

RPS Review 2020

Community Consultation Summary Report

February – March 2020



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1. Acknowledgements

Otago Regional Council wishes to acknowledge all those who have contributed to the RPS consultation process as survey respondents and / or workshop attendees.

The ideas gathered, and discussion generated through both Phase One (survey) and Phase Two (workshops) of the consultation process have been valuable and insightful for the ORC policy team. The information is an important part of the overall picture that will inform the direction and shape of the new Regional Policy Statement. The Council sees the number of respondents who participated, particularly to the Phase One Survey, as an encouraging example of the region coming together to provide input for the betterment of Otago.

Thank you to the community members and stakeholders who have participated and engaged so far, your involvement is greatly valued.

2. Executive Summary

- The Otago Regional Council (ORC) adopted the Minister for the Environment's recommendation to review the current Regional Policy Statement (RPS) within a clear timeframe.
- Community consultation was undertaken to inform the early stages of the RPS Review and policy development.
- Consultation was carried out in two phases to engage both the wider Otago community and stakeholders on regional resource values, concerns and significant resource management Issues.
- Phase One involved a public survey advertised to the entire Otago region. 312 responses were received.
- A set of values, concerns and issue statements were developed from the data analysed from Phase One responses.
- Phase Two involved four community and stakeholder workshops held around the Otago region. Participants reflected on the findings from Phase One and workshopped outcomes and policy directions.
- The outcome and policy direction ideas for each issue statement have been summarised from the workshop findings.
- The information gathered from both Phase One and Two will inform the direction ORC takes in developing the new RPS.

3. Summary of Key Findings

The summary of consultation reflects the original RPS proposal presented to Council in January 2020. Phase one of the community consultation programme involved an online survey which had a total of 312 respondents, including eight respondents from outside Otago. Phase two of the community consultation programme involved consultation roadshows planned around the region. The programme of the roadshows was interrupted due to the Covid-19 restrictions, so some roadshows were not undertaken. Phase one and Phase two both proved to be important exercises for the RPS review and provided quality community feedback.

The most significant findings of the community consultation were the following:

The online community consultation programme confirmed the relevance of the key issue topics, based on the areas of concern identified at the workshop with Council in January 2020. These issues topics were:

- Natural Hazards and Resilience
- Climate Change
- Coastal Pressures
- Pests and Weeds
- Urban Growth
- Water Demand
- Big Lakes Growth and Infrastructure Pressure
- Impacts from Economic Activities

The community consultation programme has resulted in the identification of two new standalone issue topics that will be included in the revised RPS. Whilst both areas were included in other issues statements, the consultation has highlighted they should be identified as issues in their own right. These issue topics are:

- Water quality
- Biodiversity loss

Additional key findings were:

- Precautionary approaches to policy that enable environmentally sustainable outcomes for both Urban and Rural activities with the support of both public and private sectors.
- Upgrading Infrastructure, particularly waste, wastewater, and stormwater management infrastructure. This was a strong theme across issues related to Urban Growth, Natural Hazards and Resilience, Economic Impacts, and Coast.
- Tighter regulations on Urban Development, ceasing developments on productive land, ceasing developments in known flood risk areas, and reducing urban sprawl in favour of high-density urbanised areas

- Increasing water storage capabilities for the region was a strong outcome for Water Demand issues.
- The Otago Regional Council to be more active in biodiversity loss issues and pest control management through regulation and incentives for landowners and community groups.
- Investing in alternative public transport options to reduce car-based emissions and incentivise alternative heating sources for residential developments to reduce wood or coal burning. These were to improve air quality and help mitigate climate change effects.
- Increased collaborative research and education outcomes across all the issue topics made available to the community. This outcome was particularly relevant for issues relating to Coastal Pressures, Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss.

4. Background

ORC committed in November 2019 to a work programme determined by the Minister for the Environment, to address its Resource Management Act (RMA) planning framework. The work programme requires a complete review of the RPS, and notification of a new RPS, to be operative ahead of the development and notification of a Land and Water Regional Plan. ORC must also implement new National Planning Standards which were introduced into legislation in April 2019, and require all RPS's to be in the prescribed format by 2022.

ORC is aiming to notify a new Regional Policy Statement (RPS) by November 2020, to be operative by 1 April 2022 in time to guide the Water and Land Plan review.

The following principles guide the RPS Review:

- Clear direction on outcomes sought
- Vertically and horizontally integrated
- Consistent approach
- Regime that addresses increasingly complex issues and is flexible to changes in the statutory environment
- Focusses on key issues
- Plain language and ease of use for all
- Policies direct resource management outcomes
- All the answers are to be in the RPS.

ORC's work programme included the phase 1 and 2 consultation, in addition to the mandatory consultation required under the First Schedule to the RMA. The intention was to engage a wider representation than those parties that are involved in the First Schedule consultation.

To guide that consultation process, ORC developed a set of consultation objectives.

- To provide iwi, key stakeholders and the community with the opportunity to have input on the scope and content of the new RPS, through face-to-face meetings and feedback online prior to the formal engagement required by the Resource Management Act.
- To engage effectively and early in the process, to reduce the number of submissions made at notification stage, and therefore streamline the process.
- To deliver a new RPS that is in line with new national direction, National Planning Standards and proposed national policy statements for Highly Productive Land, Urban Development, Freshwater Management and Indigenous Biodiversity.

5. Consultation Approach and Methodology

5.1 Phase One

Phase one of the community consultation process involved distributing an online survey using 'YourSay'. The survey was distributed via a boosted Facebook campaign, regional newspapers and embedded in the February edition of the On-Stream newsletter. Additional advertising of the survey was via regional newspapers and an ORC media release.

Communities throughout Otago were encouraged to identify values, concerns and general comments relating to nine issue statements which had been drafted following a workshop with Councillors in January 2020. The nine issue statements were: Natural Hazards and Resilience, Climate Change, Pests and Weeds, Urban Growth, Water Demand, Coastal Pressures, Big Lakes Growth and Infrastructure Pressures, and Impacts from Economic Activities, and Resilience.

Respondents were also asked to indicate how significant they felt the issue statement was and to comment on why. The data gathered from the Survey was then coded and thematically analysed.

5.2 Phase Two

Phase two of the consultation process involved five facilitated workshops held in March 2020. Four of these were public, and one was for invited stakeholders. Workshops were held in Oamaru, Dunedin (two meetings – one of which was for stakeholders), Tapanui and Balclutha.

Two further events were also planned for Queenstown and Alexandra. However due to the Covid-19 epidemic, these workshops were unable to proceed.

The workshops included two main activities.

Task One: Identifying Outcomes

Attendees mapped the future resource management outcomes that they wished to see achieved in relation to the issues from Phase one of the consultation process.

Method:

Attendees wrote their ideas on sticky notes and placed these on a map of Otago in the relevant location. Region-wide ideas were placed to the side.

Task Two: Identifying Policy Approaches

Attendees discussed and plotted potential policy approaches to achieve the outcomes identified in task one, using some example scenarios. The aim of this activity was to provide guidance in two respects:

- The first was how permissive or prescriptive the policy approach should be in relation to an outcome.
- The second was the degree of environmental improvement sought. The range provided was from meeting national environmental bottom lines (minimum standards) through to achieving (or maintaining) a high level of environmental quality (a more natural state).

Method:

Attendees wrote each policy idea for an outcome on a sticky note, and plotted it as follows:

Along the X axis as relevant between 'permissive' and 'directive,' and

Along the Y axis as relevant between meeting environmental minimums and a high level of environmental quality (a more natural state). The data, as plotted to these axes are included in Appendix 1.

Two additional issues identified

At the Oamaru workshop, two more themes were identified in addition to the nine themes developed during the phase one consultation. These were Improving Water Quality and Protecting Biodiversity. These were added to the subsequent workshops and feedback sought in the same manner as for the other issues.

6. Summary of consultation findings: Phase one Consultation

Data Analysis Method:

The data collected from the survey was analysed by a process of coding and thematic analysis. The process of coding involved identifying key words used to identify the value or concern topics in each response. These codes are built up over the course of reviewing all comments, and the overall code list becomes more concise as more comments are coded. After all the

community comments were coded, we identified the themes that multiple codes would broadly apply to and grouped them into these themes.

This process provided insight on which natural or physical resources were 'valued' or 'of concern' and the percentage of respondents who identified them. This process was also used to thematically summarise the responses to the 9 issues and indicate the general themes associated with each issue.

6.1 Locational Data

A total of 312 responses were received to the community consultation survey. This number was made up of respondents from all over the Otago region. Figure 1 below shows, in percentage terms, where in the region the survey respondents came from. The largest number were from Dunedin (DCC) at 41% followed by Central Otago (CODC) at 27%, Queenstown Lakes Area (QLDC) at 15%, North Otago (WDC) at 8%, South Otago (CDC) at 5%, and 'Outside Otago' at 3%. All the respondents were from within New Zealand.

