

Notes for track changes. Recommendations made by the Administration Officers Report are shown in **Blue**. Words recommended to be added are shown in underline, words recommended to be removed are shown in ~~strike through~~.

Sentences shown in ~~black~~ strikethrough are recommended within the Administration Officer's Report to be relocated to other parts of the document.

Terms defined within the plan glossary are *Italicised* and marked with a ' * ' symbol. Terms defined in the resource management Act 1991 are *Italicised* and marked with a ' ^ ' symbol.

2-10A¹ Administration

This chapter details how Horizons the² Regional Council will deal with some of its administrative responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991.

2-1-10A.1¹ Cross-Boundary Issues

Ruapehu, Wanganui, Rangitikei, Manawatu, Tararua and Horowhenua districts and Palmerston North City are all contained within the Manawatu-Wanganui Region, along with small parts of Waitomo, Stratford and Taupo districts. Horizons The² Regional Council also shares boundaries with Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Taranaki Regional Council and Environment Waikato.

The environmental *effects*[^] of some resource uses in the Region's catchments and *coastal marine area*[^] are experienced by more than one *local authority*[^]. This can happen when:

- a *property*[^] straddles a boundary between *local authorities*[^], for example, when a dairy shed located in one *local authority*[^] *discharges*[^] *waste*[^] into another
- the *effects*[^] of an activity across district council boundaries – for example, when hill country erosion in one *district*[^] adversely affects *water*[^] quality in the *district*[^] downstream
- an activity crosses *Regional Council*[^] boundaries – for example, *water*[^] is taken and diverted from the Manawatu-Wanganui Region for electricity generation and discharged into the Environment Waikato Region.

Horizons The Regional Council² acknowledges that it needs to work with other organisations with resource management responsibilities or interests to achieve its objectives. These include:

- ~~• iwi authorities Hhapū and iwi~~³
- Department of Conservation
- Ministry for the Environment
- district health boards
- Fish and Game
- Maritime Safety Authority
- Ministry of Fisheries
- New Zealand Historic Places Trust³

¹ Change in numbering to reflect new Chapter number

² Officer's report – Setting the Scene, Administration, Introduction to Rules and Financial Contributions - Recommendation ADM 1

³ Officer's report – Setting the Scene, Administration, Introduction to Rules and Financial Contributions - Recommendation ADM 2

- [Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand](#)³
- [Non-governmental organisations including environmental, tourism and farming groups](#)³
- other Government departments.

In general, [Horizons the Regional Council](#)² will deal with cross-boundary issues through consultation, collaboration and continuing to build relationships with other resource management organisations. Specific approaches include:

- using the protocols for communication and co-ordination with [Territorial Authorities](#)[^] outlined in the Triennial Agreement for the Manawatu-Wanganui Region ([LGA Local Government Act \(LGA\) 2002](#), s15)
- clearly defining the responsibilities of [Horizons the Regional Council](#)² and [Territorial Authorities](#)[^] for:
 - maintaining indigenous *biological diversity*[^] (refer Policy 7-1)
 - managing coastal resources (refer Policy 9-1)
 - managing *natural hazards*[^] (refer Policy 10-1)
 - managing *hazardous substances*[^] (refer Policy 3-10).
- transferring functions to [Territorial Authorities](#)[^] in the ~~Manawatu-Wanganui~~ Region when this is agreed to be appropriate
- providing Regional Council resources to manage the relationship between the Regional Council and [Territorial Authorities](#)[^] within the Region
- using the protocol for joint applications and hearings set out in the ~~Horizons~~ Regional Council Protocol Manual – Consents Section
- encouraging consultation and submissions from other resource management organisations to [Horizons the Regional Council's](#)² planning documents
- consulting with and making submissions to the planning documents of other resource management organisations
- participating in Regional Council peer group forums
- participating in other inter-agency forums where this will enhance relationships with resource management organisations.
- [developing protocols with adjoining regional councils[^] to facilitate communication](#)³

