

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the plan

The District Plan provides the means for the Council and residents of Matamata-Piako District to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development and protection of the natural and physical resources within the District.

The Plan is written under the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991, in accordance with the Council's functions in Section 31 and duties in Section 32, to meet the purpose of that Act.

The purpose of the Resource Management Act is "to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources" [s.5 (1)].

Under the Act "sustainable management means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while -

- (a) Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
- (b) Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and
- (c) Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment" [s.5 (2)].

In achieving the purpose of the Act, "all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for the following matters of national importance:

- (a) The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development;
- (b) The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and developments;
- (c) The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;
- (d) The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers;
- (e) The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga" [s.6].

In achieving the purpose of the Act, "all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to –

- (a) Kaitiakitanga;
- (b) The efficient use and development of natural and physical resources;
- (c) The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values;
- (d) Intrinsic values of ecosystems;
- (e) Recognition and protection of the heritage values of sites, buildings, places, or areas;

- (f) Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment;
- (g) Any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources;
- (h) The protection of the habitat of trout and salmon” [s.7].

In achieving the purpose of the Act, “all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi)” [s.8].

1.2 Organisation of the plan

The Plan is organised into three Parts.

1.2.1 Part A

Part A consists of:

- (i) This introduction explaining the purpose of the Plan, how the plan is set out, linkages to other plans and authorities and the responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan;
- (ii) The significant resource management issues facing the District including the District’s Sustainable Management Strategy; and
- (iii) The objectives and policies which provide a description of the outcome sought and the solutions needed to resolve the significant resource management issues.

1.2.2 Part B

Part B provides the rules of the Plan which are subdivided into sections relating in general to the effects of activities on the environment.

Of particular importance is Section 2, Activity Table, which provides a guide to the use of the Plan as a whole and the Activity Table in that Section. The Activity Table itself lists all the activities anticipated in the District and the status of that activity in each of the zones in the District. To guide you in understanding the Plan, the rules are linked back to the relevant objectives and policies.

1.2.3 Part C

Part C comprises the Planning Maps for the District which identify the zone boundaries, significant natural environment and heritage areas, natural hazard areas, and designations.

The Development Concept Plans of Scheduled sites and the plans for Appendix 10 are also held in Part C of the Plan.

1.3 Guide to issues, objectives and policies

Section 2 of this part of the Plan sets out the principle issues and management strategy related to the sustainable management of the District’s resources. Section 3 states the issues related to the effects on the Environment and includes issues on or by:

- Natural environment and heritage;
- Natural hazards;

- Land and development;
- Subdivision;
- Amenity;
- Surface of water;
- Works and network utilities;
- Transportation;
- Development Contributions.

The tables following in Sections 2 and 3 list the objectives, policies, methods, anticipated environmental results and reasons for their inclusion (explanation) in the District Plan.

In most cases the objectives and policies relate to the methods, including the rules formulated in this plan. The Council will have regard to all relevant objectives and policies when considering resource consent applications. However, where the particular objective or policy has a strategic goal it is also identified here and may be taken into account when considering resource consent applications for non-complying activities. The strategic objectives and policies are identified as SO and SP respectively. Strategic objectives and Policies are statements of Council's Management and they are linked in the District Plan for consideration as part of some resource consent applications.

The objectives and policies tables are linked to the issues generically through the subheading.

1.4 Linkages with other plans

There are a number of plans required or encouraged under various Acts which can affect activities and it can often be difficult to understand how they fit together and what they each do.

Under the Resource Management Act there are District Plans, Regional Plans, Regional Policy Statements and National Policy Statements (including a National Coastal Policy Statement). There are also Long Term Plans and Annual Plans of local and regional Councils that can affect activities. [The Council has adopted the Development Manual for engineering purposes.](#)

1. Essentially, Long Term Plans are strategic plans with a long time frame (twenty years or more). They may plan for virtually any matter of public interest and are not effects based. District and Regional Plans have a medium time frame (five to ten years), and may only include matters involving the management of natural and physical resources. Annual Plans are just that, plans for a year. Like Long Term Plans, they may cover virtually any matter of public interest.
2. Regional Policy Statements are to provide an overview of the resource management issues of the region and policies and methods to achieve the integrated management of natural and physical resources of the whole region. The Regional Land Transport Strategy and Regional Pest Management Strategy also provide policy and methods to achieve the integrated management of regional resources.
3. District plans are used to control the effects of land use in a District, generally via zoning and performance standards of each type of activity.
4. [The Development Manual sets out the processes and standards for developments or subdivisions within the District.](#)

1.5 Cross boundary and other matters

1.5.1 Statement of intent

The Council will maintain liaison with the adjacent territorial authorities, the Waikato Regional Council (WRC), the Department of Conservation (DOC) and other organisations where appropriate. Active discussion on resource management issues and information sharing between authorities will be encouraged.

