

4.1 Regulatory policies – direction to district and regional plans and the Regional Land Transport Strategy

This section contains:

- policies that must be given effect to by regional, city or district plans
- policies that the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy must not be inconsistent with.

Within this section the policies are presented in numeric order. The summary table below, however, lists the policy titles alongside topic headings.

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Table 1: Air Quality Objective 1 Methods 1, 6 & 30 Also see policies 6, 7, 29, 30, 31 and consider 38, 47, 48 & 53

Policy 1: Reverse sensitivity associated with odour, smoke and dust – district plans

District plans shall include policies and/or rules that discourage:

- (a) new sensitive activities locating near land uses or activities that emit odour, smoke or dust, which can affect the health of people and lower the amenity values of the surrounding area; and
- (b) new land uses or activities that emit odour, smoke or dust and which can affect the health of people and lower the amenity value of the surrounding areas, locating near sensitive activities.

Explanation

New *sensitive activities* should not establish near land uses or activities that generate odour, smoke or dust. The reverse is also true; new land uses and activities should be distanced from sensitive activities.

Land uses or activities that may affect sensitive activities include:

- activities which emit or cause odour – such as rendering, spray painting and solvent use, landfills, sewage treatment plants, silage feeding and effluent spreading
- activities which emit or cause smoke such as backyard burning
- activities which emit or cause dust – such as earthworks, quarries, and vegetation disturbance.

Policy 2: Reducing adverse effects of the discharge of odour, smoke, dust and fine particulate matter – regional plans

Table 1: Air Quality Objective 1
Methods 2, 6, 26 & 30
Also see policies 6, 7 and consider 38, 47, 48 & 53

Regional plans shall include policies and/or rules that:

- (a) protect or enhance the amenity values of neighbouring areas from discharges of odour, smoke and dust; and
- (b) protect people's health from discharges of dust, smoke and fine particulate matter.

Explanation

The *amenity value* of air reflects how clean and fresh it is. High amenity is associated with good visibility, low levels of deposited dust and with people's ability to enjoy their outdoor environment. Amenity is reduced by contaminants in the air affecting people's wellbeing – such as when dust or smoke reduces visibility or soils surfaces, or when odour is objectionable.

Protecting people's health from discharges to air includes considering the effects of fine particulate matter discharged from human activities. The Wairarapa (specifically Masterton), and Wainuiomata are the airsheds known to be at risk of exceeding the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality, in relation to fine particulate matter (PM₁₀), during cold calm winter nights. Domestic fires are the main source of fine particulate emissions in these airsheds during winter.

Policy 3: Discouraging development in areas of high natural character in the coastal environment – district and regional plans

Table 2: Coastal environment Objective 4
Methods 1, 2, 7, 31 & 49
Also see policies 4, 6, 7, 16, 17, 21, 23, 25 and consider 38, 45, 46, 49, 47, 48 & 53

District and regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that discourage:

- (a) new subdivision and/or development; and
- (b) inappropriate use;

on land in the coastal environment with high natural character.

Explanation

Although it is a matter of national importance to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment, the Resource Management Act does not preclude appropriate use and development in the coastal environment.

The *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement* further establishes a requirement to define what form of subdivision, use, development or occupation would be appropriate in the coastal environment and where it would be appropriate.

Policy 3 supports these requirements, along with policies 54 and 55, which promote a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form.

Case law has established that 'natural character' does not necessarily mean pristine or completely unmodified character. Natural character occurs on a continuum, from pristine to totally modified. Most of the coastal environment has some element of natural character and, conversely, some degree or element of modification.

Policy 3 requires district and regional plans to discourage new subdivision and development, and inappropriate use in areas considered to have 'high' natural character. Councils must assess land in the coastal environment to ascertain which areas have high natural character, in order to discourage new subdivision and development in these areas, and to determine what would be inappropriate use on this land, depending on the attributes associated with an area's high natural character.

Policy 35 outlines the factors to be considered in making an assessment of the degree of natural character of a place, site or area in the coastal environment. When making a determination as

to whether the degree of natural character is high in a particular location, in accordance with policy 3, the factors provided in policy 35 should be used.

Policy 35 will need to be considered alongside policy 3 when changing, varying or replacing a district or regional plan.

Related policies within this Regional Policy Statement direct regional and district plans to identify and protect historic heritage places, sites and areas (policies 20 and 21), ecosystems with significant biodiversity value (policies 22 and 23), outstanding natural features and landscapes (policies 24 and 25), and significant amenity landscape values (policies 26 and 27) – using the criteria outlined in each policy, and guidance that will be developed to assist with implementation of the Regional Policy Statement (method 7).

Table 2: Coastal environment
Objectives 3 & 4
Methods 1, 31 & 49
Also see policies 20, 22, 24, 26 and consider 47 & 48

Policy 4: Identifying the landward extent of the coastal environment – district plans

District plans shall include policies and/or rules to identify the landward extent of the coastal environment using the following criteria:

- (a) any area or landform dominated by coastal vegetation or habitat;
- (b) any landform affected by active coastal processes, excluding tsunami;
- (c) any landscapes or features, including coastal escarpments, that contribute to the natural character, visual quality or amenity value of the coast; and
- (d) any site, structure, place or area of historic heritage value adjacent to, or connected with, the coastal marine area, which derives its heritage value from a coastal location.

Explanation

Policy 4 identifies those natural and physical resources that, because of their form, function, or value, give particular parts of the region a coastal character.

Tsunami are excluded from the criteria because they are not ‘an active coastal process’, but are generated by submarine fault rupture, landslide or volcanic eruption. Active coastal processes include: storm surge, inundation, liquefaction, *aeolian* (the action of wind on coastal landforms and features, such as dunes), and the effects of sea level rise.

The criteria used in policy 4 reflect the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement’s intended field of influence, in terms of the landward extent of the *coastal environment*.

This policy does not direct how the use, development and protection of the identified natural and physical resources of the coastal environment should be managed. Other policies provide guidance on these matters.

