

## Appendix 22

# Operative Regional Policy Statement for Greater Wellington Region

Reference	Provision
<b>Air Quality</b>	
Objective 1	Discharges of odour, smoke and dust to air do not adversely affect amenity values and people's wellbeing.
Objective 2	Human health is protected from unacceptable levels of fine particulate matter.
<b>Energy, infrastructure, and waste</b>	
Objective 9	The region's energy needs are met in ways that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) improve energy efficiency and conservation;</li> <li>(b) diversify the type and scale of renewable energy development;</li> <li>(c) maximise the use of renewable energy resources</li> <li>(d) reduce dependency on fossil fuels; and</li> <li>(e) reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation</li> </ul>
Objective 10	The social, economic, cultural, and environmental benefits of regionally significant infrastructure are recognized and protected.
Policy 39	Recognising the benefits from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure – consideration
<b>Fresh water</b>	
Objective 12	The quantity and quality of fresh water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) meet the range of uses and values for which water is required;</li> <li>(b) safeguard the life supporting capacity of water bodies; and</li> <li>(c) meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations</li> </ul>
Objective 13	The region's rivers, lakes and wetlands support healthy functioning ecosystems.
Policy 15	Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation clearance.
Policy 40	Safe guarding aquatic ecosystem health in water bodies
Policy 41	Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation disturbance – consideration
Policy 42	Minimising contamination in stormwater from development – consideration
Policy 43	Protecting aquatic ecological function of water bodies – consideration
<b>Indigenous ecosystems</b>	
Policy 47	Managing effects on indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – consideration
Policy 23	Identifying indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – district and regional plans
Objective 16	(Indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values are maintained and restored to a healthy functioning state.
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	
Policy 51	Minimising the risks and consequences of natural hazards – consideration

Policy 52	Minimising adverse effects of hazard mitigation measures – consideration
Objective 19	The risks and consequences to people, communities, their businesses, property and infrastructure from natural hazards and climate change effects are reduced.
Objective 20	Hazard mitigation measures, structural works and other activities do not increase the risk and consequences of natural hazard events.
<b>Resource Management with tangata whenua</b>	
Policy 49	Recognising and providing for matters of significance to tangata whenua – consideration.
Objective 25	The concept of kaitiakitanga is integrated into the sustainable management of the Wellington region’s natural and physical resources.
Objective 26	Mauri is sustained, particularly in relation to coastal and fresh waters.
Objective 27	Mahinga kai and natural resources used for customary purposes, are maintained and enhanced, and these resources are healthy and accessible to tangata whenua),
Objective 28	The cultural relationship of Māori with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga is maintained.
<b>Soils and Minerals</b>	
Policy 41	Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation disturbance – consideration
Policy 59	Retaining highly productive agricultural land (Class I and II land) – consideration
Objective 29	Land management practices do not accelerate soil erosion.
Objective 30	Soils maintain those desirable physical, chemical and biological characteristics that enable them to retain their ecosystem function and range of uses.

# Natural Resources Plan

## Objectives

Reference	Provision
<b>Ki uta ki tai: mountains to the sea</b>	
Objective O1	Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area are managed as integrated and connected resources; ki uta ki tai – mountains to the sea.
Objective O2	The importance and contribution of air, land, water and ecosystems to the social, economic and cultural well-being and health of people and the community are recognised in the management of those resources.
Objective O3	Mauri particularly the mauri of fresh and coastal waters is sustained and, where it has been depleted, natural resources and processes are enhanced to replenish mauri.
Objective O4	The intrinsic values of fresh water and marine ecosystems are recognised and the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems is safeguarded.
<b>Beneficial use and development</b>	
Objective O5	Sufficient fresh water of a suitable quality is available, for: (a) the health needs of people, and (b) the reasonable needs of livestock.
Objective O6	The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of taking and using water are recognised, when managing water.
Objective O9	The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of Regionally Significant Infrastructure, renewable energy generation activities and the utilisation of mineral resources are recognised.
Objective O10	Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities that meets the needs of present and future generations are enabled in appropriate places and ways.
<b>Māori relationships</b>	
Objective O12	The relationships of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga are recognised and provided for, including: (a) maintaining and improving opportunities for Māori customary use of the coastal marine area, rivers, lakes and their margins and natural wetlands, and (b) maintaining and improving the availability of mahinga kai species, in terms of quantity, quality and diversity, to support Māori customary harvest, and (c) providing for the relationship of mana whenua with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, including by maintaining or improving Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa so that the huanga identified in Schedule B are provided for, and (d) protecting sites with significant mana whenua values from use and development that will adversely affect their values and restoring those sites to a state where their characteristics and qualities sustain the identified values.
Objective O13	Kaitiakitanga is recognised and mana whenua actively participate in planning and decision-making in relation to the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.
<b>Natural character, form and function</b>	
Objective O14	The natural character of the coastal marine area, natural wetlands, and rivers, lakes and their margins is preserved and protected from inappropriate use and development.

