



PART C

PART C

TE WĀHANGA C

15 Monitoring and evaluation

15.1 General

Waikato Regional Council has identified through this Regional Policy Statement resource management issues for the region, and objectives, policies and methods to address these issues. It will measure success (or not) of the policies through monitoring and review, in order to determine whether any changes are needed to the policy framework.

This part of the Regional Policy Statement fulfils the requirements of Section 62(1)(j) of the Resource Management Act by identifying how Waikato Regional Council will determine if this Regional Policy Statement is working or not. It identifies the procedures to be used to establish the efficiency and effectiveness of policies and methods to achieve the stated objectives. Successful policy in this respect is defined as achieving the desired end results (objectives) by doing the things we said we would (policies and methods) and to compare those policies and methods for relative effectiveness.

This will require analysis and evaluation of the actions of not only Waikato Regional Council, but also those of the territorial authorities within the region as these relate to the development and implementation of district plans. It will also require an understanding of the changing condition of the natural and physical resources within the region that are identified in Part B of this policy statement. The policy monitoring and evaluation process is summarised in Figure 15-1 below.

In most situations, the desired condition for the region’s natural and physical resources is expressed as enduring objectives or as a trend, as this reflects the reality that changes in condition will – in most cases – take many generations to achieve. The review period for this policy statement is a maximum of ten years from the time it becomes operative. Objectives will extend beyond the reviews of each successive policy statement. For this reason, the year 2000, when the first policy statement became operative, has been established as the baseline for trend-related condition measurements.

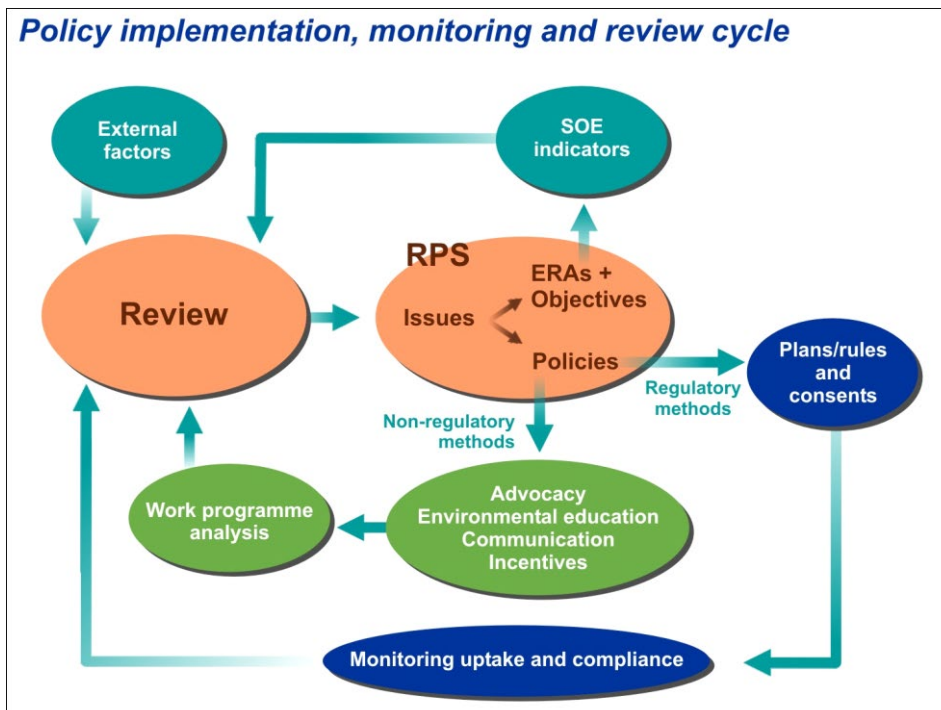


Figure 15: Policy implementation, monitoring and review cycle

15.2 Review existing procedures for monitoring

The Waikato region already has a comprehensive integrated monitoring programme in place (Information Gathering Action Plan) that has been designed to collect information to address a number of statutory requirements for monitoring, primarily the:

- Resource Management Act 1991;
- Local Government Act 2002;
- Biosecurity Act 1993;
- Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000; and
- Land Transport Management Act 2003.

The regional monitoring programme will be reviewed to ensure that monitoring activities (for example, state-of-environment reporting and monitoring and reporting of Community Outcomes) are collecting relevant information that will:

- a) allow an understanding of progress towards the stated objectives in Part A (long-term focus); and
- b) environmental results anticipated (short- to medium-term focus) in this part of the policy statement.

The monitoring programme review will have particular regard to the benefits gained through alignment of monitoring and data collection effort and ensuring that as much of the existing baseline information can be used and built upon. It will recognise the value of long-term monitoring to the recognition and understanding of trends. Results of the monitoring programme will be publicly available.

