

## **Chapter 6: Principal reasons for objectives, policies, and methods**

This chapter presents the principal reasons for adopting the objectives, policies and methods of the Regional Policy Statement.

Detailed reasons for each provision are included in a report on the consideration of alternatives, benefits and costs that accompanies the Regional Policy Statement. This report is required by section 32 of the Resource Management Act. It requires an evaluation of the extent to which each objective in the Regional Policy Statement is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act and whether, having regard to their efficiency and effectiveness, the policies and methods are the most appropriate for achieving the objectives.

### **6.1: Objectives**

All objectives in the Regional Policy Statement have been adopted to address the regionally significant resource management issues (including the resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities). These issues were identified from an analysis of the state of the environment, feedback received from city and district councils, the community, and by working with iwi authorities in the region. Achievement of the objectives will promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

### **6.2 Policies**

Policies in the Regional Policy Statement set the courses of action that are to be followed to achieve the objectives. There are two types of policies:

Policies that are referred to as 'regulatory'. These policies will be delivered through regional plans, district and city plans, the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy, resource consents and notices of requirements. All involve statutory processes

Policies that are referred to as 'non-regulatory'. These policies will be implemented through actions that do not involve regulation or statutory processes

Both regulatory and non-regulatory policies are needed in the Regional Policy Statement to achieve the objectives.

#### **6.2.1 Regulatory**

Policies 1-8, 11-32 and 34 direct the matters that shall or should be included in the policies, rules and other methods of regional or district plans. The plans must give effect to these policies. The policies are necessary to achieve the objectives while allowing Wellington Regional Council and each city and district to work out with their communities the most appropriate way of giving effect to the Regional Policy Statement.

Policies 9, 10 and 33 direct the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy, which cannot be inconsistent with the Regional Policy Statement. The policies are necessary to provide appropriate direction on the role of land transport in promoting sustainable management.

Policies 35-60 provide direction on the assessment and consideration of resource consent applications, notices of requirement, or plan changes or variations. Particular regard must be given to these policies when resource management decisions are made by Wellington Regional Council and the region's district and city councils.

Policies 61-63 allocate responsibility for the control of the use of land in relation to indigenous biological diversity, natural hazards, and the storage, use disposal or transportation of hazardous substances. These policies are necessary to satisfy the requirements of section 62(1)(i) of the Resource Management Act.

### **6.2.2 Non-Regulatory**

Policies 64-69 are non-regulatory policies that direct specific actions to help achieve the objectives, such as the provision of information and works and services. They are needed where regulatory policies alone cannot achieve the objectives.

## **6.3 Methods**

Methods in the Regional Policy Statement state the actions needed to implement the policies. As with the policies, there are two types of methods – regulatory and non-regulatory

### **6.3.1 Regulatory**

Method 1 implements the policies that direct what shall or should be included in district plans. Method 2 implements the policies that direct what shall be included in regional plans.

These methods are necessary to clarify when regional and district plans must give effect to the Regional Policy Statement.

Method 3 implements the policies that relate to the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy. The method is necessary to clarify when the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy must implement the policies.

Method 4 implements policies that direct the matters to be considered when making decisions on resource consent applications, notices of requirement, plan changes and variations.

Method 5 implements policies that allocate local authority responsibility for the control of the use of land in relation to indigenous biological diversity, natural hazards, and the use, storage, disposal or transportation of hazardous substances. The method is necessary to satisfy section 62(1)(i) of the Resource Management Act.

### **6.3.2 Non-regulatory**

Methods 6-25 set out specific information and guidance that will be prepared. These methods are needed to provide people and communities with information that will enable them to understand, contribute and actively participate in the sustainable management of the region's natural and physical resources or to enable Wellington Regional Council and the

region's city and district councils to implement relevant policies in the Regional Policy Statement.

Methods 26-47 set out actions that will be taken by Wellington Regional Council and other organisations to manage resources in an integrated way. These methods are needed to ensure that where resources are managed by more than one agency, it is done collaboratively.

Methods 48-52 set out where investigation of natural and physical resources is necessary to implement the policies. The methods address gaps in information that need to be addressed, as a priority, to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

Methods 53-56 set out where support and assistance is necessary to implement the policies.

## Appendix 1: Rivers and lakes with values requiring protection

**Table 4: Rivers and lakes with significant amenity and recreational values**

Table 4 relates to policies 19, 43 and 53.

