

How is our District Plan shaping up?

A report on the efficiency and effectiveness of objectives, policies, anticipated environmental results and other methods in our District Plan

What it is

Monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of objectives, policies, rules and other methods in our District Plan (Plan) is not only a statutory requirement but is also a vital part of the planning cycle. This closes the loop in the 'plan-do-monitor-review' cycle, it provides information on how well the plan is working on the ground, and helps determine whether possible changes to the Plan need to be made if the objectives and anticipated environmental results have not been achieved. Thorough investigation of the practical implications allows policy to be improved, and also demonstrating effective and efficient policies gives greater confidence to the wider community regarding the administration of the Plan.

Why we do it

Under section 35(2)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) Matamata-Piako District Council (Council) has a duty to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies, rules or other methods in its policy statement or its Plan.

The results of this monitoring must be made available at intervals of not more than five years and as the Plan became operative in July 2005 the first results of this monitoring is due by 25 July 2010.

It is noted that the information in this report is only up to 30 June 2008 due to the timing of the project.

How we do it

In 1999 Council developed a monitoring strategy to determine 'indicators' to allow us to measure specific environmental qualities, and/or changes in environmental quality as a result of human or natural causes. There is no one specific way of measuring effectiveness and efficiency of plans, and the best method will vary depending on the situation.

A simple way to think of effectiveness as a measure is:

Has the outcome sought been achieved:

Are we on the right track towards achieving the objective: and

Are we making progress at an acceptable rate?

Efficiency is a measure of the benefit of a policy relative to its cost. When comparing different available policies or rules etc. the most efficient policy is the one that achieves a given level of benefit for the least cost, or conversely the most benefit for a given amount of cost.

There are a large number of objectives and policies in the Plan, and evaluating each of them would be a difficult, if not impossible task. Where information is available we have assessed the objectives and policies to evaluate whether they are effectively and efficiently achieving the anticipated environmental results (AERs).