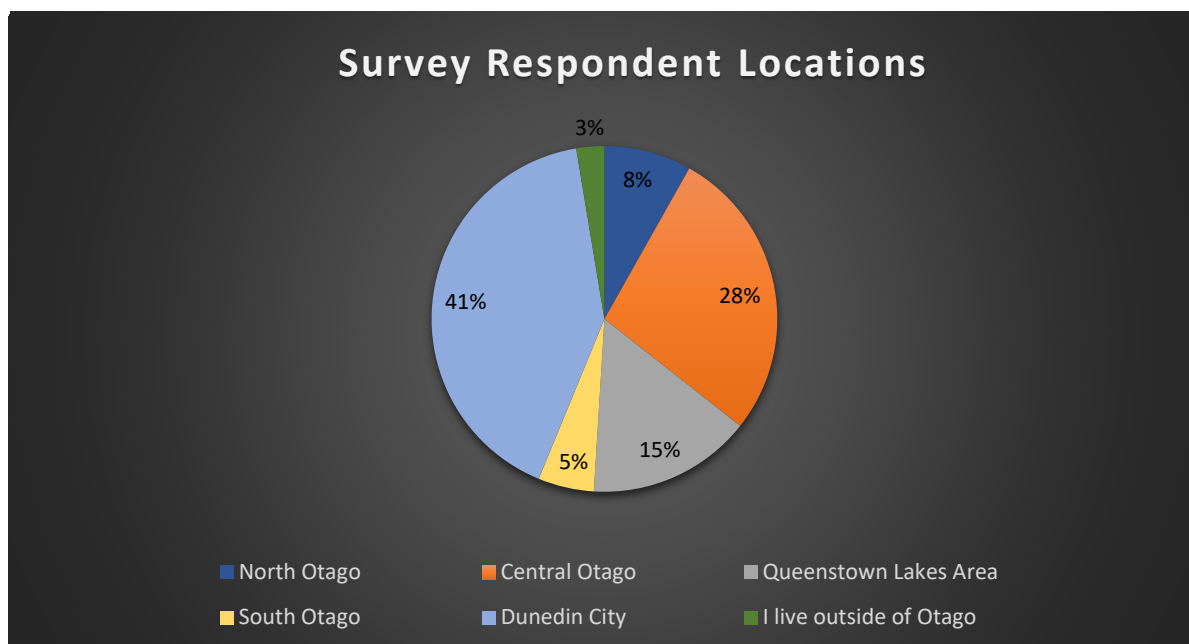


Figure 1: Survey Respondent Locations

6.2 Values

For the values section of the survey, respondents were asked to identify what natural or physical resources they valued most in the Otago region. Respondents had the opportunity to write freely in this section of the survey. To give a sense of the relative importance of the values, the data collected has been represented in two ways:

First, in Figure 2 below, it has been visually represented as a 'wordle' or 'word cloud'. The size of the word represents the words' importance as indicated by the number of times it was mentioned in the coded responses.



Figure 2: Values Wordle

Second, Table 1 shows the raw data for the values obtained from the coding process, presented as a table. The coded survey responses were used to build the themes presented in the above table. The count shows the number of responses that related to each respective theme. Each survey response had the potential to address values or concerns across a range of different themes, therefore the total percentage of responses does not equate to 100%.

Value	Count	% of points	% of respondents
Healthy lakes & rivers	212	28.5	68.6
Landscapes	130	17.5	42.1
Access to the natural environment	60	8.1	19.4
Biodiversity	56	7.5	18.1
Native bush	56	7.5	18.1
Coastal Areas	53	7.1	17.2
Clean air	37	5.0	12.0
Productive land	29	3.9	9.4
Water use	14	1.9	4.5
Wetlands	13	1.7	4.2
Minerals	12	1.6	3.9
Built Heritage	9	1.2	2.9

Healthy marine environment	8	1.1	2.6
Transport infrastructure	8	1.1	2.6
Renewable energy infrastructure	8	1.1	2.6
Climate	6	0.8	1.9
Soils	6	0.8	1.9
Urban areas	6	0.8	1.9
Estuaries	5	0.7	1.6
Groundwater	3	0.4	1.0
Lifeline infrastructure	3	0.4	1.0
Rural Landscapes	3	0.4	1.0
Surf breaks	3	0.4	1.0
Takata Whenua values	3	0.4	1.0
Residential infrastructure	2	0.3	0.6
Total	744		

Table 1

Value Summaries:

The following are brief summaries of the common values described by the community.

Healthy lakes and rivers:

Healthy lakes and rivers were valued by 68% of respondents, making it the most valued natural resource associated with this survey. This included the quality and quantity of water accessible to the Otago communities, the accessibility of these resources for recreation, and the health of native flora and fauna associated with Otago's rivers and lakes.

Landscapes:

The second most valued resource were Otago's distinct and diverse natural landscapes. Respondents value natural open and rugged landscapes, particularly around the lakes district. Value was placed on the unique accessibility Otago communities have and the ability to enjoy vast mountainscapes, open grasslands, and idyllic coastlines.

Access to the natural environment:

A key theme that connected most of the values was accessibility. Respondents indicated they valued being able to freely access the natural environment. This was indicated in valuing access to healthy lakes and rivers, as well as access to Otago's unique landscapes. Increased and sustained accessibility to Otago's natural resources was highly valued for recreation and economic benefit.

Biodiversity:

Healthy and thriving native flora and fauna were valued by respondents. This was linked to valuing conservation efforts and pest control. Community initiatives with landowners and ORC leadership were desired for control.

Coastal areas:

The coast was valued for its landscapes, recreational uses and associated with habitat for biodiversity. Recreational activities such as boating, fishing, swimming and general beach access were interconnected with coastal value. Conserving coastal biodiversity and marine reserves was associated with coastal values.

6.3 Concerns

Survey respondents were asked to identify any concerns they had regarding natural or physical resources in the Otago region. Respondents had the opportunity to write freely in this section of the survey. To give a sense of the relative significance of the concerns, the data collected has been represented in two ways:

First, in Figure 3 below, it has been visually represented as a 'wordle' or 'word cloud'. The size of the word represents the words importance as indicated by the community responses as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Concerns Wordle

Second, table 2 shows the raw data for the concerns obtained during the coding process, presented as a table.

Concern	Count	% of points	% of respondents
Water Health	219	23.1	70.9
Agricultural Practices	110	11.6	35.6
Pollution and Waste	109	11.5	35.3
Residential Growth	74	7.8	23.9
Native Flora and Fauna	56	5.9	18.1
Water Use	48	5.1	15.5
Coastal Health	41	4.3	13.3
Invasive Flora	35	3.7	11.3
Invasive Fauna	31	3.3	10
Tourism and Freedom Camping	29	3.1	9.4
Recreation and Public Access	26	2.7	8.4
Land Quality and Use	20	2	6.2
Exploitation	18	1.9	5.8
Degradation	18	1.9	5.8
Air Quality	15	1.6	4.9
Economy	14	1.5	4.5
Road Quality and Use	13	1.4	4.2
Climate	12	1.3	3.9
Infrastructure	11	1.2	3.6
Wetlands	10	1.1	3.2
Sustainability	9	0.9	2.9
Flooding	7	0.7	2.3
Noise and Light Pollution	6	0.6	1.9
Heritage Buildings	3	0.3	0.9
Total	948		

Table 2

Concern summaries

The following are brief summaries of the main concerns described by the community.

Water health:

A total of 70% of respondents indicated that water health was of concern. This included the quality of water, lakes, rivers and waterways. Respondents described the degradation of these natural resources as a priority concern. Algae, intensive agricultural practices and waste/ wastewater management infrastructure were identified as being associated with the degradation of Otago's water health.

Agricultural practices

35% of respondents indicated that agricultural practices were of concern. Intensive land use and irrigation practices were indicated as responsible for effluent and other run off into water ways. Respondents associated these practices with the degradation of both water health and water quantity.

Pollution and waste

35% of respondents indicated that general pollution and waste management was of concern. The pollution of waterways and coastal environments by poor waste management infrastructure were described, particularly around urbanised areas with larger populations. Urban run-off into the harbour and into coastal marine areas was also identified as a concern.

Residential growth

23% of respondents indicated residential growth as a concern. Associated concerns highlighted were population growth, urban development, loss of landscapes, loss of productive soil and strain on infrastructure. Respondents were concerned that urban sprawl and growth would negatively impact access to healthy water, beautiful landscapes, the loss of productive soil and lead to increased pressure on waste and water infrastructure.

Invasive Flora and Fauna

The community identified rabbits, wallabies and possums as pest species they are concerned about. The community identified concerning weed species, including gorse, broom, wilding pines and algae responsible for degrading water quality.

6. 4 Key Issue Statements

The following section outlines the nine key issue statements as put forward in the survey. Respondents were asked to indicate how significant they felt the issue statement was and then comment on why. For each of key issue statements, a summary of the overall commentary and any identified solutions provided by the community have also been provided

Issue Statement 1: Natural Hazards and Resilience

Natural hazards pose a risk to many Otago communities. An earthquake on the Alpine Fault would cause potentially catastrophic effects for the entire region. There are particular areas in Otago which are prone to flooding. A major hazard event could isolate Otago, or parts of it, for an extended time. How significant do you think this issue is for Otago?

