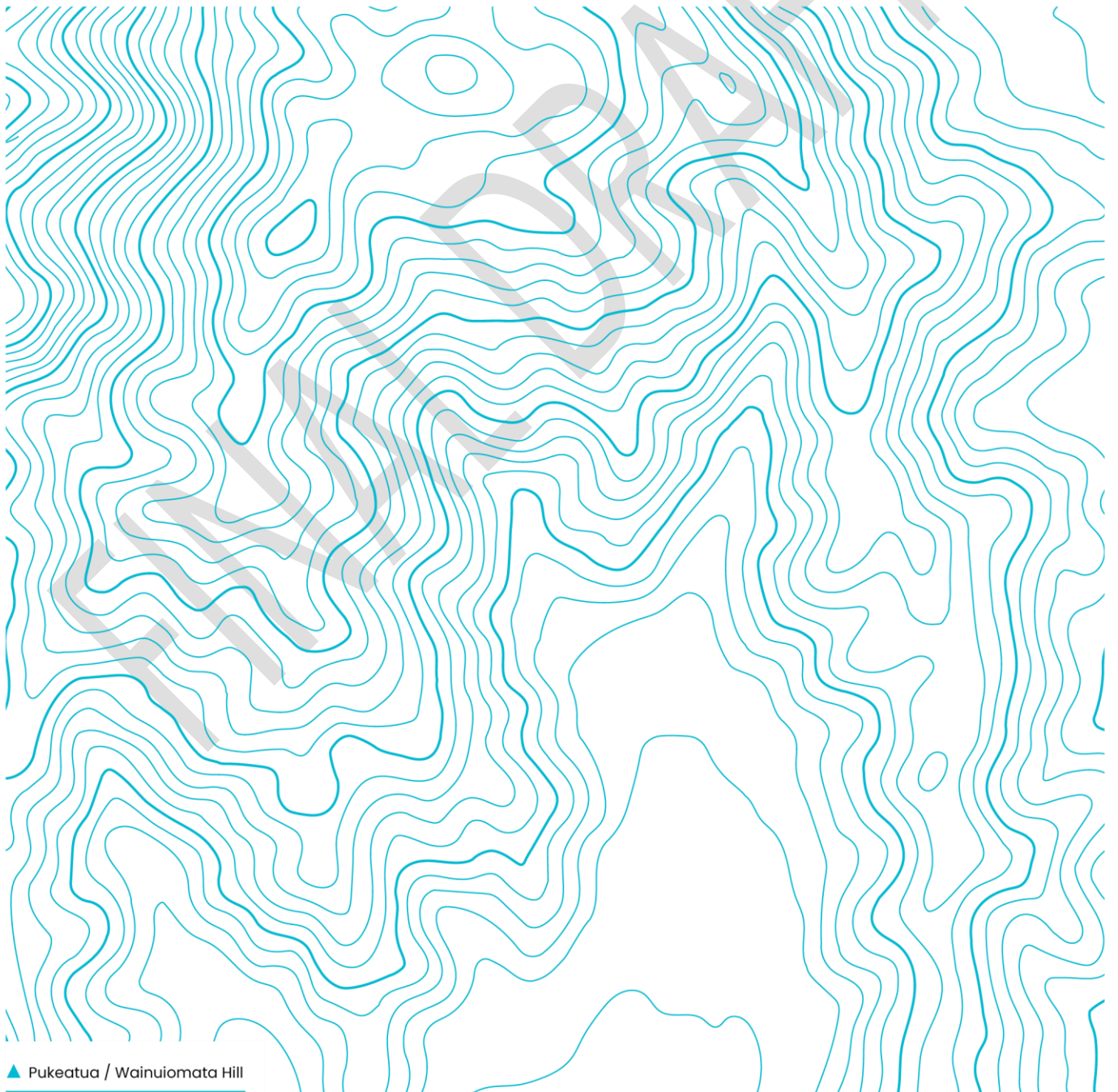


# Section 32 Evaluation COASTAL ENVIRONMENT



▲ Pukeatua / Wainuiomata Hill

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## 2 Overview and Purpose

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- (1) Hutt City Council is reviewing the City of Lower Hutt District Plan. This is a full review of the District Plan, including the approach to the coastal environment.
- (2) This report is a record of the review with regard to the coastal environment, and includes an evaluation of objectives and provisions for the Coastal Environment chapter of the proposed District Plan, in accordance with the requirements of s32 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (3) This report sits as one of a package of reports for the proposed Plan and should be read alongside the General report for matters common to all topics.

### **The coastal environment of Lower Hutt**

- (4) Lower Hutt has a long coastline and a very diverse coastal environment. The coastal environment includes remote and rural natural areas with beaches and coastal mountains and escarpments as well as developed urban areas with residential development, particularly along Petone and Eastbourne, and the highly modified industrial areas of Seaview and Gracefield.
- (5) The landward extent of the coastal environment (or the *Coastal Terrestrial Area*) has been identified in accordance with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) and the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region (RPS), and is mapped as an overlay on the proposed District Plan maps.
- (6) The Coastal Terrestrial Area of Lower Hutt includes parts of:
  - Petone,
  - The Eastern Bays,
  - The Wellington Harbour Islands,
  - Pencarrow Head, and
  - Turakirae Head.

## Coastal Natural Character Areas

- (7) Within the Coastal Terrestrial Areas, six areas of High Coastal Natural Character, four areas of Very High Coastal Natural Character and one area of Outstanding Coastal Natural Character have been identified.

<b>Table 1: High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Areas</b>	
<b>Coastal Terrestrial Area</b>	<b>Coastal Natural Character</b>
Mātiu / Somes Island	High
Eastern Bay Hills	High
Pencarrow Lakes Scarp	High
Baring Head Scarp and Foreshore	High
Wainuiomata River Mouth / Estuary	High
Ōrongorongo Terrace Scarp	High
Makāro / Ward Island	Very High
Mokopuna Island	Very High
Pencarrow Lakes (Lake Kōhangapiripiri and Lake Kōhangaterā)	Very High
Turakirae Head	Very High
Turakirae Uplifted Marine Beaches	Outstanding

- (8) The values of these areas have been assessed through the *Wellington City and Hutt City Coastal Natural Character Assessment 2016*<sup>1</sup>.

## Scope of this report

<sup>1</sup> Available on Council's website for the proposed District Plan ([hutt.city/dpreview](http://hutt.city/dpreview)) under *Technical Assessments*.

- (9) This evaluation report focusses on the identified High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas within the coastal environment.
- (10) Provisions managing natural hazards within the coastal environment are also included in the Coastal Environment chapter, as required by the National Planning Standards. However, this report does not evaluate the coastal hazard provisions as these are evaluated in the evaluation report for natural hazards.
- (11) The protection of coastal margins and riparian margins within the coastal environment is covered in the Natural Character chapter and evaluated in the evaluation report for that chapter.
- (12) Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes within the coastal environment are addressed in the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter and are evaluated in the evaluation report for that chapter.
- (13) Other relevant provisions relating to Infrastructure, Renewable Electricity Generation, Public Access, Subdivision and Earthworks in the coastal environment are contained in the respective chapters and addressed in the related evaluation reports for these chapters.
- (14) This report should also be read in conjunction with the following evaluation reports:

<b>Table 2: Other relevant evaluation reports</b>	
<b>Report</b>	<b>Relationship to this topic</b>
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	Provisions relating to coastal hazards are included in the Coastal Environment chapter. However, the relevant evaluation is included in evaluation report for natural hazards.
<b>Natural Features and Landscapes</b>	The Natural Features and Landscapes chapter contains provisions relating to the protection of identified Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes (ONFL). Some of these ONFL are located within the coastal environment. As the provisions for ONFL in the coastal environment relate primarily to the protection of the identified landscape values, these provisions are contained in the Natural

	Features and Landscapes chapter, and the relevant evaluation is included in the evaluation report for the that chapter.
<b>Subdivision</b>	The Subdivision chapter contains the policies and rules relating to subdivision in the coastal environment. As the policies and rules for subdivision in the coastal environment relate primarily to the protection of identified values of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas, the relevant evaluation of these provisions is provided in this report. Nevertheless, the evaluation report for the Subdivision chapter is relevant because it addresses the underlying District Plan approach for subdivision in general.
<b>Earthworks</b>	The Earthworks chapter contains the policies and rules relating to earthworks in the coastal environment. As the policies and rules for Earthworks in the coastal environment relate primarily to the protection of identified values of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas, the relevant evaluation of these provisions is provided in this report. Nevertheless, the evaluation report for the Earthworks chapter is relevant because it addresses the underlying District Plan approach for earthworks in general.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	The Infrastructure chapter includes policies and rules relating to infrastructure in the coastal environment. As the policies and rules for infrastructure in the coastal environment relate primarily to the protection of identified values of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas, the relevant evaluation of these provisions is provided in this report. Nevertheless, the evaluation report for the Infrastructure chapter is relevant because it addresses the underlying District Plan approach for infrastructure.
<b>Renewable Electricity Generation</b>	The Renewable Electricity Generation chapter contains policies and rules relating to coastal environment. As the policies and rules for renewable electricity generation in the coastal environment relate primarily to the protection of identified values of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas, the relevant evaluation of these provisions is provided in this report. Nevertheless, the evaluation report for the renewable electricity



	generation chapter is relevant because it addresses the underlying District Plan approach for renewable electricity generation.
<b>Natural Character</b>	The Natural Character chapter contains provisions relating to coastal margins and riparian margins within the coastal environment.
<b>Public Access</b>	The Public Access chapter contains objectives and policies that relate to public access to and along coastal margins and riparian margins in the coastal environment.

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## 3 Statutory and Policy Context

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- (15) The following sections discuss the national, regional and local policy framework that are particularly relevant to the statutory and policy context for the coastal environment for the District Plan Review.

### 3.1 Resource Management Act 1991

#### 3.1.1 Section 5 – Purpose and Principles

- (16) The purpose of the RMA is set out in Section 5. The purpose is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.
- (17) Under s5(2) of the Act, sustainable management means:

*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 well-being 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.*

#### 3.1.2 Section 6 – Matters of National Importance

- (18) Section 6 of the RMA sets out matters of national importance that all persons exercising functions and powers under the Act shall *recognise and provide for* in achieving the purpose of the RMA. The relevant s6 matters for the coastal environment are:

Section	Relevant Matter
6(a)	<p><i>The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.</i></p> <p>Directly relevant to the Coastal Environment chapter as parts of the coastal environment have been identified as High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas.</p>
6(b)	<p><i>The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.</i></p> <p>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes have been identified within the coastal environment.</p>
6(c)	<p><i>The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.</i></p> <p>Significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna contribute to the natural character of the coastal environment.</p>
6(d)	<p><i>The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers.</i></p> <p>This is not only relevant for the coastal environment for public access to and along the coastal marine area, but also for public access to and along lakes and rivers within the coastal environment.</p>
6(e)	<p><i>The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.</i></p> <p>There is a strong historical and cultural relationship with ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga within Lower Hutt's coastal environment.</p>

6(h)	<p><i>The management of significant risks from natural hazards.</i></p> <p>Several natural hazards are identified within the coastal environment.</p>
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- (19) Section 6(h) has been included for completeness. However, coastal hazards are addressed in the evaluation report for natural hazards.

### 3.1.3 Section 7 – Other Matters

- (20) Section 7 of the RMA sets out other matters that all persons exercising functions and powers under it shall *have particular regard to* in achieving the purpose of the RMA. The relevant s7 matters for the coastal environment are:

Section	Relevant Matter
7(a)	<p><i>Kaitiakitanga</i></p> <p>Directly relevant to the protection of the identified values of Coastal Natural Character Areas given the strong historical and cultural relationship of tangata whenua with the coastal environment.</p>
7(aa)	<p><i>The ethic of stewardship</i></p> <p>Directly relevant to the protection of the identified values of Coastal Natural Character Areas given the strong historical and cultural relationship of tangata whenua with the coastal environment.</p>
7(b)	<p><i>The efficient use and development of natural and physical resources</i></p> <p>Directly relevant to the protection of the identified values of Coastal Natural Character Areas given the natural ecosystem processes that occur and the natural character in the coastal environment.</p>
7(c)	<p><i>The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values</i></p> <p>Of particular relevance to urban areas within the coastal environment as well as identified natural character areas.</p>

7(d)	<p><i>Intrinsic values of ecosystems</i></p> <p>Directly relevant to the protection of the identified values of Coastal Natural Character Areas given the natural ecosystem processes that occur and the natural character in the coastal environment.</p>
7(f)	<p><i>Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment</i></p> <p>Directly relevant to the protection of the identified values of Coastal Natural Character Areas given the natural ecosystem processes that occur and the natural character in the coastal environment.</p>
7(g)	<p><i>Any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources</i></p> <p>Directly relevant to the protection of the identified values of Coastal Natural Character Areas given the natural ecosystem processes that occur and the natural character in the coastal environment.</p>
7(i)	<p><i>The effects of climate change</i></p> <p>Directly relevant to the protection of the identified values of Coastal Natural Character Areas given the presence of coastal hazards and the known impact of climate change.</p>
7(j)	<p><i>The benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy</i></p> <p>Directly relevant to the protection of the identified values of Coastal Natural Character Areas given opportunities for renewable energy generation exist in the coastal environment.</p>

### 3.1.4 Section 8 – Treaty of Waitangi

- (21) Section 8 of the RMA requires Council to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi when exercising functions and powers under the Act.
- (22) Council has engaged with Mana Whenua of Lower Hutt as part of the District Plan Review, including with representatives of Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust), Wellington Tenth

Trust, Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust, Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa ki Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui Incorporated and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Incorporated.

- (23) This engagement has demonstrated two key principles of the treaty, the first being the principle of partnership by, recognising and fostering mutual good faith with our existing iwi partnerships and continuing to provide the opportunities for tangata whenua to input meaningfully into the fabric of the coastal environment.
- (24) Secondly, the principle of active protection is another key aspect of the treaty principles demonstrated, as it seeks ways to sustain healthy communities for future generations.

### **3.1.5 Section 31 – Functions of Territorial Authorities under this Act**

- (25) Section 31 lists the functions of territorial authorities. The following are of relevance to the coastal environment:
- (1) *Every territorial authority shall have the following functions for the purpose of giving effect to this Act in its district:*
    - (a) *the establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources of the district.*
    - (aa) *the establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods to ensure that there is sufficient development capacity in respect of housing and business land to meet the expected demands of the district.*
    - (b) *the control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land, including for the purpose of—*
      - (i) *the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards; and ...*
      - (iii) *the maintenance of indigenous biological diversity...*

- (e) *the control of any actual or potential effects of activities in relation to the surface of water in rivers and lakes...*

## 3.2 National Policy Statements

- (26) Section 75(3) of the RMA requires district plans to give effect to any National Policy Statement and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.
- (27) The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and relevant National Policy Statements are discussed below.

### 3.2.1 New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

- (28) Section 75(3)(b) of the RMA requires district plans to give effect to any New Zealand coastal policy statement.
- (29) The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) sets out objectives and policies to achieve the purpose of the RMA in relation to the coastal environment. The most relevant objectives and policies are listed below.

