

/Environment Waikato Policy Series 2007/21  
Reprinted April 2012 – incorporating Variations No.2, No.5, No.6 and No.7

# Waikato Regional Plan

Waikato Regional Council  
Private Bag 3038  
Waikato Mail Centre  
HAMILTON

Reprinted April 2012



This is a **REPRINT** of the Plan (as at April 2012) and contains amendments made by:

**Variation No. 2** – Geothermal Module (made operative on 7 November 2008);

**Variation No. 5** – Lake Taupo catchment (made operative on 7 July 2011);

**Variation No. 6** - Water Allocation (made operative on 10 April 2012); and

**Variation No. 7** – Minor Variation and Geothermal Maps (made operative on 8 December 2010)

Please email us ([policy@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:policy@waikatoregion.govt.nz)) for further information on legal status of the Plan.



# Waikato Regional Council

## Waikato Regional Plan

The Waikato Regional Council resolved, by resolution of Council, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of August 2007 to approve and make operative the Waikato Regional Plan with the exception of those parts of the plan subject to:

- Proposed Variation No. 2 – Geothermal Module
- Proposed Variation No. 5 – Lake Taupo Catchment
- Proposed Variation No. 6 – Water Allocation
- Proposed Variation No. 7 – Minor Variation and Geothermal Maps

The Regional Plan will become operative on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 2007.

Signed by Waikato Regional Council by the affixing of its Common Seal in the presence of

**JA Vernon**  
Chairman



**HW Wilson**  
Chief Executive Officer



Dated at Hamilton this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August 2007.



# Waikato Regional Council

## Waikato Regional Plan


### Variation No.2 – Geothermal Module

Waikato Regional Council prepared Variation No.2 – Geothermal Module to the proposed Waikato Regional Plan in accordance with Sections 65 and 66 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.

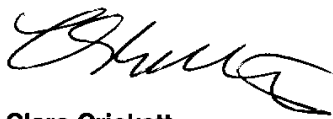
The Waikato Regional Council resolved, by resolution of Council, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 2008 to approve and make operative Variation No. 2 – Geothermal Module.

Variation No. 2 – Geothermal Module will become operative on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2008.

Signed by Waikato Regional Council by the affixing of its Common Seal in the presence of



**P Buckley**  
Chairman



**Clare Crickett**  
Acting Chief Executive Officer



Dated at Hamilton this 30 day of OCTOBER 2008.





# Waikato Regional Council

## Waikato Regional Plan

### Variation No.5 – Lake Taupo Catchment

Waikato Regional Council prepared Variation No.5 – Lake Taupo Catchment to the proposed Waikato Regional Plan in accordance with Sections 65 and 66 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The Waikato Regional Council resolved, by resolution of Council, on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 2011 to approve and make operative Variation No.5 – Lake Taupo Catchment.

Variation No.5 – Lake Taupo Catchment will become operative on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011.

Signed by Waikato Regional Council by the affixing of its Common Seal in the presence of

**P Buckley**  
Chairman

**Bob Laing**  
Chief Executive Officer

Dated at Hamilton this **29th** day of **June 2011**.





# Waikato Regional Council

## Waikato Regional Plan

### Variation No.7 – Minor Variation and Geothermal Maps

Waikato Regional Council prepared Variation No.7 – Minor Variation and Geothermal Maps to the proposed Waikato Regional Plan in accordance with Sections 65 and 66 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.

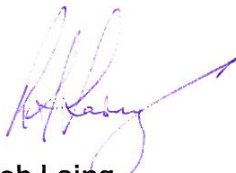
The Waikato Regional Council resolved, by resolution of Council, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2010 to approve and make operative Variation No. 7 – Minor Variation and Geothermal Maps.

Variation No. 7 – Minor Variation and Geothermal Maps will become operative on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2010.