Significance Ratings for Issue Statement 1 Natural Hazards and Resilience

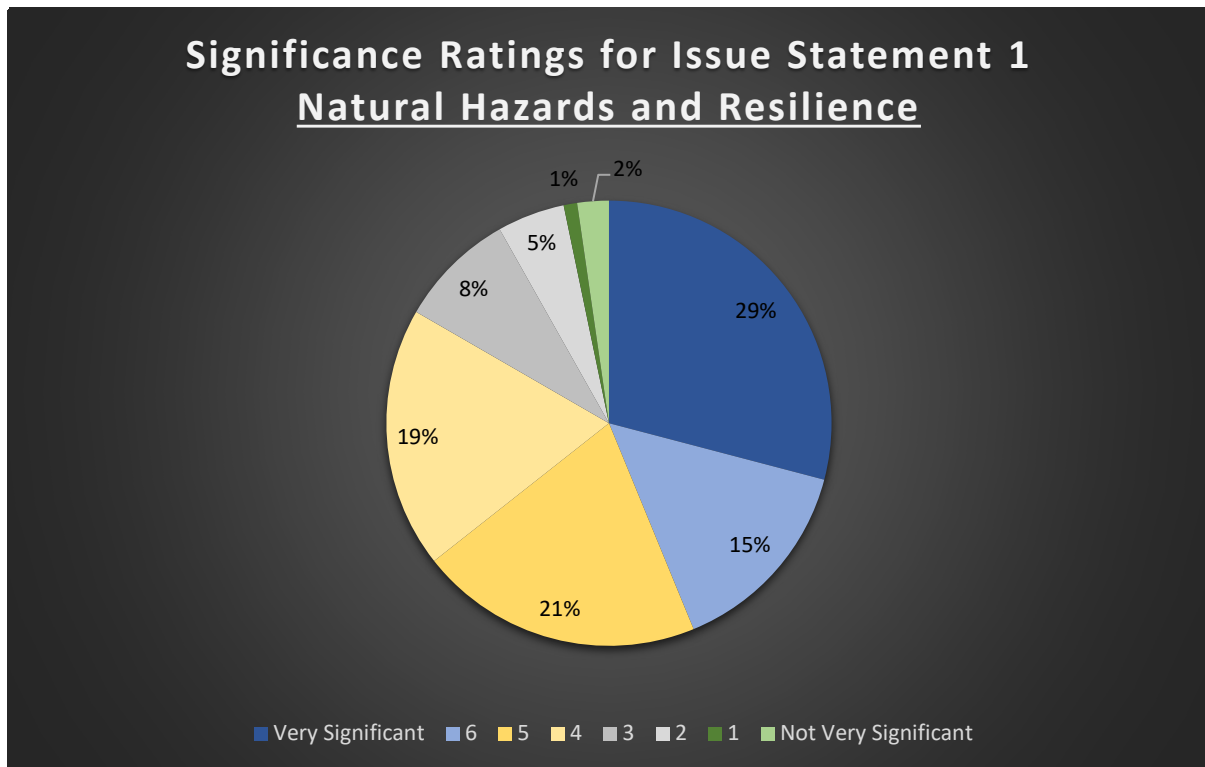


Figure 4

Comments Summary:

Respondents considered flooding to be a more significant issue than earthquakes for the Otago region due to prevalence, ability to predict and inform, as well as potential for control through infrastructure planning. It was suggested that resource allocation for earthquake related hazards should be for response efforts, while resource allocation for flooding should be into upgrading wastewater /stormwater infrastructure. Excess water from floods could be utilised for water demand needs such as irrigation. Isolation of communities from supply routes was also of some concern, particularly for some communities where there are limited options to respond. South Dunedin was considered at risk due to the forecasted rise in sea levels. Suggestions to respond to the risk included an early retreat of South Dunedin and requiring properties to raise their foundations.

Issue Statement 2: Climate Change

Climate change is likely to damage our economy and environment. In Central Otago, we're likely to see more varied rainfall, leading to increased flooding and less water reliability. This will be compounded by stronger winds, increased temperatures and longer dry periods, which may affect the number and types of crops and animals that the land can sustain. On the coast, low lying areas like South Dunedin are at risk of inundation from rising sea levels. This will also exacerbate coastal erosion, which could damage coastal infrastructure (including roads) and expose old waste dumps (e.g. at Middle Beach). Climate change will also affect native animals and plants, compounding the effects of pests and stresses from human use. Some climate change threats are unpredictable. How significant do you think this issue is for Otago?

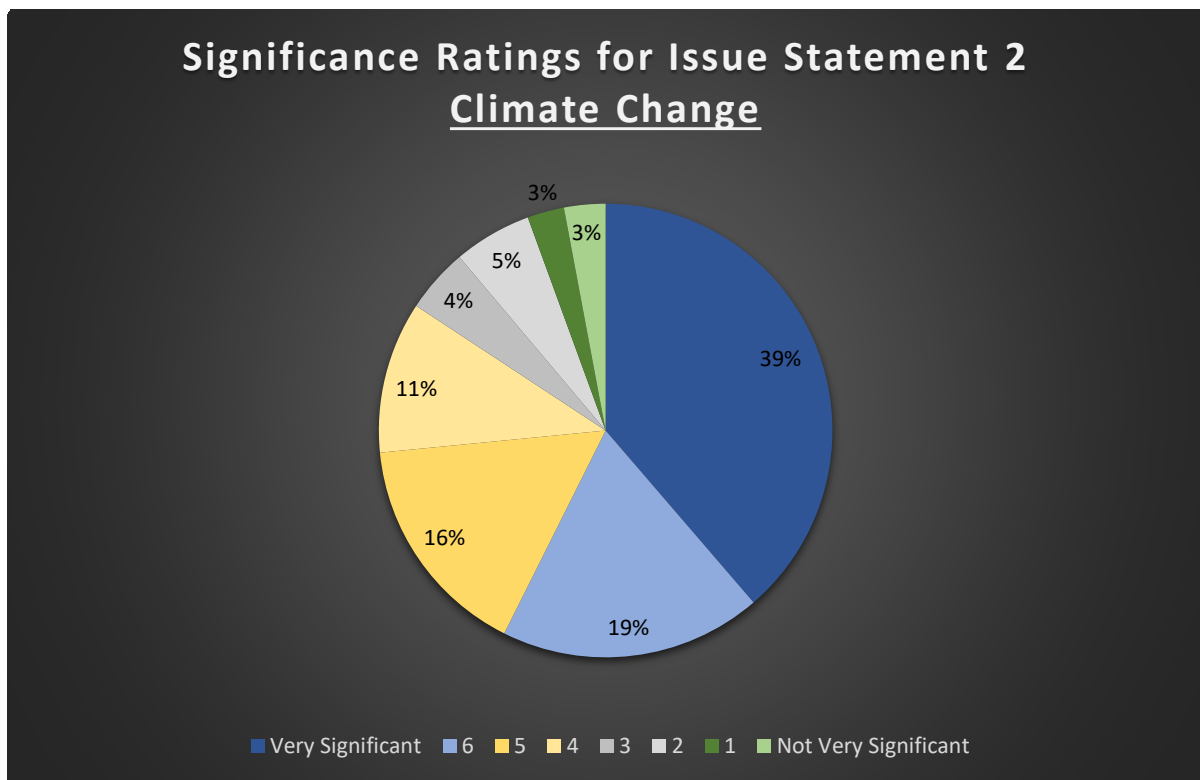


Figure 5

Comments Summary:

Climate change was considered a significant or moderate concern by most of the respondents, however there was significant division around how it should be approached in Otago. There was division between whether people thought the best approach to tackling climate change was adaptation, or mitigation. Division existed around how to best allocate resources to tackle the effects of climate change. Some of these varied solutions suggested by respondents included:

- Increase water storage to continue existing land use practices
- Retreat from certain land and intensive land use practices altogether
- Switch to more resilient crops to utilise a changing climate.

Issue Statement 3: Pests and Weeds

Pest species pose an ongoing threat to indigenous biodiversity, economic activities and landscapes. Pest species can be found throughout Otago, from alpine regions to marine environments. Rabbits are changing Central Otago's landscape, eroding soils and affecting agriculture. Wilding pines threaten high country and tussock grassland, changing the landscape and impacting on our recreational, hydrological and conservation values. Didymo,

Lake snow and Lagarosiphon affect our lakes and rivers. Native aquatic plants are displaced, impacting ecosystem health and recreation activities. How significant do you think this issue is for Otago?

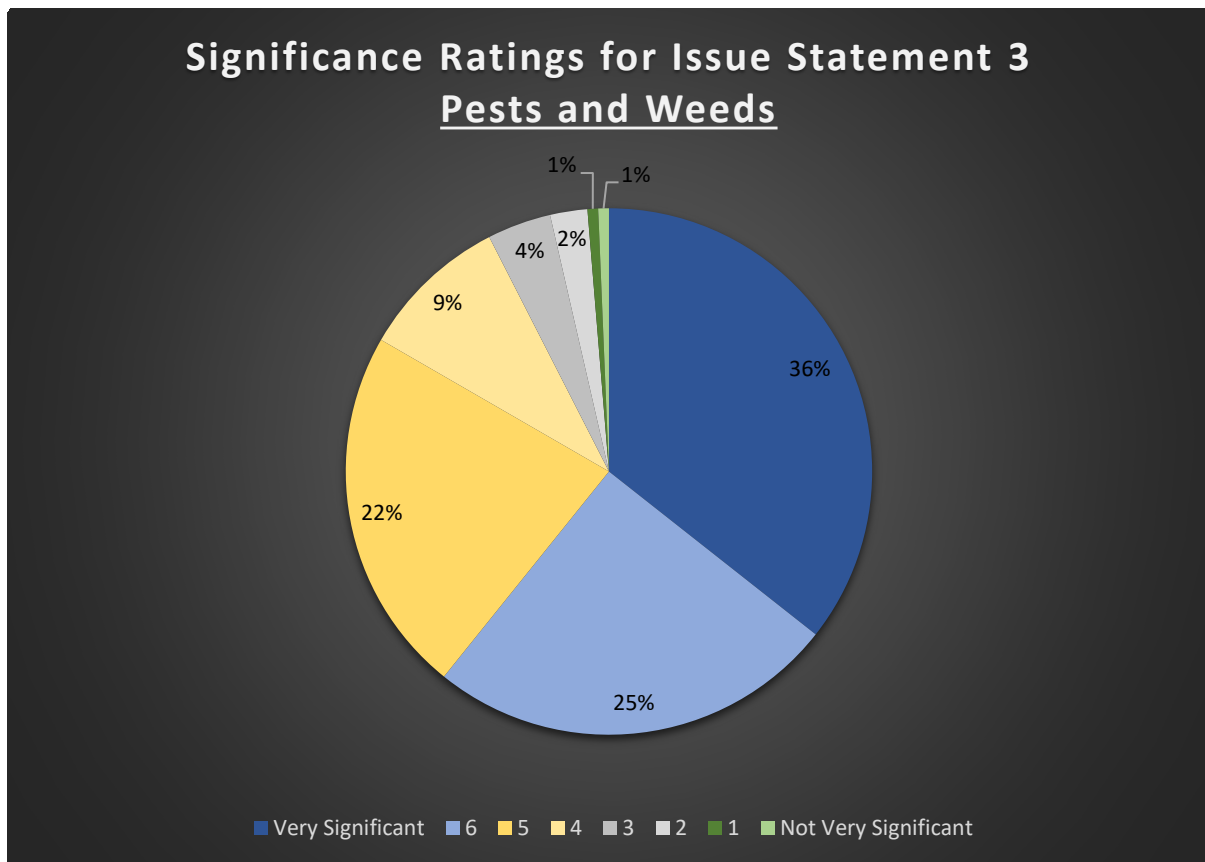


Figure 6

Comments Summary:

Rabbits affecting landscapes, tussock land, and soil quality followed by algal blooms in lakes and rivers were the primary concerns. There were a diverse range of solutions put forward by respondents for pest control, however there was division among respondents about how to consider and approach wilding pines as an invasive species. Effluent runoff was identified as a key issue and was perceived to provide and sustain the conditions for algal blooms in waterways. Suggested solutions by respondents included:

- Community groups and landowner initiatives combined with funding and leadership support from the ORC
- Introducing fines for landowners who were not managing pests on their property
- Reintroducing the rabbit board
- Utilising control viruses
- Placing bounties on pest species
- Reintroducing value on pest species' fur, meat and skin for economic usefulness to the community and self-funding the control initiative.

