

## 4. Policies and methods

This chapter presents the policies and methods that, when implemented, will achieve the objectives of this Regional Policy Statement and address the regionally significant resource management issues (including the issues of significance to iwi authorities). The resource management issues and objectives are presented in the previous chapter under topic headings.

Within this chapter, the policies and then the methods are listed in numeric order.

Chapter 4 is divided into five sections. The first four sections set out the policies, organised according to their type:

- Section 4.1 contains policies that direct district or regional plans, or the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy
- Section 4.2 contains policies that are to be considered when processing and deciding upon a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or replacement to a plan
- Section 4.3 contains policies that allocate responsibilities for indigenous biodiversity, natural hazards and hazardous substances
- Section 4.4 contains policies that outline non-regulatory actions

The fifth section sets out the methods for implementing the policies. There are two main groups of methods:

- Regulatory methods, implementing policies in sections 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3
- Non-regulatory methods, that implement the policies in section 4.4 or that support the delivery of the other policies

Each of the five sections includes a summary table in which the policy or method titles are provided. This serves only as a guide, as the policy and associated methods are not reproduced in full within these summary tables.

Alongside each of the policies, in the margin, is a cross reference to the most relevant objectives, methods and related policies. This is not a complete and exhaustive list, and these provisions must be read in association with each policy, to appreciate the relationships between these policies and methods.

Within chapter 4, words and terms for which definitions are provided are presented in italics in the explanation, when the definition is directly relevant to interpretation of the policy in which the word or term is used. All definitions are provided in Appendix 3, although some do also appear in the explanations. Where additional definitions are given in Appendix 3, for words and terms that are not used within a policy, these are not presented in italics within the document.

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## 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 (in accordance with sections 67(3)(c) and 75(3)(c) of the Resource Management Act, 1991)
- Policies that the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy must be consistent with (in accordance with section 75(a)(iii)(B) of the Land Transport Management Act 2008)

The policies are to be implemented in accordance with methods 1, 2 or 3. The methods require that the process to amend district or regional plans to implement the policies shall ‘commence’ on or before the date in which a relevant council commences the review of a provision in a district or regional plan in accordance with section 79 of the Resource Management Act 1991. This recognises substantial work may be required for councils to give effect to these policies.

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 & 31 Also see policies 7, 8, 30, 31, 32 and consider 39, 48, 49, 54 & 60

## Policy 1: 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 having regard to the particular location or operational requirements of those land uses and activities.

Land uses or activities that affect sensitive activities include:

- Activities which emit or cause odour – such as rendering, spray painting and solvent use, landfills, sewage treatment plants, silage feeding, effluent spreading and agrichemical use

- Activities which emit or cause smoke – such as backyard burning
- Activities which emit or cause dust – such as earthworks, quarries, and vegetation disturbance

Reverse sensitivity effects can also arise at the interface between areas of differing land uses – such as between residential areas and industrial or rural areas. In particular, urban growth through either rural residential subdivision or the expansion of urban areas can constrain existing industrial and rural production activities. The management of these interfaces is required to reduce the risk of reverse sensitivity arising and allow for the continued operation of industrial and rural production activities without unreasonable restriction.

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

Regional plans shall include policies and/or rules that:

- protect or enhance the amenity values of neighbouring areas from discharges of odour, smoke and dust; and
- 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.

Amenity values need to be considered in the context of different environments and they may change temporarily or seasonally. In effect, what constitutes an objectionable odour, or level of smoke or dust is, in part, dependant on the normal conditions experienced in a locality or at a time of year.

Protecting people’s health from discharges to air includes considering the effects of *fine particulate matter* discharged from human activities. The Wairarapa (specifically Masterton), Wainuiomata and Upper Hutt are the airsheds known to be at risk of exceeding the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality, in relation to fine particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), during cold calm winter nights. Domestic fires are the main source of fine particulate emissions in these airsheds during winter.

## Policy 3: Protecting high natural character in the coastal environment – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods to protect high natural character in the coastal environment from inappropriate subdivision, development and/or use. Natural character should be assessed considering the following matters, with a site determined as having high natural character when the landscape is slightly modified or unmodified, the land-cover is dominated by indigenous vegetation and/or the vegetation cover is natural and there are no apparent buildings, structures or infrastructure:

- The extent to which natural elements, patterns and processes occur, including:
  - natural elements: the products of natural processes – such as landforms, water forms, vegetation and land cover;
  - natural processes: the ecological, climatic and geophysical processes that underlie the expression and character of the place, site or area;

Table 1: Air quality  
Objective 1  
Methods 2, 6, 26 & 31  
Also see policies 7, 8  
and consider 39, 48,  
49, 54 & 60

Table 2: Coastal  
environment  
Objective 4  
Methods 1, 2, 7, 32  
& 50  
Also see policies 4, 7,  
8, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26  
and consider 39, 46,  
47, 48, 49, 50 & 54

- (iii) natural patterns: the visual expression or spatial distribution of natural elements which are, or which appear to be, a product of natural processes; and/or
  - (iv) surroundings: the setting or context, such that the place, site or area contributes to an understanding of the natural history of the wider area.
- (b) The nature and extent of modifications to the place, site or area, including, but not limited to:
- (i) physical alterations by people to the landscape, its landforms, waterforms, vegetation, land cover and to the natural patterns associated with these elements;
  - (ii) the presence, location, scale and density of buildings and structures, including infrastructure, whether appearing to be interconnected or isolated, and the degree of intrusiveness of these structures on the natural character of the place;
  - (iii) the temporal character of the modification – such as, whether it is fleeting or temporary, transitory, transitional or a permanent alteration to the character of the place, site or area; and/or
  - (iv) any existing influences or pressures on the dynamic ecological and geophysical processes contributing to the presence and patterns of natural elements, such that these may change and the natural elements and/or patterns may become threatened over time.
- (c) Social values: the place, site or area has meaning for a particular community or communities, including:
- (i) sentimental: the natural character of a place, site or area has a strong or special association with a particular community; and/or
  - (ii) recognition: the place, site or area is held in high public esteem for its natural character value, or its contribution to the sense of identity of a particular community.

#### 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 55 and 56, which promote a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form.

Case law<sup>4</sup> 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 protect areas considered to have ‘high’ natural character from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Councils must assess land in the coastal environment to ascertain which areas have high natural character, in order to protect these areas, and to determine what would be inappropriate activities on this land, depending on the attributes associated with an area’s high natural character.

<sup>4</sup> Harrison v Tasman District Council 1994 W42/93

The policy lists the matters to be considered when assessing natural character. Policy 3 (a) contains factors which contribute 'natural' attributes to an area, while the factors within clause (b) are about people's influence in or upon the area, which can compromise, modify or otherwise diminish the natural character of the area. Clause (c) encourages consideration of how people value a particular place. In determining the degree of natural character, the factors within clauses (a) and (b) must be contrasted against each other, and considered alongside the matters contained in clause (c).

When making a determination as to whether the degree of natural character is high in a particular location, an area of high natural character is likely to be dominated by natural elements rather than by the influence of human activities, and/or the natural elements will be out of the ordinary or otherwise regarded as important in terms of one or more of the factors outlined within policy 36(a) and (c). Alternatively, an area of high natural character may be regarded as having qualities which are relatively uncompromised by human activities and influence, as specified within 36(b).

Policy 36 will need to be considered alongside policy 3 when changing, varying or reviewing 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 21 and 22), ecosystems with significant biodiversity value (policies 23 and 24), outstanding natural features and landscapes (policies 25 and 26), and special amenity landscape values (policies 27 and 28) – using the criteria outlined in each policy, and guidance that will be developed to assist with implementation of the Regional Policy Statement (method 7).

#### **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*.

Table 2: Coastal environment Objectives 3 & 4 Methods 1, 32 & 50 Also see policies 21, 23, 25, 27 and consider 48 & 49

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. Neither does the policy direct the timescale of coastal processes to be used in the determination. This will be specific to the processes involved and the location or geomorphology of the area.

Councils shall identify in consultation with landholders, the community, tangata whenua and other key stakeholders, the landward extent of the coastal environment.

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objective 6  
Method 2, 35 & 36  
Also see policies 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 24 and consider 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 47, 48, 49, 54, 55 & 56

### **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 managed for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing aquatic ecosystem health; and
- (b) manage coastal water quality for other purposes identified in regional plans.

#### **Explanation**

A high standard of water quality is an essential requirement for maintaining healthy aquatic 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 aquatic ecosystems. Regional plans will identify limits for coastal water quality for the maintenance and enhancement of aquatic ecosystem health.

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 12 and 14. Policy 16 promotes the discharge of contaminants to land and policy 15 seeks to minimise erosion and sediment runoff, prior to plan controls being established.

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

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objectives 3, 5, 6 & 7  
Method 30  
Also see policies 3, 5, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27 & 28 and consider 35, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42, 43, 46, 48, 49, 50, 53, 55 & 56

### **Policy 6: Recognising the regional significance of Porirua Harbour (including Pauatahanui Inlet and Onepoto Arm) – district and regional plans**

District and regional plans with jurisdiction over all or part of the Porirua Harbour catchment area shall include policies, rules and/or methods that:

- (a) recognise and acknowledge the regional significance of Porirua Harbour (including Pauatahanui Inlet and Onepoto Arm); and
- (b) recognise and provide for the maintenance, protection and enhancement of the significant amenity, recreational, ecological and cultural values associated with the Porirua Harbour.

#### **Explanation**

Porirua Harbour includes the Pauatahanui inlet and the Onepoto arm. Porirua Harbour contains a nationally significant ecosystem and has high cultural significance to Ngāti Toa.

While the Harbour is a recognised aesthetic, natural and community asset, parts of it have been significantly impacted by historic and current land and coastal management practices. The regulatory approach of the Regional Policy Statement seeks to address the discharge of sediment, nutrients and other contaminants into the Harbour and its ecological health through regional and district plans. However, general regulatory policies cannot address the cross-boundary issues associated with the management of the Harbour, and the need to address existing land management practices that are increasingly impacting on the Harbour.

A non-regulatory method is also necessary to address the issues that cannot be resolved through a regulatory approach, but are vital in restoring the mauri and ecological health of the Harbour. Further, the integrated and coordinated management of Porirua Harbour between Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council and Wellington Regional Council is vital to protecting and restoring the Harbour.

### Policy 7: Recognising the benefits from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure – regional and district plans

District and regional plans shall include policies and/or methods that recognise:

- (a) the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of regionally significant infrastructure including:
  - (i) people and goods can travel to, from and around the region efficiently and safely;
  - (ii) public health and safety is maintained through the provision of essential services:
    - supply of potable water, the collection and transfer of sewage and stormwater, and the provision of emergency services;
  - (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 resources* 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.

Renewable energy generation and regionally significant infrastructure can also have adverse effects on the surrounding environment and community. These competing considerations need to be weighed on a case by case basis to determine what is appropriate in the circumstances.

Imported and non-renewable energy sources include oil, gas, 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 is defined in Appendix 3.

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste  
Objectives 9 & 10  
Methods 1 & 2  
Also see policies 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29 and consider 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57 & 58

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste  
Objective 10  
Methods 1 & 2  
Also see policies 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29 and consider 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57 & 58

## Policy 8: 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 subdivision, use and development occurring under, over, or adjacent to the infrastructure.

### 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* is defined in Appendix 3.

Incompatible subdivisions, land uses or activities are those which adversely affect the efficient operation of infrastructure, its ability to give full effect to any consent or other authorisation, restrict its ability to be maintained, or restrict the ability to upgrade where the effects of the upgrade are the same or similar in character, intensity, and scale. 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 adjacent 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, maintenance, and upgrading (where effects are the same or similar in character, intensity, and scale) of the infrastructure and any effects that may be associated with that infrastructure. Competing considerations need to be weighed on a case by case basis to determine what is appropriate in the circumstances.

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.

## Policy 9: 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 2003, which Wellington Regional Council must produce. It is a strategy for the development of the region's land transport system over the next 30 years and provides policies to guide regional transport decisions and action programmes. The operative *Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy 2007-2016* was prepared under the Land Transport Act 1998 for the required timeframe of 10 years.

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste  
Objective 9  
Method 3  
Also see policies 10 & 33

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 10: 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 11: Promoting energy efficient design and small scale renewable energy generation – district plans

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

- (a) promote energy efficient design and the use of domestic scale (up to 20 kW) and small scale distributed renewable energy generation (up to 100 kW); and
- (b) provide for energy efficient alterations to existing buildings.

#### 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 distributed *renewable energy* generation facilities (up to 20 kW for domestic use and up to 100 kW for small community use) include solar generation particularly for water heating and wind turbines used for on-site or domestic purposes.

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

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste  
Objective 9  
Methods 1, 3 & 9  
Also see policies 2, 7, 8, 11, 31, 32 and consider 39, 48, 49, 55, 56, 57 & 58

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste  
Objective 9  
Methods 1 & 10  
Also see policies 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and consider 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, 56 & 57

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 12  
Methods 2, 34, 35  
& 36  
Also see policies 5,  
6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16,  
17, 18, 19, 24 and  
consider 35, 36, 37,  
39, 40, 41, 42, 43,  
47, 48, 49, 52, 54, 55  
& 56

## Policy 12: Management purposes for surface water bodies – regional plans

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

- (a) require that water quality, flows and water levels, and the aquatic habitat of surface water bodies are to be managed for the purpose of safeguarding aquatic ecosystem health; and
- (b) manage water bodies for other purposes identified in regional plans.

### Explanation

*Regional plans* will establish management purposes for *water bodies* in the region and identify limits for water quality, flows and water levels, and aquatic *habitat* appropriate to the management purposes identified. The management purposes identified in regional plans will support the uses and values associated with those purposes. This policy does not prevent the sustainable use of water subject to any limits (including aquatic ecosystem health) established in the regional plan.

The limits for aquatic ecosystem health will need to recognise that different types of water bodies (for example, rivers, lakes and wetlands) will require different limits. Natural environmental differences between water bodies (for example, climate, altitude and catchment geology, or a small stream in a mountain catchment versus a large lowland river) will also require different limits to be established.

Where a water body is assigned more than one management purpose in a regional plan, the limits associated with the most stringent water quality, river flows and water levels shall apply.

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 12  
Method 2  
Also see policies 5, 7,  
8, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20,  
24 and consider 35,  
36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43,  
44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 51,  
54 & 59

## Policy 13: 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 and lakes, taking into account 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 13 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 taking into account policy 12.

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

## Policy 14: 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 Harbour and Porirua (Onepoto Arm and Pauatahanui Inlet) Harbour 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 toxic 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 42 will also reduce accumulation rates of ecotoxic contaminants in the sediments of low energy aquatic receiving environments. Policy 42 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 42 provide an integrated approach to managing the adverse effects of stormwater discharges.

## Policy 15: Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation disturbance – district and regional plans

Regional and district plans shall include policies, rules and/or 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.

### 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. Large scale earthworks and vegetation disturbance on erosion prone land in rural areas and many small scale earthworks in urban areas – such as driveways and retaining walls – can cumulatively contribute large amounts of silt and *sediment* to *stormwater* and *water bodies*. This policy is intended to minimise erosion and silt and sedimentation effects associated with these activities.

