


### 3. PROPOSED NEW ZEALAND COASTAL POLICY STATEMENT 2008



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#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek retrospective adoption by the Council of the attached submission on the proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008 (NZCPS). The submission was lodged with the Department of Conservation prior to the closing date of 7 May 2008.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The purpose of a Coastal Policy Statement is to state policies to achieve the purpose of the RMA (to promote the sustainable management of natural resources) in relation to the coastal environment. The first Coastal Policy Statement came into force in 1994 and includes a policy requiring an independent review of its effectiveness within 9 years. A review was completed in 2004 and recommended a formal review of the NZCPS to update it and clarify some policy and address emerging issues including the effects of climate change and development pressures on coastal areas.
3. The City Council provided feedback on possible policy directions during the initial consultation on an "Issues and Options" document released by the Department of Conservation in 2006.
4. The main reason for making this submission to the draft New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008 is to allow an opportunity for input into the document. As a national document, the Council will have to give effect to the Objectives and Policies of the NZCPS in its Plans and Policies, which may mean changes to the City and Banks Peninsula Plans will be required.
5. The NZCPS consists of nine Objectives promoting social, economic and cultural wellbeing through the sustainable management of the coastal environment. There are 57 Policies covering general issues (e.g. the coastal environment in general, biosecurity issues and Treaty principles), subdivision and development, natural character, public access, water quality, coastal hazards and historic heritage. Please refer to the attachment.
6. The Council in general supports the draft NZCPS. The format of the Statement has been altered to that used for local authority plans, having both objectives and policies and which provides a better framework for the policies. The Council also supports the grouping of "like" policies together and in relation to this has proposed some amendments to the proposed policies.
7. The 1994 NZCPS contained significant uncertainty due to the use of terms such as "appropriate" and "where practical". The proposed Statement's wording has become more directive as this provides greater guidance for local authorities. However, there will always be situations where some flexibility is required and the Council has identified in the submission where this is necessary.
8. Local authorities must be able to "give effect" to the Policies within the NZCPS, many of which are "national priorities". There are a number of Policies (e.g. many of the Natural Character Policies) which local authorities may be unable to "give effect to" as there is little (or no) guidance and/or methods provided. The submission has addressed this issue in its submission by suggesting the Statement also provide guidance and/or methods to how such Policies be incorporated into District Plans.
9. The proposed submission also suggests that all Policies within the NZCPS should be specific to the coastal environment. If in general they could relate to other parts of the environment (e.g. the subdivision and development Policies) they should not be included within the NZCPS as they do not provide any additional value to the NZCPS.

10. The submission also states that Council has concerns that there are a number of Policies which restate aspects of the RMA, but do not provide any additional development or guidance. The Council has submitted that as presently written these policies do not add anything to the NZCPS. The submission requests that these Policies be reworded or removed from the Statement.
11. In general the CCC generally supports the NZCPS and its objectives and policies, however the CCC is concerned that there are a number of policies where national guidance is needed (but not provided for) to enable local authorities to give effect to them.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

12. The NZCPS could result in additional resources being required to amend planning documents in order to give effect to the Statement and may require additional work around coastal hazard identification. The financial implications should support the inclusion of coastal areas in the mix of open space purchased by the Council and the associated infrastructure the Council provides. Giving effect to the final NZCPS will be achieved through a variety of mechanisms including Council District Plan and the LTCCP.

#### **Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?**

13. The cost of preparing and presenting submissions is covered by existing unit budgets.

#### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

14. The RMA provides for the Crown to issue National Policy Statements. The opportunity to influence and shape the proposed NPS is being taken by Council through the submission process.

#### **Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?**

15. A legal review of the submission has been carried out.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

16. This submission supports several of the LTCCP objectives that aim to protect and manage Christchurch and Banks Peninsula's natural areas and open space, its biodiversity and ecosystems (pg 62 and 124).

#### **Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?**

17. The Council provides and manages 71 regional parks some of which are located near the coast. These parks are used for informal recreation, conservation of natural resources and scenic values and cultural and heritage preservation. The submission supports the LTCCP target of achieving a total of 5020 ha of regional parks (including those within coastal areas) by 2016 (page 125).

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

18. This submission supports work being done in preparation of a draft Biodiversity, Open Space, and Climate Change Strategies.

#### **Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

19. As above.

#### **CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

20. Not applicable.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council endorse the attached submission on the Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008.