

Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

Coastal marine area



Regional councils have responsibility for the coastal marine area, which includes the wet part of the beach below the average peak high tides (known as the “mean high water springs”) and out to the 12 nautical mile limit. The coastal marine area extends up larger rivers for a distance of about one kilometre.

City and district councils manage the dry part of the beach. The Department of Conservation looks after marine reserves and protected species and the Ministry for Primary Industries manages commercial, customary and recreational fishing.

Wellington Regional Council works with all these agencies to manage and improve the recreational, Māori customary use and economic values of the coastal marine area.

There are rules and policies in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region (proposed Plan) to manage the effects of certain activities on the coastal marine area, including estuaries. Some activities require consents from Wellington Regional Council; these include building new structures, occupation of the coastal marine area, motor vehicles access in some areas, and reclamation of the foreshore.

Special areas that have significant indigenous biodiversity, historic heritage or mana whenua values have been identified in the proposed Plan and there are provisions to protect them. Other provisions protect public access, recreational values and geological features. See [<http://www.gw.govt.nz/proposed-natural-resources-plan/>] for more information.



What is the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region?

The Proposed Natural Resources Plan (the proposed Plan) is a new regional plan designed to integrate the Wellington Region's five existing regional plans-- the [Regional Coastal Plan](#), [Regional Freshwater Plan](#), [Regional Soil Plan](#), [Regional Air Quality Management Plan](#) and [Regional Plan for Discharges to Land](#). Regional plans are developed under the Resource Management Act to set out the objectives, policies and methods for people and organisations that use a region's resources for a variety of purposes:

The proposed Plan was developed following a review of the five existing regional plans from 2011 to 2015. Until the GWRC decides to adopt the proposed Plan, resource users must comply with rules in the proposed Plan and rules in the five existing plans.

There is a lot of information in the proposed Plan and a lot to understand, so if you need help to figure out if your activity is permitted, or requires a resource consent, or if you have any questions at all, please contact us for more information 0800 496 734 or regionalplan@gw.govt.nz

Permitted: no resource consent is required provided you comply with the conditions in the rule.

Controlled, discretionary or non-complying: a resource consent from Wellington Regional Council is required. Conditions may need to be met.

Prohibited: cannot be undertaken at any time.