

VISION STATEMENT

A PLACE OF OUR OWN.

INTRODUCTION

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PLAN

The Banks Peninsula District Plan is designed not only to sustain but also to enhance the environment, community, and the economic wellbeing of people on Banks Peninsula. Clearly that will mean different things in different parts of Banks Peninsula.

Even so, this District Plan adopts some fundamental general principles.

1. WE SHOULD SUSTAIN WHAT SUSTAINS US

This Plan accepts that the ultimate reason for us to sustain the environment is because the environment sustains us. The real proof of this principle is that when human beings ignore it they lose the food and shelter, work and leisure upon which they depend.

And on Banks Peninsula, the environment sustains us in other, less tangible ways. It fosters our sense of community, offers access to new places and experiences and allows us to enjoy unique sites and features as well as other species - some quite rare.

This is the environment we depend upon and enjoy. We are a part, not apart. And so, when we sustain it we sustain ourselves.

2. EVERY PRIVILEGE HAS ITS OBLIGATIONS

One way to sustain is to ensure that when we seek to get something from the environment we're also prepared to give something back. Exactly what will vary from area to area and use to use.

The principle of asking for a contribution from those who seek a benefit will apply to future land-use proposals. The various sections of the Plan outline what contributions may apply and why they are being sought.

3. THE PAST HAS A PLACE IN THE FUTURE

The Peninsula settlements of Lyttelton and Akaroa are unique in Canterbury. Both still retain much of their nineteenth century origins and character. Narrow streets, small houses and colonial architecture are essential elements of both. To ensure these features are not lost or overwhelmed, the past must be respected. In historic areas of both settlements new buildings should not overwhelm or ignore those already there. The privilege of enjoying these unique communities brings with it a responsibility to ensure the new complements the old. Other newer Peninsula settlements also have their own special character and there also new development should respect, reflect and enhance what already exists.

INTRODUCTION

Maintaining a place for the past also involves identifying historic sites on Banks Peninsula as a heritage we are lucky to enjoy and keen to preserve.

A final, and essential, aspect of this principle is recognition of tangata whenua as the Peninsula's first human inhabitants. They have a special and historic relationship with this environment which this Plan seeks to sustain. An extended introductory section deals in detail with issues and remedies discussed with local iwi.

4. IT'S BETTER TO INNOVATE THAN FRUSTRATE

Life on Banks Peninsula has changed dramatically over the years. The geographies and microclimates of Banks Peninsula create many opportunities, which will help maintain the infrastructure needed to sustain communities. Those who currently enjoy the benefits of previous changes should not deny future change but seek to ensure it is sympathetic and sustainable.

SUMMARY

All of this can perhaps be summed up in our vision statement. We believe it expresses our goal in the Plan – that is, to see that the things people do on Banks Peninsula recognise the special qualities of the area and avoid remedy, or mitigate adverse effects on the environment.

Sustainable management involves an acceptance of an obligation to the future. Therefore, the practical focus of the Plan is to find ways to enhance what we have when we seek to add to it.

As you use the Plan and measure your proposals against its details, recognise also that those details have these principles as their foundation.

They express and amplify the vision and stand to be expressed in the outcomes of the first Plan to encompass the features and future of the entire Peninsula.