4 Policies

4.1 Ki uta ki tai and integrated catchment management

Policy P1: Ki uta ki tai and integrated catchment management

COASTAL

Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area will be managed recognising **ki uta ki tai** by using the principles of integrated catchment management. These principles include:

(a) decision-making using the catchment as the spatial unit, and

(b) applying an adaptive management approach to take into account the dynamic nature and processes of catchments, and

(c) coordinated management, with decisions based on best available information and improvements in technology and science, and

(d) taking into account the connected nature of resources and **natural processes** within a catchment, and

(e) recognising links between environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability of the catchment.

Policy P2: Cross-boundary matters

COASTAL

The effects of use and development across jurisdictional boundaries shall be managed by having particular regard to any relevant provisions contained in any bordering territorial authorities' proposed and/or operative district plan when assessing a resource consent for an activity and/or the effects of an

activity that spans mean high water springs or other jurisdictional boundaries, including the beds of lakes and rivers.

Policy P3: Precautionary approach

Use and development shall be managed with a precautionary approach where there is limited information regarding the effects and any adverse effects are potentially significant.

Policy P4: Review of existing consents

The conditions of **existing resource consents** to discharge contaminants to fresh water or coastal water, and to take and use water, may be reviewed pursuant to section 128 of the RMA:

(a) at any time or times specified for in the consent, or

(b) when a rule in a plan change with maximum or minimum levels or flows, or rates of use of water, or minimum standards of water quality becomes operative, and the review is appropriate, such as when the exercise of the resource consent impedes the ability to implement an integrated approach to manage water quality, quantity or habitat within that **whaitua** or sub-catchment.

Policy P5: Synchronised expiry and review dates

A common expiry or review date will be imposed on resource consents within a **whaitua** or sub-catchment (unless the consent relates to **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** and it is inappropriate to do so), if:

(a) the affected resource is fully allocated, or

(b) the exercise of the resource consent may impede the ability to implement an integrated approach to manage water quality, quantity or habitat within that **whaitua** or sub-catchment.

4.2 Beneficial use and development

Policy P6: Uses of land and water

The cultural, social and economic benefits of using land and water for:

(a) treatment, dilution and **disposal** of **wastewater** and **stormwater**, and

(b) industrial processes and commercial uses associated with the potable water supply network, and

(c) community and domestic water supply, and

(d) food production and harvesting (including aquaculture), and

(e) gravel extraction from rivers for flood protection and control purposes, and

(f) **irrigation** and stock water, and

(g) firefighting (emergency or training purposes), and

(h) contact recreation and **Māori customary use**, and

(i) transportation, including along, across, and access to, water bodies, and

(j) enabling urban development where it maintains the quality of the natural environment, and

(k) waste management facilities.

shall be recognised.

Policy P7: Beneficial activities

COASTAL

The following activities are recognised as beneficial and generally appropriate:

(a) activities for the purpose of restoring **natural character**, **aquatic ecosystem health**, **mahinga kai**, outstanding water bodies, sites with significant **mana whenua** values, and sites with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and

(b) activities that restore natural features such as beaches, dunes or wetlands that can buffer development from natural hazards, and

(c) day-lighting of piped streams, and

(d) removal of aquatic weeds, and pest plants and animal pests, and

(e) the establishment of river crossings (culverts and bridges) or fences and fence structures that will result in the exclusion of regular **livestock** access from a water body, and

(f) the retirement, fencing and planting and management of **riparian margin**s, and

(g) the retirement of **erosion prone land** from **livestock** access, and

(h) maintenance, and use and **upgrade** of existing structures in the coastal marine area, **natural wetlands** and the beds of rivers and lakes (noting that Policy P33 will apply with respect to fish passage), and

(i) removal of dangerous or derelict structures in the coastal marine area, **natural wetlands** and beds of lakes and rivers, and

(j) structures necessary to provide for monitoring resource use or the state of the environment in the coastal marine area, **natural wetlands** and beds of lakes and rivers, and

(k) activities necessary to maintain safe navigation, and

(l) artworks that support and enhance public open space.

Policy P8: Public access to and along the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers

COASTAL

Maintain and enhance the extent or quality of public access to and along the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers except where it is necessary to:

(a) protect the values of estuaries, sites with significant **mana whenua** values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), sites with significant historic heritage value identified in Schedule E (historic heritage) and sites with significant indigenous biodiversity value identified in Schedule F (indigenous biodiversity), or

(b) protect public health and safety, or protect Wellington International Airport and **Commercial Port Area** security, or

(c) provide for a temporary activity such as construction, a recreation or cultural event or stock movement, and where the temporary restrictions shall be for no longer than reasonably necessary before access is fully reinstated, and

with respect to (a) and (b), where it is necessary to permanently restrict or remove existing public access, the loss of public access shall be mitigated or **offset** by providing enhanced public access at a similar or nearby location to the extent reasonably practicable.

Policy P9: Contact recreation and Māori customary use

COASTAL

Use and development shall avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on contact recreation and **Māori customary use** in fresh and coastal water, including by:

(a) providing water quality and, in rivers, flows suitable for contact recreation and **Māori customary use**, and

(b) managing activities to maintain or enhance contact recreation values in the beds of lakes and rivers, including by retaining existing swimming holes and maintaining access to existing contact recreation locations, and

(c) encouraging improved access to suitable swimming and surfing locations, and

(d) providing for the passive recreation and amenity values of fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area.

Policy P10: Water storage

Promote the development of **water harvesting** and recognise its benefits as a means to achieve improved efficiency in the allocation and use of water.

Policy P11: Benefits of Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable electricity generation facilities

When considering proposals that relate to the provision of **Regionally Significant Infrastructure,** or **renewable energy generation activities**, particular regard will be given to the benefits of those activities.

Policy P12: Benefits of mineral resource utilisation

When considering proposals that relate to the use of the Region's **mineral** resources, particular regard will be given to the benefits from the utilisation of those resources.

Policy P13: Providing for Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable electricity generation activities

The use, development, operation, maintenance, and **upgrade** of **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** and **renewable energy generation activities** are provided for, in appropriate places and ways. This includes by having particular regard to:

(a) the strategic integration of infrastructure and land use, and

(b) the location of existing infrastructure and structures, and

(c) the need for **renewable energy generation activities** to locate where the renewable energy resources exist, and

(d) the **functional need** and **operational requirements** associated with developing, operating, maintaining and upgrading **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** and **renewable energy generation activities**.

Policy P14: The National Grid

(a) Recognise and provide for the benefits of the **National Grid**.

(b) Enable the operation, maintenance or **upgrade** of existing **National Grid** assets.

(c) Where the **National Grid** has a **functional need** or **operational requirement** to locate in the coastal environment, lakes, rivers or wetlands, manage the adverse effects of its activities on **natural character**, natural features and natural landscapes, and indigenous biodiversity by:

(i) Seeking to avoid adverse effects of new development or major upgrades on values of:

1. outstanding **natural character**,

2. natural attributes and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes,

3. indigenous biodiversity values of the aquatic ecosystems, habitats, species and areas listed in Policy P38(a).

(ii) Seeking to avoid significant adverse effects of new development or major upgrades on:

1. other areas of **natural character** in the coastal environment,

2. natural attributes and characteristics of other natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment,

3. indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy P11(b) of the NZCPS.

(iii) Having regard to the extent to which adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated:

1. through the route, site and method selection process, and

2. given the constraints imposed by the activity's **operational requirements**.

(iv) Recognising there may be some areas in the coastal environment where:

1. avoidance of adverse effects is required to protect the values, natural attributes and characteristics identified within (c)(i) 1, 2, and 3 above.

2. avoidance of significant adverse effects is required to protect the values, natural attributes and characteristics identified within (c)(ii) 1, 2, and 3 above.

(d) Remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the operation, maintenance, **upgrade**, major upgrade or development of the **National Grid** which cannot be avoided.

In the event of any conflict with any other objectives and policies in the Plan relating to indigenous biodiversity within Policy P38, **natural character**, and natural features and natural landscapes, Policy P14 takes precedence.

Policy P15: Incompatible activities adjacent to Regionally Significant Infrastructure, renewable electricity generation activities and significant mineral resources

Regionally Significant Infrastructure, **renewable energy generation activities** and **significant mineral resources** shall be protected from incompatible use and development occurring under, over or adjacent to it, by locating and designing any use and development to avoid, remedy or mitigate any **reverse sensitivity** effects.

Note

For the avoidance of doubt, this policy only applies to an activity that requires resource consent seeking to locate in proximity to **Regionally Significant Infrastructure**, **renewable electricity generation activities** or **significant mineral resources**.

Policy P16: Flood protection activities

The use, maintenance and ongoing operation of existing **catchment based flood and erosion risk management activities** to manage the **hazard risk** of flooding to people, **property**, infrastructure and communities are provided for.

Policy P17: New flood protection and erosion control

The social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of new **catchment based flood and erosion risk management activities** are recognised.

4.3 Māori relationships

Policy P18: Mauri

The **mauri** of fresh and coastal waters shall be recognised as being important to Māori and is sustained and enhanced, including by:

(a) managing the individual and cumulative adverse effects of activities that may impact on **mauri** in the manner set out in the rest of the Plan, and

(b) providing for those activities that sustain and enhance **mauri**, and

(c) recognising and providing for the role of kaitiaki in sustaining **mauri**.

Policy P19: Mana whenua relationships with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa

The relationships between **mana whenua** and **Ngā Huanga o Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa** identified in Schedule B (**Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**) will be recognised and provided for by:

(a) having particular regard to the values and **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa huanga** identified in Schedule B (**Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**) when applying for, and making decisions on resource consent applications, and developing **Whaitua Implementation Programmes**, and

(b) informing iwi authorities of relevant resource consents relating to **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**, and

(c) recognising the relevant iwi authority/ies as an affected party under RMA s95E where activities risk having a minor or more than minor adverse effect on **Ngā Huanga o Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa** or on the significant values of a Schedule C site which is located downstream, and

(d) working with **mana whenua**, landowners, and other interested parties as appropriate, to develop and implement **restoration** initiatives within **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**, and

(e) the Wellington Regional Council and iwi authorities implementing **kaupapa Māori** monitoring of **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**.

Policy P20: Māori values

The cultural relationship of Māori with air, land and water shall be recognised and the adverse effects on this relationship and their values shall be **minimised**.

Policy P21: Exercise of kaitiakitanga

Kaitiakitanga shall be recognised and provided for by involving **mana whenua** in the assessment and decision-making processes associated with use and development of natural and physical resources including;

(a) managing activities in sites with significant **mana whenua** values listed in Schedule C (mana whenua) in accordance with **tikanga** and **kaupapa Māori** as exercised by **mana whenua**, and

(b) the identification and inclusion of **mana whenua** attributes and values in the kaitiaki information and monitoring strategy in accordance with Method M2, and

(c) identification of **mana whenua** values and attributes and their application through **tikanga** and **kaupapa Māori** in the maintenance and enhancement of **mana whenua** relationships with **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**.

Policy P22: Statutory acknowledgements

Wellington Regional Council will:

(a) include any relevant statutory acknowledgments in Schedule D (statutory acknowledgements) for public information, and

(b) have regard to any relevant statutory acknowledgment in Schedule D (statutory acknowledgements) when processing resource consent applications.

4.4 Natural character, form and function

4.4.1 Natural character

Policy P23: Identification of outstanding/high natural character and outstanding natural features and landscapes

COASTAL

(a) Identify in the Plan areas of outstanding and high **natural character** in the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area) and in wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins.

(b) Identify in the Plan outstanding natural features and landscapes within the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area) and in wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins.

(c) Until areas of high and outstanding **natural character** and outstanding natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment are mapped in this Plan, as assessment may be required as to whether an activity is within:

(i) An area of high or outstanding **natural character**

(ii) An outstanding natural feature or landscape.

The need for such an assessment will depend on the level or scale of potential effects and the sensitivity of the receiving environment and shall take into account Policies 3 and 24 of the Regional Policy Statement. Any assessment shall be commensurate with the scale and significance of the effects that the use or development may have on the environment.

Note

Refer to Method M31.

