

How Horizons Regional Council was established

Horizons Regional Council (formerly Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council) was created by local government reorganisation in 1989.

The Council took over the functions of 67 former authorities from within the Region, including Catchment and Regional Water Boards, Pest Destruction Boards, Drainage Boards, United Councils and Noxious Plants.

During the reorganisation, 14 new regions across the country were defined by the Local Government Commission, and increased to 16 in 1992. The boundaries of each are set up to conform as far as possible to one or more water catchments. The seaward boundary of the regions is the 12-mile (19.3km) New Zealand territorial limit. When determining regional boundaries, the Local Government Commission gave consideration to regional communities of interest when selecting water catchments to be included, along with factors such as natural resource management, land use planning and environmental matters.

Regional councils cover every territorial authority in New Zealand, including the Chatham Islands where several regional councils look after various aspects. Generally, regional councils contain complete territorial authorities. However, in Horizons region three territorial authorities straddle the regional council boundary – Stratford, Taupo and Waitomo districts.