Table 2: Coastal environment
Objective 6
Method 2, 34 & 35
Also see policies 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23 and consider 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47, 48, 53, 54 & 55

Policy 5: Maintaining and enhancing coastal water quality for aquatic ecosystem health – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies and rules to:

- (a) require, as a minimum, water quality in the coastal marine area to be maintained or enhanced so that it sustains healthy ecosystems; and
- (b) manage coastal water quality for other identified purposes.

Explanation

A high standard of water quality is an essential requirement for maintaining the health of *ecosystems* in the *coastal marine area*.

This policy means that discharges, after reasonable mixing, cannot cause water quality to be unsuitable for sustaining healthy, functioning ecosystems.

Most contaminants and sediments that arrive in the coastal marine area are carried by *rivers*, streams and *stormwater* drains. Fresh water quality in rivers and streams is addressed in policies 11 and 13. Policy 15 promotes the discharge of contaminants to land and policy 14 seeks to minimise erosion and sediment runoff, prior to plan controls being established in accordance with policy 16.

Other purposes include, and are not limited to, contact recreation and food gathering.

Policy 6: Recognising the benefits from regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy – regional and district plans

District and regional plans shall include policies that recognise:

- (a) the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of regionally significant infrastructure including:
 - (i) people can travel to, from and around the region efficiently;
 - (ii) public health and safety is maintained through the provision of essential services, supply of potable water and the collection and transfer of sewage;
 - (iii) people have access to energy so as to meet their needs; and
 - (iv) people have access to telecommunication services.
- (b) the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of energy generated from renewable energy resources including:
 - (i) security of supply and diversification of our energy sources;
 - (ii) reducing dependency on imported energy resources; and
 - (iii) reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Explanation

Energy generated from *renewable energy* and regionally significant *infrastructure* can provide benefits both within and outside the region. Renewable energy benefits are not only generated by large scale renewable energy projects but also smaller scale projects.

Renewable energy means energy produced from solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, biomass, tidal wave and ocean current sources.

Imported energy resources include as oil, natural gas and coal.

When considering the benefits from renewable energy generation the contribution towards national goals in the New Zealand Energy Strategy (2007) and the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (2007) will also need to be given regard.

Regionally significant infrastructure includes:

- pipelines for the distribution or transmission of natural or manufactured gas or petroleum
- strategic telecommunications facilities, as defined in section 5 of the Telecommunications Act 2001
- strategic radio communications facilities, as defined in section 2(1) of the Radio Communications Act 1989
- the national electricity grid, as defined by the Electricity Governance Rules 2003
- facilities for the generation and transmission of electricity where it is supplied to the national electricity grid
- the local authority water supply network and water treatment plants
- the local authority wastewater and stormwater networks, systems and wastewater treatment plants

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste
Objectives 9 & 10
Methods 1 & 2
Also see policies 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28 and consider 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56 & 57

- the Strategic Transport Network, as defined in the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy 2007-2016
- Wellington city bus terminal and Wellington Railway Station terminus
- Wellington International Airport
- Commercial Port Areas within Wellington Harbour (including Miramar, Burnham and Seaview wharves) and adjoining land and storage tanks for bulk liquids.

Essential services include potable water and the collection and transfer of sewage and stormwater.

Policy 7: Protecting regionally significant infrastructure – regional and district plans

District and regional plans shall include policies and rules that protect regionally significant infrastructure from incompatible new land uses or activities under, over, or alongside.

Explanation

Regionally significant infrastructure is an important physical resource that enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, and their health and safety.

Regionally significant infrastructure includes:

- pipelines for the distribution or transmission of natural or manufactured gas or petroleum
- strategic telecommunications facilities, as defined in section 5 of the Telecommunications Act 2001
- strategic radio communications facilities, as defined in section 2(1) of the Radio Communications Act 1989
- the national electricity grid, as defined by the Electricity Governance Rules 2003
- facilities for the generation and transmission of electricity where it is supplied to the national electricity grid
- the local authority water supply network and water treatment plants
- the local authority wastewater and stormwater
- the Strategic Transport Network, as defined in the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy 2007-2016
- Wellington City bus terminal and Wellington Railway Station terminus
- Wellington International Airport
- Commercial Port Areas within Wellington Harbour (including Miramar, Burnham and Seaview wharves) and adjoining land and storage tanks for bulk liquids.

Incompatible land uses or activities are those which adversely affect the efficient operation of infrastructure or restrict its ability to be maintained. It may also include new land uses that are sensitive to activities associated with infrastructure.

Protecting regionally significant infrastructure does not mean that all land uses or activities under, over, or alongside are prevented. The Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils will need to ensure that activities provided for in a district or regional plan are compatible with the efficient operation and maintenance of the infrastructure and any effects that may be associated with that infrastructure.

Policy 11 of the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission requires that, in achieving protection for the transmission network, consultation occurs with the operator of the national grid to identify appropriate buffer corridors.

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste
Objective 10
Methods 1 & 2
Also see policies 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28 and consider 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56 & 57

Policy 8: Reducing the use and consumption of non-renewable transport fuels and carbon dioxide emissions from transportation – Regional Land Transport Strategy

The Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy shall include objectives and policies that promote a reduction in:

- (a) the consumption of non-renewable transport fuels; and
- (b) the emission of carbon dioxide from transportation.

Explanation

Transportation is a significant and growing contributor to the consumption of non-renewable fuels and the emission of carbon dioxide. In 2004, 86 per cent of the oil consumed in New Zealand was used by the transport sector. The transport sector also accounts for around 45 per cent of the country's carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

The *Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy* is a statutory document, prepared under the Land Transport Act 1998, which Wellington Regional Council must produce. It is a strategy for the development of the region's land transport system over the next 10 years and provides policies to guide regional transport decisions and action programmes.

The Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy will play an important role in ensuring that the demand for non-renewable energy and the emissions of carbon dioxide are reduced through improving the passenger transport network, promoting an increased uptake in walking and cycling, managing the demand for travel and increasing travel efficiency. It is, however, only one of the mechanisms to achieve national targets for reducing carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions from transportation and complements other central government and industry mechanisms.

Policy 9: Promoting travel demand management – district plans and the Regional Land Transport Strategy

District plans and the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy shall include policies to promote travel demand management mechanisms that reduce:

- (a) the use and consumption of non-renewable transport fuels; and
- (b) carbon dioxide emissions from transportation.

Explanation

Travel demand management includes a range of mechanisms – such as travel behavioural change programmes, road pricing tools and improvements to the efficiency of the existing network.

Land use planning is important in managing demand for travel. Land use patterns – such as higher density or mixed use development in areas close to good public transport links and community facilities, or community facilities and employment close to where people live – can reduce dependence on the private car, the need to travel and journey lengths. It is also important to ensure good connectivity within and between settlements to optimise walking, cycling and public transport.

Policy 10: Promoting energy efficient design and small scale renewable energy generation – district plans

District plans shall include policies that:

- (a) promote energy efficient design and the use of small scale renewable energy generation; and
- (b) provide for energy efficient alterations to existing buildings.

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste Objective 9 Method 3 Also see policies 9 & 32

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste Objective 9 Methods 1, 3 & 9 Also see policies 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 30, 31 and consider 38, 47, 48, 54, 55, 56 & 57

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste Objective 9 Methods 1 & 10 Also see policies 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 and consider 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 53, 55 & 56

Explanation

Orientation, layout and design can have a significant influence on the energy efficiency of developments. Improved energy efficiency can be achieved by:

- enabling everyday services – such as shops, schools, businesses and community facilities to be accessed by walking and cycling
- enabling easy access to public transport services
- locating and designing infrastructure and services to support walking, cycling or the use public transport
- enabling the efficient use of the sun as a source of power and heating
- incorporating renewable energy generation facilities – such as solar panels and domestic scale wind turbines

Small scale *renewable energy* generation facilities include solar generation particularly for water heating and wind turbines used for on-site or domestic use.

Energy efficient alteration may include alterations of buildings for the installation of solar water heating systems or domestic scale wind turbines.

Table 4: Fresh water
Objective 12
Methods 2, 33, 34
& 35
Also see policies 5, 6,
7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17,
23 and consider 34,
35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41,
42, 46, 47, 48 51, 53,
54 & 55

Policy 11: Maintaining and enhancing aquatic ecosystem health in water bodies – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that:

- (a) require, as a minimum, that water quality, flows and water levels, and the aquatic habitat of all water bodies are to be managed for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing aquatic ecosystem health; and
- (b) manage water bodies for other identified purposes

Explanation

Regional plans will establish limits for water quality, flows and water levels that safeguard aquatic *habitats* and *ecosystems* in *water bodies*.

The narrative standard for aquatic ecosystems in the Third Schedule to the Resource Management Act will be used as the basis for safeguarding what is needed for aquatic ecosystem protection in terms of water quality. The flows and water levels required for aquatic ecosystems will be guided by the “Guidelines for the selection of methods to determine ecological flows and water levels” (Ministry for the Environment, 2008).

Some *water bodies* may also be managed for other purposes – such as trout fishery, contact recreation, water supply, *groundwater* protection, or cultural purposes. Where they are identified in regional plans, management purposes will establish limits and guide decisions on water quality, flows and water levels, and managing aquatic habitat.

Where a water body is assigned more than one management purpose in a regional plan, water quality, river flows and water levels shall not be less than the limits established for aquatic ecosystem health.

Table 4: Fresh water
Objective 12
Methods 2
Also see policies 5, 6,
7, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19,
23 and consider 34,
35, 36, 38, 39, 42, 43,
44, 46, 47, 48, 50, 53
& 59

Policy 12: Allocating water – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies and/or rules that:

- (a) establish allocation limits for the total amount of water that can be taken from rivers without compromising aquatic ecosystem health; and
- (b) establish allocation limits for the total amount of water that can be taken from groundwater, taking into account the aquatic ecosystem health of rivers, lakes and wetlands, and preventing saltwater intrusion.

Explanation

Policy 12 directs the establishment of allocation limits for *rivers* and *groundwater* in a regional plan. Allocation limits for rivers are the total amount of water that is available to be taken from a river, including water behind any dam, while safeguarding aquatic ecosystem health as required by Policy 11.

Groundwater allocation limits must safeguard the needs of dependent ecosystems in groundwater-fed streams and wetlands, and prevent saltwater intrusion.

Policy 13: Minimising contamination in stormwater from new development – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that protect aquatic ecosystem health by minimising ecotoxic and other contaminants in stormwater that discharges into water, or onto or into land that may enter water, from new subdivision and development.

Explanation

Ecotoxic contaminants in this policy are substances that are capable of causing ill health, injury or death to any living organism – such as heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, organochlorine pesticides and antifouling compounds. Carried in *stormwater*, ecotoxic contaminants can bind with sediment and accumulate where the sediment settles, on the seabed or the bed of a freshwater body, particularly in *low energy aquatic receiving environments*.

Wellington and Porirua Harbours are places where ecotoxic contaminants in bottom sediments have been found to occur at concentrations that exceed guidelines for aquatic life.

There may be other low energy aquatic receiving environments in the region – such as inlets, estuaries, lakes, wetlands and lowland streams – in which the sediments contain elevated ecotoxic contaminants that may threaten aquatic life, but which have not yet been monitored.

Reducing the rate of accumulation of sediment with ecotoxic contaminants derived from surrounding catchments can be achieved by requiring stormwater treatment devices for discharges from new subdivision and development.

Discharges to land that may enter water include discharges to existing and new stormwater *infrastructure*.

Stormwater design features set out in policy 41 will also reduce accumulation rates of ecotoxic contaminants in the sediments of low energy aquatic receiving environments. Policy 41 is directed at city and district councils when they are considering district plan provisions and resource consents for new subdivisions and land use. This policy and policy 41 provide an integrated approach to managing the adverse effects of stormwater discharges.