Policy P24: Preserving and protecting natural character from inappropriate use and development

COASTAL

To preserve **natural character** and protect it from inappropriate use and development by:

(a) avoiding adverse effects of activities on the **natural character** of areas within the coastal environment that have outstanding **natural character**, and

(b) avoiding significant adverse effects and avoid remedy and mitigate other adverse effects of activities on the **natural character** of areas within the coastal environment that do not have outstanding **natural character**, and

(c) outside the coastal environment, avoiding and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating adverse effects of activities on the **natural character** of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that

have outstanding **natural character**, provided that the outstanding **natural character** of the area taken as a whole is retained, and

(d) outside the coastal environment, avoiding and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating significant adverse effects of activities on the **natural character** of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that have high **natural character**, provided that the high **natural character** of the area taken as a whole is retained, and

(e) outside the coastal environment, avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects of activities on the **natural character** of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that are not addressed under (c) or (d) of Policy P24.

4.5 Natural hazards

Policy P25: High hazard areas

COASTAL

Use and development, including hazard mitigation methods, in on or over **high hazard areas** shall be managed to ensure that:

(a) they have a **functional need** or **operational requirement** or there is no practicable alternative to be so located, and

(b) an overall increase in risk of social, environmental and economic harm is avoided, and

(c) the **hazard risk** and/or **residual hazard risk** to the development, assessed using a **risk-based approach**, is acceptable or as low as reasonably practicable, recognising that in some instances an increase in risk to the development may be appropriate, and

(d) the development does not cause or exacerbate **hazard risk** in other areas, and unless effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated in accordance with a **hazard risk management strategy**, and

(e) adverse effects on **natural processes** (coastal, riverine and lake processes) are avoided, remedied, or mitigated, and

(f) natural cycles of erosion and accretion and the potential for natural features to fluctuate in position over time, including movements due to climate change and sea level rise over at least the next 100 years, are taken into account.

Policy P26: Diversion of flood waters in a floodplain

COASTAL

The diversion of flood waters from any river or lake resulting from **earthworks** or the erection, placement or extension of a structure within stopbanks or through the creation of new stopbanks shall be managed to ensure:

(a) any increase in **hazard risk** or **residual hazard risk** in other areas as a result of the diversion is avoided or mitigated, and

(b) any adverse effects on **natural processes** are avoided, remedied, or mitigated, and

(c) natural cycles of erosion and accretion and the potential for natural features to fluctuate in position over time, including movements due to climate change over at least the next 100 years, are taken into account.

Policy P27: Hazard mitigation measures

COASTAL

Hard hazard engineering mitigation and protection methods shall be discouraged except where it is necessary to protect:

(a) existing, or **upgrades** to, infrastructure including **Regionally Significant Infrastructure**, or

(b) new **Regionally Significant Infrastructure**, or

(c) significant existing development, and

in respect of (a), (b) and (c):

(d) there is no reasonable or practicable alternatives to mitigate **hazard risk** and **residual hazard risk**, and

(e) the mitigation and protection methods are suitably located and designed, and where appropriate certified by a qualified, professional engineer, and

(f) the use of **soft engineering** options are incorporated and used, where appropriate,

and either:

(g) any adverse effects are no more than minor, or

(h) where the environmental effects are more than minor the works form part of a **hazard risk management strategy**.

Policy P28: Effects of climate change

COASTAL

Particular regard shall be given to the potential for climate change

(a) to threaten biodiversity, **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai**, or

(b) to cause or exacerbate natural hazard events over at least the next 100 years that could adversely affect use and development

including as a result of:

(c) coastal erosion and inundation (**storm surge**), and

(d) river and lake flooding and erosion, aggradation, decreased **minimum flows**, and

(e) **stormwater** ponding and impeded drainage, and

(f) relative sea level rise, using reliable scientific data for the Wellington region.

Policy P29: Natural buffers COASTAL

Provide for the **restoration** or enhancement of natural features such as beaches, dunes or wetlands that buffer development from natural hazards and ensure the adverse effects of use and development on them are avoided, remedied, or mitigated.

4.6 Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Policy P30: Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai COASTAL

Manage the adverse effects of use and development on biodiversity, **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** to:

Hydrology

(a) maintain or where practicable restore natural flow characteristics and hydrodynamic processes and the natural pattern and range of water level fluctuations in rivers, lakes and **natural wetlands**, and

Water quality

(b) maintain or improve water quality including to assist with achieving the objectives in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 of Objective O19, and

Aquatic habitat diversity and quality

(c) maintain or where practicable restore aquatic habitat diversity and quality, including:

(i) the form, frequency and pattern of pools, runs, and riffles in rivers, and

(ii) the natural form of rivers, lakes, **natural wetlands** and the coastal marine area, and

(d) where practicable restore the connections between fragmented aquatic habitats, and

Critical habitat for indigenous aquatic species and indigenous birds

(e) maintain or where practicable restore habitats that are important to the life cycle and survival of indigenous aquatic species and the habitats of indigenous birds in the coastal marine area, **natural wetlands** and the beds of lakes and rivers and their margins that are used for breeding, roosting, feeding, and migration, and

Critical life cycle periods

(f) avoid, **minimise** or remedy adverse effects on aquatic species at times which will most affect the breeding, spawning, and dispersal or migration of those species, including timing the activity, or the adverse effects of the activity, to avoid times of the year when adverse effects may be more significant, and

Riparian habitats

(g) maintain or where practicable restore riparian habitats, and

Pests

(h) avoid the introduction, and restrict the spread, of aquatic pest plants and animals[1].

Policy P31: Adverse effects on biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health, and mahinga kai

COASTAL

Adverse effects on biodiversity, **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** shall be managed by:

(a) in the first instance, activities that risk causing adverse effects on the values of a Schedule F ecosystem or habitat, other than activities carried out in accordance with a **wetland restoration management plan**, shall avoid these ecosystems and habitats. If the ecosystem or habitat cannot be avoided, the adverse effects of activities shall be managed by (b) to (g) below.

(b) avoiding adverse effects where practicable, and

(c) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, **minimising** them where practicable, and

(d) where **adverse effects** cannot be **minimised,** they are remedied, except as provided for in (a) to (g), and

[1] Pests for the Wellington region are defined in the Wellington Regional Pest Management Strategy

(e) where more than minor **residual adverse effects** cannot be avoided, **minimised**, or remedied, **biodiversity offsetting** is provided where possible, and

(f) if **biodiversity offsetting** of more than minor **residual adverse effects** is not possible, **biodiversity compensation** is provided, and

(g) the activity itself is avoided if **biodiversity compensation** cannot be undertaken in a way that is appropriate as set out in Schedule G3, including Clause 2 of that Schedule.

In relation to activities within the beds of lakes, rivers and **natural wetlands**, (e) to (g) only apply to activities which meet the exceptions in Policy P110.

A precautionary approach shall be used when assessing the potential for adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Schedule F.

Note

Policy P38 applies to the management of adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values within the coastal environment.

Proposals for **biodiversity mitigation** under (b) to (d) above, and **biodiversity offsetting,** and **biodiversity compensation** will be assessed against the principles listed in Schedule G1 (biodiversity mitigation), and Schedule G2 (biodiversity offsetting), and Schedule G3 (biodiversity compensation).

Policy P32: Fish passage

The construction or creation of new barriers impeding the efficient and safe passage of fish and kōura species at all their life stages shall be avoided, except where this is required for the protection of indigenous fish and kōura populations.

Note

Advice can be sought from the statutory agencies responsible for the species. Sports fish, including trout, are managed by the Wellington Fish and Game Council and indigenous fish are managed by the Department of Conservation.

Policy P33: Restoring fish passage

Remediation to provide for the efficient and safe passage of indigenous fish and kōura is promoted, and regard shall be had to requiring this when extending, altering or reconstructing instream structures, where this is appropriate for the management and protection of indigenous fish and kōura populations.

Policy P34: Values of wetlands

Activities in and adjacent to **natural wetlands** shall be managed to maintain and, where appropriate, restore their condition and their values including:

(a) as habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, and

(b) for their significance to **mana whenua**, and

(c) for their role in the hydrological cycle including flood protection, and

(d) for nutrient attenuation and sediment trapping, and

(e) as a fisheries resource, and

(f) for recreation, and

(g) for education and scientific research.

Policy P35: Restoration of wetlands

The **restoration** of **natural wetlands** and the construction of artificial wetlands to meet the water quality, **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** objectives set out in Tables 3.7 and 3.8, to provide habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, to carry out the physical and ecological functions of **natural wetlands**, and to provide for amenity values where this aligns with **restoration** appropriate to the area and wetland type shall be encouraged and supported.

Policy P36: Restoring Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana

The ecological health and significant values of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and **Wairarapa Moana** will be restored including by:

(a) managing activities, **erosion-prone land,** and **riparian margin**s to reduce sedimentation rates and pollutant inputs, to meet the water quality, **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** objectives set out in Tables 3.4 to 3.8, and

(b) undertaking planting and pest management programmes in harbour and lake habitats and ecosystems.

4.7 Sites with significant values

4.7.1 Outstanding water bodies

Policy P37: Adverse effects on outstanding water bodies

The adverse effects of use and development on outstanding water bodies and their significant values identified in Schedule A (outstanding water bodies) shall be avoided, unless there is a **functional need** for operation, maintenance or **upgrade** of existing **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** in which case adverse effects of activities shall be managed by:

(a) avoiding adverse effects where practicable, and

(b) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, **minimising** them, and

(c) where adverse effects cannot be **minimised**, they are remedied where practicable, and

(d) where **residual adverse effects** cannot be avoided, **minimised**, or remedied, **offsetting** is provided where possible.

Proposals for **biodiversity mitigation** and **biodiversity offsetting** will be assessed against the principles listed in Schedule G1 (biodiversity mitigation), and Schedule G2 (biodiversity offsetting). A precautionary approach shall be used when assessing the potential for adverse effects on outstanding water bodies.

Where more than minor adverse effects on outstanding water bodies cannot be avoided, **minimised**, remedied or redressed through **biodiversity offsets**, the activity is inappropriate.

4.7.2 Managing adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity within the coastal environment

Policy P38: Indigenous biodiversity values within the coastal environment

To protect the indigenous biodiversity values, use and development within the coastal environment shall:

(a) avoid adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(a) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) namely:

  (i) indigenous taxa listed as threatened or at risk in the NZ Threat classification system lists or as threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;

  (ii) indigenous ecosystems and vegetation types in the coastal environment that are threatened or are naturally rare;

  (iii) habitats of indigenous species where the species are at the limit of their natural range, or are naturally rare;

  (iv) areas in the coastal environment containing nationally significant examples of indigenous community types;

  (v) areas set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biological diversity under other legislation; and

(b) avoid significant adverse effects, on indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(b) (i) – (vi) of the NZCPS, and

(c) manage non-significant adverse effects of activities on indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(b) of the NZCPS by:

(i) avoiding adverse effects where practicable, and

(ii) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, **minimising** them where practicable, and

(iii) where adverse effects cannot be **minimised** they are remedied where practicable, and

(iv) where **residual adverse effects** cannot be avoided, **minimised**, or remedied, **biodiversity offsetting** is provided where possible, and

(v) if **biodiversity offsetting** of **residual adverse effects** is not possible, the activity itself is avoided unless the activity is **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** then **biodiversity compensation** is provided, and

(vi) the activity itself is avoided if **biodiversity compensation** cannot be undertaken in a way that is appropriate as set out in Schedule G3, including Clause 2 of that schedule, and

(d) for all other sites within the coastal environment not meeting Policy 11(a) or (b) of the NZCPS, manage significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values using the effects management hierarchy set out in (b) to (g) of Policy P32.

Note

Any site or habitat in the Wellington Region known to meet NZCPS Policy 11(a) criteria is shown in the NRP Schedules by this icon 

Policy P39: Existing Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities within a site that meets any of the criteria in Policy P38(a)(i) - (v) or (b) or included in Schedule F5 COASTAL

Consider providing for the operation, maintenance, **upgrade** and **extension** of existing **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** and **renewable energy generation activities** within a site in the coastal environment that meets any of the criteria in Policy P38(a)(i) - (v) or (b) or included in Schedule F5 where:

(a) there is a **functional need** or **operational requirement** for the activity to locate in that area, and

(b) there is no practicable alternative on land or elsewhere in the coastal environment for the activity to be located, and

(c) the activity provides for the maintenance and, where practicable, the enhancement or **restoration** of the affected significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes at, and in proximity to, the affected area, taking into account any consultation with the Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and **mana whenua**.

