



Coastal environment

To grow up in New Zealand is to build a sandcastle and eat mussels from a makeshift barbecue. The beach is part of the character of our coast, but other elements like geology and ecology help to shape it.

This theme is about the coastal environment which includes both the wet and the dry areas of the coast. It deals with its natural character, water quality and ecosystem health and natural hazards.

- The RPS will require:
- Greater Wellington, and city and district councils through their plans to protect listed significant sites.
 - City and district councils to identify the landward extent of the coastal environment in their plans.
 - Greater Wellington, through its coastal plan, to maintain water quality so it is suitable for swimming and recreation.
 - City and district councils to identify high hazard risk areas and avoid development in those areas.
- It also identifies the importance of coastal restoration and improving knowledge about coastal hazards.



Land, waste and minerals

Anyone with a garden knows the value of our land. We take minerals from the land for our roads and also discharge our wastes onto it. Some historical discharges have made some land unsuitable for future residential use.

These themes are about soil quality and erosion, contaminated land, waste minimisation and mineral resources.

- The RPS will require, through plans, that:
- City and district councils take past site contamination into account when considering land use change.
 - Greater Wellington, and city and district councils recognise significant mineral resources.
 - Greater Wellington, and city and district councils control erosion from earthworks and plantation forestry.
- The RPS also identifies the need to:
- Promote efficient use of resources, waste minimisation and reuse
 - Work with landowners to help manage erosion prone land.

Want to have your say?

Background information and copies of the draft objectives, policies and methods for each of these themes are available on our website www.gw.govt.nz/rps or by contacting us. If you would like to discuss any matters we want to hear from you! We are also more than happy to meet with you to discuss ideas or concerns.

Drop us a line or call us (between now and 13 July) using the contact details opposite.

The next step for us is to revise what has been drafted, taking into account your feedback, and prepare a proposed RPS ready for notification in September 2007.

Once notified you will then have an opportunity to make a formal submission on the proposed RPS.

Find out more
www.gw.govt.nz/rps

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REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW NEWSLETTER

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Over the past year and a half we have had an ongoing series of discussions with people about the state of our region's environment, what the issues are, and what people want to see improved in the future. This newsletter reports back to you on how we have turned your feedback into draft content for the next Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

This is your opportunity to let us know if you agree or disagree with what we have drafted.

We are releasing this information for public comments between now and 13 July 2007, so that we can find out whether the policy direction has community support and make necessary changes before we propose a new RPS. The proposed RPS will be ready for notification in September 2007. Once notified, you will have an opportunity to make a formal submission.

The RPS is a statutory document prepared under the Resource Management Act, 1991. It sets out the objectives, policies and methods to achieve the integrated management of natural and physical resources across the whole region. These resources are grouped in themes below. District and regional plans must give effect to the RPS. Resource consents must have regard to it. It also identifies actions and programmes necessary to make progress towards the objectives.



Regional form

Regional form is about the physical arrangement of urban and rural communities. The Wellington region has a strong corridor form which reinforces our local centres and supports passenger transport.

This theme is about maintaining and enhancing the region's form, promoting quality urban design and recognising the role of infrastructure.

- The RPS will require city and district councils to ensure that plans:
- Promote good urban design.
 - Recognise the social and economic importance of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure.
 - Maintain and enhance the region's good form, including encouraging higher density development around centres and public transport nodes.
- It also supports the actions, identified by the Wellington Regional Strategy, about investing in the region's form.



Biodiversity, landscape and heritage

When people describe a place they often talk about the different things they see and discover. The Wellington region is defined by the variety of landscapes, cultural and historic heritage, and the diversity of ecosystems around us.

These themes are about maintaining the region's cultural, historic and natural heritage, and our landscapes.

The RPS will require Greater Wellington, and city and district councils to identify and protect important landscapes, cultural and historic heritage, and areas of indigenous biodiversity in their plans

It also identifies the need to:

- Prepare a user guide to help with identification of important landscapes and historic heritage.
- Encourage and assist private landowners to protect and manage biodiversity on their land.
- Control pests that affect indigenous biodiversity on public and private land.



Natural hazards

The Wellington region is especially vulnerable to natural hazards. Floods, earthquakes, landslides, coastal erosion – these events all affect us.

This theme deals with reducing the impacts of natural hazards and long-term climatic change on communities.

The RPS will require city and district councils to:

- Manage development through their plans to avoid high risk areas and minimise risks in other hazard areas.
- Consider the adverse impacts of hazard mitigation measures on the environment.

It also outlines the need for education and research into natural hazards that affect our region. By being aware of the risks we can build more resilient communities.



Air

The air is a dynamic system, with complex mixing and many sources of contaminants. Even tiny particles can make air unsafe to breathe.

This theme is about managing odour, dust and smoke. It is also about emissions of fine particulate material that affect human health.

The RPS will require city and district councils through their plans to control the location of land uses that emit, or are sensitive to, odour, dust or smoke.

National Environmental Standards for Air Quality require Greater Wellington to publicly report air quality breaches and work with the community to reduce emissions. Monitoring to date shows that Masterton, Upper Hutt and Wainuiomata occasionally have wintertime air pollution problems. These are largely caused by domestic fires. The RPS identifies the need to promote cleaner forms of domestic heating in these areas.



Iwi resource management

Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui – The Head of the Fish of Maui. Wellington region is a special place of social, cultural and spiritual significance to the iwi of the region.

This theme deals with resource management issues of significance to iwi.

The RPS will require Greater Wellington, and city and district councils to have particular regard to:

- Cultural values and kaitiakitanga (expression of Maori authority, mana, ethics and guardianship).
- Protecting the mauri (life force) of natural resources.
- The effects of activities on mahinga kai (customary food gathering areas) and areas with natural resources used for cultural purposes.
- Avoiding adverse effects on cultural heritage sites.

It also identifies the importance of developing iwi management plans that provide information and guidance to assist decision making.



Energy

Energy is unlikely to be as cheap and abundant in the future as it has been. Where will our energy come from in the future? Will there be enough?

This theme deals with renewable energy production, travel behaviour and energy efficient design.

The RPS will require:

- Greater Wellington, and city and district councils to recognise the economic and social benefits of renewable energy generation in their plans.
- City and district councils to promote energy efficient development.
- The Regional Land Transport Strategy to promote reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.

It also encourages the use of travel demand management tools, guidance about sustainable subdivision design and information on barriers to establishing small scale or domestic renewable energy generation.



Fresh water

Fresh water is essential for our health, wellbeing, livelihood and culture. We enjoy it in countless ways, yet we often take it for granted – assuming it will always been clean and plentiful.

This theme deals with water quality, quantity and ecosystem health in the region's rivers, lakes, wetlands and groundwater.

The RPS will require:

- Greater Wellington, and city and district councils through their plans to manage the effects of land use on the health of rivers and streams.
- City and district councils to manage the effects of stormwater from subdivisions, industrial areas and car parks.
- Greater Wellington, through its freshwater plan, to promote discharges to land rather than water; establish appropriate flows, levels and limits on the amount of water taken from rivers and groundwater; and promote efficient use.