

# Attachment C – Linear Network Version

## 3 Infrastructure, Energy, and Waste

### 3.1 Scope and Background

This chapter details with how activities involving infrastructure\*, renewable energy, waste\*, hazardous substances\* and contaminated land will be addressed. In general, policy relating to these activities is integrated into the resource-based chapters of this Plan. Specific policies developed by Horizons for these activities are detailed in this chapter.

#### **Infrastructure**

Horizons recognises that some infrastructure\* is regionally and nationally important. Infrastructure\* can have adverse effects on the environment and other activities can have adverse effects on infrastructure\*. The provision, maintenance and upgrading of infrastructure (particularly infrastructure corridors) is critical to the viability and growth of the Region. There can be logistical or technical constraints on where infrastructure must be located to serve communities and operate efficiently. Horizons wants to ensure the benefits of infrastructure are recognised and appropriately weighed along with other matters in decision-making processes.

#### **Energy**

Energy conservation and efficiency measures alone will not be sufficient to meet all future energy demands and additional energy generation is expected to be needed. Government has developed energy strategies and made changes to the RMA to encourage energy efficiency and greater uptake of renewable energy over use of non-renewable resources. The National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission was issued in April 2008.

The Manawatu-Wanganui Region has the potential for further development of renewable energy resources. Horizons recognises pressure to develop these resources will continue and it needs to have particular regard to the benefits to be derived from development of renewable energy resources and using renewable energy. The adverse effects of renewable energy developments are often local, while the benefits are regional or national. Horizons wants to ensure that there is appropriate weighting given to both the positive and negative effects during decision-making processes.

#### **Issue 3-1: Infrastructure and energy**

- (i) The use and development of infrastructure and renewable energy resources is essential to the economic, cultural, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities and offers potentially significant national and regional benefits.
- (ii) There is potential for concerns about local adverse effects to prevail over the regional and national benefits of developing infrastructure and renewable energy
- (iii) Energy conservation and efficiency measures will assist, but alone, will not be sufficient to meet future energy demands.
- (iv) Additional electricity generation will be needed to meet regional and national growth in energy demand. To meet national renewable energy targets the region needs to provide for additional electricity generation through the use

and development of its renewable energy resources in a manner consistent with the RMA.

- (v) The Manawatu-Wanganui region contains significant potential for the use and development of new renewable resource, However the use and development of new renewable energy generation facilities face a number of barriers including securing access to natural resource, an operational and technical factors which constrain the location , lay out, design and generation capacity of renewable energy facilities.
- (vi) New activities within close proximity to existing or authorised infrastructure (including generation from renewable energy resources) and infrastructure corridors can constrain or affect the effective operation, maintenance, and upgrading of such facilities.

### **3.3 Objectives**

#### **Objective 3-1: Infrastructure and energy**

- (i) To recognise the local, regional and national benefits of infrastructure by providing for its development and allowing for its upgrading, maintenance and operation, while managing its adverse environmental effects and the adverse effects of other activities on it.
- (ii) To recognise the local, regional and national benefits of and to provide for the increased development and use of the regions renewable resources in decision-making processes while managing adverse environmental effects.
- (iii) To encourage efficiency in energy use.

### **3.4 Policies**

#### **3.4.1 Infrastructure**

##### **Policy 3-1: Benefits of infrastructure**

(a) All persons exercising functions and powers under the RMA shall recognise the following infrastructure\* within the Region as being physical resources of regional and or national importance:

(i) facilities for the generation of more than 1 MW of electricity and its supporting infrastructure where the electricity generated is supplied to the electricity transmission and distribution networks;

(iii) The National Grid and electricity transmission and distribution networks defined as the system of transmission lines, subtransmission and distribution feeders (6.6kV and above) and all associated substations and other works used to convey electricity.

(iv) Pipelines, and gas facilities used for the transmission of natural, and manufactured gas

(v) the strategic road and rail network as defined in the Regional Land Transport Strategy

(vi) the Palmerston North and Wanganui Airports

(vii) the RNZAF airport at airfield in Ohakea

(viii) telecommunications and radiocommunications facilities

(ix) Public sewerage treatment plants and associated sewerage systems

(x) Public water supply\* treatment plants and distribution systems

(xi) Flood protection and drainage schemes managed by a local authority

(xii) Port of Wanganui

(b) All persons exercising functions and powers under the RMA in relation to the establishment, upgrading, maintenance and operation of infrastructure\*, including the infrastructure\* of regional and national importance listed in subsection (a), shall recognise and provide for the benefits derived from the infrastructure\* at a local, regional and national level

(c) Existing and future infrastructure\* shall be managed in a manner which achieves as much consistency across local authority boundaries as is reasonably possible.