Policy P40: Kaiwharawhara Stream Estuary

COASTAL

When considering the effects of **port related activities** in the Kaiwharawhara Stream Estuary in Schedule F4 (which includes aquatic ecosystems, habitats, species and areas listed in Policy P38(a)(i) - (v) or (b)) or included in Schedule F5 recognise:

(a) that the estuary is located within a working port that needs to provide for efficient and safe operations, the development of capacity for shipping and take account of connections to other transport modes, and

(b) that there must be a **functional need** or **operational requirement** for the activity to locate in that area and there is no practicable alternative on land or elsewhere in the coastal marine area for the activity to be located, and

(c) the extent to which the significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes at and in proximity to the estuary, are enhanced or restored as part of a biodiversity management plan that sets out how the significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes will be affected by the activity, and

(d) the matters in Policy P39.

Policy P41: Wellington Airport South Coastal Environment

COASTAL

When considering the effects of airport related activities within a site that meets any of the criteria in Policy P38(a)(i) – (v) or (b) or included in Schedule F5 recognise:

(a) that the existing airport is located in the coastal environment and the airport needs to provide for its efficient and safe operations, and the development of capacity to sustain the potential of the airport to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations, and

(b) that there must be a **functional need** or **operational requirement** for the activity to locate in that area and there is no practicable alternative on land or elsewhere in the coastal marine area for the activity to be located, and

(c) the extent to which any significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes are enhanced or restored as part of a biodiversity

management plan that sets out how the significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes will be affected by the activity, and

(d) the matters in Policy P39.

4.7.3 Sites with significant indigenous biodiversity value

Policy P42: Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values

Protect in accordance with Policy P31 and Policies P38-P41 and, where appropriate, restore the following ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values:

(a) the rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems identified in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), and

(b) the habitats for indigenous birds identified in Schedule F2 (bird habitats), and

(c) **natural wetlands**, including the **natural wetlands** identified in Schedule F3 (identified **natural wetlands**), and

(d) the ecosystems and habitat-types with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal marine area identified in Schedule F4 (coastal sites) and Schedule F5 (coastal habitats).

Note

All **natural wetlands** in the Wellington Region are considered to be ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values as they meet at least two of the criteria listed in Policy 23 of the Regional Policy Statement 2013 for identifying indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values; being representativeness and rarity.

Policy P43: Effects on the spawning and migration of indigenous fish species

Avoid more than minor adverse effects of activities on indigenous fish species known to be present in any water body identified in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes) as habitat for indigenous fish species or Schedule F1b (inanga spawning habitats), during known spawning and migration times identified in Schedule F1a (fish spawning/migration). These activities may include the following:

(a) discharges of contaminants, including sediment, and

(b) disturbance of the bed or banks that would affect spawning habitat at peak times of the year, and

(c) damming, diversion or taking of water which leads to loss of flow or which makes the river impassable to migrating indigenous fish.

Policy P44: Managing effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values from activities outside these ecosystems and habitats

In order to protect the ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in accordance with Policy P42, particular regard shall be given to managing the adverse effects of use and development in areas outside of these ecosystems and habitats on physical, chemical and biological processes to:

(a) maintain ecological connections within and between these habitats, or

(b) provide for the enhancement of ecological connectivity between fragmented habitats through **biodiversity offsets**, and

(c) provide adequate buffers around ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and

(d) avoid cumulative adverse effects on, and the incremental loss of significant indigenous biodiversity values.

Policy P45: Protecting trout habitat

Particular regard shall be given to the protection of trout habitat in rivers with important trout habitat identified in Schedule I (trout habitat). The effects of use and development in and around these rivers shall be managed to:

(a) maintain or improve water quality in accordance with the objectives in Table 3.4 and Table 3.5 of Objective O19, and

(b) **minimise** changes in flow regimes that would otherwise prevent trout from completing their life cycle, and

(c) maintain the amount of pool, run and riffle habitat, and

(d) **minimise** adverse effects on the beds of trout spawning waters identified in Schedule I (trout habitat).

Policy P46: Wetland restoration management plans

Restoration activities that have more than minor adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Schedule F (indigenous biodiversity) are appropriate if they are undertaken as part of a **wetland restoration management plan**.

4.7.4 Sites with significant mana whenua values

Policy P47: Protection and restoration of sites with significant mana whenua values

Sites with significant **mana whenua** values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua) shall be protected and restored by a mix of the following regulatory and non-regulatory methods:

(a) managing use and development through rules in the plan, and

(b) working in partnership with key stakeholders through:

(i) increasing landowner and community understanding of significant values within Schedule C sites, and

(ii) working with **mana whenua**, landowners, and other interested parties as appropriate, to develop and implement **restoration** programmes for Schedule C sites, and

(iii) the Wellington Regional Council and iwi authorities implementing **kaupapa Maori** monitoring of Schedule C sites.

Policy P48: Managing adverse effects on sites with significant mana whenua values

COASTAL

Sites with significant **mana whenua** values identified in **Schedule C** shall be protected and restored by managing use and development in the following manner:

(a) in the first instance, avoid locating activities within sites listed in **Schedule C**,

(b) require any more than minor adverse effects of activities on the significant **mana whenua** values of the site to be evaluated through a **cultural impact assessment** undertaken by the relevant **mana whenua** as identified in Schedule C,

(c) significant adverse effects of an activity on the significant values of the site shall be avoided,

(d) other adverse effects shall be managed in accordance with **tikanga** and **kaupapa Maori** responding to recommendations in the **cultural impact assessment** to:

(i) avoid more than minor adverse effects on the significant values of the site, and

(ii) where more than minor adverse effects cannot be avoided, **minimising** them, and

(iii) where more than minor adverse effects cannot be avoided and/or **minimised**, they are remedied, and

(e) where more than minor adverse effects on significant **mana whenua** values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua) cannot be avoided, **minimised**, or remedied, the activity is inappropriate. **Offsetting** of effects on sites with significant **mana whenua** values is inappropriate, except where provided for in Policy P49, and

(f) the relevant **mana whenua** as identified in Schedule C shall be considered to be an affected party under RMA s95E for all activities which require resource consent within a Schedule C site where the adverse effects are minor or more than minor, unless the application is publicly notified.

Policy P49: Offsetting residual adverse effects on sites of significance to mana whenua

COASTAL

Residual adverse effects that are not otherwise avoided, **minimised** or remedied in accordance with the management hierarchy in Policy P48 may be **offset** where the relevant **mana whenua** as identified in Schedule C:

(a) considers the **offsetting** of **residual adverse effects** is appropriate in the particular circumstances, and

(b) have:

(i) an **offsetting** policy in place that applies to the area and values to be affected by the proposed development, or

(ii) prepared a **cultural impact assessment** that includes specific direction for the **offsetting** of effects of the proposed activity on the site of significance, and

(iii) expressly confirms that the **offset** proposed is consistent with:

1. the **offsetting** policy in Policy P49(b)(i) (where applicable), and

2. the **cultural impact assessment** in Policy P49(b)(ii), and

3. the **offsetting** principles set out in Schedule G3.

Where **offsetting** is proposed for a site of significance that is associated with multiple **mana whenua**, there must be an agreed position between all groups that **offsetting** is appropriate and that (b) has been met.

4.7.5 Sites with significant historic heritage value

Policy P50: Managing adverse effects on sites with significant historic heritage value

COASTAL

More than minor adverse effects on the significant historic heritage values identified in Schedule E1 (heritage structures), Schedule E2 (wharves and boatsheds), Schedule E3 (navigation aids), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites) and Schedule E5 (freshwater heritage) shall be avoided, remedied or mitigated by managing activities so that:

(a) significant historic heritage values are not lost, damaged or destroyed,

(b) effects are of a low magnitude or scale, or effects are reversible,

(c) interconnections and linkages between sites are not significantly altered or lost,

(d) previous damage to significant historic heritage values is remedied or mitigated where relevant,

(e) previous changes that have significant historic heritage value in their own right are respected and retained,

(f) adjacent significant historic heritage values are unlikely to be adversely affected,

(g) unique or special materials and/or craftsmanship are retained,

(h) the activities do not lead to cumulative adverse effects on historic heritage.

Policy P51: Appropriate demolition or removal

Demolition, partial demolition or removal of a structure with significant historic heritage value identified in Schedule E1 (heritage structures), Schedule E2 (wharves and boatsheds), Schedule E3 (navigation aids), or Schedule E5 (freshwater heritage) is inappropriate except where:

(a) the structure:

  (i) is substantially damaged by fire or natural hazard, or

  (ii) poses a significant risk to human safety, and

  (iii) it is not reasonably practicable to repair it; or

(b) the structure is Glasgow Wharf, Railway (Interisland) Wharf or Waterloo Quay Wharf and the work:

  (i) is necessary to provide for **port related activities**, and

  (ii) has considered all practical alternative methods and locations for providing for the activity, and

  (iii) recognises structures and features of historic heritage value, heritage character and the historic associations of the area, and

  (iv) recognises that the structures are within or adjoining a working port that needs to provide for efficient and safe

operations, the development of capacity for shipping and take account of connections to other transport modes, and

(v) is compatible with and links with the urban form and transport connections of the city; or

(c) the structure is Railway (Interisland) Wharf or Waterloo Quay Wharf and the work:

(i) is necessary to facilitate appropriate use and development of the **Lambton Harbour Area** (Northern Area), and

(ii) has considered all practicable alternative methods and locations for providing for the activity, and

(iii) is in accordance with Policy P149.

Note

Applications for demolition or partial demolition should consider any relevant matters of Policy P50.

4.7.6 Natural features and landscapes

Policy P52: Protecting natural features and landscapes from inappropriate use and development

COASTAL

To protect natural features and landscapes (including seascapes) of the coastal environment, rivers, lakes and their margins and **natural wetlands** and their values, from inappropriate use and development by:

(a) avoiding adverse effects of activities on the natural attributes and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment, and

(b) avoiding significant adverse effects of activities on the natural attributes and characteristics of natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment and avoid, remedy and mitigate other adverse effects of activities on other natural features and natural landscapes in the coastal environment, and

(c) outside the coastal environment, avoiding and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating adverse effects of activities on the natural attributes and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes, provided that the values of the natural features or landscapes that contribute to its outstanding status are retained.

Policy P53: Significant geological features

COASTAL

The significant geological features identified in Schedule J (geological features) shall be protected by:

(a) avoiding significant adverse effects of use and development on significant geological features; and

(b) avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects of activities on significant geological features.

Policy P54: Identified surf breaks

COASTAL

Use and development in and adjacent to the surf breaks identified in Schedule K (surf breaks) shall be managed by avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects on the recreational qualities and values of the surf breaks.

Natural character in relation to those surf breaks will be managed in accordance with Policy P24.

4.8 Air quality

Policy P55: Managing ambient air quality

COASTAL

Ambient air quality shall be managed to protect human health and safety by:

(a) maintaining the acceptable category or better identified in Schedule L1 (**ambient air**) for the specific contaminants, and

(b) improving unacceptable or poor **ambient air** quality to at least the acceptable category or better identified in Schedule L1 (**ambient air**), and

(c) managing the discharge of other contaminants so that the adverse effects on human health, including cumulative adverse effects, are **minimised**.

Policy P56: Domestic fires

COASTAL

Good management practices for the operation of **domestic fires** in urban, rural and coastal marine areas will be encouraged to **minimise** the cumulative health effects and nuisance effects to neighbours of offensive or objectionable odour, smoke and particulate matter, fumes, ash and visible emissions.

Policy P57: Open fires in the Masterton Urban Airshed

The discharges of contaminants into air from new **open fires** in the Masterton Urban Airshed (shown on Map 38) shall be avoided.

Policy P58: Managing air amenity

COASTAL

Air quality amenity in urban, rural and the coastal marine areas shall be managed to **minimise** offensive or objectionable odour, smoke and dust, particulate matter, fumes, ash and visible emissions.

Policy P59: Outdoor burning

The adverse effects on amenity, people's health and **property** from odour, smoke and dust, fumes, and visible emissions from **outdoor burning** will be **minimised** by the encouragement of **good management practices**.

Policy P60: Burning of specified materials

The significant adverse effects on human health, amenity and the environment from the burning of **specified materials** in **domestic fires** and **outdoor burning** shall be avoided.

Policy P61: Industrial discharges

Industrial **point source discharges** and fugitive emissions into air will be **minimised** by using **good management practices**.

Policy P62: Industrial point source discharges

The significant adverse effects from industrial **point source discharges** of **hazardous air pollutants** beyond the boundary of the **property** where the discharge is occurring, including any noxious or dangerous effects on human health or the environment, shall be avoided.

Policy P63: Agrichemicals and fumigants

The adverse effects on human health, **property** and the environment from the discharge of **agrichemicals** or **fumigants** beyond the boundary of the **property** where the discharge is occurring will be managed using **good management practices**.