Table 4: Fresh water Objective 12  
Methods 2, 34 & 35  
Also see policies 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 15, 18, 19, 24 and consider 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 47, 48, 49, 52 & 54

Table 4: Fresh water Objective 12  
Table 11: Soils and minerals Objective 29  
Methods 1, 2, 31, 35 & 36  
Also see policies 5, 6, 7, 12, 14, 18, 19, 24, 26, 28, 29 and consider 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, 56 & 60

Minimisation requires effects to be reduced to the extent reasonably achievable whilst recognising that erosion, siltation and sedimentation effects can not always be completely avoided.

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 31 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, which will work together to control the effects of the activity.

Vegetation disturbance includes harvesting plantation forestry.

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 12  
Methods 2 & 36  
Also see policies 5, 7,  
8, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19,  
24 and consider 35,  
36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41,  
43, 47, 48, 49 & 52

## Policy 16: Promoting discharges to land – regional plans

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

- (a) discharges of human and/or animal waste to land rather than water, particularly discharges of sewage, while maintaining groundwater quality and soil health; and
- (b) the use of collective sewage treatment systems that discharge to land where it is likely that individual treatment systems will not maintain 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 and individual land based treatment systems need to be appropriately designed and managed so that the quantity and quality of discharges maintain ground water quality and soil health.

Collective or individual *sewage* treatment systems can both be viable options in many places for the treatment of *sewage* before it is disposed of to *land*. Collective treatment systems are promoted in circumstances where it is unlikely that individual treatment and disposal systems will maintain *groundwater* quality and soil health.

The quality at which *groundwater* is maintained will be determined by water quality standards in *regional plans*, as directed by policy 12. 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 and quality are maintained and human health and habitation is supported. Public health risk will need to be considered when rules are developed in *regional plans*.

## Policy 17: Water allocation and use for the health needs of people – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods to ensure the allocation and use of water from any river or groundwater source provides sufficiently 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 community supplies.

### Explanation

This policy recognises the need to ensure that the health needs of people when allocating and using water are paramount.

The Resource Management Act, in section 14, enables water to be taken for fire fighting purposes, an individual's reasonable domestic needs and the needs of an individual's animals for drinking water, provided there are no, or not likely to be any, adverse effects on the environment.

## Policy 18: 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;
- (e) discourage the reclamation, piping, straightening or concrete lining of rivers;
- (f) discourage 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) discourage 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 do not cause adverse effects such as barriers to fish that in-stream dams can.

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 12  
Method 2  
Also see policies 5,  
7, 8, 12, 13, 18 and  
consider 37, 39, 40,  
43, 44, 48, 49, 54, 55,  
56, 58 & 59

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 13  
Methods 2 & 29  
Also see policies 5, 6,  
7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 18,  
19, 24 and consider  
35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40,  
41, 43, 47, 48, 49, 52  
& 54

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 13  
Methods 2 & 32  
Appendix 1  
Also see policies 5, 6,  
7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 18,  
24 and consider 35,  
36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41,  
42, 43, 47, 48, 49, 52  
& 54

## Policy 19: Managing amenity, recreational and indigenous biodiversity values of rivers and lakes – regional plans

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

- (a) maintain or enhance the amenity and recreational values of rivers and lakes, including those with significant values listed in Table 15 of Appendix 1; and
- (b) protect the significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values of rivers and lakes, including those listed in Table 16 of 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* and *habitats* with significant *indigenous* biodiversity values 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.

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 14  
Methods 2, 34, 36  
& 47  
Also see policies 7,  
8, 12, 13, 18 and  
consider 37, 39, 40,  
43, 44, 48, 49, 54  
& 59

## Policy 20: Using water efficiently – regional plans

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

- (a) promote the efficient allocation and use of water; and
- (b) promote water harvesting.

### Explanation

Using water efficiently and *water harvesting* when it is in abundant supply will make more water available when there is a shortage. *Efficient allocation* and use includes minimising water wastage during the abstraction, distribution and final use of the water. This includes all allocations and uses of 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 2: Coastal  
environment  
Objective 3

Table 5: Historic  
heritage  
Objective 15  
Methods 1, 2, 20 & 32  
Also see policies 4,  
6, 23, 25, 27, 30, 31  
and consider 36, 48,  
49 & 53

## Policy 21: Identifying places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall identify places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of history and culture under one or more of the following 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.
  - (iv) age: the place is particularly old in the context of human occupation of the Wellington region.
  - (v) 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 Māori 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 21 provides criteria to ensure significant *historic heritage* resources are identified in district and regional plans in a consistent way. The criteria are based on the Resource Management Act definition of historic heritage and commonly used assessment methodologies. They provide the basis for describing and evaluating historic heritage, including the physical, historic, social and other values that people attach to historic heritage. Wellington Regional Council, 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 contributing 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 21 to identify places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values.

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objective 4

Table 5: Historic heritage  
Objective 15  
Methods 1, 2 & 32  
Also see policies 3, 6, 8, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31 & 32 and consider 35, 36, 39, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53 & 54

## Policy 22: 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 21, from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development; and
- (b) avoid the destruction of unidentified archaeological sites and wāhi 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 22(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 21, and the degree of significance of those values, will influence what activities would be deemed to be appropriate or inappropriate.

Policy 22(b) requires district and regional plans assess which activities could destroy unidentified archaeological sites or *wāhi tapu* with significant historic heritage values and ensure such activities avoid adverse effects.

Policy 46 will need to be considered alongside policy 22 when changing, varying or reviewing a district or regional plan.

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objective 3

Table 6a: Indigenous ecosystems  
Objective 16  
Methods 1, 2, 21 & 32  
Also see policies 4, 6, 21, 25, 27, 61 and consider 35, 36, 37, 43, 48, 49, 53 & 54

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

District and regional plans shall identify and evaluate indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values; these ecosystems and habitats will be considered significant if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- (a) Representativeness: the ecosystems or habitats that are typical and characteristic examples of the full range of the original or current natural diversity of ecosystem and habitat types in a district or in the region, and:
  - (i) are no longer commonplace (less than about 30% remaining); or
  - (ii) are poorly represented in existing protected areas (less than about 20% legally protected).
- (b) Rarity: the ecosystem or habitat has biological or 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 protected or 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 Māori.

## Explanation

Policy 23 sets out criteria as guidance that must be considered in identifying indigenous *ecosystems* and *habitats* with significant *biodiversity* values. Wellington Regional Council, and district and city councils are required to assess indigenous ecosystems and habitats against all the criteria but the relevance of each will depend on the individual cases. To be classed as having significant biodiversity values, an indigenous ecosystem or habitat must fit one or more of the listed criteria. Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils will need to engage directly with land owners and work collaboratively with them to identify areas, undertake field evaluation, and assess significance. Policy 23 will ensure that significant biodiversity values are identified in district and regional plans in a consistent way.

Indigenous ecosystems and habitats can have additional values of significance to tangata whenua. There are a number of indigenous ecosystems and habitats across the region that are significant to tangata whenua for their ecological characteristics. These ecosystems will be considered for significance under this policy if they still exhibit the ecosystem functions which are considered significant by tangata whenua. Access and use of any identified areas would be subject to landowner agreement. Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils will need to engage directly with tangata whenua and work collaboratively with them and other stakeholders, including landowners, to identify areas under this criterion.

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.

## Policy 24: 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 indigenous biodiversity values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

## Explanation

Policy 24 applies to provisions in regional and district plans.

Table 16 in Appendix 1 identifies rivers and lakes with significant *indigenous ecosystems* and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values by applying criteria taken from policy 23 of rarity (habitat for *threatened* indigenous fish species) and diversity (high macroinvertebrate community health, habitat for six or more migratory indigenous fish species).

Policy 47 will need to be considered alongside policy 24 when changing, varying or reviewing a regional or district plan.

Policy 24 is not intended to prevent change, but rather to ensure that change is carefully considered and is appropriate in relation to the biodiversity values identified in policy 23.

Table 2: Coastal environment Objective 4

Table 6a: Indigenous ecosystems Objective 16 Methods 1, 2 & 32 Appendices 1 Also see policies 3, 6, 8, 18, 19, 22, 26, 28 & 61 and consider 35, 36, 39, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53 & 54

Table 2: Coastal environment Objective 3

Table 7: Landscape Objective 17 Methods 1, 2, 32 & 50 Also see policies 3, 4, 21, 23, 27 and consider 36, 48, 49 & 53

## Policy 25: Identifying outstanding natural features and landscapes – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall identify outstanding natural features and landscapes having determined that the natural feature or landscape is:

- (a) exceptional or out of the ordinary; and
- (b) that its natural components dominate over the influence of human activity,

after undertaking a landscape evaluation process, taking into account the factors listed below.

### Natural science factors

- (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.

### Sensory factors

- (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 processes 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.

### Shared or recognised factors

- (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: Māori 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.

<sup>5</sup> Pigeon Bay Aquaculture Ltd v Canterbury Regional Council Environment Court Decision, 1999 (C32/99) and the Wakatipu Environment Society Incorporated v Queenstown Lakes District Council Environment Court Decision, 1999 (C180/99)

## Explanation

Policy 25 provides a list of factors to help describe and evaluate 'candidate' areas or sites to determine if they reach the threshold of outstanding *natural features* and *landscapes* consistently in district and regional plans. The factors align with significant case law<sup>5</sup> and commonly used landscape assessment methodologies. It should be noted that this list of factors is not exhaustive; nor do all factors necessarily apply to all landscapes.

The Wellington Regional Council, district and city councils are required to assess natural features and landscapes against all the factors, but may use additional factors. An outstanding natural feature or landscape will be exceptional and out of the ordinary, and importantly the natural components must dominate over the influence of human activity. This does not mean that evidence of human activity cannot be present, but that it should be subordinate to the natural components.

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

Method 32 indicates that tangata whenua, stakeholders, landowners and the community will be involved in the identification of outstanding natural features and landscapes. Method 50 outlines the development of a regional landscape character description which will describe and categorise the region's landscapes to assist with implementing policy 25.

## Policy 26: Protecting outstanding natural features and landscape values – district and regional plans

Where outstanding natural features and landscapes have been identified in accordance with policy 25, 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 26 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 25.

Method 32 indicates that tangata whenua, stakeholders, landowners and the community will be involved in the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes.

## Policy 27: Identifying special amenity landscapes – district and regional plans

District and regional plans may identify special amenity landscapes which are distinctive, widely recognised and highly valued by the community for their contribution to the amenity and quality of the environment of the district, city or region. Any special amenity landscape evaluation process carried out to inform the identification of any such special amenity landscapes shall take into account the factors listed in policy 25.

Table 2: Coastal environment Objective 4

Table 7: Landscape Objective 17  
Methods 1, 2 & 32  
Also see policies 3, 8, 18, 19, 22, 24, 28 and consider 35, 36, 39, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 55 & 56

Table 2: Coastal environment Objective 3

Table 7: Landscape Objective 18  
Methods 1, 2, 32 & 50  
Also see policies 4, 6, 21, 23, 25 and consider 36, 48, 49 & 53

## Explanation

Policy 25 provides a list of factors to help describe and evaluate the attributes of landscapes. Where a district or regional plan identifies *special amenity landscapes* or similar, these factors will be used to help identify those landscapes in a consistent way. The factors align with commonly used landscape assessment methodologies and case law<sup>6</sup>. The list of factors is not exhaustive; nor do all factors necessarily apply to all landscapes.

If undertaking a landscape identification and evaluation under this policy, Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils are required to assess landscapes against all the factors, but may use other additional factors. Once the information on the landscapes has been compiled, an evaluation is required to assess the significance of the landscapes for the area.

Community values and relationships to the landscape are important components of a special amenity landscape. A special amenity landscape will be distinctive and widely recognised by the community for the contribution its landscape amenity values make to the pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, cultural and recreational attributes of the district, city or region.

For the purposes of clarification, special amenity landscapes when compared to outstanding natural landscapes will have, when assessed under the factors listed in Policy 25:

- (a) highly valued, but not clearly exceptional landscape values, in an area where the **natural components** of landscape character dominate; or
- (b) highly valued, including exceptional landscape values, in an area where the modification of landscape by **human activity** is a dominant influence on landscape character.

In contrast the natural components **must** dominate and the landscape must be exceptional to be an outstanding natural landscape under policy 25.

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

Method 32 indicates that tangata whenua, stakeholders, landowners and the community will be involved in the identification and evaluation of special amenity landscapes. Method 50 outlines the development of a regional landscape character description which will describe and categorise the region's landscapes to assist with implementing policy 27.

## Policy 28: Managing special amenity landscape values – district and regional plans

Where special amenity landscapes have been identified in accordance with policy 27, district and regional plans shall include policies and/or methods (which may include rules) for managing these landscapes in order to maintain or enhance their landscape values in the context of the continuation of:

- (a) existing land uses that contribute to these landscape values,
- (b) predominant existing land uses that are provided for within the underlying zoning, and
- (c) other lawfully established activities.

Table 2: Coastal environment Objective 4

Table 7: Landscape Objective 18 Methods 1, 2 & 32 Also see policies 3, 6, 8, 18, 19, 22, 24, 26 and consider 35, 36, 39, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 55 & 56

<sup>6</sup> Pigeon Bay Aquaculture Ltd v Canterbury Regional Council Environment Court Decision, 1999 (C32/99) and the Wakatipu Environment Society Incorporated v Queenstown Lakes District Council Environment Court Decision, 1999 (C180/99)

## Explanation

Appropriate subdivision, use and development will generally be compatible with the values identified within the *landscape*. Therefore, activities within an identified *special amenity landscape* must be planned and undertaken with respect for the identified values.

When local authorities consider relevant provisions within their respective plans they will need to state what the special amenity landscape values are and how they are to be managed. Implementing this policy shall involve an assessment of the extent to which the existing plan provisions are adequate to manage these landscape values. It is anticipated that non-regulatory methods, such as education and advice, could also be components of provisions to manage these landscapes.

Policy 28 is not intended to prevent land use change, but rather to ensure that change is carefully considered and is appropriate in relation to the landscapes that may be identified in policy 27.

Existing land uses are part of the landscape values of an area. Primary production activities such as farming, horticulture, vineyards and forestry are the predominant land uses within the rural zone. Equally, urban development, including housing, is the predominant land use within the urban zone. These predominant land uses have significantly contributed to the evolution of many of our current rural and urban landscapes and these landscapes tend to change over time.

It is important that change within these landscapes is managed to ensure that the special amenity landscape values identified using the factors in policy 25 are maintained or enhanced whilst still acknowledging the continuation of productive activities within these rural environments and redevelopment in urban environments.

## Policy 29: Avoiding inappropriate subdivision and development in areas at high risk from natural hazards – district and regional plans

Regional and district plans shall:

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

## Explanation

The process of identifying 'areas at *high risk*' from natural hazards must consider the potential natural hazard events that may affect an area and the vulnerability of existing and/or foreseeable subdivision or development. An area should be considered high risk if there is the potential for moderate to high levels of damage to the subdivision or development, including the buildings, infrastructure, or land on which it is situated. The assessment of areas at high risk should factor in the potential for climate change and sea level rise and any consequential effect that this may have on the frequency or magnitude of related hazard events.

Examples of the types of natural hazards or hazard events that may cause an area or subdivision or development to be considered high risk include – but are not limited to – *fault rupture zones*, beaches that experience cyclical or long term erosion, failure prone hill slopes, or areas that are subject to serious flooding.

Table 8a: Natural hazards  
Objectives 19 & 21  
Methods 1, 2, 14 & 22  
Also see policies 3, 7, 8, 15, 18, 30, 31, 32 & 62 and consider 35, 36, 37, 39, 43, 48, 49, 51, 52, 54, 55 & 56

The factors listed in policies 51 and 52 should be considered when implementing policy 29 and writing policies and rules to avoid inappropriate subdivision and development in areas at high risk.