<b>Natural hazards</b>	
Objective O15	The hazard risk and residual hazard risk, from natural hazards and adverse effects of climate change, on people, the community, the environment and infrastructure are acceptable.
Objective O16	Inappropriate use and development in high hazard areas is avoided.
<b>Water quality</b>	
Objective O17	The quality of groundwater, water in surface water bodies, and the coastal marine area is maintained or improved.
Objective O18	<p>Rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and coastal water are suitable for contact recreation and Māori customary use, including by:</p> <p>(a) maintaining water quality, or</p> <p>(b) improving water quality in:</p> <p>(i) significant contact recreation fresh water bodies and sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa identified in Schedule B to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.1, and</p> <p>(ii) coastal water and sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa identified in Schedule B to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the contact recreation objectives in Table 3.3, and</p> <p>(iii) all other rivers and lakes and natural wetlands to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the secondary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.2.</p> <p><i>Note For the purposes of this objective 'a reasonable timeframe' is a date for the applicable water body or coastal marine area inserted into this Plan through the plan change/s required by the RMA to implement the NPS-FM 2020, or 2050 if no other date is specified by 31 December 2026.</i></p>
<b>Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai</b>	
Objective O19	<p>Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai in fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area are safeguarded such that:</p> <p>(a) water quality, flows, water levels and aquatic and coastal habitats are managed to maintain biodiversity aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, and</p> <p>(b) where an objective in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 or 3.8 is not met, a fresh water body or coastal marine area is meaningfully improved so that the objective is met within a reasonable timeframe, and</p> <p>(c) restoration of aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai is encouraged.</p> <p><i>Note For the purposes of this objective 'a reasonable timeframe' is a date for the applicable water body or coastal marine area inserted into this Plan through the plan change/s required by the RMA to implement the NPS-FM 2020, or 2050 if no other date is specified by 31 December 2026.</i></p>

Objective O21	Vegetated riparian margins are established, maintained or restored to enhance water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai and indigenous biodiversity of rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and the coastal marine area.
Objective O22	The extent of natural wetlands is maintained or increased, their values are protected, and their condition is restored. Where the values relate to biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, restoration is to a healthy functioning state as defined by Table 3.7.
Objective O23	The passage of fish and kōura is maintained, or is improved, by instream structures, except where it is desirable to prevent the passage of some fish species in order to protect desired fish species, their life stages or their habitats.
Objective O24	The habitat of trout identified in Schedule I (trout habitat) is maintained or improved.
<b>Air quality</b>	
Objective O30	Ambient air quality is maintained or improved to the acceptable category or better in Schedule L1 (ambient air).
Objective O32	The adverse effects of odour, smoke and dust on amenity values and people's well-being are minimised.
<b>Soil</b>	
Objective O33	Soils are healthy, and productive to support a range of uses, life supporting capacity is safeguarded and accelerated soil erosion is minimised.
<b>Land use</b>	
Objective O34	The adverse effects on soil and water from land use activities are minimised, including to assist with achieving the outcomes and indicators of desired environmental states for water in Tables 3.1 to 3.8.
<b>Discharges to land and water</b>	
Objective O36	The runoff or leaching of contaminants to water from discharges to land is minimised, including to assist with achieving the outcomes and indicators of desired environmental states for water in Tables 3.1 to 3.8.
Objective O37	The amount of sediment-laden runoff entering water is minimised, including to assist with achieving the outcomes and indicators of desired environmental states for water in Tables 3.1 to 3.8.
Objective O41	The environment is protected from the adverse effects of discharges of hazardous substances and the creation of contaminated land is avoided.
Objective O42	Contaminated land is identified, and the discharges of contaminants are managed to protect the environment