Policy P64: National Environmental Standard for Air Quality

When considering a resource consent application for a discharge into air in a **polluted airshed**, including the Masterton Urban Airshed (shown on Map 38), the Wellington Regional Council shall give effect to the *National Environmental Standard for Air Quality* by allowing the **offsetting** of new discharges of PM_{10} if the ground level concentrations exceed 2.5µg of PM_{10}/m^3 of air. The **offsets** shall be:

(a) for new discharges into air or when discharges from existing consented activities increase, and

(b) calculated on an annual mass emissions basis and be **offset** on a one to one annual mass emissions basis, and

(c) calculated as close as practicable to where the effect of the discharge occurs, and

(d) for the duration of the consent, and

(e) treated as having the same health effects irrespective of the source of the PM_{10}, and

(f) required in a **polluted airshed**, including the Masterton Urban Airshed (shown on Map 38) until the airshed achieves five years without any breach of the *National Environmental Standard for Air Quality* for PM_{10}, and

(g) only for a **point source discharge** and will not consider fugitive emissions, and

(h) only for PM_{10}.

Note

For the purposes of this policy **offsetting** has the same meaning as in the *National Environmental Standard* for *Air Quality* for PM_{10}.

4.9 Land and water quality

4.9.1 Discharges to land and water

Policy P65: National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management requirements for discharge consents

When considering any application for a discharge the consent authority shall have regard to the following matters:

(a) the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the life-supporting capacity of fresh water including on any ecosystem associated with fresh water, and

(b) the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effects on fresh water, and on any ecosystem associated with fresh water, resulting from the discharge would be avoided, and

(c) the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the health of people and communities as affected by their contact with fresh water, and

(d) the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effects on the health of people and communities as affected by their contact with fresh water resulting from the discharge would be avoided.

This policy applies to the following discharges (including a diffuse discharge by any person or animal):

(a) a new discharge, or

(b) a change or increase in any discharge

of any contaminant into fresh water, or onto or into land in circumstances that may result in that contaminant (or, as a result of any **natural process** from the discharge of that contaminant, any other contaminant) entering fresh water.

Sections (a) and (b) of this policy do not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011 took effect on 1 July 2011. Sections (c) and (d) of this policy do not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 took effect (1 August 2014).

Policy P66: Minimising discharges to water or land

Discharges of contaminants to water or land will be **minimised** through the following hierarchy:

(a) avoiding the production of the contaminant,

(b) reducing the amount of contaminants, including by reusing, recovering or recycling contaminants,

(c) **minimising** the volume or amount of the discharge,

(d) discharging to land is promoted over discharging direct to water, including using land-based treatment, constructed wetlands or other systems to treat contaminants prior to discharge.

Note

In determining if it is appropriate to discharge to land as required by clause (d), consideration must be given to the requirements of Policy P68.

Policy P67: Human drinking water supplies

The adverse effects from discharges to land and water on the quality of **community drinking water supplies** and **group drinking water supplies** shall be avoided to the extent necessary to implement regulations for human drinking water. The drinking water supply operator will be consulted with as appropriate, taking into consideration **emerging contaminants** and industry best practice.

Policy P68: Discharges to land

The discharge of contaminants to land shall be managed to:

(a) **minimise** adverse effects on the life-supporting capacity of soil,

(b) avoid creating contaminated land,

(c) not exceed the capacity of the soil to treat, use or remove the contaminant,

(d) not exceed the available capacity of the soil to absorb the discharge,

(e) avoid significant adverse effects on public health and amenity,

(f) not result in a discharge to water that causes more than a minor adverse effects, and

(g) avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on **mana whenua** values when considering applications for discharges to land which may adversely affect statutory acknowledgement areas, sites of significance, or Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga sites, identified in this Plan, any relevant district plan, or in a planning document recognised by an iwi authority and lodged with a local authority.

Policy P69: Promoting discharges to land

COASTAL

The discharge of contaminants to land is promoted over direct discharges to water, particularly where there are adverse effects on:

(a) **aquatic ecosystem health**, or

(b) **mahinga kai**, or

(c) contact recreation, or

(d) **Māori customary use**.

Policy P70: Minimising effects of rural land use activities

COASTAL

The adverse effects of rural land use activities, including any associated discharge that may enter water, shall be **minimised** through the use of regulatory and non-regulatory methods that promote, as a minimum, the use of **good management practices** including:

(a) rules and methods in the Plan, and

(b) development and implementation of **farm environment plans**, and

(c) information gathering, monitoring, assessment and reporting, and

(d) integrated catchment management within the Wellington Regional Council and with the involvement of **mana whenua**, territorial authorities, water users, farmers, households, industry, environmental groups and technical experts.

Policy P71: Managing the discharge of nutrients

COASTAL

Where one or more of the objectives in Tables 3.1, 3.2 or 3.4-3.8 of Objectives O18 and O19 is/are not met in a catchment or water body, when managing rural land use activities, including any associated discharge of contaminants into water or into or onto land where contaminants may enter water, the Regional Council will:

(a) give particular consideration to the role nutrients play in those objectives not being met, and

(b) where nutrients do play a significant role, impose conditions on resource consents granted that require phosphorus and nitrogen losses from activities to be managed to contribute to improving outcomes in relation to the objective(s), and

(c) manage nutrients including by requiring **farm environment plans** in accordance with Policy P73.

Policy P72: Priority Catchments

Identify in Schedule Y **priority catchments** that are:

(a) surface water catchments identified by Method M10 because of elevated nitrate and/or periphyton levels; and

(b) surface water catchments that have water quality that exceeds:

  (i) the A band for nitrate toxicity, or

  (ii) the national bottom-line for periphyton

as set out in Appendix 2A of the *NPS-FM 2020*.

Policy P73: Implementation of farm environment plans in priority catchments

In **priority catchments** identified in Schedule Y require the development and implementation of **farm environment plans**, and the adoption of **good management practice**, to contribute to the **minimisation** of the potential for nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and *E.coli* contamination of **surface water bodies** and the coastal marine area from the following land uses:

(a) the use of more than 20 ha of land for **arable land use**, **pastoral land use** or **low intensity horticultural use**, or

(b) the use of more than 5 ha of land for **horticultural land use** that is not a **low intensity horticultural use**.

Policy P74: Avoiding an increase in adverse effects of rural land use activities and associated diffuse discharges of contaminants

COASTAL

Any increase in adverse effects on water quality associated with the use of more than 20ha of land for **pastoral land use** or **arable land use** or **low intensity horticultural use** or 5ha for **horticultural land use** that is not **low intensity horticultural use**, that is:

(a) irrigated with **new water**, or

(b) in a **priority catchment**, and

the associated diffuse discharge of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and *E.coli* shall be avoided and, where reasonably practicable, effects reduced by ensuring that:

(c) there is no increase in:

(i) contaminant loss risk from the land use, compared with the contaminant loss risk from the land as at 2 September 2020, or

(ii) concentrations of contaminants in **surface water bodies** or other receiving environments (including the coastal marine area), compared with the concentrations as at 2 September 2020, and

(d) when determining the losses as at 2 September 2020, no allowance shall be made for contaminant loss avoidable by the adoption of **good management practice**, and

(e) the land use operates in accordance with **good management practice.**

Policy P75: Assessing whether an increase in contaminant loads and concentrations will occur

COASTAL

When undertaking a risk assessment for the purpose of **farm environment plans** and when considering an application for resource consent under either the *Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020* or under the provisions of the Plan, the Council shall:

(a) regard the load of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and *E.coli* in the receiving environment to be increased as a result of the land use unless it can be demonstrated, by farm-scale comparative analysis of all contaminant sources, pathways and proposed mitigation measures, that the risk of loss of contaminants from the land over a 12 month period will be the same or less than could be reasonably considered to have been discharging from the land use occurring on that land over the average 12 month period in the preceding five years, and

(b) require the analysis in (a) above to be undertaken using expert judgement complemented, where practicable, by the use of suitable models and/or risk assessment tools as may be approved for use by the Wellington Regional Council.

Policy P76: Consent duration for rural land use in priority catchments

The duration of any resource consent for rural land use and associated discharge of contaminants into water or into or onto land where contaminants may enter water within **priority catchments** shall not extend beyond 31 December 2032.

Policy P77: Improving water quality for contact recreation and Māori customary use

The quality of fresh water bodies and coastal water shall be improved to meet, over time and as a minimum, the objectives in Table 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3, including by:

(a) improving water quality in all first priority for improvement water bodies for secondary contact with water listed in Schedule H2 (priority water bodies) in accordance with Method M34, and

(b) having particular regard to improving water quality in fresh water bodies and coastal water where contact recreation and/or **Māori customary use** are adversely affected by discharges from **stormwater networks, stormwater** from a port, or airport, **wastewater networks** and **wastewater** treatment plants.

Policy P78: Managing point source discharges for aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Where an objective in Table 3.4, Table 3.5, Table 3.6, Table 3.7 or Table 3.8 of Objective O19 is not met, **point source discharges** to water shall be managed in the following way:

(a) for an existing discharge that contributes to the objective(s) not being met, the discharge is only appropriate if:

  (i) at a minimum an application for a resource consent includes a defined programme of work for upgrading the discharge, in accordance with **good management practice**, within the term of the resource consent, and

  (ii) conditions on the resource consent require the adverse effects of the discharge to be **minimised** in order to improve water quality in relation to the objective(s) not met, and

  (iii) in determining the improvement to water quality required in (ii), and the timeframe in which it is to be achieved, consideration will be given to the discharge's contribution to the objective(s) not being met,

(b) for a new discharge, the discharge is inappropriate if the discharge would cause the affected fresh water body or area of coastal water to decline in relation to the objective(s), except that a new temporary discharge to coastal water from a **wastewater network** or **wastewater** treatment plant to facilitate maintenance, repair, replacement or **upgrade** work that has temporary adverse effects may not be inappropriate.

Policy P79: Quality of point source discharges to rivers

The adverse effects of **point source discharges,** excluding **stormwater** and **wastewater** discharges, to rivers shall be **minimised** by the use of measures that result in the discharge as a minimum maintaining water quality and meeting the following water quality standards in the receiving water after the **zone of reasonable mixing**:

(a) when measured below the discharge point compared to above the discharge point:

  (i) a decrease in the Quantitative Macroinvertebrate Community Index of no more than 20%[2], and

  (ii) a decrease in water clarity of no more than:

    1. 20% in **River class** 1 and in any river identified as having high macroinvertebrate community health in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), or

    2. 30% in any other river, and

  (iii) a change in temperature of no more than:

    1. 20% in **River class** 1 and in any river identified as having high macroinvertebrate community health in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), or

    2. 3°C in any other river, and`

(b) the 7-day mean minimum dissolved oxygen concentration of no lower than 5 mg/L, and

(c) the daily minimum dissolved oxygen concentration of no lower than 4mg/L.

Policy P80: Zone of reasonable mixing

COASTAL

When a discharge to water requires resource consent,

(a) the **zone of reasonable mixing** shall be **minimised** and will be determined on a case-by-case basis, including by having regard to the:

  (i) efficient mixing of the discharge with the receiving waters, and

  (ii) significant **mana whenua** values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), and

[2] At all times based on equivalence test using data from at least 5 Surber samples collected upstream and downstream of the discharge.

(iii) identified values of that area of water, and

(b) the adverse effects of the discharge, including,

(i) on aquatic species migration, and

(ii) acute and chronic toxicity effects, and

(iii) on significant **mana whenua** values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua)

within the **zone of reasonable mixing** shall be **minimised**.

Policy P81: Mixing waters

Mixing waters between catchments is inappropriate except where there are no adverse effects on **mana whenua** values.

Policy P82: Avoiding inappropriate discharges to water COASTAL

Discharges to fresh and coastal water of:

(a) untreated **wastewater**, except as a result of heavy rainfall event overflows, and

(b) **animal effluent** from an **animal effluent** storage facility or from an area where animals are confined, and

(c) untreated industrial or trade waste, and

(d) untreated organic waste or leachate from storage of organic material,

shall be avoided.

4.9.2 Stormwater

Policy P83: Minimising adverse effects of stormwater discharges COASTAL

The adverse effects of **stormwater** discharges shall be **minimised**, including by:

(a) using **good management practice**, and

(b) taking a **source control** and treatment train approach to new activities and land uses, and

(c) implementing **water sensitive urban design** in new subdivision and development, and

(d) progressively improving existing **stormwater, wastewater**, road and other public infrastructure, including during routine maintenance and **upgrade**, and

(e) managing localised adverse effects, including by addressing particular attributes appropriate to the receiving environment.