<b>New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement</b>	
<b>Objective 1</b>	<i>To safeguard the integrity, form, functioning and resilience of the coastal environment and sustain its ecosystems, including marine and intertidal areas, estuaries, dunes and land ...</i>
<b>Objective 2</b>	<i>To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and protect natural features and landscape values ...</i>
<b>Objective 3</b>	<i>To take account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, recognise the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki and provide for tangata whenua involvement in management of the coastal environment ...</i>
<b>Objective 4</b>	<i>To maintain and enhance the public open space qualities and recreation opportunities of the coastal environment ...</i>
<b>Objective 5</b>	<i>To ensure that coastal hazard risks, taking account of climate change, are managed ...</i>
<b>Objective 6</b>	<i>To enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety, through subdivision, use, and development ...</i>

<b>Policy 1</b>	<i>Extent and characteristics of the coastal environment.</i>
<b>Policy 2</b>	<i>The Treaty of Waitangi, Tangata Whenua and Māori.</i>
<b>Policy 3</b>	<i>Precautionary approach.</i>
<b>Policy 4</b>	<i>Integration.</i>
<b>Policy 5</b>	<i>Land or waters managed or held under other Acts.</i>
<b>Policy 6</b>	<i>Activities in the coastal environment.</i>
<b>Policy 7</b>	<i>Strategic planning.</i>
<b>Policy 9</b>	<i>Ports</i>
<b>Policy 10</b>	<i>Reclamation and de-reclamation.</i>
<b>Policy 11</b>	<i>Indigenous biological diversity (biodiversity)</i>
<b>Policy 13</b>	<i>Preservation of natural character.</i>
<b>Policy 14</b>	<i>Restoration of natural character.</i>
<b>Policy 15</b>	<i>Natural features and natural landscapes.</i>
<b>Policy 17</b>	<i>Historic heritage identification and protection.</i>
<b>Policy 18</b>	<i>Public open space.</i>
<b>Policy 19</b>	<i>Walking access.</i>
<b>Policy 20</b>	<i>Vehicle access</i>
<b>Policy 21</b>	<i>Enhancement of water quality.</i>
<b>Policy 22</b>	<i>Sedimentation.</i>
<b>Policy 24</b>	<i>Identification of coastal hazards.</i>
<b>Policy 25</b>	<i>Subdivision, use and development in areas of coastal hazard risk.</i>
<b>Policy 26</b>	<i>Natural defences against coastal hazards.</i>
<b>Policy 27</b>	<i>Strategies for protecting significant existing development from coastal hazard risk.</i>
<b>Policy 28</b>	<i>Monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the NZCPS.</i>



- (30) The full wording of the relevant objectives and policies above is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

### 3.2.2 NPS for Electricity Transmission

- (31) The NPS for Electricity Transmission 2008 (NPS-ET) aims to enable the development of the electricity transmission network and the management of effects. It recognises the benefits and the importance of the national grid while managing adverse environmental effects of the network as well as potential reverse sensitivity effects on the network. The objective of the NPS-ET is:

*To recognise the national significance of the electricity transmission network by facilitating the operation, maintenance and upgrade of the existing transmission network and the establishment of new transmission resources to meet the needs of present and future generations, while:*

*managing the adverse environmental effects of the network; and*

*managing the adverse effects of other activities on the network.*

- (32) The most relevant policies of the NPS-ET are listed below.

<b>NPS for Electricity Transmission</b>	
<b>Policy 4</b>	When considering the environmental effects of new transmission infrastructure or major upgrades of existing transmission infrastructure, decision-makers must have regard to the extent to which any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated by the route, site and method selection.
<b>Policy 5</b>	When considering the environmental effects of transmission activities associated with transmission assets, decision-makers must enable the reasonable operational, maintenance and minor upgrade requirements of established electricity transmission assets.
<b>Policy 6</b>	Substantial upgrades of transmission infrastructure should be used as an opportunity to reduce existing adverse effects of transmission including such effects on sensitive activities where appropriate.
<b>Policy 7</b>	Planning and development of the transmission system should minimise adverse effects on urban amenity and avoid adverse effects on town

	centres and areas of high recreational value or amenity and existing sensitive activities.
<b>Policy 8</b>	In rural environments, planning and development of the transmission system should seek to avoid adverse effects on outstanding natural landscapes, areas of high natural character and areas of high recreation value and amenity and existing sensitive activities.

### 3.2.3 NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation

- (33) The NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 (NPS-REG) requires decision makers to recognise and provide for the benefits of renewable electricity generation. The objective of the NPS-REG is:

*To recognise the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities by providing for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities, such that the proportion of New Zealand's electricity generated from renewable energy sources increases to a level that meets or exceeds the New Zealand Government's national target for renewable electricity generation.*

- (34) The most relevant policies of the NPS-REG are listed below:

<b>NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation</b>	
<b>Policy C1</b>	<p><i>Decision-makers shall have particular regard to the following matters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) the need to locate the renewable electricity generation activity where the renewable energy resource is available;</i></li> <li><i>(b) logistical or technical practicalities associated with developing, upgrading, operating or maintaining the renewable electricity generation activity;</i></li> <li><i>(c) the location of existing structures and infrastructure including, but not limited to, roads, navigation and telecommunication structures and facilities, the distribution network and the national grid in relation to the renewable electricity generation activity, and the need to connect renewable electricity generation activity to the national grid;</i></li> <li><i>(d) designing measures which allow operational requirements to complement and provide for mitigation opportunities; and</i></li> <li><i>(e) adaptive management measures.</i></li> </ul>

<b>Policy F</b>	As part of giving effect to Policies E1 to E4, regional policy statements and regional and district plans shall include objectives, policies, and methods (including rules within plans) to provide for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of small and community-scale distributed renewable electricity generation from any renewable energy source to the extent applicable to the region or district.
<b>Policy G</b>	Regional policy statements and regional and district plans shall include objectives, policies, and methods (including rules within plans) to provide for activities associated with the investigation, identification and assessment of potential sites and energy sources for renewable electricity generation by existing and prospective generators.

### 3.2.4 NPS for Freshwater Management

(35) The NPS for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) directs regional councils to set objectives for the state of freshwater bodies in their regions and set limits to meet these objectives. The NPS-FM is relevant for consideration for the district plan in regard to the integrated management of land use and freshwater, particularly given the effects development and subdivision can have on freshwater bodies. While much of the NPS-FM is directed at Regional Councils, it is important to be aware of these requirements and to avoid duplication or contradiction of obligations of regional council.

(36) The objective of the NPS-FM is:

*... to ensure that natural and physical resources are managed in a way that prioritises:*

- (a) first, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems*
- (b) second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water)*
- (c) third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future.*

(37) The following policies are most relevant in relation to the coastal environment.

#### **NPS for Freshwater Management**

<b>Policy 1</b>	<i>Freshwater is managed in a way that gives effect to Te Mana o te Wai.</i>
<b>Policy 3</b>	<i>Freshwater is managed in an integrated way that considers the effects of the use and development of land on a whole-of-catchment basis, including the effects on receiving environments.</i>
<b>Policy 15</b>	<i>Communities are enabled to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing in a way that is consistent with this National Policy Statement.</i>
<b>Clause 3.5 Integrated Management</b>	<i>(4) Every territorial authority must include objectives, policies, and methods in its district plan to promote positive effects, and avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects (including cumulative effects), of urban development on the health and well-being of water bodies, freshwater ecosystems, and receiving environments.</i>

### 3.2.5 NPS on Urban Development

- (38) The NPS on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD) aims to support well-functioning urban environments to provide for current and future community well-being. Under the NPS-UD Hutt City is within a Tier 1 urban environment, where RMA plans must provide opportunities for land development to meet housing and business needs, supported by adequate development capacity.
- (39) While the NPS-UD does not specifically address the coastal environment, the NPS-UD is relevant as housing and business needs are partly met through occupying land within the coastal environment. In addition, the location of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas may be relevant qualifying matters where it is appropriate to make density requirements of Policy 3 of the NPS-UD less enabling.

### 3.2.6 NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity

- (40) The purpose of the NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPS-IB) is to provide direction to councils to protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity requiring at least no further reduction nationally. The NPS-IB puts a strong focus on the involvement of tangata whenua as partners

and on the engagement with people and communities, including landowners.

(41) Territorial authorities must identify SNA using prescribed criteria and include identified areas in their District Plans (location, description of values and map) and must manage the effects of new subdivision, use and development on identified SNA and indigenous biodiversity in general. The prescribed management approach is to avoid the following adverse effects:

- The loss of ecosystem representation and extent;
- The disruption to sequences, mosaics, or ecosystem function;
- The fragmentation of SNAs or the loss of buffers or connections within an SNA;
- A reduction in the function of the SNA as a buffer or connection to other important habitats or ecosystems; and
- A reduction in the population size or occupancy of Threatened or At Risk (declining) species that use an SNA for any part of their life cycle.

(42) Any other adverse effects must be managed by applying the effects management hierarchy outlined in the NPS-IB.

(43) There are a number of exceptions to the management of effects above. In particular these relate to specified nationally or regionally significant infrastructure, significant mining and quarrying, SNAs on specified Māori land, geothermal SNAs and plantation forestry.

(44) The NPS-IB also requires the management of any adverse effects of new subdivision, use and development on indigenous biodiversity outside of an SNA. Any significant adverse effects must be managed by applying the effects management hierarchy and any other adverse effects must be managed to give effect to the objective and policies of the NPS-IB.

(45) However, the Resource Management Act was amended in October 2024 (by the *Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024*), including an amendment to effectively put the identification of new SNAs in district plans under the NPS-IB on hold for three years.

### **3.3 National Environmental Standards**

- (46) National Environmental Standards (NES) are regulations made under s43 of the RMA, and effectively function like rules in a district or regional plan.
- (47) The following NES are relevant for the coastal environment.

#### **3.3.1 NES for Electricity Transmission Activities**

- (48) The NES for Electricity Transmission Activities 2009 (NES-ETA) set out a national framework of permissions and consent requirements for activities on existing electricity transmission lines. Activities include the operation, maintenance and upgrading of existing lines. They set out which transmission activities are permitted, subject to conditions to control the environmental effects.
- (49) The NES-ETA only apply to existing high voltage electricity transmission lines. They do not apply to the construction of new transmission lines or to substations. The NES do not apply to electricity distribution lines – these are the lines carrying electricity from regional substations to electricity users.
- (50) The most relevant regulations relate to the trimming, felling and removing of trees and vegetation (Regulations 30, 31 and 32) and Earthworks (Regulations 33 and 34). The trimming, felling and removing of trees and vegetation in relation to an existing transmission line is permitted subject to standards and elevates to controlled or restricted discretionary depending on the conditions breached. Earthworks are permitted activities subject to conditions and elevate to controlled where conditions are breached.

#### **3.3.2 NES for Telecommunication Facilities**

- (51) The NES for Telecommunication Facilities 2016 (NES-TF) aims to provide national consistency in the rules surrounding the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure across New Zealand while ensuring the effects on the environment are minimised and managed appropriately.
- (52) The most relevant regulations are regulation 51 which manages activities carried out at places adjoining the coastal marine area and regulation 52

which applies to activities over a river or lake. Regulation 56 of the NES states that rules in District Plans can be more stringent than the standards imposed by the NES-TF.

### **3.3.3 NES for Freshwater**

- (53) The NES for Freshwater 2020 (NES-FW) regulate activities that pose risks to the health of freshwater and freshwater ecosystems. Anyone carrying out these activities will need to comply with the standards. The NES-FW only deal with functions of regional councils.
- (54) While the regulations do not deal with the functions of territorial authorities under the Act, it is important to ensure that the proposed provisions are not inconsistent with the NES-FW.

### **3.3.4 NES for Commercial Forestry**

- (55) The NES for Commercial Forestry 2023 (NES-CF) applies to plantation forestry and to exotic continuous-cover forests (carbon forests) that are deliberately established for commercial purposes. It provides nationally consistent regulations to manage the environmental effects of eight core commercial forestry activities (e.g. afforestation, earthworks and harvesting).
- (56) Regulation 6 of the NES-CF states that a rule in a District Plan may be more stringent than the regulations of the NES where it gives effect to the NPS-FM or certain policies of the NZCPS. The most relevant provisions are regulation 14 and 16 which regulate the activity status for afforestation and introduce setback requirements. Regulations 23 and 29 regulate Earthworks and related setbacks.

## **3.4 National Planning Standards**

- (57) Section 75(3)(ba) of the RMA requires district plans to give effect to national planning standards.
- (58) The National Planning Standards require that if the district has a coastline, a Coastal Environment chapter must be provided. The Coastal Environment chapter must be located in Part 2 – District-Wide Matters of the District Plan and must:

- set out the approach to managing the coastal environment and giving effect to the NZCPS;
- set out provisions for implementing the local authorities functions and duties in relation to the coastal environment, including coastal hazards; and
- provide cross-references to any other specific coastal provisions that may be located within other chapters.

(59) The following table summarises the key direction from the National Planning Standards for the coastal environment:

<b>Topic &amp; unique identifier</b>	<b>Location in DP structure</b>	<b>Elements included under that topic</b>	<b>Elements addressed under other topic areas</b>
Coastal Environment CE	Part 2 - District-wide Matters  General district-wide matters	<p>Approach to managing the coastal environment and giving effect to the NZCPS (Coastal Natural Character Areas).</p> <p>Provisions for implementing the local authorities functions and duties in relation to the coastal environment, including coastal hazards.</p> <p>Cross-references to any other specific coastal provisions that may be located within other chapters.</p>	<p>Provisions relating to coastal margins and riparian margins in the coastal environment are located in the Natural Character chapter.</p> <p>Provisions relating to Infrastructure in the coastal environment are located in the Infrastructure chapter.</p> <p>Provisions relating to Renewable Electricity Generation in the coastal environment are located in the Renewable Energy Generation chapter.</p> <p>Provisions relating to Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes in the coastal environment are located in the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter.</p> <p>Provisions relating to Subdivision in the coastal environment are located in the Subdivision chapter.</p> <p>Provisions relating to earthworks in the coastal environment are</p>



			located in the Earthworks chapter.
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### 3.5 Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region

- (60) Section 75(3)(c) of the RMA requires district plans to give effect to any regional policy statement.
- (61) The Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region (RPS) identifies the significant resource management issues for the region and outlines the policies and methods required to achieve the integrated sustainable management of the region’s natural and physical resources.
- (62) The table below identifies the relevant provisions and resource management topics for the coastal environment contained in the operative RPS. The full wording of relevant provisions below is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

<b>Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region</b>	
<b>Section 3.2 Coastal Environment (including public access)</b>	
<b>Objective 3</b>	<i>Habitats and features in the coastal environment that have significant indigenous biodiversity values are protected; and Habitats and features in the coastal environment that have recreational, cultural, historical or landscape values that are significant are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i>
<b>Objective 4</b>	<i>The natural character of the coastal environment is protected from the adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i>
<b>Objective 5</b>	<i>Areas of the coastal environment where natural character has been degraded are restored and rehabilitated.</i>
<b>Objective 6</b>	<i>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.</i>

<b>Objective 7</b>	<i>The integrity, functioning and resilience of physical and ecological processes in the coastal environment are protected from the adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i>
<b>Objective 8</b>	<i>Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers is enhanced.</i>
<b>Policy 3</b>	<i>Protecting high natural character in the coastal environment</i>
<b>Policy 4</b>	<i>Identifying the landward extent of the coastal environment</i>
<b>Policy 35</b>	<i>Preserving the natural character of the coastal environment</i>
<b>Policy 36</b>	<i>Managing effects on natural character in the coastal environment</i>
<b>Policy 37</b>	<i>Safeguarding life supporting capacity of coastal ecosystems</i>
<b>Policy 38</b>	<i>Identifying the landward extent of the coastal environment</i>
<b>Policy 53</b>	<i>Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers</i>
<b>Policy 64</b>	<i>Supporting a whole of catchment approach</i>
<b>Section 3.4 Fresh water (including public access)</b>	
<b>Objective 13</b>	<i>The region's rivers, lakes and wetlands support healthy functioning ecosystems.</i>
<b>Policy 15</b>	<i>Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation clearance</i>
<b>Policy 41</b>	<i>Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation disturbance</i>
<b>Policy 43</b>	<i>Protecting aquatic ecological function of water bodies</i>
<b>Section 3.8 Natural Hazards</b>	
<b>Objective 19</b>	<i>The risks and consequences to people, communities, their businesses, property and infrastructure from natural hazards and climate change effects are reduced.</i>
<b>Policy 29</b>	<i>Avoiding inappropriate subdivision and development in areas at high risk from natural hazards</i>
<b>Section 3.10 Resource management with tangata whenua</b>	

<b>Objective 27</b>	<i>Mahinga kai and natural resources used for customary purposes, are maintained and enhanced, and these resources are healthy and accessible to tangata whenua.</i>
<b>Policy 49</b>	<i>Recognising and providing for matters of significance to tangata whenua</i>

(63) Section 3.8 Natural Hazards has been included for completeness. However, the provisions relating to coastal hazards are addressed in the evaluation report for natural hazards.