Policy 14: Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation disturbance – district and regional plans

Regional and district plans shall include policies, rules and methods that control earthworks and vegetation disturbance to minimise:

- (a) erosion; and
- (b) silt and sediment runoff into water, or onto land that may enter water, so that aquatic ecosystem health is safeguarded.

Table 4: Fresh water
Objective 12
Methods 2, 33 & 34
Also see policies 5, 6,
7, 11, 14, 16, 17, 23
and consider 34, 35,
36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42,
46, 47, 48, 51 & 53

Table 4: Fresh water
Table 11: Soils and
minerals
Objectives 12 & 28
Methods 1, 2, 30, 34
& 35
Also see policies 5, 6,
11, 13, 16, 17, 23, 25,
27, 28 and consider
34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39,
41, 42, 45, 46, 47,
48, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55
& 60

Explanation

An area of overlapping jurisdiction between Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils is the ability to control earthworks and vegetation disturbance, including clearance. Many small scale earthworks – such as driveways and retaining walls – can cumulatively contribute large amounts of silt to stormwater and water bodies, as do large scale earthworks on erosion prone land.

This policy is to ensure that Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils integrate the control of earthworks and vegetation disturbance in their regional and district plans. Method 30 is for Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils to develop a protocol for earthworks and erosion from vegetation disturbance. The protocol will assist with implementation of the policy.

Some activities, such as major road construction, are likely to require resource consents from both the regional council and city or district councils, who will work together to control the effects of the activity.

Vegetation disturbance includes harvesting plantation forestry.

Table 4: Fresh water
Objective 12
Methods 2 & 35
Also see policies 5, 6,
7, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17,
23 and consider 34,
35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40,
42, 46, 47, 48 & 51

Policy 15: Promoting discharges to land – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that:

- (a) promote discharges of human and/or animal waste to land rather than water, particularly discharges of sewage; and
- (b) promote the use of collective sewage treatment systems that discharge to land while maintaining groundwater quality and soil health.

Explanation

Well managed land-based discharges can avoid adverse effects on water bodies, including degradation of the *mauri of water bodies*, that results from waste, particularly human waste (however well treated), being put into surface water instead of being returned to the land.

Collective sewage treatment systems can service groups of houses, removing the need for each of them to accommodate effluent treatment and disposal on site.

The quality at which *groundwater* is maintained will be determined by water quality standards in regional plans, as directed by policy 11.

Soil health in the context of this policy refers to the ability of soil to function so that plant and animal productivity is sustained, groundwater flows are maintained and human health and habitation is supported. Public health risk will need to be considered when rules are developed in regional plans.

Table 4: Fresh water
Objective 13
Methods 2 & 29
Also see policies 5, 6,
7, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17,
23 and consider 34,
35, 36, 37, 38, 39,
40, 42, 46, 47, 48, 51
& 53

Policy 16: Protecting aquatic ecological function of water bodies – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that:

- (a) promote the retention of in-stream habitat diversity by retaining natural features – such as pools, runs, riffles, and the river's natural form;
- (b) promote the retention of natural flow regimes – such as flushing flows;
- (c) promote the protection and reinstatement of riparian habitat;
- (d) promote the installation of off-line water storage over dams in river beds;
- (e) discourage the reclamation, piping, straightening or concrete lining of rivers;
- (f) prevent stock access to rivers, lakes and wetlands;

- (g) discourage the diversion of water into or from wetlands – unless the diversion is necessary to restore the hydrological variation to the wetland;
- (h) prevent the removal or destruction of indigenous plants in wetlands and lakes; and
- (i) maintain fish passage.

Explanation

Habitat diversity, which is described in clauses (a), (b) and (c), is essential for aquatic *ecosystems* to survive and be self-sustaining. When areas of habitat in one part of the *river, lake* or *wetland* are degraded or destroyed by activities described in clauses (e), (f), (g) and (h), critical parts of the ecosystem may be permanently affected with consequent effects elsewhere in the ecosystem. Specific policies and regional rules can set out where it is important to retain habitat for ecological function.

Off-line water storage is constructed out of the river and does not cause adverse effects such as barriers to fish that in-stream dams can.

Riparian means land areas beside and connected to streams, rivers and lakes.

Policy 17: Protecting significant values of rivers and lakes – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies and rules that protect:

- (a) the significant amenity and recreational values associated with the rivers and lakes listed in Appendix 1; and
- (b) the significant indigenous ecosystems associated with the rivers and lakes listed in Appendix 1.

Explanation

The *rivers* and *lakes* with significant *amenity* and recreational values listed in Appendix 1 were identified by the community as places that are regularly used for fishing, swimming, picnicking and other recreational activities. These rivers and lakes are listed in Table 15 of Appendix 1.

The rivers and lakes with significant indigenous *ecosystems* were selected using indicators of aquatic invertebrate community health, the diversity of indigenous migratory fish species, the presence of nationally threatened fish species and the location of inanga spawning habitat. The criteria used to assess rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems are explained underneath Table 16 in Appendix 1.

Policy 18: Using water efficiently – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that:

- (a) promote the efficient use of water; and
- (b) promote water harvesting, including off-line water storage.

Explanation

Using water efficiently and *water harvesting* when it is in abundant supply will make more water available when there is a shortage. Efficient use means minimising water wastage during the abstraction, distribution and final use of the water.

Water harvesting means taking and storing water from water bodies when the availability is high and using it when there is a water shortage.