Policy P84: Managing land use impacts on stormwater

Land use, subdivision and development, including **stormwater** discharges, shall be managed so that runoff volumes and peak flows:

(a) avoid or **minimise** scour and erosion of stream beds, banks and coastal margins, and

(b) do not increase risk to human health or safety, or increase the risk of inundation, erosion or damage to **property** or infrastructure,

including by retaining, as far as practicable, pre-development hydrological conditions in new subdivision and development.

Policy P85: Development of a stormwater management strategy for first-stage local authority and state highway network consents

The adverse effects of discharges from local authority and state highway **stormwater networks** during a controlled activity consent granted under Rule R52 or during the development of a **stormwater management strategy** shall be managed by:

(a) managing the **stormwater networks** on a comprehensive basis whereby discharges from local authority and/or state highway **stormwater** devices are aggregated on a catchment or sub-catchment basis and authorised via a single 'global' consent, and

(b) undertaking monitoring to identify the adverse quality and quantity effects of discharges from the **stormwater network** on:

(i) **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai**, and

(ii) contact recreation and **Māori customary use**, and

(iii) the values of areas with identified outstanding or significant values identified in Schedule A (outstanding water bodies), Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule F (indigenous biodiversity), and

(iv) water and sediment quality in the receiving environment, and the benthic habitat of **low energy receiving environments**,

in order to develop a prioritised programme for improvement of areas within the **stormwater network** that will form the basis of a **stormwater management strategy**, and

(c) managing any acute adverse effects of discharges from the **stormwater network** detected during the monitoring under (b),

including significant adverse effects on primary and secondary contact with water, by:

(i) implementing mitigation as soon as practicable after the effect is determined, and

(ii) identifying long-term options for remediation or mitigation, and

(d) limiting resource consents granted under Rule R52 to a maximum of five years, and

(e) including conditions in the resource consent to set timeframes for the development of a **stormwater management strategy** in accordance with Schedule N (stormwater strategy), and

(f) developing a monitoring programme under (b) that:

(i) selects suitable representative sites where there are multiple discharge points to the same receiving environment, and

(ii) is proportional in scale and detail to the risk associated with the network and the sensitivity of the receiving environment, and

in the Wairarapa,

(iii) focuses on state highways and the urban areas of Masterton, Carterton, Greytown, and Featherston, and

(iv) for **stormwater network**s in urban areas not listed in (ii), identifies key risks to receiving water quality from **stormwater** discharges in accordance with Schedule N(c) and (d) *Catchment characteristics*.

Policy P86: Second-stage local authority and state highway network consents

COASTAL

When an application for resource consent is made with a **stormwater management strategy**, the adverse effects of discharges from local authority and state highway **stormwater networks** shall be **minimised** by:

(a) identifying in the **stormwater management strategy** priorities for progressive improvement, and timeframes to achieve this improvement, in accordance with any relevant objectives identified in the Plan, and

(b) where appropriate, developing catchment-specific **stormwater** management plans or other methods to identify and prioritise actions in accordance with any relevant objectives identified in the Plan, and

(c) progressively implementing the **stormwater management strategy** and any actions identified under (b), and

(d) for new **stormwater networks**, managing the adverse quality and quantity effects of post-development **stormwater** discharges in accordance with **good management practice** and Policies P83 and P84, and

(e) progressively reducing the impact of untreated **wastewater** on fresh and coastal water in accordance with Policies P87 and P88, and

(f) progressively improving existing **stormwater, wastewater**, road and other public infrastructure, including through routine maintenance and **upgrade**.

Policy P87: Minimising wastewater and stormwater interactions

COASTAL

The adverse effects of **wastewater** and **stormwater** interactions on fresh and coastal water shall be **minimised** by:

(a) avoiding **wastewater** contamination of **stormwater** from new **wastewater networks** or connections authorised after the date of 31 July 2015, and

(b) removal of existing **wastewater** contamination of **stormwater** progressively, and as soon as reasonably practicable, and

(c) progressively reducing **stormwater** and groundwater infiltration and inflow into the **wastewater network**.

Policy P88: Assessing resource consents to discharge stormwater containing wastewater

COASTAL

A resource consent application under Rule R53 to discharge **stormwater** from a local authority **stormwater network** known to contain **wastewater** is inappropriate unless the application includes:

(a) a plan of how Policy P87 will be achieved, including key milestones and dates, and

(b) the results of consultation with **mana whenua** on their values and interests in relation to discharges and receiving waters.

Policy P89: Managing stormwater from a port or airport

COASTAL

The adverse effects, including the effects on **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai**, contact recreation and **Māori customary use**, of the discharge of **stormwater** from a port or airport, where the discharge will enter water, including through a local authority or state highway **stormwater network**, shall be **minimised** by:

(a) identifying priorities for improvement, including methods and timeframes for improvement, in accordance with any relevant objectives identified in the Plan, and

(b) having particular regard to protecting sites with identified significant or outstanding values, and

(c) implementing **good management practice**, and

(d) where required, progressively improving discharge quality over time.

4.9.3 Wastewater

Policy P90: Replacing wastewater discharge consents

Applicants replacing **existing resource consents** to discharge **wastewater** to fresh water and coastal water shall identify:

(a) the objectives, limits, targets, discharge standards or other requirements set out in the Plan relevant to **wastewater** discharges to water, and

(b) the results of consultation with the community and **mana whenua** on their values and interests in relation to discharges and receiving waters, including adverse effects on **Māori customary use** and **mahinga kai**, and

(c) in response to consultation with the community and **mana whenua**, the short-term and long-term goals for **wastewater** discharges to water, where short-term goals are within the lifetime of the Plan and long-term goals are beyond the lifetime of the Plan, and

(d) how the short- and long-term goals for **wastewater** discharges to water will satisfy provisions of the Plan, and

(e) infrastructure changes needed to meet long-term goals for **wastewater** discharges to water, including key milestones and dates.

Policy P91: Mana whenua values and wastewater discharges

Mana whenua values and interests shall be reflected in the management of **wastewater** discharges to fresh and coastal water including adverse effects on **Māori customary use**, **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**, **outstanding water bodies** and **mahinga kai.**

Policy P92: Minimising and improving wastewater discharges

The adverse effects of **existing wastewater discharges** to fresh water and coastal water shall be **minimised**, and:

(a) in the case of **existing wastewater discharges** to fresh water from **wastewater** treatment plants, the quality of discharges shall be

progressively improved and the quantity of discharges shall be progressively reduced, and

(b) in the case of **existing wastewater discharges** to coastal water from **wastewater** treatment plants, the quality of discharges shall be progressively improved where the discharge contributes to an objective in Table 3.3 of Objective O18 or Table 3.8 of Objective O19 not being met, and

(c) in the case of **existing wastewater discharges** to fresh water or coastal water from **wastewater network** overflows during or following rainfall events, the frequency and/or volume of discharges shall be progressively reduced.

Where improvements are required, these are undertaken within timeframes appropriate to the degree of improvement required and the level of effects of the discharge on the environment.

Policy P93: Quality of existing wastewater discharges to rivers COASTAL

The quality of **existing wastewater discharges** to rivers shall be assessed in relation to the following water quality guidelines in the receiving water after the **zone of reasonable mixing**:

(a) when measured below the discharge point compared to above the discharge point:

(i) a decrease in the Quantitative Macroinvertebrate Community Index of no more than 20%, and

(ii) a decrease in water clarity of no more than:

1. 20% in **River class** 1 and in any river identified as having high macroinvertebrate community health in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), or

2. 30% in any other river, and

(iii) a change in temperature of no more than:

1. 2˚C in any river identified as having high macroinvertebrate community health in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), or

2. 3˚C in any other river, and

(b) consider the extent to which the discharge causes the following to be exceeded:

(i) the 7-day mean minimum dissolved oxygen concentration of no more than 5 mg/L, and

(ii) the daily minimum dissolved oxygen concentration of no lower than 4mg/L, and

(iii) soluble carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (BOD_5) of no more than 2mg/L at flows less than flood flows, and

(iv) particulate organic matter (POM) no more than 5 mg/L at flows less than median, and

(v) nitrate toxicity of no more than:

1. 1mg/L (annual median) and 1.5mg/L (annual 95th percentile from monthly samples) in outstanding waterbodies (Schedule A1), **River class** 1 and in any river identified as having high macroinvertebrate community health in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), or

2. 2.4mg/L (annual median) and 3.5mg/L (annual 95th percentile from monthly samples) in any other river, and

(vi) ammonia toxicity (at pH 8 and 20˚C) of no more than:

1. 0.03mg/L (annual median) and 0.05mg/L (annual maximum from monthly samples) in outstanding waterbodies (Schedule A1), **River class** 1 and in any river identified as having high macroinvertebrate community health in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), or

2. 0.24mg/L (annual median) and 0.4mg/L (annual maximum from monthly samples) in any other river.

Policy P94: Avoiding new wastewater discharges to fresh water

New wastewater discharges to fresh water are avoided.

Policy P95: Discouraging new discharges of treated wastewater to coastal water

COASTAL

New discharges of treated **wastewater** to coastal water are discouraged, unless:

(a) adequate consideration of alternative methods and sites has been undertaken, and

(b) discharge to land is not practicable, and

(c) the adverse effects of the discharge are **minimised**, and

(d) one or more of the following applies:

(i) it is a relocation of a previous freshwater discharge, or

(ii) it is a discharge from an existing **wastewater** treatment plant for an increased volume, or

(iii) it is a discharge from an existing **wastewater** treatment plant to a new location to assist with achieving Objectives O18 and O19.

When considering the practicability of discharges to land, regard shall be given to new and emerging technologies.

Policy P96: Biosolids and treated wastewater to land

The adverse effects on fresh water, including groundwater and coastal water and on soil from the discharge of **biosolids** or treated **wastewater** to land shall be **minimised**. The discharge of **biosolids** to land shall be managed in accordance with relevant **good management practice** guidelines.

Policy P97: On-site domestic wastewater management

The discharge of contaminants to land from **on-site domestic wastewater treatment and discharge systems** shall avoid adverse effects on **mana whenua values**, and not result in more than minor adverse effects on fresh water, including groundwater and coastal water. The discharge shall be avoided where reticulated sewerage is available. **On-site domestic wastewater treatment and discharge systems** shall be designed, operated and maintained in accordance with the *New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1547:2012 – On-site domestic wastewater management*.

4.9.4 Collected animal effluent

Policy P98: Discharge of collected animal effluent

Any system to store, treat or discharge collected **animal effluent** to land shall be designed, constructed and maintained so that:

(a) the collection, storage and distribution systems are sealed to prevent discharge of effluent outside the intended discharge area, and

(b) the discharge is to land, and:

(i) effluent is discharged at a rate that can be absorbed and treated by the soil and plants, to **minimise** ponding, and prevent surface runoff and direct discharge to groundwater or to surface water through tile drains, and

(ii) sufficient storage is provided so that effluent can be stored when weather or soil conditions are unsuitable for **irrigation**, and

(iii) discharges avoid adverse effects on water quality including any **community drinking water supply.**

4.9.5 Contaminated land, hazardous substances and landfills

Policy P99: Discharges from contaminated land

The discharge of **hazardous substances** from contaminated land is managed so that significant adverse effects on fresh water, including groundwater, coastal water, and air are avoided, remedied or mitigated to the extent practicable.

Policy P100: Discharges of hazardous substances

The adverse effects of the discharge of **hazardous substances** (excluding a discharge subject to Policy P89) to land, fresh water, including groundwater, coastal water or air shall be avoided, or mitigated or remedied where avoidance is not practicable.

Policy P101: Landfills

The adverse effects on fresh water, including groundwater, coastal water, and air from discharges to land associated with landfills shall be **minimised** by:

(a) ensuring landfill design, construction, operation and maintenance is in accordance with **good management practice** and includes:

(i) methods for leachate management, collection, treatment and **disposal**, and

(ii) methods for **stormwater** capture and control from both off-site and on-site, and

(iii) methods to **minimise** odour, and

(iv) maintenance and monitoring to **minimise** contamination of the receiving environment, and

(b) methods for gas collection, flaring of gas, or if gas is used as a fuel for electricity generation, in accordance with section 25 to 27 of the *National Environmental Standards for Air Quality Regulations (2004)*, and

(c) ensuring landfills are managed in accordance with site-specific landfill management plans, and

(d) having controls to manage **hazardous waste** and avoid any discharge of **hazardous wastes** or the leaching of contaminants from **hazardous wastes** into or onto land where they may enter water, and

(e) ensuring landfills are closed and monitored in accordance with A Guide for the Management of Closing and Closed Landfills in New Zealand, 2001.