Most forms of residential, industrial or commercial development would not be considered appropriate and should be avoided in areas at high risk from natural hazards, unless it is shown that the effects, including residual risk, will be managed appropriately.

Hazard mitigation works can reduce the risk from natural hazards in high hazard areas. To give effect to this policy, district and regional plans should require assessments of the risks and consequential effects associated with any extensive structural or hard engineering mitigation works that are proposed. For a subdivision or development to be considered appropriate in areas at high risk of natural hazards, any hazard mitigation works should not:

- Adversely modify natural processes to a more than minor extent,
- Cause or exacerbate hazards in adjacent areas to a more than minor extent,
- Generally result in significant alteration of the natural character of the landscape,
- Have unaffordable establishment and maintenance costs to the community,
- Leave a more than minor *residual risk*, and/or
- Result in more than minor permanent or irreversible adverse effects.

Examples of how this may be applied to identified high hazard areas include: *fault rupture* avoidance zones 20 metres either side of a fault trace; setback distances from an eroding coastline; design standards for floodplains; or, requirements for a geotechnical investigation before development proceeds on a hill slope identified as prone to failure.

This policy promotes a precautionary, risk-based approach, taking into consideration the characteristics of the *natural hazard*, its *magnitude* and *frequency*, potential impacts and the *vulnerability* of development.

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, *GNS Science* (2008)
- Planning for development of land on or close to active faults, *Ministry for the Environment* (2003)
- Coastal Hazards and Climate Change: A Guidance Manual for Local Government in New Zealand, *Ministry for the Environment* (2008)
- Other regional documents relating to the management of natural hazards.

This policy also recognises and supports the Civil Defence Emergency Management principles – 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 29 will act to reduce risk associated with *natural hazards*. The risks are to people and communities, including businesses, utilities 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 30: Maintaining and enhancing the viability and vibrancy of regionally significant centres – district plans

District plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that enable and manage 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:

- (a) Sub-regional centres of:
  - (i) Upper Hutt city centre;
  - (ii) Lower Hutt city centre;
  - (iii) Porirua city centre;
  - (iv) Paraparaumu town centre;
  - (v) Masterton town centre; and the
- (b) Suburban centres in:
  - (i) Petone;
  - (ii) Kilbirnie; and
  - (iii) Johnsonville.

### Explanation

The centres listed in policy 30 were identified during the development of the *Wellington Regional Strategy* as centres of significance to the region's form for economic development, transport movement, civic or community investment. The Wellington central business district is the regional central business district, with 73,000 people working there each day. The sub-regional centres of regional significance are the civic centres of Upper Hutt city centre, Lower Hutt city centre, Porirua city centre, Paraparaumu town centre, and Masterton town centre. The suburban centres of regional significance are in 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 regional central business district is the major centre in the Wellington region; the sub-regional centres also provide significant business, retailing and community services.

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 30 requires the region's district and city councils to determine the range and location of land uses, supported by appropriate social infrastructure to be encouraged and/or controlled in order to maintain and enhance the viability and vibrancy of the relevant centre managed through its *district plan*. However, when maintaining and enhancing *regionally significant centres* within a district, councils also need to consider the viability and vibrancy of the *regionally significant centres* outside their district, including the regional central business district as the major centre in the Wellington region.

## Policy 31: 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 22  
Methods 1, 42 & 43  
Also see policies 1, 7, 8, 15, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32 & 34 and consider 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57 & 58

Table 9: Regional form, design and function Objective 22  
Methods 1 & 16  
Also see policies 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 15, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 32 & 34 and consider 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 & 59

## Explanation

Policy 31 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 22 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 30.

*Key centres* include the *regionally significant centres* identified in policy 30, 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. This includes centres identified for higher density and/or *mixed use development* in any Council growth and/or development framework or strategy. Examples of growth and/or development framework or strategies in the region are:

- The Upper Hutt Urban Growth Strategy
- Wellington City Northern Growth Management Framework
- Porirua Development Framework
- Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures Development Management Strategy and local outcomes statements contained in the Kapiti Coast Long-term Council Community Plan.

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).

## Policy 32: 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 22 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 33: 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 22 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 34: Controlling activities on contaminated land – district plans

District plans shall include policies and rules that control activities on contaminated land so that those activities are not adversely affected by the contamination.

### Explanation

Policy 34 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. New land uses should be avoided unless the adverse effects associated with the contamination can be appropriately managed, remedied or mitigated to a level which is safe for the intended use.

Table 9: Regional form, design and function  
Objective 22  
Methods 1 & 44  
Also see policies 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 15, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31 & 34 and consider 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 & 60

Table 9: Regional form, design and function  
Objective 22  
Method 3  
Also see policies 3, 9, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44 & 53

Table 11: Soils and minerals  
Objective 30  
Methods 1, 24 & 36  
Also see policies 7, 8, 30, 31 & 32 and consider 39, 48, 49 & 55



## 4.2 Regulatory policies – matters to be considered

This section contains the policies that need to be given particular regard, where relevant, when assessing and deciding on resource consents, notices of requirement, or when changing, or varying district or regional plans. Within this section, policies are presented in numeric order, although the summary table below lists the policy titles by topic headings.

Topic	Policy title	Page
<b>Coastal environment</b>	Policy 35: Preserving the natural character of the coastal environment – consideration	116
	Policy 36: Managing effects on natural character in the coastal environment – consideration	117
	Policy 37: Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of coastal ecosystems – consideration	118
	Policy 38: Identifying the landward extent of the coastal environment – consideration	119
	Policy 53: Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers – consideration	132
<b>Energy, infrastructure and waste</b>	Policy 39: Recognising the benefits from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure – consideration	119
<b>Fresh water</b>	Policy 40: Safeguarding aquatic ecosystem health in water bodies – consideration	120
	Policy 41: Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation disturbance – consideration	121
	Policy 42: Minimising contamination in stormwater from development – consideration	122
	Policy 43: Protecting aquatic ecological function of water bodies – consideration	122
	Policy 44: Managing water takes to ensure efficient use – consideration	123
	Policy 45: Using water efficiently – consideration	124
	Policy 53: Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers – consideration	132
<b>Historic heritage</b>	Policy 46: Managing effects on historic heritage values – consideration	124
<b>Indigenous ecosystems</b>	Policy 47: Managing effects on indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – consideration	125
<b>Landscape</b>	Policy 50: Managing effects on outstanding natural features and landscapes – consideration	129
<b>Natural hazards</b>	Policy 51: Minimising the risks and consequences of natural hazards – consideration	130
	Policy 52: Minimising adverse effects of hazard mitigation measures – consideration	131
<b>Regional form, design and function</b>	Policy 54: Achieving the region's urban design principles – consideration	133
	Policy 55: Maintaining a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form – consideration	133
	Policy 56: Managing development in rural areas – consideration	135
	Policy 57: Integrating land use and transportation – consideration	135
	Policy 58: Co-ordinating land use with development and operation of infrastructure – consideration	136

<b>Resource management with tangata whenua</b>	Policy 48: Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi – consideration	125
	Policy 49: Recognising and providing for matters of significance to tangata whenua – consideration	127
<b>Soils and minerals</b>	Policy 41: Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation disturbance – consideration	121
	Policy 59: Retaining highly productive agricultural land (Class I and II land) – consideration	137
	Policy 60: Utilising the region’s mineral resources – consideration	137

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objectives 3 & 4  
Methods 4 & 7  
Also consider policies 39, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, 55 & 56

## Policy 35: Preserving the natural character of the coastal environment – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to preserving the natural character of the coastal environment by:

- (a) minimising any adverse effects from point source and non-point source discharges, so that aquatic ecosystem health is safeguarded;
- (b) protecting the values associated with estuaries and bays, beaches and dune systems, including the unique physical processes that occur within and between them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, so that healthy ecosystems are maintained;
- (c) maintaining or enhancing amenity – such as, open space and scenic values – and opportunities for recreation and the enjoyment of the coast by the public;
- (d) minimising any significant adverse effects from use and enjoyment of the coast by the public;
- (e) safeguarding the life supporting capacity of coastal and marine ecosystems;
- (f) maintaining or enhancing biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystems; and
- (g) protecting scientific and geological features from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

### Explanation

Preserving the natural character of the *coastal environment* is a matter of regional and national importance. 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 of modification, including existing land uses.

Not all values that contribute to the natural character of the *coastal environment* are included within the sub-clauses of this policy, as these values are addressed in other policies. For example, policies 21, 23 and 25 direct plans to identify significant *historic heritage*, indigenous *ecosystems*, and outstanding *natural features* and landscapes using specified criteria. Policies 22, 24 and 26 then require the protection of these identified values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. These policies apply to the whole region, including the *coastal environment*, and so each of these policies will identify values for protection within the coastal environment. Hence, this policy provides guidance for determining the appropriate subdivision, use and development of the coastal environment, in a manner which would retain natural character. Policy 36 then provides a list of considerations to give particular regard to when determining if an activity is inappropriate, including the acknowledgement of existing land uses in the coastal environment. Policies 35 and 36 should be read together.

Policy 35 applies to subdivision, use and development in the coastal environment, the landward extent of which is required to be defined or given particular regard by policies 5 and 38.

Policy 35(b) refers to the special values of estuaries and bays, beaches and dune systems. These values include the unique physical processes that occur within and between these features and include those resulting from the interaction between coastal and river dynamics. Such areas are important in providing spawning areas and nursery areas for juveniles of aquatic species. Similarly, the interaction and thus the interface between land and sea creates important recreation opportunities and *amenity values*, as well as being a natural defence against *coastal hazards*.

Preserving those special qualities and dynamic processes can be achieved in a number of ways, including the use of setbacks from the *coastal marine area* and other *water bodies*, and/or the use of buffer zones.

### Policy 36: Managing effects on natural character in the coastal environment – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, a determination shall be made as to whether an activity may affect natural character in the coastal environment, and in determining whether an activity is inappropriate particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) the nature and intensity of the proposed activity including:
  - (i) the functional need or operational requirement to locate within the coastal environment
  - (ii) the opportunity to mitigate anticipated adverse effects of the activity
- (b) the degree to which the natural character will be modified, damaged or destroyed including:
  - (i) the duration and frequency of any effect, and/or
  - (ii) the magnitude or scale of any effect;
  - (iii) the irreversibility of adverse effects on natural character values;
  - (iv) whether the activity will lead to cumulative adverse effects on the natural character of the site/area.
- (c) the resilience of the site or area to change;
- (d) the opportunities to remedy or mitigate previous damage to the natural character;
- (e) the existing land uses on the site.

#### Explanation

Policy 36 gives effect to a requirement, under the Resource Management Act and the *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement*, to preserve the natural character of the *coastal environment*, which is a matter of national importance.

This policy will ensure that subdivision, use and development is appropriate for the characteristics of the area or site and will not adversely affect the natural character of the *coastal environment* which is also a matter of regional importance.

Case law<sup>7</sup> has established that natural character does not necessarily mean pristine or completely unmodified character. Natural character occurs on a continuum, from pristine to being highly modified. Most of the *coastal environment* has some element of unmodified natural character and, conversely, some degree or element of modification.

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objective 4  
Methods 4 & 7  
Also consider policies 39, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56 & 58

<sup>7</sup> Harrison v Tasman District Council 1994 W42/93

The appropriateness or otherwise of any subdivision, use or development will depend both on the character of the particular coastal environment and on the nature of the activity proposed. In order to manage effects on natural character, an assessment is required as to where the particular site/area lies on that continuum from pristine to highly modified. The factors in policy 3 can be used for that assessment. Integral to this assessment is an appreciation of the robustness of the environment to retain the integrity of the natural processes and forms.

The determination as to whether a proposed activity is appropriate, given that context, is then assessed using the factors in this policy. These address the nature and characteristics of the proposal and the potential effects which could arise from the proposal.

Policy 36 applies to subdivision, use and development in the *coastal environment*, the landward extent of which is required to be defined or given particular regard by policies 5 and 38.

Policy 36 is not intended to prevent change, but rather to ensure that change is carefully considered and is appropriate in relation to the natural character values in the coastal environment, as assessed using the matters in policy 3.

Policies 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 58 will need to be considered alongside policy 36, when managing effects on natural character, changing, varying or reviewing a district or regional plan, as these also assist with assessments of what might be considered 'appropriate' use and development or conversely, 'inappropriate' use and development.

### **Policy 37: Safeguarding life-supporting capacity of coastal ecosystems – consideration**

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of coastal and marine ecosystems by maintaining or enhancing:

- (a) any area within the intertidal or subtidal zone that contains unique, rare, distinctive or representative marine life or habitats;
- (b) areas used by marine mammals as breeding, feeding or haul out sites;
- (c) habitats in the coastal environment that are important during the vulnerable life stages of indigenous species;
- (d) habitats, corridors and routes important for preserving the range, abundance, and diversity of indigenous and migratory species;
- (e) any area that contain indigenous coastal ecosystems and habitats that are particularly vulnerable to modification – such as, estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, dunelands, rocky reef systems and salt marshes; and
- (f) the integrity, functioning and resilience of physical and ecological processes.

#### **Explanation**

This policy describes *habitats* and types of areas that are typically sensitive and vulnerable to development pressures. Because some of these areas and habitats straddle the land and water interface, they will need to be controlled through both regional and district plans. Plans will need to control activities that affect these habitats, species and areas.

The integrity, functioning and resilience of habitats and processes in the *coastal environment* includes having particular regard to activities that affect the dynamic processes and features arising from the natural movement of sediment, water and air, the natural movement of biota, the composition of the natural substrate, and the natural biodiversity, productivity and biotic patterns.

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objective 7  
Method 4  
Also consider policies 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 47, 48, 49, 52, 54, 55 & 56

## Policy 38: Identifying the landward extent of the coastal environment – consideration

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objectives 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7  
Method 4  
Also consider policies 48, 49, 50, 51 & 53

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district plan, particular regard shall be given to whether the proposal is within 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

Policies 3, 4, 35, 36 and 37 contain reference to land in the coastal environment. Policy 5 and 38 provide direction about how to identify the spatial extent of the *coastal environment*, for application of these policies.

Policy 38 identifies those natural and physical resources which, because of their form, function or value, give particular parts of the Wellington region a coastal character.

Policy 38 shall cease to have effect when policy 5 is given effect through a district plan.

## Policy 39: Recognising the benefits from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure – consideration

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste  
Objectives 9 & 10  
Method 4  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 & 60

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of energy generated from renewable energy resources and/or regionally significant infrastructure; and
- (b) protecting regionally significant infrastructure from incompatible subdivision, use and development occurring under, over, or adjacent to the infrastructure; and
- (c) the need for renewable electricity generation facilities to locate where the renewable energy resources exist; and
- (d) significant wind and marine renewable energy resources within the region.

### Explanation

The benefits of energy generated from renewable energy resources include:

- Security of and the diversification of our energy sources
- Reducing our dependency on imported energy resources – such as oil, natural gas and coal
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Contribution to the national renewable energy target

The benefits are not only generated by large scale renewable energy projects but also smaller scale, distributed generation projects.

The benefits of regionally significant infrastructure include:

- People and goods can efficiently and safely move around the region, and to and from
- Public health and safety is maintained through the provision of essential services – such as potable water and the collection and transfer of sewage or stormwater
- People have access to energy to meet their needs
- People have access to telecommunication services

Energy generation from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure (as defined in Appendix 3) can provide benefits both within and outside the region.