### 3.5.1 Proposed RPS Change 1

(64) Under section 74(2)(a)(i), the Council is required to have regard to any proposed regional policy statement.

(65) On 19 August 2022, Greater Wellington Regional Council notified Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region (Proposed RPS Change 1). The Regional Council notified its decisions on RPS Change 1 in October 2024, but as of the writing of this report, those decisions are open to appeals from submitters.

(66) The purpose of Proposed RPS Change 1 is to implement national direction relating to urban development and freshwater, to strengthen provisions relating to indigenous ecosystems and, of particular relevance to this plan change, to respond to the climate emergency.

(67) The table below lists the changes which are relevant for the coastal environment as notified. The full wording of relevant provisions below are included in Appendix 3 of this report.

<b>RPS Change 1</b>	
<b>3.1A Climate Change</b>	
<b>Objective CC.1</b>	<p><i>By 2050, the Wellington Region is a low-emission and climate-resilient region, where climate change mitigation and adaptation are an integral part of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) sustainable air, land, freshwater, and coastal management,</i></li> <li><i>(b) well-functioning urban environments and rural areas, and</i></li> <li><i>(c) well-planned infrastructure.</i></li> </ul>

<b>Policy CC.4</b>	<i>Climate resilient urban areas – district and regional plans</i>
<b>3.2 Coastal Environment (including public access)</b>	
<b>Policy 3</b>	<i>Protecting high natural character in the coastal environment – district and regional plans</i>
<b>3.4 Fresh Water (including public access)</b>	
<b>Objective 12</b>	<p><i>Natural and physical resources of the region are managed in a way that prioritises:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) first, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems</i></li> <li><i>(b) second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water)</i></li> <li><i>(c) third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future; and</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Te Mana o te Wai encompasses six principles relating to the roles of tangata whenua and other New Zealanders in the management of freshwater, and these principles inform this RPS and its implementation ...</i></p>
<b>Policy 14</b>	<i>Urban development effects on freshwater and the coastal marine area – regional plans</i>
<b>Policy 15</b>	<i>Managing the effects of earthworks and vegetation disturbance – district and regional plans</i>
<b>Policy 18</b>	<i>Protecting and restoring ecological health of water bodies – regional plans</i>
<b>Policy FW.3</b>	<i>Urban development effects on freshwater and the coastal marine area – district plans</i>
<b>3.6 Indigenous Ecosystems</b>	
<b>Objective 16A</b>	<i>The region’s indigenous ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, and restored to a healthy functioning state, improving their resilience to increasing environmental pressures, particularly climate change, and giving effect to Te Rito o te Harakeke.</i>
<b>Objective 16B</b>	<i>Mana whenua / tangata whenua values relating to indigenous biodiversity, particularly taonga species, and the important relationship between indigenous ecosystem health and well-</i>

	<i>being, are given effect to in decision-making, and mana whenua / tangata whenua are supported to exercise their kaitiakitanga for indigenous biodiversity.</i>
<b>3.8 Natural Hazards</b>	
<b>Objective 19</b>	The risks and consequences to people, communities, businesses, property, infrastructure and the environment from natural hazards and the effects of climate change are minimised.
<b>Objective 21</b>	The resilience of our communities and the natural environment to the short, medium, and long-term effects of climate change, and sea level rise is strengthened, and people are better prepared for the consequences of natural hazard events.
<b>Policy 29</b>	Managing subdivision, use and development in areas at risk from natural hazards – district and regional plans
<b>3.9 Regional Form, Design and Function</b>	
<b>Objective 22</b>	Urban development, including housing and infrastructure, is enabled where it demonstrates the characteristics and qualities of well-functioning urban environments ...

## 3.6 Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

- (68) Section 74(2)(a)(ii) of the RMA requires territorial authorities, when preparing or changing a district plan, to have regard to any proposed regional plan of its region in regard to any matter of regional significance or for which the regional council has primary responsibility under Part 4 of the Act.
- (69) The Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region (NRP) became operative on 28 July 2023 and replaces the five operative regional plans.
- (70) The following provisions of the NRP are of relevance to this topic. The full wording of relevant provisions below is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

### Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

<b>Ki uta ki tai: mountains to the sea</b>	
<b>Objective O1</b>	Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area are managed as integrated and connected resources; ki uta ki tai – mountains to the sea.
<b>Objective O2</b>	The importance and contribution of air, land, water and ecosystems to the social, economic and cultural well-being and health of people and the community are recognised in the management of those resources.
<b>Objective O3</b>	<i>Mauri particularly the mauri of fresh and coastal waters is sustained and, where it has been depleted, natural resources and processes are enhanced to replenish mauri.</i>
<b>Objective O4</b>	<i>The intrinsic values of fresh water and marine ecosystems are recognised and the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems is safeguarded.</i>
<b>Beneficial use and development</b>	
<b>Objective O7</b>	<i>The recreational values of the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes and their margins and natural wetlands are maintained and where appropriate for recreational purposes, is enhanced.</i>
<b>Objective O8</b>	<i>Public access to and along the coastal marine area and rivers and lakes is maintained and enhanced, other than in exceptional circumstances, in which case alternative access is provided where practicable.</i>
<b>Objective O9</b>	<i>The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of Regionally Significant Infrastructure, renewable energy generation activities and the utilisation of mineral resources are recognised.</i>
<b>Objective O10</b>	<i>Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities that meets the needs of present and future generations are enabled in appropriate places and ways.</i>
<b>Objective O11</b>	<i>Significant mineral resources and the ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade of Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities are protected from incompatible use and development occurring under, over, or adjacent to the infrastructure or activity.</i>
<b>Māori relationships</b>	

<b>Objective O12</b>	<p><i>The relationships of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga are recognised and provided for, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) maintaining and improving opportunities for Māori customary use of the coastal marine area, rivers, lakes and their margins and natural wetlands, and</i></li> <li><i>(b) maintaining and improving the availability of mahinga kai species, in terms of quantity, quality and diversity, to support Māori customary harvest, and</i></li> <li><i>(c) providing for the relationship of mana whenua with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, including by maintaining or improving Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa so that the huanga identified in Schedule B are provided for, and</i></li> <li><i>(d) protecting sites with significant mana whenua values from use and development that will adversely affect their values and restoring those sites to a state where their characteristics and qualities sustain the identified values.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Objective O13</b>	<p><i>Kaitiakitanga is recognised and mana whenua actively participate in planning and decision-making in relation to the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.</i></p>
<b>Natural character, form and function</b>	
<b>Objective O14</b>	<p><i>The natural character of the coastal marine area, natural wetlands, and rivers, lakes and their margins is preserved and protected from inappropriate use and development.</i></p>
<b>Natural hazards</b>	
<b>Objective O15</b>	<p><i>The hazard risk and residual hazard risk, from natural hazards and adverse effects of climate change, on people, the community, the environment and infrastructure are acceptable.</i></p>
<b>Objective O16</b>	<p><i>Inappropriate use and development in high hazard areas is avoided.</i></p>
<b>Water quality</b>	
<b>Objective O18</b>	<p><i>Rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and coastal water are suitable for contact recreation and Māori customary use, including by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) maintaining water quality, or</i></li> <li><i>(b) improving water quality in:</i></li> </ul>

	<p>(i) <i>significant contact recreation fresh water bodies and sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa identified in Schedule B to meet, as a minimum and with reasonable timeframes, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.1, and</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>coastal water and sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa identified in Schedule B to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.3, and</i></p> <p>(iii) <i>all other rivers and lakes and natural wetlands to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the secondary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.2.</i></p>
<b>Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai</b>	
<b>Objective O19</b>	<p><i>Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai in fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area are safeguarded such that:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>water quality, flows, water levels and aquatic and coastal habitats are managed to maintain biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health mahinga kai, and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>where an objective in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 or 3.8 is not met, a fresh water body or coastal marine area is meaningfully improved over so that the objective is met within a reasonable timeframe, and</i></p> <p>(c) <i>restoration of aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai is encouraged.</i></p>
<b>Objective O21</b>	<p><i>Vegetated riparian margins are established, maintained or restored to enhance water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai and indigenous biodiversity of rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and the coastal marine area.</i></p>
<b>Objective O22</b>	<p><i>The extent of natural wetlands is maintained or increased, their values are protected, and their condition is restored. Where the values relate to biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, restoration is to a healthy functioning state as defined by Table 3.7.</i></p>



<b>Sites with significant values</b>	
<b>Objective O25</b>	<i>Outstanding water bodies identified in Schedule A (outstanding water bodies) and their significant values are protected and restored. Where the significant values relate to biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, restoration is to a healthy functioning state including as defined by Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.</i>
<b>Objective O26</b>	<i>Outstanding natural features and landscapes and their values are protected from inappropriate use and development.</i>
<b>Policies</b>	
<b>Policy P1</b>	<i>Ki uta ki tai and integrated catchment management</i>
<b>Policy P6</b>	<i>Uses of land and water</i>
<b>Policy P7</b>	<i>Beneficial activities</i>
<b>Policy P8</b>	<i>Public access to and along the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers</i>
<b>Policy P9</b>	<i>Contact Recreation and Māori customary use</i>
<b>Policy P11</b>	<i>Benefits of regionally significant infrastructure and renewable electricity generation facilities</i>
<b>Policy P13</b>	<i>Providing for regionally significant infrastructure and renewable electricity generation activities</i>
<b>Policy P14</b>	<i>The National Grid</i>
<b>Policy P16</b>	<i>Flood protection activities</i>
<b>Policy P17</b>	<i>New flood protection and erosion control</i>
<b>Policy P20</b>	<i>Māori values</i>
<b>Policy P21</b>	<i>Exercise of kaitiakitanga</i>
<b>Policy P23</b>	<i>Identification of outstanding/high natural character and outstanding natural features and landscapes</i>
<b>Policy P24</b>	<i>Preserving and protecting natural character from inappropriate use and development</i>
<b>Policy P25</b>	<i>High hazard areas</i>

<b>Policy P26</b>	<i>Diversion of flood waters in a floodplain</i>
<b>Policy P27</b>	<i>Hazard mitigation measures</i>
<b>Policy P28</b>	<i>Effects of climate change</i>
<b>Policy P29</b>	<i>Natural buffers</i>
<b>Policy P30</b>	<i>Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai</i>
<b>Policy P36</b>	<i>Restoring Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana</i>
<b>Policy P37</b>	<i>Adverse effects on outstanding water bodies</i>
<b>Policy P38</b>	<i>Indigenous biodiversity values within the coastal environment</i>
<b>Policy P39</b>	<i>Existing regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities within a site that meets any of the criteria in Policy P38(a)(i) - (v) or (b) or included in Schedule F5</i>
<b>Policy P42</b>	<i>Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values</i>
<b>Policy P44</b>	<i>Managing effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values from activities outside these ecosystems and habitats</i>
<b>Policy P52</b>	<i>Protecting natural features and landscapes from inappropriate use and development</i>
<b>Policy P53</b>	<i>Significant geological features</i>
<b>Policy P109</b>	<i>Management of riparian margins</i>
<b>Policy P139</b>	<i>Functional need and efficient use</i>
<b>Policy P140</b>	<i>Recreational values</i>
<b>Policy P141</b>	<i>Public open space values and visual amenity</i>
<b>Policy P145</b>	<i>Structures in sites with significant values</i>
<b>Policy P146</b>	<i>Seawalls</i>
<b>Policy P147</b>	<i>New boatsheds</i>
<b>Policy P148</b>	<i>Boatsheds</i>

<b>Policy P150</b>	<i>Deposition in a site with significant values</i>
<b>Policy P151</b>	<i>Dumping in a site with significant values</i>
<b>Policy P152</b>	<i>Reclamation, drainage and destruction</i>
<b>Policy P153</b>	<i>Introduction of pest plants</i>
<b>Policy P154</b>	<i>Motor vehicles on the foreshore</i>
<b>Policy P155</b>	<i>Motor vehicles in sites with significant value</i>

(71) Objectives and policies relating to coastal hazards have been included for completeness, however the proposed provisions relating to coastal hazards are addressed in the s32 for natural hazards.

### 3.6.1 Proposed NRP Change 1

(72) Under section 74(2)(a)(ii) of the RMA, the Council is required to have regard to any proposed regional plan in regard to any matter of regional significance or for which the regional council has primary responsibility under Part 4 of the Act.

(73) On 30 October 2023 Greater Wellington Regional Council notified Proposed Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan (Proposed NRP Change 1).

(74) The purpose of Proposed NRP Change 1 is the implementation of regulatory and non-regulatory recommendations from the Whaitua Implementation Programmes (Te Awarua-o-Porirua (TAoP) and Te Whanganui-a-Tara (TWT) Implementation Programmes). It also includes other regulatory amendments relating to air quality rules and beds of lakes and rivers rules and new sites with significant biodiversity values.

