National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011

The NPS-REG provides for the for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities, such that the proportion of New Zealand's electricity generated from renewable energy sources increases to a level that meets or exceeds the New Zealand Government's national target for renewable electricity generation.

Of particular relevance to this proposal, the policies seek that decision-makers recognise the benefits of renewable electricity generation including increasing electricity generation capacity while avoiding, reducing or displacing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing local supplies through diversification of type and location of generation. The policies also seek that regard is had to meeting or exceeding the New Zealand Government's national target for the generation of electricity from renewable resources.

There is also clear direction to have 'particular regard' to the need to locate renewable electricity generation facilities where the renewable energy resource is available, and the location of the existing distribution network with regard to connecting to the national grid. The NPS-REG also enables the use of offsetting measures or environmental compensation to address residual environmental effects of establishing the renewable electricity facility.

The policies also clearly set out matters that district councils must address objectives, policies and methods including:

- providing for the development, operation, maintenance, and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities using solar, biomass, tidal, wave and ocean current energy resources to the extent applicable to the region or district.
- Providing for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of small and community-scale distributed renewable electricity generation from any renewable energy source to the extent applicable to the region or district.

Small and community-scale distributed electricity generation means renewable electricity generation for the purpose of using electricity on a particular site, or supplying an immediate community, or connecting into the distribution network.

Canterbury Regional Policy Statement

Relevant objectives and policies

Chapter 5 – Land Use and Infrastructure

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) options for accommodating the consolidated growth and development of existing urban areas;

   (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.

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.

5.3.12 Rural production (Wider Region)

Maintain and enhance natural and physical resources contributing to Canterbury's overall rural productive economy in areas which are valued for existing or foreseeable future primary production, by:

1. avoiding development, and/or fragmentation which;

   a. forecloses the ability to make appropriate use of that land for primary production; and/or

   b. results in reverse sensitivity effects that limit or precludes primary production.

2. enabling tourism, employment and recreational development in rural areas, provided that it:

   a. is consistent and compatible with rural character, activities, and an open rural environment;

   b. has a direct relationship with or is dependent upon rural activities, rural resources or raw material inputs sourced from within the rural area;

   c. is not likely to result in proliferation of employment (including that associated with industrial activities) that is not linked to activities or raw material inputs sourced from within the rural areas; and

   d. is of a scale that would not compromise the primary focus for accommodating growth in consolidate, well designed and more sustainable development patterns. and;

3. ensuring that rural land use intensification does not contributed to significant cumulative adverse effects on water quality and quantity.

Chapter 9 - Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

Objective 9.2.1 Halting the decline of Canterbury's ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity.

The decline in the quality and quantity of Canterbury's ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity is halted and their life-supporting capacity and mauri safeguarded.

9.2.2 Restoration or enhancement of ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity.

Restoration or enhancement of ecosystem functioning and indigenous biodiversity, in appropriate locations, particularly where it can contribute to Canterbury's distinctive natural character and identity and to the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of its people and communities.

9.2.3 Protection of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats

Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna are identified and their values and ecosystem functions protected.

9.3 Policies

9.3.1 Protecting significant natural areas

1. Significance, with respect to ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, will be determined by assessing areas and habitats against the following matters:

    a. Representativeness

    b. Rarity or distinctive features

    c. Diversity and pattern

    d. Ecological context

The assessment of each matter will be made using the criteria listed in Appendix 3.

2. Areas or habitats are considered to be significant if they meet one or more of the criteria in Appendix 3.
3. Areas identified as significant will be protected to ensure no net loss of indigenous biodiversity or indigenous biodiversity values as a result of land use activities

9.3.2 Priorities for protection

To recognise the following national priorities for protection:

1. Indigenous vegetation in land environments where less than 20% of the original Indigenous vegetation cover remains.

2. Areas of indigenous vegetation associated with sand dunes and wetlands.

3. Areas of indigenous vegetation located in "originally rare" terrestrial ecosystem types not covered under (1) and (2) above.