15.3 Tāngata whenua involvement

The state of the region's natural resources and effects of their use are of vital interest to tāngata whenua of the region. Some indicators of natural resource and ecosystem health are either more efficiently measured at the community level or relate to concepts that there are, as yet, no scientific equivalent measurements, for instance matters involving mātauranga Māori and the mauri of natural resources. In the future, methods will need to be developed for cultural health indicators and it is anticipated that the design and implementation of monitoring programmes will involve tāngata whenua.

15.4 Environmental results anticipated

The changes we expect to see as a result of implementing policies and methods, known as environmental results anticipated, are outlined in sections 15.4.1 - 15.4.11 below. These statements allow the effectiveness and efficiency of this policy statement to be determined.

The environmental results anticipated will help shape Waikato Regional Council's monitoring framework, and are designed to provide a vision of what policy success will look like.

15.4.1 Integrated management

- a) Land use activities are appropriately managed to avoid, remedy or mitigate future adverse effects, including the effects of climate change and reverse sensitivity effects.
- b) The benefits of property-level environmental management plans are investigated and options developed.
- c) The coastal environment of the Waikato region is identified and incorporated into relevant regional and district plans.
- d) No unanticipated adverse effects on the marine environment are caused by land use activities and vice versa.
- e) Processes to track and anticipate land and resource use trends and effects are established.

- f) District plans give effect to the Regional Policy Statement.
- g) Cross-boundary issues are identified and addressed in a consistent manner in regional and district plans.
- h) Processes for regular liaison with tāngata whenua and other local authorities are established.
- i) Mechanisms are in place with Auckland Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council and Taranaki Regional Council regarding the management of cross-boundary issues.
- j) Mechanisms are in place to ensure the consistent management of geothermal resources and the Rotorua Lake catchment between Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions.
- k) Preparation of a spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf is investigated.
- l) Formal partnership agreements exist between the Waikato Regional Council and iwi authorities of the region.

15.4.2 Air

- a) Emissions per capita from both the domestic and transport sector are reduced.
- b) Assessments of air quality indicate no unacceptable risk to human health from air.
- c) Use of public transport is increased.
- d) There are decreasing annual average concentrations of PM₁₀ in monitored urban areas.
- e) There is a reduction in the number of exceedences of ambient air quality guidelines or standards.
- f) All gazetted air sheds have achieved the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality for fine particulate matter.

15.4.3 Built environment

- a) New development is not subject to intolerable levels of risk from natural hazards.
- b) There is greater use of walking, cycling and public transport in urban areas.
- c) Vehicle kilometres travelled per capita are reduced.
- d) No increase in per capita energy use in the Waikato region.
- e) Solid waste entering landfill is reduced.
- f) Indigenous biodiversity in urban (including rural-residential) areas is improved.
- g) Most rural-residential development occurs in identified areas.
- h) Rural-residential development does not inhibit ability to allow for expected urban expansion needs.
- i) Fragmentation of high class soils is reduced.
- j) New development does not impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of existing infrastructure.
- k) Development of the built environment does not result in a reduction in valued natural environments, amenity values, landscapes and heritage sites.
- l) New urban developments are more compact.
- m) Development of the built environment does not prevent extraction of minerals from identified significant mineral resources.
- n) Development does not reduce access to water bodies and the coast.
- o) Development in the coastal environment does not diminish coastal values in a way that was not anticipated by development planning.
- p) There is increased adoption of low-impact stormwater design.
- q) There are increased examples of green/sustainable technologies in the Waikato region.

- r) Development in the Future Proof area is consistent with the Future Proof Guiding Principles (Section 3 of Future Proof Growth Strategy).
- s) Valued coastal habitats that may be affected by sea level rise are identified.
- t) A strategic framework for infrastructure in the coastal marine area is developed.
- u) District plans provide for the development of marae and papakāinga.
- v) A transmission corridor management approach is developed and consistently implemented.
- w) Development in Thames-Coromandel District is consistent with the directions of Blueprint.
- x) Development in Taupo District is consistent with the directions of Taupo 2050.
- y) Development in Franklin is consistent with the directions of the Franklin District Growth Strategy.
- z) A secure (reliable and resilient) electricity generation and transmission system in the region that meets demand.
- za) Increased supply of renewable energy contributes towards improved security of supply.
- zb) There is a decreased dependence on energy from non-renewable sources and increase in the use of renewable energy sources.
- (zc) Regionally significant industry is retained and provided for.

