

APPENDIX G: URBAN FORM AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION 32AA ASSESSMENT

Having regard to section 32AA of the Resource Management Act 1991, the following is noted:

Effectiveness and efficiency	The recommended amendments to provide for the promotion of renewable energy resources (overview and UFD-O1) and better recognition of the rural sector (Overview), mana whenua values (UFD-O1), the safe and efficient use of infrastructure (UFD-O1 and UFD-O9), and highly productive soils (UFD-O1 and UFD-O11) is an effective and efficient means of giving effect to higher order documents. In particular, the NPS-HPL, NPS-REG, National Planning Standards and the sustainable management purpose of the RMA including by enabling people to provide for economic well-being and safety, the relationship of Māori with taonga, the effects of climate change, and the benefits derived from the use and development of renewable energy. This approach is also consistent with the RPS that seeks to sustain mauri and wairua, achieve the sustainable use of Southland's rural land resource including the primary sector and soil resources, and ensuring that regionally significant infrastructure operates efficiently. Alignment with this national and regional direction ensures that the PDP will be effective at implementing the RMA and efficiencies will be created due to national and regional consistency. Better articulating strategic outcomes sought and alignment across the plan will also help ensure efficiencies for plan users.
Costs/Benefits	• Providing clearer strategic direction and alignment throughout the PDP will ensure the plan is more consistent and easier to implement thereby saving on implementation costs. • Alignment with national and regional direction will also ensure consistency for plan users across NZ and Southland which will make the plan more user friendly and easier to implement. • Clear links to mana whenua values will also make the plan more user friendly and save time and costs for plan users.
Risk of acting or not acting	• I consider that the appropriateness of adopting the relief sought must be considered in the context of the direction set out in higher order policy documents, in particular the purpose of the RMA, NPS-HPL, NPS-REG, the National Planning Standards, and the RPS. Therefore, the risks associated with acting are considered minimal due to an overriding requirement for alignment. • The risk of not acting is that there will be national and regional misalignment which will lead to inefficiencies and broader environmental and cultural impacts. • Inconsistencies with national direction could also lead to development being promoted in locations that are not anticipated, such as on highly productive soils.

Decision about more appropriate action	The recommended amendments are therefore considered to be more appropriate in achieving the purpose of the RMA than the notified version of the PDP.
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