[2.2-10A.2](#)¹ Plan Monitoring

[Horizons The](#)² Regional Council will regularly check the effectiveness of the policies and methods in this Plan in achieving anticipated environmental results. This will be done every three years at the same time as reporting progress made by the community in achieving community outcomes for the Region (LGA 2002, s92). This amalgamation of reporting is logical because:

- the anticipated environmental results in this Plan and the community outcomes developed for the [Horizons' Regional Council's](#)² Community Plan (LTCCP) under the [Local Government Act LGA 2002](#) are very similar
- there is a strong connection between the policies and methods in this Plan and the projects and targets identified in [Horizons' the Regional Council's](#)²

Community Plan. The methods in this Plan are identified as projects in [Horizons' the Regional Council's](#)² Community Plan.

This means that information needed for plan effectiveness monitoring is almost identical to that needed to evaluate progress toward achieving community outcomes.

Monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of this Plan will be based on the following process:

- (a) evaluation of [Horizons' the Regional Council's](#)² Annual Reports (LGA 2002, s98) and the policies and methods in this Plan to assess which policies and methods have been implemented
- (b) evaluation of [Horizons' the Regional Council's](#)² Community Plan and Annual Reports to assess actual work done to implement this Plan compared to the intended level of work each year, including consent, compliance and environmental incident response activity
- (c) evaluation of the results of environmental monitoring carried out under the Regional Monitoring Strategy to assess the condition and trends of the Region's *environment*[△], with an emphasis on those parts of the *environment*[△] where specific work has been done to make improvements. (Note that a state of the environment report or update will be required every three years to meet the information requirements of this process)
- (d) assessment of whether *changes*[△] need to be made to policies and methods where there is slow or no progress toward achieving anticipated environmental results.

[2.3-10A.3](#)¹

Plan Review

[Horizons The](#)² Regional Council intends to manage this Plan as a living document and to ensure its content is responsive to the performance of policies and methods in achieving anticipated environmental outcomes. *Changes*[△] to the Plan will be sought when:

- (a) plan effectiveness monitoring identifies the need to enhance progress toward achieving anticipated environmental results
- (b) major resource management developments arise such as significant amendments to the RMA or the adoption of *national policy statements*[△] or national environmental standards by Government that have major implications for the contents of this Plan
- (c) the results of new scientific work enhance this Plan and make *plan*[△] provisions more certain for resource users.

Changes[△] to Part I (the *Regional Policy Statement*[△]) of this Plan may be started by a Minister of the Crown, the Regional Council or any District Council within, or partly within, the Region. *Changes*[△] may also be triggered after a review of Part I of this Plan, initiated because an approved *management plan*[△] for a *foreshore and seabed reserve*[△] has been lodged with [Horizons the](#)² Regional Council (Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004, ss43 and 44).

Changes[△] to Part II (the Regional Plan) of this Plan may be requested by any *person*[△].

The process used to review and *change*[△] this Plan is set out in the First Schedule of the [Resource Management Act 1991](#)^{RMA}.

A full review of Parts I and II of this Plan ~~will shall~~² be initiated by ~~Horizons the~~² Regional Council on the ~~ninth tenth~~⁴ anniversary of the Plan being made ~~operative~~⁵, unless there has been reason to do so earlier.

~~2.4~~ ~~Consent conditions, duration, review and enforcement~~

~~Issue 2-1: Consent duration, review and enforcement~~

~~Uncertainty for resource users regarding resource consent durations, review provisions, and enforcement actions undermines their ability to conduct their businesses efficiently.~~⁵

~~2.5~~ ~~Objectives~~⁶

~~Objective 2-1: Consent duration, review and enforcement~~

~~The provisions of the RMA dealing with the duration of resource consents, review of consent conditions, and enforcement procedures will be implemented in a manner that provides the maximum reasonable certainty to resource users.~~

~~Where appropriate, Horizons will provide user friendly, long duration consents and will carefully monitor and manage compliance.~~⁶

