

# Monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of regional policy statement provisions

**Planning standards advice note:** this chapter does not fully give effect to the National Planning Standards. Despite its title, this chapter addresses the monitoring of both regional policy statement and regional plan provisions. References to regional plan provisions in this chapter will be removed using a Schedule 1 process as soon as practicable.

## Plan monitoring

The 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. This amalgamation of reporting is logical because:

1. the anticipated environmental results in this Plan and the community outcomes developed for the Regional Council's Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) are very similar, and
2. there is a strong connection between the policies and methods in this Plan and the projects and targets identified in the LTCCP. The methods in this Plan are identified as projects in the LTCCP.

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:

1. evaluation of the Regional Council's Annual Reports and the policies and methods in this Plan to assess which policies and methods have been implemented,
2. evaluation of the LTCCP 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,
3. 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), and
4. assessment of whether changes need to be made to policies and methods where there is slow or no progress toward achieving anticipated environmental results.

## Plan review

The 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:

1. plan effectiveness monitoring identifies the need to enhance progress toward achieving anticipated environmental results, or
2. 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, or
3. the results of new scientific work enhance this Plan and make plan provisions more certain for resource users.

Changes to Regional Policy Statement provisions 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, by the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011.

Changes to Regional Plan provisions of this Plan may be requested by any person.

The process used to review and change this Plan is set out in Schedule 1 of the RMA.

A full review of this Plan will be initiated by the Regional Council on the tenth anniversary of the Plan being made operative, unless there has been reason to do so earlier.