Signed by Waikato Regional Council by the affixing of its Common Seal in the presence of



**P Buckley**  
Chairman



**Bob Laing**  
Chief Executive Officer



Dated at Hamilton this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2010



# Waikato Regional Council

## Waikato Regional Plan

### Variation No.6 – Water Allocation

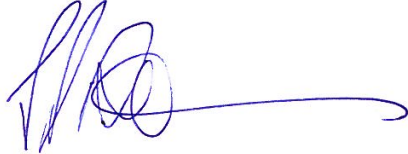
Waikato Regional Council prepared Variation No.6 – Water Allocation to the proposed Waikato Regional Plan in accordance with Sections 65 and 66 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The Waikato Regional Council resolved, by resolution of Council, on the 29th day of March 2012 to approve and make operative Variation No. 6 – Water Allocation.

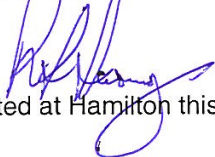
Variation No. 6 – Water Allocation will become operative on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012.

Signed by Waikato Regional Council by the affixing of its Common Seal in the presence of

**P Buckley**  
Chairman



**Bob Laing**  
Chief Executive Officer



Dated at Hamilton this **29th** day of **March 2012**





# Waikato Regional Council

## Waikato Regional Plan

### Plan Change 2 – Taupō Overseer Version

Waikato Regional Council prepared Plan Change 2: Taupō Overseer Version to the Waikato Regional Plan in accordance with the Minister for the Environment's Direction and Statement of Expectation notified in the *Gazette* on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2020, and in accordance with Section 80C and Subpart 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The Minister for the Environment approved the plan change on 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020 and Waikato Regional Council received the Minister's decision on 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020.

In accordance with a notice given by the Council under clauses 20 and 90 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act on 2 October 2020 Plan Change 2: Taupō Overseer Version will become operative on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.

#### **Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 2: Taupō Overseer Version – Minister's decision and operative date**

Pursuant to Clauses 90 and 20 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991, Waikato Regional Council gives notice of the Minister for the Environment's approval of Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 2: Taupō Overseer Version. The plan change will become operative on 12 October 2020.

The Minister approved the plan change on 10 September 2020 and council received the decision on 24 September 2020. The decision cannot be appealed.

#### **Inspection and availability of the Plan Change**

A copy of the operative plan change, the reports prepared under clause 83(1) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Minister's decision are available on Waikato Regional Council's website [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/council/policy-and-plans/rules-and-regulation/taupo-overseer](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/council/policy-and-plans/rules-and-regulation/taupo-overseer).

Copies of the reports prepared under clause 83(1) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Minister's decision can also be viewed at the Waikato Regional Council offices in Hamilton (401 Grey Street), Paeroa (13 Opatito Road), Taupō (cnr Titiraupenga and Paora Hapi Streets), Whitianga (33-35 Albert Street) and at all public libraries in the Waikato region.

Copies of the documents are available on request by emailing [policy@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:policy@waikatoregion.govt.nz) or by calling 0800 800 401.

Chris McLay  
Chief Executive  
2 October 2020

[www.waikatoregion.govt.nz](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz)







# Chairman's Foreword

It is my pleasure to introduce the Waikato Regional Plan. This document will assist people in the Waikato Region to achieve environmental outcomes that the Region as a whole aspires to.

This Plan has been developed by a process of discussion and participation. This relied on the efforts of people interested in the management of the Region's natural and physical resources. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have taken the time to be involved in the process.

This Plan allows movement from the broad general purposes of the Resource Management Act to providing clear, practical guidelines for people who use and manage natural and physical resources. This document gives effect to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement but focuses on Environment Waikato's direct functions under the Resource Management Act and addresses areas where the Council can add clarity and efficiency.

Environment Waikato wants people to be able to get on with their affairs with minimal bureaucracy while keeping high environmental standards. To achieve this, the Plan has made extensive use of permitted and controlled activities to define circumstances where consents are enabled provided minimum standards are met.