~~Whāinga 2-1: Te roa o te whakaaetanga, te arotake me te whakaū~~

~~Ka whakatinanahia ngā wāhanga o te RMA — o pā ana ki te roa o te whakaaetanga, te arotake i ngā āhuatanga o ngā whakaaetanga, me ngā tikanga whakaū — i runga i te tuku whakatau āhua tūturu ki te hunga whakamahi rauemi.~~

~~I ngā wā o tika ana, mā Horizons ngā whakaaetanga ngāwari noa te whakamahi roa hoki te whakatau o tuku, o āta aroturuki tautukunga — whakahaere tautukunga hoki.~~⁶

~~2.6~~ ~~Policies~~⁷

~~Policy 2-1: Consent conditions~~

- ~~(a) Horizons will grant consents with conditions identified as necessary during the resource consent process, including conditions proposed by the applicant as a result of pre-application consultation agreements.~~
- ~~(b) In respect of (a) above, Horizons will draft consent conditions that ensure:
 - ~~(i) the applicant is certain how compliance will be achieved and monitored~~
 - ~~(ii) the conditions are specific to the activity being undertaken~~
 - ~~(iii) the conditions are fair, reasonable and practical~~
 - ~~(iv) the conditions are in plain English.~~⁷~~

⁴ Officer's report – Setting the Scene, Administration, Introduction to Rules and Financial Contributions - Recommendation ADM 3

⁵ Officer's report – Setting the Scene, Administration, Introduction to Rules and Financial Contributions - Recommendation ADM 5

⁶ Objective 2-1 (excluding the Maori translation) has been incorporated in its entirety into Chapter 11A, as Objective 11A-2

⁷ Policy 2-1 has been incorporated in its entirety into Chapter 11A, as Policy 11A-4

Policy 2-2: Consent durations

- (a) ~~Horizons will generally grant resource consents for the term sought by the applicant unless reasons are identified during the consent process that make this inappropriate.~~
- (b) ~~Consent expiry dates will be set to the closest common catchment expiry or review date to the date identified in (a).~~
- (c) ~~Matters to be considered in determining a shorter or longer consent duration than 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 that are unpredictable and potentially serious for the locality where it is undertaken and a precautionary approach is needed~~
 - (iv) ~~the risks of long-term allocation of a resource whose availability changes over time in an unpredictable manner, requiring a precautionary~~
 - (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.⁸~~

Policy 2-3: Consent review

~~In addition to the reasons specified in s 128 RMA, Horizons will use a review of consent conditions during the term of the consent for:~~

- (a) ~~reviewing the appropriateness of any condition requiring the consent holder to supply the consent authority with information relating to the exercise of the resource consent~~
- (b) ~~reviewing any unknown or uncertain adverse effects caused as a result of planned or required changes or upgrades to the activity~~
- (c) ~~reviewing the conditions of a consent at the same time as review of other consents within the same water management zone – for example, at a common catchment expiry or review date.~~

~~Horizons will initiate reviews of conditions when monitoring results or other evidence demonstrates a review is required.⁹~~

Policy 2-4: Sites with multiple activities, and activities covering multiple sites

~~For applications made to Horizons 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 Horizons will establish consent conditions, durations and review~~

⁸ Policy 2-2 has been incorporated in its entirety into Chapter 11A, as Policy 11A-5

⁹ Policy 2-3 has been incorporated in its entirety into Chapter 11A, as Policy 11A-6

provisions which enable an integrated approach to be taken for managing environmental effects from the site or activity as a whole.¹⁰

Policy 2-5: Enforcement procedures

- (a) ~~Horizons will generally use abatement notices, infringement notices, enforcement orders 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~~
 - ~~(ii) the cause or non-compliance~~
 - ~~(iii) the actual or potential scale of the adverse effects~~
 - ~~(iv) whether the non-compliance is due to an ongoing activity or an isolated incident~~
 - ~~(v) any proactive response by the person who has committed the offence~~
 - ~~(vi) the person's previous compliance history~~
 - ~~(vii) whether urgent remedial action is required~~
 - ~~(viii) which enforcement tool is most likely to produce the desired environmental outcome or change in behaviour.¹¹~~

2.7-10A.4¹

Methods

The policies in [this chapter Parts I and II of this pPlan²](#) will be implemented through the exercising of [Horizons the²](#) Regional Council's functions as a *consent authority*, and through the policies and methods of Part II of this Plan.