(75) The most relevant amendments and additions of NRP PC1 are listed below. The full wording of relevant provisions below is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

<b>NRP Change 1</b>	
<i>Fresh Water - Objective O18 Biodiversity, aquatic</i>	<i>Objectives O18 and O19 do not apply to rivers, lakes, groundwater or coastal water within Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua. Objective O18 only applies to natural</i>

<b>NRP Change 1</b>	
<i>ecosystem health and mahinga kai - Objective O19</i>	<i>wetlands within Whaitua Te Whanganuia-Tara and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua.</i>
<i>Sites with significant values - Objective O25</i>	<i>Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, and 3.8 do not apply to Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua, and are therefore not relevant to defining a healthy functioning state within these whaitua.</i>
<i>Policy P36</i>	<i>Restoring Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana</i>
<b>8 Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara</b>	
<i><u>Objective WH.O1</u></i>	<i><u>The health of all freshwater bodies and the coastal marine area within Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara is progressively improved and is wai ora by 2100.</u></i>
<i><u>Objective WH.O2</u></i>	<i><u>The health and wellbeing of Te Whanganui-a-Tara's groundwater, rivers and natural wetlands and their margins are on a trajectory of measurable improvement towards wai ora, ...</u></i>
<i><u>Objective WH.O3</u></i>	<i><u>The health and wellbeing of coastal water quality, ecosystems and habitats in Te Whanganui-a-Tara is maintained or improved to achieve the coastal water objectives set out in Table 8.1, ...</u></i>
<i><u>Objective WH.O5</u></i>	<i><u>By 2040 the health and wellbeing of the Parangarahu Lakes and associated natural wetlands are on a trajectory of improvement towards wai ora, ...</u></i>
<b>8.2.1 Ecosystem health and water quality</b>	
<i><u>Policy WH.P2</u></i>	<i><u>Management of activities to achieve target attribute states and coastal water objectives</u></i>
<b>8.2.4 Rural land use and earthworks</b>	
<i><u>Policy WH.P21</u></i>	<i><u>Managing diffuse discharges of nutrients and Escherichia coli from farming activities</u></i>
<i><u>Policy WH.P29</u></i>	<i><u>Management of earthworks</u></i>
<i><u>Policy WH.P30</u></i>	<i><u>Discharge standard for earthworks</u></i>

NRP Change 1	
<u>Policy WH.P31</u>	<u>Winter shut down of earthworks</u>

### 3.7 Iwi Management Plans

- (76) Section 74(2A) requires territorial authorities, when preparing or changing a district plan, to take into account any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority and lodged with the territorial authority, to the extent that its content has a bearing on the resource management issues of the district.
- (77) No Iwi Management Plans have been lodged with Hutt City Council.

### 3.8 Hutt City Council Plans, Policies and Strategies

- (78) Section 74(2)(b)(i) of the RMA requires that when preparing or changing a District Plan, a territorial authority shall have regard to any management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts.
- (79) In addition, there are other plans, policies and strategies of Council that, while not directly prepared under a specific Act, should be considered as part of the District Plan Review as they set Council's intentions on some matters that need to be addressed through the District Plan Review.
- (80) The following Council plans, policies and strategies are relevant for the coastal environment.

Plan / Policy / Strategy	Relevant Provisions
<b>Pencarrow Coast Road Policy for Vehicle Use 2012-2017</b>	<p>Covers all vehicle use of the Pencarrow Coast Road owned by Hutt City Council (HCC) in fee simple from Burdans Gate No. 2 to Lake Kohangapiripiri.</p> <p>The objective is to manage vehicle use of the road to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect HCC's assets in the area which include the main outfall sewer.</li> <li>• Sustainably manage commercial use of the road to minimise as far as possible any impact on the safety of</li> </ul>

<b>Plan / Policy / Strategy</b>	<b>Relevant Provisions</b>
	<p>all users, the environment, archaeological sites and recreational users.</p> <p>Regulates five categories of vehicle use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Category A – Frequent users and emergency services</li> <li>• Category B – Commercial Users</li> <li>• Category C – Limited trip users</li> <li>• Category D – Pencarrow Lodge</li> <li>• Special Events</li> </ul> <p>Sets daily quota of vehicle movements and conditions of use</p>
<p><b>Esplanade and Foreshore Reserve Management Plan 2002</b></p>	<p>Provides a policy framework for the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and appropriate development of Esplanade and Foreshore Reserves throughout Lower Hutt.</p> <p>Esplanade and Foreshore Reserves are linear areas of land adjacent to a body of water or water course. This includes the harbour, lakes, rivers, streams, and some drainage ditches throughout the City of Lower Hutt. Esplanades Reserves are generally taken and vested in Council through the subdivision process or classified under the Reserves Act 1977.</p> <p>The objectives of the Management Plan address a wide range of issues including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that proposed development and activities are considered in accordance with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.</li> <li>• Conserving those qualities which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony and cohesion of the natural environment.</li> <li>• Ensuring that new development (includes structures, paths, and plantings) is undertaken in a manner that achieves compatible and integrated use of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• Ensuring that an adequate amount of space is available for passive activities and allowing active recreation activities to be undertaken where appropriate while providing and maintaining good quality tracks.</li> </ul>

<b>Plan / Policy / Strategy</b>	<b>Relevant Provisions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that adverse effects of activities are adequately mitigated to not compromise amenity values of adjacent or neighbouring properties.</li> <li>• Ensure that the public has access to suitable Esplanade and Foreshore Reserves and that this access is maintained and enhanced where appropriate.</li> <li>• Restricting activities that may cause conflict with the residing characteristics and uses.</li> </ul>
<b>Seaview Gracefield Vision 2030</b>	<p>This document has four themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Providing stability and efficiency to support existing businesses</i></li> <li>• <i>Creating a suitable environment for the growth of new/emerging businesses</i></li> <li>• <i>Making better use of recreational opportunities</i></li> <li>• <i>Contributing towards a better environment</i></li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2015-2045</b>	<p>This document has a vision of “A thriving environment, now and into the future”. It sets out the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Council demonstrates leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainability</i></li> <li>• <i>The city embraces environmental protection and community resilience</i></li> <li>• <i>The city continuously adapts and enhances its environment</i></li> </ul>
<b>Reserves Strategic Direction 2016-2026</b>	<p>This document has a vision of a reserve network that is valued for protecting the natural environment and public open space, the benefits it brings to the city and its role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of the people and the natural environment of our city.</p> <p>Key directions and priorities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Protection and enhancement of the reserve network</i></li> <li>2. <i>Protecting and nurturing our environment using sustainable practices</i></li> <li>3. <i>Connected reserves and natural areas</i></li> <li>4. <i>Quality reserves, programmes and facilities</i></li> </ol>

Plan / Policy / Strategy	Relevant Provisions
	5. <i>Engagement, participation and collaboration</i>

### 3.9 District Plans of adjacent territorial authorities

- (81) Section 74(2)(c) of the RMA requires territorial authorities, when preparing or changing a district plan, to have regard to the extent to which the district plan needs to be consistent with the plans or proposed plans of adjacent territorial authorities.
- (82) The district plans of the following councils have been reviewed:
- Wellington City Council,
  - Porirua City Council,
  - Kāpiti Coast District Council, and
  - South Wairarapa District Council (a combined plan for the three Wairarapa district councils).
- (83) As Upper Hutt does not have a coastline, its district plan has not been included.
- (84) The approach and provisions of district plans of adjacent councils for the coastal environment are summarised below.

Plan	Relevant Provisions
<b>Proposed Wellington District Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PDP as notified contains a Coastal Environment chapter with objectives, policies and rules managing the effects of activities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identified inland extent of the Coastal Environment;</li> <li>○ Identified Areas of High and Very High Coastal Natural Character; and</li> <li>○ Coastal margins and riparian margins in the coastal environment; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Includes objectives, policies and rules for managing risk from coastal hazards.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, Special Amenity Landscape, and Significant Natural Areas within the coastal environment are addressed in the Natural Features and Landscapes and Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapters.</li> <li>• Subdivision, earthworks, infrastructure and renewable electricity generation within the coastal environment are addressed in the Subdivision, Earthworks, Infrastructure and Renewable Electricity Generation chapters.</li> <li>• Provisions as notified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Allow for customary harvesting and restoration;</li> <li>○ Regulate vegetation clearance (outside of SNA);</li> <li>○ Provide for use and development outside of identified Coastal Natural Character Areas and margins;</li> <li>○ Provide for use and development within coastal and riparian margins in the CE in highly modified areas;</li> <li>○ Limit use and development within identified Coastal Natural Character Areas and coastal and riparian margins in the CE;</li> <li>○ Disallow inappropriate use and development; and</li> <li>○ Manage use and development in identified coastal hazard risk areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Proposed Porirua District Plan (decisions version)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision notified in December 2023, no appeals relating to coastal environment provisions (except for the extent of the coastal environment).</li> <li>• Contains a Coastal Environment chapter with objectives, policies and rules managing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identified inland extent of the coastal environment;</li> <li>○ Identified Areas of Coastal High Natural Character; and</li> <li>○ coastal hazard risk.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Outstanding natural features and landscapes, special amenity landscapes, and significant natural areas within the coastal environment are addressed in the Natural Features and Landscapes and Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapters.</li> <li>• Policies and rules for earthworks within the coastal environment are located in Coastal Environment chapter.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies for subdivision within the coastal environment are located in Coastal Environment chapter, rules for subdivision in the coastal environment are located in Subdivision chapter.</li> <li>• Infrastructure and renewable electricity generation within the coastal environment are addressed in the Infrastructure and Renewable Electricity Generation chapter.</li> <li>• Provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Allow for restoration;</li> <li>○ Regulate vegetation clearance (outside of SNA) and earthworks;</li> <li>○ Provide for limited use and development within identified Coastal Natural Character Areas;</li> <li>○ Disallow inappropriate use and development; and</li> <li>○ Manage use and development in identified coastal hazard areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Kāpiti Coast District Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressed in Chapter 4: Coastal Environment.</li> <li>• Comprises polices and rules managing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identified areas of outstanding or high natural character, geological features and ecological sites within the coastal environment, and</li> <li>○ The identified inland extend of the coastal environment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sets out the extent of the coastal environment, the preservation of natural character in the coastal environment and the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coast.</li> <li>• Areas of outstanding or high natural character within the coastal environment are identified.</li> <li>• Network utilities in the coastal environment are generally contained in the utilities chapter.</li> <li>• Provisions relating to protection of sensitive habitats and landscapes and significant natural areas in the coastal environment are located in Chapter 3: Natural Environment.</li> <li>• Provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Permit public access and amenity structures within rural or open space zones; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Control the construction of buildings or earthwork activities within areas of high or outstanding natural character within Rural or Open Space Zones.</li> <li>• Other provisions are spread throughout the zone based chapters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains a Coastal Environment chapter with objectives, policies and rules managing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identified inland extent of the coastal environment;</li> <li>○ Identified Areas of High, Very High Coastal Natural Character;</li> <li>○ Activities in the Foreshore Protection Area; and</li> <li>○ Coastal hazard risk.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Outstanding natural features and landscapes, special amenity landscapes, and significant natural areas within the coastal environment are addressed in the Natural Features and Landscapes and Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapters.</li> <li>• Policies relating to subdivision, earthworks and infrastructure within the coastal environment are located in the Coastal Environment chapter</li> <li>• Rules addressing earthworks and built development in the coastal environment are located in the Coastal Environment chapter, rules for subdivision and infrastructure in the coastal environment are contained in the Subdivision and Infrastructure chapters.</li> <li>• Provisions as notified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide for earthworks, vegetation clearance and built developments subject to standards; and</li> <li>○ Disallow inappropriate activities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### 3.10 Other statutory and non-statutory plans, policies and strategies

(85) In addition to Hutt City Council’s plans, policies and strategies (identified above), there are regional and national plans, policies and strategies that, while not mandatory considerations for the District Plan Review, should still be considered as they form part of the management regime for natural

and physical resources in the district, and considering these documents can aid integrated management.

- (86) The following other statutory and non-statutory plans, policies and strategies are relevant for the coastal environment.

Plan / Policy / Strategy	Relevant Provisions
<p>Parangarahu Lakes Area Co-Management Plan 2014</p> <p>Greater Wellington Regional Council and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust</p>	<p>Identifies the lakes their associated tributaries and wetlands as an area of national significance and outlines the issues, vision and management objectives. Key activities in the plan include to establish a new walking track to replace the removed boardwalk; and advocating for secured links to the Remutaka Cycle Trail.</p>
<p>Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River Environmental Strategy Action Plan 2018</p> <p>Greater Wellington Regional Council</p>	<p>Sets out aims and objectives identified by the community for the management and enhancement of the river corridor environment. The focus is on the enhancement and management of the river and meeting natural, social, and cultural requirements while providing flood protection. Relevant to landscape character and amenity values, this includes three key goals for the protection and enhancement of the river's natural environment, encouraging and enabling improved connections between the river corridor and adjoining communities, and providing spaces and facilities to support recreation opportunities. This environmental strategy sits within the wider Hutt River Flood Management Plan October 2001, and enables the environmental, community and recreation objectives to be achieved.</p>
<p>Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Plan 2012-2017</p> <p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>Outlines the vision, guiding principles and key management issues and objectives for the management of the islands in the harbour.</p>
<p>Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-2030</p> <p>Greater Wellington Regional Council</p>	<p>Toitū Te Whenua is the management plan for eight regional parks and forests. It includes Akatarawa, Battle Hill, Belmont, East Harbour (including the Northern Forest, Baring Head/Ōrua Pouanui and Parangarahu Lakes), Kaitoke, Pakuratahi, Queen Elizabeth and Wainuiomata parks.</p>

	The Plan's vision is 'Restoring healthy ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature'. 'He waka eke noa', we're all in this together moving forward.
Te Mahere Wai o Te Kāhui Taiao Greater Wellington Regional Council, Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa Rangatira	A Mana Whenua whaitua implementation plan to return mana to our freshwater bodies. There are a number of values and environmental outcomes identified, with timeframes for implementation.  <i>'Many of the key flood protection activities are identified as high potential impact activities and require discretionary activity resource consent under the PNRP. These methods often directly impact on the remaining natural form and character of the region's rivers and streams.'</i>  <i>Long term (30+ years) – 'The āhua (natural character) of the Korokoro, Kaiwharawhara, Te Awa Kairangi, Wainuiomata, and Ōrongorongo awa and Parangārehu Lakes (Parangārahu Lakes is also an acceptable spelling alternative) is fully restored in the long term.'</i>

### 3.11 Other Legislation or Regulations

- (87) In addition to the RMA, other legislation and regulations can be relevant considerations for a district plan, particularly where management of an issue is addressed through multiple pieces of legislation and regulatory bodies.
- (88) The Conservation Act 1987 and the Reserves Act 1977 are relevant for the coastal environment.

Legislation / Regulation	Relevant Matter
<b>Conservation Act 1987</b>	The Conservation Act 1987 created the Department of Conservation (DOC), which promotes the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic resources. DOC manages national parks, marine reserves and other conservation areas.
<b>Reserves Act 1977</b>	Section 3 of the Reserves Act 1977 sets out three main functions as part of the Act's general purpose which includes <i>"the preservation of access for the public to the coastline, islands, lakeshore and riverbanks and to encourage the protection and preservation of the natural character of these areas."</i> The Reserves Act requires the preparation of reserve management

	plans which govern in a detailed manner what can and cannot be carried out in the City's reserves. While the Reserves Act ultimately determines the types of uses appropriate for reserve areas that are classified under the Act, the RMA governs environmental policy and management, minimising the adverse effects of use and development.
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## 3.12 Statutory Acknowledgements

- (89) The operative District Plan contains, as an addendum, the relevant provisions and statutory acknowledgement areas as identified by the Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009 and the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014. The information provided in the addendum is for the purpose of public information only and does not form part of the District Plan.
- (90) A statutory acknowledgement is a formal acknowledgement by the Crown of the mana of tangata whenua over a specified area. It recognises the particular cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional association of an iwi with the site, which is identified as a statutory area.