This Plan is a living document, designed to meet the changing needs of the Waikato community. As our environmental information improves and the way in which we use our environment changes the plan will be updated. Over time we expect to see more and more catchment specific provisions in the Plan to better recognise the special features of our diverse region. If you want to know anything about its content, or are uncertain about what it means for your activities please contact us.

Jenni Vernon  
**Chairman**  
**Waikato Regional Council**



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*The maps are provided on CD Rom with this Plan. Please refer to installation guidelines and instructions on the CD for viewing. Maps are also available for viewing at all Waikato Regional Council offices.*

# Readers Guide

## Introduction

The Waikato Regional Plan has been developed by the Waikato Regional Council under the Resource Management Act 1991, and is intended to provide direction regarding the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in the Waikato Region. The proposed Plan contains modules covering Matters of Significance to Maori, Water, River and Lake Beds, Land and Soil, Air, and Geothermal Resources.

This is a **REPRINT** of the Plan (as at June 2021) and contains amendments made by:

**Variation No. 2** – Geothermal Module (made operative on 7 November 2008);

**Variation No. 5** – Lake Taupo catchment (made operative on 7 July 2011); and

**Variation No. 6** – Water Allocation (made operative on 10 April 2012)

**Variation No. 7** – Minor Variation and Geothermal Maps (made operative on 8 December 2010)

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 – insert Objective 3.A.1, and Policies 3.A.2, 3.A.3 in accordance with the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.

Please email us ([policy@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:policy@waikatoregion.govt.nz)) for further information on legal status.

## Structure of the Plan

The proposed Waikato Regional Plan is set out in the following way:

### Module 1 – Approaches to Resource Management

This module describes the purpose of the document, and the legislative framework within which it is being developed. The Module also contains the procedural aspects for cross-boundary issues, monitoring and review.

### Module 2 - Matters of Significance to Maori

This module outlines the primary resource management issues of concern to Maori, as they are presently understood.

### Modules 3 - 7

There are five resource-based modules in this Plan. These relate to water, river and lake beds, land and soil, air, and geothermal resources. Each resource-based module is comprised of a number of chapters. Each chapter relates to an issue or problem that Waikato Regional Council will be managing.

Each chapter within Modules 3 to 7 is structured in the following manner:

The **Chapter Heading** describes the general issues discussed in the chapter.

**Background and Explanation** gives a general overview of the issue, extent of the problem within the Region and a discussion of associated adverse effects and their causes. This focuses on environmental problems, not process or procedural problems.

The **Issue** statement is a concise summary of the themes in the background and explanation. The issue statement is a statement of concern or problem as it relates to an aspect of natural and physical resources or the management of those resources within the Region.

**Objectives** are statements of desired outcomes or end states in relation to the management of natural and physical resources.

**Principal Reasons for Adopting the Objective** explains and justifies the objective statement(s).

**Policies** are specific statements of the course of action (or type of intervention) which will be taken in order to achieve a stated objective.

**Explanation and Principal Reasons for Adopting the Policy** explains and justifies each policy.

**Implementation Methods** are methods, including rules, that are used to implement the objectives and policies.

**Explanation and Principal Reasons for Adopting the Methods** explains and justifies each implementation method.

**Environmental Results Anticipated** describes the environmental results anticipated as a result of managing the issue in accordance with the objective and policies discussed. Environmental results anticipated are the results or outcomes expected for the environment, which occur as a consequence of implementing a given policy or method.

**Monitoring** outlines the indicators and sources of information that may be used to monitor the objectives.

## **Module 8 - Information Requirements**

This module addresses information requirements (for consent applications).

### **Glossary**

Defines the terms used throughout the text.

### **Maps**

Maps are included in this plan on CD Rom for viewing. Maps are available to view at a scale of 1:50,000 at the Hamilton Office of Waikato Regional Council (401 Grey Street, Hamilton East).