## Policies

Reference	Provision
<b>Ki uta ki tai and integrated catchment management</b>	
Policy P1	<p>Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area will be managed recognising ki uta ki tai by using the principles of integrated catchment management. These principles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) decision-making using the catchment as the spatial unit, and</li> <li>(b) applying an adaptive management approach to take into account the dynamic nature and processes of catchments, and</li> <li>(c) coordinated management, with decisions based on best available information and improvements in technology and science, and</li> <li>(d) taking into account the connected nature of resources and natural processes within a catchment, and</li> <li>(e) recognising links between environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability of the catchment.</li> </ul>
Policy P2	<p>The effects of use and development across jurisdictional boundaries shall be managed by having particular regard to any relevant provisions contained in any bordering territorial authorities' proposed and/or operative district plan when assessing a resource consent for an activity and/or the effects of an for the Wellington Region activity that spans mean high water springs or other jurisdictional boundaries, including the beds of lakes and rivers.</p>
Policy P3	<p>Use and development shall be managed with a precautionary approach where there is limited information regarding the effects and any adverse effects are potentially significant.</p>
Policy P5	<p>A common expiry or review date will be imposed on resource consents within a whaitua or sub-catchment (unless the consent relates to Regionally Significant Infrastructure and it is inappropriate to do so), if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the affected resource is fully allocated, or</li> <li>(b) the exercise of the resource consent may impede the ability to implement an integrated approach to manage water quality, quantity or habitat within that whaitua or sub-catchment.</li> </ul>
<b>Beneficial use and development</b>	
Policy P6	<p>The cultural, social and economic benefits of using land and water for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) treatment, dilution and disposal of wastewater and stormwater, and</li> <li>(b) industrial processes and commercial uses associated with the potable water supply network, and</li> <li>(c) community and domestic water supply, and</li> <li>(d) food production and harvesting (including aquaculture), and</li> </ul>

	<p>(e) gravel extraction from rivers for flood protection and control purposes, and</p> <p>(f) irrigation and stock water, and</p> <p>(g) firefighting (emergency or training purposes), and</p> <p>(h) contact recreation and Māori customary use, and</p> <p>(i) transportation, including along, across, and access to, water bodies, and</p> <p>(j) enabling urban development where it maintains the quality of the natural environment, and</p> <p>(k) waste management facilities.</p> <p>shall be recognised.</p>
Policy P7	<p>The following activities are recognised as beneficial and generally appropriate:</p> <p>(a) activities for the purpose of restoring natural character, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai, outstanding water bodies, sites with significant mana whenua values, and sites with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and</p> <p>(b) activities that restore natural features such as beaches, dunes or wetlands that can buffer development from natural hazards, and</p> <p>(c) day-lighting of piped streams, and</p> <p>(d) removal of aquatic weeds, and pest plants and animal pests, and</p> <p>(e) the establishment of river crossings (culverts and bridges) or fences and fence structures that will result in the exclusion of regular livestock access from a water body, and</p> <p>(f) the retirement, fencing and planting and management of riparian margins, and</p> <p>(g) the retirement of erosion prone land from livestock access, and</p> <p>(h) maintenance, and use and upgrade of existing structures in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and the beds of rivers and lakes (noting that Policy P33 will apply with respect to fish passage), and</p> <p>(i) removal of dangerous or derelict structures in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and beds of lakes and rivers, and</p> <p>(j) structures necessary to provide for monitoring resource use or the state of the environment in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and beds of lakes and rivers, and</p> <p>(k) activities necessary to maintain safe navigation, and</p> <p>(l) artworks that support and enhance public open space.</p>
Policy P9	<p>Use and development shall avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on contact recreation and Māori customary use in fresh and coastal water, including by:</p>