Renewable energy generation and *regionally significant infrastructure* can also have adverse effects on the surrounding environment and community. These competing considerations need to be weighed on a case by case basis to determine what is appropriate in the circumstances.

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.

Potential significant sites for development of Wellington region's marine and wind resources have been identified in reports '*Marine Energy – Development of Marine Energy in New Zealand with particular reference to the Greater Wellington Region Case Study by Power Projects Ltd, June 2008*' and '*Wind Energy – Estimation of Wind Speed in the Greater Wellington Region, NIWA, January 2008*'.

Policy 39(a) shall cease to have effect once policy 9 is given effect in a relevant district or regional plan.

Policy 39(b) shall cease to have effect once policy 8 is given effect in a relevant district or regional plan.

#### **Policy 40: Maintaining and enhancing aquatic ecosystem health in water bodies – consideration**

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a regional or district plan, particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) requiring that water quality, flows and water levels and aquatic habitats of surface water bodies are managed for the purpose of safeguarding aquatic ecosystem health;
- (b) requiring, as a minimum, water quality in the coastal marine area to be managed for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing aquatic ecosystem health; and
- (c) managing water bodies and the water quality of coastal water for other purposes identified in regional plans.

#### **Explanation**

Clause (a) identifies *ecosystem* health as a water management purpose for surface *water bodies* and clause (b) identifies water quality in the *coastal marine area* is to be managed for the purpose of aquatic *ecosystem* health. Other water management purposes for *water bodies* and *coastal waters* in clause (c) are to be established in *regional plans* as required by policies 5 and 12.

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objective 6

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 12  
Methods 4, 35 & 36  
Also consider policies 35, 37, 39, 41, 42, 43, 47, 48, 49, 54, 55 & 56

Application for a resource consent refers to all types of resource consent. Policy 40 shall cease to be considered for resource consents processed by the Wellington Regional Council once policy 5 and 12 are given effect to in a regional plan. Policy 40 shall continue to be considered by city and district councils when processing resource consents, notices of requirement and making changes, variations or reviews of district plans.

District and city councils could implement this policy by requiring setback distances between buildings and rivers, wetlands and the coastal marine area to protect riparian areas, limiting the amount of impervious surfaces allowed in new developments in some catchments, requiring rooftop rainwater collection for gardens, requiring roadside swales, filter strips and 'rain gardens' for stormwater runoff instead of kerb and channelling, encouraging advanced community sewerage schemes rather than septic tanks in areas where groundwater is vulnerable, and encouraging the treatment of stormwater at source in car parks and industrial yards.

### Policy 41: Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation disturbance – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a regional or district plan, particular regard shall be given to controlling earthworks and vegetation disturbance to minimise:

- (a) erosion; and
- (b) silt and sediment runoff into water, or onto or into land that may enter water, so that healthy aquatic ecosystems are sustained.

#### 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. Large scale earthworks and vegetation disturbance on erosion prone land in rural areas and many small scale earthworks in urban areas – such as driveways and retaining walls – can cumulatively contribute large amounts of silt and *sediment* to *stormwater* and *water bodies*. This policy is intended to minimise erosion and silt and sedimentation effects associated with these activities.

Minimisation requires effects to be reduced to the extent reasonably achievable whilst recognising that erosion, siltation and sedimentation effects can not always be completely avoided.

This policy provides for consideration of earthworks and vegetation disturbance to minimise erosion and *sediment* runoff prior to plan controls being adopted by regional and district plans in accordance with policy 15. This policy shall cease to have effect once method 31 is implemented and policy 15 is given effect to in *regional* and *district plans*.

Policies 15 and 41 are to ensure that Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils integrate the control earthworks and vegetation disturbance in their regional and district plans. Method 31 is for Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils to develop a protocol for earthworks and erosion from vegetation disturbance. The protocol will assist with implementation of policies 15 and 41.

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

Vegetation disturbance includes harvesting plantation forestry.

Table 2: Coastal environment Objective 6  
Table 4: Fresh water Objective 12  
Table 11: Soils and minerals Objectives 29  
Methods 4, 31 & 36  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, 56 & 60

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objective 6  
Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 12  
Methods 4 & 35  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 47, 48, 49, 52, 54, 55 & 56

## Policy 42: Minimising contamination in stormwater from development – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district plan, the adverse effects of stormwater run-off from subdivision and development shall be reduced by having particular regard to:

- (a) limiting the area of new impervious surfaces in the stormwater catchment;
- (b) using water permeable surfaces to reduce the volume of stormwater leaving a site;
- (c) restricting zinc or copper roofing materials, or requiring their effects to be mitigated;
- (d) collecting water from roofs for domestic or garden use while protecting public health;
- (e) using soakpits for the disposal of stormwater;
- (f) using roadside swales, filter strips and rain gardens;
- (g) using constructed wetland treatment areas;
- (h) using in situ treatment devices;
- (i) using stormwater attenuation techniques that reduce the velocity and quantity of stormwater discharges; and
- (j) using educational signs, as conditions on resource consents, that promote the values of water bodies and methods to protect them from the effects of stormwater discharges.

### Explanation

The *stormwater* design and treatment approaches set out in this policy are to reduce adverse effects of subdivision and development on the quantity and quality of stormwater. Clauses in the policy are aimed at achieving hydraulic neutrality and aquatic *ecosystem* health when land is developed. It is important to take an integrated approach to management of the adverse effects of stormwater discharges, particularly on *low energy aquatic receiving environments* – such as Wellington Harbour, Porirua Harbour, inlets, estuaries, lakes, lowland streams and wetlands.

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 13  
Methods 4 & 29  
Appendix 1  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 47, 48, 49, 52, 54 & 56

## Policy 43: Protecting aquatic ecological function of water bodies – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) maintaining or enhancing the functioning of ecosystems in the water body;
- (b) maintaining or enhancing the ecological functions of riparian margins;
- (c) minimising the effect of the proposal on groundwater recharge areas that are connected to surface water bodies;
- (d) maintaining or enhancing the amenity and recreational values of rivers and lakes, including those with significant values listed in Table 15 of Appendix 1;
- (e) protecting the significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values of rivers and lakes, including those listed in Table 16 of Appendix 1;
- (f) maintaining natural flow regimes required to support aquatic ecosystem health;
- (g) maintaining fish passage;
- (h) protecting and reinstating riparian habitat, in particular riparian habitat that is important for fish spawning;
- (i) discouraging stock access to rivers, lakes and wetlands; and
- (j) discouraging the removal or destruction of indigenous wetland plants in wetlands.

## Explanation

This policy identifies key elements of *habitat* diversity that are essential for healthy aquatic *ecosystems* to survive and be self-sustaining.

When areas of habitat in one part of a *river* or *lake* are degraded or destroyed by people's activities, critical parts of the ecosystem may be permanently affected, with consequential effects elsewhere in the ecosystem. Specific policies and regional rules can set out where it is important to retain habitat for ecological function. Remedying and mitigating of effects can include offsetting, where appropriate.

Application for a resource consent refers to all types of resource consent. Policy 43 shall cease to be considered for resource consents processed by the Wellington Regional Council once policies 18 and 19 are given effect to in a regional plan. Policy 43 shall continue to be considered by city and district councils when processing resource consents, notices of requirement and making changes, variations or reviewing district plans.

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

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 given in Appendix 1.

## Policy 44: Managing water takes to ensure efficient use – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent to take water, particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) whether the applicant has demonstrated that the volume of water sought is reasonable and justifiable for the intended use, including consideration of soil and crop type when water is taken for irrigation purposes;
- (b) requiring the consent holder to measure and report the actual amount of water taken; and
- (c) requiring the consent holder to adopt water conservation and demand management measures and demonstrate how water will be used efficiently.

## Explanation

Efficient water use relies on people taking only the amount of water that is needed and having systems in place to avoid waste. The amount of water taken should be measured and reported on to allow assessment as to whether allocation limits and permissible low flows have been set at appropriate levels.

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 14  
Method 4  
Also consider policies  
39, 40, 43, 45, 48, 49  
& 59

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 14  
Methods 4 & 36  
Also consider policies  
39, 40, 43, 44, 48, 49,  
54 & 60

## Policy 45: Using water efficiently – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, or a change, variation or review of a district plan, particular regard shall be given to requiring water collection, water demand management options, and water reuse and/or water recycling measures, so that water is used efficiently.

### Explanation

Objective 12 intends to safeguard the values of water, while Objective 14 seeks that water is used efficiently and is not wasted. These objectives are promoted via policies 20 and 44, about efficient use and water harvesting, and managing the adverse effects of subdivision and land use on stormwater. Policy 45 is another part of this inter-related suite of policies to promote the efficient use of water.

Supplying water to new subdivisions and developments increases the amount of water taken from water bodies. Rainwater collection from roofs, water recycling and greywater reuse can reduce this demand, especially in water short areas or in times of water shortage.

Roof water and recycled water can be a threat to public health but is appropriate for garden irrigation, and can be used for toilet flushing in some circumstances.

Table 5: Historic  
heritage  
Objective 15  
Method 4  
Also consider policies  
35, 36, 39, 47, 48, 49,  
50, 53 & 54

## Policy 46: Managing effects on historic heritage values – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, a determination shall be made as to whether an activity may affect a place, site or area with historic heritage value, and in determining whether an activity is inappropriate particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) the degree to which historic heritage values will be lost, damaged or destroyed;
- (b) the irreversibility of adverse effects on heritage values;
- (c) the opportunities to remedy or mitigate any previous damage to heritage values;
- (d) the degree to which previous changes that have heritage value in their own right are respected and retained;
- (e) the probability of damage to immediate or adjacent heritage values;
- (f) the magnitude or scale of any effect on heritage values;
- (g) the degree to which unique or special materials and/or craftsmanship are retained;
- (h) whether the activity will lead to cumulative adverse effects on historic heritage; and
- (i) whether the relationships between distinct elements of an historic place, site or area will be maintained.

### Explanation

Policy 46 provides an interim assessment framework prior to the identification of places, areas and sites with significant *historic heritage* value in accordance with policy 21, and the adoption of plan provisions for protection of these sites and management of effects on unidentified sites in accordance with policy 22.

In determining whether an activity may affect places, sites and areas with historic heritage value the criteria in policy 21 should be used.

This policy shall cease to have effect once policies 21 and 22 are in place in the relevant district or regional plans.

## Policy 47: Managing effects on indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – consideration

Table 6a: Indigenous ecosystems  
Objective 16  
Method 4  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 39, 43, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54 & 61

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, a determination shall be made as to whether an activity may affect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and in determining whether the proposed activity is inappropriate particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) maintaining connections within, or corridors between, habitats of indigenous flora and fauna, and/or enhancing the connectivity between fragmented indigenous habitats;
- (b) providing adequate buffering around areas of significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats from other land uses;
- (c) managing wetlands for the purpose of aquatic ecosystem health;
- (d) avoiding the cumulative adverse effects of the incremental loss of indigenous ecosystems and habitats;
- (e) providing seasonal or core habitat for indigenous species;
- (f) protecting the life supporting capacity of indigenous ecosystems and habitats;
- (g) remedying or mitigating adverse effects on the indigenous biodiversity values where avoiding adverse effects is not practicably achievable; and
- (h) the need for a precautionary approach when assessing the potential for adverse effects on indigenous ecosystems and habitats.

### Explanation

Policy 47 provides an interim assessment framework for councils, resource consent applicants and other interested parties, prior to the identification of *ecosystems* and *habitats* with significant *indigenous biodiversity* values in accordance with policy 23, and the adoption of plan provisions for protection in accordance with policy 24. Remedying and mitigating effects can include offsetting, where appropriate.

In determining whether an activity may affect significant indigenous biodiversity values, the criteria in policy 23 should be used.

This policy shall cease to have effect once policies 23 and 24 are in place in an operative district or regional plan.

## Policy 48: Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi – consideration

Table 10: Resource management with tangata whenua  
Objective 24  
Methods 4 & 19  
Consider alongside policies 1 to 60

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi; and
- (b) Waitangi Tribunal reports and settlement decisions relating to the Wellington region.

### Explanation

The Treaty of Waitangi (the Treaty) is a founding document of New Zealand. It encompasses guiding principles for the engagement of *iwi* with *local authorities* in relation to resource management. *Tangata whenua* of the region maintain the primacy of the Māori version of the Treaty, in accordance with the international rule of *contra preferendum*.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> *Contra preferendum* requires that any international treaty that has two interpretations should be recognised in the language of the indigenous people (Charter of Understanding between Te Tangata Whenua o Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui and Wellington Regional Council, (July 2000).

The Treaty principles are derived from the Treaty as a whole, its underlying meaning, intention and spirit. There is no definitive list of Treaty principles. Accordingly, the principles have evolved through statements of the Court of Appeal, Waitangi Tribunal and Government. Many of the principles are directly relevant to resource management matters, as they have arisen out of claims before the Waitangi Tribunal concerning land, water and other natural resources.

A systematic approach to taking the principles of the Treaty into account involves applying agreed meaning. Greater Wellington and the region's *iwi* authorities have jointly signed a charter of understanding which contains principles to assist in promoting dialogue and engagement between *iwi* and local authorities. The principles are:

- *“The Crown’s right to govern and make laws (kāwanatanga). In signing the Treaty of Waitangi, it is recognised that iwi ceded their right to govern to the Crown, in exchange for the Crown recognising and guaranteeing the exercise of rangatiratanga (self-determination) by iwi and hapū over their resources. In exchange for ceding sovereignty, Māori are accorded the protection of the Crown. The powers and functions of local authorities are expressions of kāwanatanga. This principle requires local authorities and iwi to recognise respective rights.*
- *Māori to retain rangatiratanga, which refers to the chieftainship and authority over lands, taonga and other valued resources. This includes the ability to manage resources according to Māori cultural preferences (kaitiakitanga). Taonga includes such intangible assets as the Māori language and the mauri of natural resources.<sup>9</sup> Government has recognised the right for iwi to organise and to control resources they own. Application of this principle requires those exercising kāwanatanga (governance) to recognise the exercise of rangatiratanga (self-determination) and kaitiakitanga (guardianship) by iwi.*
- *Partnership, including a duty for partners to act reasonably and in good faith. This principle may be expressed through shared decision-making.*
- *Active protection of Māori in the use of their lands, waters and other resources. This principle requires that the duty of protection of Māori interests in resource management is not simply a passive one, but active to the fullest extent practicable.*
- *A duty to consult with Māori, including early consultation. While not all matters may in practice require consultation, environmental matters and control of resources as they affect Māori access to mahinga kai require consultation with the iwi or hapū concerned. Local authorities should have regard to the different levels of iwi, hapū, whānau and marae decision-making structures when undertaking consultation. For example, site specific issues may require consultation with hapū, whānau or marae.*
- *Mutual benefit, that is, iwi and local authorities are able to gain from the relationship and enjoy benefits. Sometimes this is expressed as the need for compromise by parties, and the balancing of competing interests.*
- *The right of development. Iwi are not just bound by the methods and technologies available at the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, but have the right to use new methods and technologies.”*

Waitangi Tribunal reports relating to the region and settlement decisions should be referred to for guidance on resource management issues of significance to *iwi*. These reports often describe the value and history of a site or place which can further inform assessments of effects and resource management decision making.

