

controlled by the Department of Conservation and the Regional Council, the land adjoining the Coastal Marine Area is controlled by the District Council. Special consideration must therefore be given to the land adjoining this sensitive area.

- 4.4.16.5. Rules for the implementation of the objectives and policies for water resource management are found throughout the Plan. See particularly Parts 5 and 7.

4.4.17. Intended Environmental Outcomes

- 4.4.17.1. In the event of localised pollution problems due to the effects of land-based activities, improvement in the quality of the water resources in those areas.

- 4.4.17.2. Integrated and co-ordinated management of the District's water resources.

4.4.18. Monitoring

- 4.4.18.1. The Council may require, as a condition on any resource consent with the potential to detrimentally affect the quality of water resources, the provision of monitoring information such as water quality samples in order to provide information to use for other applications for resource consents on similar activities and to assess whether the rules in the District Plan are sufficiently effective.

4.5. Mineral Resources

4.5.1. Key Issue

4.5.1.1. Mineral resource investigation and utilisation is important to community wellbeing and viability, but must be carried out in a manner consistent with the Resource Management Act, in particular, safeguarding the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems and avoiding, remedying and mitigating adverse effects.

- 4.5.2. Buller District is relatively well endowed with a variety of mineral resources. They include substantial reserves of bituminous, sub-bituminous and lignite coal, relatively widespread alluvial gold and hard rock gold and mineral sand deposits, the latter containing magnetite, ilmenite, zircon and monazite. Smaller quantities of uranium, copper, molybdenum and lead have also been located within the District. Industrial minerals, in particular limestone, are currently extracted in economic quantities. The existing Cape Foulwind quarry has assessed reserves of limestone totalling 60 million tonnes. Reserves have also been identified at Waggon and Alpha Creeks. Marl (used in the manufacture of cement) and aggregate rock (used to make roads) are also plentiful.

- 4.5.3. Coal and gold are both commercially mined in Buller with the number of gold mining licences generally increasing over recent years. Access to mineral resources

is a significant concern in Buller, in particular, the difficulties associated with land ownership, and therefore the availability of the resource. A high percentage of land managed under a conservation mandate, has high scenic values, or is utilised for food production. Mining activities do have the potential to significantly impact on water and land resources. However in some cases, mined land can be rehabilitated and used for other productive purposes such as grazing.

4.5.4. Objective

- 4.5.4.1. To enable people and communities to provide for their economic and social wellbeing through the efficient utilisation and development of mineral resources.**
- 4.5.4.2. To safeguard the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems and avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects from the use and development of mineral resources.**

4.5.5. Policies

- 4.5.5.1. *The adverse effects of activities related to the utilisation of mineral resources shall be avoided, remedied or mitigated.*
- 4.5.5.2. *The rehabilitation of mining sites shall be required where practicable.*
- 4.5.5.3. *Co-ordination and liaison with the West Coast Regional Council shall be maintained on matters relating to mining activities where water resources and soil conservation are affected.*
- 4.5.5.4. *To enable the investigation of the District's known mineral potential and the utilisation of mineral resources of regional significance while safeguarding the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems and ensuring the adverse effects of activities related to the investigation and utilisation of mineral resources are avoided, remedied or mitigated.*
- 4.5.5.5. *To require mineral resource related activities to incorporate measures to protect water quality and ecosystems, and provide for the rehabilitation of disturbed areas to generally their original condition or another suitable condition as approved by Council.*
- 4.5.5.6. *When rehabilitation plantings are carried out pursuant to a resource consent, preference should be given to the use of indigenous species where appropriate, with a further preference for local genetic stock where indigenous species are to be used.*
- 4.5.5.7. *To ensure that in locations where there are known mineral resources of regional significance that the presence of minerals is a relevant consideration in decision making by encouraging other land use or subdivision activities which would have the effect of rendering unusable*

known mineral resources of regional significance and which have the ability to locate elsewhere to do so.

4.5.6. Methods of Implementation

- 4.5.6.1. Ensure that significant adverse effects of mineral related activities are avoided, remedied or mitigated with regard to the matters contained in Part II of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 4.5.6.2. Liaison with the Regional Council, and the Energy and Resources Division of the Ministry of Commerce on the implementation of policies and procedures prepared by the Council and these organisations.

4.5.7. Explanation/Reasons

- 4.5.7.1. The objectives recognise that mineral resources within the District represent resources of significance to the District, the utilisation and management of these representing a key issue that has been addressed in the District Plan. The policies reflect the need to ensure that the impact of mineral related activities on environmental quality, including land and water resources, is avoided, remedied or mitigated. The Council is particularly concerned about long-term effects on resources while recognising that mining, by its very nature, will generally have some short term effects.
- 4.5.7.2. In addition to immediate effects on resources, mining may jeopardise future use of that resource, for example, through contamination or removal of topsoil. Rehabilitation does provide an alternative where appropriate technology and expertise allow for the effective mitigation of adverse environmental effects.
- 4.5.7.3. Mining activities, particularly those on a large scale, can have significant impacts on local rural communities, in particular on social and economic factors. Increased population, employment opportunities and support of local facilities can be benefits in the short term. However mineral resources are finite and in the long-term the continued sustainability of the community and local natural and physical resources must be taken into account.

4.5.8. Intended Environmental Outcomes

- 4.5.8.1. Maintenance and protection of environmental quality in the long-term on mineral extraction sites.
- 4.5.8.2. Utilisation of mineral resources in a way which avoids, remedies or mitigates significant adverse effects on natural character, outstanding landscapes and natural features, significant indigenous vegetation, significant habitats of indigenous fauna and the life supporting capacity of ecosystems.

- 4.5.8.3. Rehabilitation of mined areas to standards which take into account what is practically achievable, desired by the community and environmentally appropriate.

4.5.9. Monitoring

- 4.5.9.1. The Council will keep a record of all mined and rehabilitated areas that have been granted resource consent, and will visit each active area at least once every two years to assess the effects of the activity on the environment.
- 4.5.9.2. The Council may require, as a condition on any resource consent for a new mine, the provision of monitoring information including yearly reports on the environment mitigation measures undertaken, in order to provide information to assess whether the rules in the District Plan and conditions of resource consents are sufficiently effective in remedying adverse effects.
- 4.5.9.3. The Council will keep a register of any complaints concerning mines and will ensure that these are investigated where appropriate.

4.6. Cultural/Historic Resources

4.6.1. Key Issue

4.6.1.1. Access to, or development near, cultural and historic sites may adversely impact on their cultural and historic values.
--

- 4.6.2. The history of both Maori and European settlement of Buller has resulted in a rich cultural and historic heritage. Both natural and physical resources were heavily relied upon for food, shelter, medicines and fibre. Te Tai Poutini (the West Coast) is renowned for its minerals, including pounamu, and natural resources which exist within wetlands, lagoons, swamps and mountains.
- 4.6.3. Areas and sites of importance occur largely around the coast, wetlands and rivers and in forested areas. Historic resources dating from the time of European settlement are largely concentrated in the existing settlements (see 4.3 - The Built Environment) although significant areas associated with mining and forestry activities still remain. These sites include old coal shafts and railways, for example the Denniston incline, abandoned settlements and sites where important events took place, for example at Cannibal Gorge and the Buller Gorge.
- 4.6.4. In the past, sites of historical or cultural significance have been destroyed by insensitive development or land use. The Historic Places Trust maintains a register of historic places, areas, and waahi tapu which it supplies to the Council. However, final registration under the Historic Places Act does not prevent demolition or damage to an historic place. That form of protection can be achieved by the Historic Places Trust or the Council by using the heritage order procedures under the