

## 3 PLAN FRAMEWORK

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 Once operative, the new District Plan will replace three separate transitional plans (Wairoa County District Scheme (1981), Wairoa Urban Sector District Scheme (1992), and "Variation No. 3" (1997)) which currently provide the resource management framework for Wairoa District.

### 3.2 DISTRICT PLAN FORMAT

- 3.2.1 In seeking to achieve the **Purpose** (Section 5) and **Principles** (Sections 6-8) of the Resource Management Act the District Plan is required to (Section 75):
- (1) identify ***significant resource management issues***;
  - (2) present ***objectives, policies and methods*** including ***rules*** to manage the effects of activities on the natural and physical resources important to the community and that will achieve the purpose and principles of the Act;
  - (3) ***promote environmental qualities*** and ***amenity values*** that are important to the community and that will achieve the purpose and principles of the Act;
  - (4) ensure the ***adverse effects of activities on the environment*** are avoided, remedied, or mitigated and that they will be managed in the long-term by ***monitoring*** the compliance of activities against the standards and conditions of resource consents, and by monitoring the quality of the district's environment generally;
  - (5) outline processes to deal with ***issues affecting more than just the Wairoa District Council***; and
  - (6) list the ***information*** to be ***supplied with applications for resource consents***.
- 3.2.2 The format of the District Plan is consistent with Section 75.
- 3.2.3 **Significant Resource Management Issue** is defined as being a concern about significant environmental effects that activities may have on the natural and physical resources in the district. They will include those matters of national importance referred to under sections 5 - 8 of the Resource Management Act, and locally important matters within the scope of the Act identified through the process of preparing the new plan.
- 3.2.4 **Resource Management Act Obligations** provides a brief summary of the relevant parts of the Act that must be satisfied.
- 3.2.5 **Background or Description of the Resource** provides brief comment on the resource and the potential adverse effects that activities can have on the environment.
- 3.2.6 **Objective** is a statement of what Council aim to achieve; a desired outcome.
- 3.2.7 **Policy** is a statement of how Council will achieve the objective; it must guide decisions on resource consent applications where there is a discretion.
- 3.2.8 **Methods** give effect to the policies and seek to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects. To satisfy the obligations of Section 32 of the Act, Council must consider a range of methods, their relative cost, and their relative effectiveness in achieving the desired environmental outcomes.

- 3.2.9 There are a number of methods able to be used by the Council to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

Methods available include:

- (a) Regulations, for example, rules and zone provisions in this district plan. Section 76 of the Act enables the Council to adopt rules as one method to promote sustainable resource management.

The Plan also presents assessment criteria and are to be used to assess the environmental effects of activities, when these effects go beyond those considered acceptable for a permitted activity;

Assessment criteria can assist councillors and council advisers, applicants, tangata whenua and affected parties in determining the relevant matters for consideration in formulating conditions for resource consents.

- (b) Advocacy & Education, including providing information brochures, carrying out research and monitoring, and presenting Council's (community's) views in other forums with the aim of influencing landowner's sustainable land management practices;
- (c) Integrated management and co-operation with Regional Council or other agencies to promote sustainable management practices to landowners. The District Plan approach (objectives, policies, rules) shall not be inconsistent with any national policy statement, for example the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, any water conservation order, or any regional plans (including the Regional Policy Statement) of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. Regard shall also be given to any relevant Conservation Management Strategy prepared by the Department of Conservation, any Sports Fish and Game Management Plan prepared by Fish and Game New Zealand, and planning documents recognised by an iwi authority;
- (d) Other legislation which requires the Council or other agencies to meet a statutory responsibility;
- (e) Consideration of voluntary industry codes of practice or guidelines, which specify preferred methods for landowners to adopt, in conjunction with appropriate methods in the District Plan, on how best to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of their activities on the environment.
- (f) Provision of Council works and services;
- (g) Economic incentives such as rate rebates provided by the Council or other organisations;
- (h) Do nothing and rely on voluntary change methods by landowners.

- 3.2.10 Principal Reasons for Adopting the Objectives, Policies and Methods are the main reasons, in brief, to support the policy adopted.

- 3.2.11 **Anticipated Environmental Results** describes the outcomes that are hoped to be achieved, and should be able to be determined from monitoring.

### **3.3 SECTION 32 OBLIGATIONS**

- 3.3.1 Section 32 of the Act sets out the requirements for the Council to consider the costs, benefits, and alternatives during the formulation of objectives, policies, rules, and other methods, and also whether the proposed means is needed and is the most effective and

- efficient approach to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.
- 3.3.2 Section 32 analysis is envisaged to be an iterative process based on on-going investigations, discussions, and meeting records. Relevant material is held on Council files.

**Cross References:**

- [Part B – Resource Management Strategy](#)  
[Part C – Land Management Zones and Rules](#)  
[Part D – District Wide Rules](#)  
[Part E – Applying for a Resource Consent](#)  
Planning Maps