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<sup>9</sup> See Report of the Waitangi Tribunal on the Motunui-Waitara Claim (Wai 6), March 1983, section 10; Report of the Waitangi Tribunal on the Kaituna River Claim (Wai 4), November 1984, sections 4 and 5; and Report of the Waitangi Tribunal on the Manukau Claim (Wai 8), July 1985, section 8.

## Policy 49: Recognising and providing for matters of significance to tangata whenua – consideration

When preparing a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, the following matters shall be recognised and provided for:

- (a) the exercise of kaitiakitanga;
- (b) mauri, particularly in relation to fresh and coastal waters;
- (c) mahinga kai and areas of natural resources used for customary purposes; and
- (d) places, sites and areas with significant spiritual or cultural historic heritage value to tangata whenua.

### Explanation

This policy recognises the importance of the listed matters of significance to tangata whenua. Accordingly, the policy requires that as part of a plan change, variation or review, local authorities must recognise and provide for these matters. In practice, this means that local authorities' first priority should be on avoiding adverse effects on the listed matter, while recognising that this does not necessarily preclude regional and district plans from allowing these effects to occur in appropriate cases.

There are several ways of gathering information on matters of significance to the region's *tangata whenua*, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Referring to the relevant iwi authorities and/or iwi management plan(s)
- Requesting a cultural assessment<sup>10</sup>
- Seeking technical assistance
- Working with iwi authorities, hapū, whānau or tangata whenua associated with specific marae to identify potential effects on cultural values and *kaitiakitanga*

Kaitiakitanga refers to the expression of Māori authority, mana ethics and guardianship and may be exercised in respect of a particular locality, place or resource. Kaitiakitanga (guardianship) involves the protection of *mauri* and a duty to care for the environment so that it remains in as good as, or better, state for future generations.

Kaitiakitanga is linked inextricably to rangatiratanga (self-determination) as it may only be practised by those iwi, hapū or whānau that possess customary authority in their area. Kaitiaki (those who exercise kaitiakitanga) are knowledgeable about the local environment and resources. The ways in which iwi, hapū, or whānau define kaitiakitanga relating to ancestral land, water and other taonga, and how they wish to have their kaitiaki role recognised, is a matter for them to decide and communicate to local authorities. There are various methods of kaitiakitanga natural resources customary regulations, including rāhui, or placing a temporary restriction or ban.

Mauri is the life force that exists in all things in the natural world, including people. Mauri comprises both physical and spiritual qualities. Mauri can be harmed by insensitive resource use. For example, the health and vitality of the sea, streams and rivers and the plants and animals they support can be threatened by activities such as discharges of pollutants, stormwater, sewage and runoff of contaminants from land; excessive water use; changing the course of water bodies or diverting water between catchments or rivers. Māori consider that rivers are the life blood of the land and that the wellbeing of a river is reflected in the wellbeing of people. Similarly, the mauri of the land and air and the plants and animals they support can be harmed by practices such as clearance of vegetation, soil disturbance and disposal of wastes. The mauri of coastal waters is harmed by pollutants and sewage, and by

<sup>10</sup> A cultural assessment may include, but is not limited to, Māori history, Treaty claims and settlements, presence of significant sites, social effects and recommendations for avoiding, remedying and mitigating adverse effects

Table 10: Resource management with tangata whenua Objectives 25, 26, 27 and 28 Methods 4, 13, 38, 39 & 49 Consider alongside policies 1 to 60

insensitive use and development which diminishes the natural character, life-supporting capacity and ecosystem health of the coastal environment.

Mauri can be restored, maintained or enhanced through sensitive management which supports the restoration of the natural character of the place, and the health and vitality of the ecosystem it supports.

Mahinga kai is the customary gathering of food and natural materials and the places where those resources are gathered.<sup>11</sup> Resources used for cultural purposes include, but are not limited to, flora and fauna for rongoa Māori (medicine); flora and fauna for weaving (for example, pingao, kiekie, bird feathers); and wood, such as tōtara, for carving purposes. Access to these resources is important for continuing cultural traditions.

Threats to mahinga kai and natural resources include degradation of water quality in fresh water and marine environments through poor stormwater, sewage and run-off management; loss of water resources and associated ecosystems through water abstraction, drainage and flood management works; exclusion from access to mahinga kai through the construction of physical barriers such as roads or through changes in ownership, management and control. Major threats to natural resources used for customary purposes are similar to the threats to mahinga kai, including development, changing land use, loss of ecosystems, poor management and disposal of wastes, unsustainable resource use, and exclusion from access to sites where valued cultural resources are found.

Many places, sites and areas in the region that are associated with Māori histories, traditions and tikanga are sites of heritage value. Such sites are valued because of the historical and traditional practices and events associated with them. Places, sites and areas with Māori historic heritage value are important because of their social, cultural and spiritual significance not only to Māori, but to all people of the Wellington region. They are an integral part of the region's heritage and provide links between the past, present and future generations.

Some heritage sites are wāhi tapu, sacred places of immense importance. Places can be considered sacred because of past events or activities (such as a battle or ceremony), or where the whenua (placenta) is returned to the earth, or where a valued resource is found.

Places, sites and areas with significant spiritual or cultural historic values to tangata whenua include wāhi tapu and other sites, features of historical, spiritual or cultural significance to tangata whenua, and the cultural and spiritual values associated with them. These include, but are not limited to:

- Tauranga waka (canoe landing places)
- Mahinga mātaimai (places for gathering seafood, fishing grounds and reefs)
- Taonga raranga (plants used for weaving, such as kiekie and pingao)
- Wāhi tīpuna (ancestral sites)
- Landscape features referred to in whakataukī (proverbs and stories)
- Landscape features that define iwi boundaries, e.g. mountains, streams, rivers, estuaries
- Coastal access points
- Residential sites such as pa, marae, papākainga
- Urupā (burial sites)
- Historic battlegrounds

The identification of these heritage values rests with iwi, hapū, whānau and marae in accordance with their kaitiaki responsibilities.

<sup>11</sup> Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, Section 167.

## Policy 50: Managing effects on outstanding natural features and landscapes – consideration

Table 7: Landscape Objectives 17 & 18 Method 4  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 39, 46, 47, 48, 49, 53, 54, 55 & 56

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, a determination shall be made as to first, whether an activity may affect an outstanding natural feature and/or landscape, and second, whether or not an activity is inappropriate, having particular regard to the following:

- (a) the degree to which the natural feature or landscape values will be modified, damaged or destroyed including:
  - (i) the duration and frequency of any effect, and/or
  - (ii) the magnitude or scale of any effect;
- (b) the irreversibility of adverse effects on landscape values;
- (c) the resilience of the natural feature, place or area to change;
- (d) the opportunities to remedy or mitigate previous damage to natural feature or landscape values; and
- (e) whether the activity will lead to cumulative adverse effects on the natural feature or landscape values.

### Explanation

Policy 50 provides an interim assessment framework for councils and resource consent applicants prior to the identification of outstanding *natural features* and *landscapes*, in accordance with policy 25, and the adoption of plan provisions for protection in accordance with policy 26. This policy is to be used where an outstanding natural feature or landscape has already been identified in a district or regional plan prior to policy 25 being given effect to, or where an assessment has not yet been undertaken, but such a landscape or natural feature is present. Policy 50 shall cease to have effect once policies 25 and 26 are in place in the relevant district or regional plans.

In determining whether an activity may affect an outstanding natural feature or landscape, the factors in policy 25 should be used.

Policy 50 is not intended to prevent change, but rather to ensure that change is carefully considered and is appropriate in relation to the landscape values.

When assessing the degree to which natural feature or landscape value will be modified, damaged or destroyed and its duration and frequency this may include short-term, long-term or recurring effects. The magnitude or scale of effects may include the number of sites affected, the spatial distribution, the context and the potential of a proposed activity to change its character.

The irreversibility of adverse effects on landscape values may include loss of unique or rare features, or limited or impractical opportunity for avoidance or remediation.

The resilience of the natural feature or landscape to change may relate to the ability of the natural feature or landscape to assimilate change or its vulnerability to the effects of the proposed activity.

Cumulative adverse effects on natural feature or landscape values include the loss of multiple sites of identified landscape value, or the potential for a proposed activity to contribute to incremental change in landscape character.

Table 8a: Natural hazards  
Objectives 19 & 21  
Methods 4, 14 & 22  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 37, 39, 43, 48, 49, 52, 54, 55 & 56

## Policy 51: Minimising the risks and consequences of natural hazards – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review to a district or regional plan, the risk and consequences of natural hazards on people, communities, their property and infrastructure shall be minimised, and/or in determining whether an activity is inappropriate particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) the frequency and magnitude of the range of natural hazards that may adversely affect the proposal or development, including residual risk;
- (b) the potential for climate change and sea level rise to increase the frequency or magnitude of a hazard event;
- (c) whether the location of the development will foreseeably require hazard mitigation works in the future;
- (d) the potential for injury or loss of life, social disruption and emergency management and civil defence implications – such as access routes to and from the site;
- (e) any risks and consequences beyond the development site;
- (f) the impact of the proposed development on any natural features that act as a buffer, and where development should not interfere with their ability to reduce the risks of natural hazards;
- (g) avoiding inappropriate subdivision and development in areas at high risk from natural hazards;
- (h) the potential need for hazard adaptation and mitigation measures in moderate risk areas; and
- (i) the need to locate habitable floor areas and access routes above the 1:100 year flood level, in identified flood hazard areas.

### Explanation

Policy 51 aims to minimise the *risk and consequences of natural hazards* events through sound preparation, investigation and planning prior to development. This policy reflects a need to employ a precautionary, risk based approach, taking into consideration the likelihood of the hazard and the vulnerability of the development.

Typical *natural hazards* in the region include, but are not limited to:

- Flooding and inundation (river, stormwater, coastal)
- Earthquake (groundshaking, amplification, liquefaction, ground displacement)
- Coastal hazards (*erosion, storm surge, tsunami*)
- Mass movement (landslip, rockfall)

Other site specific hazards may become apparent during the course of an assessment for a proposal or development; however, those above are the most serious hazards to consider.

Policy 51 refers to *residual risk*, which is the risk that remains after protection works are put in place. Stopbanks, seawalls and revetments and other engineered protection works can create a sense of security and encourage further development. In turn, this increases the extent and value of assets that could be damaged if the protection works fail or an extreme event exceeds the structural design parameters.

Policy 51(g) will cease to have effect once policy 29 has been given effect to in the relevant district plan.

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 land on which it is situated. It applies to areas that face a credible probability of experiencing significant adverse impacts in a hazard event – such as such as *fault rupture zones*, beaches that experience cyclical or long term erosion, failure prone hill slopes, or areas that are subject to repeated flooding.

Policy 51(i) requires that particular regard to be given, in identified flood hazard areas, to the need to locate floor levels above the expected level of a *1 in 100 year flood* or 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP), to minimise damages. It also recognises that access routes should be located above this level, to allow evacuation or emergency services access to and from a site. The clause uses the 1% annual exceedance probability as a minimum standard, allowing for the possibility that it may need to be higher in certain areas, depending on the level of risk.

To promote more resilient communities that are better prepared for natural hazards, including climate change impacts, there is a need to support the Civil Defence Emergency Management principles of hazards and/or risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery.

Reduction is concerned with minimising the adverse impacts from natural hazards through sound planning and management. Readiness is about preparing for hazard events before they occur and involves local authorities, civil defence emergency management and the community. An important way to achieve this is through public education and by providing information and advice in order to raise awareness of natural hazard issues. Response and recovery are the important functions carried out by local authorities and civil defence emergency management during and after a civil defence emergency.

The policy recognises the need to involve the community in preparing for natural hazards. If people are prepared and able to cope, the impacts from a natural hazard event are effectively reduced.

### **Policy 52: Minimising adverse effects of hazard mitigation measures – consideration**

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, for hazard mitigation measures, particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) the need for structural protection works or hard engineering methods;
- (b) whether non-structural or soft engineering methods are a more appropriate option;
- (c) avoiding structural protection works or hard engineering methods unless it is necessary to protect existing development or property from unacceptable risk and the works form part of a long-term hazard management strategy that represents the best practicable option for the future;
- (d) the cumulative effects of isolated structural protection works; and
- (e) residual risk remaining after mitigation works are in place,

so that they reduce and do not increase the risks of natural hazards.

Table 8a: Natural hazards  
Objectives 20 & 21  
Methods 4, 14 & 23  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 37, 39, 43, 48, 49, 51, 54, 55 & 56

## Explanation

Objective 19 seeks to reduce the *risks* and *consequences* from *natural hazards*, while Objective 20 aims to ensure activities, including hazard mitigation measures, do not increase the risk and consequences from natural hazards. Policy 52 promotes these objectives.

Having established there is a need for protection works, non-structural and *soft engineering* methods should be the first option for hazard mitigation. *Soft engineering* methods may include, for example; hazard avoidance or controlled activity zones; setback or buffer distances; managed retreat or land retirement; a 'do nothing' policy; restoration projects for wetlands, dunes or hillslopes prone to flooding, slipping or erosion.

Activities such as river bed gravel extraction which may assist in the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards are also a consideration under this policy.

Structural measures or *hard engineering* methods can have significant environmental effects and should be considered as the least desirable option for *natural hazard* control. Where there is an unacceptable risk to development or property, there may be a place for structural measures or hard engineering methods, if they are part of a long-term hazard management strategy that includes other measures. Policy 51 will need to be considered alongside policy 52(c) when deciding whether a development faces an unacceptable risk or not.

The risk that remains after protection works are put in place is known as the residual risk. Stopbanks, seawalls, and revetments and other engineered protection works can create a sense of security and encourage further development. In turn, this increases the extent and value of assets that could be damaged if the protection works fail or an extreme event exceeds the structural design parameters.

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objective 8

Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 8  
Methods 4 & 51  
Appendix 1  
Also consider policies  
35, 36, 39, 43, 46, 47,  
48, 49, 50 & 51

## Policy 53: Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers – consideration

When considering an application for a subdivision consent, or a coastal or land use consent on public land, or a change, variation or review of a district plan to address subdivision or rezoning, particular regard shall be given to enhancing public access to, and along:

- (a) areas of the coastal marine area, and lakes and rivers with:
  - (i) places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values identified in accordance with policy 21;
  - (ii) areas of indigenous ecosystems and habitats, and areas with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in accordance with policy 23;
  - (iii) outstanding natural features and landscapes identified in accordance with policy 25;
  - (iv) special amenity landscapes identified in accordance with policy 27;
  - (v) places, sites and areas with high natural character identified in accordance with policy 36; and
  - (vi) the rivers and lakes identified in Table 15 of Appendix 1;
- (b) Wellington Harbour and Porirua (Onepoto Arm and Pauatahanui Inlet) Harbour;

Except where there is a need to protect:

- (c) sensitive indigenous habitats of species;
- (d) the health or safety of people;
- (e) sensitive cultural and historic heritage values; and/or
- (f) the integrity and security of regionally significant infrastructure.

## Explanation

Providing public access to and along *rivers, lakes* and the *coastal marine area* is most desirable where that access can contribute to people's enjoyment of these resources and the values associated with them. The values listed in policy 53 contribute to people's recreational enjoyment and appreciation of the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes.

Policy 53 recognises that district and city councils have a key role to play as they are responsible for requiring the creation of *esplanade reserves* and strips in any proposed coastal development or development, alongside lakes and rivers, when considering resource consents for the purposes set out in section 229 of the Resource Management Act.

Enhancing public access may include taking esplanade reserves or strips.