4.9.6 Wastewater from vessels and offshore installations and biofoul cleaning

Policy P102: Discharge of wastewater from vessels

COASTAL

Significant adverse effects on **mana whenua** values and community values from the discharge of **wastewater** containing human effluent from vessels to coastal water inside the **harbour and pilotage limit** (shown on Map 68) shall be avoided by:

(a) requiring the provision of sewage collection and **disposal** facilities for vessels at new marinas, or at the time of significant upgrading of these facilities.

Policy P103: Minimising adverse effects of wastewater discharges from vessels and offshore installations

COASTAL

The adverse effects of **wastewater** discharges containing human effluent from vessels and offshore installations shall be **minimised** by using **good management practices**, including by:

(a) discharging **wastewater** from vessels greater than 500 tonnes outside the **harbour and pilotage limit** (shown on Map 68), and

(b) avoiding discharges into sites with significant values, and

(c) utilising shore based **disposal** facilities.

Policy P104: Biofoul cleaning

COASTAL

The discharge of contaminants and biological material to coastal waters from in-water hull cleaning of vessels, moveable structures or navigation aids, particularly those that have a high degree of **biofouling**, shall be managed to **minimise** the risk of contaminants and biological material being discharged into coastal water.

Note

See guidance provided in the *Anti-Fouling and In-Water Cleaning Guidelines, June 2013*.

4.9.7 Hydrocarbon exploration or extraction

Policy P105: Discharges from hydrocarbon exploration or extraction

COASTAL

The adverse effects on fresh water, including groundwater, and coastal water from chemicals or materials or the escape of hydrocarbons during the exploration for, or extraction of, hydrocarbons in solid, liquid or gaseous forms shall be avoided.

Hydrocarbon wells must be designed, operated, maintained, and decommissioned in a way that:

(a) avoids contaminating freshwater, including groundwater, and coastal water over the long terms from open or unsealed wells, and from other operational activities, and

(b) complies with **good management practices**, recognised industry standards, codes of practice, and regulations, and

(c) selects best practice drilling and construction methods, including the of muds and other construction material used, and

(d) is able to handle changes in temperature, pressure, and stress along their entire length, from hydraulic fracturing, natural ground movements, and seismic hazards such as earthquakes, and

(e) **minimises** effects on the reliability of groundwater supply for properly constructed, efficient and fully functioning existing wells, and

(f) ensures that well logs are prepared and made available for the construction or alteration of wells.

Policy P106: Disposal of hydrocarbon exploration or extraction materials

The adverse effects on soil, fresh water, including groundwater, and coastal water from the **disposal** of chemicals or materials used in the exploration for, or extraction of, hydrocarbons in solid, liquid or gaseous forms shall be avoided.

Policy P107: Land use activities, erosion and associated discharges

Earthworks, **vegetation clearance** and **plantation forestry** harvesting activities that have the potential to result in significant accelerated soil erosion, or to lead to off-site discharges of silt and sediment to **surface water bodies**, shall use measures, including **good management practice**, to:

(a) **minimise** the risk of accelerated soil erosion, and

(b) control silt and sediment runoff, and

(c) ensure the site is **stabilised** and vegetation cover is restored.

4.9.8 Livestock access and riparian management

Policy P108: Livestock access to a surface water body and the coastal marine area

Degradation of water quality and aquatic ecosystems (including plants and habitats in, on or under the bed) in a **surface water body** or the coastal marine area from sedimentation, the direct discharge of contaminants, damage to the beds or banks, resulting from **livestock** access is avoided, remedied or mitigated by:

(a) excluding **livestock** from **Category 1 surface water bodies**, and

(b) restricting the location and frequency of access of some types of **livestock** to **Category 2 surface water bodies,** and

(c) limiting adverse effects of **livestock** access in all **surface water bodies** and the coastal marine area.

Policy P109: Management of riparian margins 

Maintain or restore water quality, **aquatic ecosystem health**, **mahinga kai** and **natural character**, and reduce the amount of contaminants entering **surface water bodies**, through the management of riparian margins including:

(a) the exclusion or restricted access of **livestock** likely to affect **riparian margins** or water quality,

(b) set-back distances from **surface water bodies** for some land use activities including **earthworks**, **vegetation clearance**, **cultivation** and **break-feeding**,

(c) encouraging the planting of appropriate riparian vegetation, and

(d) the control of pest plants and animals.

4.9.9 Activities in beds of lakes and rivers

Policy P110: Loss of extent and values of the beds of lakes and rivers, and **natural wetlands**

The loss of extent and values of the beds of lakes and rivers and **natural wetlands**, including as a result of **reclamation** and drainage, is avoided, except where:

(a) in a **natural inland wetland**:

(i) the loss of extent or values arises from any of the following:

1. the customary harvest of food or resources undertaken in accordance with **tikanga** Māori, or

2. **restoration** activities, or

3. scientific research, or

4. the sustainable harvest of sphagnum moss, or

5. the construction or maintenance of **wetland utility structures**, or

6. the maintenance or operation of **specified infrastructure**, or **other infrastructure**, or

7. **natural hazard works**, and

8. where the activity involves **reclamation** or drainage there are no other practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity,

or

(ii) for **specified infrastructure**:

1. the activity, including any **reclamation** and drainage, is necessary for the construction or **upgrade** of **specified infrastructure**, and

2. the **specified infrastructure** will provide significant national or regional benefits, and

3. there is a **functional need** for the **specified infrastructure** in that location,

(b) in a river:

(i) there is a **functional need** for the activity in that location; and

(ii) any **reclamation** or drainage is:

1. partial **reclamation** of a river bank for the purposes of flood protection or erosion control, or

2. for the purposes of the development, operation, maintenance and **upgrade** of **Regionally Significant Infrastructure**, or

3. associated with the creation of a new river bed and does not involve piping of the river, or

4. for the purpose of forming a reasonable crossing point, or

5. associated with the extraction of **significant mineral resources** from existing quarries, or

6. partial **reclamation** of a river bank for the purposes of local roads, and

7. in respect of (1) to (6) there are no other practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity,

or

(c) in a lake the **reclamation** or drainage is:

(i) necessary to enable the development, operation, maintenance and **upgrade** of **Regionally Significant Infrastructure**, or

(ii) for the purpose of forming a reasonable cross point, and

(iii) in respect of (ii) there are no other practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity.

Note

The effects of any activity that requires a resource consent under this policy will be managed through applying the effects management hierarchy as set out in Policies P31, P37, P38, or P48.

Policy P111: Management of gravel, sand or rock extraction

COASTAL

The extraction of gravel, sand or rock from the beds of rivers shall be managed so that:

(a) the extraction does not result in an increase in flooding or erosion either at the site of extraction or across the wider river catchment, including any erosion of existing structures, and

(b) the flow of bed material to the coast is not reduced to the extent it would contribute to coastal erosion, and

(c) the rate of extraction does not exceed the natural rates of deposition, unless this is required to manage aggradation.

Note

This policy does not apply to the disturbance of a river bed, including as a result of bed recontouring, where no gravel or sand is extracted from the river.

Policy P112: Removal of aquatic vegetation and/or accumulated sediment

COASTAL

The benefits of the removal of aquatic vegetation and/or accumulated sediment from the bed of a river to manage the **hazard risk** of flooding to people, **property**, infrastructure and communities are recognised and those activities are provided for, and shall be managed so that:

(a) the extent and frequency of this activity is **minimised** over time, and

(b) the activity occurs at times of the year when adverse effects on aquatic species may be less significant, and

(c) the Good Practices for the Mechanical Management of Highly Modified Waterways guidance document is implemented where practicable, and

(d) the entrapment and stranding of fish, kōura and kākahi is avoided as far as possible, and recovery and return is conducted, and

(e) the effects on **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai**, contact recreation and **Māori customary use** are monitored and an adaptive management approach is used to address any adverse effects, including cumulative adverse effects, that are more than minor in order to contribute to a catchment-wide improvement in these values within defined timeframes.

Policy P113: Effects on catchment-based flood and erosion control activities

More than minor adverse effects on structures that are part of **catchment-based flood and erosion risk management activities** shall be avoided, unless those activities are carried out by or on behalf of the owner of the structure.

Policy P114: Management of plants in the beds of lakes and rivers

The introduction to and removal of a plant, or part of a plant, from the beds of lakes and rivers shall be managed so that:

(a) pest plants are not introduced and their removal is enabled, and

(b) indigenous plant species are encouraged to be planted where they are appropriate for the purpose and are typical of the area and their removal (in whole or in part) is only enabled for the purpose of **Māori customary use** or for the reasonable use of an individual, or where it is necessary to manage flooding and erosion, and

(c) the introduction or removal of a plant, or part of a plant, does not increase flooding and erosion either at the site of introduction or removal, or across the wider river catchment, and

(d) the introduction or removal of a plant, or a part of a plant, does not adversely affect significant biodiversity values of the site, and

(e) for a lake constructed as a **community drinking water supply**, the removal of a plan, or part of a plant, is provided for where appropriate.

4.10 Taking, using, damming and diverting water

Policy P115: Integrating management of groundwater and surface water

The connectivity of groundwater and surface water shall be managed as described in Table 4.1 (groundwater connectivity) and groundwater shall be allocated from one of two sources:

(a) **Category A groundwater** and **Category B (stream depletion)** within the **core allocation** for surface water, or

(b) **Category B groundwater** (excluding **Category B (stream depletion)**) and **Category C groundwater** within the **core allocation** for groundwater.

Table 4.1: Classifying and managing groundwater and surface water connectivity

Table 4.1: Classifying and managing groundwater and surface water connectivity

Classification of connection between groundwater and surface water		General description of the magnitude of surface water depletion effect and groundwater characteristics	General management approach
Category A groundwater		Stream depletion effects begin almost immediately after the commencement of groundwater abstraction and increase rapidly over subsequent days. Over the course of weeks to months the volume of groundwater pumped almost entirely represents flow depletion from local surface waters. Depletion effects dissipate quickly when pumping stops. **Category A groundwater** aquifers are generally shallow, highly permeable gravels that occur along the riparian margins of the main river systems. **Category A groundwater** takes are expressed in litres/sec (L/sec) (based on a weekly average). **Category A groundwater** areas are generally shown in Figures 7.2, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8 and 7.9 in chapter 7; Figures 8.1 and 8.2 in chapter 8; and Figure 10.1 and 10.2 in chapter 10.	**Allocation** **Category A groundwater** takes are allocated from surface water **allocation amount** for the relevant **catchment management unit** and **catchment management sub unit**. **Restrictions** **Category A groundwater** takes are subject to restrictions outlined in Policy P118 and Schedule Q. Where a groundwater take is located in an area shown in the **whaitua** chapters as **Category A groundwater** and there is clear hydrogeological information demonstrating that surface water depletion effects from takes are less than expected, the take may be considered as **Category B groundwater.** Such clear new hydrogeological evidence may be advanced in accordance with Schedule O by a resource consent applicant seeking a new resource consent or an existing user amending an **existing resource consent**. Saltwater intrusion into an **aquifer** or the landward movement of the salt water/fresh water interface shall be prevented.
Category B groundwater		Compared with takes in **Category A groundwater**, the onset of stream depletion effects is less immediate and it often takes weeks rather than days for the effect to become significant. Depletion effects dissipate more slowly than takes from **Category A groundwater** when pumping stops. **Category B groundwater** areas are generally shown in the **whaitua** chapters at the locations and depths described in Figures 7.2, 7.3, 7.6, 7.8 and 7.9 in chapter 7; Figures 8.1 and 8.2 in chapter 8; and Figure 10.1 and 10.2 in chapter 10. Table 7.5 in chapter 7, Table 8.3 in chapter 8 and Table 10.3 in chapter 10, Table 8.2 chapter 8 and Table 10.2 in chapter 10.	The management approach for individual takes at a location in **Category B groundwater** will be derived from hydrogeological information that appropriately characterises the potential effects of taking groundwater on hydraulically connected surface water. Hydrogeological information will be required by a resource consent applicant seeking a new resource consent or by an existing user with an **existing resource consent** seeking an increased amount of water.