4. Habitats of threatened and at-risk indigenous species

9.3.3 Integrated management approach

To adopt an integrated and co-ordinated management approach to halting the decline in Canterbury's indigenous biodiversity through:

1. working across catchments and across the land/sea boundary where connectivity is an issue for sustaining habitats and ecosystem functioning
2. promoting collaboration between individuals and agencies with biodiversity responsibilities
3. supporting the various statutory and non-statutory approaches adopted to improve biodiversity protection
4. setting best practice guidelines for maintaining indigenous biodiversity values, particularly maintaining conditions suitable for the survival of indigenous species within their habitats, and safeguarding the life-supporting capacity and/or mauri of ecosystems.

9.3.4 Promote ecological enhancement and restoration

To promote the enhancement and restoration of Canterbury's ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, in appropriate locations, where this will improve the functioning and long term sustainability of these ecosystems.

9.3.5 Wetland protection and enhancement

In relation to wetlands:

1. To assess an ecologically significant wetland against the matters set out in Policy 9.3.1 and the national priorities listed in Policy 9.3.2 For the purposes of this policy, ecologically significant wetlands do not include areas that are predominantly pasture and dominated by exotic plant species and where they are not significant habits of indigenous fauna.
2. To ensure that the natural, physical, cultural, amenity, recreational and historic heritage values of Canterbury's ecologically significant wetlands are protected.
3. To generally promote the protection, enhancement and restoration of all of Canterbury's remaining wetlands.
4. To encourage the formation of created wetlands that contribute to the restoration of indigenous biodiversity.
5. To protect adjoining areas of indigenous and other vegetation which extend outside an ecologically significant wetland and are necessary for the ecological functioning of the wetland.

9.3.6 Limitations on the use of biodiversity offsets

The following criteria will apply to the use of biodiversity offsets:

1. the offset will only compensate for residual adverse effects that cannot otherwise be avoided, remedied or mitigated;
2. the residual adverse effects on biodiversity are capable of being offset and will be fully compensated by the offset to ensure no net loss of biodiversity;
3. where the area to be offset is identified as a national priority for protection under Policy 3.2, the offset must deliver a net gain for biodiversity;
4. there is a strong likelihood that the offsets will be achieved in perpetuity; and
5. where the offset involves the ongoing protection of a separate site, it will deliver no net loss, and preferably a net gain for indigenous biodiversity conservation.

Offsets should re-establish or protect the same type of ecosystem or habitat that is adversely affected, unless an alternative ecosystem or habitat will provide a net gain for indigenous biodiversity.

Chapter 12 - Landscapes

12.2.1 Identification and protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes

Outstanding natural features and landscapes within the Canterbury region are identified and their values are specifically recognised and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

Policies

12.3.2 Management methods for outstanding natural features and landscapes

To ensure management methods in relation to subdivision, use or development, seek to achieve protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

Chapter 15 – Soils

15.2.1 Maintenance of soil quality

Maintenance and improvement of the quality of Canterbury's soil to safeguard their mauri, their life supporting capacity, their health and their productive capacity.

Policies

15.3.1 Avoid remedy or mitigate soil degradation

In relation to soil:

1. to ensure that land-uses and land management practices avoid significant long-term adverse effects on soil quality, and to remedy or mitigate significant soil degradation where it has occurred, or is occurring; and
2. to promote land-use practices that maintain and improve soil quality.

Chapter 16: Energy

The definition of 'regionally significant infrastructure' in the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS) includes:

6. National, regional and local renewable electricity generation activities of any scale.

7. The electricity transmission network.

14. Electricity distribution network.

Renewable electricity generation is defined as 'The generation of electricity from solar, wind, hydroelectricity, geothermal, biomass, tidal, wave, or ocean current energy sources.'

Renewable electricity generation activities are defined as 'The construction, operation and maintenance of structures associated with renewable electricity generation. This includes small and community-scale distributed generation activities, the system of electricity conveyance required to convey electricity to the distribution network and/or the national grid, and electricity storage technologies associated with renewable electricity.'

