

Attachment 5 – New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (2010)

Objective 1

To safeguard the integrity, form, functioning and resilience of the coastal environment and sustain its ecosystems, including marine and intertidal areas, estuaries, dunes and land, by:

- maintaining or enhancing natural biological and physical processes in the coastal environment and recognising their dynamic, complex and interdependent nature;
- protecting representative or significant natural ecosystems and sites of biological importance and maintaining the diversity of New Zealand's indigenous coastal flora and fauna; and
- maintaining coastal water quality, and enhancing it where it has deteriorated from what would otherwise be its natural condition, with significant adverse effects on ecology and habitat, because of discharges associated with human activity.

Objective 3

To take account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, recognise the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki and provide for tangata whenua involvement in management of the coastal environment by:

- recognising the ongoing and enduring relationship of tangata whenua over their lands, rohe and resources;
- promoting meaningful relationships and interactions between tangata whenua and persons exercising functions and powers under the Act;
- incorporating mātauranga Māori into sustainable management practices; and
- recognising and protecting characteristics of the coastal environment that are of special value to tangata whenua.

Objective 6

To enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety, through subdivision, use, and development, recognising that:

- the protection of the values of the coastal environment does not preclude use and development in appropriate places and forms, and within appropriate limits;
- some uses and developments which depend upon the use of natural and physical resources in the coastal environment are important to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities;
- functionally some uses and developments can only be located on the coast or in the coastal marine area;
- the coastal environment contains renewable energy resources of significant value;
- the protection of habitats of living marine resources contributes to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities;
- the potential to protect, use, and develop natural and physical resources in the coastal marine area should not be compromised by activities on land;
- the proportion of the coastal marine area under any formal protection is small and therefore management under the Act is an important means by which the natural resources of the coastal marine area can be protected; and
- historic heritage in the coastal environment is extensive but not fully known, and vulnerable to loss or damage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

Policy 3: Precautionary approach

1. Adopt a precautionary approach towards proposed activities whose effects on the coastal environment are uncertain, unknown, or little understood, but potentially significantly adverse.
2. In particular, adopt a precautionary approach to use and management of coastal resources potentially vulnerable to effects from climate change, so that:
 - a. avoidable social and economic loss and harm to communities does not occur;
 - b. natural adjustments for coastal processes, natural defences, ecosystems, habitat and species are allowed to occur; and
 - c. the natural character, public access, amenity and other values of the coastal environment meet the needs of future generations.

Policy 23 Discharge of Contaminants

1. In managing discharges to water in the coastal environment, have particular regard to:
 - a. the sensitivity of the receiving environment;
 - b. the nature of the contaminants to be discharged, the particular concentration of contaminants needed to achieve the required water quality in the receiving environment, and the risks if that concentration of contaminants is exceeded; and
 - c. the capacity of the receiving environment to assimilate the contaminants; and:
 - d. avoid significant adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats after reasonable mixing;
 - e. use the smallest mixing zone necessary to achieve the required water quality in the receiving environment; and
 - f. minimise adverse effects on the life-supporting capacity of water within a mixing zone.
2. In managing discharge of human sewage, do not allow:
 - a. discharge of human sewage directly to water in the coastal environment without treatment; and
 - b. the discharge of treated human sewage to water in the coastal environment, unless:
 - i. there has been adequate consideration of alternative methods, sites and routes for undertaking the discharge; and
 - ii. informed by an understanding of tangata whenua values and the effects on them.
3. Objectives, policies and rules in plans which provide for the discharge of treated human sewage into waters of the coastal environment must have been subject to early and meaningful consultation with tangata whenua.
4. In managing discharges of stormwater take steps to avoid adverse effects of stormwater discharge to water in the coastal environment, on a catchment by catchment basis, by:
 - a. avoiding where practicable and otherwise remedying cross contamination of sewage and stormwater systems;
 - b. reducing contaminant and sediment loadings in stormwater at source, through contaminant treatment and by controls on land use activities;
 - c. promoting integrated management of catchments and stormwater networks; and
 - d. promoting design options that reduce flows to stormwater reticulation systems at source.
5. In managing discharges from ports and other marine facilities:
 - a. require operators of ports and other marine facilities to take all practicable steps to avoid contamination of coastal waters, substrate, ecosystems and habitats that is more than minor;
 - b. require that the disturbance or relocation of contaminated seabed material, other than by the movement of vessels, and the dumping or storage of dredged material does not result in significant adverse effects on water quality or the seabed, substrate, ecosystems or habitats;
 - c. require operators of ports, marinas and other relevant marine facilities to provide for the collection of sewage and waste from vessels, and for residues from vessel maintenance to be safely contained and disposed of; and
 - d. consider the need for facilities for the collection of sewage and other wastes for recreational and commercial boating.