Table 4: Fresh water Objective 13 Methods 2 & 31 Appendix 1
Also see policies 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 16, 23 and consider 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47, 48, 51 & 53

Table 4: Fresh water Objective 14 Methods 2, 33 & 46
Also see policies 6, 7, 11, 12, 16 and consider 36, 38, 39, 42, 43, 47, 48, 53 & 59

Table 4: Fresh water
Objective 14
Method 2

Also see policies 6,
7, 11, 12, 16 and
consider 36, 38, 39,
42, 43, 44, 47, 48,
53, 54, 55, 57 & 59

Policy 19: Prioritising water abstraction for the health needs of people – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies and/or rules that give priority to the abstraction of water for the health needs of people, including:

- (a) the taking of water by any statutory authority that has a duty for public water supply under any Act of Parliament;
- (b) the taking of water for reticulation into a public water supply network; and
- (c) the taking of water for domestic and community supplies.

Explanation

This policy recognises the need to prioritise the taking of water. The Resource Management Act, in section 14, gives priority for water to be taken for firefighting purposes and an individual's reasonable domestic needs or the needs of an individual's animals for drinking water, provided there are no adverse effects on the environment. This policy gives the same priority to the abstraction of water by public authorities for public water supply over other takes of water.

Table 2: Coastal
environment
Objective 3

Table 5: Historic
heritage

Objective 15

Methods 1, 2, 20 & 31

Also see policies 4, 22,
24, 26, 29, 30 and
consider 35, 47, 48
& 52

Policy 20: Identifying places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values – district and regional plans

Regional and district plans shall identify places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values using the following criteria, and having determined that the place, site or area makes an important contribution to an understanding and appreciation of history and culture under one or more of the criteria:

- (a) Historic values: these relate to the history of a place and how it demonstrates important historical themes, events, people or experiences.
 - (i) Themes: the place is associated with important themes in history or patterns of development.
 - (ii) Events: the place has an association with an important event or events in local, regional or national history.
 - (iii) People: the place is associated with the life or works of an individual, group or organisation that has made a significant contribution to the district, region or nation.
 - (iv) Social: the place is associated with everyday experiences from the past and contributes to our understanding of the culture and life of the district, region or nation.
- (b) Physical values: these values relate to the physical evidence present.
 - (i) Archaeological: there is potential for archaeological investigation to contribute new or important information about the human history of the district, region or nation.
 - (ii) Architectural: the place is notable for its style, design, form, scale, materials, ornamentation, period, craftsmanship or other architectural values.
 - (iii) Technological: the place provides evidence of the history of technological development or demonstrates innovation or important methods of construction or design.
 - (iv) Integrity: the significant physical values of the place have been largely unmodified.
 - (v) Age: the place is particularly old in the context of human occupation of the Wellington region.

- (vi) Group or townscape values: the place is strongly associated with other natural or cultural features in the landscape or townscape, and/or contributes to the heritage values of a wider townscape or landscape setting, and/or it is a landmark.
- (c) Social values: these values relate to the meanings that a place has for a particular community or communities.
 - (i) Sentiment: the place has strong or special associations with a particular cultural group or community for spiritual, political, social, religious, ethnic, national, symbolic or commemorative reasons.
 - (ii) Recognition: the place is held in high public esteem for its historic heritage values, or its contribution to the sense of identity of a community, to the extent that if it was damaged or destroyed it would cause a sense of loss.
- (d) Tangata whenua values: the place is sacred or important to Maori for spiritual, cultural or historical reasons.
- (e) Surroundings: the setting or context of the place contributes to an appreciation and understanding of its character, history and/or development.
- (f) Rarity: the place is unique or rare within the district or region.
- (g) Representativeness: the place is a good example of its type or era.

Explanation

Policy 20 provides criteria to ensure significant *historic heritage* resources are identified in district and regional plans in a consistent way. Greater Wellington, district and city councils are required to assess a place, site or area against all the criteria, but may use additional criteria. A place, site or area identified must, however, fit one or more of the listed criteria in terms of making an important contribution to an understanding and appreciation of history and culture in a district in order to have significant historic heritage values.

Regional plans will identify significant historic heritage in the *coastal marine area* and the *beds of lakes and rivers*; district plans will identify significant historic heritage for all other land.

Method 20 is to provide guidance with using the criteria in policy 20 to identify places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values.

Policy 21: Protecting historic heritage values – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or other methods that:

- (a) protect the significant historic heritage values associated with places, sites and areas identified in accordance with policy 20, from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development; and
- (b) avoid the destruction of unidentified archaeological sites and wahi tapu with significant historic heritage values.

Explanation

Appropriate subdivision, use and development respects *historic heritage* values. Planning for, developing and using a historic place, site or area must be done with full understanding of its value. In addition, destruction of, or damage to, places, sites and areas of historic heritage needs to be avoided when unidentified sites are discovered.

Policy 21(a) is not intended to prevent change to historic heritage, but rather to ensure that change is carefully considered. The places, sites or areas with significant historic heritage values identified in policy 20, and the degree of significance of those values, will influence what activities would be deemed to be appropriate or inappropriate.

Table 2: Coastal environment
Objective 4
Table 5:
Historic heritage
Objective 15
Methods 1, 2 & 31
Also see policies 3, 7, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30 & 31 and consider 34, 35, 38, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52 & 53

Policy 21(b) requires district and regional plans assess which activities could destroy unidentified archaeological sites or wahi tapu with significant historic heritage values and ensure such activities avoid adverse effects.

Policy 45 will need to be considered alongside policy 21 when changing, varying or replacing a district or regional plan.

Table 2: Coastal environment
Objective 3
Table 6a: Indigenous ecosystems
Objective 16
Methods 1, 2, 21 & 31
Also see policies 4, 20, 24, 26, 61 and consider 34, 35, 36, 42, 47, 48, 52 & 53

Policy 22: Identifying indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall identify indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- (a) Representativeness: high representativeness values are given to particular ecosystems and habitats that were once typical and commonplace in a district or in the region, and:
 - (i) are no longer commonplace; or
 - (ii) are poorly represented in existing protected areas.
- (b) Rarity: the ecosystem or habitat has biological physical features that are scarce or threatened in a local, regional or national context. This can include individual species, rare and distinctive biological communities and physical features that are unusual or rare.
- (c) Diversity: the ecosystem or habitat has a natural diversity of ecological units, ecosystems, species and physical features within an area.
- (d) Ecological context of an area: the ecosystem or habitat:
 - (i) enhances connectivity or otherwise buffers representative, rare or diverse indigenous ecosystems and habitats; or
 - (ii) provides seasonal or core habitat for threatened indigenous species.
- (e) Tangata whenua values: the ecosystem or habitat contains characteristics of special spiritual, historical or cultural significance to tangata whenua, identified in accordance with tikanga Maori.