Objective 16.2.2 Promote a diverse and secure supply of energy

Reliable and resilient generation and supply of energy for the region, and wider contributions beyond Canterbury, with a particular emphasis on renewable energy, which:

1. provides for the appropriate use of the region's renewable resources to generate energy;
2. reduces dependency on fossil fuels;
3. improves the efficient end-use of energy;
4. minimises transmission losses;
5. is diverse in the location, type and scale of renewable energy development;
6. recognises the locational constraints in the development of renewable electricity generation activities; and
   (a) avoids any adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources and cultural values or where this is not practicable, remedies or mitigates; and
   (b) appropriately controls other adverse effects on the environment.

Policy 16.3.3 Benefits of renewable energy generation facilities

To recognise and provide for the local, regional and national benefits when considering proposed or existing renewable energy generation facilities, having particular regard to the following:

1. maintaining or increasing electricity generation capacity while avoiding, reducing or displacing greenhouse gas emissions;
2. maintaining or increasing the security of supply at local and regional levels, and also wider contributions beyond Canterbury; by diversifying the type and/or location of electricity generation;
3. using renewable natural resources rather than finite resources;
4. the reversibility of the adverse effects on the environment of some renewable electricity generation facilities;

5. avoiding reliance on imported fuels for the purposes of generating electricity; and
6. assisting in meeting international climate obligations.

Policy 16.3.5 — Efficient, reliable and resilient electricity generation within Canterbury

To recognise and provide for efficient, reliable and resilient electricity generation within Canterbury by:

1. avoiding subdivision, use and development which limits the generation capacity from existing or consented electricity generation infrastructure to be used, upgraded or maintained;
2. enabling the upgrade of existing, or development of new electricity generation infrastructure, with a particular emphasis on encouraging the operation, maintenance and upgrade of renewable electricity generation activities and associated infrastructure:
   (a) having particular regard to the locational, functional, operational or technical constraints that result in renewable electricity generation activities being located or designed in the manner proposed;
   (b) provided that, as a result of site, design and method selection:
      (i) the adverse effects on significant natural and physical resources or cultural values are avoided, or where this is not practicable remedied, mitigated or offset; and
      (ii) other adverse effects on the environment are appropriately controlled.
3. providing for activities associated with the investigation, identification and assessment of potential sites and energy sources for renewable electricity generation;
4. maintaining the generation output and enabling the maximum electricity supply benefit to be obtained from the existing electricity generation facilities within Canterbury, where this can be achieved without resulting in additional significant adverse effects on the environment which are not fully offset or compensated.

Section 7 - Rural

Rural Objective 2 - Natural Character Of Waterbodies And Their Margins

The preservation of the natural character and functioning of the District's lakes, rivers, and wetlands and their margins, and the promotion of public access along these areas.

Rural Policy 2A - Controlling Adverse Effects

Managing by way of standards, guidelines and good management techniques, the adverse effects of activities such as earthworks, vegetation clearance, tree plantings and buildings that have the potential to threaten the survival of riparian vegetation and habitat, or to have significant adverse effects on public access and recreation, river, lake or wetland ecology, natural character, maintenance of bank stability, or water quality and quantity.

Rural Policy 2B - Riparian Margins

To encourage the protection of natural character and conservation values of riparian areas and adjacent water bodies and the provision of public access along riparian margins.

Rural Objective 3A - Landscape Values

Protection of outstanding landscape values, the natural character of the margins of lakes, rivers and wetlands and of those natural processes and elements which contribute to the District's overall character and amenity.

Rural Policy 3A3 - Impacts Of Subdivision Use And Development

Avoid or mitigate the effects of subdivision, uses or development which have the potential to modify or detract from areas with a high degree of naturalness, visibility, aesthetic value, including important landscapes, landforms and other natural features.