15.4.4 Coastal marine area

- a) Access to mahinga kai is maintained.
- b) Allocation of space in the coastal marine area is based on appropriate and consistent criteria.
- c) Marine habitats and ecosystems are protected from significant adverse effects.
- d) Coastal water is safe for contact recreation, shellfish gathering and recreational fishing, and aquaculture.
- e) Marine water quality is maintained or enhanced.
- f) Marine water quality standards are developed and water meets these standards.
- g) Public values of the coastal environment are enhanced through the use of occupation charges and mitigation of unavoidable adverse effects.

15.4.5 Fresh water bodies

- a) Fenced, planted and managed riparian margins along waterways are increased.
- b) The values of those water bodies listed in section 8B are maintained at their 2000 level, or are enhanced.
- c) The proportion of monitored sites on water bodies across the region that meet or exceed standards for satisfactory water quality and ecological health are increased.
- d) Water quality and quantity and habitat quality in water bodies supports functioning and healthy ecosystems.
- e) There are no new barriers to fish passage and the number of existing impediments is reduced.
- f) The known distribution and diversity of aquatic biota in fresh water bodies is maintained or enhanced.
- g) Flow regimes, in rivers and lakes, maintain the variability required to sustain ecological functions and do not result in excessive plant cover and/or other forms of degradation that adversely affects aquatic ecosystems.
- h) There is no reduction in extent or condition of wetlands, with some wetlands exhibiting physical, chemical, hydrological or biological improvements.
- i) Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato is being implemented.

15.4.6 Geothermal

- a) Tāngata whenua have a greater role in the management of the Regional Geothermal Resource.
- b) There is greater public awareness of the characteristics of geothermal resources, including Significant Geothermal Features.
- c) Adverse effects on Significant Geothermal Features are managed consistently with the relevant Geothermal System Classification.
- d) Some geothermal energy available for use by present and future generations.
- e) Land use, development and use of non-geothermal water are compatible with the purpose for which geothermal systems are classified.
- f) Adverse effects on Significant Geothermal Features from the development and uses of non-geothermal water and the new development and uses of land are avoided, with the exception of existing effects from the operation of the Waikato River system for hydroelectric generation.
- g) Large-scale use of geothermal energy and water are enabled in Development Geothermal Systems.
- h) Adverse effects on other natural and physical resources, including overlying structures, from take, use and discharge of geothermal energy and water are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- i) The risk of hydrothermal eruptions is reduced.
- j) Economic benefits derived from access to some of the energy and other geothermal characteristics, including non-extractive uses, and to Significant Geothermal Features.
- k) Understanding of the Regional Geothermal Resource and the characteristics of Research Systems through controlled research of these systems is increased.
- l) In situ uses of geothermal energy are increased.
- m) There is increased protection for the full range of geothermal features.
- n) Research Geothermal Systems are reclassified as Development, Limited Development or Protected Geothermal Systems.
- o) There is increased use of energy- and water-efficient technologies and more efficient use of the Regional Geothermal Resource.

15.4.7 Heritage

- a) The number of identified heritage sites within the region is increased.
- b) The number of formally protected heritage sites is increased.
- c) There is increased community awareness of the relevance of heritage resources.
- d) Regional Heritage Inventory is developed.
- e) Regional Heritage Forum is established.
- f) There is increased identification of taonga.
- g) Systems and processes to protect sensitive information are developed.

15.4.8 Indigenous biodiversity

- a) There is no net loss in area or values of significant vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna, see 15.4.6c) in relation to Geothermal Features.
- b) The number and extent of significant natural areas which are formally protected or covenanted is increased.
- c) The number and extent of significant natural areas which are protected from grazing by stock is increased.
- d) There is no decline in the extent of under-represented indigenous ecosystem types (those with 20 per cent or less of their original extent).
- e) There is no reduction in extent of coastal wetlands, estuaries, salt marshes and sand dunes in the coastal environment.

- f) The lineal extent of esplanade reserves and strips along waterways and the coast is increased.
- g) The availability of funding or other incentives for protection, enhancement and restoration activities is increased.
- h) The area of restored or recreated indigenous biodiversity is increased, including areas under sustained pest control, or formal protection.
- i) There is no human-induced loss of indigenous species or their natural range within the region.
- j) Fragmentation of indigenous ecosystems, habitats and areas is reduced.

15.4.9 Landscape, natural character and amenity

- a) The values of identified outstanding landscapes are not degraded.
- b) New infrastructure and utility corridors are not inappropriately placed in outstanding landscapes.
- c) There is no reduction in natural character where it is pristine or outstanding.
- d) There is no loss in functioning of natural elements in the coastal environment due to inappropriate development.
- e) The type and scale of subdivision or development in the coastal environment does not degrade natural character.
- f) Opportunities for access along the coast, lakes and rivers are increased.
- g) Any loss of existing public access is mitigated or remedied so that the ability to get to and along the coast is maintained.
- h) There is no damage to dunes and other sensitive coastal areas from vehicles.

