

5. Monitoring the Regional Policy Statement and the anticipated environmental results

This chapter sets out the procedures to be used to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies and methods in the Regional Policy Statement. It then lists the anticipated environmental results of implementing the Regional Policy Statement, which will be used to measure whether the overall objectives are being achieved.

5.1 Procedures for monitoring

5.1.1 Integrated monitoring

Wellington Regional Council has a Regional Monitoring Strategy that will be reviewed in response to this Regional Policy Statement. The Regional Monitoring Strategy will be reviewed in collaboration with all the local authorities in the region, to promote integrated monitoring of the region's natural and physical resources.

The process of revising the Regional Monitoring Strategy will also seek input, and potentially also monitoring assistance from iwi authorities and key stakeholders.

Monitoring of natural and physical resources occurs under several pieces of legislation. The Resource Management Act requires local authorities to monitor a number of factors, including the state of the environment in their region or district and the effectiveness and efficiency of policies, rules or other methods in its policy statement or its plan. Local authorities are also required to monitor and report on their long-term council community plan prepared under the Local Government Act 2004. The Wellington Regional Strategy, the sustainable economic growth strategy for the region, has indicators that are monitored to measure its progress, and proposes to develop a Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) to measure progress across and inter-relationships between economic, environmental, social and cultural aspects of community wellbeing. The Regional Land Transport Strategy is also monitored and reported on annually.

5.1.2 Reporting on a review of the results of state of the environment monitoring

State of the environment monitoring is a key component of checking whether the Regional Policy Statement policies and methods are effective. Wellington Regional Council prepares state of the environment reports that outline whether the objectives in the Regional Policy Statement are being achieved. The objectives are long-term goals. Their achievement will be reported in a state of the environment report for the region, which is prepared every six years, using the anticipated environmental results listed in Table 14. The last state of the environment report for the Wellington region (*Measuring Up*) was published in 2005.

Monitoring the state of the environment includes regular monitoring of resources – such as monitoring water quality at selected sites for selected indicators at monthly intervals – and targeted investigations. It also includes surveys and interviews with people and organisations on their perceptions of the quality of the environment. Reporting on the state of the environment will also draw from monitoring of councils' long term council community plans, the Wellington Regional Strategy and the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

When developing monitoring programmes, local authorities will place an emphasis on measuring environmental indicators that enable the anticipated environmental results of the Regional Policy Statement to be assessed. Indicators will be developed as part of the review of the Regional Monitoring Strategy, for those anticipated environmental results not currently monitored, and monitoring programmes will be initiated.

5.1.3 The efficiency and effectiveness of the Regional Policy Statement and regional and district plans

Wellington Regional Council and the region's city and district councils are required by the Resource Management Act, at intervals of not more than five years, to compile and make available to the public the results of their monitoring of policies, rules and other methods in policy statements or plans. This requirement applies to the Regional Policy Statement, regional plans and district plans.

The results of this monitoring of policies, rules and other methods that give effect to the Regional Policy Statement in regional and district and city plans will be used by Wellington Regional Council to evaluate this Regional Policy Statement.

5.1.4 Resource consents

Information on resource consents is necessary to assess whether this Regional Policy Statement's objectives are being met. The process of applying for resource consents, and considering those applications, provides information on the resources being used, where the use takes place, the magnitude of use, how often it occurs and the limits on use (conditions). Wellington Regional Council and the region's city and district councils are required by the Resource Management Act to monitor the exercise of resource consents. This information will be used to monitor the Regional Policy Statement.

5.2 Anticipated environmental results

The following table sets out the anticipated environment results of the Regional Policy Statement. The anticipated environmental results are ten year targets, unless otherwise specified. They will be used to measure whether the objectives are being achieved, as part of the state of the environment reporting. The results are described as specific environmental states or they describe a course of action that will be undertaken.