Policy 53 does not limit other efforts to enhance access, or the range of values to which access could be enhanced. Policy 52 outlines the need to consider access to areas of significance required to be identified in accordance with this Regional Policy Statement.

Policy 53 outlines that when implementing the policy, there may be circumstances where public access to the *coastal marine area*, lakes and rivers is not desirable – such as to provide security for *regionally significant infrastructure* or to prevent harm to the public. It is recognised that public access to private land that does not contain an *esplanade strip* or *reserve* is at the discretion and with the permission of the landowner.

## Policy 54: Achieving the region's urban design principles – consideration

When considering an application for a notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, for development, particular regard shall be given to achieving the region's urban design principles in Appendix 2.

### Explanation

The region's urban design principles are based on the seven design qualities described in the *New Zealand Urban Design Protocol*. The region's urban design principles seek to ensure developments, including *infrastructure*, consider the following design elements:

- Context
- Character
- Choice
- Connections
- Creativity
- Custodianship
- Collaboration

## Policy 55: Maintaining a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, or a change, variation or review of a district plan for urban development beyond the region's urban areas (as at March 2009), particular regard shall be given to whether:

- (a) the proposed development is the most appropriate option to achieve Objective 22; and
- (b) the proposed development is consistent with the Council's growth and/or development framework or strategy that describes where and how future urban development should occur in that district; and/or
- (c) a structure plan has been prepared.

Table 9: Regional form, design and function  
Objective 22  
Method 4  
Appendix 2  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 & 60

Table 9: Regional form, design and function  
Objective 22  
Methods 4 & 18  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59 & 60

## Explanation

*Urban development* beyond the region's urban areas has the potential to reinforce or undermine a compact and well designed regional form.

The region's urban areas (as at March 2009) include urban, residential, suburban, town centre, commercial, community, business and industrial zones identified in the Wellington city, Porirua city, Lower Hutt city, Upper Hutt city, Kāpiti coast and Wairarapa combined district plans.

Urban development is subdivision, use and development that is characterised by its planned reliance on reticulated services (such as water supply and drainage) by its generation of traffic, and would include activities (such as manufacturing), which are usually provided for in urban areas. It also typically has lot sizes of less than 3000 square metres.

Examples of growth and/or development frameworks or strategies in the region are:

- The Upper Hutt City Council Urban Growth Strategy
- Wellington City Northern Growth Management Framework
- Porirua City Development Framework
- Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures Development Management Strategy and local outcome statements contained in the Kapiti Coast Long Term Council Community Plan

Policies 54 and 56 also need to be considered in conjunction with policy 55. In addition, there are also a range of 'related policies' in the Regional Policy Statement that set out matters to be considered in order to manage effects on natural and physical resources.

Structure planning integrates land use with infrastructure – such as transport networks, community services and the physical resources. Structure planning should also deliver high quality urban design.

The content and detail of structure plans will vary depending on the scale of development. Notwithstanding this, structure plans, as a minimum, should address:

- Provision of an appropriate mix of land uses and land use densities
- How environmental constraints (for example, areas at high risk from *natural hazards*) and areas of value (for example, *indigenous ecosystems, rivers, streams and ephemeral streams, wetlands, areas or places with historic heritage, outstanding landscapes, or special amenity landscapes*) are to be managed
- Integration with existing and proposed infrastructure services, such as, connections to existing and proposed transportation systems and provision of public and active transport linkages by undertaking an integrated transport assessment
- The integration of the development with adjoining land use activities including measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate *reverse sensitivity* effects
- Integration of social infrastructure and essential social services as necessary
- Development staging or sequencing
- How the region's urban design principles<sup>12</sup> will be implemented

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<sup>12</sup> As described in Appendix 2

## Policy 56: Managing development in rural areas – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent or a change, variation or review of a district plan, in rural areas (as at March 2009), particular regard shall be given to whether:

- (a) the proposal will result in a loss of productive capability of the rural area, including cumulative impacts that would reduce the potential for food and other primary production and reverse sensitivity issues for existing production activities, including extraction and distribution of aggregate minerals;
- (b) the proposal will reduce aesthetic and open space values in rural areas between and around settlements;
- (c) the proposal's location, design or density will minimise demand for non-renewable energy resources; and
- (d) the proposal is consistent with the relevant city or district council growth and/or development framework or strategy that addresses future rural development; or
- (e) in the absence of such a framework or strategy, the proposal will increase pressure for public services and infrastructure beyond existing infrastructure capacity.

### Explanation

Policy 56 addresses development in the region's *rural areas*. This policy relates to urban development and rural residential development.

Rural areas (as at March 2009) include all areas not defined as the region's urban areas (as at March 2009).

The region's urban areas (as at March 2009) include urban, residential, suburban, town centre, commercial, community, business and industrial zones identified in the Wellington city, Porirua city, Lower Hutt city, Upper Hutt city, Kāpiti coast and Wairarapa combined district plans.

Settlements are clusters of residential lots.

Demand for non-renewable energy resources can be minimised by locating residential developments close to public transport services, through energy efficient design and on-site use of renewable energy resources.

## Policy 57: Integrating land use and transportation – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district plan, for subdivision, use or development, particular regard shall be given to the following matters, in making progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy:

- (a) whether traffic generated by the proposed development can be accommodated within the existing transport network and the impacts on the efficiency, reliability or safety of the network;
- (b) connectivity with, or provision of access to, public services or activities, key centres of employment activity or retail activity, open spaces or recreational areas;
- (c) whether there is good access to the strategic public transport network;
- (d) provision of safe and attractive environments for walking and cycling; and
- (e) whether new, or upgrades to existing, transport network infrastructure have been appropriately recognised and provided for.

Table 9: Regional form, design and function Objective 22 Method 4  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59 & 60

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste Objective 9  
Table 9: Regional form, design and function Objective 22 Methods 4 & 25  
Also consider policies 39, 48, 49, 54, 55, 56, 58 & 60

### Explanation

Progress towards the *Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy* key outcomes cannot be achieved by that Strategy alone. Subdivision, use and development decisions also need to consider impacts on the Strategy's outcomes.

Policy 57 lists matters that need to be given particular regard when considering all proposals in terms of their effect on land transport outcomes.

The Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy key outcomes are:

- Increased peak period passenger transport mode share
- Increased mode share for pedestrians and cyclists
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduced severe road congestion
- Improved regional road safety
- Improved land use and transport integration
- Improved regional freight efficiency

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.

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
- 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 22  
Method 4  
Also consider policies 39, 48, 49, 54, 55, 56, 57 & 60

### **Policy 58: Co-ordinating land use with development and operation of infrastructure – consideration**

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a plan change, variation or review of a district plan for subdivision, use or development, particular regard shall be given to whether the proposed subdivision, use or development is located and sequenced to:

- (a) make efficient and safe use of existing infrastructure capacity; and/or
- (b) coordinate with the development and operation of new infrastructure.

### Explanation

Subdivision, use and development, (including infrastructure) decisions have a direct bearing upon or relationship to the sequencing and development of new infrastructure, including new infrastructure for the electricity transmission network and the region's strategic transport network. The region's strategic transport network is described in the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy 2007-2016.

## Policy 59: Retaining highly productive agricultural land (Class I and II land) – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district plan, particular regard shall be given to safeguarding productive capability on Class I and II land.

### Explanation

This policy recognises the social, economic and environmental benefits from making use of highly productive agricultural land for its productive capabilities.

*Class I* land is the most versatile multiple-use land with virtually no limitations to arable use; it is deep, well drained, fine textured, naturally fertile and flood free.

*Class II* land is very good land with slight limitations to arable use. Slight limitations include texture, structure, potential erosion and potential flooding.

The New Zealand Land Resource Inventory (NZLRI), (Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd, 1975, electronic database), is the reference used to identify the locations of Class I and II land around New Zealand, including within the Wellington region.

According to that classification, Class I and II land is located in Kāpiti Coast, Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa districts, within the Wellington region.

Resource management decision-making needs to consider the irreversible effects of losing Class I and II land, which is *highly productive* agricultural land, suitable for multiple uses such as for growing a wide range of crops, pasture and forest, and for supporting grazing animals. It is important to retain the productive capability of this land for future generations. The use of high quality soils for some activities – such as residential development and roading projects – will result in what is effectively permanent loss of these soils from productive use.

## Policy 60: Utilising the region’s mineral resources – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) the social, economic, and environmental benefits from utilising mineral resources within the region; and
- (b) protecting significant mineral resources from incompatible or inappropriate land uses alongside.

### Explanation

Policy 60 directs that particular regard be given to the social, economic, and environmental benefits of utilising *mineral resources* within the region. It also requires that particular regard be given to protecting *significant mineral resources* from incompatible and inappropriate land use alongside. This protection extends to both the land required for the working site and associated access routes. Examples of methods to protect *significant mineral resources* include the use of buffer areas in which *sensitive activities* may be restricted, and the use of noise reduction measures and visual screening.

Method 52, when implemented, will identify the locations of *significant mineral resources* within the region.

Table 11: Soils and minerals  
Objective 30  
Method 4  
Also consider policies 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 48, 49, 55 & 56

Table 9: Regional form, design and function  
Objective 22  
Table 11: Soils and minerals  
Objective 31  
Methods 4 & 52  
Also consider policies 35, 36, 37, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 & 56



### 4.3 Allocation of responsibilities

This section contains the policies that allocate the responsibilities for indigenous biodiversity, natural hazards and hazardous substances between Wellington Regional Council and the region’s district and city councils. Within this section policies are presented in numeric order, although in the summary table, policy titles are listed under key topics.

Topic	Policy title	Page
<b>Indigenous ecosystems</b>	Policy 61: Allocation of responsibilities for land use controls for indigenous biodiversity	139
<b>Natural hazards</b>	Policy 62: Allocation of responsibilities for land use controls for natural hazards	140
<b>Hazardous substances</b>	Policy 63: Allocation of responsibilities for land use controls for hazardous substances	141

#### Policy 61: Allocation of responsibilities for land use controls for indigenous biodiversity

Table 6b: Indigenous ecosystems Method 5 See policies 5, 12, 18, 19, 23, 24, 47 & 48

Regional and district plans shall recognise and provide for the responsibilities below, when developing objectives, policies and methods, including rules, to maintain indigenous biodiversity:

- (a) Wellington Regional Council shall be responsible for developing objectives, policies, and methods in the regional policy statement for the control of the use of land to maintain indigenous biological diversity;
- (b) Wellington Regional Council shall be responsible for developing objectives, policies, rules and/or methods in regional plans for the control of the use of land to maintain and enhance ecosystems in water bodies and coastal water. This includes land within the coastal marine area, wetlands and the beds of lakes and rivers; and
- (c) city and district councils shall be responsible for developing objectives, policies, rules and/or methods in district plans for the control of the use of land for the maintenance of indigenous biological diversity. This excludes land within the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers.

#### Explanation

In accordance with section 62 of the Resource Management Act, policy 61 sets out the local authorities in the Wellington region responsible for specifying the objectives, policies and methods for the control of the use of land to maintain *indigenous biological diversity*.

District and city councils in the Wellington region have primary responsibility for controlling the use of land to maintain indigenous biological diversity (other than in the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers) through the creation of objectives, policies and rules in their district plans.

Wellington Regional Council has the primary responsibility for the control of the use of land to maintain and enhance indigenous ecosystems in water bodies (including wetlands) and coastal water.

## Policy 62: Allocation of responsibilities for land use controls for natural hazards

Regional and district plans shall recognise and provide for the responsibilities listed in Table 12 when developing objectives, policies and methods, including rules, for the control of land use for the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards.

Table 12: Allocation of responsibilities for land use controls for natural hazards

	Responsibilities for developing objectives	Responsibilities for developing policies	Responsibilities for developing rules	Responsibilities for developing other methods
Land in the coastal marine area and beds of lakes and rivers	Wellington Regional Council	Wellington Regional Council	Wellington Regional Council	Wellington Regional Council
Other land	District and city councils and Wellington Regional Council	District and city councils and Wellington Regional Council	District and city councils	District and city councils and Wellington Regional Council

### Explanation

In accordance with section 62 of the Resource Management Act, policy 62 sets out the local authorities in the Wellington region responsible for specifying the objectives policies, and methods, including rules for the control of the use of land to avoid or mitigate *natural hazards* or any group of hazards.

Table 12 shows that Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils share responsibility for writing objectives, policies and other methods for the control of the use of land (other than in the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers) for the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards.

District and city councils have primary responsibility for writing land use rules (other than in the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers).

The Wellington Regional Council has primary responsibility for the control of the use of land for the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards in the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers.

## Policy 63: Allocation of responsibilities for land use controls for hazardous substances

Method 5

Regional and district plans shall recognise and provide for the responsibilities listed in Table 13 when developing objectives, policies and methods, including rules, for the control of the use of land for the prevention or mitigation of any adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal or transportation of hazardous substances.

Table 13: Allocation of responsibilities for land use controls for hazardous substances

	Responsibilities for developing objectives	Responsibilities for developing policies	Responsibilities for developing rules	Responsibilities for developing other methods
Land in the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers	Wellington Regional Council	Wellington Regional Council	Wellington Regional Council	Wellington Regional Council
Other land	District and city councils	District and city councils	District and city councils	District and city councils

### Explanation

In accordance with section 62 of the Resource Management Act, policy 63 sets out the local authorities in the Wellington region responsible for specifying the objectives, policies and methods, including rules, for the control of the use of land for the prevention or mitigation of any adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal or transportation of *hazardous substances*.

Under this allocation of responsibilities, rules to restrict the use of land for petrol stations in residential areas, or the transportation of hazardous substances through tunnels could only be adopted in district plans, while a rule to restrict the installation of a gas pipe over a river could only be adopted in a regional plan.

This policy applies only to land use controls. Controls on the actual storage and use of hazardous substances are imposed by the Environmental Risk Management Agency. Controls on discharges of hazardous substances to the environment – as with controls on discharges of any contaminant to the environment – are imposed in regional plans.



## 4.4 Non-regulatory policies

This section contains policies that outline non-regulatory actions required to help achieve the objectives of this Regional Policy Statement. Within this section the policies are presented in numeric order, although in the summary table, below, the policy titles are listed under topic headings.

Topic	Policy title	Page
<b>Coastal environment</b>	Policy 64: Supporting a whole of catchment approach – non regulatory	143
<b>Energy, infrastructure and waste</b>	Policy 65: Promoting efficient use and conservation of resources – non regulatory	144
<b>Fresh water</b>	Policy 64: Supporting a whole of catchment approach – non regulatory	143
	Policy 65: Promoting efficient use and conservation of resources – non regulatory	144
<b>Indigenous ecosystems</b>	Policy 64: Supporting a whole of catchment approach – non regulatory	143
<b>Resource management with tangata whenua</b>	Policy 66: Enhancing involvement of tangata whenua in resource management decision-making – non-regulatory	145
<b>Regional form, design and function</b>	Policy 67: Maintaining and enhancing a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form – non-regulatory	145
<b>Soils and minerals</b>	Policy 68: Minimising soil erosion – non-regulatory	147
	Policy 69: Preventing long-term soil deterioration – non-regulatory	147

### Policy 64: Supporting a whole of catchment approach – non-regulatory

Take a whole of catchment approach that recognises the inter-relationship between land and water, and support environmental enhancement initiatives to restore and enhance:

- (a) coastal features, ecosystems and habitats;
- (b) aquatic ecosystems and habitats; and
- (c) indigenous ecosystems and habitats.