Explanation

Policy 22 sets out criteria as guidance that must be considered in identifying indigenous *ecosystems* and *habitats* with significant *biodiversity* values. These criteria need to be considered in all assessments but the relevance of each will depend on the individual cases.

Policy 22 will ensure that significant biodiversity values are identified in district and regional plans in a consistent way. Wellington Regional Council, and district and city councils are required to assess indigenous ecosystems and habitats against all the criteria. To be identified as having significant biodiversity values, an indigenous ecosystem or habitat must fit one or more of the listed criteria.

Regional plans will identify indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values in the *coastal marine area*, *wetlands* and the beds of *lakes* and *rivers*. District plans will identify indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values for all land, except the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers.

Table 2: Coastal environment
Objective 4
Table 6a: Indigenous ecosystems
Objective 16
Methods 1, 2 & 31
Appendices 1
Also see policies 3, 7, 16, 17, 21, 25, 27 & 61 and consider 34, 35, 38, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52 & 53

Policy 23: Protecting indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall include policies, rules and methods to protect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

Explanation

Policy 23 applies to provisions in regional and district plans.

Table 16 in Appendix 1 identifies ecosystems, habitats and areas with regionally significant indigenous biodiversity values located in river and lake environments.

Policy 46 will need to be considered alongside policy 23 when changing, varying or replacing a regional or district plan.

Policy 24: Identifying outstanding natural features and landscapes – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall identify outstanding natural features and landscapes using the following criteria, and having determined that the natural feature or landscape is exceptional or out of the ordinary under one or more of the criteria and the natural components dominate over the influence of human activity:

- (a) Natural science values: these values relate to the geological, ecological, topographical and natural process components of the natural feature or landscape:
 - (i) Representativeness: the combination of natural components that form the feature or landscape strongly typifies the character of an area.
 - (ii) Research and education: all or parts of the feature or landscape are important for natural science research and education.
 - (iii) Rarity: the feature or landscape is unique or rare within the district or region, and few comparable examples exist.
 - (iv) Ecosystem functioning: the presence of healthy ecosystems is clearly evident in the feature or landscape.
- (b) Aesthetic values: these values relate to scenic perceptions of the feature or landscape:
 - (i) Coherence: the patterns of land cover and land use are in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of landform and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or land use.
 - (ii) Vividness: the feature or landscape is visually striking and is widely recognised within the local and wider community for its memorable and sometimes iconic qualities.
 - (iii) Naturalness: the feature or landscape appears largely unmodified by human activity and the patterns of landform and land cover appear to be largely the result of intact and healthy natural systems.
- (c) Expressiveness (legibility): the feature or landscape clearly shows the formative natural processes and/or historic influences that led to its existing character.
- (d) Transient values: the consistent and noticeable occurrence of transient natural events, such as seasonal change in vegetation or in wildlife movement, contributes to the character of the feature or landscape.
- (e) Shared and recognised values: the feature or landscape is widely known and is highly valued for its contribution to local identity within the immediate and wider community.
- (f) Tangata whenua values: Maori values inherent in the feature or landscape add to the feature or landscape being recognised as a special place.
- (g) Historical associations: knowledge of historic events that occurred in and around the feature or landscape is widely held and substantially influences and adds to the value the community attaches to the natural feature or landscape.

Table 2: Coastal environment
Objective 3
Table 7: Landscape
Objective 17
Methods 1, 2, 31 & 49
Also see policies 3, 4, 20, 22, 26 and consider 35, 47, 48 & 52

Explanation

Policy 24 provides criteria to ensure outstanding *natural features* and *landscapes* are consistently identified in district and regional plans. The criteria are consistent with significant case law and commonly used landscape assessment methodologies.

The Wellington Regional Council, district and city councils are required to assess landscapes and natural features against all the criteria, but may use additional criteria. An outstanding landscape or natural feature must fit one or more of the listed criteria and will be exceptional and out of the ordinary in accordance with that criteria and the natural components will dominate over the influence of human activity.

Regional plans will identify outstanding natural features and landscapes in the *coastal marine area* and the beds of *lakes* and *ivers*; district plans will identify outstanding natural features and landscapes for all other land.

Method 49 outlines the development of a regional landscape character description which will describe and categorise the region's landscapes to assist with implementing policy 24.

Table 2: Coastal environment
Objective 4
Table 7: Landscape Objective 17
Methods 1, 2 & 31
Also see policies 3, 7, 16, 17, 21, 23, 27 and consider 34, 35, 38, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54 & 55

Policy 25: Protecting outstanding natural features and landscape values – district and regional plans

Where outstanding natural features and landscapes have been identified in accordance with policy 24, district and regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that protect outstanding natural features and landscape values from inappropriate subdivision, use or development.

Explanation

Appropriate subdivision, use and development respects those values identified within the *landscape* or *natural feature*. Planning for, developing and undertaking activities within an identified outstanding landscape or natural feature must be done with a full understanding of its value.

Policy 25 is not intended to prevent change, but rather to ensure that change is carefully considered and is appropriate in relation to the landscape values identified in policy 24.

