

District Plan becomes operative today

BY LIZ DEVERY

Senior Policy Planner

COUNCIL, at a meeting earlier this month, gave final approval to the Invercargill City District Plan. The Plan is officially operative today, meaning that the 2005 District Plan has been replaced in its entirety.

A full review of the District Plan began at the start of 2011, with a Council Plan Group reviewing the 2005 District Plan, carrying out consultation with key stakeholders and the wider public, identifying any changes to the legislative framework and drafting a document.

The Proposed Invercargill City District Plan was put out for public consultation in 2013.

Submissions were considered during hearings held during 2014 and 2015. A few variations were made to the document over this time with the last hearing on those matters held in March 2016.

Decisions were released in October 2016. This was followed by appeals to the Environment Court, resulting in mediation and hearings held in 2017 and 2018. The final consent order from the Court was issued in February 2019.

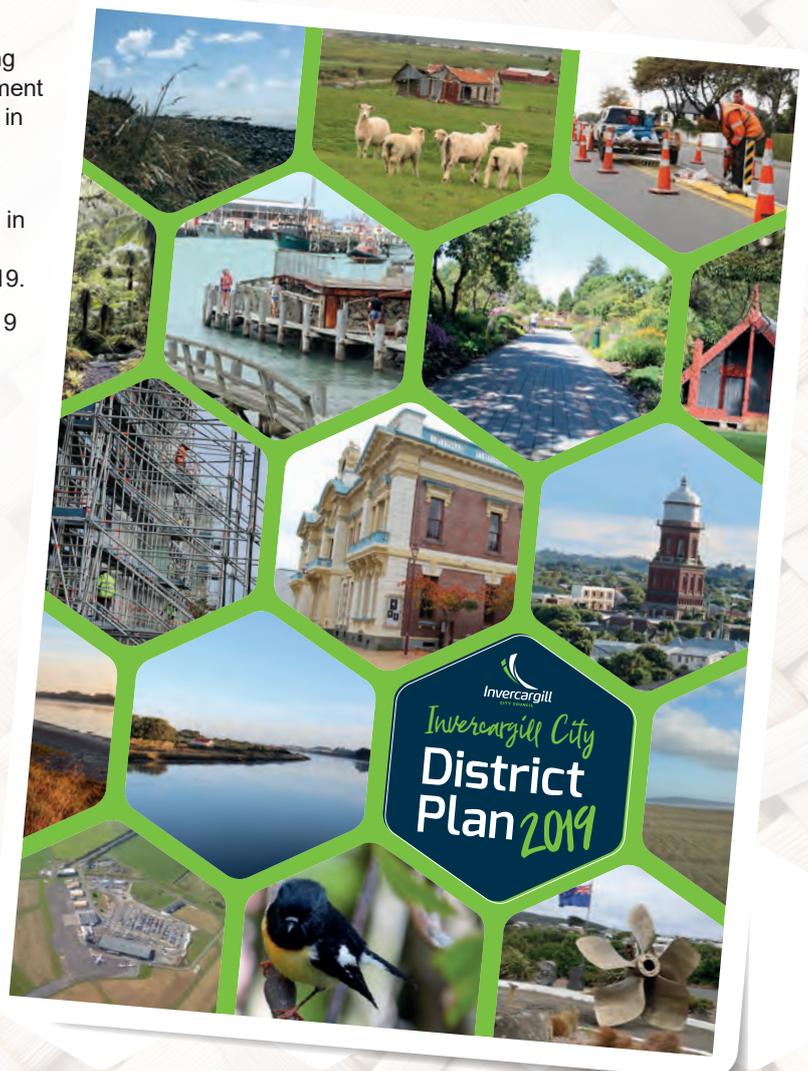
Changes to National Planning Standards released in 2019 means some administrative work has been undertaken to transition our District Plan to the centralised planning template.

The Invercargill City District Plan 2019 is now available on Council's website – www.icc.govt.nz.

The District Plan is a living document, which means there will be ongoing amendments to the plan to reflect community and legislative changes.

Now the Plan is operative, we can be satisfied that these changes will be being made to a document that has gone through the full legislative process.

This review of our District Plan was time consuming because it was the first comprehensive review of Invercargill's District Plan since the introduction of the Resource Management Act.



Beautiful but deadly

BY KIMBERLEY STEPHENSON

Collections Manager - Southland Museum and Art Gallery Niho o te Taniwha

EVERYTHING in nature is designed to decompose. The methods that are used to slow this process down inside the walls of our museums can pose significant risks to staff and visitors, requiring careful management to allow for safe handling, storage and display.

Among the many projects that have been happening behind the scenes at the Southland Museum and Art Gallery Niho o te Taniwha is a significant upgrade project designed to improve the standards of safety and care around its small collection of reptiles, fish, insects, and birds preserved in fluid. Not only can these collections cause serious harm if handling results in inhalation or ingestion, but they are also highly flammable.

The first stage of the project involved cataloguing and photographing each item from the collection. An assessment was also carried out at this time, looking

at factors such as display potential, research potential, and provenance. As the type of preservative fluid used for each specimen had not been recorded, every item was treated as hazardous during this phase and full personal protective equipment was worn at all times.

Once an overarching picture of the collection and its condition had been formed, the next step was to treat and rehouse it. This work was made possible through the generosity of Otago Museum, which provided us with access to both their conservation laboratory and the expertise of their resident conservator, Nyssa Mildwaters. As part of this process, each specimen was carefully transferred into a new 70% ethanol solution and rehoused. For some specimen, this meant returning to their beautiful heritage jars, which

were carefully cleaned and relabelled. For other items whose former housing was no longer fit for purpose, they were transferred to new specimen jars.

The project also gave us the opportunity to tap into the specialist knowledge at Otago Museum and the University of Otago in relation to identification, helping us to improve the accuracy of the database, and pave the way for future storytelling around this collection.

The final phase of the project was to make the collection safe for long-term storage, including the installation of a flammables cabinet, the purchase of a spill kit, and the implementation of procedures around handling and disaster management.

BELOW: A selection of items from the fluid preserved collection after treatment.

INSET: Detail of an iguana gifted to the museum by honorary curator, Joseph Crosby Smith, in 1920.



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Celebrate Queens Park and its coastal connections

Come and see the Aquavan, currently touring the Oreti River catchment and get involved in fun and interactive activities around Queens Park.

Saturday 21 September, 11am-1pm, Queens Park band rotunda, Invercargill

Interact with live marine animals in mobile viewing tanks; celebrate the installation of new fish moulds beside Queens Park's stormwater drains (an initiative between Rotary and ICC); learn about marine ecosystems through simple, fun experiences; chat with scientists; learn about New River Estuary, and play with the EnviroScape catchment model to see how activities on the land can affect rivers and coastal ecosystems.

All are welcome at this very special community event.

For more information email education@es.govt.nz, phone 0800 76 88 45, or check out our Facebook page.



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