<u>Method 10A-1</u>	<u>Regional and District plans[^]</u>
<u>Description</u>	<u>Regional Plans[^] including statutory plans[^] and Regional Land Transport Plans and Regional Pest Management Plans and District Plans[^] are methods to implement this Plan.</u>
<u>Who</u>	<u>The Regional Council and Territorial Authorities[^]</u>
<u>Links to Policy</u>	[Once decisions are made on this Plan, the relevant objectives and policies will be specifically identified here.]
<u>Targets</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>

<u>Method 10A-2</u>	<u>Regional and District plans[^]</u>
<u>Description</u>	<u>Regional Plans[^] (except for Part II of this Plan which already gives effect to Part 1) and District Plans[^] shall be changed[^] to give effect to Part 1 – Regional Policy Statement of this Plan on the first review or change[^] or variation[^] to the pPlan or within five years, whichever is the earliest</u>
<u>Who</u>	<u>The Regional Council and Territorial Authorities[^]</u>
<u>Links to Objectives, Policies and Methods</u>	<u>Part 1 – Objectives, policies and methods</u>
<u>Targets</u>	<u>Within five years all plans[^] give effect to Part I of the Plan.</u>

¹⁰ Policy 2-4 has been incorporated in its entirety into Chapter 11A, as Policy 11A-7

¹¹ Policy 2-5 has been incorporated in its entirety into Chapter 11A, as Policy 11A-8

Method 10A-3	Plan [^] interpretation
<u>Description</u>	<u>In any case where the meaning of the Māori and English text used in this Plan differs, the English interpretation shall be taken as the correct one.</u>
<u>Who</u>	<u>All Plan users.</u>
<u>Links to Objectives and Policies</u>	<u>In all locations in the Plan where Te Reo is used.</u>
<u>Targets</u>	<u>Clear and consistent interpretation of this Plan.</u>

2.8 Anticipated Environmental Results¹³

Anticipated Environmental Result	Link to Policy	Indicator	Data Source
This Plan is perceived as even-handed by resource users in the way it deals with resource use and development versus resource protection.	Policies: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3 2-4 and 2-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction index • Number of appeals by consent applicants to Horizons' decisions and Territorial Authority decisions where this policy has to be given effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizons' customer surveys. • Horizons' consents database. • Territorial Authority_ consents databases.
Responsible resource users benefit under this Plan, but irresponsible resource users are punished.	Policies: 2-2 and 2-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of resource users receiving "benefits" due to good compliance records or other responsible resource use activities such as use of codes of practice. • Number of consent non-compliances and environmental incidents. • Ratio of formal enforcement actions taken in response to consent non-compliance and environmental incidents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizons' consents database. • Horizons' non-compliance/enforcement action and environmental incident reports to council.

2.9 Explanations and Principal Reasons¹⁴

~~The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) allows consents to be granted for up to 35 years, or indefinitely for some activities. It is often not appropriate to allow an activity to continue for such an extended period of time. There should be the opportunity for reconsideration of how the activity should be managed. Nevertheless, consent holders should be entitled to as much certainty as is reasonably possible.~~

¹³ Officer's report – Setting the Scene, Administration, Introduction to Rules and Financial Contributions - Recommendation ADM 13

¹⁴ Officer's report – Setting the Scene, Administration, Introduction to Rules and Financial Contributions - Recommendation ADM 14

~~Objective 2-1 and Policies 2-1 to 2-5 have been adopted to clarify how the provisions of the RMA will be used, in most circumstances, for dealing with the duration of resource consents, review of consent conditions and the use of enforcement procedures. The policies are intended to give the maximum reasonable certainty to resource users while maintaining good environmental outcomes.~~