of rangatiratanga over the Mackenzie Basin. Rangatiratanga is about mana whenua exercising their independence, determining their choices for governing themselves, their lands, and all their treasures. In relation to the environment, rangatiratanga is also about caring for wāhi tipuna, wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga and ensuring co-governance and co-management of natural resources.

The following values for the Mackenzie District are sought by Mana Whenua:

- Practice and protect the co-governance and co-management of natural resources and be active participants in the decision-making processes that impact the district.
- Establish and achieve a high standard of environmental outcomes to protect the natural landscape for future generations.
- Aim to return conservation land to a natural state where biodiversity projects can enhance the indigenous flora and fauna of the area.
- Encourage customary harvesting and practices on the whenua (land), in the awa (rivers) and the moana (lakes).
- Protect the whakapapa of Kati Huirapa and Moeraki.

Strategic Objectives	
MW-O1	Mana Whenua Values
The role of mana whenua is recognised and their historic and contemporary relationship with the District's land, water bodies, indigenous species and other sites and areas of significance are recognised and provided for.	
MW-O2	Mana Whenua Involvement
Mana whenua are able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. be actively involved in decision making that affects their values and interests; 2. exercise their kaitiakitaka responsibilities; and 3. carry out customary activities in accordance with tikanga. 	

Chapter: NE - Natural Environment

Introduction

The District contains many natural resources of significance. These include: resources valued by mana whenua for mahika kai; the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve; those landscapes, features and indigenous biodiversity that are considered significant; and the District's wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins.

While these resources have intrinsic values, they are also important to the District's social and cultural well-being in terms of the contribution they make to the District's character and identity, and its desirability as a place to live in and visit. Many of the District's natural resources are also significant to mana whenua and their connection with their takiwā. Economic value is derived from these natural resources, for example from tourism that is based on the natural resources within the District and from hydro-electric power generation. A failure to protect the values of these resources could adversely affect the community's environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being.

The District Plan must give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020. While this principally includes directions for how regional councils are to manage water quantity and quality, district plans must also reflect the fundamental concept of Te Mana o te Wai which first prioritises the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems, second, the health needs of people and third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future.

Strategic Objectives	
NE-O1	Natural Environment
<p>The values of the natural environment that make the District unique, contribute to its character, identity and wellbeing, and have significant intrinsic values, are recognised and provided for, and where appropriate protected and enhanced. This includes values associated with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. mahika kai resources; 2. night sky darkness; 3. outstanding natural features and landscapes; 4. significant indigenous biodiversity; and 5. water bodies and their margins. 	

Chapter: UFD - Urban Form and Development

Introduction

Over the life of the District Plan, growth and development is expected in the Mackenzie District. Carefully planned and co-ordinated growth can benefit the environment, economy and the community of Mackenzie District. However, if not planned and managed carefully, growth and development could occur in an uncoordinated and fragmented manner, leading to a range of adverse effects.

To understand and plan for this growth and development, the Council prepared Spatial Plans for Fairlie, Tekapo/Takapō, Twizel, Burkes Pass/Te Kopi-O-Ōpihi, Kimbell and Albury. These identified and responded to specific problems identified with the current form of each township. These Spatial Plans provide a starting point for how the District Plan, together with other documents, manages growth and change within Mackenzie's townships.

While there is a National Policy Statement on Urban Development, it does not apply to the Mackenzie District, because the size of the District's urban areas is below the threshold at which this Policy Statement applies.

Strategic Objectives	
UFD-O1	Urban Form and Development
<p>The District's townships and settlements grow and develop in a consolidated way that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. is integrated into, and respects the values of the surrounding natural and physical environment; 2. achieves good connectivity with other parts of the urban area; 3. is supported by appropriate infrastructure; 4. maintains the character of each township, and its attractiveness to residents, businesses and visitors; and 5. responds to the needs of the community, including diversity in housing and business opportunities. 	