Issue Statement 4: Urban Growth

Urban growth affects productive land, treasured natural assets, infrastructure and community wellbeing. Natural resources lost to urban growth are gone forever. Frequently, places that are attractive for growth also have landscape and productive values. The growth of Wanaka and Queenstown is changing the natural landscape. Mosgiel's growth is occurring on some of Otago's most highly productive soil, which takes away the option for agriculture. Towns like Arrowtown, Clyde and Milton experience poor air quality in winter, while experiencing pressure to grow. How significant do you think this issue is for Otago?

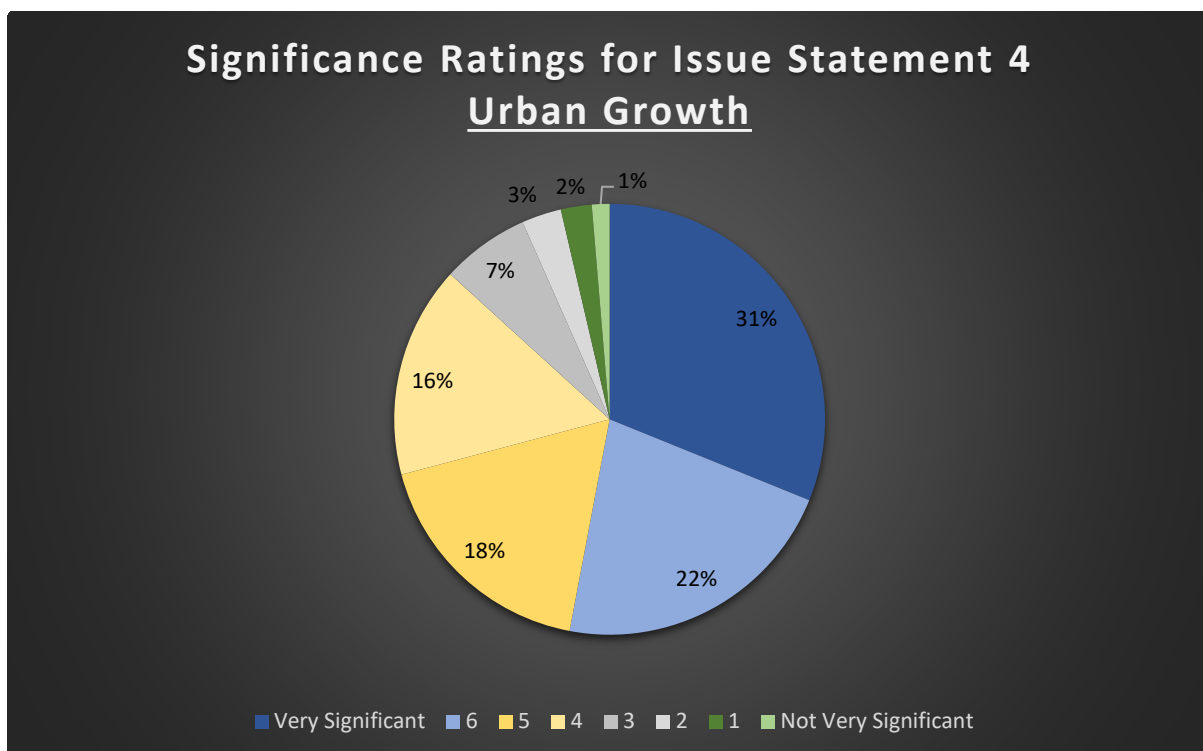


Figure 7

Comments Summary:

Inappropriate urban development was identified as a concern amongst respondents. The effect on productive soil, infrastructure, resource availability, and landscapes were identified. In addition, there was a desire to stop developments that would disrupt the natural character of landscapes, particularly around the Lakes District. Slowing down urban growth and development to better control it was considered an appropriate approach. There was support for long term urban development strategies, along with planning and investment into residential waste and water infrastructure to better manage urban growth. Solutions suggested by respondents included:

- Restricting consents for urban development to ensure development does not commence without first considering the strain on existing infrastructure
- Thorough land evaluations to ensure that strategic and productive land is not residentially developed

- High density housing in urbanised areas
- Developing centralised green spaces with high density residential dwellings to limit urban sprawl
- Local glass recycling plants
- Not consenting developments on flood plains or equally hazardous land
- Allocating mandatory garden blocks per square/km
- Upgrade transport infrastructure
- Ensure new developments are appropriately insulated and incorporate alternative heating sources to reduce wood burning
- Increase localised self-sufficiency of communities to reduce dependency on external supply routes.

Issue Statement 5: Water Demand

Water demand exceeds capacity in some places. In water-short catchments, water availability cannot meet competing demands from agriculture, hydro-electric generation, the community and the environment. Many of these catchments are also experiencing urban growth, increasing the demand on water supply. Some catchments are complex, making it challenging to identify or mitigate these effects. How significant do you think this issue is for Otago?

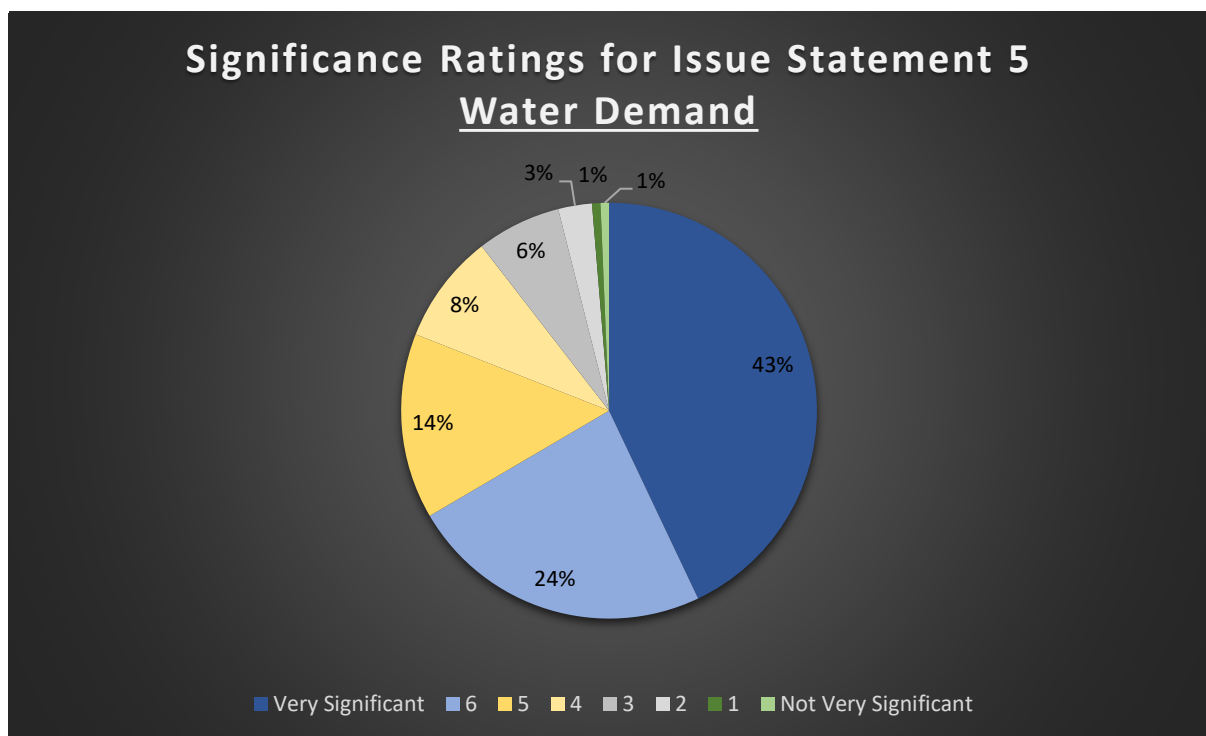


Figure 8

Comments Summary:

The primary concern was that existing water allocations had not appropriately taken community and environmental needs into account. Industries practising intensive land uses

were perceived to have been allocated too much water, and there was support for an increase in water storage infrastructure to support existing industries and the community. In addition, there was support for ensuring appropriate water supply is available as part of planned urban growth. Suggested solutions by respondents included:

- Increasing water storage
- Appropriately considering existing water infrastructure before consenting new developments
- Improving land infiltration
- Ensuring all new houses have mandatory water tanks in their plans to ease pressure on central water supplies
- Researching the best uses for water based on where the water is, which should influence consents for water usage and land development
- No more water bottling for export overseas
- Reconsider consents for extensive irrigation of inappropriate land uses.