Table 14: Objectives and the anticipated environmental results from implementing policies and methods in the Regional Policy Statement

Topic	Objectives	Anticipated environmental results (AER)
Air quality	Objective 1 Discharges of odour, smoke and dust to air do not adversely affect amenity values and people's wellbeing.	District plans include policies and/or rules that discourage:
		(a) new sensitive activities from locating near land uses or activities that emit odour, smoke and dust;
		(b) new land use activities that emit odour, smoke and dust from locating near sensitive activities.
	The number of environmental events caused by odour, smoke or dust notified to Wellington Regional Council are reduced by 50 per cent in 2014.	
	Eighty five per cent of residents perceive that air pollution is not a problem in their city.	
	Objective 2 Human health is protected from unacceptable levels of fine particulate matter.	Policies and/or rules that protect people's health from discharges or fine particulate matter are included in regional plans.
Airshed action plans are completed for airsheds that exceed the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality.		
All gazetted airsheds have achieved the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality for fine particulate matter by 2013.		
Eighty five per cent of residents perceive that air pollution is not a problem in their city.		

Topic	Objectives	Anticipated environmental results (AER)
Coastal environment	<p>Objective 3 Habitats and features in the coastal environment are protected because of their significant indigenous ecosystems or habitats, recreational, cultural, historical, or landscape values.</p>	<p>There is no reduction in the extent of the area of wetlands, estuaries, salt marshes and active sand dunes in the coastal environment, as a result of human activities.</p> <p>The anticipated environmental results provided in relation to the objectives for indigenous ecosystems, landscapes and historical heritage are also relevant to Objective 3. Please refer to those topics within this table.</p>
	<p>Objective 4 The natural character of the coastal environment is protected from the adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</p>	<p>Regional and district plans contain policies that protect the natural character of the coastal environment in areas with high natural character.</p> <p>There is no reduction in the extent or quality of places, sites or areas with high natural character in the coastal environment.</p>
	<p>Objective 5 Areas of the coastal environment where natural character has been degraded are restored and rehabilitated.</p>	<p>Degraded parts of the coastal environment are identified and restoration work has started where there is sufficient community involvement.</p>
	<p>Objective 6 The quality of coastal waters is maintained or enhanced to a level that is suitable for the health and vitality of coastal and marine ecosystems.</p>	<p>A regional plan will contain policies and rules to sustain healthy coastal and marine ecosystems.</p>
		<p>Regional and district plans will contain policies and rules to maintain and enhance coastal water quality.</p>
		<p>Sediment quality in low energy aquatic environments is maintained or enhanced.</p>
		<p>Water quality in the coastal marine area supports healthy, functioning aquatic ecosystems.</p>
		<p>Eighty per cent of residents perceive that water pollution is not a problem.</p>
	<p>Objective 7 The integrity, functioning and resilience of physical and ecological processes in the coastal environment are protected from the adverse effects of subdivision, use and development.</p>	<p>Human activities have not adversely affected the extent of active coastal sand dunes.</p>
		<p>Human activities have not accelerated coastal erosion.</p>
	<p>Objective 8 Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers is enhanced.</p>	<p>Areas with significant values, where public access to and along the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes should be enhanced have been identified.</p>
		<p>Public access is improved to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers.</p>

