



DISTRICT PLAN OVERVIEW

DP1.1 Sustainable Management

This Plan has been developed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (“the Act”). The Act defines the Council's functions and the matters it shall have regard to in the preparation of this Plan. The Act has a single overriding purpose which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

Sustainable management is defined in the Act as 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.

DP1.2 Context of the District Plan

The District Plan is an important part of the District's resource management approach. It is most effective when it is integrated with the Council's Long Term Community Plan, Bylaws and other Council initiatives.

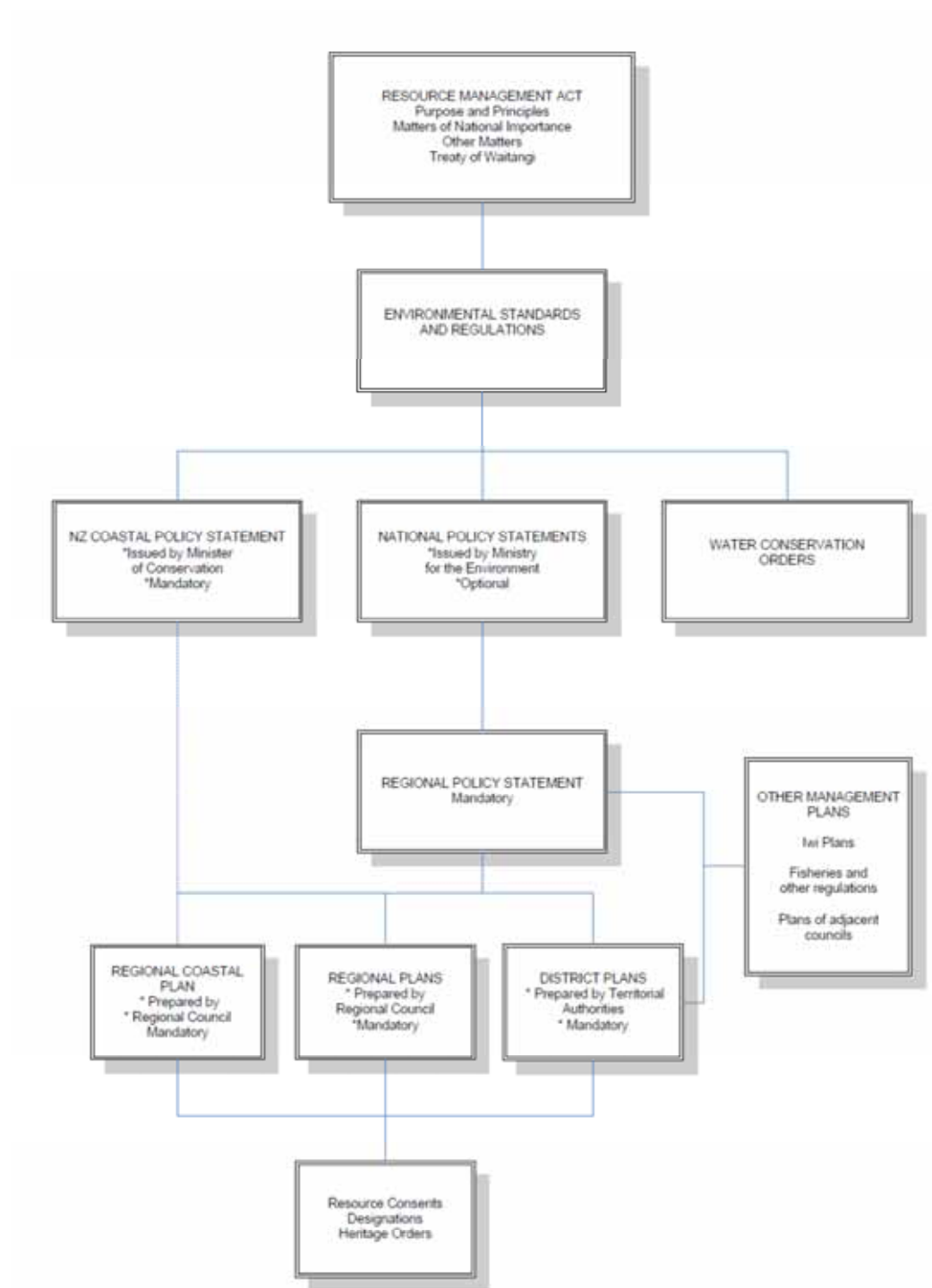
The Plan is also influenced by the planning policies and strategies of other agencies. These are set out below with their inter-relationships shown in Figure 1: Context of the District Plan in the Policy Framework (see below)