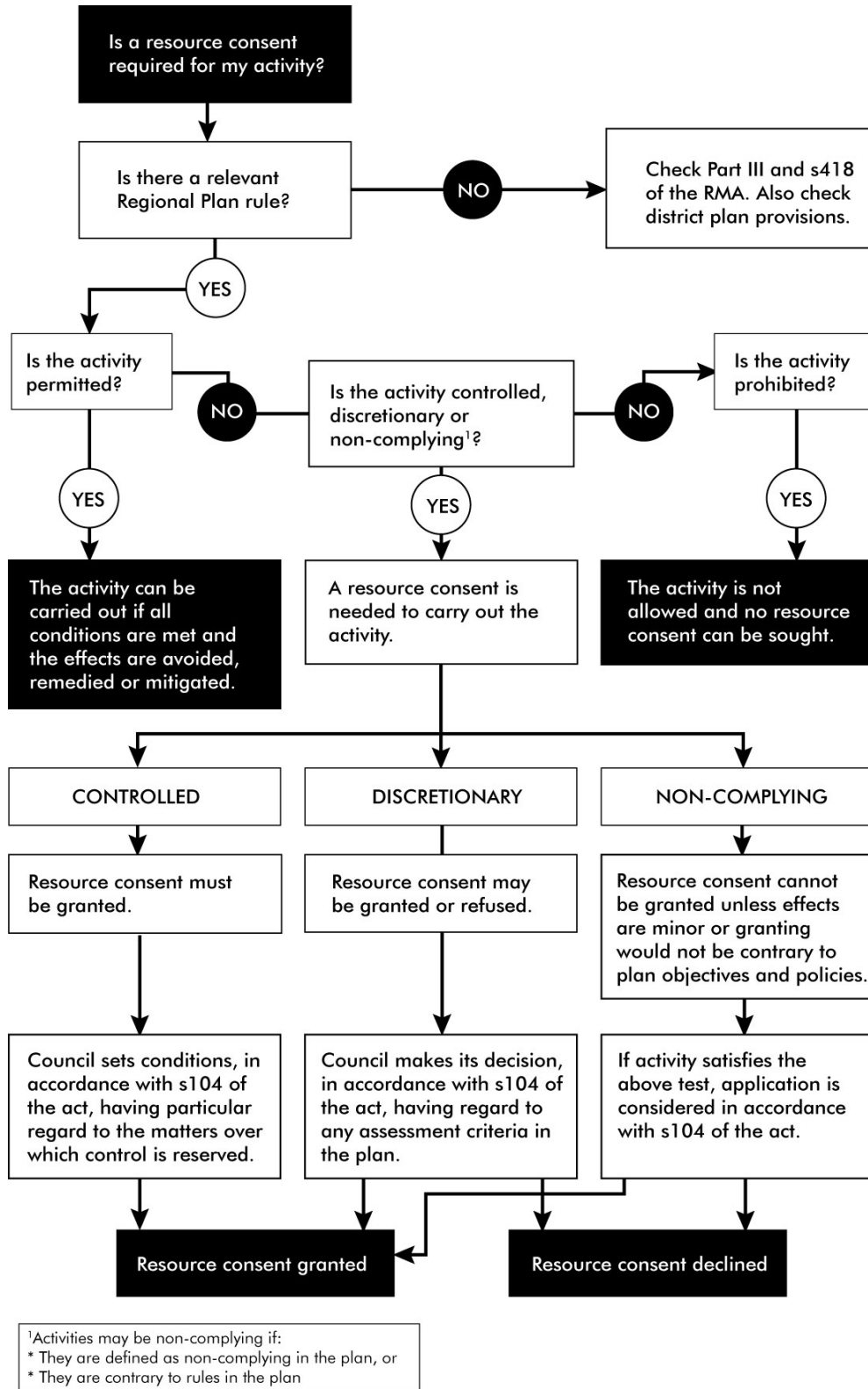
Copies of the maps, at any scale, can be purchased on request from Waikato Regional Council.

