



INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

IF2.1 Introduction

The Ruapehu District contains infrastructure and other physical resources that are regionally or nationally important. The establishment, operation, maintenance and upgrading of this regionally or nationally important infrastructure and any associated infrastructure corridors, is critical to the economic wellbeing of the Ruapehu District and may have implications for both the wider region and the nation as a whole. But consideration must also be given to the fact that infrastructure can have adverse effects on the environment, and activities which seek to establish in close proximity to existing infrastructure can have reverse sensitivity effects on this infrastructure.

There can be logistical or technical constraints on where infrastructure must be located to serve communities and to enable it to operate efficiently. To ensure the sustainable and long term viability of the District in relation to urban growth, there should be planned integration between urban growth activities and infrastructure provision. Ruapehu District Council seeks to ensure the benefits of infrastructure are recognised and appropriately weighed along with other matters in any decision-making processes.

There is potential for concerns about localised adverse effects to prevail over recognition of the regional and national benefits of establishing infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance. There is also potential for other activities to constrain the operation, maintenance or upgrading of infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance.

However, Council notes that the establishment, operation and maintenance of infrastructure does have the potential to generate adverse effects on the environmental, social and cultural wellbeing of the District, especially if these activities are not appropriately sited. For this reason, the District Plan has incorporated issues, objectives and associated policies which directly align with the provisions of Horizons 'One Plan' and allows for careful consideration of the potential effects of infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance.

IF2.2 Issues

- (a) There is potential for concerns about local adverse effects to prevail over recognition of the regional and national benefits of establishing infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance. There is also potential for other activities to constrain the operation, maintenance or upgrading of infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance.
- (b) Urban development that is not strategically planned can result in the piecemeal and inefficient provision of associated infrastructure.

IF2.2.1 Objective

- (a) Have regard to the benefits of infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance by recognising and providing for their establishment, operation, maintenance and upgrading.
- (b) Urban development occurs in a strategically planned manner which allows for the efficient adequate and timely supply of land and associated infrastructure.



IF2.2.2 Policies

- (a) Recognises the following infrastructure as being physical resources of regional or national importance:
 - (i) Facilities for the generation of more than 1MW of electricity and its supporting infrastructure, where the electricity generated is supplied to the electricity distribution and transmission networks.
 - (ii) The National Grid and electricity distribution and transmission networks defined as the system of transmission lines, subtransmission and distribution feeders (6.6kV and above) and all associated substations and other works to convey electricity.
 - (iii) Pipelines and gas facilities used for the transmission and distribution of natural and manufactured gas.
 - (iv) The road and rail networks as mapped in the Regional Land Transport Strategy.
 - (v) Telecommunications and radio communications facilities.
 - (vi) Public or community sewage treatment plants and associated reticulation and disposal systems.
 - (vii) Public water supply intakes, treatment plants and distribution systems.
 - (viii) Public or community drainage systems, including stormwater systems.
- (b) Recognises the following facilities and assets as being physical resources of regional or national importance:
 - (i) Solid waste facilities including landfills, transfer stations and resource recovery facilities that deal with municipal waste.
 - (ii) Existing flood protection schemes.
 - (iii) New Zealand Defence Force facilities.
- (c) To require in relation to the establishment, operation, maintenance, or upgrading of infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance, listed in (a) and (b), have regard to the benefits derived from those activities.
- (d) To achieve as much consistency across local authority boundaries as is reasonably possible, with respect to policy and plan provisions and decision-making for existing and future infrastructure.
- (e) To ensure that adverse effects on infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance from other activities are avoided as far as reasonably practicable, including by using the following mechanisms:
 - (i) Ensuring that current infrastructure, infrastructure corridors and other physical resources of regional or national importance, are identified and had regard to in all resource management decision-making and any development that would adversely affect the operation, maintenance or upgrading of those activities is avoided as far as reasonably practicable.
 - (ii) Ensuring that any new activities that would adversely affect the operation, maintenance or upgrading of infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance are not located near existing such resources or such resources allowed by unimplemented resource consents or other RMA authorisations.
 - (iii) Ensuring that there is no change to existing activities that increases their incompatibility with existing infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance, or such resources allowed by unimplemented resource consents or other RMA authorisations.
 - (v) Notifying the owners or managers of infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance of consent applications that may adversely affect the resources that they own or manage.
 - (vi) Ensuring safe separation distances are maintained when establishing rules and considering applications for buildings, structures and other activities near overhead electric lines and conductors eg., giving effect to the New Zealand Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001), prepared under the Electricity Act 1992 and the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 prepared under the Electricity Act 1992.
 - (vii) Ensuring safe separation distances are maintained when establishing rules and considering applications for buildings, structures and other activities near transmission gas pipelines, eg,



- giving effect to the Operating Code Standard for Pipelines - Gas and Liquid Petroleum (NZS/AS 2885) and the Gas Distribution Networks (NZS 5258:2003), the latter promulgated under the Gas Act 1992.
- (viii) Ensuring that any planting does not interfere with existing infrastructure, eg, giving effect to the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 promulgated under the Electricity Act 1992 and Section 6.4.4 External Interference Prevention of the Operating Code Standard for Pipelines - Gas and Liquid Petroleum (NZS/AS 2885).
 - (ix) Ensuring effective integration of transport and land use planning and protecting the function of the strategic road and rail network as mapped in the Regional Land Transport Strategy.
- (f) In managing any adverse environmental effects arising from the establishment, operation, maintenance and upgrading of infrastructure or other physical resources of regional or national importance, Ruapehu District Council must:
- (i) Recognise and provide for the operation, maintenance and upgrading of all such activities once they have been established.
 - (ii) Allow minor adverse effects arising from the establishment of new infrastructure and physical resources of regional or national importance.
 - (iii) Avoid, remedy or mitigate more than minor adverse effects arising from the establishment of new infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance, taking into account:
 - (1) The need for the infrastructure or other physical resources of regional or national importance.
 - (2) Any functional, operational or technical constraints that require infrastructure or other physical resources of regional or national importance to be located or designed in the manner proposed.
 - (3) Whether there are any reasonably practicable alternative locations or designs.
 - (4) Whether any more than minor adverse effects that cannot be adequately avoided, remedied or mitigated by services or works can be appropriately offset, including through the use of financial contributions.
- (g) To proactively develop and implement appropriate land use strategies to manage urban growth, and align Council's infrastructure asset management planning with those strategies, to ensure the efficient and effective provision of associated infrastructure.

IF2.2.3 Explanation of Policies

Section 75(3) and (4) of the Resource Management Act 1991 identifies that a District Plan must give effect to any regional policy statement and must not be inconsistent with a regional plan. Horizons 'One Plan' has clearly identified the significance of infrastructure and other physical resources that are of regional or national importance.

The above objectives and policies have been adopted to recognise the benefits of infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance while weighing up the adverse effects of infrastructure against the positive regional and national benefits. They also aim to avoid adverse effects from the inappropriate subdivision, use and development of land which may affect infrastructure and physical resources of regional or national importance.