- (a) National Policy Statements.
- (b) National Environmental Standards.
- (c) Water Conservation Orders.
- (d) Regional Policy Statements and Regional Plans.
- (e) Adjacent authorities District Plans.
- (f) Iwi authority planning documents.
- (g) Management plans and strategies prepared under other legislation.
- (h) Historic Places Register.
- (i) Regulations relating to the conservation or management of taiapure or fisheries.

The combined Regional Policy Statement, Regional Plan and Regional Coastal Plan for Manawatu-Wanganui (the “One Plan”) has been an important consideration in the preparation of this Plan. This District Plan is required to give effect to the Regional Policy Statement and to not be inconsistent with relevant matters in a regional plan. Council has sought to ensure that this Plan is consistent with these requirements. Despite this Plan being prepared at a similar time to the One Plan, any significant inconsistencies will be addressed as and when they are identified.



Figure 1: Context of the District Plan – Policy Framework





DP1.3 Structure of the Plan

The Plan has been written on an issue driven basis. When considering an application for a resource consent Council will consider, in accordance with Section 104 of the Act, all the relevant objectives, policies, rules and other provisions of the Plan, not just those contained in those parts of the Plan directly addressing the activity.

DP1.4 How to Use the Plan

The District Plan has been prepared as a single document which brings together all the resource management issues facing the Ruapehu District. Generally the document should be viewed as a whole so that the common themes and inter-relationships between various sections can be understood and appreciated.

As a guide, when using this District Plan, users should first refer to the Planning Maps to identify the Zone of the site with which they are concerned and to ascertain whether there are any other relevant planning notations. Reference should then be made to the applicable zone sections within both Part 2 – Policy and Part 3 – Rules and, if any other notations were shown on the planning maps, reference should be made to the corresponding sections of the Plan. Depending on the nature of the proposed activity, it may also be necessary for plan users to then refer to the sections of the plan relating to specific activities and issues, eg, signage.

The Plan is made up of four parts and a separate volume of planning maps, which are described below:

Part 1 – Introduction

This part provides a general overview of the District Plan, discusses tangata whenua issues, sets out definitions of words used within other sections of the District Plan, outlines information requirements for resource consents and notification guidance.

Part 2 – Policy

This part of the District Plan is divided into sections and identifies Issues, Objectives and Policies. It begins by outlining policy for the various zones (as identified on the Planning Maps) and then policy for specific activities (such as subdivision and signage) and issues (such as natural hazards and heritage) undertaken throughout the District.

Part 3 – Rules

Part 3 identifies the rules for land use and subdivision undertaken across the district, along with District wide rules. Generally the rule sections mirror those sections outlined in Part 2 – Policy, as there are rules outlined for the various zones and for specific activities and issues undertaken across the District. Where appropriate, the various rule sections outline assessment criteria. Applications for Resource Consent should refer to these criteria where applicable. Reference to the corresponding objectives and policies should also be made when reading these rules.

Part 4 – Appendices

This part of the District Plan provides supporting information to other sections of the District Plan within Part 2 – Policy and Part 3 – Rules. It also provides a schedule of sites that are designated throughout the District (as shown on the planning maps).



Planning Maps

The Planning Maps identify the zoning of all land within the District. They also identify additional planning notations that may exist on specific land parcels, such as heritage items, designations, protected trees, location of high voltage lines, etc.

