



The One Plan - a general overview

The One Plan is a full-scale review of the first set of resource management plans for the Horizons Region. It has a lifespan of 10 years and its policies and rules aim to strike the ideal balance between using natural resources for economic and social wellbeing, while keeping the environment in good health.

What issues does the One Plan cover?

The One Plan focuses on the 'Big Four' issues for the Region – water quality, increasing water demand, hill country erosion, and declining biodiversity. It also has chapters on issues including: Infrastructure, energy and waste; Te Ao Māori; air quality; natural hazards; landscape and historic heritage; coastal activities; administration; and financial contributions.

It has varying levels of detail about specific areas in the region, including rivers, lakes and streams. Other policies and rules apply generally to activities across the Region.

The guiding document for the One Plan is the Resource Management Act, along with other national policies and regulations.

How did the One Plan come about?

Policies and rules to protect the environment in the Region were spread across six different documents and many were out of date. In 2003 the Council decided to "go back to the drawing board" and started four years of consultation, asking its community what issues you thought should be given priority in a single resource management plan.

The Proposed One Plan was publicly released (notified) in May 2007 and by August 31 of that year Horizons had received 525 submissions covering more than 15,000 submission points. Submitters included individual landowners and conservationists, other councils, government departments, large advocacy organisations like Federated Farmers, and businesses like Fonterra, fertiliser manufacturers and forestry companies.

Independent commissioner Joan Allin, a former Principal Environment Court Judge, was appointed to lead hearing panels made up of both regional councillor/commissioners and independent commissioners. From July 2008 to May 2010 they held 80 hearing days with presentations by 316 submitters both supporting and opposing aspects of the One Plan.

The decisions, released on 24 August 2010, show that submitters' concerns were taken seriously by the panels. Many provisions in the Proposed One Plan were changed as a result of evidence considered by the panels. In some cases they are mainly wording changes and in others there are substantive changes to policies and rules, including in the most contentious areas of water quality and quantity, and hill country farming in erosion-prone areas.

What do the One Plan rules mean for landowners and others?

The One Plan's policies and rules will affect many resource users in the region, including farmers, people building houses, land developers, industries and councils. Overall, the One Plan now has fewer rules and a greater proportion of less restrictive (permitted and controlled activity) rules compared to the situation in 2007.

From 24 August 2010 the Proposed One Plan is replaced by the decisions of the hearing panels and the rules and policies in the amended version are considered in tandem with those of the pre-2007 operative Regional Plans. The provisions of the One Plan do not become operative until any appeals are resolved.

How can Horizons help?

Horizons staff can provide advice on the policies and rules in the One Plan, and whether any activities you are proposing will comply with the relevant conditions or if you will require a resource consent.



The One Plan - Timeline

Horizons starts 4 years of intensive consultation with public & stakeholders	2003
Proposed One Plan (POP) notified & submissions open	May 2007
Submissions on POP close	August 2007
Submissions hearings begin	July 2008
Submissions hearings end	May 2010
Panels' decisions publicly released and replace notified POP	August 2010
Appeals close	October 2010

The One Plan - The Facts

- 525 submissions
- 15,000 submissions points in total
- 80 hearing days
- 316 submitter presentations
- 19 chapters and associated schedules
- 131 rules



Need more information?

A copy of the One Plan is available on Horizons' website www.horizons.govt.nz

To request a copy of the One Plan on CD or to speak with someone about how the changes may affect you freephone **0508 800 800**



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