



**CHAPTER 11A:  
General Objectives and Policies**

## 11A 44-2

### **General Objectives and Policies**

#### 11A.1 44-2-1

##### **Scope and Background**

Under the RMA most activities affecting air quality, water quality and quantity, the beds of rivers and lakes and the coastal marine area (CMA) are restricted unless allowed by a rule or resource consent. Many such activities have only minor effects and requiring a resource consent in every case would be unduly bureaucratic and costly. By contrast, land use activities are allowed under the Act RMA unless restricted by a rule. Some land use activities can have very significant effects which ~~should not be allowed without restriction~~ require a level of control. Through rules the Regional Council can both free up as many minor activities as possible, thereby minimising costs on resource users, and restrict activities that might otherwise cause significant effects. This chapter describes the Regional Council's overarching objectives and policies for regulating activities. ~~It then sets out general rules that serve as a default for other rules in this Plan.~~

#### 11A.2 44-2-2

##### **Objectives**

##### **Objective ~~44-4~~ 11A-1: Resource management in the Manawatu-Wanganui Region**

- (a) The regulation of activities in a manner which maximises certainty and avoids unnecessary costs on resource users and other parties.
- (b) The regulation of activities in a manner which gives effect to the provisions of Part I of this Plan, the Regional Policy Statement.

##### **Objective ~~2-4~~ 11A-2: Consent duration, review and enforcement**

- (a) The provisions of the RMA dealing with the duration of resource consents, review of consent conditions, and enforcement procedures will must be implemented in a manner that provides the maximum reasonable certainty to resource users, affected parties and submitters.
- (b) ~~Where appropriate, Herizons~~ The Regional Council will provide user-friendly, ~~long duration~~ appropriate duration and will carefully monitor and manage compliance.

#### 11A.3 44-2-3

##### **Policies**

##### **Policy 11A-1: Regional rules<sup>^</sup> for restricted activities**

For activities that are restricted under Part ~~4~~ 3 of the RMA, pursuant to ~~Sections ss~~Sections ss12(1), 12(2), 13(1), 13(2), 14(1), 14(2), ~~and~~ 15(1) and 15(2A), regional rules<sup>^</sup> will must be adopted which:

- (e) (a) classify as **permitted** those activities that either are unlikely to have more than minor adverse effects<sup>^</sup> on the environment<sup>^</sup>, or ~~may have more than minor adverse effects but these effects are acceptable~~ are able to be managed through permitted activity<sup>^</sup> conditions<sup>^</sup> and do not require any site\*-specific regulation by way of resource consents<sup>^</sup>
- (e) (b) classify as **controlled** those activities that can have more than minor adverse effects<sup>^</sup> on the environment<sup>^</sup>, but where the need for site\*-specific management can be confined to a narrow list of matters that can be addressed by way of consent conditions<sup>^</sup> on a consent that must be granted
- (e) (c) classify as **restricted discretionary** those activities for which the Regional Council needs to retain its discretion to decline consent owing to the potentially significant level of adverse effects<sup>^</sup>, but it is possible to restrict the exercise of the Regional Council's discretion to a specified list of matters
- (e) (d) classify as **discretionary** those activities for which the Regional Council needs to retain its discretion to decline consent owing to the potentially significant level of adverse effects<sup>^</sup>, and it is not practicable to restrict the exercise of the Regional Council's discretion to a specified list of matters
- (e) (e) classify as **non-complying** those activities for which the Regional Council would generally not grant a resource consent<sup>^</sup> owing to the potential for very significant adverse effects<sup>^</sup> on the environment<sup>^</sup>
- (e) (f) classify as **prohibited** those activities for which there is clear evidence that the activity is likely to have adverse effects<sup>^</sup> that are so significant that they could not be adequately avoided, remedied or mitigated under any circumstances
- (e) (g) classify as a **restricted coastal activity** (in addition to being classified as discretionary or non-complying) those activities in the coastal marine area that are required to be so classified by the Minister of Conservation.