	<p>(a) providing water quality and, in rivers, flows suitable for contact recreation and Māori customary use, and</p> <p>(b) managing activities to maintain or enhance contact recreation values in the beds of lakes and rivers, including by retaining existing swimming holes and maintaining access to existing contact recreation locations, and</p> <p>(c) encouraging improved access to suitable swimming and surfing locations, and</p> <p>(d) providing for the passive recreation and amenity values of fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area.</p>
Policy P11	When considering proposals that relate to the provision of Regionally Significant Infrastructure, or renewable energy generation activities, particular regard will be given to the benefits of those activities.
Policy P13	<p>The use, development, operation, maintenance, and upgrade of Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities are provided for, in appropriate places and ways. This includes by having particular regard to:</p> <p>(a) the strategic integration of infrastructure and land use, and</p> <p>(b) the location of existing infrastructure and structures, and</p> <p>(c) the need for renewable energy generation activities to locate where the renewable energy resources exist, and</p> <p>(d) the functional need and operational requirements associated with developing, operating, maintaining and upgrading Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities.</p>
Policy P14	<p>(a) Recognise and provide for the benefits of the National Grid.</p> <p>(b) Enable the operation, maintenance or upgrade of existing National Grid assets.</p> <p>(c) Where the National Grid has a functional need or operational requirement to locate in the coastal environment, lakes, rivers or wetlands, manage the adverse effects of its activities on natural character, natural features and natural landscapes, and indigenous biodiversity by:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) Seeking to avoid adverse effects of new development or major upgrades on values of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. outstanding natural character,</li> <li>2. natural attributes and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes,</li> <li>3. indigenous biodiversity values of the aquatic ecosystems, habitats, species and areas listed in Policy P38(a).</li> </ol> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) Seeking to avoid significant adverse effects of new development or major upgrades on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. other areas of natural character in the coastal environment,</li> <li>2. natural attributes and characteristics of other natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment,</li> <li>3. indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy P11(b) of the NZCPS.</li> </ol>



	<p>(iii) Having regard to the extent to which adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. through the route, site and method selection process, and</li> <li>2. given the constraints imposed by the activity's operational requirements.</li> </ol> <p>(iv) Recognising there may be some areas in the coastal environment where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. avoidance of adverse effects is required to protect the values, natural attributes and characteristics identified within (c)(i) 1, 2, and 3 above.</li> <li>2. avoidance of significant adverse effects is required to protect the values, natural attributes and characteristics identified within (c)(ii) 1, 2, and 3 above.</li> </ol> <p>(d) Remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the operation, maintenance, upgrade, major upgrade or development of the National Grid which cannot be avoided.</p> <p>In the event of any conflict with any other objectives and policies in the Plan relating to indigenous biodiversity within Policy P38, natural character, and natural features and natural landscapes, Policy P14 takes precedence.</p>
Policy P15	<p>Regionally Significant Infrastructure, renewable energy generation activities and significant mineral resources shall be protected from incompatible use and development occurring under, over or adjacent to it, by locating and designing any use and development to avoid, remedy or mitigate any reverse sensitivity effects.</p> <p><i>Note</i>  <i>For the avoidance of doubt, this policy only applies to an activity that requires resource consent seeking to locate in proximity to Regionally Significant Infrastructure, renewable electricity generation activities or significant mineral resources.</i></p>
<b>Māori relationships</b>	
Policy P18	<p>The mauri of fresh and coastal waters shall be recognised as being important to Māori and is sustained and enhanced, including by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) managing the individual and cumulative adverse effects of activities that may impact on mauri in the manner set out in the rest of the Plan, and</li> <li>(b) providing for those activities that sustain and enhance mauri, and</li> <li>(c) recognising and providing for the role of kaitiaki in sustaining mauri.</li> </ol>
Policy P19	<p>The relationships between mana whenua and Ngā Huanga o Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa identified in Schedule B (Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa) will be recognised and provided for by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) having particular regard to the values and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa huanga identified in Schedule B (Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa) when applying for, and making decisions on resource consent applications, and developing Whaitua Implementation Programmes, and</li> <li>(b) informing iwi authorities of relevant resource consents relating to Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, and</li> <li>(c) recognising the relevant iwi authority/ies as an affected party under RMA s95E where activities risk having a minor or more than minor adverse effect on Ngā Huanga o Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa or on the significant values of a Schedule C site which is located downstream, and</li> </ol>

	<p>(d) working with mana whenua, landowners, and other interested parties as appropriate, to develop and implement restoration initiatives within Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, and</p> <p>(e) the Wellington Regional Council and iwi authorities implementing kaupapa Māori monitoring of Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa.</p>
Policy P20	The cultural relationship of Māori with air, land and water shall be recognised and the adverse effects on this relationship and their values shall be minimised.
Policy P21	<p>Kaitiakitanga shall be recognised and provided for by involving mana whenua in the assessment and decision-making processes associated with use and development of natural and physical resources including;</p> <p>(a) managing activities in sites with significant mana whenua values listed in Schedule C (mana whenua) in accordance with tikanga and kaupapa Māori as exercised by mana whenua, and</p> <p>(b) the identification and inclusion of mana whenua attributes and values in the kaitiaki information and monitoring strategy in accordance with Method M2, and</p> <p>(c) identification of mana whenua values and attributes and their application through tikanga and kaupapa Māori in the maintenance and enhancement of mana whenua relationships with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa.</p>
<b>Natural character, form and function</b>	
Policy P23	<p>(a) Identify in the Plan areas of outstanding and high natural character in the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area) and in wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins.</p> <p>(b) Identify in the Plan outstanding natural features and landscapes within the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area) and in wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins.</p> <p>(c) Until areas of high and outstanding natural character and outstanding natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment are mapped in this Plan, as assessment may be required as to whether an activity is within:</p> <p>(i) An area of high or outstanding natural character</p> <p>(ii) An outstanding natural feature or landscape.</p> <p>The need for such an assessment will depend on the level or scale of potential effects and the sensitivity of the receiving environment and shall take into account Policies 3 and 24 of the Regional Policy Statement. Any assessment shall be commensurate with the scale and significance of the effects that the use or development may have on the environment.</p> <p>Note Refer to Method M31.</p>
Policy P24	<p>To preserve natural character and protect it from inappropriate use and development by:</p> <p>(a) avoiding adverse effects of activities on the natural character of areas within the coastal environment that have outstanding natural character, and</p>