## Abbreviations and Symbols

BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
BPO	Best Practicable Option
CMA	Coastal Marine Area
DOC	Department of Conservation
GA	General Authorisation
HSNO	Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act
MFE	Ministry for the Environment
$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Micrograms per cubic metre
mg/kg	Milligram/kilogram
$\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$	Milligrams per cubic metre
MHWS	Mean high water springs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
pH	Degree of acidity/alkalinity
RLTS	Regional Land Transport Strategy
RCP	Regional Coastal Plan
RMA	Resource Management Act
RPS	Resource Policy Statement
s	Section of statute such as the RMA
TRP	Transitional Regional Plan
WHO	World Health Organisation

# Relationship Between Rules and Resource Consents

The following flowchart has been included to clarify the differences between the various types of rules in this Plan. It also shows the RMA process and presumptions applicable to consent applications under the rules.





# Activity Guide

Topic	Objective	Policy	Method	Rule
abrasive blasting-discharge to air	6.1.2 Objective 2, Objective 3	6.1.3		6.1.10.1, 6.1.10.2, 6.1.10.3, 6.1.10.4
accelerated erosion	5.1.2, 5.2.2	5.1.3, 5.2.3	5.1.4	5.1.4, 5.2.5.1
acid drainage	5.2.2	5.2.3		5.2.5.1, 5.2.5.3, 5.2.5.4, 5.2.5.2, 5.2.5.6
agricultural application (excluding fertiliser)	6.2.2	6.2.3	6.2.4.1, 6.2.4.2, 6.2.4.3, 6.2.4.4, 6.2.4.5, 6.2.4.6, 6.2.4.7	6.2.4.8, 6.2.4.9, 6.2.4.10, 6.2.4.11
air (discharges to) – general	6.1.2	6.1.3		6.1.9.1, 6.1.9.2, 9.1.19.1
air quality management		6.1.3	6.1.4.4	
aquifer testing	3.1.2	3.5.3		3.3.4.15, 3.5.8.1, 3.5.8.2, 3.5.9.1, 3.5.9.2, 3.8.4.3, 3.8.4.4, 3.8.4.6, 3.8.4.7, 3.8.4.8, 3.8.4.9
artificial watercourses	3.6.2	3.6.3, Policy 1		3.6.4.8, 3.6.4.9
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biogas discharge from: production, storage, transfer and flaring	6.1.2	6.1.3		6.1.14.1
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boat ramps	4.2.2	4.2.3 Policy 2		4.2.12.1
bore, well or aquifer testing	3.1.2, 5.2.2	3.5.3		3.3.4.15, 3.5.8.1, 3.5.8.2, 3.5.9.1, 3.5.9.2, 3.8.4.3, 3.8.4.4, 3.8.4.6, 3.8.4.7, 3.8.4.8, 3.8.4.9
bridges	4.2.2	4.2.3 Policy 1, Policy 2		4.2.8
buoys	4.2.2	4.2.3 Policy 1		4.2.13.1
burning – backyard	6.1.2	6.1.3	6.1.5.1	6.1.13.1, 6.1.13.2, 6.1.13.3, 6.1.13.4
burning – domestic heating	6.1.2	6.1.3	6.1.5.1, 6.1.5.2	6.1.12.1
burning – industrial energy production	6.1.2	6.1.3		6.1.12.1, 6.1.12.2
burning – open burning and incineration	6.1.2	6.1.3	6.1.5.1	6.1.13.1, 6.1.13.2, 6.1.13.13, 6.1.13.4
burning – vegetation	6.1.2	6.1.3		6.1.13.1
burning – waste	6.1.2	6.1.3		6.1.13.1, 6.1.13.4
caves – activities near cave entrances	5.1.2, 5.2.2	5.1.3 Policy 2, 5.2.3 Policy 2		5.1.4.17, 5.2.5.1, 5.2.5.2, 5.2.5.3, 5.2.5.4, 5.2.5.5, 5.2.5.6, 5.2.6.1, 5.2.6.2, 5.2.6.3, 5.2.6.4
caves – damming	3.1.2, 3.6.2, 4.2.2	3.6.3, 4.2.3	3.6.4.2, 3.6.4.3	3.6.4.4, 3.6.4.5, 3.6.4.9, 3.6.4.10, 3.6.4.14, 3.6.4.15
caves – discharges into caves	3.1.2	3.5.3 Policy 2		3.5.9.1, 9.5.9.2, 3.5.4.5