Table 2: Coastal environment
Objective 3
Table 7: Landscape Objective 17
Methods 1, 2, 31 & 49
Also see policies 4, 20, 22, 24 and consider 35, 47, 48 & 52

Policy 26: Identifying significant amenity landscape values – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall identify significant amenity landscapes using the following criteria and having determined the landscape has important landscape value under one or more of the criteria:

- (a) Natural science values: these values relate to the geological, ecological, topographical and natural process components of the natural feature or landscape:
 - (i) Representativeness: the combination of natural components that form the feature or landscape strongly typifies the character of an area.
 - (ii) Research and education: all or parts of the feature or landscape are important for natural science research and education.
 - (iii) Rarity: the feature or landscape is unique or rare within the district or region, and few comparable examples exist.
 - (iv) Ecosystem functioning: the presence of healthy ecosystems is clearly evident in the feature or landscape.
- (b) Aesthetic values: these values relate to scenic perceptions of the feature or landscape:
 - (i) Coherence: the patterns of land cover and land use are in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of landform and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or land use.

- (ii) Vividness: the feature or landscape is visually striking and is widely recognised within the local and wider community for its memorable and sometimes iconic qualities.
- (iii) Naturalness: the feature or landscape appears largely unmodified by human activity and the patterns of landform and land cover appear to be largely the result of intact and healthy natural systems.
- (c) Expressiveness (legibility): the feature or landscape clearly shows the formative natural processes and/or historic influences that led to its existing character.
- (d) Transient values: the consistent and noticeable occurrence of transient natural events, such as seasonal change in vegetation or in wildlife movement, contributes to the character of the feature or landscape.
- (e) Shared and recognised values: the feature or landscape is widely known and is highly valued for its contribution to local identity within the immediate and wider community.
- (f) Tangata whenua values: Maori values inherent in the feature or landscape add to the feature or landscape being recognised as a special place.
- (g) Historical associations: knowledge of historic events that occurred in and around the feature or landscape is widely held and substantially influences and adds to the value the community attaches to the natural feature or landscape.

Explanation

Policy 26 provides criteria to ensure significant amenity landscapes are consistently identified in district and regional plans. The criteria are consistent with significant case law and commonly used *landscape* assessment methodologies.

Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils are required to assess landscapes and natural features against all the criteria, but may use other criteria. A significant amenity landscape will have important amenity values and make an important contribution to the maintenance of amenity values in the district, city or region, and may be dominated by either natural elements or human activity.

Regional plans will identify significant amenity landscapes in the *coastal marine area* and the beds of *lakes* and *rivers*; district plans will identify significant amenity landscapes for all other land.

Method 49 outlines the development of a regional landscape character description which will describe and categorise the region's landscapes to assist with implementing policy 26.

Policy 27: Maintaining and enhancing significant amenity landscapes – district and regional plans

Where significant amenity landscapes have been identified in accordance with policy 26, district and regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that maintain or enhance the significant amenity landscape values.

Explanation

Appropriate subdivision, use and development respects those values identified within the *landscape* or *natural feature*. Planning for, developing and undertaking activities within an identified significant amenity landscape must be done with a full understanding of its values.

Policy 27 is not intended to prevent change, but rather to ensure that change is carefully considered and is appropriate in relation to the landscape values identified in policy 26.

Table 2: Coastal environment Objective 4
Table 7: Landscape Objective 17
Methods 1, 2 & 31
Also see policies 3, 7, 16, 17, 21, 23, 25 and consider 34,35, 38, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54 & 55

Table 8a: Natural hazards
Objective 18
Methods 1, 14 & 22
Also see policies 3, 6, 7, 14, 16, 29, 30, 31 & 62 and consider 34, 35, 36, 38, 42, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54 & 55

Policy 28: Avoiding subdivision and development in areas at high risk from natural hazards – district plans

District plans shall:

- (a) identify areas at high risk from natural hazards; and
- (b) include policies and rules to avoid subdivision and development in those areas.

Explanation

The term areas at *high risk* refers to those areas potentially affected by *natural hazard* events that are likely to cause moderate to high levels of damage to the subdivision or development, including the buildings, infrastructure, or land on which it is situated, or which require extensive mitigation works.

Areas at high risk from natural hazards are those areas that would experience serious consequences in a hazard event – such as *fault rupture zones*, beaches that experience cyclical or long term erosion, failure prone hill slopes, or areas that are subject to serious flooding – and those areas facing potential adverse impacts from climate change.

This policy will require district plans to prevent new development in areas that would require extensive hazard mitigation works. Extensive mitigation works are those involving structural works that:

- cover and/or affect a large geographical area
- may adversely modify natural processes
- significantly alter the natural landscape
- have high establishment and maintenance costs
- leave a residual risk, and/or
- are likely to be permanent, and their effects irreversible.

This policy promotes a risk-based approach, taking into consideration the characteristics of the natural hazard, its likelihood, potential impacts and the vulnerability of development. Examples of how this may be achieved include: fault rupture avoidance zones 20 metres either side of a fault trace; setback distances from an eroding coastline; hazard areas on floodplains; or, requirements for a geotechnical investigation before development proceeds on a hill slope identified as prone to failure.

Guidance documents that could be used to assist in the process include:

- Risk Management Standard AS/NZS 4360:2004
- Guidelines for assessing planning policy and consent requirements for landslide prone land, *Geological and Nuclear Sciences* (2008)
- Planning for development of land on or close to active faults, *Ministry for the Environment* (2003).

This policy also recognises and supports the Civil Defence Emergency Management principles – of risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery – in order to encourage more resilient communities that are better prepared for natural hazards, including climate change impacts. Policy 28 will act to reduce risk associated with natural hazards. The risks are to people and communities, including their businesses and civic infrastructure.

This policy and the Civil Defence Emergency Management framework recognise the need to involve communities in preparing for natural hazards. If people are prepared and able to cope, the impacts from a natural hazard event are effectively reduced.

Policy 29: Maintaining and enhancing the viability and vibrancy of regionally significant centres – district plans

District plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that encourage a range of land use activities that maintain and enhance the viability and vibrancy of the regional central business district in Wellington city and the following centres of regional significance:

- (a) Upper Hutt city centre;
- (b) Lower Hutt city centre;
- (c) Porirua city centre;
- (d) Paraparaumu town centre;
- (e) Masterton town centre
- (f) Petone;
- (g) Kilbirnie; and
- (h) Johnsonville.