	<p>(b) avoiding significant adverse effects and avoid remedy and mitigate other adverse effects of activities on the natural character of areas within the coastal environment that do not have outstanding natural character, and</p> <p>(c) outside the coastal environment, avoiding and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating adverse effects of activities on the natural character of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that have outstanding natural character, provided that the outstanding natural character of the area taken as a whole is retained, and</p> <p>(d) outside the coastal environment, avoiding and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating significant adverse effects of activities on the natural character of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that have high natural character, provided that the high natural character of the area taken as a whole is retained, and</p> <p>(e) outside the coastal environment, avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects of activities on the natural character of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that are not addressed under (c) or (d) of Policy P24.</p>
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	
Policy P25	<p>Use and development, including hazard mitigation methods, in on or over high hazard areas shall be managed to ensure that:</p> <p>(a) they have a functional need or operational requirement or there is no practicable alternative to be so located, and</p> <p>(b) an overall increase in risk of social, environmental and economic harm is avoided, and</p> <p>(c) the hazard risk and/or residual hazard risk to the development, assessed using a risk-based approach, is acceptable or as low as reasonably practicable, recognising that in some instances an increase in risk to the development may be appropriate, and</p> <p>(d) the development does not cause or exacerbate hazard risk in other areas, and unless effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated in accordance with a hazard risk management strategy, and</p> <p>(e) adverse effects on natural processes (coastal, riverine and lake processes) are avoided, remedied, or mitigated, and</p> <p>(f) natural cycles of erosion and accretion and the potential for natural features to fluctuate in position over time, including movements due to climate change and sea level rise over at least the next 100 years, are taken into account.</p>
Policy P26	<p>The diversion of flood waters from any river or lake resulting from earthworks or the erection, placement or extension of a structure within stopbanks or through the creation of new stopbanks shall be managed to ensure:</p> <p>(a) any increase in hazard risk or residual hazard risk in other areas as a result of the diversion is avoided or mitigated, and</p> <p>(b) any adverse effects on natural processes are avoided, remedied, or mitigated, and</p> <p>(c) natural cycles of erosion and accretion and the potential for natural features to fluctuate in position over time, including movements due to climate change over at least the next 100 years, are taken into account.</p>

Policy P27	<p>Hard hazard engineering mitigation and protection methods shall be discouraged except where it is necessary to protect:</p> <p>(a) existing, or upgradesto, infrastructure including Regionally Significant Infrastructure, or</p> <p>(b) new Regionally Significant Infrastructure, or</p> <p>(c) significant existing development, and</p> <p>in respect of (a), (b) and (c):</p> <p>(d) there is no reasonable or practicable alternatives to mitigate hazard risk and residual hazard risk, and</p> <p>(e) the mitigation and protection methods are suitably located and designed, and where appropriate certified by a qualified, professional engineer, and</p> <p>(f) the use of soft engineering options are incorporated and used, where appropriate, and either:</p> <p>(g) any adverse effects are no more than minor, or</p> <p>(h) where the environmental effects are more than minor the works form part of a hazard risk management strategy.</p>
Policy P28	<p>Particular regard shall be given to the potential for climate change</p> <p>(a) to threaten biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, or</p> <p>(b) to cause or exacerbate natural hazard events over at least the next 100 years that could adversely affect use and development</p> <p>including as a result of:</p> <p>(c) coastal erosion and inundation (storm surge), and</p> <p>(d) river and lake flooding and erosion, aggradation, decreased minimum flows, and</p> <p>(e) stormwater ponding and impeded drainage, and</p> <p>(f) relative sea level rise, using reliable scientific data for the Wellington region.</p>
<b>Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai</b>	
Policy P30	<p>Manage the adverse effects of use and development on biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai to:</p> <p><i>Hydrology</i></p> <p>(a) maintain or where practicable restore natural flow characteristics and hydrodynamic processes and the natural pattern and range of water level fluctuations in rivers, lakes and natural wetlands, and</p> <p><i>Water quality</i></p> <p>(b) maintain or improve water quality including to assist with achieving the objectives in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 of Objective O19, and</p>