Rural Objective 3B – Activities in the Mackenzie Basin's outstanding natural landscape

(1) Subject to (2)(a), to protect and enhance the outstanding natural landscape of the Mackenzie Basin subzone in particular the following characteristics and/or values:

(a) the openness and vastness of the landscape;

(b) the tussock grasslands;

(c) the lack of houses and other structures;

(d) residential development limited to small areas in clusters;

(e) the form of the mountains, hills and moraines, encircling and/or located in, the Mackenzie Basin;

(f) undeveloped lakesides and State Highway 8 roadside;

(2) …..

(3) Subject to objective 3B(1) above and to rural objectives 1, 2 and 4:

(a) to enable pastoral farming;

(b) to manage pastoral intensification and/or agricultural conversion throughout the Mackenzie Basin and to identify areas where they may be enabled (such as Farm Base Areas);

(c) to enable rural residential subdivision, cluster housing and farm buildings within Farm Base Areas around existing homesteads (where they are outside hazard areas)

Policy 3B1 – Recognition of the Mackenzie Basin's Distinctive Characteristics

(1) To recognise that within the Mackenzie Basin's outstanding natural landscape there are:

(a) Many areas where development beyond pastoral activities is either generally inappropriate or should be avoided;

(b) Some areas with greater capacity to absorb different or more intensive use and development, including areas of low or medium visual vulnerability and identified Farm Base Areas;

(c) Areas, places and features of particular significance to Ngāi Tahu.

(2) To identify, describe and map as overlays, specific areas within the Mackenzie Basin that assist in the protection and enhancement of the characteristics and/or values of the outstanding natural landscape contained in Objective 3B(1) being:

(a) Lakeside Protection Areas, shown on the planning maps

(b) Scenic Viewing Areas, in Appendix J and shown on the planning maps

(c) Scenic Grassland Areas, in Appendix J and shown on the planning maps;

(d) Sites of Natural Significance, in Appendix I and shown on the planning maps, and

(e) Land above 900m in altitude, shown on the planning maps.

(3) As part of an assessment of the suitability of an area for a change in use for development:

(a) To identify whether the proposed site has high, medium or low ability to absorb development according to Appendix V (Areas of Landscape Management);

(b) To require an assessment of landscape character sensitivity (incorporating natural factors including geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, vegetation cover, cultural patterns, landscape condition and aesthetic factors such as naturalness and remoteness).

Policy 3B2 – Subdivision and Building Development

To ensure adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on the environment of sporadic development and subdivision are avoided or mitigated by:

(1) Managing residential and rural residential subdivision and housing development within defined Farm Base Areas (refer to Policy 3B3);

(2) Enabling farm buildings within Farm Base Areas and in areas of low visual vulnerability subject to bulk and location standards and elsewhere managing them in respect of location and external appearance, size, separation and avoidance of sensitive environments;

(3) Strongly discouraging non-farm buildings elsewhere in the Mackenzie Basin outside of Farm Base areas.

Policy 3B8 – Renewable Energy

To recognise and provide for the use and development of renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure and operations within the footprint of current operations or on land owned by infrastructure operators as at 1 October 2011 while, as far as practicable, avoiding, remedying or mitigating significant adverse effects on the outstanding natural landscape and features of the Mackenzie Basin.

Policy 3B10 – Reverse sensitivity

To avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse reverse sensitivity effects of non-farm development and residential activity on rural activities and activities such as power generation, transmission, infrastructure, state highways and the Tekapo Military Training Area.

Policy 3B12 – Pastoral Farming

Traditional pastoral farming is encouraged so as to maintain tussock grasslands, subject to achievement of the other Rural objectives and to Policy 3B7.

Rural Objective 6 - Rural Amenity And Environmental Quality

A level of rural amenity which is consistent with the range of activities anticipated in rural areas, but which does not create unacceptably unpleasant living or working conditions for the District's residents or visitors, nor a significant deterioration of the quality of the general rural and physical environment.

Rural Policy 6A - Livestock Farming

Avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of livestock farming to protect the amenity of rural areas and the quality of the physical environment.