River or lake	Recreational uses
Lake Waitawa (Forest Lakes)	kayaking, windsurfing, sailing
Ōtaki River	fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, rafting, picnicking, camping
Waikanae River	fishing, swimming, camping
Kaiwharawhara Stream	picnicking, walking, running
Korokoro Stream	walking, running, mountain biking
Hutt River	fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, rafting, power boating, radio controlled boats, jet skis, picnicking, walking, running, mountain biking
Pakuratahi River	fishing, swimming, picnicking
Akatarawa River	fishing, swimming, kayaking, bird watching, picnicking, walking, running, mountain biking, trail biking, horse riding, 4-wheel driving
Upper Gollan's Stream (including Butterfly Creek)	picnicking, tramping walking, running, bird watching
Wainuiomata River	fishing, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, walking, horse riding
Orongorongo River	fishing, tramping
Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera Lakes	bird watching, picnicking, walking, mountain biking
Ruamāhanga River	fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, rafting, power boating, jet skiing, picnicking, walking, duck shooting
Tauherenikau River	fishing, swimming, walking, picnicking, rafting
Waingawa River	fishing, swimming, kayaking, tubing, rafting, walking
Waiohine River	fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, rafting, camping
Kopuaranga River	fishing
Waipoua River	fishing, swimming, running, trail biking
Henley Lake, Masterton	kayaking, dragon boating, radio controlled boats, picnicking, running, biking
Lake Wairarapa	fishing, kayaking, canoeing, boating, duck shooting, bird watching, walking, photography

### Notes to Table 4

Rivers and lakes in the table are listed in the order of the location of their outflows to the coast going anti clock wise around the region from Lake Waitawa in the north west of the region.

The rivers and lakes included in Table 4 were identified in the Regional Freshwater Plan, and from a survey of recreational groups in the Wellington region carried out in November 2007.

The following threshold applies to rivers and lakes that are significant for their recreational use:

- Is regarded as especially valuable by two or more recreational groups because of the quality of the opportunity and experience it affords
- Is used for two or more recreational activities by people from throughout the region or beyond, or
- Is used by anglers on 100 or more days per year.

**Table 5: Rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems**

Relates to policies 19 and 43

River or lake	Criteria that identify rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems			
	High macroinvertebrate community health	Habitat for threatened indigenous fish species	Habitat for six or more migratory indigenous fish species	Inanga spawning habitat
All rivers on Kāpiti Island	all rivers			
Waitohu Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Ōtaki River	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Mangaone Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Waimeha Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Waikanae River	River and tributaries above, and including, the Ngatiawa River	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Wharemauku Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	
Whareroa Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Wainui Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	
Taupō Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Kākaho Stream			Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Horokiri Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Little Waitangi Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	
Pauatahunui Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Duck Creek		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Porirua Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Makara Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Oteranga Stream			Stream and all tributaries	

River or lake		Criteria that identify rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems			
		High macroinvertebrate community health	Habitat for threatened indigenous fish species	Habitat for six or more migratory indigenous fish species	Inanga spawning habitat
Karori Stream			Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	
Ōwhiro Bay Stream			Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Kaiwharawhara Stream			Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	
Korokoro Stream			Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	
Hutt River		River and all tributaries above the Akatarawa River	Hutt River	Hutt River	Reach of tidal influence
	Speedy's Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	
	Moonshine Stream		Stream and all tributaries		
	Whakatikei River	River and all tributaries above the Wainui Stream			
	Akatarawa River	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	
	Pakuratahi River	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries		
	Stokes Valley Stream		Stream and all tributaries		
Days Bay Stream			Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	
Lake Kōhangapiripiri and Cameron Creek			Lake Kōhangapiripiri and tributaries		
Lake Kōhangatera and Gollans Stream			Lake Kōhangatera, Gollans Stream and all tributaries	Lake Kōhangatera, Gollans Stream and all tributaries	
Wainuiomata River		River and all tributaries excluding Black Creek	River and all tributaries excluding Black Creek	River and all tributaries excluding Black Creek	Reach of tidal influence
Orongorongo River		River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	
Mukamukaiti Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries		

River or lake		Criteria that identify rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems			
		High macroinvertebrate community health	Habitat for threatened indigenous fish species	Habitat for six or more migratory indigenous fish species	Inanga spawning habitat
Wharepapa River		River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries		
Pounui Stream and Lake Pounui			Stream and all tributaries, including Lake Pounui	Stream and all tributaries, including Lake Pounui	
Battery Stream		Stream and all tributaries			
Lake Wairarapa			Lake Wairarapa	Lake Wairarapa	
	Wairongomai River	River and all tributaries			
	Burlings Stream	Stream and all tributaries		Stream and all tributaries	
	Unnamed tributaries of Lake Wairarapa between easting 2692884, northing 5996151 and easting 2694063, northing 5996975	All rivers			
	Brocketts Stream	Stream and all tributaries		Stream and all tributaries	
	Cross Creek	Creek and all tributaries			
	Prince Stream	Stream and all tributaries			
	Abbots Creek	Creek and all tributaries	Creek and all tributaries		
	Tauherenikau River	River and all tributaries		River and all tributaries	
Ruamāhanga River		River and all tributaries above, but not including, the Kopuaranga River	Ruamāhanga River	Ruamāhanga River	Reach of tidal influence
	Waiohine River up to, and including, the		River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	



