

## ORC Regional Policy Statement Review

### Considerations on behalf of the Central Otago Heritage Trust & the Central Otago Environmental Society

#### Introduction

Otago is fortunate to be distinguished from other Regions by its abundant heritage and environmental resources. While 'heritage and 'the environment' need to be considered as separate areas of policy, from a strategic viewpoint they are two faces of the same coin; a legacy which deserves to be protected and nurtured for the benefit of future generations.

For brevity's sake, the considerations submitted in this brief statement should be taken to apply to both areas of resource but will be the subject of separate written, more detailed submissions from the Heritage Trust and the Environmental Society.

#### Integration & Coordination

The RFP should introduce an integrated and coordinated resource management approach across statutory boundaries and catchments which will promote collaboration between agencies, community groups and individuals working to protect, preserve and enhance our heritage and environment.

The RPS will establish best practice guidelines, take account of the law of unintended consequences and require that where doubt exists, prudence will prevail.

#### Regional Policies & Plans

The RFP should provide for the following:

- a. Identification, protection, preservation, and where possible, the continued use, of significant historic and cultural heritage items, places and areas;
- b. Ensure that the potentially adverse effects of land use are avoided, remedied or mitigated;
- c. Preservation & protection of the recognised natural science, cultural, aesthetic, and historic values associated with our landscapes, water bodies, biodiversity and as yet, relatively unmodified environment;
- d. Prevent contamination of land and water bodies; and
- e. Maintain the productive capacity of our soils;

Regional policies should also:

- a. Define the terminology, definitions and taxonomies applicable to the management of environmental and heritage matters.
- b. Develop over-arching strategies which allow for variation and adaptation according to differences between districts;
- c. Provide up-to-date information data-bases which are publicly accessible to those managing heritage and environmental issues.
- d. Recognise environmental and heritage matters as being of broad community interest and encourage wide consultation by public notification of issues and treating representative bodies (e.g. COES and the Heritage Trust) as 'affected parties'.