	<p><i>Aquatic habitat diversity and quality</i>  (c) maintain or where practicable restore aquatic habitat diversity and quality, including:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) the form, frequency and pattern of pools, runs, and riffles in rivers, and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) the natural form of rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and the coastal marine area, and</p> <p>(d) where practicable restore the connections between fragmented aquatic habitats, and</p> <p><i>Critical habitat for indigenous aquatic species and indigenous birds</i>  (e) maintain or where practicable restore habitats that are important to the life cycle and survival of indigenous aquatic species and the habitats of indigenous birds in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and the beds of lakes and rivers and their margins that are used for breeding, roosting, feeding, and migration, and</p> <p><i>Critical life cycle periods</i>  (f) avoid, minimise or remedy adverse effects on aquatic species at times which will most affect the breeding, spawning, and dispersal or migration of those species, including timing the activity, or the adverse effects of the activity, to avoid times of the year when adverse effects may be more significant, and</p> <p><i>Riparian habitats</i>  (g) maintain or where practicable restore riparian habitats, and</p> <p><i>Pests</i>  (h) avoid the introduction, and restrict the spread, of aquatic pest plants and animals.</p>
Policy P31	<p>Adverse effects on biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai shall be managed by:</p> <p>(a) in the first instance, activities that risk causing adverse effects on the values of a Schedule F ecosystem or habitat, other than activities carried out in accordance with a wetland restoration management plan, shall avoid these ecosystems and habitats. If the ecosystem or habitat cannot be avoided, the adverse effects of activities shall be managed by (b) to (g) below.</p> <p>(b) avoiding adverse effects where practicable, and</p> <p>(c) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimising them where practicable, and</p> <p>(d) where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied, except as provided for in (a) to (g), and</p> <p>(e) where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, biodiversity offsetting is provided where possible, and</p> <p>(f) if biodiversity offsetting of more than minor residual adverse effects is not possible, biodiversity compensation is provided, and</p> <p>(g) the activity itself is avoided if biodiversity compensation cannot be undertaken in a way that is appropriate as set out in Schedule G3, including Clause 2 of that Schedule.</p> <p>In relation to activities within the beds of lakes, rivers and natural wetlands, (e) to (g) only apply to activities which meet the exceptions in Policy P110.</p>

	<p>A precautionary approach shall be used when assessing the potential for adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Schedule F.</p> <p>Note Policy P38 applies to the management of adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values within the coastal environment.</p> <p>Proposals for biodiversity mitigation under (b) to (d) above, and biodiversity offsetting, and biodiversity compensation will be assessed against the principles listed in Schedule G1 (biodiversity mitigation), and Schedule G2 (biodiversity offsetting), and Schedule G3 (biodiversity compensation).</p>
Policy P32	<p>The construction or creation of new barriers impeding the efficient and safe passage of fish and kōura species at all their life stages shall be avoided, except where this is required for the protection of indigenous fish and kōura populations.</p> <p>Note Advice can be sought from the statutory agencies responsible for the species. Sports fish, including trout, are managed by the Wellington Fish and Game Council and indigenous fish are managed by the Department of Conservation.</p>
Policy P33	<p>Remediation to provide for the efficient and safe passage of indigenous fish and kōura is promoted, and regard shall be had to requiring this when extending, altering or reconstructing instream structures, where this is appropriate for the management and protection of indigenous fish and kōura populations.</p>
Policy P34	<p>Activities in and adjacent to natural wetlands shall be managed to maintain and, where appropriate, restore their condition and their values including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) as habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, and</li> <li>(b) for their significance to mana whenua, and</li> <li>(c) for their role in the hydrological cycle including flood protection, and</li> <li>(d) for nutrient attenuation and sediment trapping, and</li> <li>(e) as a fisheries resource, and</li> <li>(f) for recreation, and</li> <li>(g) for education and scientific research.</li> </ul>
Policy P35	<p>The restoration of natural wetlands and the construction of artificial wetlands to meet the water quality, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives set out in Tables 3.7 and 3.8, to provide habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, to carry out the physical and ecological functions of natural wetlands, and to provide for amenity values where this aligns with restoration appropriate to the area and wetland type shall be encouraged and supported.</p>
<b>Sites with significant values</b>	
Policy P45	<p>Particular regard shall be given to the protection of trout habitat in rivers with important trout habitat identified in Schedule I (trout habitat). The effects of use and development in and around these rivers shall be managed to:</p>

