

**REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**1. REGIONAL COASTAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN –  
PROPOSED VARIATIONS**

RR 8851

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Corporate Plan Output: Regional and District Plans and Policies	

The Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan was publicly notified by the Canterbury Regional Council on 2 July 1994, with hearings on submissions to the proposed plan being held between February and April 1997. The Regional Council has decided to make a number of Variations to the Plan. At the same time it has released decisions on those parts of the Plan which are not subject to the Variations. The Council has not lodged any appeals on the decisions which have been released as the Regional Council decisions generally gave relief to the Council's submissions.

In all there are 9 separate sections of the proposed Plan for which variations have been prepared. The major variations being the rewriting of two chapters dealing with "Coastal Water Quality" and "Activities and Occupation in the Coastal Marine Area", Chapters 7 and 8 respectively. The Regional Council has given a reassurance that all the original submissions made on the parts of the plan that have been varied will be reconsidered in the context of the Variations.

Besides giving consideration to original submissions, new submissions have been sought by the Regional Council. A new submission has been prepared on behalf of the City Council with input sought from a number of Council Units and two Community Boards.

It is proposed that the City Council submission advocates for rules concerning water quality which are both responsible and achievable, and which allow for continued discharge from the Christchurch Water Treatment Plant, whether this discharge is into the Estuary or via an ocean outfall. The proposed Variations allow for continued upgrading of water quality requirements for water bodies once a given water quality class has been achieved, thus a discharge might be upgraded to meet certain water quality standards which might then be made more stringent. Suitable time frames are needed to make such requirements reasonable.

**1 Cont'd**

The approach taken in the Proposed Plan of setting water quality standards is in keeping with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and, as explained in the Plan, “provides a clear unambiguous statement of the environmental quality to be achieved to provide for water uses and values.” For areas around the city’s coastline, and in particular within the estuary, there may be cost implications for the Council associated with the need for discharges to be of a consistently high quality.

Further concerns include rules that may impinge on the Council’s Coast Care activities and restriction of access to beaches for rescue and firefighting training purposes.

**Recommendation:** That pursuant to Section 34(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991, a submission be made on the Variations to the Proposed Regional Coastal Plan in respect of water quality and access issues as set out in Attachment 1.

**Chairman’s**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.

**CONSIDERED THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1998**

**MAYOR**