### **Policy 3-2: Adverse effects of other activities on infrastructure**

Adverse effects from other activities on infrastructure\* shall be avoided by using the following mechanisms:

(a) ensuring that current infrastructure\* corridors are identified and recognised and taken into account in all resource management decision-making, and any development that will adversely affect the upgrading, maintenance and operation efficiency or effectiveness of infrastructure\* within these corridors is avoided [S16 change to provide clarity/consistency]

(b) ensuring that any new activities that will adversely affect the efficiency or effectiveness of infrastructure\*; are not located near existing infrastructure\*, including infrastructure allowed by unimplemented resource consents; or infrastructure allowed by other RMA authorisations such as designations. Ensuring that there is no change to existing activities that increases their incompatibility with existing infrastructure\* including unimplemented resource consents; or other RMA authorisations which allow for infrastructure.

(c) notifying the owners or managers of infrastructure of consent applications that may adversely affect the infrastructure\* that they own or manage

(d) giving effect to the New Zealand Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001), prepared under the Electricity Act 1992, when establishing rules and considering applications for buildings, structures, and other activities near overhead electric lines and conductors

(e) giving effect to the operating code standard for Pipelines - Gas and Liquid Petroleum (NZ/AS2885), when establishing rules and considering applications for buildings, structures and other activities near transmission gas pipelines.

(f) ensuring that any planting does not interfere with existing infrastructure\*, including giving effect to the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 promulgated under the Electricity Act 1992 and Section 6.4.4 External Interference Prevention of the operating code standard for Pipelines - Gas and Liquid Petroleum (NZ/AS2885).

(g) Ensuring effective integration of transport and land-use planning in growth areas of the Region, including protecting the function of the strategic road and rail network.

### **Policy 3-3: Adverse effects of infrastructure on the environment**

When making decisions on consent applications regarding infrastructure\*, the adverse effects of infrastructure\* on the environment shall be managed in the following manner:

- (a) The adverse effects of establishing new infrastructure\* on:
- (i) waahi tapu, waahi tupuna and other sites of significance to Māori
  - (ii) specified waterways valued for natural state and sites of significance (aquatic) identified in Chapter 6
  - (iii) rare habitats and threatened habitats as defined in Chapter 7
  - (iv) the outstanding natural features and landscapes identified in Chapter 7
  - (v) protection zones in the coastal marine area as identified in Chapter 9

shall be avoided, remedied or mitigated in the way set out in other chapters unless functional constraints require them to locate in those areas and there can be an appropriate offset or compensation for unavoidable adverse effects.

(b) Minor adverse effects of establishing new infrastructure\* in areas not provided for by Policy 3-3(a) and the upgrading, maintenance and operation of existing infrastructure will be tolerated. When making decisions on consent applications decision-makers shall have particular regard to:

(i) the benefits of infrastructure\*, particularly the benefits of regionally or nationally important infrastructure\*

(ii) the integration of the infrastructure\* with land use

(iii) the benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy.

### **3.4.2 Energy**

#### **Policy 3-4: Renewable energy**

(a) All persons exercising functions and powers under the RMA shall have particular regard to:

i. The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of the use and development of renewable energy including electricity generation from renewable energy including the benefits:

- to social and economic wellbeing;
- Contributing to a reduction of greenhouse gases in New Zealand, and globally;
- Of reduced dependency on imported energy sources;
- Of reduced exposure to fossil fuel price volatility; and
- For security of supply for current and future generations.

ii. The Manawatu -Wanganui Region's potential for the development of renewable energy resources

iii. The need for renewable energy to locate where the renewable energy resource is located

iv. The development of electricity generation from renewable energy and use of renewable energy resources in policy development and resource consent decision-making.

(b) Local authority decisions and controls on land use should generally not restrict the use of small domestic-scale renewable energy production for individual domestic use.

#### **Policy 3-5: Energy efficiency**

(a) The efficient use of energy shall be taken into account in consent decision-making processes for large users of energy.

(b) Local authority decisions and controls on subdivision and housing, including layout of the site and layout of the lots in relation to other houses/subdivisions, should encourage energy-efficient house design and access to solar energy.

(c) Local authority decisions and controls on subdivision and land use should ensure that sustainable transport options such as public transport, walking and cycling can be integrated into land use development.