#### **Policy 11A-2: Regional rules<sup>^</sup> for unrestricted activities**

For activities that are allowed under Part 3 of the RMA, pursuant to ~~sections ss9(3), 12(3), 13(2), and 14(2)~~, sections ss9(3), 12(3), 13(2) and 14(2), the Regional Council will intervene by way of regional rules<sup>^</sup> only where:

- (a) any such activity is likely to cause significant adverse effects<sup>^</sup> on the environment<sup>^</sup>, and
  - (b) regional rules<sup>^</sup> are the best means of addressing those adverse effects<sup>^</sup>.
- For any rules<sup>^</sup> adopted for these activities, activities will be classified in the same manner as that set out under Policy 11A-1.

#### **Policy 11A-3: Conditions<sup>^</sup>, standards and terms in regional rules<sup>^</sup>**

Regional rules<sup>^</sup> ~~will~~ must contain measurable and enforceable conditions<sup>^</sup>, standards and terms so that there is certainty for both resource users and other interested parties.

#### **Policy 2-4 11A-4: Consent conditions<sup>^</sup>**

- (a) ~~Heretofore~~ The Regional Council will grant consents with conditions<sup>^</sup> identified as necessary during the resource consent<sup>^</sup> process, including conditions<sup>^</sup> proposed by the applicant as a result of pre-application consultation agreements.
- (b) In respect of (a) above, ~~Heretofore~~ the Regional Council will draft consent conditions<sup>^</sup> that ensure:
- (i) the applicant is certain how compliance will be achieved and monitored,
  - (ii) the conditions<sup>^</sup> are specific to the activity being undertaken,
  - (iii) the conditions<sup>^</sup> are fair, reasonable and practical,
  - (iv) the conditions<sup>^</sup> are in plain English, and
  - (v) the conditions<sup>^</sup> are enforceable.

#### **Policy 2-2 11A-5: Consent durations**

- (a) ~~Heretofore~~ Other than as provided for under (b), the Regional Council will generally grant resource consents<sup>^</sup> for the term sought by the applicant unless reasons are identified during the consent process that make this inappropriate.
- (b) Resource consent<sup>^</sup> expiry dates durations for applications required under ss13, 14 and 15 of the RMA will generally be set to the ~~eleventh~~ next common catchment expiry or review date\* to the date identified listed in ~~(a)~~ Table 11A.1. The dates listed in Table 11A.1 show the initial expiry or review dates for consents within the catchment. Future dates for expiry or review of consents within that catchment must occur again every 10 years thereafter. Consents granted within three years prior to the relevant common catchment expiry date may be granted with a duration to align with the second common expiry date (that is the number of years up to the next expiry date plus 10 years). Dates may also be extended in 10 year increments where a term longer than 10 years can be granted after considering the following criteria:
- (i) the extent to which an activity is carried out in accordance with a recognised code of practice, environmental standard or good practice guideline,
  - (ii) the most appropriate balance between environmental protection and investment by the applicant,
  - (iii) the provision of s128 review opportunities to enable matters of contention to be periodically reviewed in light of monitoring and compliance information, and
  - (iv) whether the activity is infrastructure<sup>^</sup>: water<sup>^</sup>, sewage or stormwater treatment plants and facilities; or publicly accessible solid waste\* facilities including landfills\*, transfer stations and resource recovery facilities.
- For a consent which is granted for a duration longer than 10 years, review of the consent must occur, as a minimum, on the review date in Table 11A.1 and every 10 years thereafter until consent expiry. Extra review dates may be set in accordance with Policy 11A-6.
- (c) Matters to be considered in determining a shorter or longer consent duration than that requested under (a):
- (i) whether it is necessary for an activity to cease at a specified time,

- (ii) ~~the extent to which an activity is carried out in accordance with a recognised code of practice, environmental standard or good practice guideline~~
- (iii) whether the activity has effects<sup>^</sup> that are unpredictable and potentially serious for the locality where it is undertaken and a precautionary approach is needed,<sup>1</sup>
- (iv) the risks of long-term allocation of a resource whose availability changes over time in an unpredictable manner, requiring a precautionary approach, and
- (v) ~~the most appropriate balance between environmental protection and investment by the applicant~~
- (vi) in the case of existing activities, whether the consent holder has a good or poor compliance history in relation to environmental effects<sup>^</sup> for the same activity.