In determining the relevant zone provision, there are generally two sets of maps that are relevant. In urban areas these are the:

- (a) Urban Maps - which show zoning, designation, heritage buildings, etc.
- (b) Urban Features Maps-(where relevant) which show features such as the Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.

In rural areas, the relevant maps consist of the:

- (a) Rural Maps - which show zonings and rural sites, eg, heritage buildings and designations
- (b) Rural Feature Maps - where applicable, show the Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, the 1000m alongside State Highway 47.

At the back of the Maps there are also enlargements of the designations and the Taumarunui Airport approach, along with Amenity Policy Area Maps.

DP1.5 Classes of Activities and Resource Consents

The rules contained in the Plan are expressed as different activity types. These are classified into six groups in accordance with the Act, being:

- (a) Permitted.
- (b) Controlled.
- (c) Restricted Discretionary.
- (d) Discretionary.
- (e) Non-complying.
- (f) Prohibited.

(a) Permitted Activity

If an activity is described as a permitted activity:

- (i) A resource consent is not required for the activity.
- (ii) The activity must comply with the relevant conditions, if any, specified in the Plan.

(b) Controlled Activity

If an activity is described as a controlled activity:

- (i) A resource consent is required before the activity may be undertaken.
- (ii) Council must grant the resource consent, unless:
 - (1) the Council has insufficient information to determine whether or not the activity is a controlled activity; or
 - (2) Section 106 of the RMA applies (this sets the circumstances in which consent can be refused).
- (iii) Council must specify in the Plan the matters which it will consider when assessing the application (matters of control).
- (iv) Council can only impose conditions based on the matters of control that it has specified in the Plan.
- (v) The activity must comply with the relevant conditions, if any, specified in the Plan.

(c) Restricted Discretionary Activity

If an activity is described as a restricted discretionary activity:

- (i) A resource consent is required before the activity may be undertaken.
- (ii) Council may approve or decline the application.



- (iii) Council must specify in the Plan the matters which it will consider when assessing the application (matters of discretion).
- (iv) If approving consent, Council can only impose conditions based on the matters of discretion that it has specified in the Plan.
- (v) The activity must comply with the relevant conditions, if any, specified in the Plan.
- (d) **Discretionary Activity**
If an activity is described as a discretionary activity:
 - (i) A resource consent is required before the activity may be undertaken.
 - (ii) Council may approve or decline the application.
 - (iii) Council is not restricted in the matters that it may consider when assessing the application and imposing conditions (if approving consent).
 - (iv) The activity must comply with the relevant conditions, if any, specified in the Plan.
- (e) **Non-Complying Activity**
If an activity is described as a non-complying activity:
 - (i) A resource consent is required before the activity may be undertaken.
 - (ii) Council may approve or decline the application.
 - (iii) Council is not restricted in the matters that it may consider when assessing the application and imposing conditions (if approving consent).
 - (iv) Council shall consider the requirements of Section 104D of the Act.
- (f) **Prohibited Activity**
If an activity is described as a prohibited activity:
 - (i) No application may be made for that activity and a resource consent must not be granted for it.

DP1.6 Designations

Designations identify land required for public works or projects.

Once a Designation is included in a District Plan, it overrides the provisions otherwise applicable to the relevant land under the Plan and any Resource Consents, provided the land is being used for the designated purpose by the requiring authority.

Designated land is subject to the provisions of Section 176A of the Act, which requires an outline plan of the public works or projects to be submitted to the Council before construction is commenced. This provision also applies to the Council. Council does have the ability to waive the requirement for an Outline Plan upon application from the requiring authority (under Section 176A).

DP1.7 Role of Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council and the Ruapehu District Council

Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council also fulfils duties and functions in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991. In some situations the functions of both authorities overlap, such as with landuse matters, natural hazards and hazardous substances. The functions of the Regional Council are set out in Section 30 of the Act while those of Territorial Authorities are in Section 31 of the Act.

Any person referring to this Plan should also ascertain the requirements of Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council.