Topic	Objectives	Anticipated environmental results (AER)	
Energy, infrastructure and waste	<p>Objective 9</p> <p>The region's energy needs are met in ways that:</p> <p>(a) improve energy efficiency and conservation;</p> <p>(b) diversify the type and scale of renewable energy development;</p> <p>(c) maximise the use of renewable energy resources;</p> <p>(d) reduce dependency on fossil fuels; and</p> <p>(e) reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.</p>	Regional and district plans contain policies that recognise the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of energy generated from renewable energy resources.	
		The number and diversity of projects that generate energy from renewable energy resources in the region has increased.	
		By 2016, the region's transport related carbon dioxide emissions are below 1,065 kilotonnes per annum (the 2001 equivalent).	
		By 2016, at least 15 per cent of the region's commuters walk or cycle to work.	
		By 2016, at least 21 per cent of the region's commuters take passenger transport to work.	
		Travel demand management programmes are in place in a significant number of schools, business and other workplaces.	
		Twenty per cent of businesses have adopted sustainable business practices.	
		District plans contain policies to promote energy efficient subdivision or development, small scale renewable energy generation and provide for energy efficient alterations.	
		<p>Objective 10</p> <p>The social, economic, cultural and environmental, benefits of regionally significant infrastructure are recognised and protected.</p>	Regional and district plans contain:
			(a) policies that recognise the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of regionally significant infrastructure; and
(b) policies that protect regionally significant infrastructure from incompatible land uses under, over, or alongside.			
<p>Objective 11</p> <p>The quantity of waste disposed of is reduced.</p>	The quantity of waste disposed to landfills is reduced by 20 per cent.		
	The quantity of material sent for recycling and composting is increased by 20 per cent.		
	Twenty per cent of businesses in the region have adopted sustainable business practices.		
Fresh water	<p>Objective 12</p> <p>The quantity and quality of fresh water:</p> <p>(a) meet the range of uses and values for which water is required;</p> <p>(b) safeguards the life supporting capacity of water bodies; and</p> <p>(c) meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.</p>	Water quality in lakes, rivers and aquifers is supporting healthy functioning aquatic ecosystems.	
		River flows support healthy functioning aquatic ecosystems.	
		Groundwater levels support dependent wetland ecosystems.	
		Erosion, silt or sediment has not adversely affected the healthy functioning of aquatic ecosystems.	
		The water catchments for public water supply are protected so that public health is safeguarded.	
		Eighty per cent of residents perceive that water pollution is not a problem.	

Topic	Objectives	Anticipated environmental results (AER)
Fresh water (Continued)	<p>Objective 12 (Continued)</p>	<p>A regional plan contains policies, rules and/or methods that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) require, as a minimum, that water quality, flows and levels are managed for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing aquatic ecosystem health; and (b) manage water bodies for other identified purposes. <p>A regional plan contains policies and/or rules that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) establish allocation limits for the total amount of water that can be taken from rivers; and (b) establish allocation limits for the total amount of water that can be taken from groundwater. <p>A regional plan contains policies, rules and/or methods that reduce ecotoxic contaminants in stormwater that discharge into water, or onto or into land that may enter water, from new subdivision and development.</p> <p>Regional and district plans contain policies, rules and/or methods that control earthworks and vegetation disturbance.</p> <p>A regional plan contains policies, rules and/or methods to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) promote discharges of human and/or animal waste to land rather than water, particularly discharges of sewage; and (b) promote the use of collective sewage treatment systems that discharge to land.
	<p>Objective 13 The region's rivers, lakes and wetlands support healthy functioning ecosystems.</p>	<p>Macro-invertebrate diversity in rivers and lakes is maintained.</p> <p>Flow regimes in rivers and lakes are not resulting in algal cover and/or biomass that is adversely affecting aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p>There are no new barriers to fish passage and the number of existing impediments is reduced.</p> <p>There is no loss of existing fish habitat, nor reduction in fish populations and diversity.</p> <p>There is no loss of the significant amenity and recreational values or significant indigenous ecosystems associated with the rivers and lakes identified in Appendix 1.</p> <p>There is no decline in the condition and extent of wetlands.</p> <p>A regional plan contains policies, rules and/or methods to protect aquatic ecological function.</p>