Statutory Area	Location
<b>Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika - Port Nicholson Block</b>	
COASTAL MARINE AREA	As shown on SO 408070
HUTT RIVER	As shown on SO 408071
WAIWHETU STREAM	As shown on SO 408072
WELLINGTON HARBOUR	As shown on SO 408073
RIVERSIDE DRIVE MARGINAL STRIP	As shown on SO 408074
SEAVIEW MARGINAL STRIP	As shown on SO 408075
RIMUTAKA FOREST PARK	As shown on SO 408079
WAINUIOMATA SCENIC RESERVE	As shown on SO 408080
TURAKIRAE HEAD SCIENTIFIC RESERVE	As shown on SO 408081
<b>Ngāti Toa Rangatira</b>	

HUTT RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES	As shown on Deed Plan OTS-068-45
COOK STRAIT	As shown on Deed Plan OTS-068-38
WELLINGTON HARBOUR (PORT NICHOLSON)	As shown on Deed Plan OTS-068-40

FINAL DRAFT

# 4 Resource management issues

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## 4.1 Introduction to resource management issues for the coastal environment

- (91) Hutt City has some 42km of coastline comprising the inner Wellington Harbour and open coastline to the Cook Strait.
- (92) Lower Hutt coastal environment comprises two distinct areas – the Coastal Terrestrial Area, which covers a strip of land inland of the foreshore, and the Coastal Marine Area, which is 22km wide in most places (12 nautical miles) and covers the South Coast, Wellington Harbour and the Cook Strait. The character of the landward extent varies considerably from relatively wild and scenic along the exposed southern coast to areas of highly modified reclaimed land along Wellington Harbour.
- (93) The more natural areas of the coastal terrestrial area include remote and rural natural areas with beaches and coastal mountains and escarpments such as Turakirae Head.
- (94) At the same time, modifications associated with urban settlement have resulted in substantial impacts on the natural character through reclamation, residential, commercial and industrial development and infrastructure and roads.

## 4.2 Evidence Base – Research, Information and Analysis

- (95) The Council has reviewed the operative District Plan, commissioned technical advice and assistance from various internal and external experts and utilised this review and expert advice, along with internal



workshops and community feedback, to assist with setting the plan framework.

- (96) This work has been used to inform the identification and assessment of the environmental, economic, social and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the provisions. This expert advice received includes the following.

Title	Author	Brief synopsis
Wellington City and Hutt City – Coastal Natural Character Assessment	Boffa Miskell & NIWA	<p>The assessment identifies the coastal environment and the natural character within the coastal environment. It gives effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and the Wellington Regional Policy Statement</p> <p>The study area covers the terrestrial and marine components of the coastal environment for Hutt City and Wellington City.</p> <p>The assessment process comprised four key steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Identification of the extent of the coastal environment, in particular the inland extent (study area);</li> <li>2 Identification of the marine and terrestrial coastal sub areas that comprise the study area and the description and documentation of each area;</li> <li>3 Evaluation of the level of natural character for each marine and terrestrial area, and identification of the components within each area that have High or Very High Coastal Natural Character; and</li> <li>4 Evaluation of Outstanding Coastal Natural Character; that is, assessing those components with High and Very High Coastal Natural Character to determine if any part of them qualify as having Outstanding Coastal Natural Character.</li> </ol> <p>Each of these areas were evaluated in relation to three attributes – abiotic, biotic and experiential.</p> <p>Overall the study found 10 components within the Hutt City portion of the landward extent of the</p>

Title	Author	Brief synopsis
		coastal environment to be of High or Very High Coastal Natural Character. The only terrestrial area of Outstanding Coastal Natural Character identified by the assessment is located at Turakirae Head.

## 4.2.1 Existing approach of City of Lower Hutt District Plan

- (97) While the operative District Plan does not have a Coastal Environment chapter, the topic is covered throughout the plan, mostly through references in the issues, objectives and policies. Only a small number of rules apply specifically to the coastal environment.
- (98) The key provisions in the operative District Plan of relevance to this topic are summarised below.

Operative District Plan	
Topic / Chapter	Summary of relevant provisions
<b>1.10 Area Wide Issues</b>	The Explanation and Reasons of section 1.10.2 Amenity Values include a description of the coastal environment for the Petone Commercial Activity Area and the General Rural Activity Area. Also references to the coastal environment in the Explanation and Reasons of section 1.10.7 Rural Activity and 1.10.9 Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources.
<b>6A General Business Activity Area</b>	References to the coastal environment in Policy (c) and the Explanation and Reasons of section 6A 1.2.1 Effects on Amenity Values.
<b>7B(i) Special Recreation Activity Area – Petone Foreshore</b>	References to the coastal environment in the Issue and Objective of chapter 7B(i) relating to Retaining the Open Space Character.
<b>7B(ii) Special Recreation Activity Area – Seaview Marina</b>	References to the coastal environment in the Issue, in Policy (b) and the Explanation and Reasons of chapter 7B(ii) relating to Buildings and Structures.

<b>8B General Rural Activity Area</b>	Section 8B 1.1.2 Coastal Environment containing Issue, Objective, Policies and Explanation and Reasons.  Discretionary Activity Rule 8B 2.3(f).
<b>11 Subdivision</b>	Section 11.1.4 Special Areas contains references to the coastal environment in the Issue, Objective, Policy (a) and Explanation and Reasons.  Discretionary Activity Rule 11 2.4(h).
<b>13 Network Utilities</b>	Section 13.1.4 Managing Environmental Effects contains references to the coastal environment in Policy (a) and the Explanation and Reasons.  Discretionary Activity Rules 13 3.1.20 and Non-complying Activity Rule 13.3.1.40.
<b>14E Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources</b>	Specific references to the coastal environment in the Issue, Policies (e) and (f) and the Explanation and Reasons of section 14E 1.1 Protection of Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources.  Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule 14E 2.2 (b) and Matters of Discretion 14E 2.2.1(i).  14E Appendix Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources 1 Sites 9(a) to 9(m).
<b>14H Natural Hazards</b>	Section 14H 1.1.1 Risk Associated with Natural Hazards contains references to coastal hazards in the Issue, Objective, Policies (b) and (e) and the Explanation and Reasons.
<b>14I Earthworks</b>	Section 14I 1.1 Natural Character contains references to the coastal environment in Policy (b) and the Explanation and Reasons.
<b>14L Renewable Energy Generation</b>	The Assessment Criteria for Discretionary Activities (14L 2.3 (f) and (i)) refer to the coastal environment.

## 4.2.2 Analysis of other district plans

- (99) A summary of the provisions of District Plans of other territorial authorities in the Wellington region relating to the coastal environment is provided in Section 3.9 above.

- (100) All district plans in the region (excluding the plan of Upper Hutt, which does not have a coastline) include a Coastal Environment chapter with varying provisions relating to the identification and protection of the coastal environment.
- The Proposed Wellington District Plan contains a Coastal Environment chapter that identifies and manages the inland extent of the coastal environment, areas of High and Very High Coastal Natural Character, coastal and riparian margins and coastal hazards.
  - The Coastal Environment chapter of the Proposed Porirua District Plan (decisions version) contains objectives policies and rules that manage the inland extent of the coastal environment, Coastal High Natural Character Areas and coastal hazards. Coastal margins and riparian margins are addressed in the Natural Character chapter.
  - The Coastal Environment chapter of the operative Kāpiti Coast District Plan identifies the inland extent of the coastal environment and comprises polices and rules managing identified areas of outstanding or high natural character, geological features and ecological sites within the coastal environment.
  - The Coastal Environment chapter of the Proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan identifies and manages the inland extent of the coastal environment, High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas, a Foreshore Protection Area and coastal hazards.

### 4.2.3 National Guidance Documents

(101) The following national guidance documents are relevant to this topic:

Document	Relevant Provisions
<b>New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Guidance Notes</b>	<p>These documents summarise the objectives and policies of the NZCPS and provides guidance for local authorities, and other users, on how to apply the NZCPS. The following guidance notes are of particular relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NZCPS 2010 Guidance Note Policy 1: Extent and characteristics of the coastal environment</li> </ul>

Document	Relevant Provisions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NZCPS 2010 Guidance Note Policy 6: Activities in the coastal environment</li> <li>• NZCPS 2010 Guidance Note Policy 9: Ports</li> <li>• NZCPS 2010 Guidance Note Policy 11: Indigenous biological diversity</li> <li>• NZCPS 2010 Guidance Note Policy 13: Preservation of natural character</li> <li>• NZCPS 2010 Guidance Note Policy 14: Restoration of natural character</li> <li>• NZCPS 2010 Guidance Note Policy 15: Natural features and natural landscapes</li> <li>• NZCPS 2010 Guidance Note Policy 24 to 27: Coastal Hazards</li> </ul>
<b>Preparing for Coastal Change (MfE, 2017)</b>	This document provides guidance to assist local government in assessing, planning for and managing the increased risk from climate change on coastal communities. It sets out the adaptive planning approach to managing hazards.

(102) National guidance documents relating to coastal hazards such as the *Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance* published by the Ministry for the Environment in February 2024 are addressed in the evaluation report for Natural Hazards.

#### 4.2.4 Advice from Mana Whenua

(103) Under Clause 4A of Schedule 1 of the RMA local authorities are required to:

- Provide a copy of any draft policy statement or plan to any iwi authority previously consulted under clause 3 of Schedule 1 prior to notification;
- Allow adequate time and opportunity for those iwi authorities to consider the draft and to supply advice; and
- Have particular regard to any advice received before notifying the plan.

(104) As an extension of this s32(4A) requires evaluation reports prepared in relation to a proposed plan to include a summary of:

- All advice received from iwi authorities concerning the proposal; and
- The response to that advice, including any proposed provisions intended to give effect to the advice.

(105) The following is a summary of the advice received from both Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Taranaki Whānui specific to the proposed provisions evaluated within this report.

Topic	Advice Received	Response
Mahinga Kai	Mahinga kai and natural resources used for customary purposes, are maintained and enhanced, and these resources are healthy and accessible to tangata whenua.	In alignment with the RPS
Kaitiakitanga	The cultural relationship of Māori with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga is maintained.	Aligns with s6 of RMA

## 4.2.5 Feedback on the Draft District Plan

(106) In late 2023, the Draft District Plan was released for public feedback. The feedback and suggestions received were taken into consideration and informed the proposed provisions.

(107) The feedback received on the Coastal Environment chapter of the Draft District Plan ranges from general support over suggested amendments to opposition to either the proposed provisions or the identified boundaries of Coastal Natural Character Areas. Some of the feedback received seeks further clarification regarding the applicability of several overlays.

(108) Some comments on the Coastal Natural Character Areas strongly oppose their identification and the related rule framework.

(109) Some of the feedback considers the policy and rule framework to be too restrictive especially in relation to recreational and operational activities and infrastructure and the National Grid.

- (110) A limited number of feedback requests the review of the boundaries of the identified Coastal Natural Character Areas.

### 4.3 Summary of Issues Analysis

- (111) Based on the research, analysis and consultation outlined above the following resource management issues have been identified.

Issue	Comment	Response
<p><b>Issue 1</b></p> <p>The coastal environment in general and areas of High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character in particular, are not adequately identified and protected.</p>	<p>Policy 1 of the NZCPS requires the identification of the extent of the coastal environment (seaward and landward) – the District Plan does not currently define the inland extent of the coastal environment.</p> <p>Increased urban growth and rural activities threaten the remaining areas of natural character in the coastal environment.</p> <p>The statutory requirements of s6(a) RMA, the NZCPS and the RPS are not being met.</p> <p>The Boffa Miskell/NIWA report identified a broad range of modification within the coastal environment. These range from urban development and transport infrastructure in highly modified areas like Petone to agricultural activity and vehicle tracks in less modified areas along the south coast.</p> <p>Uncontrolled development can have adverse effects on the identified natural character values of the coastal environment and result in permanent loss.</p>	<p>Identify the coastal environment and areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character.</p> <p>Introduce a framework of objectives, policies and rules to manage activities within the coastal environment to reduce further degradation.</p> <p>Introduce provisions that manage subdivision, use and development within areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character.</p> <p>Introduce provisions that encourage the enhancement and restoration of the coastal environment.</p>

<p><b>Issue 2</b></p> <p>Provisions restricting subdivision, use and development in the coastal environment may limit expected use of land</p>	<p>Requiring resource consent for activities in the coastal environment may increase the cost of activities.</p> <p>If new rules are introduced, previous development potential may not be able to be realised for some sites.</p>	<p>Identify High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas and focus on the protection of identified values.</p> <p>Apply a balanced approach that allows for an assessment of potential adverse effect on the identified values.</p> <p>Recognise and provide for appropriate activities where the effect on the coastal environment is understood and the identified character can be maintained.</p> <p>Introduce a rule hierarchy that assesses activities in terms of their potential effect and enables those with minor effects while avoiding those with significant adverse effects.</p>
<p><b>Issue 3</b></p> <p>Proposed protection needs to provide the ability for tangata whenua to exercise traditional cultural practices</p>	<p>Kaitiakitanga and cultural harvesting should be provided for within the coastal environment and not limited by restrictive provisions.</p>	<p>Enable traditional cultural harvesting within the coastal environment as a permitted activity.</p> <p>Acknowledge and provide for kaitiakitanga.</p>
<p><b>Issue 4</b></p> <p>Proposed protection needs to allow for the maintenance and operation of existing network infrastructure</p>	<p>Additional resource consent requirements could result in unintended delays for routine operation and maintenance activities.</p> <p>Uncertainty and cost associated with resource consent process may result in disruption of services.</p>	<p>Introduce specific provisions that address the management of infrastructure in the coastal environment.</p>



<p><b>Issue 5</b></p> <p>The crossover of jurisdictional responsibility for the coastal environment could confuse or frustrate protection measures through dual decision making.</p>	<p>There is potential for crossover and duplication of rules between the Greater Wellington Regional Council and Hutt City Council in the coastal environment.</p> <p>This could unduly frustrate restoration activities and be inconsistent with the integrated policy direction of the NZCPS.</p>	<p>Recognise GWRC's responsibility for managing effects within wetlands, rivers, streams and lakes within the coastal environment and the coastal marine area.</p> <p>Recognise that the landward extent of the coastal environment is generally within the jurisdiction of Hutt City Council.</p> <p>Include objectives, policies and rules which manage activities that occur within the coastal terrestrial area whilst ensuring provisions do give effect to the RPS are not inconsistent with the provisions of the NRP for the coastal marine area.</p> <p>Support the non-regulatory direction of the RPS such as through policy 64 to encourage restoration activities.</p>
<p><b>Issue 6</b></p> <p>The risk from coastal hazards needs to be managed</p>	<p>Higher order documents (RMA, NZCPS and RPS) all require the identification of coastal hazards and the recognition and provision for the risks from coastal hazards, while taking into account the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>A framework of objectives, policies and rules has been developed to address coastal hazards. These provisions are included in the Coastal Environment chapter. The evaluation of provisions is included in the evaluation report for Natural Hazards.</p>

# 5 Scale and significance assessment

- (112) In writing this evaluation report we must provide a level of detail that corresponds to the scale and significance of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural effects anticipated from the implementation of the proposal.
- (113) In assessing that scale and significance we have had regard to:

<p><b>Matters of national importance</b></p>	<p>Several matters of national importance (from s6 of the RMA) are relevant for the coastal environment. In particular, the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, but also the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes, protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area and the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.</p>
<p><b>Other matters</b></p>	<p>Other matters from s7 of the RMA have some relevance for the coastal environment, including in relation to kaitiakitanga, ethic of stewardship, use and development of natural and physical resources, amenity values, intrinsic values of ecosystems, the quality of the environment and finite characteristics of natural and physical resources.</p>
<p><b>Degree of change from the operative plan</b></p>	<p>The proposed Coastal Environment chapter would represent a significant change from the operative District Plan as:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is limited policy direction in the operative District Plan for the coastal environment,</li> <li>• The operative District Plan does not identify the landward extent of the coastal environment, and</li> <li>• The operative provisions do not meet the Council's statutory obligations to manage the preservation of coastal natural character.</li> </ul>
<b>Geographic scale of effects</b>	The geographical scale for the Coastal Environment chapter is relatively large, comprising the entire landward extent of the coastal environment (as identified on the planning maps). It would also include provisions that would address ten areas of High or Very High Coastal Natural Character and one area of Outstanding Coastal Natural Character have been identified.
<b>Number of people affected</b>	Given the relatively large size of the coastal environment, and the fact that large areas within the coastal environment are public land, the impacts of the Coastal Environment chapter (negative and positive impacts) would affect a relatively high number of people.
<b>Duration of effects</b>	Timing and duration of effects vary by type and scale of activity, but effects from some activities will be ongoing.
<b>Economic impacts</b>	Economic impacts will vary from site to site, but for some sites there may be added restrictions (or at least consenting requirements) that would impact the range of activities enabled on a site, which would in turn increase the consenting costs associated with undertaking the activity.