Rural Policy 6D - General Amenity Controls

To encourage and/or control activities to be undertaken in a way which avoids, remedies or mitigates adverse effects on the amenities and physical environment of rural areas.

Rural Objective 11 - Rural Infrastructure

Rural infrastructure which enables the District and the wider community to maintain their economic and social wellbeing.

Rural Policy 11A – Rural Infrastructure

To recognise the economic and social importance of transportation, electricity generation and transmission, and rural servicing infrastructure and, consistent with other objectives and policies of this Plan, to provide for its upgrading, maintenance and enhancement. Power generation and transmission facilities within the District are an important part of the national electricity generation and supply network. Power generation facilities within the Mackenzie District form part of the Waitaki Hydro Scheme, which produces approximately 28% of New Zealand's electricity. Existing power generation facilities are specifically provided for in the Rural Zone as Scheduled Activities, subject to conditions controlling their environmental impact.

Section 10: Hazardous Substances

Objective - Hazardous Substances

Avoid or mitigate adverse environmental effects arising from the use, storage, transportation, manufacture, and disposal of hazardous substances.

Policies

1. To control the use, storage, manufacture and disposal of hazardous substances so to minimise adverse environmental effects due to accidental spillage or poor management practices.

3. To ensure that adverse effects on the environment from a hazardous substances spillage are, where possible, avoided or mitigated.

Section 15: Transportation

Objective 1 - Parking, Loading And Access

Vehicle parking, loading and access which does not detract from the efficiency, safety and amenity of the various activity areas, particularly the state highway network within the District.

Policy 1A

To protect the efficiency, safety and amenity of various activity areas, the state highway network and the road hierarchy in the District by ensuring adequate on-site parking, loading and access provisions exist.

Objective 2 - Road Maintenance Costs

Equitable sharing of road maintenance costs.

Policy 2A

To ensure that compensation is paid for repair of damaged roads, other than damage which results from normal wear and tear.

Utilities

Objective 1 - Effect On The Environment

Utilities whose functioning and operation avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on their surrounding environment.

Policies

1. To avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects created by the operation of utilities through the application of performance standards to separate incompatible activities, maintain visual amenities, safety, and the quality of the environment.
2. To make specific provision for certain utilities within the District, which are land extensive and/or which have specific locational needs, to ensure that the type and scale of development avoids, remedies or mitigates adverse effects on the environment.
3. To require utilities which may have adverse effects if located in some localities, to obtain resource consents in order that the Council can consider the potential effects of the proposal and impose specific conditions if appropriate.
4. To protect areas identified as possessing important natural features, significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna from utilities which are visually and environmentally incompatible.
5. To encourage utility operators to adopt their own monitoring systems to ensure that the effects of utilities and their operation is regularly evaluated to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the environment.
6. To require the undergrounding of services in new areas of development in the Residential, Rural-Residential 1 & 2, Ruataniwha Rowing, Special Travellers Accommodation, Business and Pukaki Village Zones and to encourage the systematic replacement of existing overhead services with underground reticulation or the upgrading of existing overhead services.
7. To take account of economic and operational needs in assessing the location, design and appearance of utilities and encourage the joint use of existing facilities and sites where possible.
8. To provide for the establishment, operation, maintenance, enhancement, upgrading and development of electricity generating utilities in the District while ensuring that adverse effects on the environment are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Objective 2 - Enabling The Establishment, Use And Maintenance Of Utilities

The establishment, efficient use and maintenance of utilities, necessary for the well-being of the community.

Policies

1. To recognise the need for maintenance or upgrading of a utility to ensure its on-going use and efficiency.
2. To take economic costs into account when considering the alternative locations or sites for establishment or alteration of a utility.
3. To take into account the strategic needs of a utility when considering possible alternative locations for establishment.

4. To make specific provision for certain activities within the District, which are land extensive and/or which have specific locational needs, to ensure that the presence and function of the utility is recognised.
5. To encourage the co-location of telecommunication and radiocommunication facilities where operationally feasible when Council consent is required for their establishment.
6. To give due regard to the importance of a utility when assessing the establishment of a
7. proposed utility or the suitability of a neighbouring activity.
8. To encourage development in areas which are already serviced and have the capacity for additional development, taking into account economic costs.
9. To achieve sustainability of the District's water supplies by:

    - ensuring that development is able to be serviced by the water supply system;

    - assessing the impact of development on water quality and quantity.

Chapter 19: Indigenous Biodiversity

Land use and development activities are managed to:

a) protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;

b) outside of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, ensure the maintenance and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity, and

c) despite (a) and (b), recognise and provide for the national significance of the Waitaki Power Scheme and the National Grid when managing effects on indigenous biodiversity arising from the development, operation, maintenance, refurbishment or upgrade of those utilities.

Policies

1. To assess and identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation or and significant habitats of indigenous fauna in accordance with the criteria listed in Appendix 3 of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement.

2. To protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna by ensuring that land use and development, agricultural conversion and pastoral intensification:

    a) avoids the clearance of indigenous vegetation or any reduction in its extent (including through edge effects); and

    b) avoids adverse effects on those habitats; unless permitted under Rule 1.1.1 or Rule 2.1.1 or is otherwise consistent with Policy.

3. Outside of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, to ensure that indigenous biodiversity is maintained or enhanced by:

    a) avoiding adverse effects on indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna as far as practicable; then

    b) remedying any adverse effects that cannot be avoided; then

    c) mitigating any adverse effects that cannot be remedied; then

    d) offsetting any significant residual adverse effects in accordance with Policy 4

4 For any indigenous biodiversity offsets apply the following criteria:

    a) the offset will only compensate for significant residual adverse effects that cannot otherwise be avoided, remedied or mitigated;

    b) the significant residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity are capable of being offset and will be fully compensated by the offset to ensure no net loss of biodiversity;

    c) where the area to be offset is identified as a national priority for protection in accordance with Policy 9.3.2 of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement 2013 or its successor, the offset must deliver a net gain for biodiversity;

    d) there is a strong likelihood that the offsets will be achieved in perpetuity;

    e) where the offset involves the ongoing protection of a separate site, it will deliver no net loss, and preferably a net gain for indigenous biodiversity conservation;

    f) The offset should apply as close as possible to the site incurring the effect, recognising that benefits diminishing with distance from the site; and

g) Offsets should re-establish or protect the same type of ecosystem or habitat that is adversely affected.

5 Despite Policy 2, to manage effects on indigenous biodiversity in a way that recognises the national significance of renewable energy generation activities and the electricity transmission network and provide for their development, operation, upgrading, and maintenance by:

a) Enabling indigenous vegetation clearance that is essential for the operation, maintenance or refurbishment of the Waitaki Power Scheme, the National Grid and the Opuha Scheme; and

b) Providing for the upgrading and development of renewable energy generation and the electricity transmission network, while managing any adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity, having particular regard to:

i. the location of existing structures and infrastructure and the need to locate the generation activity where the renewable energy resource is available; and

ii. the logistical, technical and operational constraints associated with the activity; and

iii. the importance of maintaining and increasing the output from existing renewable electricity generation activities; and

iv. environmental compensation which benefits the local environment affected, as an alternate, or in addition to offsetting, to address any significant residual environmental effects.

6 To enable land use and development at an on-farm level, through a Farm Biodiversity Plan, where comprehensive and expert identification of indigenous biodiversity is undertaken that demonstrates how that use and development will be integrated with:

a) the long-term protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;

b) the maintenance of other indigenous biodiversity; and

c) opportunities for enhancement of indigenous biodiversity, where appropriate.

7 To consider a range of mechanisms for securing protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, including resource consent conditions, management agreements and covenants.

8. To recognise and provide for activities, including voluntary initiatives, that contribute towards the protection, maintenance or enhancement of indigenous biodiversity.