**Table 44-2 11A.1:** Common expiry/review dates for consents in Water Management Sub-zones\*

<u>Water Management Zone*</u>	<u>Water Management Sub-zone*</u>	Expiry / review (1 July)	Expiry / review (4 July)
Upper Manawatu	Upper Manawatu, Mangatewainui and Mangatoro	2011	2016
Weber-Tamaki	Weber-Tamaki and Mangatera	2011	2016
Upper Tamaki	Upper Tamaki	2011	2016
Upper Kumeti	Upper Kumeti	2011	2016
Tamaki-Hopelands	Tamaki-Hopelands, Lower Tamaki, Lower Kumeti, Oruakeretaki and Raparapawai	2011	2016
Hopelands-Tiraumea	Hopelands-Tiraumea	2011	2016
Tiraumea	Upper and Lower Tiraumea, Mangaone, and Makuri and Mangaramarama	2010	
Mangatainoka	Upper, Middle and Lower Mangatainoka, and Makakahi and Mangaramarama	2010	
Upper Gorge	Upper Gorge, Mangapapa, Mangaatua, Upper and Lower Mangahao	2013	
Middle Manawatu	Middle Manawatu, Upper, Middle and Lower Pohangina, and Aokautere	2013	
Lower Manawatu	Lower Manawatu, Turitea, Kahuterawa, Upper and Lower Mangaone Stream, and Main Drain	2013	
Oroua	Upper, Middle and Lower Oroua, Kiwitea and Makino	2019	
Coastal Manawatu	Coastal Manawatu, Upper and Lower Tokomaru, Mangaore, Koputaroa and Foxton Loop	2018	
Upper Rangitikei	Upper Rangitikei	2017	

<u>Water Management Zone*</u>	<u>Water Management Sub-zone*</u>	<u>Expiry / review (1 July)</u>	<u>Expiry / review (1 July)</u>
Middle Rangitikei	Middle Rangitikei, Pukeokahu-Mangaweka, Upper, Middle and Lower Moawhango, Upper and Lower Hautapu	2017	
Lower Rangitikei	Lower Rangitikei and Makohine	2017	
Coastal Rangitikei	Coastal and Tidal Rangitikei, Porewa and Tutaenui	2017	
Upper Whanganui	Upper Whanganui	2015	
Cherry Grove	Cherry Grove, Upper and Lower Whakapapa, Piopotea, Pungapunga and Upper and Lower Ongarue	2015	
Te Maire	Te Maire	2015	
Middle Whanganui	Middle Whanganui, Upper and Lower Ohura and Retaruke	2015	
Pipiriki	Pipiriki, Tangarakau, Whangamomona, <del>and</del> Upper and Lower Manganui o te Ao, <u>Waimarino, Makatote and Mangaturuturu</u>	2015	
Paetawa	Paetawa	2015	
Lower Whanganui	Lower and Coastal Whanganui, Upokongaro and Matarawa	2015	
Upper Whangaeahu	Upper Whangaeahu, Tokiahuru, Waitangi	2009	
Middle Whangaeahu	Middle Whangaeahu	2009	
Lower Whangaeahu	Lower Whangaeahu, Upper and Lower Makotuku, <del>and</del> Upper and Lower Mangawhero and <u>Makara</u>	2009	
Coastal Whangaeahu	Coastal Whangaeahu	2009	
Turakina	Upper and Lower Turakina and Ratana	2014	
Ohau	Upper and Lower Ohau	2012	
Owahanga	Owahanga	2016	
East Coast	East Coast	2016	
Akitio	Upper and Lower Akitio and Waihi	2016	
Northern Coastal	Northern Coastal	2012	
Kai Iwi	Kai Iwi	2012	
Mowhanau	Mowhanau	2012	
Kaitoke Lakes	Kaitoke Lakes	2014	
Southern Whanganui Lakes	Southern Whanganui Lakes	2014	
Northern Manawatu Lakes	Northern Manawatu Lakes	2014	