<p><b>Social and cultural impacts</b></p>	<p>Social and cultural impacts would vary greatly from site to site, given the wide range of sites that are within the coastal environment. However, the proposed Environment Chapter would interest new regulations for development in some areas, and this may have an adverse effect on the provision of activities that make contribute to social and cultural values where those activities would require resource consent. Conversely, the protection of natural landscapes that can contribute to social and cultural values may have a positive impact.</p>
<p><b>Environmental impacts</b></p>	<p>The proposed provisions introduce additional resource consent requirements for use and development in identified High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas. However, most of the identified areas are located in the remote and rural areas of the coast and are therefore less likely to be subject to additional development intentions.</p>
<p><b>Health and safety impacts</b></p>	<p>The health and safety implications of this topic are low (with coastal hazard risk being addressed through the evaluation report for Natural Hazards).</p>
<p><b>Degree of interest from mana whenua</b></p>	<p>Mana Whenua have a particular interest in the coastal environment, including an interest with many specific sites and areas of significance within the coastal environment, including in Pito One, the area around the mouth of the Hutt River and confluence of the Waiwhetū Stream, and areas around the Eastern Bays and around to Turakirae.</p>
<p><b>Degree of interest from the public</b></p>	<p>There was a relatively high degree of interest from the public during engagement on the Draft District Plan,</p>

	particularly from owners of properties that would be subject to any new regulations that are introduced.
<b>Degree of risk or uncertainty</b>	The degree of risk or uncertainty is low as the approach to protecting identified values in the coastal environment is well understood.

(114) Overall, the scale and significance of the proposed provisions are considered to be **medium to high**, primarily for the following reasons:

- The existing provisions in the operative District Plan do not meet the statutory requirements of the RMA, the NZCPS and the RPS;
- The proposed District Plan provisions present a substantial shift from the status quo – the proposed provisions will identify the coastal environment and areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character and introduce district wide provisions to protect and preserve identified values in these areas; and
- The proposed provisions will introduce a range of new regulatory controls, narrowing the scope of permitted activities and thereby generate an increased requirement for resource consent.

# 6 Proposed District Plan objectives and provisions

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- (115) The proposed provisions relevant to this topic are set out in detail in the proposed District Plan, and should be read in conjunction with this evaluation report.

## 6.1 Overall Approach

- (116) Managing subdivision, use and development within the coastal environment and the effects on identified areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character is primarily guided by the requirements of the NZCPS while taking into consideration the local context of the existing environment. Multiple other overlays are proposed that address the identified values of Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features, the natural character of Coastal and Riparian Margins and the risk from coastal hazards.
- (117) The higher order direction for protecting the natural character of the coastal environment includes section 6 of the RMA, Policy 13 of the NZCPS and Policies 35 and 36 of the RPS. The policy direction acknowledges there is a range of modification along the coastline and when considering character, it is recognised that not all areas are pristine. Therefore, protection when read within the context of the policy wording, acknowledges there may be appropriate subdivision, use and development that could occur.
- (118) As such the RPS directs that activities be managed in a way that is appropriate within the context of the surrounding character. This ranges from sensitive areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character that require a high level of protection to highly modified areas, such as the Petone, Seaview and Gracefield, that have a greater capacity to absorb change. Potential effects of use and development in highly modified areas can be addressed more generally through the underlying

zone provisions which appropriately reflect the established and planned character.

- (119) Further, the policy direction is focused on the effect to the identified character values. As such, there needs to be an ability to determine whether the effect of activities on the identified values is 'appropriate' or not. Protection does not necessarily require avoidance but can be achieved through assessment and management.
- (120) The NZCPS policy direction for identified High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas is to 'avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy or mitigate all other effects' on the identified values. For Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas, the NZCPS requires the avoidance of all adverse effects.
- (121) On this basis a policy direction based on the sensitivity of the spatial overlay is considered appropriate. The key characteristics and values have been recorded for each overlay within a schedule to the PDP which means the effect of any activity within each spatial area can be assessed to determine the impact and whether it is appropriate. This maintains consistency with the higher order direction while enabling the flexibility to assess the scale of effect.

## **6.2 Coastal Environment chapter**

- (122) The following table is a summary of the Coastal Environment chapter, including objectives, policies, rules and standards and associated schedules and map overlays.
- (123) The National Planning Standards require the inclusion of all provisions relating to coastal hazards in the coastal environment chapter. Due to the strong correlation of the coastal hazard provisions with the natural hazard provisions of the Natural Hazards chapter, these are addressed in the evaluation report for Natural Hazards. As a result, this evaluation report focusses solely on the provisions relating to the identification of the coastal environment and protection of identified coastal natural character values. This includes provisions for the coastal environment in other chapters such as provisions for subdivision and earthworks.

<b>Objectives</b>	<p><b>CE-O1 Coastal Environment</b> anticipates that the natural character within the landward extent of the coastal environment is maintained and, where appropriate, restored or enhanced.</p> <p><b>CE-O2 High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas</b> states the expectation that the identified coastal natural character values of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas in the landward extent of the coastal environment are preserved and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</p>
<b>Policies</b>	<p><b>CE-P1 Identification of the Coastal Environment</b> requires the identification and mapping of the coastal environment.</p> <p><b>CE-P2 Identification of Coastal Natural Character Areas</b> requires the identification, listing and mapping of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas within the coastal environment.</p> <p><b>CE-P3 Customary Harvesting in the Coastal Environment</b> allows for customary harvesting by Mana Whenua.</p> <p><b>CE-P4 Restoration of Natural Character in the Coastal Environment</b> provides for appropriate activities to achieve the restoration and rehabilitation of the natural character of the coastal environment.</p> <p><b>CE-P5 Indigenous Vegetation Removal in the Coastal Environment</b> provides a policy framework for the removal of indigenous vegetation in Coastal Natural Character Areas.</p> <p><b>CE-P6 Use and Development in the Coastal Environment</b> provides a policy framework for use and development within the coastal environment.</p> <p><b>CE-P7 Quarrying and Mining Activities and Commercial Forestry in the Coastal Environment</b> requires the avoidance of quarrying, mining and commercial forestry activities in the coastal environment.</p>
<b>Rules</b>	<p><b>LAND USE ACTIVITIES:</b></p> <p><b>CE-R1 Customary Harvesting by Tangata Whenua in the Coastal Environment</b> is a permitted activity.</p> <p><b>CE-R2 Restoration in the Coastal Environment</b> is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a permitted activity where it is located outside of High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas;</li> </ul>



- a permitted activity where it is located within High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas subject to conditions and elevates to restricted discretionary where conditions are not met.

***CE-R3 Indigenous Vegetation Removal in the Coastal Environment*** is:

- a permitted activity where it is located outside of High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas;
- a permitted activity where it is located within High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas subject to conditions;
- a restricted discretionary activity in High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas where it does not comply with permitted standards; and
- a discretionary or non-complying activity in Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas where it does not comply with standards, depending on the non-compliance.

***CE-R4 New Land Use Activities in the Coastal Environment*** are:

- a permitted activity where located outside of High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas;
- a discretionary activity where located within High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas; and
- a non-complying activity where located within Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas.

***CE-R5 Extension of Existing Quarrying and Mining Activities and Commercial Forestry and New Quarrying and Mining Activities and Commercial Forestry in the Coastal Environment*** are:

- non-complying activities where located outside of High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas; and
- prohibited activities where located within Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas.

**BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES:**

***CE-R6 Maintenance, Repair, Alteration or Demolition of Existing Buildings and Structures in the Coastal Environment*** are permitted activities.

***CE-R7 New Farming Fences in the Coastal Environment*** are:

- permitted activities in rural zones where located outside of High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>permitted activities where located within High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas subject to conditions and elevate to restricted discretionary where conditions are not met; and</li> <li>discretionary activities where located within outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas.</li> </ul> <p><b>CE-R8 Additions to existing Buildings and Structures in the Coastal Environment</b> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>permitted activities where located outside of High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas;</li> <li>permitted activities where located within High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas subject to conditions and elevate to restricted discretionary where conditions are not met; and</li> <li>non-complying activities where located within Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas.</li> </ul> <p><b>CE-R9 New Buildings and Structures in the Coastal Environment</b> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>permitted activities where located outside of High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas;</li> <li>restricted discretionary activities where located within High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas subject to conditions and elevate to discretionary where conditions are not met; and</li> <li>non-complying activities where located within Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas.</li> </ul> <p>Non-complying activities under these rules are subject to an additional information requirement to provide an assessment by a suitably qualified landscape architect to assess the proposal against the characteristics and values of the identified Coastal Natural Character Area.</p>
<b>Standards</b>	<p>A set of effects standards that address:</p> <p><b>CE-S1 Additions to existing buildings and structures within High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas:</b> requires compliance with underlying zone provisions and restricts the height and gross floor area of the addition.</p> <p><b>CE-S2 New buildings and structures within High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas:</b> requires compliance with underlying zone provisions, restricts the height and gross floor area of new buildings and structures and prescribes a colour palette for exterior facades and roofs.</p>

<b>Schedules</b>	A schedule of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas listing the identified coastal natural character values and providing a description of the coastal terrestrial area context (SCHED5).
<b>Maps</b>	<p>A spatial overlay shown on the district plan maps identifying the landward extent of the coastal environment.</p> <p>A spatial overlay shown on the district plan maps for each High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area with a reference corresponding to the schedule.</p>

- (124) The proposed policy framework takes a balanced approach to the protection of identified natural character values in the coastal environment by firstly mapping the landward extent of the coastal environment and secondly identifying any areas of High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character within it and recording the characteristics and values for each area. All activities not identified as permitted within an identified Coastal Natural Character Area must be assessed in terms of their effect on the identified coastal character values. However, the policies do recognise that some activities will have no discernible or long term adverse effects and encourage or provide for such activities.

### **6.2.1 The landward extent of the coastal environment**

- (125) The landward extent of the coastal environment has been identified in accordance with NZCPS Policy 1(2) and identifies the part of the coast where *'coastal processes, influences or qualities are significant'*..

### **6.2.2 Vegetation Removal**

- (126) The character assessment for the identification of Coastal Natural Character Areas identifies indigenous vegetation coverage as one of the factors in the character assessment of coastal environment and recognises indigenous vegetation as contributing to the overall value of High Coastal Natural Character Areas. Accordingly, indigenous vegetation removal is regulated through the proposed provisions. Indigenous vegetation removal outside of identified Coastal Natural Character Areas

is permitted (but may be subject to underlying zone specific vegetation clearance rules). Within High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas the removal of indigenous vegetation is permitted up to 50m<sup>2</sup> per 12 month contiguous period and in certain circumstances. In Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas there is no general permitted area standard and indigenous vegetation clearance is only permitted for a very limited number of circumstances.

### **6.2.3 Restoration and maintenance activities**

- (127) Consistent with the higher order direction of the NZCPS and RPS, the proposed Coastal Environment chapter includes a policy that supports restoration activities within the coastal environment and a permitted activity rule that provides for activities associated with conservation and restoration efforts including enhancement planting of indigenous vegetation, pest control or in accordance with Reserve Management Plans. When the standards are not met then the activities elevate to a restricted discretionary status. The matters of discretion are restricted to those included within policy CE-P4.

### **6.2.4 Land use activities**

- (128) New land use activities within the coastal environment but outside of Coastal Natural Character Areas are primarily regulated through the underlying zone provisions. These zone provisions are considered sufficient to control development in the coastal environment.
- (129) New land use activities within the identified Coastal Natural Character Areas however can have adverse effects on the identified values and are therefore classified as discretionary activities if located in High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas or as non-complying activities if located in an Outstanding Coastal Natural Character area. This is in alignment with the requirements of the NZCPS to avoid adverse effects of activities on Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas and to avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities on High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas.

## **6.2.5 Quarrying activities, Mining activities and Commercial forestry**

- (130) The extension of existing quarrying, mining and commercial forestry activities as well as new quarrying and mining activities and new commercial forestry anywhere in the landward extent of the coastal environment are non-complying activities. If located within High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas these activities are prohibited.
- (131) This approach recognises that these activities would have permanent significant adverse effects on the natural character values of the coastal environment and is consistent with the higher order direction to protect areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character from inappropriate use and development.
- (132) The National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry include a number of regulations managing the effects of forestry especially on Significant Natural Areas and Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features. The proposed provisions discourage the extension of existing commercial forestry and the establishment of new commercial forestry within the coastal environment but outside of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character areas by identifying such activities as non-complying. Within High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas the extension of existing commercial forestry and the establishment of new commercial forestry are prohibited activities. This is provided for by the regulations which enable rules in the plan to be more stringent where they protect matters in accordance with the NZCPS, including Policy 13 (coastal character).

## **6.2.6 Buildings and structures**

- (133) The maintenance, repair, alteration and demolition of existing buildings and structures within the coastal environment are permitted activities, subject to the underlying zone provisions.
- (134) Additions to existing buildings and structures and new buildings and structures within the coastal environment but outside of Coastal Natural Character Areas are primarily regulated through the underlying zone

provisions. These zone provisions are generally considered sufficient to control built development in the coastal environment.

