

11 MONITORING ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

11.1 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT OBLIGATIONS

11.1.1 Section 75(1)(i) requires the Wairoa District Council to review:

- Significant resource management issues of the district;
- The objectives sought to be achieved;
- The policies proposed to address the issues;
- The methods used to implement the policies;
- The principal reasons for adopting the above;
- The environmental results anticipated;
- The information necessary to support resource consent applications; and
- The processes for dealing with cross boundary issues.

11.1.2 Sections 31 and 35 also place general obligations on the Council to review performance, undertake research and gather information. The monitoring task is therefore required to review the overall effectiveness of the plan towards promoting the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in Wairoa.

11.2 TYPES OF MONITORING

11.2.1 Monitoring covers a range of parameters and as such will be undertaken using a variety of mechanisms.

State of the Environment Monitoring

11.2.2 State of the Environment monitoring assesses the environmental health of natural and physical resources that the Council is managing under the Act. It is essential to detect any change in the District's resources and this will indicate to what extent the Plan is achieving anticipated environmental results. The emergence of new issues can also be identified and defined through this form of monitoring.

11.2.3 State of the Environment monitoring may be performed using a range of parameters depending on the resource being monitored. Much of this information will be collected as a requirement under Section 35 (the need to keep records to enable the authority to effectively carry out its functions). State of the environment monitoring will include people and associated social, economic and cultural conditions. Monitoring of these aspects of the environment may be performed as a reflection of Council's wider responsibilities (as under the Local Government Act). State of the environment information may be gained from research undertaken or commissioned by Council, utilising research undertaken by other organisations working in similar areas (for example DOC and Fish and Game), or other organisations such as Statistics New Zealand.

Plan Effectiveness Monitoring

11.2.4 Plan effectiveness monitoring involves assessing the suitability and effectiveness of the Plan as well as the exercise of any functions, powers or duties delegated or transferred by the authority. The use of plan effectiveness monitoring will assist in the review of the plan and influence any subsequent changes made.

Compliance and Impact Monitoring

- 11.2.5 Compliance and impact monitoring involves the analysis of compliance with consent conditions and rules of the plan and the effect that these activities are having on the environment. Compliance monitoring is an ongoing process, which involves assessing both the public and resource consent applicant actions. Monitoring may be in the form of a formalised view of a selected range of consents or be in response to complaints by members of the public. Impact monitoring is typically carried out in a more targeted manner on activities identified as requiring closer monitoring of their effect on the environment.

11.3 IMPLEMENTING MONITORING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

- 11.3.1 The aim is to improve management of the district's natural and physical resources, which will result from better informed decisions on resource consent applications, increased public awareness of environmental issues and the potential adverse effects of activities on the environment, and how those effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- 11.3.2 Monitoring also places a duty on the Council to enforce compliance with plan rules and the standards and conditions attached to resource consents. No person may use or subdivide land in the Wairoa District in a manner that contravenes a rule in the District Plan, unless provided for under existing use rights (Section 10) or expressly allowed by a resource consent.
- 11.3.3 Community input can occur through complaint procedures, the resource consent process, and involvement in plan change processes, and input to the Annual Plan process.

11.4 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUE

- 11.4.1 Insufficient monitoring currently undertaken to comprehensively evaluate the state of the environment, plan effectiveness and efficiency, compliance with resource consent conditions and the impact of activities on the environment.

11.5 OBJECTIVES

- 11.5.1 To develop and maintain efficient and effective monitoring systems, for the purpose of the maintenance and enhancement of the environment of the District.

11.6 POLICIES

- 11.6.1 To identify key environmental indicators to monitor changes in the significant resource management issues in Wairoa District.
- 11.6.2 To monitor changes in the environment as a review of the effectiveness of the provisions of the Wairoa District Plan.

11.7 METHODS AVAILABLE USING THE PROVISIONS OF THE DISTRICT PLAN

- 11.7.1 Set out in the Annual Plan, the overall programme for monitoring.

- 11.7.2 Monitor compliance of activities with their conditions of consent to ensure sustainable management of natural and physical resources.
- 11.7.3 Set conditions as part of a resource consent where this is appropriate, such as the type of activities that cause or may cause long-term on-going environmental effects, for holders of consents to monitor the impact of their activity on the environment, and to report those findings periodically to the District Council.
- 11.7.4 Monitor the consistency of the provisions of the District Plan with national and regional policy statements and plans to ensure the continued promotion of the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in the Wairoa District.
- 11.7.5 Co-operate with regional and national agencies and scientific organisations to achieve comprehensive and mutually beneficial monitoring information on the environmental qualities of the Wairoa District.
- 11.7.6 Use enforcement powers where appropriate, to remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of activities so as to achieve the environmental outcomes sought in the District Plan.
- 11.7.7 Develop a State of the Environment monitoring programme, with input from the community and tangata whenua, to assess the changes in the environmental quality of the District's natural and physical resources, based on:
- Resource Management Strategy – Objectives, Policies and Methods;
 - Identification of baseline data sources;
 - Agreement on key indicators; and
 - Frequency of monitoring, reporting, agency/consent holder support.

11.8 EXPLANATION AND REASONS

- 11.8.1 Council has prepared the District Plan as a means to achieving the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. To ignore persons or interests operating in a manner that contravenes the Act, the District Plan or a resource consent, the Council would jeopardise the achievement of the environmental outcomes sought in respect of the District.
- 11.8.2 It would also be beneficial to undertake State of the Environment reporting so as to assess effectively, the achievement of the environmental outcomes sought. Co-operation with other agencies will assist in the collection and manipulation of monitoring data to provide useful information on the state of the Wairoa District environment.
- 11.8.3 The monitoring programme undertaken by the Council should also highlight situations in which abatement notices or enforcement orders may be required.

11.9 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

- 11.9.1 Monitoring systems in place and operating in a manner that enables Council to achieve the purposes of the Act.

Cross References:

Part B – Resource Management Strategy
Part C – Land Management Zones and Rules
Part D – District Wide Rules
Planning Maps