Table 4.1: Classifying and managing groundwater and surface water connectivity			
Classification of connection between groundwater and surface water		**General description of the magnitude of surface water depletion effect and groundwater characteristics**	**General management approach**
			For the following management approaches stream depletion effect is calculated using an assessed pumping rate required to meet demand 9 out of every 10 years (90th percentile) over a 90 day maximum demand period. **Allocation** **Category B groundwater** is allocated from both surface and **groundwater allocation** amounts as follows: (i) For takes with a stream depletion effect from local surface waters of greater than 60%, the calculated stream depletion effect is included in the **surface water allocation** for the relevant **catchment management sub unit**, while the remainder is included in the **groundwater allocation** for the relevant **catchment management sub unit****. (ii) For takes with a stream depletion effect from local surface waters of less than 60% but greater than 10L/sec, the calculated stream depletion effect is included in the **surface water allocation** for the relevant **catchment management sub unit**, while the remainder is included in the **groundwater allocation** for the relevant **catchment management sub unit****. **Category B groundwater** is allocated from **groundwater allocation** amounts as follows: (i) For takes with a stream depletion effect from local surface water of less than 60% and less than 10L/sec, the allocation is from the relevant groundwater **catchment management sub unit**. (ii) For takes with a weekly average abstraction rate less than 5 L/sec the allocation is from relevant groundwater **catchment management sub unit**.

Table 4.1: Classifying and managing groundwater and surface water connectivity			
Classification of connection between groundwater and surface water		**General description of the magnitude of surface water depletion effect and groundwater characteristics**	**General management approach**
			Restrictions **Category B groundwater** takes with the following may be subject to restrictions outlined in Policy P118 and Schedule Q: (i) A stream depletion effect of greater than 60% , or (ii) A stream depletion effect of less than 60% but greater than 10L/sec where the cumulative Category B stream depletion effect for the **catchment management sub unit** exceeds 10% of natural 7d **MALF** of the **surface water body** impacted by the cumulative stream depletion**.** **Category B groundwater** takes with the following are not subject to restrictions outlined in Policy P118 and Schedule Q: (i) A stream depletion effect of less than 60% and less than 10L/, or (ii) a weekly average abstraction rate less than 5 L/sec. Saltwater intrusion into an **aquifer** or the landward movement of the salt water/fresh water interface shall be prevented.
Category C groundwater		Groundwater takes may contribute to stream flow depletion at a catchment scale over the course of a pumping season but effects are much less immediate and significant than for **Category A groundwater,** and **Category B groundwater** takes. Groundwater with a limited degree of connection generally comprise low permeability geology and/or are the farthest removed from surface waters (e.g. deep confined **aquifers**). **Category C groundwater** areas are generally shown in the **whaitua** chapters at the locations and depths described in Figures 7.2-7.9 in chapter 7, Figures 8.1-8.2 in chapter 8, and Figure 10.1 in chapter 10.	**Allocation** **Category C groundwater** is allocated from the **groundwater allocation** amount for the relevant **catchment management sub unit**. **Restrictions** **Category C groundwater** is not subject to restrictions outlined in Policy P118 and schedule Q. Where a groundwater take is located in an area shown in the **whaitua** chapters as **Category C groundwater** and there is clear hydrogeological evidence demonstrating that surface water depletion effects from take is greater than expected, the take may be considered as **Category B groundwater**.

Table 4.1: Classifying and managing groundwater and surface water connectivity			
Classification of connection between groundwater and surface water		**General description of the magnitude of surface water depletion effect and groundwater characteristics**	**General management approach**
			A **pumping test** is required by a resource consent applicant seeking a new resource consent or by an existing user with an **existing resource consent** seeking an increased amount of water.

* For small streams in the Kāpiti Whaitua, if the stream depletion factor is less than 60%, a groundwater take is considered to have a High connection if the stream depletion effect is greater than:

- 10 L/sec in streams with a **MALF** greater than 100 L/sec, or
- 10% of **MALF** in streams with a **MALF** less than 100 L/sec

** In the Hutt Whaitua, the total groundwater allocated for a groundwater take is included in the Lower Hutt groundwater **catchment management unit**. In addition to this, the stream depletion effect (based on a stream depletion factor of 0.5) is included in the Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River **catchment management unit**.

Policy P116: Lapse dates affecting water takes

Resource consents to take and use water shall be given effect to within three years of the commencement date unless a longer lapse date is justified due to the scale or complexity of the activity. For the purpose of this policy, "given effect to" includes the installation of infrastructure, water meter or flow measuring device or the use of the water in accordance with the purpose of the resource consent.

Policy P117: National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management requirements for water takes, damming and diversion

When considering any application the consent authority shall have regard to the following matters:

(a) the extent to which the change would adversely affect safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of fresh water and of any associated ecosystem, and

(b) the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any adverse effect on the life-supporting capacity of fresh water and of any associated ecosystem resulting from the change would be avoided.

This policy applies to:

(c) any new activity, and

(d) any change in the character, intensity or scale of any established activity

that involves any taking, using, damming or diverting of fresh water or draining of any wetland which is likely to result in any more than minor adverse change in the natural variability of flows or level of any fresh water, compared to that which immediately preceded the commencement of the new activity or the change in the established activity (or in the case of a change in an intermittent or seasonal activity, compared to that on the last occasion on which the activity was carried-out).

This policy does not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011 took effect on 1 July 2011.

4.10.1 Minimum flows

In addition to policies on **minimum flows** and **minimum water levels** that follow, policies on **minimum flows and minimum water levels** in chapters 7-11 (**whaitua** chapters of the Plan) also equally apply.

Policy P118: Water takes at minimum flows and minimum water levels

The take and use of water shall not occur when flows or water levels fall below **minimum flows or minimum water levels** in the **whaitua** chapters (chapters 7-

11), with the exception that water is available below **minimum flows** or **minimum water levels**:

(a) for firefighting, an individual's reasonable domestic needs and the reasonable needs of a person's animals for drinking water as provided for by section 14(3)(b) and 14(3)(e) of the RMA, or

(b) for the take and use of water permitted by rules in the Plan, or

(c) as authorised by any **existing resource consent**, or

(d) for the replacement of an **existing resource consent** to take surface water for the same (or less) volume for the following purposes:

(i) the **health needs of people** as part of **group drinking water supply** or **community drinking water supply**, or

(ii) **water races** for the purpose of supplying water for the **health needs of people** and animal drinking water, or

(iii) permanent horticultural or viticultural root crops (excluding pasture species, animal fodder crops and maize), for the sole purpose of avoiding their death provided:

- the water shall only be available five days (120 hours) after **minimum flow** or **minimum water level** cessation take restrictions are imposed and where no practical alternative sources of water are available or accessible, and

- the amount of water needed shall be determined following consideration of the extent and type of crop(s) and the risk of crop death in drought situations, and

(e) for the replacement of an **existing resource consent** for the same or less volume of **Category A groundwater** where the replacement consent includes conditions that require that the take is reduced to 50% of the consented volume when flows are at or below **minimum flow** or **minimum levels** except:

(i) a greater reduction will be required where the **existing resource consent** required a greater level of restriction than 50%, and

(ii) unless another date is specified in the applicable **whaitua** chapter of this Plan, from 1 July 2029, for a directly connected

Category A groundwater[3] take within the Ruamāhanga Whaitua:

- a full cease take restriction will apply, except for takes specified in clause (d) above.

- takes specified in clause (d) above will be assessed as if they were surface water takes, provided the take is reduced by at least 50% and that the level of restriction is no less than the level of restriction specified in the **existing resource consent**.

(f) for the replacement of an **existing resource consent** for the same or less volume of **Category B groundwater,** where there is a stream depletion effect identified in Table 4.1 as potentially being subject to restrictions, in which case, a consent:

(i) may include conditions that require the take to be reduced commensurate with the level of surface water connectivity (as identified in Table 4.1), such that the higher the level of stream depletion effect the greater the level or reduction required at and below **minimum flow** or **minimum water levels**, and

(ii) may be limited to a term not extending beyond 2030 with particular regard to the **Whaitua Implementation Programme**

(g) for any **consent** for **Category B groundwater** or **Category C groundwater** not subject to (f) above.

Note

For the avoidance of doubt, the exceptions provided in this policy to the **minimum flow** or **minimum water levels** do not apply to new resource consent applications to take and use surface water, **Category A groundwater** or **Category B groundwater** where there is a stream depletion effect identified in Table 4.1.

Policy P119: Take and use of water as minimum flows and minimum water levels are approached

When flows or water levels approach **minimum flow** or **minimum water levels** the take and use of water shall be reduced, including as identified in Schedule Q.

[3] GWRC is undertaking work to determine the level of connection of groundwater takes in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua in order to confirm their classification as Category A groundwater

Policy P120: Priorities in drought and serious water shortage

In times of drought and **serious water shortage**, water takes shall be limited to that required for **health needs of people**, animal drinking water and firefighting.

4.10.2 Allocating water

In addition to the policies on allocating water that follow, policies in chapters 7-11 (whaitua chapters) also apply to allocating water.

Policy P121: Core allocation for rivers

The maximum **allocation amounts** for rivers (and their **tributaries**) and **Category A groundwater** and **Category B groundwater (stream depletion)** not listed in Rules R.R1, WH.R1 and K.R1 in the **whaitua** chapters of the Plan (chapters 7, 8 and 10) is:

(a) for rivers with mean flows of greater than $5m^3$/sec, 50% of the **mean annual low flow**, or

(b) for rivers with mean flows of less than or equal to $5m^3$/sec, 30% of the **mean annual low flow**.

Policy P122: Priorities for allocating water

The take and use of water for the **health needs of people** by **community drinking water supply** or a **group drinking water supply** shall be a priority over other uses.

Policy P123: Reallocating water

Water that becomes available from resource consents that are surrendered, lapsed, cancelled or not replaced, and by **existing resource consents** that are replaced for a lesser amount shall not be reallocated if the **allocation amounts** are exceeded.

Policy P124: Supplementary allocation amounts at flows above the median flow

In addition to **core allocation**, **supplementary allocation** is available above **median flow** in the following amounts:

(a) for rivers (and their tributaries) listed in Table 1 of Schedule U, up to 50% of the portion of flow in the river above the **median flow** at the point of abstraction, or

(b) for rivers (and their tributaries) listed in Table 2 of Schedule U, up to 10% of the total amount of flow in the river at the point of abstraction, or

(c) for rivers and their tributaries not listed in either Table 1 or 2 of Schedule U up to 10% of the total amount of flow in the river at the point of abstraction

provided **flushing flows** and a portion of flow above the **median flow** remains in the river to meet Objective O19.

4.10.3 Reasonable and efficient use of water

Policy P125: Reasonable and efficient use

The amount of water taken or diverted through resource consents shall be reasonable and used efficiently, including consideration of:

(a) applying the reasonable and efficient use criteria identified in Schedule P (efficient use) to new users immediately, while existing users replacing **existing resource consents** have a period of four years from the date of the plan being made operative to meet the measures, and

(b) maximising the efficient use of water when designing systems to convey or apply water, and

(c) industry guidelines, and

(d) water use records.

Policy P126: Unused water

Unused water allocated to an **existing resource consent** (excluding **existing resource consents** for **community or group drinking water supplies)** may be re-allocated to the same user when the **existing resource consent** is replaced, or the abstraction rate is changed, only if the consent holder can demonstrate how the **unused water** will be used within four years, including by means of:

(a) a capital expenditure programme linked to the purpose water is used for, and

(b) satisfying the reasonable and efficient use measures identified in Schedule P (efficient use).

Policy P127: Taking water for storage

Water may be taken for storage outside a river bed at flows above the **median flow**, provided Policy P124 is satisfied.

4.10.4 Managing adverse effects

Policy P128: Preventing salt water intrusion

Taking groundwater shall avoid salt water intrusion into an **aquifer** or landward movement of the salt water/fresh water interface, including by:

(a) cessation of groundwater takes in a catchment management unit on the Kāpiti Coast when the water level at the foreshore falls below 1m

above mean sea level (Wellington vertical datum 1953) (based on groundwater levels averaged over three days), and

(b) maintaining water levels at 2m above mean sea level (Wellington vertical datum 1953) at the foreshore of the Hutt Valley aquifer zone shown in Figure 8.2, chapter 8: Wellington Harbour and Hutt Whaitua, (based on groundwater levels averaged over 24 hours) and cessation of water takes when the water level falls below 1.7m above mean sea level (Wellington vertical datum 1953).

Policy P129: Flow variability

The take and use of water shall provide for variable river flows, including **flushing flows**, to maintain **aquatic ecosystem health** and sediment transport.