Wherever practicable, any application which requires the consent of two or more local authorities shall be heard jointly by an equal number of elected officials from both organisations at a mutually agreeable time and location. The Council will encourage practices which enable resource consent applications to be considered in a similar manner.

1.5.2 Referral

- (i) Referral to, and liaison with, WRC (and DOC where relevant) where:
 - (a) The proposed activity involves the discharge of contaminants to air, water or land;
 - (b) The proposed activity involves taking water from a source other than a public water supply or private well;
 - (c) The proposed activity involves storing water on natural ground (i.e. using dams);
 - (d) The proposed activity involves discharging water to any place other than a public sewerage system, stormwater system or private septic or sewerage treatment system;
 - (e) The proposed activity involves land with slopes greater than 20 degrees;
 - (f) The proposed activity involves vegetation destruction covering a contiguous area of 1 hectare or more in any 12 month period;
 - (g) The proposed activity involves earthworks and land disturbance, except cultivation or normal road or track maintenance, involving the disturbance of 1000m³ or more of earth, soil or rock in any 12 month period;
 - (h) The proposed activity involves any earthwork or land disturbance within 20 metres of any wetland or the bed of any lake or river, associated with the construction of a legal structure;
 - (i) The proposed activity involves hazardous materials.
- (ii) Referral to and liaison with adjacent District Councils (and DOC where relevant) where the following cross-boundary issues are likely to arise:
 - (a) Generation of traffic to another District;
 - (b) Air emissions;
 - (c) Noise;
 - (d) Water quality from run-off and stormwater discharges;
 - (e) Natural hazards;
 - (f) Hazardous substances and contaminated sites;
 - (g) Network utility services.

1.6 Monitoring

1.6.1 General

Under the Resource Management Act Council is required to monitor the effectiveness of its policy statements and plans, the exercise of resource consents, the exercise of any transferred and delegated powers and the state of the environment in relation to Council's duties and responsibilities under the Resource Management Act.

1.6.2 Statement of intent

- (i) The Council will:
 - (a) Monitor the key resource management matters identified in a timely manner;
 - (b) Produce regular reports to document trends and issues;
 - (c) Use existing data where possible in order to be cost effective; and
 - (d) Review the District Plan (or parts of it) to ensure objectives, policies and rules will effectively achieve the desired environmental outcomes.
- (ii) In order to achieve this, the Council will rely as much as possible on:
 - (a) Its own monitoring programme and its Annual Plan requirements;
 - (b) Data gathered for other purposes but which has relevance for monitoring;
 - (c) Monitoring programmes carried out by WRC, DOC and other agencies;
 - (d) Monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Monitoring.

1.7 Review of the District Plan

This review of the Matamata-Piako Transitional District Plan has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Resource Management Act, 1991.

In accordance with the Act the Plan contains:

- (i) The significant resource management issues of the District - Part A;
- (ii) The objectives sought to be achieved by the Plan - Part A;
- (iii) The policies with regard to the issues and objectives and an explanation of those Policies - Part A;
- (iv) The methods to be used to implement the policies, including the rules -Part B;
- (v) The principal reasons for adopting the objectives, policies and methods of implementation. See the explanations in Parts A and B;
- (vi) The anticipated environmental results - Part A;
- (vii) Cross boundary issues - Part A., Sections 1.3 and 1.4;
- (viii) Procedures to be used to review and monitor the effectiveness of the Plan – Part A, Section 1.5 and Part B, Section 1.4;
- (ix) The information required for resource consents - Part B, Section 1.1.

The Plan is consistent with the National Policy Statements, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, the Regional Policy Statements and Regional Plan in effect at the time of notification.

1.8 Supporting documentation

In the preparation of this Plan the following technical reports were prepared and considered in order to enable all alternatives to be considered and the benefits and costs associated with the alternatives to be assessed. All of the documents below are held at Council's offices for public reference.

1. Issues and Options for Resource Management in Matamata-Piako District (October 1993). Issues, objectives and policies, document (September 1994).
2. The Preliminary Visual and Landscape Study, October 1992 Volume 1.
3. Urban Growth Studies for Te Aroha, Matamata and Morrinsville.
4. Parking Report (September 1995).
5. Background Development Contributions Report (August 1996).
6. The Management of Trees within the District Plan and Tree Survey.
7. Rural Vehicle Entrance Standards (September 1995).
8. Noise survey (November 1995).
9. Esplanade Reserve Working Party - Esplanade Areas and On Surface of Water Activities.
10. Project Te Aroha (September 1992).
11. [Hamilton City Council Development Manual and the Matamata-Piako Supplement \(the "Development Manual"\)](#).