Explanation

The region's central business district in Wellington city and the centres of regional significance identified in policy 29 were identified in the Wellington Regional Strategy as regionally significant centres for economic development, transport movement, civic and community investment.

The Wellington central business district is the regional central business district, with 73,000 people working there each day. The *regionally significant centres* are the civic centres of Upper Hutt city centre, Lower Hutt city centre, Porirua city centre, Paraparaumu town centre, Masterton town centre, and other major centres of Petone, Kilbirnie and Johnsonville. Maintaining and enhancing the viability and vibrancy of these centres is important in order to encourage investment and development that supports an increased range and diversity of activities. It is also important for their prosperity and resilience in the face of social and economic change.

The range of appropriate land uses to be encouraged through this policy will vary depending on the character and context of each centre. For this reason, policy 29 requires the region's district and city councils to determine the range of land uses to be encouraged in order to maintain and enhance the viability and vibrancy of the relevant centre managed through its district plan. However, when maintaining and enhancing the regionally significant centres within a district, councils also need to consider the viability and vibrancy of the regionally significant centres outside their district.

Policy 30: Identifying and promoting higher density and mixed use development – district plans

District plans shall:

- (a) identify key centres suitable for higher density and/or mixed use development;
- (b) identify locations, with good access to the strategic public transport network, suitable for higher density and/or mixed use development; and
- (c) include policies, rules and/or methods that encourage higher density and/or mixed use development in and around these centres and locations,

so as to maintain and enhance a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form.

Table 9: Regional form, design and function Objective 21
Methods 1, 41 & 42
Also see policies 1, 6, 7, 14, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31 & 33 and consider 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 45, 55, 56 & 57

Table 9: Regional form, design and function Objective 21
Methods 1 & 16
Also see policies 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 14, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31 & 33 and consider 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 & 59

Explanation

Policy 30 directs district and city councils to determine key centres and other locations with good access to the strategic public transport network, suitable for higher density or mixed use development, where they will reinforce the region's compact form. District plans will then need to include policies, rules and/or other methods to encourage higher density and mixed use activities in these locations to support this form.

Objective 21 outlines the range of elements to be achieved by a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form. This includes a viable and vibrant regional central business district in Wellington city and an increased range and diversity of activities in and around other centres listed in policy 29.

Key centres include the regionally significant centres identified in policy 29, as well as other significant local centres that a city or district council considers are integral to the functioning of the region's or a district's form.

Higher *density* and *mixed use development* can be achieved in a number of ways – such as infill development, comprehensive re-development and/or multi-storey developments that support complementary living and other uses.

Mixed use development means a variety of compatible and complementary uses within an area. This can include any combination of residential, commercial, industrial, business, retail, institutional or recreational uses.

Density is a measure of how compact development is in a given area. For example, the number of people per square kilometre, the variety of land uses or activities (mixed use development) per square kilometre, or square meters of retail space per square kilometre of land area.

The strategic public transport network is those parts of the region's passenger transport network that provide a high level of service along corridors with high demand for public transport. It connects the region's centres with the central business district in Wellington city. It includes the rail network and key bus corridors within Wellington region.

Locations with good access to the strategic public transport network include those:

- within reasonable walk times to stops or stations on the strategic public transport network (research indicates a walk time of up to 10 minutes is 'reasonable')
- with frequent and reliable public transport services
- with accessibility, by public transport, to key destinations in the region, and
- without physical barriers to public transport (for example, busy roads, lack of footpaths or crossing facilities, steep hills).

Table 9: Regional form, design and function
Objective 21
Methods 1 & 43
Also see policies 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30 & 33 and consider 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 & 59

Policy 31: Identifying and protecting key industrial-based employment locations – district plans

District plans should include policies, rules and/or methods that identify and protect key industrial-based employment locations where they maintain and enhance a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form.

Explanation

This policy uses "should" to recognise that in some locations there is limited information about the supply of and demand for industrial employment activities, and that this makes it difficult for city and district councils to identify key industrial based employment locations.

Objective 21 outlines the range of elements to be achieved by a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form.

The introduction of non-industrial uses such as large scale retail, wholesaling activities, showrooms, offices and residential activities into industrial-based employment locations can displace industrial employment activities from established industrial areas. Key industrial-based employment locations that maintain and enhance the region's compact form need to be protected in order to, amongst other matters, reduce the demand for new infrastructure, and promote the efficient use of existing infrastructure.

Policy 32: Supporting a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form – Regional Land Transport Strategy

The Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy shall contain objectives and policies that support the maintenance and enhancement of a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form.

Explanation

The *Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy* provides a policy framework for regional transport decisions that play an important role in the maintenance and enhancement of a compact, and well designed and sustainable regional form.

Objective 21 outlines the elements that are to be achieved by a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form. Elements of particular relevance will include efficient use of existing infrastructure and improved east west transport linkages.

Policy 33: Avoiding activities on contaminated land – district plans

District plans shall include policies and rules that do not allow activities on contaminated land if that activity could be adversely affected by the contamination.

Explanation

Policy 33 directs city and district councils to include policies and rules in their district plans to control land uses on *contaminated land*.

The Ministry for the Environment has compiled a list of 53 hazardous activities and industries capable of contaminating soil and causing adverse effects on the environment, including people. This alerts district and city councils to the likelihood of soil contamination, and therefore the need for further investigation. If land has been used for a hazardous activity or industry – such as a landfill or timber treatment plant – the actual level of any contamination needs to be determined before new land uses are allowed to be established on the site.

Table 9: Regional form, design and function
Objective 21
Method 3
Also see policies 3, 8, 9, 34, 35, 36, 40, 41, 42, 43, 52

Table 11: Soils and minerals
Objective 29
Methods 1 & 24
Also see policies 6, 7, 29, 30 & 31 and consider 38, 47, 48 & 54