Topic	Objectives	Anticipated environmental results (AER)
Fresh water (Continued)	Objective 13 (Continued)	A regional plan contains policies and rules to protect: (a) the significant amenity and recreational values associated with the rivers and lakes listed in Appendix 1; and (b) the significant indigenous ecosystems of the river and lakes listed in Appendix 1.
	Objective 14 Water is used efficiently and is not wasted.	A regional plan contains policies, rules and/or methods to: (a) promote the efficient use of water; and (b) promote water harvesting, including off-line dams.
		The amount of water recycled and reused has increased and wastage has decreased.
		There is an increase in water harvesting and water storage.
	<i>Repeated objective from coastal environment</i> Objective 8 Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers is enhanced.	A regional plan contains policies and/or rules that give priority to the abstraction of water for the health needs of people.
Historic heritage	Objective 15 Historic heritage is identified and protected from inappropriate modification, use and development.	Areas with significant values, where public access to and along the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes should be enhanced have been identified.
		Public access is improved to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers.
Indigenous ecosystems	Objective 16 Indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values are maintained and restored to a healthy functioning state.	District and regional plans have identified places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values.
		District and regional plans contain policies, rules and/or other methods to: (a) protect places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development; and (b) avoid the destruction of, or damage to unidentified archaeological sites, wahi tapu or other features of potential historical, spiritual or cultural significance.
		There is no loss of significant historic heritage values associated with places, sites and areas identified in a district or regional plan.
Indigenous ecosystems	Objective 16 Indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values are maintained and restored to a healthy functioning state.	District and regional plans have identified indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values.
		District and regional plans contain policies, rules and/or methods to protect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
		There is no loss of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values identified in a district or regional plan.
Indigenous ecosystems	Objective 16 Indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values are maintained and restored to a healthy functioning state.	There is a 20 per cent increase in the area of indigenous ecosystems and habitats that are legally protected.

Topic	Objectives	Anticipated environmental results (AER)
Landscape	<p>Objective 17</p> <p>The region's outstanding natural features and landscapes, and significant amenity landscapes, are identified and their values protected, maintained or enhanced.</p>	District and regional plans have identified outstanding natural features and landscapes.
		District and regional plans have identified significant amenity landscapes.
		District and regional plans contain policies, rules and/or methods to protect outstanding natural features and landscape values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
		District and regional plans contain policies, rules and/or methods to maintain and enhance significant amenity landscape values.
		There is no loss of the values associated with outstanding natural features or landscapes identified in a district or regional plan.
		There is no loss of the values associated with significant amenity landscapes identified in a district or regional plan.
Natural hazards	<p>Objective 18</p> <p>The risks and consequences to people, communities, their businesses, property and infrastructure from natural hazards and climate change effects are reduced.</p>	<p>District plans:</p> <p>(a) identify areas at high risk from natural hazards; and</p> <p>(b) contain policies and rules to avoid subdivision and development in those areas.</p>
		There is no new subdivision and development in areas at high risk from natural hazards.
	<p>Objective 19</p> <p>Hazard mitigation measures, structural works and other activities do not increase the risk and consequences of natural hazard events.</p>	There is no increase in the risk from natural hazards as a result of subdivision, use or development (including mitigation works).
		Where hazard mitigation measures are employed, there is a greater number and range of soft engineered measures used.
	<p>Objective 20</p> <p>Communities are more resilient to natural hazards, including the impacts of climate change, and people are better prepared for the consequences of natural hazard events.</p>	Over 75 per cent of the community surveyed has an understanding of the consequences from local natural hazards.
		Over 75 per cent of the community surveyed is prepared for natural hazard events.