#### Explanation

Taking a whole of catchment approach is promoted within this Regional Policy Statement. It means considering the full mix of purposes, uses or activities within a catchment, in terms of how these interact and contribute to outcomes within the catchment and for receiving environments beyond – such as in relation to *indigenous ecosystems*, soil productivity, water quality, erosion and stormwater control, or *natural hazards*. This approach suggests a need to work with multiple parties to establish shared objectives for a catchment and to ensure uses and activities are working towards the same goals or at least are not working against their attainment.

The natural character of the coast has been degraded. Restoring and enhancing *coastal features* and *ecosystems* helps restore natural character and enhances people's use and enjoyment of the *coastal environment*.

Table 2: Coastal environment  
Objective 3  
Table 4: Fresh water  
Objective 13  
Table 6(a) Indigenous ecosystems  
Objective 16  
Methods 5, 8, 12, 27, 28, 29, 53 & 54

A regulatory approach cannot restore aquatic ecosystems from the effects of many existing and historical activities. Resource consent holders cannot be obliged to remedy existing effects unless they are caused by their particular activity. Where historical activities have affected an aquatic ecosystem, restoration measures such as mitigating the effects of existing fish pass impediments, *riparian* planting or the removal of concrete linings or contaminated material can help restore the habitat.

Setting right the effects of historical activities that have reduced the extent and quality of indigenous ecosystems and habitats in the region can be facilitated by providing information about the importance of these ecosystems and habitats, and by providing financial incentives to promote their maintenance, enhancement and restoration. Wellington Regional Council and district and city councils can, through their operations, play a role in the restoration and enhancement of indigenous ecosystems and habitats – such as, in reserve management plans, pest control, stormwater management, and roadside vegetation management. Providing assistance to community groups and promoting initiatives involving community participation are key elements that will help implement policy 64.

Table 3: Energy, infrastructure and waste  
Objectives 9 & 11  
Table 4: Freshwater  
Objective 14  
Methods 10, 11, 17, 33, 34, 48 & 56

### **Policy 65: Promoting efficient use and conservation of resources – non-regulatory**

To promote conservation and efficient use of resources by:

- (a) reducing, reusing and recycling waste;
- (b) using water and energy efficiently; and
- (c) conserving water and energy.

#### **Explanation**

For waste, using resources efficiently means following the waste hierarchy: reducing unnecessary use of resources, including reducing packaging; reusing unwanted goods that are still 'fit for purpose'; recycling new products from waste materials; and recovering resources (such as energy) from waste before disposing of the remaining waste safely. If resources are used efficiently, the amount of unwanted materials disposed of at landfills and at sewage treatment plants will be reduced.

Similar principles apply for reducing energy demand and conserving energy. This includes minimising the use of energy, reducing the need to use or being more efficient in use. Some of the ways to efficiently use or conserve water include reducing water demand and wastage by:

- Setting targets for reducing leakage from reticulated water supplies within each district
- Providing information to water suppliers and water users on how to conserve water and use it as efficiently as possible
- Providing information about long-term rainfall and drought predictions
- Investigating the use of transferable water permits

Leaks from water reticulation systems can waste over 15 per cent of treated water. Water supply authorities already have programmes for repair and maintenance, and it is vital that targets are set so that development of such programmes continues and water wastage is reduced.

Water efficient household appliances and garden watering tied to garden needs, along with fixing dripping taps and planting locally appropriate plants, are some of the ways that people could make the water delivered to their house go further. Greywater irrigation and recycling, and the use of rainwater tanks, are ways that households can make more efficient use of water.

Weather predictions can help people prepare for possible weather extremes, for example by buying in stock feed or ensuring water reserves are at full capacity. Transferring water permits, or parts of water permits, allows allocated water to be used by as many people as the resource can sustain.

### **Policy 66: Enhancing involvement of tangata whenua in resource management decision-making – non-regulatory**

To enhance involvement of tangata whenua in resource management decision-making by improving opportunities for iwi authority representatives to participate in local authority decision-making.

#### **Explanation**

Active engagement by *local authorities* with *tangata whenua* requires an open mind and a genuine willingness to allow the views of tangata whenua representatives to influence decision-making.

Māori have a long history of settlement of the Wellington region, known as Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui (the head of the fish of Māui). *Iwi authority* refers to the body that represents an iwi and is recognised by that iwi as having the authority to do so. Refer to Chapter 2 for a list of the current iwi authorities representing tangata whenua in the Wellington region.

### **Policy 67: Maintaining and enhancing a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form – non-regulatory**

To maintain and enhance a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form by:

- (a) implementing the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol;
- (b) promoting best practice on the location and design of rural residential development;
- (c) recognising and enhancing the role of the region's open space network;
- (d) encouraging a range of housing types and developments to meet the community's social and economic needs, including affordable housing and improve the health, safety and well-being of the community;
- (e) implementing the actions in the Wellington Regional Strategy for the Regional Focus Areas; and
- (f) safeguarding the productive capability of the rural area.

#### **Explanation**

The *New Zealand Urban Design Protocol* promotes a national cross-sector commitment to the principles of good urban design. It provides access to resources, training and a network of signatories with a range of urban design experience.

The New Zealand Urban Design Protocol plays an important role in improving the quality of urban design in the region.

Rural residential activities offer investment, development and growth opportunities, but present challenges in terms of rural productivity, provision of infrastructure and sustainable management.

Table 10: Resource management with tangata whenua  
Objective 23  
Methods 32, 37 & 38  
Consider alongside policies 1 to 60

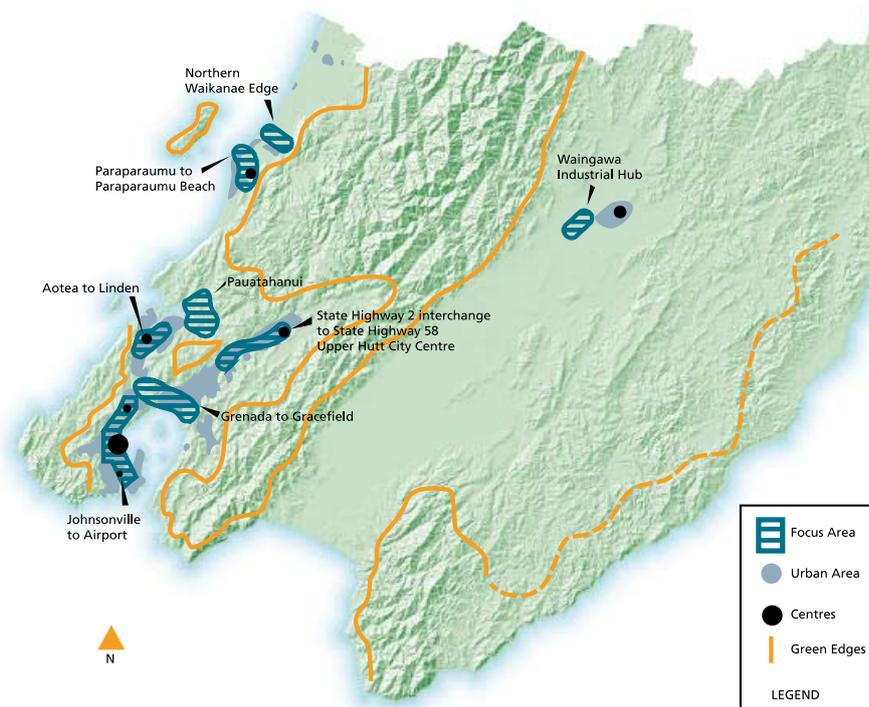
Table 9: Regional form, design and function  
Objective 22  
Methods 40, 41, 45, 46 & 47

Best practice guidance will look at how districts and cities can benefit from rural residential activities while:

- Maintaining rural economies that are functioning and productive
- Managing sensitive environmental and amenity values
- Avoiding natural hazards
- Considering infrastructure limitations and requirements
- Managing urban development and protecting future urban development areas

The region's open space network has helped define the region's existing urban form and is a fundamental element of quality of life for residents. The region's open space is managed by a number of organisations, including Wellington Regional Council, the region's district and city councils and the Department of Conservation. Policy 67 seeks to enhance the role of the region's open space network in supporting the region's compact form. This will require authorities to work together and identify gaps and opportunities.

The location of the *Regional Focus Areas* is shown in Figure 3 below. These are areas predicted to either come under significant development pressure (for example, the northern Waikanae edge and Pauatahanui Inlet) or provide significant development opportunities for a range of land use activities (for example, Porirua, Aotea, Linden and Upper Hutt). They are areas of critical importance to the achievement of a compact and well designed *regional form*. Developing growth and/or development frameworks or strategies, as identified in the *Wellington Regional Strategy*, for each of the *Regional Focus Areas* is therefore an important action to be carried out by the relevant district and city councils.



**Figure 3: Regional Focus Areas**

Housing design and the quality of housing developments can have a significant role in improving housing choice and affordability. Different housing types, particularly those that are less land intensive, can offer greater opportunities for more affordable housing. Likewise, housing developments that incorporate, or are well connected to, transport infrastructure and services, employment opportunities and community centres are likely to enhance the social and economic wellbeing of residents.

At present housing in the region generally becomes more affordable with distance from the regional central business district and other places of work. This has negative implications in terms of travel demand, associated living costs, access to employment and community networks. It can also limit economic development opportunities by reducing the ability of businesses to attract and retain a workforce with appropriate skills.

### **Policy 68: Minimising soil erosion – non-regulatory**

To minimise soil erosion by encouraging sustainable land management practices and take a whole of catchment approach.

#### **Explanation**

Sustainable land management practices are methods and techniques that reduce soil erosion – such as soil conservation plantings, land retirement and conservation tilling. These practices can apply to activities such as pastoral farming, plantation forestry, subdivisions and roading.

Taking a whole of catchment approach is promoted within this Regional Policy Statement. It means considering the full mix of purposes, uses or activities within a catchment, in terms of how these interact and contribute to outcomes within the catchment and for receiving environments beyond – such as in relation to indigenous ecosystems, soil productivity, water quality, erosion and stormwater control, or natural hazards. This approach suggests a need to work with multiple parties to establish shared objectives for a catchment and to ensure uses and activities are working towards the same goals or at least are not working against their attainment.

### **Policy 69: Preventing long-term soil deterioration – non-regulatory**

To retain healthy soil ecosystem functioning by promoting and encouraging sustainable agricultural practices that do not cause soil contamination, compaction or loss of minerals or nutrients.

#### **Explanation**

Soil compaction, mineral and/or nutrient depletion, and soil contamination may cause irreversible degradation to soil ecosystem health. Retaining soil on land avoids contamination of water bodies.

Soil compaction occurs when the weight of livestock or heavy machinery compresses soil, causing it to lose pore space. Soil contamination, in the context of this policy, refers to the presence of pesticides and heavy metals in the natural soil environment.

Table 11: Soils and minerals  
Objective 29  
Methods 15, 29, 36 & 55

Table 11: Soils and minerals  
Objective 30  
Methods 15 & 29



## 4.5 Methods to implement policies

This section contains the methods for implementing the policies set out in sections 4.1 to 4.4. It is divided into two main groups of methods: regulatory methods that implement the policies in sections 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3; and non-regulatory methods that implement the policies in section 4.4 or support the delivery of the other policies.

The non-regulatory methods are subdivided into four types:

- Information and/or guidance
- Integrating management
- Identification and investigation
- Providing support

Under each non-regulatory method the key organisations who may implement the methods are indicated. An asterisk \* indicates the lead authority responsible for implementation, if this is designated. Stakeholders will also be involved as methods are developed and implemented.

The delivery and timing of methods is subject to long term council community planning and annual plan schedules. Prioritisation and implementation of methods, over the ten year period of the Regional Policy Statement, will be outlined in an Implementation Plan. The Plan will be prepared by Wellington Regional Council, with the region's city and district councils, and in consultation with stakeholders. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed after the preparation of each State of the Environment Report (see Chapter 5).

Within section 4.5 the methods are presented in numeric order, although in the summary table below, methods are listed under key topics.

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	Method 26: Prepare airshed action plans	157
	Method 31: Protocols for management of earthworks and air quality between local authorities	158
<b>Coastal environment</b>	Method 1: District plan implementation	153
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	Method 7: Information about high natural character in the coastal environment	154
	Method 8: Information about restoration and enhancement of degraded water bodies and the natural character of the coastal environment	155
	Method 27: Integrate management across mean high water springs	157
	Method 28: Prepare a coastal and marine ecosystems action plan	158
	Method 29: Take a whole of catchment approach to works, operations and services	158
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Topic	Method title	Page
<b>Coastal environment (continued)</b>	Method 32: Engagement with tangata whenua, stakeholders, landowners and the community in the identification and protection of significant values	158
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	Method 51: Identify areas for improved public access	161
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<b>Energy, infrastructure and waste</b>	Method 1: District plan implementation	153
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	Method 9: Information about travel demand management	155
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	Method 17: Information about waste management	156
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	Method 56: Assist the community to reduce waste, and use water and energy efficiently	162
<b>Fresh water</b>	Method 1: District plan implementation	153
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Topic	Method title	Page
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<b>Heritage</b>	Method 1: District plan implementation	153
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	Method 32: Engagement with tangata whenua, stakeholders, landowners and the community in identifying and protecting significant values	158
<b>Indigenous ecosystems</b>	Method 1: District plan implementation	153
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	Method 50: Prepare a regional landscape character description	161
<b>Natural hazards</b>	Method 1: District plan implementation	153
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Topic	Method title	Page
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Topic	Method title	Page
<b>Soils and minerals (continued)</b>	Method 31: Protocols for management of earthworks and air quality between local authorities	158
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#### 4.5.1 Regulatory methods

##### Method 1: District plan implementation

The process to amend district plans to implement policies 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 34 will commence on, or before, the date on which the relevant council commences the ten year review of its district plan, or a provision in a district plan, pursuant to section 79 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Policies 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32 & 34

*District and city councils that will implement method 1 are:*

- Wellington City Council
- Porirua City Council
- Kāpiti Coast District Council
- Hutt City Council
- Upper Hutt City Council
- South Wairarapa District Council
- Carterton District Council
- Masterton District Council
- Tararua District Council for land within the Wellington region.

Policies 3 and 4 with respect to the coastal environment do not apply to Upper Hutt City Council.

Only a small portion of rural land in the Tararua District is within the Wellington region. The rest of the district is within the Manawatu-Wanganui region. Policies 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 15, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 34 do not apply to Tararua District Council so as not to create conflict with the policy direction in the One Plan for the Manawatu-Wanganui region.

##### Method 2: Regional plan implementation

The process to amend regional plans to implement policies 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 29 will commence on, or before, the date on which Wellington Regional Council commences the ten year review of its regional plans, or provisions in a regional plan, pursuant to section 79 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Policies 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 & 29

##### Method 3: Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy implementation

The process to amend the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy to implement policies 9, 10 and 33 will commence on, or before, the date on which Wellington Regional Council commences the review pursuant to section 74 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

Policies 9, 10 & 33

##### Method 4: Consideration – resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or reviewing plans

Policies 35 to 60 will be implemented, where relevant, when considering a resource consent, notice of requirement, or when changing, varying or reviewing a district or regional plan.