<u>Water Management Zone*</u>	<u>Water Management Sub-zone*</u>	<u>Expiry / review (1 July)</u>	<u>Expiry / review (1 July)</u>
Waitarere	Waitarere	2014	
Lake Papatongā	Lake Papatongā	2014	
Waikawa	Waikawa and Manakau	2014	
Lake Horowhenua	Lake Horowhenua and Hokio	2014	

**Policy 2-3 11A-6: Consent review**

In addition to the reasons specified in s128(1)(a)(i) and (ii) RMA, ~~Herzons~~ the Regional Council will use, under s128(1)(a)(iii) RMA, generally impose consent conditions<sup>^</sup> that specify a review of consent conditions<sup>^</sup> during the term of the consent for:

- (a) reviewing the appropriateness of any condition<sup>^</sup> requiring the consent holder to supply the consent authority<sup>^</sup> with information relating to the exercise of the resource consent<sup>^</sup>,
- (b) reviewing any unknown or uncertain adverse effects<sup>^</sup> caused as a result of planned or required changes or upgrades<sup>\*</sup> to the activity,
- (c) reviewing the conditions<sup>^</sup> of a consent at the same time as review of other consents within the same Water Management Sub-zone<sup>\*</sup> - for example, at a common catchment expiry or review date<sup>\*</sup>, and
- (d) reviewing the effectiveness of consent conditions<sup>^</sup> to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects<sup>^</sup> of the activity on the environment.

~~Herzons~~ The Regional Council will generally initiate reviews of conditions<sup>^</sup> when monitoring results or other evidence demonstrates a review is required.

**Policy 2-4 11A-7: Sites\* with multiple activities, and activities covering multiple sites\***

For applications made to ~~Herzons~~ the Regional Council for either:

- (a) a site with a number of different activities requiring consent, or
- (b) a particular type of activity that will be undertaken by the consent holder at a number of sites.

consent applicants may combine some or all activities or sites\* under umbrella consents, ~~and Herzons will~~. If the Council considers that such an approach is appropriate then it must establish consent conditions<sup>^</sup>, durations and review provisions which enable an integrated approach to be taken for managing environmental effects<sup>^</sup> from the site<sup>\*</sup> or activity as a whole. There may be circumstances where individual activities are considered at their given classification rather than the most stringent activity classification. There may also be circumstances where specific conditions<sup>^</sup> are required to address site<sup>\*</sup>-specific circumstances and effects<sup>^</sup>.

### **Policy 2-5 11A-8: Enforcement procedures**

- (a) ~~Herizes~~ The Regional Council will generally use *abatement notices*<sup>^</sup>, infringement notices, *enforcement orders*<sup>^</sup> or prosecution in response to non-compliance with this Plan or the RMA, unless an alternative approach will achieve a better outcome.
- (b) In determining the type of enforcement tool to be used, the following factors will be taken into account:
- (i) the environmental outcome or behaviour change required<sub>1</sub>
  - (ii) the cause of non-compliance<sub>1</sub>
  - (iii) the actual or potential scale of the adverse *effects*<sup>^</sup><sub>1</sub>
  - (iv) whether the non-compliance is due to an ongoing activity or an isolated incident<sub>1</sub>
  - (v) any proactive response by the person who has committed the offence<sub>1</sub>
  - (vi) the person's previous compliance history<sub>1</sub>
  - (vii) whether urgent remedial action is required<sub>1</sub>
  - (viii) which enforcement tool is most likely to produce the desired environmental outcome or change in behaviour<sub>1</sub> and
  - (ix) any defences the person may rely upon<sub>1</sub>.

