

10A

Administration

This chapter details how the Regional Council will deal with some of its administrative responsibilities under the RMA.

10A.1

Cross-boundary Issues

Ruapehu, Wanganui, Rangitikei, Manawatu, Tararua and Horowhenua districts and Palmerston North City are all contained within the Region, along with small parts of Waitomo, Stratford and Taupo districts. The 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, or
- the effects of an activity cross district council boundaries – for example, when hill country erosion in one district adversely affects water quality in the district downstream, or
- an activity crosses Regional Council boundaries – for example, water is taken and diverted from the Region for electricity generation and discharged into the Environment Waikato Region, or
- a development such as a wind farm is visible across local authority boundaries within the Region or across Regional Council boundaries.

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

- iwi authorities, *hapū** and *iwi**
- Department of Conservation
- Ministry for the Environment
- district health boards
- Fish and Game
- Maritime Safety Authority
- Ministry of Fisheries
- New Zealand Historic Places Trust
- Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
- non-governmental organisations including environmental, tourism and primary sector groups
- other Government departments.

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

- (a) using the protocols for communication and coordination with Territorial Authorities outlined in the Triennial Agreement for the Manawatu-Wanganui Region
- (b) clearly defining the responsibilities of the Regional Council and Territorial Authorities for:
 - (i) maintaining indigenous biological diversity (refer Policy 7-1)
 - (ii) managing coastal resources (refer Policy 9-1)

- (iii) managing natural hazards (refer Policy 10-1)
- (iv) managing hazardous substances (refer Policy 3-10)
- (c) transferring functions to Territorial Authorities in the Region when this is agreed to be appropriate
- (d) providing Regional Council resources to manage the relationship between the Regional Council and Territorial Authorities within the Region
- (e) using the protocol for joint applications and hearings set out in the Horizons Regional Council Protocol Manual – Consents Section
- (f) encouraging consultation and submissions from other resource management organisations to the Regional Council's planning documents
- (g) consulting with and making submissions to the planning documents of other resource management organisations
- (h) participating in Regional Council peer group forums
- (i) participating in other inter-agency forums where this will enhance relationships with resource management organisations
- (j) working with adjoining Regional Councils to identify, discuss and address cross-boundary issues.

10A.2 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:

- (a) 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
- (b) 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:

- (a) 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,
- (b) 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,
- (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), and

- (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.

10A.3

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:

- (a) plan effectiveness monitoring identifies the need to enhance progress toward achieving anticipated environmental results, or
- (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, or
- (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 the 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 Schedule I to the RMA.

A full review of Parts I and II 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.

10A.4

Methods

The policies in Parts I and II of this Plan will be implemented through the exercising of the Regional Council's functions as a consent authority, through Territorial Authorities giving effect to Part I of the Plan, and through the methods of Part I of this Plan.

Method 10A-1	Regional Plans and District Plans
Description	Regional plans, regional land transport plans, regional pest management plans and district plans are methods to implement this Plan.
Who	The Regional Council and Territorial Authorities.
Links to Policy	Relevant objectives and policies in Part I.
Targets	Ongoing.

Method 10A-2	Regional Plans and District Plans
Description	Regional plans (except for Part II of this Plan which already gives effect to Part I) and district plans must be changed to give effect to Part I – Regional Policy Statement of this Plan on the first review or change or variation to the regional plan or district plan or within five years, whichever is the earliest.
Who	The Regional Council and Territorial Authorities.
Links to Policy	Relevant objectives and policies in Part I.
Targets	Within five years all regional plans and district plans must give effect to Part I of the Plan.