	<p>(a) maintain or improve water quality in accordance with the objectives in Table 3.4 and Table 3.5 of Objective O19, and</p> <p>(b) minimise changes in flow regimes that would otherwise prevent trout from completing their life cycle, and</p> <p>(c) maintain the amount of pool, run and riffle habitat, and</p> <p>(d) minimise adverse effects on the beds of trout spawning waters identified in Schedule I (trout habitat).</p>
<b>Air Quality</b>	
Policy P55	<p>Ambient air quality shall be managed to protect human health and safety by:</p> <p>(a) maintaining the acceptable category or better identified in Schedule L1 (ambient air) for the specific contaminants, and</p> <p>(b) improving unacceptable or poor ambient air quality to at least the acceptable category or better identified in Schedule L1 (ambient air), and</p> <p>(c) managing the discharge of other contaminants so that the adverse effects on human health, including cumulative adverse effects, are minimised.</p>
Policy P58	<p>Air quality amenity in urban, rural and the coastal marine areas shall be managed to minimise offensive or objectionable odour, smoke and dust, particulate matter, fumes, ash and visible emissions.</p>
<b>Land and water quality</b>	
Policy P65	<p>When considering any application for a discharge the consent authority shall have regard to the following matters:</p> <p>(a) the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the life-supporting capacity of fresh water including on any ecosystem associated with fresh water, and</p> <p>(b) the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effects on fresh water, and on any ecosystem associated with fresh water, resulting from the discharge would be avoided, and</p> <p>(c) the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the health of people and communities as affected by their contact with fresh water, and</p> <p>(d) the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effects on the health of people and communities as affected by their contact with fresh water resulting from the discharge would be avoided.</p> <p>This policy applies to the following discharges (including a diffuse discharge by any person or animal):</p> <p>(a) a new discharge, or</p> <p>(b) a change or increase in any discharge</p>

	<p>of any contaminant into fresh water, or onto or into land in circumstances that may result in that contaminant (or, as a result of any natural process from the discharge of that contaminant, any other contaminant) entering fresh water.</p> <p>Sections (a) and (b) of this policy do not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011 took effect on 1 July 2011. Sections (c) and (d) of this policy do not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 took effect (1 August 2014).</p>
Policy P66	<p>Discharges of contaminants to water or land will be minimised through the following hierarchy:</p> <p>(a) avoiding the production of the contaminant,</p> <p>(b) reducing the amount of contaminants, including by reusing, recovering or recycling contaminants,</p> <p>(c) minimising the volume or amount of the discharge,</p> <p>(d) discharging to land is promoted over discharging direct to water, including using land-based treatment, constructed wetlands or other systems to treat contaminants prior to discharge.</p> <p>Note In determining if it is appropriate to discharge to land as required by clause (d), consideration must be given to the requirements of Policy P68.</p>
Policy P68	<p>The discharge of contaminants to land shall be managed to:</p> <p>(a) minimise adverse effects on the life-supporting capacity of soil,</p> <p>(b) avoid creating contaminated land,</p> <p>(c) not exceed the capacity of the soil to treat, use or remove the contaminant,</p> <p>(d) not exceed the available capacity of the soil to absorb the discharge,</p> <p>(e) avoid significant adverse effects on public health and amenity,</p> <p>(f) not result in a discharge to water that causes more than a minor adverse effects, and</p> <p>(g) avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on mana whenua values when considering applications for discharges to land which may adversely affect statutory acknowledgement areas, sites of significance, or Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga sites, identified in this Plan, any relevant district plan, or in a planning document recognised by an iwi authority and lodged with a local authority.</p>
Policy P69	<p>The discharge of contaminants to land is promoted over direct discharges to water, particularly where there are adverse effects on:</p> <p>(a) aquatic ecosystem health, or</p> <p>(b) mahinga kai, or</p> <p>(c) contact recreation, or</p>