River or lake		Criteria that identify rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems			
		High macroinvertebrate community health	Habitat for threatened indigenous fish species	Habitat for six or more migratory indigenous fish species	Inanga spawning habitat
	Mangatarere Stream				
	Waiohine River above, but not including, the Mangatarere Stream	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries		
	Waingawa River	River and tributaries above, and including, the Atiwhakatu Stream			
	Waipoua River		River and all tributaries		
	Ruakokopatuna River		River and all tributaries		
	Waihora Stream	Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries		
	Unnamed river on the true left bank of the Ruamāhanga River at easting 2704500 and northing 5988700		River and all tributaries		
	Whangaehu River		River and all tributaries		
	Tauanui Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries	
	Turanganui River	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	
	Putangirua Stream	Stream and all tributaries		Stream and all tributaries	
	Makatukutuku Stream	Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries		
	Pararaki Stream	Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries		
	Otakaha Stream	Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries		
	Mangatoetoe Stream	Stream and all tributaries			

River or lake		Criteria that identify rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems			
		High macroinvertebrate community health	Habitat for threatened indigenous fish species	Habitat for six or more migratory indigenous fish species	Inanga spawning habitat
Waitetuna Stream		Stream and all tributaries	Stream and all tributaries		
Whawanui River		River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	
Opouawe River		River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries		
Awhea River		unnamed tributaries on true left bank between easting 2720541, northing 5974877, and easting 2720409, northing 5967840;		River and all tributaries	
Oterei River		River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	River and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Rivers flowing to the coast between the Huariki Stream and the Rerewhakaaitu River		all rivers			
Unnamed river draining to the coast at easting 2736771, northing 5974877 (Devils creek)		all rivers			
Pahaoa River					Reach of tidal influence
		Unnamed tributary on the true left bank at easting 2742200 and northing 5992169			
		Unnamed tributary on the true left bank at northing 2739983 and easting 5991469			
		Tributaries on the true left bank between easting 2732790 and northing 5984194 and the coast.			

River or lake		Criteria that identify rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems			
		High macroinvertebrate community health	Habitat for threatened indigenous fish species	Habitat for six or more migratory indigenous fish species	Inanga spawning habitat
		Tributaries on the true right bank between easting 2733640 and northing 5981454 and the coast.			
Waiuru Stream		Stream and all tributaries			
Waihingaia Stream		Stream and all tributaries			
Huatokitoki Stream catchment		Stream and all tributaries			
Kaimokopuna Stream catchment		Stream and all tributaries			
Motuwaireka Stream catchment				Stream and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Whareama River catchment			River and all tributaries		Reach of tidal influence
Castlepoint Stream catchment				Stream and all tributaries	
Whakatiki River catchment				River and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence
Okau Stream catchment		Stream and all tributaries			
Unnamed rivers draining to the coast between easting 2784666, northing 6038022 and easting 2784952, northing 6039543.		All rivers			
Mataikona River		Rivers on the true left bank between the Pakowhai River and easting 2785345 and northing 6046718 rivers on the true right bank of the between easting 2784611 and northing 6046207 and the coast		River and all tributaries	Reach of tidal influence

## Notes to Table 5

Rivers and lakes in the table are listed in the order of the location of their outflows to the coast going anti clockwise around the region from the Waitohu Stream in the north west of the region. For streams that are not named on NZMS maps, grid references are given.

Rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems were selected using indicators of aquatic invertebrate community health, the diversity of indigenous migratory fish species, the presence of nationally threatened fish species and the location of inanga spawning habitat.

Aquatic invertebrate health was assessed using the Macroinvertebrate Community Index and the proportion of pollution sensitive mayfly, caddisfly and stonefly taxa. The relationship between these indices and indigenous vegetation cover in a catchment established the criteria of greater than 70 per cent indigenous vegetation cover in a catchment as having rivers and streams with significant ecosystems.

Rivers and streams in the eastern Wairarapa hill country are physically and biologically distinct from others parts of the region, but have less indigenous vegetation remaining. In order for rivers and streams in this area to be sufficiently represented in the list of rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems, criteria for indigenous vegetation cover has been lowered to 60 per cent for catchments east of the Ruamāhanga River.

The criterion for indigenous fish diversity is six or more migratory fish species recorded in the New Zealand freshwater fish database in a catchment. The criterion for habitat of threatened native fish species is numbers of shortjaw kokopu (*Galaxias postvectis*), giant kokopu (*Galaxias argenteus*) and dwarf galaxias (*Galaxias divergens*), as recorded in the New Zealand freshwater fish database.