

Purpose

The Waitaki District Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (hereafter, the RMA). The Waitaki District Plan is the tool through which WDC manages the use, development and protection of land and associated natural and physical resources as required by the RMA.

The District Plan must achieve the purpose of the RMA which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

Sustainable management is defined in section 5 of the RMA as: *'managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while:*

- a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
- c) avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.'*

Waitaki District Council is a territorial authority, and its functions are set out in section 31 of the RMA. These functions include:

- a) the establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources of the District:*
 - aa) the establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods to ensure that there is sufficient development capacity in respect of housing and business land to meet the expected demands of the District:*
 - b) the control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land, including for the purpose of—*
 - (i) the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards; and*
 - (ii) the prevention or mitigation of any adverse effects of the development, subdivision, or use of contaminated land:*
 - (iii) the maintenance of indigenous biological diversity:*
 - d) the control of the emission of noise and the mitigation of the effects of noise:*
 - e) the control of any actual or potential effects of activities in relation to the surface of water in rivers and lakes:*
 - f) any other functions specified in this Act.*