15.4.10 Natural hazards

- a) There is no increase in the number of habitable buildings or other vulnerable development located in identified high flood risk zones.
- b) Community awareness of the risk from natural hazards and the relationship between activities and natural hazards is increased.
- c) The number of habitable buildings or other vulnerable development at unacceptable risk from natural hazards in primary hazard zones is reduced.
- d) The need/demand for flood and erosion protection structures is reduced.

15.4.11 Soils

- a) The area affected by erosion is reduced.
- b) The land area impacted by a decline in soil quality characteristics (such as compaction) is reduced.
- c) Fragmentation of high class soils is reduced.
- d) The rate of accumulation of contaminants in soil across the region (such as cadmium, and zinc) is reduced.
- e) The risks to human health and the environment associated with soil contamination are reduced.
- f) Understanding of the impacts of shrinkage on peat soils is improved.
- g) There is a reduction in the rates of shrinkage of and carbon loss on peat soils.
- h) There is minimisation of adverse effects of peat shrinkage on habitats and infrastructure, and appropriate remediation or mitigation where effects are unavoidable.
- i) Contaminated land is identified and managed before any land use change or site development occurs.

15.5 Giving effect to the Regional Policy Statement

The objectives, policies and methods of this Regional Policy Statement need to be incorporated into regional and district plans. They should also inform:

- relevant plans and strategies prepared under other statutes (e.g. Biosecurity Act and land transport legislation); and
- other (non-regulatory) activities.

Local authorities need to provide sufficient resources through long-term and annual planning for preparation, review, monitoring, implementation and enforcement of regional and district plans. Education and advocacy and other non-regulatory methods are important components of this Regional Policy Statement and will also require resourcing.

Waikato Regional Council will have a role in assisting territorial authorities with the interpretation of the objectives, policies and methods into district plans and other plans and strategies. Evaluation of the effectiveness of this Regional Policy Statement will include establishing whether the objectives, policies and methods have been interpreted consistently and as intended.

It will take time for the effects of implementing the policies and methods in this Regional Policy Statement to be seen. To allow for this, the provisions in Part B will be comprehensively reviewed in a staggered way every five years (interim reviews).

16 Principal reasons for adopting

16.1 Background

Section 62(1)(f) of the Resource Management Act requires that regional policy statements state the principal reasons for adopting objectives, policies and implementation methods.

When adopting a proposed regional policy statement the council must also adopt a draft consideration of alternatives, benefits and costs as outlined in Section 32(2) of the RMA (Section 32 analysis). This analysis:

- a) contains detailed reasons for each provision;
- b) outlines the reasons why each objective is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act; and
- c) discusses whether, having regard to their efficiency and effectiveness, the policies and methods are the most appropriate for achieving the objectives.

The report also evaluates the benefits and costs of policies and methods and the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information available.

The principal reasons for adopting each provision are included in the Section 32 analysis and readers should refer to this.

16.2 Objectives

All objectives in the Regional Policy Statement have been adopted to address the regionally significant resource management issues (including resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities) outlined in Chapter 1.

The regionally significant issues were identified from analysis of the state of the environment, existing regional plans and strategies (including the operative Regional Policy Statement and iwi management plans), and feedback received from councillors, tāngata whenua, territorial authorities and other stakeholders in workshops and committee meetings.

Achievement of the objectives will promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in line with the purpose of the Resource Management Act.

Chapter 3 of the Section 32 analysis provides the principal reasons for adopting each objective.

16.3 Policies and implementation methods

The policies in the Regional Policy Statement set the course of action that is to be followed to achieve the objectives.

Policies are supported by explanations in each chapter, as well as the description of the environmental results anticipated and processes for monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies (Chapter 15).

Implementation methods state the actions that will or should be undertaken to implement the policies. There are two types of methods – regulatory and non regulatory. Policies may be implemented through either or both type of method.

Regulatory methods include those which direct what will or should be included in regional plans, the Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan and district plans.

PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR ADOPTING

Non-regulatory methods include those that specify guidance should or will be prepared, methods for integrated management of resources, investigation of resources needed and support and assistance required to implement the policies.

The effectiveness and efficiency of each policy and its accompanying methods is evaluated in depth in Part B of the Section 32 analysis. In general, specific policy/method packages have been adopted because they have been assessed as the most effective and efficient combination to achieve the objectives. The evaluation of the preferred policy and method packages provided in the Section 32 analysis should therefore be considered the principal reasons for adopting the policies and methods contained in this Regional Policy Statement.