Issue Statement 6: Coastal Pressures

Otago's coast is a rich natural, cultural and economic resource that is under threat from a range of terrestrial and marine activities. Otago's coast provides habitat for rare species (including toroa and hoiho), outstanding landscapes, a rich food source, recreation, industry and potential for further economic use (aquaculture). Threats to it are not understood and not always well managed. From the sedimentation effects of inland development to waste disposal, human activity puts stress on the marine and coastal environment. Some of those activities, like Port Otago and tourism, are vital to our economic wellbeing. How significant do you think this issue is for Otago?

Significance Ratings for Issue Statement 6 Coastal Pressures

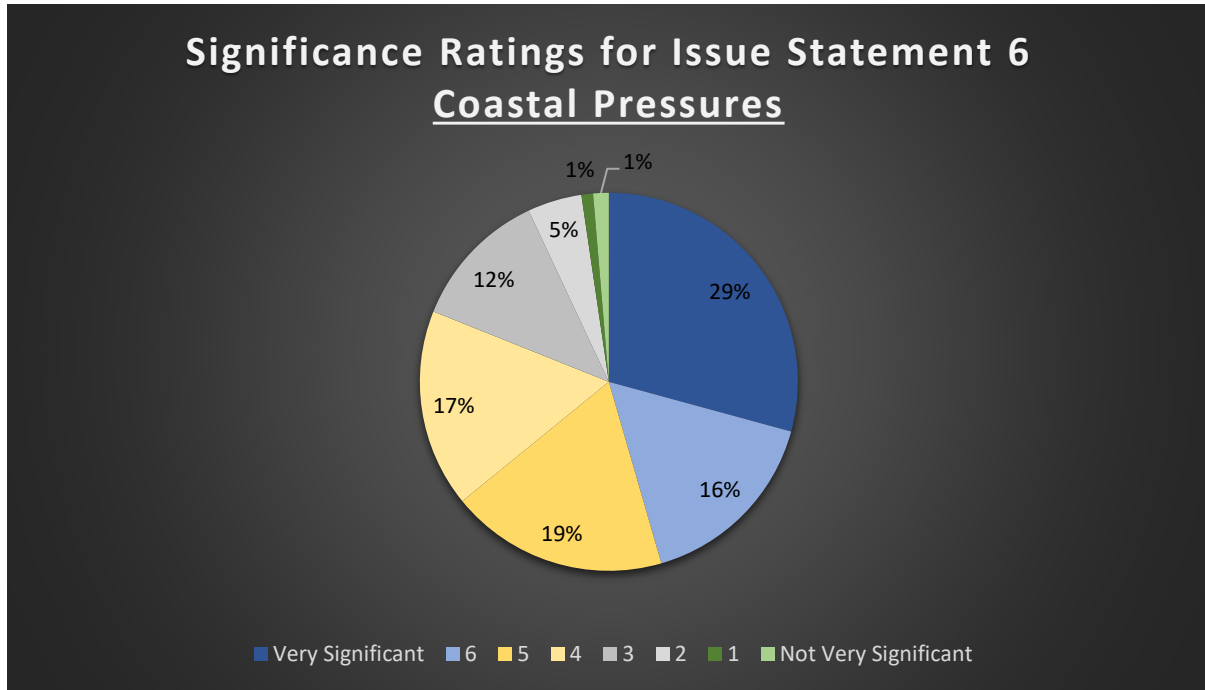


Figure 9

Comments Summary:

Overall coastal pressures were not rated as highly as matters of priorities compared to other issues. This was indicated by the significance being more evenly spread across the scale. However, pre-emptive measures to avoid future degradation were considered important for coastal health. There was a desire for collaboration between the ORC and key agencies to produce science driven, long term management strategies and to better understand the key specific pressures associated with Otago’s coastline. It was suggested that ORC could work more closely with the University of Otago Marine Sciences to achieve a better understanding of coastal pressures faced by the region. A precautionary approach to coastal health is desired that prioritises positive environmental outcomes, whilst considering economic impacts. Current aquaculture practices are perceived to be a concern, and there was a desire for more marine reserves along Otago coastlines. Tourism was of some concern relating to coastal pressures, particularly the strain increased tourist numbers are putting on the coastal environment and associated infrastructure.

Issue Statement 7: Big Lakes Growth and Infrastructure Pressures

Lakes Wanaka, Wakatipu, Hawea and Dunstan attract visitors and new residents, putting pressure on their unique environment. The beauty, opportunity and climate of these lakes attract visitors and residents from the around Otago, New Zealand, and the world. This influx brings economic opportunity, but activities and services created to support it can degrade the environment that underpins the area’s attractiveness. How significant do you think this issue is for Otago?

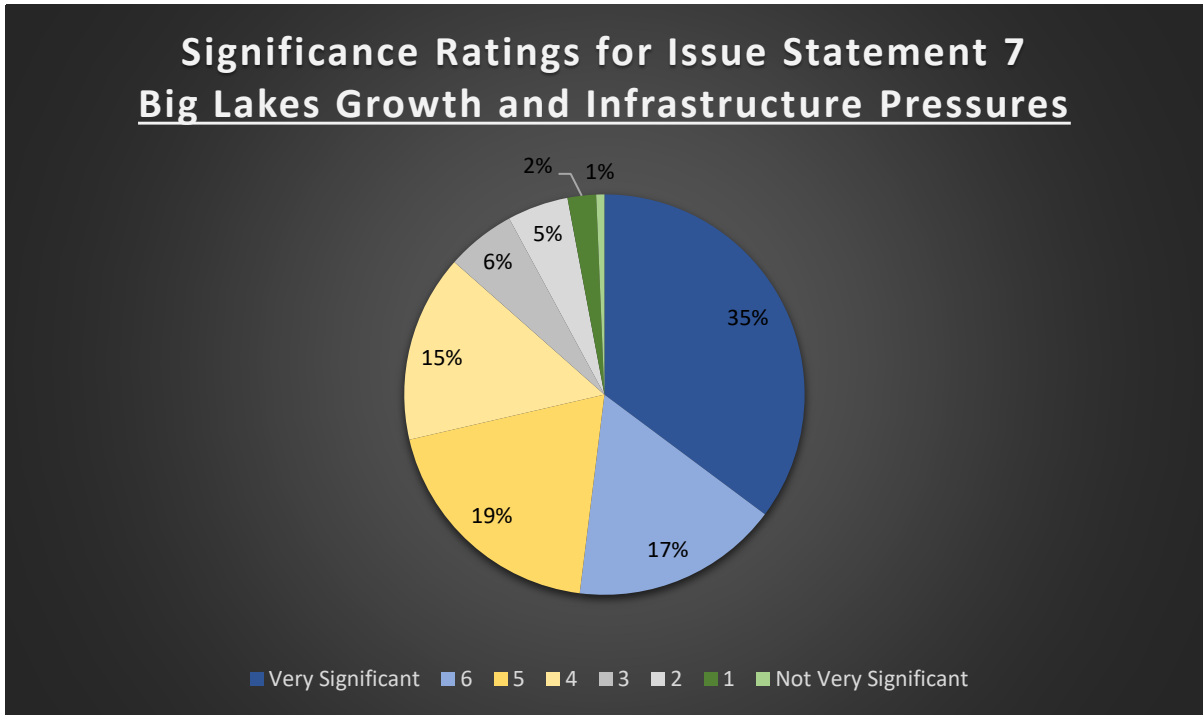


Figure 9

Comments Summary:

The most significant concern identified for this issue was the strain that increased tourism is having on existing waste management infrastructure. In addition, some respondents indicated in the 'Urban Growth' section that they wanted to cease or slow down developments affecting the natural character of landscapes around the lakes. There was a desire for the tourism industry to support the affected local communities in maintaining and upgrading waste management infrastructure. Tighter regulations of freedom camping was identified as sought, as was a consideration of a 'user pays' model. This was seen to help avoid the degradation of local landscapes due to waste dumping. Some suggestions by respondents included:

- Increasing minimum costs for tourists
- Increasing taxes or rates paid by the tourism industry
- Tighter regulations on freedom camping
- Slowing down developments to allow planning and management strategies to catch up
- Ensuring foreign operated tourism companies who profit off regional natural attractions pay accordingly.

Issue Statement 8: Impacts from Economic Activities

Economic and domestic activities use natural resources, but do not always properly account for the environmental stresses and future effects they cause. Sedimentation from development and forestry flows into streams and builds up in the coastal environment,

smothering kelp forests and affecting rich underwater habitats. Water abstraction and waste water and stormwater discharges risk degrading the natural environment, cultural and amenity values, and recreation. Mining and agriculture support employment and economic wellbeing but can also change landscapes and habitats. Otago’s port moves freight to and from Otago and Southland, but operates alongside sensitive environments, including the Aramoana saltmarsh. Tourism, which relies on the environment, can also add to degradation. How significant do you think this issue is for Otago?