- (135) New farming fences in rural zones are generally permitted where they are located outside of identified Coastal Natural Character Areas. They are also permitted within identified High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas where they comply with certain conditions or otherwise elevate to a restricted discretionary activity. New fences within Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas are a discretionary activity. This generally provides for ongoing farming activities of legally established farms that are expected to have limited effects on the identified values.
- (136) Additions to existing buildings and structures within the identified Coastal Natural Character Areas can have adverse effects on the identified values. If located in a High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Area they are permitted up to a maximum height of 5m and a maximum GFA of 50m<sup>2</sup> every 5 years, and elevate to restricted discretionary in case of non-compliance with these standards. Any additions to existing buildings and structures within in an Outstanding Coastal Natural Character area are non-complying activities.
- (137) New built development within the identified Coastal Natural Character Areas can also have adverse effects on the identified values and is therefore classified as a restricted discretionary or discretionary activity if located in a High or Very High Coastal Natural Character area. If located in an Outstanding Coastal Natural Character area any new building or structure is a non-complying activity.
- (138) The proposed standards relating to building height, building size and the use of visually recessive colours from the prescribed colour chart (British Standard colour chart BS5252) for external facades ensure that the buildings or structures will not dominant or detract from form the identified costal natural character values.
- (139) This approach is in alignment with the requirements of the NZCPS to avoid adverse effects of activities on Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas and to avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities on High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas.

- (140) Buildings and structures in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes in the coastal environment are managed through the provisions of the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter.
- (141) Buildings and structures in coastal margins are managed through the provisions of the Natural Character chapter.

## **6.2.7 Non-notification Clauses**

- (142) Inclusion of non-notification clauses has been considered but found to be inappropriate since activities and non-compliances with standards that trigger the need for a resource consent may have wider adverse effects and affected parties may not be easily determined. Therefore, no public or limited notification preclusion clauses have been applied to any of the coastal environment provisions.

## **6.3 Proposed provisions in other chapters**

### **6.3.1 Infrastructure**

- (143) The provisions relating to infrastructure within the coastal environment are located in the Infrastructure chapter. The proposed policies and rules recognise and provide for the ongoing operation, maintenance and repair of existing network infrastructure where located within the coastal environment.
- (144) The effects of the upgrading of existing infrastructure and new infrastructure is managed through policies and rules that allow for an assessment of the effects on identified values.

### **6.3.2 Subdivision**

- (145) The provisions relating to subdivision in the coastal environment are located in the Subdivision chapter.
- (146) Subdivision provides for additional development potential which is enabled by the permitted land use provisions of the underlying zone. It can enable sprawl of development along the coast which is discouraged by the NZCPS. The impact of such development can also have adverse

effects on the identified characteristics and values of the coastal natural character overlay through an intensified pattern of development.

<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p><b><i>SUB-O2 Subdivision design</i></b> refers to the provision for and protection of identified natural and coastal environment values.</p>
<p><b>Policy</b></p>	<p><b><i>SUB-P21 Subdivision of land within the coastal environment</i></b> contains a policy framework for subdivision within the coastal environment that generally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provides for subdivision in the coastal environment outside of identified Coastal Natural Character Areas where it does not establish new urban sprawl;</li> <li>• only allows for subdivision within High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas where adverse effects can be managed appropriately in accordance with NZCPS requirements; and</li> <li>• avoids subdivision within Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas unless adverse effects on identified values can be avoided.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rules</b></p>	<p><b><i>SUB-R11 Subdivision of land within the coastal environment</i></b> is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a controlled activity where located outside of High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas;</li> <li>• a controlled activity in the Medium and High Density Residential Zones where located within a High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Area and any building platforms and access are located outside the character areas;</li> <li>• a restricted discretionary activity in all other zones where located within a High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Area and any building platforms and access are located outside the character areas;</li> <li>• a discretionary activity where building platforms and/or access are proposed within a High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Area; and</li> <li>• a non-complying activity where the land is within the Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Area.</li> </ul>



### 6.3.3 Earthworks

- (147) The provisions relating to earthworks in the coastal environment are located in the Earthworks chapter.
- (148) Earthworks are permitted in all zones within the coastal environment in accordance with the underlying zone standards. Within the more sensitive High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas stricter permitted standards apply to earthworks. However, there is a more permissive pathway for earthworks for public walking and cycling tracks and farming tracks. Within Outstanding Natural Character Areas earthworks should be avoided unless any adverse effects on identified values can be avoided.

<b>Objective</b>	<p><b><i>EW-O1 Earthworks</i></b> requires earthworks to be undertaken in a manner that minimises adverse effects on the natural environment, including changes to natural landforms.</p>
<b>Policy</b>	<p><b><i>EW-P13 Earthworks within High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas</i></b> contains a policy framework for earthworks within High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas that generally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allows for minor earthworks and earthworks for walking, cycling and farming tracks in High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas;</li> <li>• provides for earthworks within High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas where they are of an appropriate scale;</li> <li>• only allows for any other earthworks within High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas where adverse effects can be managed appropriately in accordance with NZCPS requirements; and</li> <li>• avoids earthworks within Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas unless adverse effects on identified values can be avoided.</li> <li>• requires all earthworks to restore and rehabilitate disturbed areas, minimise changes to landforms and provide for cultural and spiritual practices.</li> </ul>
<b>Rules</b>	<p><b><i>EW-R13 Earthworks within High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas</i></b> are:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a permitted activity where they are for the maintenance of walking, cycling and farming tracks or are minor earthworks;</li> <li>• a controlled activity where they are for new farming tracks in Rural Zones or new walking and cycling tracks in Open Space and Recreation Zones;</li> <li>• a restricted discretionary activity for any other earthworks that comply with specific standards;</li> <li>• a discretionary activity where they don't comply with specific standards with the requirement of an assessment by a suitably qualified landscape architect.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>EW-R14 Earthworks within Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas</i></b> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a discretionary activity where they are for the maintenance of walking, cycling and farming tracks or are minor earthworks and comply with specific standards;</li> <li>• a non-complying activity for all other earthworks.</li> </ul> <p>Any non-complying activities under these rules are subject to an additional information requirement to provide an assessment by a suitably qualified landscape architect to assess the proposal against the characteristics and values of the identified Coastal Natural Character Area.</p>
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### 6.3.4 Renewable Electricity Generation

The provisions relating to renewable electricity generation within the coastal environment are located in the Renewable Electricity Generation (REG) chapter and include resource consent requirements for new renewable electricity generation activities and investigation activities within High, Very High and Outstanding Natural Coastal Character Areas.

# 7 Evaluation of objectives

- (149) This section is the evaluation of objectives, as required through s32(1)(a) of the RMA.
- (150) An objective is a statement of what is to be achieved through the resolution of a particular resource management issue. A district plan objective should set out a desired end state to be achieved through the implementation of policies and rules.
- (151) Under s75(1)(a) of the Resource Management Act, a district plan must state the objectives for the district.
- (152) Under s32(1)(a) of the Resource Management Act, an evaluation report required under the Act must examine the extent to which the objectives of the proposal being evaluated are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA. The purpose of the RMA, as stated in s5(1) of the Act, is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.
- (153) For the purposes of this evaluation, the Council has considered the proposed objectives, the relevant status quo objectives, and other reasonably practicable alternatives.

<b>Evaluation of Objectives</b>
<b>Proposed Objectives</b>
<p><b>CE-01 Coastal environment</b></p> <p><i>The natural character within the landward extent of the coastal environment is maintained and, where appropriate, restored or enhanced.</i></p> <p><b>CE-02 High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas</b></p> <p><i>The identified characteristics and values of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas in the landward extent of the coastal environment are preserved and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i></p>

<b>Relevance</b>	
Addresses a relevant resource management issue	Yes – the proposed objectives address the relevant resource management issues for the coastal environment identified in this report.
Assists the Council to undertake its functions under s31 RMA	Yes – the objectives are consistent with s31(1)(a), as they require the management of effects of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources.
Gives effect to higher level documents	Yes – the objectives give effect to higher order legislation and documents, including section 6(a) RMA (which requires the <i>'preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment... and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development'</i> ), policies 1, 6 and 13 of the NZCPS and policies 3, 4, 35 and 36 of the RPS.
<b>Usefulness</b>	
Guides decision-making	Yes – the objectives provide clear guidance regarding the anticipated protection of the coastal environment in general and identified areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character in particular and will guide decision making through the resource consent process under s104.
<b>Reasonableness</b>	
Will not impose unjustifiably high costs on the community/parts of the community	Yes – while some additional costs may occur due to additional resource consent requirements, the clearly articulated expectations regarding the protection of identified Coastal Natural Character Areas, the management of adverse effects and the provision for certain activities will provide certainty around expected outcomes. Any additional costs that may occur are justifiable in the context of addressing an identified resource management issue.
Acceptable level of uncertainty and risk	Yes – the proposed objectives clearly describe the outcomes sought and thereby provide for greater certainty and reduce the risk compared to the current provisions. The proposed approach is well established and in line with other district plans of the Wellington region.

<b>Achievability</b>	
Realistically able to be achieved within the Council's powers, skills and resources	Yes – The proposed objectives are achievable within Council's powers, skills and resources by implementing the associated policies and rules that are proposed.
<b>Other Potential Objectives:</b>	
<b>Operative District Plan Objectives – Status Quo</b>	
<p>The status quo objectives of the operative District Plan that relate to the coastal environment mostly refer to the protection of natural character and amenity values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</p> <p>The status quo objectives do not specifically relate to or address identified coastal natural character and do not fully align with or give effect to higher order guidance. They do not provide sufficient guidance to decision makers and the public on expected outcomes and therefore create uncertainty and risk.</p> <p><i>No other objectives or variations of the proposed objectives have been considered because the higher order guidance is very directive and specific.</i></p>	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>The above analysis shows that the proposed objectives are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA when compared to the status quo.</p> <p>The proposed objectives address identified resource management issues and are in line with current practice in other parts of the Wellington region. They implement and give effect to national and regional guidance and direction (s5, s6 and s7 of the RMA, the relevant policies of the NZCPS and the RPS) by describing the intention to maintain and, where appropriate, restore or enhance the natural character of the coastal environment. They also require the preservation and protection of identified characteristics and values of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas from inappropriate subdivision, use and development and thereby provide greater certainty to decision makers and plan users regarding the desired outcomes.</p> <p>The existing operative District Plan objectives do not reflect or give effect to higher level direction and do not provide certainty and guidance to decision makers and plan users.</p>	

## 8 Evaluation of Policies and Rules

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- (154) Policies and rules implement, or give effect to, the objectives of a plan.
- (155) Policies of a district plan are the course of action to achieve or implement the plan's objective (i.e. the path to be followed to achieve a certain, specified, environmental outcome). Rules of a district plan implement the plan's policies, and have the force and effect of a regulation.
- (156) Under s32(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act, an evaluation report required under the Act must examine whether the provisions in the proposal are the most appropriate way to achieve the objectives by –
- (i) identifying other reasonably practicable options for achieving the objectives; and*
  - (ii) assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions in achieving the objectives; and*
  - (iii) summarising the reasons for deciding on the provisions.*
- (157) Under s32(2) of the Resource Management Act, the assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions must:
- (a) identify and assess the benefits and costs of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the provisions, including the opportunities for –*
    - (i) economic growth that are anticipated to be provided or reduced; and*
    - (ii) employment that are anticipated to be provided or reduced; and*

- (b) *if practicable, quantify the benefits and costs referred to in paragraph (a); and*
- (c) *assess the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions.*

### **Quantification of benefits and costs**

- (158) Section 32(2)(b) requires that, where practicable, the benefits and costs of a proposal are to be quantified.
- (159) Based on the assessment of the scale and significance of the proposed provisions above, specific quantification of the benefits and costs in this report could be beneficial. However, specific quantification of the benefits and costs beyond the information and evidence outlined in this report is not readily available or practicable at a detailed level. As such, a qualitative approach has been undertaken when considering the potential costs and benefits associated with this proposal and, where relevant, in the assessment of policies, rules and other methods contained in this report.

### **Risk of acting / not acting if information is uncertain or insufficient**

- (160) Under Section 32(2)(c) of the RMA, the assessment of efficiency and effectiveness of provisions must include an assessment of the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions.
- (161) There is certain and sufficient information on which to assess the proposed provisions as they have been created in response to higher order direction, are well understood and reflect existing practice in the Wellington region.
- (162) The landward extent of the coastal environment and the areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character have been identified by experts using established criteria and assessment methods.
- (163) The proposed provisions have been consulted on and have been refined to address key issues raised during consultation.

## Evaluation of policies and rules to implement Objectives CE-01 and CE-02

### OBJECTIVES

#### **CE-01: Coastal Environment**

*The natural character within the landward extent of the coastal environment is maintained and, where appropriate, restored or enhanced.*

#### **CE-02: High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas**

*The identified characteristics and values of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas in the landward extent of the coastal environment are preserved and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.*

### POLICIES

CE-P1: Identification of the Coastal Environment

CE-P2: Identification of Coastal Natural Character Areas

CE-P3: Customary Harvesting in the coastal environment

CE-P4: Restoration of Natural Character in the Coastal Environment

CE-P5: Vegetation Removal in the Coastal Environment

CE-P6: Use and Development in the Coastal Environment

CE-P7: Mining, Quarrying and Commercial Forestry Activities in the Coastal Environment

### RULES AND STANDARDS

CE-R1: Customary Harvesting by Tangata Whenua in the Coastal Environment

CE-R2: Restoration in the Coastal Environment

CE-R3: Vegetation Removal in the Coastal Environment

CE-R4: Land Use Activities in the Coastal Environment

CE-R5: New Quarrying and Mining Activities and New Commercial Forestry in the Coastal Environment

CE-R7: New, Alteration of or Addition to Buildings and Structures in the Coastal Environment

CE-S1: Vegetation trimming or removal within High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas

CE-S2: Construction, addition or alteration of buildings and structures within High or Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas



CE-R6: Maintenance, Repair and Demolition of Existing Buildings and Structures in the Coastal Environment	Provisions in the Infrastructure, Earthworks, Subdivision and Renewable Electricity Generation chapters
<b>Efficiency and effectiveness</b>	
<b>Costs</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
<p><b>Environmental</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be little to no environmental cost as the provisions are focused on preserving natural character within the coastal environment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is expected that there will be some small to moderate increase in the consenting and development design costs associated with the provisions managing subdivision, use and development, in particular within identified High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas.</li> <li>• Some landowners within a coastal natural character overlay may experience additional regulatory costs for new buildings, vegetation removal or earthworks within the overlay areas where these don't comply with standards.</li> <li>• There may be perceived and actual opportunity cost where a development expectation is held for the land within a coastal natural character overlay. However, the underlying zone usually limits development potential in affected areas.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Environmental</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration projects are supported with permitted standards to encourage ongoing rehabilitation.</li> <li>• The areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character within the coastal environment are clearly identified and protected from further encroachment or loss through inappropriate subdivision, use or development.</li> <li>• Future generations will benefit from the protection and retention of the remaining areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character.</li> <li>• Potentially inappropriate activities will be managed through the resource consent process to ensure environmental effects are assessed against the impact to the identified values instead of relying on indirect protection and lack of identification.</li> <li>• The coastal environment is protected from the adverse effects of new commercial forestry.</li> </ul>

- New mining and commercial forestry activities anywhere in the coastal environment will experience additional consenting and project costs.

**Social**

- It is unlikely the provisions will result in any discernible social cost given the provisions are focused on protecting the natural character of the coastal environment which in turn contributes to the amenity of the coastal environment and supports the enjoyment of some of these areas by the public

**Cultural**

- The proposed provisions may result in additional consenting costs and constrain the extent of development where Māori owned land is located within the High natural character area overlay or coastal and riparian margins.

