

MONITORING

The Act has formalised the responsibilities for gathering information, monitoring and maintaining records on resource management matters. These responsibilities will enable the Council to consider the appropriateness of the content of the Plan and provide an indication of the Plan's performance. The Act requires that a number of components are monitored by a local authority. These are described below:

- (a) The state of the whole or any part of the environment of a district to the extent that it is appropriate to enable the local authority to effectively carry out its functions under this Act.
- (b) The suitability and effectiveness of any plan for a district.
- (c) The exercise of any functions, power or duties delegated or transferred by the local authority.
- (d) The exercise of resource consents that have effect in its district.

It is necessary to provide a framework within the District Plan whereby this monitoring will be undertaken. The actual methods of implementing this monitoring will need to be coordinated with the Council's Annual Plan and Strategic Plan to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated.

MO 1.0 ISSUE

- (a) **Need for monitoring.**

MO 1.1 OUTCOME

- (a) **Sound resource management decisions that promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.**

MO 1.2 OBJECTIVES

- (a) **Maintenance of a current and relevant District Plan that addresses resource management issues in accordance with the principle of sustainable management of natural and physical resources.**

MO 1.3 POLICIES

- (a) **To develop and maintain adequate information bases to ensure the appropriate management of the District's natural and physical resources.**
- (b) **To consult with the community on matters of environmental quality and amenity values.**

Explanation of Policies

The policies seek to address the monitoring requirements under the Act. The policies indicate that information will be collected which will allow the Council to measure the state of the environment and the effectiveness of its Plan and policies. Consultation is seen as an important part of this process as indicated by the policies.

The Council will support and undertake investigations, including commissioning and supporting new research, where appropriate.

MO 2.0 METHODS

- (1) To provide resources in the Council's Annual Plan to undertake its monitoring duties required by the Act.
- (2) To identify key indicators for monitoring the state of the Ruapehu District environment, and develop and undertake a monitoring regime based on these.
- (3) To develop indicators to monitor the performance of the District Plan and monitor these.
- (4) To monitor resource consent compliance within the Ruapehu District.
- (5) To initiate plan changes that address evolving resource management issues and community needs and which are formulated to improve environmental quality and amenity values.

Principal Reasons for Adopting the Objectives, Policies and Methods

The Council has a duty under Section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to undertake monitoring on the State of the Environment, the suitability and effectiveness of its District Plan, any functions transferred and the exercise of any resource consent. This duty exists regardless of the monitoring provisions within a District Plan.

Methodologies for monitoring are being developed at three levels being Central, Regional and Local Government. At this time the monitoring work undertaken by each agency is not clearly integrated. This will occur over time as key indicators for monitoring are further developed and monitoring programmes are fully implemented.

The District Plan provides a base framework for undertaking monitoring within the Ruapehu District. It is ineffective to develop a specific monitoring programme within the District Plan as it is not possible to predict the monitoring priorities for the next ten years. Also any monitoring undertaken by this authority must be funded through the Annual Plan process. The Annual Plan has a three year time horizon.

The most efficient and effective means of undertaking monitoring at this time is to provide a framework for monitoring in the District Plan and develop specific monitoring programmes independent of the District Plan document. The provisions of the Plan reflect this approach.