Topic	Objectives	Anticipated environmental results (AER)
Regional form, design and function	<p>Objective 21</p> <p>A compact, well designed and sustainable regional form that has an integrated, safe and responsive transport network and:</p> <p>(a) a viable and vibrant regional central business district in Wellington city;</p> <p>(b) an increased range and diversity of activities in and around the regionally significant centres ;</p> <p>(c) sufficient industrial-based employment locations or capacity to meet the region's needs;</p> <p>(d) urban development in existing urban areas, or when beyond urban areas, development that reinforces the region's existing urban form;</p> <p>(e) strategically planned rural development;</p> <p>(f) a range of housing (including affordable housing);</p> <p>(g) integrated public open spaces;</p> <p>(h) integrated land use and transportation;</p> <p>(i) improved east-west transport linkages; and</p> <p>(j) efficient of use existing infrastructure (including transport network infrastructure).</p>	<p>District plans:</p> <p>(a) contain policies, rules and/or other methods that encourage a range of land use activities to maintain and enhance the viability and vibrancy of the regionally significant centres; and</p> <p>(b) identify and contain policies and methods to encourage higher density and mixed use activities around locations with good access to the strategic public transport network.</p> <p>There is an increase in the density and mix of land use activities in and around the regionally significant centres.</p> <p>City and district councils have determined if they have key industrial employment locations, and if they have, they have been identified and protected in district plans.</p> <p>The percentage of residents who agree that "I feel a sense of pride in the way my city looks and feels" is:</p> <p>(a) over 80 per cent in Wellington city; and</p> <p>(b) over 65 per cent for the rest of the region's city's and districts.</p> <p>All new urban development is within the region's urban areas (as at March 2009); or in areas identified for urban development in a district growth framework or strategy; or in accordance with a structure plan.</p> <p>There is a positive trend towards the 'key outcomes' in the Regional Land Transport Strategy.</p> <p>All the 'good regional form' actions identified in the Wellington Regional Strategy are implemented.</p>
	Resource management with tangata whenua	Note: all objectives and anticipated environmental results are significant to iwi authorities and will be considered alongside the following objectives and anticipated environmental results.
	<p>Objective 22</p> <p>The region's iwi authorities and local authorities work together under Treaty partner principles for the sustainable management of the region's environment for the benefit and wellbeing of the regional community, both now and in the future.</p>	Iwi authorities are satisfied with their involvement in resource management decision-making.
	<p>Objective 23</p> <p>The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are taken into account in a systematic way when resource management decisions are made.</p>	Iwi authorities are satisfied with the way the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are taken into account by local authorities when resource management decisions are made.
	<p>Objective 24</p> <p>The concept and spirit of kaitiakitanga are integrated into the sustainable management of the Wellington region's natural and physical resources.</p>	There are planning documents, recognised by iwi authorities, to support the implementation of policy 48.
	<p>Objective 25</p> <p>Mauri is sustained, particularly in relation to coastal and fresh waters.</p>	Iwi authorities consider that no further degradation of mauri has occurred, particularly in relation to coastal and fresh waters.

Topic	Objectives	Anticipated environmental results (AER)
Resource management with tangata whenua (Continued)	<p>Objective 26 Mahinga kai and natural resources used for customary purposes, are maintained and enhanced, and these resources are healthy, sustainable and accessible to tangata whenua.</p>	There is better access for tangata whenua to sites with mahinga kai and areas of natural resources used for customary purposes.
	<p>Objective 27 Adverse effects on the cultural relationship of Maori with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu and other taonga are avoided.</p>	There is no loss of significant spiritual or cultural historic heritage values associated with places, sites and areas identified in planning documents recognised by an iwi authority or in a district or regional plan.
Soils and Minerals	<p>Objective 28 Land management practices do not accelerate soil erosion.</p>	The area of vegetation cover (includes soil conservation plantings, natural regrowth, and afforestation) on erosion prone land has increased by 10 per cent.
	<p>Objective 29 Soils maintain those desirable physical, chemical and biological characteristics that enable them to retain their ecosystem function and range of uses.</p>	More than 95 per cent of soils sampled for soil health characteristics meet soil health targets.
		There is no loss of productive land uses from Class I and II land.
		District plans contain policies and rules that do not allow activities on contaminated land if those activities could be adversely affected by the contamination.
<p>Objective 30 The demand for mineral resources is met from local resources as much as possible.</p>	Aggregate and hard rock, for local use, is sourced from within the Wellington region.	