	(d) Māori customary use.
Policy P83	<p>The adverse effects of stormwater discharges shall be minimised, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) using good management practice, and</li> <li>(b) taking a source control and treatment train approach to new activities and land uses, and</li> <li>(c) implementing water sensitive urban design in new subdivision and development, and</li> <li>(d) progressively improving existing stormwater, wastewater, road and other public infrastructure, including during routine maintenance and upgrade, and</li> <li>(e) managing localised adverse effects, including by addressing particular attributes appropriate to the receiving environment.</li> </ul>
Policy P84	<p>Land use, subdivision and development, including stormwater discharges, shall be managed so that runoff volumes and peak flows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) avoid or minimise scour and erosion of stream beds, banks and coastal margins, and</li> <li>(b) do not increase risk to human health or safety, or increase the risk of inundation, erosion or damage to property or infrastructure,</li> </ul> <p>including by retaining, as far as practicable, pre-development hydrological conditions in new subdivision and development.</p>
Policy P99	<p>The discharge of hazardous substances from contaminated land is managed so that significant adverse effects on fresh water, including groundwater, coastal water, and air are avoided, remedied or mitigated to the extent practicable.</p>
Policy P100	<p>The adverse effects of the discharge of hazardous substances (excluding a discharge subject to Policy P89) to land, fresh water, including groundwater, coastal water or air shall be avoided, or mitigated or remedied where avoidance is not practicable.</p>
Policy P107	<p>Earthworks, vegetation clearance and plantation forestry harvesting activities that have the potential to result in significant accelerated soil erosion, or to lead to off-site discharges of silt and sediment to surface water bodies, shall use measures, including good management practice, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) minimise the risk of accelerated soil erosion, and</li> <li>(b) control silt and sediment runoff, and</li> <li>(c) ensure the site is stabilised and vegetation cover is restored.</li> </ul>
Policy P109	<p>Maintain or restore water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai and natural character, and reduce the amount of contaminants entering surface water bodies, through the management of riparian margins including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the exclusion or restricted access of livestock likely to affect riparian margins or water quality,</li> </ul>

	<p>(b) set-back distances from surface water bodies for some land use activities including earthworks, vegetation clearance, cultivation and break-feeding,</p> <p>(c) encouraging the planting of appropriate riparian vegetation, and</p> <p>(d) the control of pest plants and animals.</p>
Policy P110	<p>The loss of extent and values of the beds of lakes and rivers and natural wetlands, including as a result of reclamation and drainage, is avoided, except where:</p> <p>(a) in a natural inland wetland:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) the loss of extent or values arises from any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the customary harvest of food or resources undertaken in accordance with tikanga Māori, or</li> <li>2. restoration activities, or</li> <li>3. scientific research, or</li> <li>4. the sustainable harvest of sphagnum moss, or</li> <li>5. the construction or maintenance of wetland utility structures, or</li> <li>6. the maintenance or operation of specified infrastructure, or other infrastructure, or</li> <li>7. natural hazard works, and</li> <li>8. where the activity involves reclamation or drainage there are no other practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity, or</li> </ol> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) for specified infrastructure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the activity, including any reclamation and drainage, is necessary for the construction or upgrade of specified infrastructure, and</li> <li>2. the specified infrastructure will provide significant national or regional benefits, and 3. there is a functional need for the specified infrastructure in that location,</li> </ol> <p>(b) in a river:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) there is a functional need for the activity in that location; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) any reclamation or drainage is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. partial reclamation of a river bank for the purposes of flood protection or erosion control, or</li> <li>2. for the purposes of the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of Regionally Significant Infrastructure, or</li> <li>3. associated with the creation of a new river bed and does not involve piping of the river, or</li> <li>4. for the purpose of forming a reasonable crossing point, or</li> <li>5. associated with the extraction of significant mineral resources from existing quarries, or</li> <li>6. partial reclamation of a river bank for the purposes of local roads, and</li> <li>7. in respect of (1) to (6) there are no other practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity, or</li> </ol> <p>(c) in a lake the reclamation or drainage is:</p>

(i) necessary to enable the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of Regionally Significant Infrastructure, or

(ii) for the purpose of forming a reasonable cross point, and

(iii) in respect of (ii) there are no other practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity.

**Note**

The effects of any activity that requires a resource consent under this policy will be managed through applying the effects management hierarchy as set out in Policies P31, P37, P38, or P48.