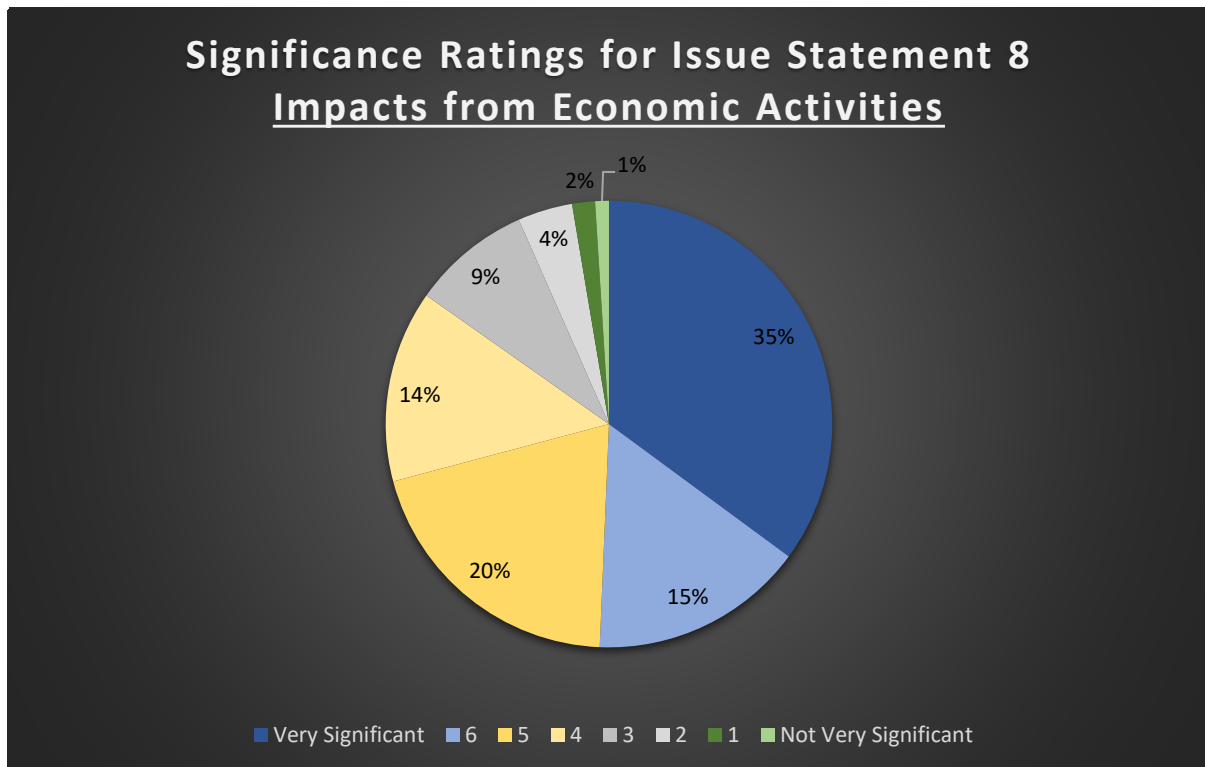


Figure 10

Comments Summary:

A precautionary approach to support positive environmental outcomes was desired by most respondents. More research into the true costs associated with environmental impacts should be driving long term strategies. Changes to more intensive land uses was a concern for many, and should only be supported where environmental impact is low. A strict ‘polluter pays’ consequence model was put forward by a number of respondents. Suggested solutions included:

- Research into true cost assessment, accurate representations of environmental damage and what issues are caused by which activities
- Education for both community and private sector based on the true cost assessment outcomes and further environmental harms research in order to positively influence community lifestyle and business practices

- Regulation and clear guidelines based on the true cost assessment outcomes and research in order to protect the environment while providing the private sector the means to achieve reasonable economic growth
- Establish consequences for not following regulation which includes a stricter ‘polluter pays’ approach and is harsh enough that it is only as a last resort for both the private and public sectors.

Issue Statement 9: Resilience

The environmental costs of our activities are stacking up and may soon reach a tipping point. How and where we currently live is likely to change significantly in coming years. To respond to all the issues identified in this RPS, we will need to consider changes to how we travel, the industries our economy relies on, and how we provide for good lives while protecting our natural environment. How significant do you think this issue is for Otago?

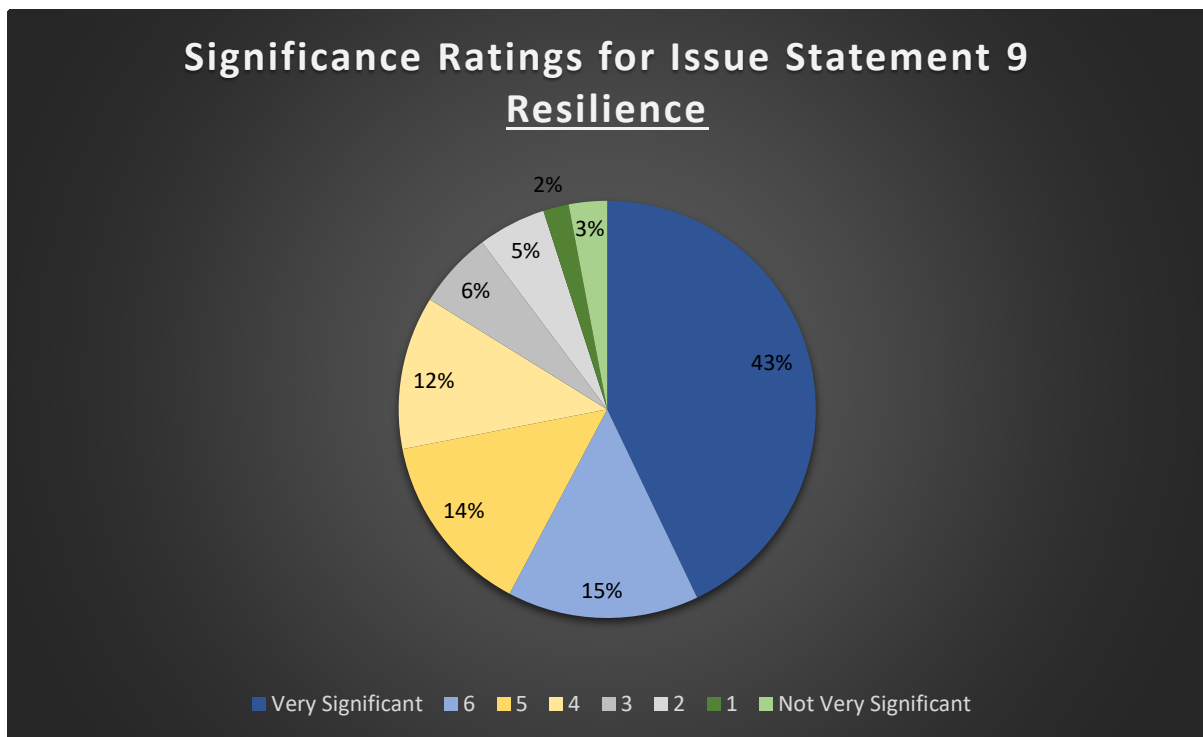


Figure 14

Comments Summary:

There was division between respondents as to where the tipping point lies for the environment in Otago and a call for more research and education to address this. However, consideration of both the environment and economy was important to many. Upgrades and investment into public transport infrastructure was greatly desired as a means to minimise environmental impact. Suggested solutions by respondents included:

- Upgrading and investing in public transport infrastructure such as buses and trains

- Developments making use of solar and/or wind energy should be enabled or subsidised by council
- Investigating trains for transport and supply routes
- Reducing cars in favour of public transport
- Upgrading and investing in existing infrastructure
- Consider renewable power subsidies for both residential and businesses
- Recognition that change and adaptation is necessary for both lifestyle on a small scale and how the private sector is operated on a larger scale

7. Summary of consultation findings: Phase two Consultation

7.1 Task One Summaries

The following section summarises the desired outcomes identified in Task One of the phase 2 consultation process. Where there were overlaps in the outcomes put forward by attendees, these have been condensed into a theme and summarised into a dot point.

Natural Hazards and Resilience:

The desired outcomes from the consultation sessions were:

- Upgrade stormwater and flooding infrastructure in flood prone areas
- Identify and support communities vulnerable to significant power loss or supply route isolation, such as Queenstown and the Catlins
- Maintenance of groundwater tables (inferred context is for protection from flooding)
- Remove sediment from waterways (inferred context is for waterway resilience and protection from flooding)
- Identify Otago based communities most vulnerable to isolation due to ruptures along the alpine fault.

Big Lakes and Infrastructure Pressure:

The desired outcomes from the consultation sessions were:

- Allow for flexibility in residential growth yet limit current rate of seemingly unchecked expansion
- Regulate tourism more restrictively
- Upgrade waste and sewage management infrastructure in Queenstown
- Cease the dumping of sewage into water bodies, including Lake Wakatipu
- Clean up Lake Snow and other algae from water bodies, including Lake Hayes
- Provide for flexibility, adaptation and protection of existing agricultural practices operating in natural landscapes
- Ensure urban areas are held to the same discharge standards as rural areas and businesses, including Dunedin and Queenstown.

Climate Change:

The desired outcomes from the consultation sessions were:

- Increasing water storage capacity to increase resilience (*This was the most sought-after outcome*)
- Increase adaptability of rural communities and mitigation of climate change effects
- Increase public transport options for the region
- Reduce emissions region-wide
- Regulate residential insulation to reduce energy wastage
- Support transition to alternative residential heating sources to reduce coal and wood burning
- Retreat from flood prone areas across the region, including South Dunedin
- Increase research into regional effects of climate change.

Coastal Pressures:

The desired outcomes from the consultation sessions were:

- Upgrade wastewater and sewage infrastructure connected to the coast
- Cease dumping waste into the ocean
- Identify and protect significant biodiversity from fishing and off-shore drilling
- Identify and reduce sedimentation affecting marine and coastal areas
- ORC should support and enable private coastal protection initiatives, such as re-planting in coastal zones
- Cease developments in coastal areas prone to erosion and flooding.

Economic Impacts:

The desired outcomes from the consultation sessions were:

- Establish strict environmental protections from harmful economic practices
- Provide policy pathways for economic activities to follow and demonstrate positive environmental outcomes without precluding economic opportunity
- Enable waste reprocessing to support a circular economy
- Increase investment into infrastructure related to tourism such as waste management and transport
- Identify and address the negative economic and environmental effects of tourism
- Regulate freedom camping
- Consistent rules for rural and urban landowners, private and public bodies around accountability of environmental impacts

- Irrigation and agricultural practices need to be regulated to protect water quality and water consumption

Water Demand:

The desired outcomes from the consultation sessions were:

- Increase water storage capacity
- Ensure urban expansion considers existing water supply infrastructure and does not impact rural water access
- Increase water access and supply for stock drinking
- Support and enable easier mitigations such as constructed wetlands and sediment traps
- Support and enable grey water recycling
- Enable and support the building of dams to capture and store winter water flows.