Policy P130: Direct, cumulative adverse effects

The adverse effects of taking groundwater on the reliability of supply to properly constructed, efficient and fully functioning existing **bores** shall be **minimised**.

Policy P131: Surface water intakes

The adverse effects of siting new surface water intakes on existing lawfully established surface water intakes or galleries or flow recorder sites shall be **minimised**.

Policy P132: Taking of groundwater or ground disturbance

The taking of groundwater or ground disturbance shall not result in cross-contamination between **aquifers** or water-bearing layers that results in, or may result in, adverse effects on water quality.

Policy P133: Site dewatering

Localised land subsidence resulting from **dewatering** that affects structures shall be avoided and any more than minor adverse effects of **dewatering** on the following shall be avoided, remedied or mitigated:

(a) the ecosystem functioning of connected water bodies, and

(b) the reliability of supply for existing surface and ground water users, and

(c) the quality of surface or groundwater, and

(d) the contamination of land and water.

Policy P134: Backflow of contaminants

There shall be no backflow to surface water or groundwater of contaminants from any:

(a) industrial processes, and

(b) equipment or infrastructure which is used to irrigate land or used to apply **animal effluent**, **agrichemicals** or nutrients.

4.10.5 Transferring water permits

Policy P135: Transfer of resource consents

The temporary or permanent transfer of the whole or part of the amount allocated by a resource consent(s) to take and use water shall be enabled, provided:

(a) the adverse effects of the take and use of transferred water are the same or less, and

(b) within the same **catchment management sub unit** for takes within the Ruamāhanga Whaitua (chapter 7), or

(c) the transfer occurs within the same **catchment management unit** for takes within any other **whaitua** (chapters 8-11), and

(d) the same or a lesser amount of water is being taken or used, and

(e) measuring and reporting the use of transferred water is no less than in the parent resource consent, and

(f) the transferee's water take and use is reasonable and efficient for the intended use, including meeting the reasonable and efficient use criteria identified in Schedule P (efficient use), and

(g) where an **allocation amount** identified in Tables 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 8.2, 8.3, 10.2 or 10.3 in the **whaitua** chapters of the Plan (chapters 7, 8 and 10) is exceeded, a proportion of the allocated water is surrendered and is not re-allocated, unless there is a method and defined timeframe to phase out over-allocation set out in the applicable **whaitua** chapter of the Plan.

4.10.6 Damming and diverting water

Policy P136: Minimum flows and minimum water levels

The damming or diversion of water from a **surface water body** shall not reduce flows or water levels below **minimum flows** or **minimum water levels** identified in the **whaitua** chapters of the Plan (chapters 7-11).

4.10.7 Constructing and managing bores

Policy P137: Bores

COASTAL

Bores, including new **bores**, shall:

(a) be sited to ensure adequate separation from existing **bores**, avoid an over-concentration of **bores** in a particular area (except where intensive investigation is required on a site for geotechnical, contamination or other investigative purposes), and to **minimise**

adverse effects on the reliability of supply from properly constructed, efficient and fully functioning existing **bores**, and

(b) be constructed, and **bore** logs and other records be prepared, in accordance with the *NZS 4411:2001 Environmental Standard for Drilling of Soil and Rock*, and

(c) be used in a manner that prevents:

(i) contaminants from entering the **bore** from the land surface, and

(ii) the waste of water.

Policy P138: Bores no longer required COASTAL

Bores that are no longer required shall be decommissioned and any such decommissioning shall be in general accordance with the *NZS 4411:2001 Environmental Standard for Drilling of Soil and Rock*.

4.11 Coastal management

Coastal occupation charges COASTAL

In some circumstances, the Wellington Regional Council may impose a charge for occupation in the **common marine and coastal area**. The RMA requires that the Wellington Regional Council either includes a statement that a charging regime will not apply, or includes a regime for coastal occupation in the regional plan, or in the first plan change. The Wellington Regional Council has chosen not to include a charging regime at this time, but will consider whether to do so after the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region is made operative.

4.11.1 Primary coastal policies

Policy P139: Functional need and efficient use COASTAL

Use and development in the coastal marine area shall:

(a) have a **functional need**, or

(b) have an **operational requirement** to locate within the coastal marine area, and no reasonable or practicable alternative to locating in the coastal marine area, or

(c) be use or redevelopment of, or on, existing structures in the **Lambton Harbour Area**; or

(d) for any other activity, it shall have no reasonable or practicable alternative to locating in the coastal marine area,

and:

(e) be made available for public or multiple use unless a restriction on public access is necessary, and

(f) result in the removal of structures once redundant, except where **operational requirements** prevent this within the Cook Strait Cable Protection Zone and adjacent foreshore, and

(g) concentrate in locations where similar use and development already exists where practicable, and

(h) in respect of (a), (b) and (d) above, only use the minimum area necessary, and

(i) in respect of (c), makes efficient use of any occupied space.

Policy P140: Recreational values

The adverse effects of use and development in the coastal marine area on recreational values shall be managed by providing for a diverse range of recreational opportunities while avoiding conflicts and safety issues.

Policy P141: Public open space values and visual amenity

The adverse effects of new use and development on public open space and visual amenity viewed within, to and from the coastal marine area shall be avoided, remedied or mitigated by:

(a) having particular regard to any relevant provisions contained in any bordering territorial authorities' proposed and/or operative district plan, and

(b) managing use and development to be of a scale, location, density and design which is compatible with the **natural character**, natural features and landscapes and amenity values of the coastal environment and the **functional needs**, **operational requirements** and locational constraints, of the **Commercial Port Area** and the Wellington International Airport, and

(c) taking account of the future need for public open space in the coastal marine area.

Policy P142: Safe passage

The efficient and safe passage of vessels and aircraft in the coastal marine area shall be provided for by avoiding inappropriate use and development in **navigation protection areas** (shown on Map 68).

Policy P143: Hutt Valley aquifer zone in Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson)

COASTAL

Activities within the Hutt Valley aquifer zone (shown on Map 46) are managed to **minimise** adverse effects on the integrity and functioning of the **aquifer** and the freshwater springs/seeps.

Policy P144: Airport height restriction areas

COASTAL

Airport height restriction areas for Wellington International Airport (shown on Map 69) and Kāpiti Coast Airport (shown on Map 70) in the coastal marine area shall be protected by avoiding structures that:

(a) infringe the Wellington International Airport height restrictions (shown on Map 69), or

(b) infringe the Kāpiti Coast Airport 1 in 40 gradient approach surface fan expansion along its 3,000m length or the 1 in 7 gradient runway strip side clearances (shown on Map 70)

unless the structure is required for airport purposes.

4.11.2 Structures

Policy P145: Structures in sites with significant values

COASTAL

New structures, replacement of a structure or any addition or alteration to a structure in the coastal marine area in a site identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features) shall be avoided, except where:

(a) the new structure, replacement of the structure or any addition or alteration to the structure is for the specific purpose of providing protection for the values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) or Schedule J (geological features), or

(b) the structure is for educational, scientific or research purposes that will enhance the understanding and long-term protection of the coastal marine area, or

(c) the structure will provide for navigational safety, or

(d) it is necessary to enable the development, operation, maintenance and **upgrade** of **Regionally Significant Infrastructure**,

and in respect of (a) to (d):

(e) there are no practicable alternative locations or methods of providing for the activity.

Policy P146: Seawalls

The construction of a new **seawall** or the addition to or alteration or replacement of an existing **seawall** is inappropriate except where the **seawall** is required to protect:

(a) existing, or **upgrades** to, infrastructure, or

(b) new **Regionally Significant Infrastructure**, or

(c) significant existing development,

and in respect of (a), (b) and (c):

(d) there is no reasonable or practicable alternative means, and

(e) suitably located, designed and certified by a qualified, professional engineer, and

(f) designed to incorporate the use of **soft engineering** options where appropriate.

Policy P147: New boatsheds

New boatsheds shall be managed by:

(a) avoiding the development of boatsheds outside Boatshed Management Areas (shown on Map 50), and

(b) requiring that new boatsheds are compatible in scale, size and character to existing boatsheds.

Policy P148: Boatsheds

The use of boatsheds for residential or other non-water-based activities shall be avoided.

Policy P149: Lambton Harbour Area

When considering whether use and development of the **Lambton Harbour Area** is appropriate, have regard to the extent which it:

(a) provides for a range of activities appropriate to the harbour/city interface, and

(b) is compatible with the urban form of the city, and

(c) recognises where relevant, the heritage character, development and associations of the wharf edges, reclamation edges, and finger wharves and their contribution to understanding and appreciation of the **Lambton Harbour Area**, and

(d) does not detract from the amenity of the area, and

(e) recognises that the **Lambton Harbour Area** is adjacent to the **Commercial Port Area**, which is a working port, and

(f) ensures that the development of **noise sensitive activities** is adequately acoustically insulated in order to manage **reverse sensitivity** effects, and

(g) enables social and economic benefits to Wellington City and the wider region, and

(h) provides for open space, pedestrian and cycle through routes and access to and from the water, and

(i) recognises **mana whenua waka** and **waka ama** uses and enables them to continue, and

(j) addresses provisions, including design guides, contained in the Wellington City District Plan and any relevant proposed plan changes or variations, including the following matters: amenity values; noise and vibration; views; traffic; wind; lighting and glare; sunlight and shading; height, bulk and form; and urban design.

4.11.3 Other activities in the coastal marine area

Policy P150: Deposition in a site with significant values 

Deposition of sand, shingle or shell in a site in the coastal marine area identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features) shall be avoided except where:

(a) the activity is for the specific purpose of providing protection for the values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features), or

(b) it involves renourishment for the purpose of managing coastal erosion, or

(c) it provides for public amenity, or

(d) the activity is carried out for the purposes of flood protection and/or erosion mitigation, and

(e) the activity is carried out by or for local authorities, or

(f) it is necessary to enable the efficient development, operation, maintenance and **upgrade** of **Regionally Significant Infrastructure**,

and in respect of (a) to (f):

(g) there are no practicable alternative locations or methods of providing for the activity.

Policy P151: Dumping in a site with significant values

Dumping in the coastal marine area in a site identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features) shall be avoided except where:

(a) it is necessary to enable the development, operation, maintenance and **upgrade** of **Regionally Significant Infrastructure**, and

(b) there are no practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity.

Policy P152: Reclamation, drainage and destruction

Reclamation, drainage or destruction in the coastal marine area shall be avoided except where:

(a) the **reclamation**, drainage or destruction is associated with the development, operation, maintenance and **upgrade** of **Regionally Significant Infrastructure**, and

(b) there are no other locations outside the coastal marine area for the activity associated with the **reclamation**, drainage or destruction, and

(c) there are no practicable alternative methods of providing for the associated activity.

Policy P153: Introduction of pest plants

The introduction of plants listed in the National Pest Plant Accord 2012 into the coastal marine area shall be avoided.

Policy P154: Motor vehicles on the foreshore

District and city councils may restrict the use of **motor vehicles** on the foreshore, with the exception of vehicles associated with:

(a) surf lifesaving operations, or

(b) emergency situations, including (but not restricted to) firefighting, oil spills, rescue operations, salvage of vessels and marine mammal strandings, or

(c) local authority activities, or

(d) the development, operation, maintenance and **upgrade** of **Regionally Significant Infrastructure**.

Policy P155: Motor vehicles in sites with significant value

The use of **motor vehicles** on the foreshore and seabed in a site identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites), Schedule F2c (birds-coastal), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) shall be avoided, except when required for surf lifesaving, emergency, law enforcement, Department of Conservation, local authority or **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** purposes.

Policy P156: Protection of the Tītahi Bay fossil forest

The use of **motor vehicles** at Tītahi Bay in areas containing remnants of fossil forest shown on Map 54 shall be avoided, except when required for surf lifesaving, emergency, law enforcement, local authority or **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** purposes.

Policy P157: Noise and lighting

Noise in the coastal marine area shall be managed by applying the general conditions as set out in section 5.6.2 of the Plan or by adopting the best practicable option to ensure that the emission of noise does not exceed a reasonable level. Exterior lighting on structures shall avoid being directed at **sensitive activities**, streets, roads and navigation tracks and shall **minimise** effects on other users and wildlife, unless it is for operational health and safety reasons.

Policy P158: Underwater noise

Use and development in the coastal marine area shall be managed to **minimise** the adverse effects of underwater noise on the health and well-being of marine fauna and the health and amenity values of users of the coastal marine area.