

2 THE DISTRICT PLAN

2.1 DISTRICT PLAN CONTEXT

- 2.1.1 The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires the Wairoa District Council to have a District Plan.
- 2.1.2 The RMA sets out the framework for the sustainable management of our environment - land, air, water, soil, the coast, natural hazards, hazardous substances, subdivision and noise control.
- 2.1.3 It requires the Wairoa District Council, communities, businesses, land managers and individuals **“to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources”**.

Section 5(2) further defines the term “sustainable management” as:

managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while –

- (a) *Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- (b) *Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
- (c) *Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.*

Sections 6 to 8 outline the principles to be considered in management of natural and physical resources.

- 2.1.4 The Act also sets out the functions of Wairoa District Council in giving effect to the Act in the Wairoa District. These functions are set out in Section 31 of the Act and include:
- (a) *The establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources in the district:*
 - (b) *The control of any actual or potential effects on the use, development, or protection of land, including for the purpose of the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards and the prevention or mitigation of any adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous substances:*
 - (c) *The control of subdivision of land:*
 - (d) *The control of the emission of noise and the mitigation of the effects of noise:*
 - (e) *The control of any actual or potential effects of activities in relation to the surface of water in rivers and lakes:*
 - (f) *Any other functions specified in this Act.*
- 2.1.5 The District Plan is a tool to help the District Council to do this. The Plan sets out the framework for the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in the Wairoa District.

2.2 WHAT IS A DISTRICT PLAN?

- 2.2.1 A District Plan is a legal document.
- 2.2.2 This District Plan is a statement on how sustainable management of natural and physical resources is to be promoted in the Wairoa District. Under Section 73 of the Act, the District Council must undertake a full review of the District Plan not later than 10 years after the Plan becomes operative.
- 2.2.3 The Plan will assist the District Council to make decisions on resource consent applications. The Plan will also help the Council administer the provisions of the Act in a consistent, fair, and reasonable manner.