Pests and Weeds:

The desired outcomes from the consultation sessions were:

- ORC to support landowners and enable them to control weeds and pests
- Utilise stock grazing as a weed control method in areas where spraying is not an option
- Control rabbits, possums, wallabies (Kurow bridge), weasels, stoats, rats, mice, cats and dogs
- Reinstate the Rabbit Control Board
- Place bounties on pests and utilise furs, skins and meats
- Control gorse, broom, *Didymo*, *Lagarosiphon*, ragwort and wilding pines
- Use incentives rather than punishments for pest and weed control.

Urban Growth:

The desired outcomes from the consultation sessions were:

- Stop urban developments on highly productive land
- Intensify existing developments and build high density urbanised areas before developing outward
- Upgrade waste management infrastructure and invest in alternative waste disposal methods
- Upgrade and invest in alternative regional transport options such as rail for both passengers and supply routes
- Upgrade and invest in public transport options for urbanised areas
- Reduce impacts from urban run-off into waterways

- Regulate urban growth appropriately to meet the varying needs of different regional communities.

Biodiversity Loss:

The desired outcomes from the consultation sessions were:

- Set up and fund more parks like Orokanui
- Plan for the effects of unpermitted land use activities on biodiversity and threatened species e.g. illegal bike tracks through endangered snail habitats
- Provide research-based education, clear goals, and assistance on biodiversity practices to the community
- Protect biodiversity through both regulation and incentives
- Reduce the impacts pine forests are having on native bush
- Establish regional parks
- Restore indigenous habitats as a buffer for existing indigenous habitats
- Provide non regulatory support, partnerships, incentives and advice
- Create an urban ecological network in Dunedin by 2030
- Establish increased collaboration with DOC, TAs, Mana Whenua and communities
- Provide for existing use and acknowledge the importance of the primary industries' social, economic and cultural wellbeing
- Enable biodiversity banking as an incentive for landowners
- Identify which indigenous habitats are threatened and which are thriving.

Water Quality:

The desired outcomes from the consultation sessions were:

- One standard of water quality regulation for urban, rural, private and public sectors
- Water quality standards need to reflect both ecological and human needs
- No consenting for water bottling companies
- Remove silt from waterways
- Require 20m minimum riparian areas by all waterways
- Protect riparian areas and allow for grazing to control weeds
- Divert sewage to land instead of waterways
- Allow for innovation and flexibility in the farming sector by reducing restrictions
- Reward landowners who are low nutrient emitters
- All implementation of water quality management should be through partnerships to reduce strain on Council while additionally having greater social and environmental gains
- Provide research-based education on water quality improvement to the community
- Ensure water quality is suitable to drink and swim in throughout the region.

7.2 Task Two Summaries

The following section summarises the preferred policy approach identified in Task Two of the phase 2 consultation process. The consultation axis (see Appendix 1) showed the desired policy directions for each issue statement as indicated by community and stakeholder representation.

Natural Hazards and Resilience

The overall policy direction indicated by community workshop participants for natural hazards and resilience sought a balance between prescriptive and permissive approaches, and between environmental baselines and a return to a more natural state. Participants wanted to see a more prescriptive approach to avoid the consenting of developments on flood plains or in other hazardous areas. This also included the retreat of South Dunedin in preparation for rising sea levels.

Stakeholder workshop participants wanted to ensure flexibility in economic opportunity and innovation, and for the consideration of existing rights with any re consenting related to land use.

Climate Change

There was an overall leaning towards environmental minimums in respect of climate change. However there was a division among workshop participants between prescriptive and permissive policy direction. Overall, participants sought an increase in climate understanding and research, increased water storage and public transport options, and reduced private car use to cut emissions.

Coastal Pressures

There was preference toward natural state among workshop respondents, with a division between respondents when it came to whether the policy approach should be prescriptive or permissive. Those seeking a prescriptive approach to policy direction sought restrictions on developments along or near coastal areas, the retreat of residential development from at risk coastal areas, and reduced waste disposal to the ocean. Those seeking a more permissive approach suggested responding to the natural effects of coastal erosion when they happen. Stakeholder workshop participants preferred a permissive approach to policy with outcomes more at the environmental minimum end of the spectrum to allow for flexibility in coastal land use, particularly related to coastal development.

Big Lakes Growth and Infrastructure Pressure

Community workshop participants sought outcomes towards a more natural state with prescriptive policy approach to regulating urban sprawl, development, upgrading infrastructure and water bottling around the big lakes. Stakeholder workshop participant indicated a desire for a permissive approach, with outcomes more toward the environmental

minimum end of the spectrum and flexibility for innovation in both the agricultural and development sectors.

Pests and Weeds

Workshop participant sought a prescriptive policy approach to pest control and outcomes towards a more natural state. The key points were a desire to eradicate wilding pines and create new eco sanctuaries; holding landowners accountable for pest control; and reintroduction of the Rabbit Board. The highlighted pest and weed species were rabbits, wallabies, possums, gorse and broom.

Urban Growth

There were no clear patterns overall in workshop participants' responses for urban growth. Oamaru respondents showed a preference for a prescriptive policy direction and outcomes towards a more natural state. The Stakeholder workshop participants favoured a more permissive policy direction and outcomes at the environmental minimum end of the spectrum. Dunedin community workshop participants were divided across both axes. The overall themes were:

- Policy direction should consider the location of urban growth, where it is taking place, and reflect accordingly;
- Consents need to consider existing infrastructure before developments take place;
- Air quality needs to be considered and new developments should be required to have alternative heating options and insulation to avoid wood burning;
- Urbanised areas should move to high density living where applicable to avoid sprawl and increase public transport options to support this.

Water Demand

Overall the emphasis was towards a permissive policy direction for water demand, with a division on the outcomes sought: some wanted outcomes closer to a natural state whilst others sought outcomes closer to environmental minimums in managing water demand. The key themes were supporting access to clean drinking water for everyone, agricultural uses, supporting flexible economic access to water, and increasing water storage for the region.

As mentioned previously the following two issues were added during the consultation sessions.

Water Quality

Overall the emphasis was towards a permissive policy direction for water quality, and a preference that they be closer toward the environmental minimums end of the spectrum. Some water bodies were singled out for being of concern. These were the Pomahaka River, Taieri River, great lakes and South Otago water bodies. It was suggested that locally managed or farmer-led catchment groups should be set up with ORC support. West Otago (Tapanui) and Balclutha workshop participants showed strong engagement with the water quality issue

during Task One and Task Two, providing suggestions for outcomes. Some of the desired outcomes related to water quality were:

- Rewarding, not penalising, land users that are low nutrient emitters
- Allowing farmers to be innovative, not consent based
- Regulation should lead to direct environmental benefit
- Implementations should be through a partnership
- Stop grandparenting of nutrients

Biodiversity Loss

Overall, a more prescriptive policy approach with outcomes more at the environmental minimum end of the spectrum. Integrating native flora with urban development was a key theme, as well as general preservation of native flora. Maintain areas of native bush through regulation, implement controlled burning and grazing to reduce wildfires.

8. Next steps

The information gathered from the consultation process will be used to help define the key resource management issues and the policy direction for the RPS. The information from phase one will help the ORC policy team describe the key values and concerns held by the community, and the relative significance of the various issues. The information from phase two will help the policy team develop proposed outcomes and policy approaches to achieve these, guided by the directions signalled by community and stakeholder respondents.

Further, Reference Groups are currently being set up for each of the topic chapters for the RPS. The Reference Groups will provide comments on the policy direction papers being prepared by staff. Phases 1 and 2 consultation have fed into the content of the policy direction papers, and the reference groups will provide the opportunity for input into the drafting stages of the RPS.

Appendix 1: Policy and Outcome Axes

Natural Hazards and Resilience

Natural state

Environmental
Control

Permissive

Environmental
minimum

Must prevent development in hazardous areas – e.g. Flood plains, sea-level, faults, landslides. **DN**

Plan to exit South D with recompense to asset owners. **DN**

New Zealand is such an active place – where should we live that is safe?

Encourage resilient/resilience in people – Earthquakes/Tsunamis are impossible to predict and only so much can be planned for resilience and resilient people are key.

Must actively manage south Dunedin to engineer flood and sea level rise protection. **DN**

Cease to issue new consents in areas that are vulnerable to natural hazards. It's a drain on resources when it happens. **O**

Need a transition plan for south Dunedin now. **DN**

Define the necessitation of life for sustainability. Natural resources and minerals. Consider the economic wellbeing of the community. **O**

Consider existing use rights including reconsement. **ST**

Natural state

Climate Change

Must develop public transport.

- Cheaper
- Smaller buses but more frequent
- Rethink the roads

Must reduce the amount of very polluting cars.

- Tax more SUVs
- Help the spread of electric cars. **DN**



Must be preserving natural state: Permissive = BAU.

Current emissions must be reduced to a zero by 2050. **DN**

Get people involved young

Let youth have their say

Policy Control

Prescriptive

Must reduce emissions, Develop indigenous CCS , emission schemes & businesses. **DN**

See Derek Moots presentation/paper on legumes and their importance in high yield agriculture

Climate has always changed. The question is how much has been anthropomorphic (anthropogenic?)

Undertake change or it becomes economically avoidable or it becomes a necessity. I.e. waterdumps. **O**

Need to promote awareness and understanding as a starting point. Start collecting baseline data from which to improve. **O**

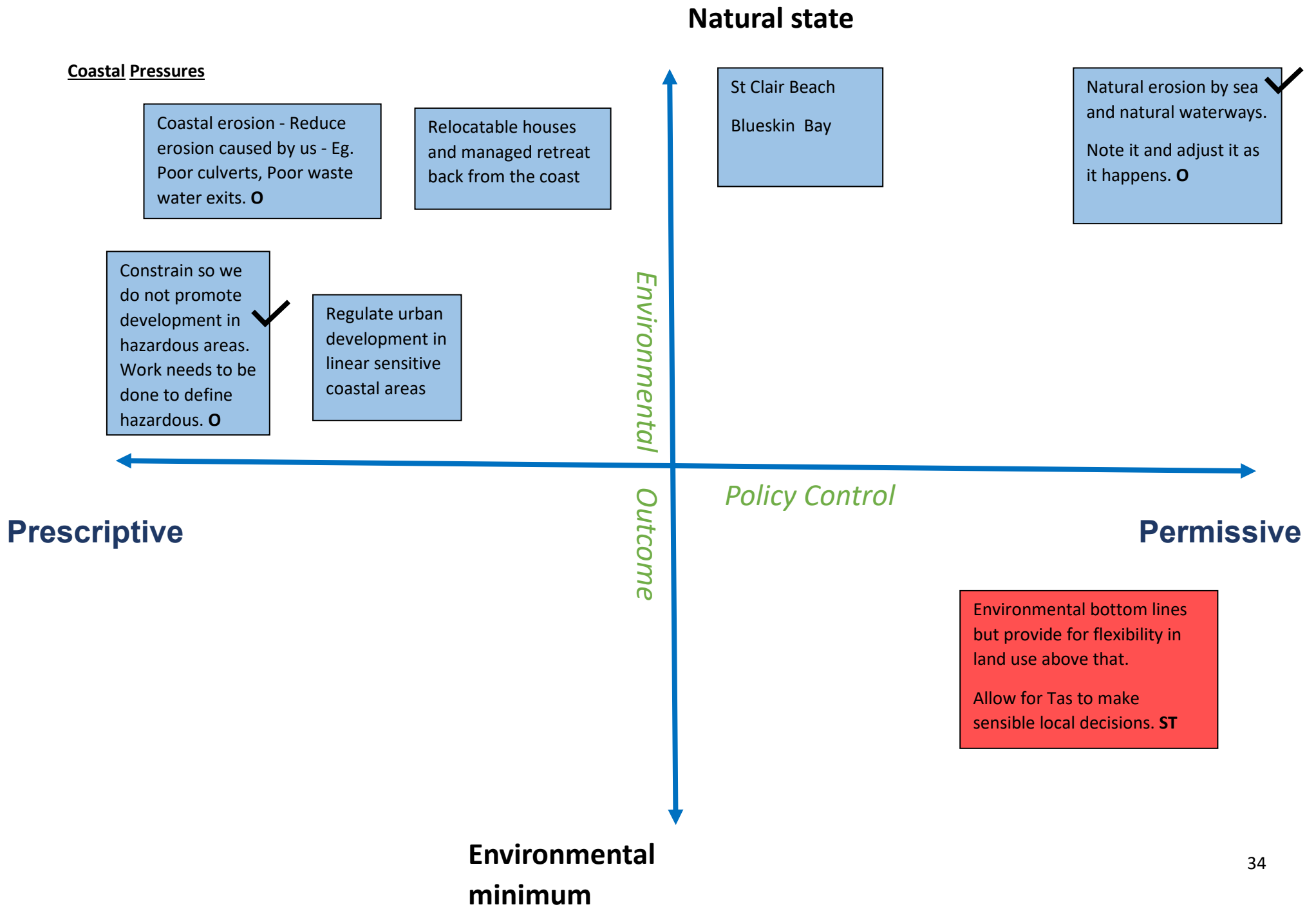
Water storage. Streamline consenting process. Store water from high flow periods. Will most likely be private investment. Could be govts assistance. **O**

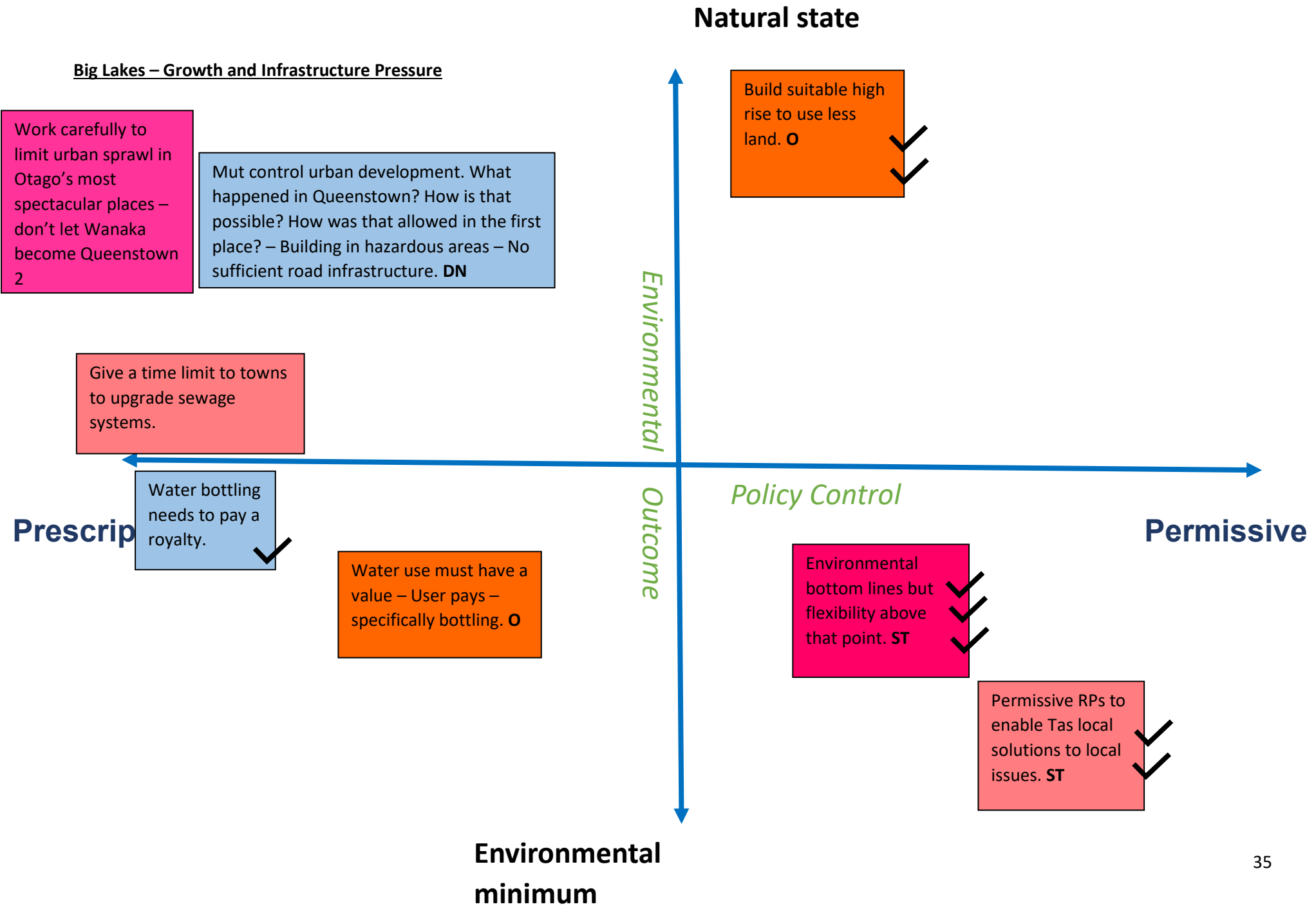
Permissive

Don't put ideology and unnecessarily precautionary approach ahead of fact, evidence and data. **ST**



Environmental minimum





Natural state

Pests and Weeds

- Must eradicate wilding pines
- Must identify new sites for eco preserves (eg. Orokonui). **WO** ✓

Possum control has lapsed severely and will continue to be absent whilst TB is managed. Large effort from everyone required.

Control of pests break down into catchment areas.

Because of overflow of pests and weeds some prescription will be required to protect those achieving better outcomes.

Act on the rules . **O** ✓
 Hold land owners accountable ✓
 DOC as a start point ✓

Wallabies and Rabbits control should be responsibility of a pest board/central agency ✓
 Individual landowners don't do it, especially small holdings, larger ones have time + cost constraints ✓

Environmental

Prescriptive

Regional council responsibility of large water course areas.
 Willows – gorse - broom

Rabbits and wallabies. Follow regulation and achieve bottom lines. ✓

Gorse, broom, old mans beard + lake weeds need to be controlled at a greater level. ✓
 These are taking over our natural resources. **O** ✓

control

Co-ordination or response to pest and weed management.

Permissive

Environmental minimum

Natural state

Urban Growth

Must reduce expansion in QT. **DN**
WO ✓

Halt the subdivision spoiling my delightful coastal view

B. B = This depends on where the growth will be within Otago? If in a township – which is nearing joining up with Oamaru, but infrastructure investment should be provided to support the development. **O**

Urban development should come with housing development. Environmental impact reduced.
Urban development should come with public transport! **DN**

B. Constrain places with bad air quality? Another = stricter requirement for home heating – Including good education on wood, the air quality, the changes required for air quality to be breathable. **O**

A. 1. Continue to provide for traditional form but – denser urban areas such as using existing 2x storied buildings that are vacant can be turned into accommodation
A. Constraining growth = No, would rather the growth at this stage. **O**

Urban development should include improved

Provide for appropriate urban growth and flexibility

Prescriptive

Must make land available in Dunedin Urban Expansion. **DN**

- Development can only occur where appropriate infrastructure available.
- Compact urban form that preserves productive land.
- Green infrastructure.

Policy Control

Permissive

Environmental bottom lines but flexibility provided above that point. **ST**

We need more science on how long it's taking for contaminants and nutrients to work through the soil profile. ✓

Outcome

Environmental minimum