Policies 35 to 60

*District and City councils that will implement method 4 are:*

- *Wellington City Council*
- *Porirua City Council*
- *Kāpiti Coast District Council*
- *Hutt City Council*
- *Upper Hutt City Council*
- *South Wairarapa District Council*
- *Carterton District Council*
- *Masterton District Council*
- *Tararua District Council where a proposal relates to land within the Wellington region*

Policies 61, 62 & 63

#### **Method 5: Allocation of responsibilities**

Local authorities are responsible for the land use control for biological diversity, natural hazards and hazardous substances, as described in policies 61, 62 and 63.

*District and city councils that will implement method 5 are:*

- *Wellington Regional Council*
- *Wellington City Council*
- *Porirua City Council*
- *Kāpiti Coast District Council*
- *Hutt City Council*
- *Upper Hutt City Council*
- *South Wairarapa District Council*
- *Carterton District Council*
- *Masterton District Council*
- *Tararua District Council for land within the Wellington region*

#### **4.5.2 Non-regulatory methods – information and guidance**

Policies 1 & 2

#### **Method 6: Information about reducing air pollution**

Prepare and disseminate information to promote:

- (a) best practice techniques to reduce discharges of odour, smoke and dust;
- (b) understanding the causes of air pollution and the steps people can take to reduce it;
- (c) homeowners adopting cleaner forms of heating and insulation for their houses; and
- (d) good agrichemical management practice.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils*

Policies 3, 35 & 36

#### **Method 7: Information about high natural character in the coastal environment**

Disseminate information held by Wellington Regional Council about places, sites and areas with high natural character in the coastal environment.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council\**

\* lead authority responsible for implementation

<p><b>Method 8: Information about restoration and enhancement of degraded water bodies and the natural character of the coastal environment</b></p> <p>Prepare and disseminate information about the restoration and enhancement of degraded water bodies and the natural character of the coastal environment, including about eco-sourcing.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils</i></p>	<p>Policies 64</p>
<p><b>Method 9: Information about travel demand management</b></p> <p>Prepare and disseminate information about how travel demand management mechanisms can be encouraged through district plans.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council* and city and district councils</i></p>	<p>Policy 10</p>
<p><b>Method 10: Information about energy efficient subdivision, design and building development</b></p> <p>Prepare and disseminate information about how to carry out energy efficient subdivision design and building development.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils</i></p>	<p>Policy 11</p>
<p><b>Method 11: Information about water conservation and efficient use</b></p> <p>Prepare and disseminate information about water conservation and the efficient use of water.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils</i></p>	<p>Policy 11</p>
<p><b>Method 12: Information about techniques to maintain and enhance indigenous ecosystems</b></p> <p>Prepare and disseminate information about the maintenance, restoration and enhancement of indigenous ecosystems and habitats.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils</i></p>	<p>Policy 64</p>
<p><b>Method 13: Information about best practice for earthworks to protect Māori archaeological sites, other significant sites and kōiwi</b></p> <p>Prepare and disseminate information about best practice, in consultation with iwi authorities, for resource consent holders, applicants and others undertaking earthworks, to ensure Māori archaeological sites and other significant sites and kōiwi (human bones) are appropriately protected.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Iwi authorities, Wellington Regional Council, and city and district councils</i></p>	<p>Policy 49</p>
<p><b>Method 14: Information about natural hazard and climate change effects</b></p> <p>Prepare and disseminate information about natural hazards and climate change effects in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) guide local authority decision-making; and</li> <li>(b) raise awareness and understanding of natural hazards</li> </ul> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council*, city and district councils, and Civil Defence Emergency Management Group</i></p>	<p>Policies 29, 51 &amp; 52</p>

\* lead authority responsible for implementation

**Method 15: Information about sustainable land management practices**

Prepare and disseminate information about sustainable land management practices, including:

- (a) soil capability in terms of its limitations;
- (b) soil conservation methods and techniques, including the retirement of erosion prone land from pastoral farming;
- (c) causes of poor soil health, and practices and techniques to improve degraded soil health and ecological function; and
- (d) best practice techniques to prevent soil erosion and sediment run-off from vegetation clearance and earthworks.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council*

**Method 16: Information about locations with good access to the strategic public transport network**

Prepare and disseminate information to support the identification of locations with good access to the strategic public transport network.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council\* and city and district councils*

**Method 17: Information about waste management**

Prepare and disseminate information about how to reduce, reuse or recycle waste.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils\**

**Method 18: Regional structure planning guide**

Prepare a structure planning guide about integrating land use with infrastructure and for delivering high quality urban design.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council\* and city and district councils*

**Method 19: Information to assist with the application of the Treaty of Waitangi principles in the region**

Prepare and disseminate information, for resource management decision-making, on the meaning and application of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in the Wellington region.

*Implementation: Iwi authorities\*, Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils*

**Method 20: Information to assist with the identification of places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values**

Prepare information to assist with interpretation of the criteria set out in policies 21 and 22, which require the identification and protection of places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council\* and city and district councils*

**Method 21: Information to assist with the identification of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values**

Prepare and disseminate information to assist with the interpretation of the criteria set out in policies 23 and 24, which require the identification and protection of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council\* and city and district councils*

\* lead authority responsible for implementation

<p><b>Method 22: Information about areas at high risk from natural hazards</b></p> <p>Prepare and disseminate information about how to identify areas at high risk from natural hazards, as relevant to the development of hazard management strategies to guide decision-making.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council * and city and district councils</i></p>	<p>Policies 29 &amp; 51</p>
<p><b>Method 23: Information about natural features to protect property from natural hazards</b></p> <p>Prepare and disseminate information about how to identify features in the natural environment that can offer natural protection to property from the effects of erosion and inundation.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council * and city and district councils</i></p>	<p>Policy 52</p>
<p><b>Method 24: Database of sites at risk of contamination</b></p> <p>Maintain a database of sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) with a history of storing, using or manufacturing hazardous substances;</li> <li>(b) where major spills involving hazardous substances have occurred; and</li> <li>(c) where analysis of soil or water samples has confirmed that the site is contaminated.</li> </ul> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council</i></p>	<p>Policy 34</p>
<p><b>Method 25: Information about the provision of walking, cycling and public transport for development</b></p> <p>Prepare and disseminate information about how to provide for walking, cycling and public transport.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council</i></p>	<p>Policy 57</p>
<p><b>4.5.3 Non-regulatory methods – integrating management</b></p>	
<p><b>Method 26: Prepare airshed action plans</b></p> <p>Prepare airshed action plans, where needed, to determine how levels of fine particulate matter will be reduced.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council</i></p>	<p>Policy 2</p>
<p><b>Method 27: Integrate management across mean high water springs</b></p> <p>Clarify local authority management across mean high water springs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) reviewing memoranda of understanding between local authorities for matters that cross mean high water springs; and</li> <li>(b) developing other non-statutory plans, where necessary, for areas and issues that impact on the coastal environment.</li> </ul> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council* and city and district councils</i></p>	<p>Policy 64</p>

\* lead authority responsible for implementation

Policy 64	<p><b>Method 28: Prepare a coastal and marine ecosystems action plan</b></p> <p>Identify degraded indigenous habitats and ecosystems in the coastal environment that warrant restoration or enhancement programmes, and prepare a coastal and marine ecosystem action plan.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council</i></p>
Policies 18, 43, 64, 68 & 69	<p><b>Method 29: Take a whole of catchment approach to works, operations and services</b></p> <p>Take a whole of catchment approach that recognises the inter-relationships between the values of natural resources when undertaking and planning works, operations and services.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council* and city and district councils</i></p>
Policy 6	<p><b>Method 30: Prepare a harbour and catchment management strategy for Porirua Harbour</b></p> <p>Prepare a harbour and catchment management strategy for Porirua Harbour to address the restoration of Porirua Harbour and reduce the discharge of sediment, nutrients and contaminants into the harbour.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council, Porirua City Council and Wellington City Council.</i></p>
Policies 1, 2, 15 & 41	<p><b>Method 31: Protocol for management of earthworks and air quality between local authorities</b></p> <p>With interested parties prepare protocols and definitions to guide changes to district and regional plans to avoid gaps, uncertainty and unnecessary overlaps in the regulation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) earthworks, including vegetation disturbance, cultivation and harvesting; and</li> <li>(b) management of odour, smoke and dust.</li> </ul> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council* and city and district councils</i></p>
Policies 4, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 36 & 66	<p><b>Method 32: Engagement with tangata whenua, stakeholders, landowners and the community in the identification and protection of significant values</b></p> <p>Involve iwi, hapū, marae or whānau, stakeholders, landowners and the community in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) identification and protection of significant places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values;</li> <li>(b) identification and protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes, and managing the values of special amenity landscapes;</li> <li>(c) identification and protection of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values; and</li> <li>(d) protection of the values associated with the rivers and lakes identified in Appendix 1.</li> </ul> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils</i></p>
Policy 65	<p><b>Method 33: Identify sustainable energy programmes</b></p> <p>Identify sustainable energy programmes, to improve energy efficiency and conservation, reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and minimise the region's vulnerability to energy supply disruptions or shortages.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council* and city and district councils</i></p>

\* lead authority responsible for implementation

**Method 34: Prepare a regional water strategy**Policies 12, 14, 20  
& 65

With interested parties prepare a regional water strategy to guide local authorities on:

- (a) sustainable water use;
- (b) demand management and security of supply; and
- (c) rural and urban water quality.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council\* and city and district councils*

**Method 35: Prepare a regional stormwater action plan**Policies 5, 12, 14, 15,  
& 42

Prepare a regional stormwater action plan that is developed and agreed to by the region's local authorities.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council\* and city and district councils*

**Method 36: Support industry-led environmental accords and codes of practice**Policies 5, 12, 15, 16,  
& 41 & 68

Support industry-led environmental accords and codes of practice where these will lead to the achievement of objectives of this Regional Policy Statement.

*Implementation: Industry\* and Wellington Regional Council*

**Method 37: Involve tangata whenua in resource management decision making**

Policy 66

In consultation with iwi authorities, appoint representatives with current accreditation in the Ministry for the Environment 'Making Good Decisions Programme' to committees that hear applications for resource consents, notices of requirement and changes, variations or replacements to district or regional plans or the Regional Policy Statement that affect matters of significance to tangata whenua.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils*

**Method 38: Iwi authorities prepare planning documents**

Policies 49 &amp; 66

Prepare planning documents, where iwi authorities wish to do so, to support the implementation of policy 49 and identify:

- (a) sites and resources where there has been a loss of mauri and the priorities for restoration;
- (b) values associated with water bodies, including water bodies that should be managed for customary purposes, and criteria for their management;
- (c) mahinga kai (customary food gathering areas) and areas of natural resources used for customary purposes and priorities for their protection and restoration;
- (d) places, areas and site with significant spiritual or cultural historic heritage values, and appropriate behaviours in relation to those places, sites and areas; and/or
- (e) areas that should be monitored and the indicators to be used to measure the state of:
  - (i) mauri of natural resources;
  - (ii) water bodies managed for cultural purposes;
  - (iii) mahinga kai and areas of natural resources used for customary purposes; and
  - (iv) places, areas and sites with significant spiritual or cultural historic heritage value.

*Implementation: Iwi authorities\*, Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils*

\* lead authority responsible for implementation

Policy 49	<p><b>Method 39: Prepare protocols for tangata whenua access to mahinga kai and natural resources used for customary purposes on public land</b></p> <p>Prepare protocols to define where and how tangata whenua can access significant mahinga kai and areas of natural resources used for customary purposes, on public land managed by local authorities.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council, iwi authorities and city and district councils</i></p>
Policy 67	<p><b>Method 40: Sign the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol</b></p> <p>Become a signatory to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol and develop a joint local authority urban design action plan.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils</i></p>
Policy 67	<p><b>Method 41: Integrate public open space</b></p> <p>Identify gaps and opportunities to improve integration and use of public open space and develop a regionally agreed action plan.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Strategy</i></p>
Policy 30	<p><b>Method 42: Develop visions for the regionally significant centres</b></p> <p>Develop a vision for each regionally significant centre identified in policy 30, and formulate a statement about the role that each plays in contributing to an overall vision for the region.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Strategy</i></p>
Policy 30	<p><b>Method 43: Develop principles for retail activities</b></p> <p>Develop regional principles to manage the location of retail activities that are consistent with the provisions of Policy 30.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Strategy</i></p>
Policy 32	<p><b>Method 44: Analysis of industrial employment locations</b></p> <p>Analyse factors and trends affecting supply and demand of industrial based employment locations.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Strategy</i></p>
Policy 67	<p><b>Method 45: Develop principles for rural-residential use and development</b></p> <p>Develop regional principles to guide the identification of areas suitable for rural-residential development and promote best practice rural-residential use and design.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Strategy</i></p>
Policy 67	<p><b>Method 46: Develop strategies or development frameworks for each Regional Focus Area</b></p> <p>Develop growth and/or development frameworks or strategies for each Regional Focus Area.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Strategy</i></p>

\* lead authority responsible for implementation

**Method 47: Analysis of the range and affordability of housing in the region** Policy 67

Complete a regional analysis of housing, including range and affordability, and explore with private sector developers innovative housing design and/or developments that increase the range of types and affordability in the region.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Strategy*

**4.5.4 Non-regulatory methods – identification and investigation** Policy 65

**Method 48: Investigate the use of transferable water permits**

Investigate whether allowing water permits to be transferred will provide a more equitable use of allocated water.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council*

**Method 49: Investigate use of Māori names for rivers, lakes and places of cultural significance in the region** Policy 49

Investigate ways in which Māori names for rivers, lakes and places of cultural significance in the Wellington region can be used.

*Implementation: Iwi authorities, Wellington Regional Council, and city and district councils*

**Method 50: Prepare a regional landscape character description** Policies 3, 4, 25 & 27

Develop and disseminate a landscape character description for each territorial authority within the region that describes and categorises the landscapes within the district or city to assist with identifying outstanding natural features and landscapes, and special amenity landscapes.

Note: The landscape character descriptions will not identify outstanding natural features and landscapes, and special amenity landscapes. Instead, they will define and describe the region's landscapes. They will also provide a good base upon which to embark on a landscape assessment leading to the identification of outstanding natural features and landscapes and special amenity landscapes.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council\* and city and district councils*

**Method 51: Identify areas for improved public access** Policy 53

Identify areas of the coast, lakes and rivers where public access should be improved.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council \* and city and district councils*

**Method 52: Identify the region's significant mineral resources.** Policy 60

Identify the location of significant mineral resources in the region

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council \* and city and district councils*

\* lead authority responsible for implementation

#### 4.5.5 Non-regulatory methods – providing support

Policy 64

**Method 53: Support community restoration initiatives for the coastal environment, rivers, lakes and wetlands**

Provide practical support for community restoration initiatives for the coastal environment, rivers, lakes and wetlands.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils*

Policy 64

**Method 54: Assist landowners to maintain, enhance and restore indigenous ecosystems**

Assist landowners to maintain, enhance and/or restore indigenous ecosystems including by, but not limited to:

- (a) assisting with the costs of legally protecting indigenous ecosystems by way of open space covenants with Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust (QEII);
- (b) assisting with the costs of controlling pest plants and animals; and
- (c) supporting landowners to restore significant indigenous ecosystems by fencing and planting.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils*

Policy 68

**Method 55: Assist landowners to protect erosion prone land**

Assist landowners to protect erosion prone land through soil conservation planting.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council*

Policy 65

**Method 56: Assist the community to reduce waste and use water and energy efficiently**

Assist the community to adopt sustainable practices to:

- (a) reduce, reuse or recycle waste;
- (b) use water and energy efficiently; and
- (c) conserve water and energy.

*Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils*