


 WAITAKI
DISTRICT
PLAN
REVIEW

Energy (ENG)

What are the key issues we need to think about?

The use and development of renewable energy provides benefits to the District and can deliver clean, secure, affordable energy. It is important to recognise the benefits that energy related activities provide our communities while ensuring that their adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Energy efficiency and the use and development of renewable energy are matters the District Plan must have particular regard to under section 7 of the RMA. The District Plan must also give effect to the National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 (NPSREG), which requires recognition of the benefits of renewable electricity generation. Currently the Operative Plan has no provisions relating to renewable energy, other than provisions for the Waitaki Power Scheme. The Operative Plan has not been amended to give effect to the NPSREG or either of the two relevant Regional Policy Statements, in respect of promoting and providing for renewable electricity generation.

The types of renewable energy sources relevant to this District are solar, biomass, hydro and wind. At a domestic scale, there are various ways to use natural sources of energy, including solar water heating or solar panels and small wind turbines. In addition, emerging technologies for other sources of energy, such as hydrogen, offer potential for a transition to a low-emission economy.

What are we suggesting in the Draft District Plan?

The Energy chapter covers renewable energy generation activities, with the general renewable energy provisions in Part A of the chapter. The chapter is silent on other energy generation, given this is not a feature of the Waitaki District.



What does it mean for me?

Any lawfully established existing businesses or activities would have what is referred to as 'existing use rights' and could continue to operate unchanged.

This chapter provides for renewable energy generation in the district with most activities permitted so long as they do not take place in an overlay and meet certain standards. The standards to be met include maximum sizes for solar panels, wind turbines, and hydro generators, restrictions on investigation activities, and minimisation of effects on indigenous vegetation.

Permitted activities include maintenance of renewable energy generation activities, small scale renewable electricity generation and investigation activities, providing that the activities do not take place in an overlay and comply with relevant standards.

Resource consent is required if standards are not complied with or where activities take place within an overlay.

Part B of the chapter addresses the Waitaki Power Scheme (WPS). The chapter recognises the national significance of this scheme and provides for day-to-day operation, maintenance and refurbishment. Enhancement and expansion of the WPS would require a resource consent as would new generation opportunities. The WPS is protected from reverse sensitivity effects by placing limits on the development of occupied buildings in areas at risk in a possible inundation event. You can view the extent of the Waitaki Power Scheme on our website.

Key changes from the current rules

This chapter is a new, standalone chapter. The chapter focuses on recognising the benefits of renewable electricity generation and provides for such activities, while recognising that adverse effects on the environment can result.

Summary of the Part A energy rules being considered

Permitted Activities that would not require a resource consent:

- Maintenance of renewable electricity generation activities outside of Significant Natural Areas (SNA).
- Maintenance of renewable electricity generation activities within an SNA when standards are complied with.
- Small scale renewable electricity generation activities outside an overlay where standards are complied with.
- Investigation activities outside an overlay where standards are complied with.

Activities that would require a resource consent:

- Any of the permitted activities that do not comply with the relevant standards.
- Small scale renewable electricity generation activities and investigation activities within overlays
- Small scale renewable electricity generation activities and investigation activities within the root protection area of a Notable Tree.
- Large scale renewable electricity generation activities
- Other renewable electricity generation activities not otherwise provided for

Summary of the Part B Waitaki Power Scheme rules being considered

Permitted Activities that would not require a resource consent:

- Operation, maintenance and refurbishment of the WPS (when standards are complied with).
- Occupied buildings in the Hydroelectricity Inundation Hazard Areas (when standards are complied with).

Activities that would require a resource consent:

- WPS enhancement activities.
- Any WPS land use activity which results in the creation of a new lake or water storage area.
- The construction and installation of new power generation activities below the Waitaki Dam.
- Any of the permitted activities that do not comply with the relevant standards.
- Any other activity associated with the WPS not otherwise provided for.

Find out more

You can view the full draft chapter on our website

visit www.waitaki.govt.nz/district-plan-review



More questions?

If you have any further questions that aren't covered in this document, or on our website, you can email the Planning Team at planreview@waitaki.govt.nz or call the District Plan Review hotline on 03 433 1661 and leave a message.