Topic	Objective	Policy	Method	Rule
caves – entrance formation	5.1.2	5.1.3		5.1.4.17
caves – filling in cave entrances	5.2.2	5.2.3		5.2.5.1, 5.2.5.2, 5.2.5.4, 5.2.5.5, 5.2.6.1, 5.2.6.2
caves – structures	4.2.2	4.2.3		4.2.4
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small scale composting	5.2.2	5.2.3	5.2.4.1, 5.2.4.3	5.2.8.1
greenwaste composting	5.2.2	5.2.3	5.2.4.1, 5.2.4.3	5.2.8.2
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culverts	4.2.2	4.2.3		4.2.9
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dams – ephemeral streams	3.1.2, 3.6.2, 4.2.2	3.6.3	3.6.4.2	3.6.4.4, 3.6.4.9
dams – perennial streams	3.1.2, 3.6.2, 4.2.2	3.6.3		3.6.4.5, 3.6.4.10, 3.6.4.12, 3.6.4.14, 3.6.4.16, 3.6.4.8
dams – existing	3.1.2, 3.6.2, 4.2.2	3.6.3		3.6.4.5, 3.6.4.6, 3.6.4.7, 3.6.4.10, 3.6.4.11
dams – offstream	3.1.2, 3.6.2, 4.2.2	3.6.3	3.6.4.2	3.6.4.4, 3.6.4.9
dams – wetland restoration and enhancement	3.1.2, 3.6.2, 4.2.2	3.6.3	3.6.4.2	3.6.4.12, 3.6.4.16
diversions	3.1.2, 3.6.2, 4.2.2	3.6.3	3.6.4.1, 3.6.4.2, 3.6.4.3	3.6.4.7, 3.6.4.8, 3.6.4.11, 3.6.4.13
demolition or removal of structures	4.2.2	4.2.3 Policy 3		4.2.20
discharge and intake structures	4.2.2	4.2.3, Policy 1		4.2.20.1
discharges to air – general rule	6.1.2	6.1.3		6.1.9.1, 6.1.9.2, 6.1.19.1
discharges to lakes, wetlands and caves	3.1.2	3.2.3, 3.5.3 Policy 2, Policy 6	3.5.4.3	3.5.4.6
discharges to land	3.1.2, 5.2.2	3.2.3, 3.5.3 Policies 3 – 6. 5.2.3	3.2.4, 3.2.4.1, 3.5.4.2, 5.2.4.1, 5.2.4.2, 5.2.4.3, 5.2.4.4	Chapters 3.5 and 5.2
discharges to water	3.1.2	3.2.3, 3.5.3 Policies 1, 2 and 6	3.2.4, 3.5.4.1, 3.5.4.2, 3.5.4.3	3.5.4.4, 3.5.4.5, 3.5.4.6
discharges of untreated human or animal effluent to water	3.1.2	3.5.3 Policies 2 and 6		3.5.5.6, 3.5.7.8
disturbances of the beds of lakes and rivers – general rule	4.3.2	4.3.3, Policy 1		4.3.4.4
diversion of water	3.1.2, 3.6.2	3.2.3, 3.6.3	3.2.4, 3.6.4.1, 3.6.4.2, 3.6.4.3	3.6.4.7, 3.6.4.8, 3.6.1.11, 3.6.4.13

Topic	Objective	Policy	Method	Rule
domestic water take (see water takes)	3.1.2, 3.3.2	3.3.3, Policy 9		3.3.4.12, 3.3.4.13, 3.3.4.16, 3.3.4.18, 3.3.4.21, 3.3.4.23, 3.3.4.26
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