- The coastal environment is protected from extractive industries including quarrying or mining which have permanent effects on the natural character.

**Economic**

- Most activities within the coastal environment but outside of identified Coastal Natural Character Areas are still provided for as long as they comply with underlying zone provisions and other district wide provisions.
- Within High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas some activities that are appropriate and do not adversely affect natural character values are provided for. However most new activities will be discretionary activities to allow for the management of adverse effects.
- New land use activities within Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas are non-complying activities to ensure that any adverse effects on the identified values can be avoided.
- Large areas of land within the High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas are publicly owned and managed by Hutt City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Department of Conservation, and are in the Natural Open Space Zone. There are very limited or no development expectations for

these areas. The proposed provisions therefore do not create an economic loss or cost in these areas.

**Social**

- Existing areas within the coastal environment that are accessible to the public will be protected and continue to support social benefits and enjoyment of coastal character.
- Provisions recognise the social benefits of public access tracks with maintenance of tracks supported through the provisions.
- The balanced approach of still providing for activities and development in the coastal environment where appropriate and where effects can be managed provides social benefits.

**Cultural**

- Natural resources within the coastal environment valued as taonga by tangata whenua will be recognised and protected.
- The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are incorporated into the provisions through the principles of kaitiakitanga and recording of tangata whenua values within ONFL in the coastal environment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationship of tangata whenua and traditional cultural practices are recognised and provided for through permissive standards for cultural harvesting.</li> <li>• The balanced approach of still providing for activities and development in the coastal environment where appropriate and where effects can be managed provides cultural benefits.</li> </ul>
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**Overall effectiveness and efficiency**

The proposed provisions are the most appropriate method of meeting the objectives for the coastal environment. The objectives are focused on maintaining, restoring and enhancing the natural character within the coastal environment, and on preserving and protecting the identified characteristics and values of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. The objectives give clear direction on the anticipated outcomes and the proposed policies and rules provide a practical and balanced framework to achieve these outcomes by providing stronger protection for identified values, while enabling appropriate subdivision, use and development outside these areas.

The proposed provisions are the most efficient method of meeting the objectives for the coastal environment. They avoid broad regulatory controls within highly modified areas while focusing on the management of adverse effects within the identified overlay areas. The evaluation above confirms that the benefits of the proposed provisions outweigh the costs.

**Other reasonably practicable options for achieving the objectives**

**Status Quo**

The limited status quo provisions relating to the protection of the coastal environment do not provide an adequate policy and rule framework to achieve the level of protection for identified areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character that is required by higher order guidance or anticipated by the proposed objectives.

**Apply more restrictive rules in the coastal environment outside of Coastal Natural Character Areas**

The introduction of more restrictive provisions that apply to the landward extent of the coastal environment in general (outside of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character areas) has been considered. However these areas are generally moderately or highly modified and the maintenance of any remaining natural character within these areas can be achieved through the underlying zone provisions. The introduction of additional rules and requirements would result in additional consenting requirements for a large number of properties that, while being located in the landward extent of the CE have been assessed as having very low, low or moderate coastal natural character values.

**Introduce site specific provisions for certain sites**

The introduction of site specific provisions for certain properties in the High or Very High Coastal Natural Character areas has been considered. These site specific provisions would respond to identified issues and opportunities and provide a tailored framework for individual sites. However, such site specific provisions would still need to achieve the required protection of identified values and would therefore need to be very detailed and ultimately provide less flexibility and ability to manage adverse effects. Any assessment and evaluation of potential adverse effects on identified values of these would need to be undertaken at this stage. It is therefore considered to be more appropriate to consider future use and development within the underlying zone framework and assess any related effects on identified values through the resource consent pathway provided by the chapter.

**Overall evaluation**

- The proposed policies, rules and standards are the most appropriate way to achieve the preferred objectives when compared to the status quo or alternative options. They are effective and efficient and provide regulatory certainty. They

achieve positive environmental outcomes and enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being.

- The proposed provisions ensure that:
  - The natural character of the coastal environment is maintained and where possible enhanced;
  - The identified values in High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas are preserved and protected; and
  - Tangata whenua are able to exercise customary harvesting.
- The framework enables appropriate activities, manages potentially inappropriate activities and avoids inappropriate activities.
- The proposed provisions will limit some use and development in identified areas unless adverse effects can be managed appropriately. The resulting additional costs are outweighed by the environmental, social and cultural benefits.
- The proposed provisions align with and give effect to higher order documents and legislation.

## 9 Summary

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(164) This evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with section 32 of the RMA in order to identify the need, the benefits and costs and the appropriateness of the proposal and having regard to its effectiveness and efficiency relative to other means in achieving the purpose of the RMA. The evaluation demonstrates that this proposal is the most appropriate option as it:

- Best gives effect to higher order documents, including section 6 of the RMA, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, the Regional Policy Statement and the National Planning Standards;
- Is the most effective and efficient way to achieve the purpose of the Act and the strategic objectives of the Proposed District Plan;
- Reduces uncertainty when compared to the status quo and other options considered, through clear definitions supported by a balanced policy and rule framework; and
- Addresses the identified resource management issues by identifying the landward extent of the coastal environment and identifying and protection areas of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character.

# 10 Attachments

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Appendix 1: New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

Appendix 2: Full Wording of relevant objectives and policies of the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region and Proposed RPS Change 1

Appendix 3: Full Wording of relevant objectives and policies of the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region and Proposed NRP Change 1

FINAL DRAFT



# New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010



# New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

This New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement was issued  
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# Preamble

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) is a national policy statement under the Resource Management Act 1991 ('the Act'). The purpose of the NZCPS is to state policies in order to achieve the purpose of the Act in relation to the coastal environment of New Zealand.

The coastal environment has characteristics, qualities and uses that mean there are particular challenges in promoting sustainable management:

- the coastal environment varies in nature and extent around the country;
- most existing towns and cities are in or close to a coastal location;
- the coastal environment contains established infrastructure connecting New Zealand internally and internationally such as ports, airports, railways, roads and submarine cables;
- natural and physical resources important to the economic and social wellbeing of the nation and communities, such as high quality coastal water, fresh water, renewable energy, and minerals are found within the coastal environment, including in areas with high natural character, landscape and amenity values;
- the natural and recreational attributes of the coast and its attraction as a place to live and visit combine with an increasingly affluent and mobile society to place growing pressure on coastal space and other resources;
- activities inland can have a major impact on coastal water quality;
- activities in the coastal environment are susceptible to the effects of natural hazards such as coastal erosion and tsunamis, and those associated with climate change;
- there is continuing and growing demand for coastal space and resources for commercial activities as diverse as aquaculture and sand mining; and
- the coast has particular importance to tangata whenua, including as kaitiaki.

The coastal environment is facing the following key issues:

- the ability to manage activities in the coastal environment is hindered by a lack of understanding about some coastal processes and the effects of activities on them;
- loss of natural character, landscape values and wild or scenic areas along extensive areas of the coast, particularly in areas closer to population centres or accessible for rural residential development;
- continuing decline in species, habitats and ecosystems in the coastal environment under pressures from subdivision and use, vegetation clearance, loss of intertidal areas, plant and animal pests, poor water quality, and sedimentation in estuaries and the coastal marine area;
- demand for coastal sites for infrastructure uses (including energy generation) and for aquaculture to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of people and communities;
- poor and declining coastal water quality in many areas as a consequence of point and diffuse sources of contamination, including stormwater and wastewater discharges;
- adverse effects of poor water quality on aquatic life and opportunities for aquaculture, mahinga kai gathering and recreational uses such as swimming and kayaking;
- loss of natural, built and cultural heritage from subdivision, use, and development;

- compromising of the open space and recreational values of the coastal environment, including the potential for permanent and physically accessible walking public access to and along the coastal marine area;
- continuing coastal erosion and other natural hazards that will be exacerbated by climate change and which will increasingly threaten existing infrastructure, public access and other coastal values as well as private property; and
- the use of vehicles on beaches causing ecological damage and creating conflicts with other recreational uses and values of the coastal environment.

For the coastal environment of the Hauraki Gulf, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 requires that sections 7 and 8 of that Act must be treated as a New Zealand coastal policy statement issued under the Act. Section 10(2) of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 states that if there is a conflict between sections 7 and 8 and the provisions of the NZCPS, the NZCPS prevails.

# Application of this policy statement

This NZCPS is to be applied as required by the Act by persons exercising functions and powers under the Act. The Act itself should be consulted, but at the time of gazettal of this statement, its requirements in relation to this NZCPS are, in summary, that:

- regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans must give effect to this NZCPS (sections 62(3), 67(3)(b), 75(3)(b) refer);
- local authorities must amend regional policy statements, proposed regional policy statements, plans, proposed plans, and variations to give effect to NZCPS provisions that affect these documents as soon as practicable, using the process set out in Schedule 1 of the Act except where this NZCPS directs otherwise (section 55 refers);
- a consent authority, when considering an application for a resource consent and any submissions received, must, subject to Part 2 of the Act, have regard to, amongst other things, any relevant provisions of this NZCPS (section 104(1)(b)(iv) refers);
- when considering a requirement for a designation and any submissions received, a territorial authority must, subject to Part 2 of the Act, consider the effects on the environment of allowing the requirement, having particular regard to, amongst other things, any relevant provisions of this NZCPS (sections 168A(3)(a)(ii) and 171(1)(a)(ii) refer);
- when considering a requirement for a heritage order, a territorial authority must, subject to Part 2 of the Act, in addition to having regard to certain matters, have particular regard to, amongst other things, all relevant provisions of this NZCPS (section 191(1)(d) refers);
- in considering an application for a water conservation order, a special tribunal, in addition to having particular regard to certain matters, must have regard to, amongst other things, the relevant provisions of this NZCPS (section 207(c) refers);
- in conducting an inquiry in respect of the report of a special tribunal on an application for a water conservation order, the Environment Court, in addition to having particular regard to certain matters, must have regard to, amongst other things, the relevant provisions of this NZCPS (section 212(b) refers).



# Interpretation

In this NZCPS:

- numbering of objectives and policies is solely for convenience and is not to be interpreted as an indication of relative importance; and
- section and policy headings indicate general subject matter and are relevant to the interpretation of objectives and policies.

Where bullet points in an objective or clauses in a policy take the form of a list:

- where the list is cumulative, the word 'and' is used before the last clause in the list; and
- where clauses are alternative, the word 'or' is used between all clauses.

Definitions contained in the Act are not repeated in the Glossary.

# Objectives

## Objective 1

To safeguard the integrity, form, functioning and resilience of the coastal environment and sustain its ecosystems, including marine and intertidal areas, estuaries, dunes and land, by:

- maintaining or enhancing natural biological and physical processes in the coastal environment and recognising their dynamic, complex and interdependent nature;
- protecting representative or significant natural ecosystems and sites of biological importance and maintaining the diversity of New Zealand's indigenous coastal flora and fauna; and
- maintaining coastal water quality, and enhancing it where it has deteriorated from what would otherwise be its natural condition, with significant adverse effects on ecology and habitat, because of discharges associated with human activity.

## Objective 2

To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and protect natural features and landscape values through:

- recognising the characteristics and qualities that contribute to natural character, natural features and landscape values and their location and distribution;
- identifying those areas where various forms of subdivision, use, and development would be inappropriate and protecting them from such activities; and
- encouraging restoration of the coastal environment.

## Objective 3

To take account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, recognise the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki and provide for tangata whenua involvement in management of the coastal environment by:

- recognising the ongoing and enduring relationship of tangata whenua over their lands, rohe and resources;
- promoting meaningful relationships and interactions between tangata whenua and persons exercising functions and powers under the Act;
- incorporating mātauranga Māori into sustainable management practices; and
- recognising and protecting characteristics of the coastal environment that are of special value to tangata whenua.

## Objective 4

To maintain and enhance the public open space qualities and recreation opportunities of the coastal environment by:

- recognising that the coastal marine area is an extensive area of public space for the public to use and enjoy;
- maintaining and enhancing public walking access to and along the coastal marine area without charge, and where there are exceptional reasons that mean this is not practicable providing alternative linking access close to the coastal marine area; and
- recognising the potential for coastal processes, including those likely to be affected by climate change, to restrict access to the coastal environment and the need to ensure that public access is maintained even when the coastal marine area advances inland.

### **Objective 5**

To ensure that coastal hazard risks taking account of climate change, are managed by:

- locating new development away from areas prone to such risks;
- considering responses, including managed retreat, for existing development in this situation; and
- protecting or restoring natural defences to coastal hazards.

### **Objective 6**

To enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety, through subdivision, use, and development, recognising that:

- the protection of the values of the coastal environment does not preclude use and development in appropriate places and forms, and within appropriate limits;
- some uses and developments which depend upon the use of natural and physical resources in the coastal environment are important to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities;
- functionally some uses and developments can only be located on the coast or in the coastal marine area;
- the coastal environment contains renewable energy resources of significant value;
- the protection of habitats of living marine resources contributes to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities;
- the potential to protect, use, and develop natural and physical resources in the coastal marine area should not be compromised by activities on land;
- the proportion of the coastal marine area under any formal protection is small and therefore management under the Act is an important means by which the natural resources of the coastal marine area can be protected; and
- historic heritage in the coastal environment is extensive but not fully known, and vulnerable to loss or damage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

### **Objective 7**

To ensure that management of the coastal environment recognises and provides for New Zealand's international obligations regarding the coastal environment, including the coastal marine area.

# Policies

## Policy 1 Extent and characteristics of the coastal environment

- (1) Recognise that the extent and characteristics of the coastal environment vary from region to region and locality to locality; and the issues that arise may have different effects in different localities.
- (2) Recognise that the coastal environment includes:
  - (a) the coastal marine area;
  - (b) islands within the coastal marine area;
  - (c) areas where coastal processes, influences or qualities are significant, including coastal lakes, lagoons, tidal estuaries, saltmarshes, coastal wetlands, and the margins of these;
  - (d) areas at risk from coastal hazards;
  - (e) coastal vegetation and the habitat of indigenous coastal species including migratory birds;
  - (f) elements and features that contribute to the natural character, landscape, visual qualities or amenity values;
  - (g) items of cultural and historic heritage in the coastal marine area or on the coast;
  - (h) inter-related coastal marine and terrestrial systems, including the intertidal zone; and
  - (i) physical resources and built facilities, including infrastructure, that have modified the coastal environment.

## Policy 2 The Treaty of Waitangi, tangata whenua and Māori heritage

In taking account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi), and kaitiakitanga, in relation to the coastal environment:

- (a) recognise that tangata whenua have traditional and continuing cultural relationships with areas of the coastal environment, including places where they have lived and fished for generations;
- (b) involve iwi authorities or hapū on behalf of tangata whenua in the preparation of regional policy statements, and plans, by undertaking effective consultation with tangata whenua; with such consultation to be early, meaningful, and as far as practicable in accordance with tikanga Māori;
- (c) with the consent of tangata whenua and as far as practicable in accordance with tikanga Māori, incorporate mātauranga Māori<sup>1</sup> in regional policy statements, in plans, and in the consideration of applications for resource consents, notices of requirement for designation and private plan changes;
- (d) provide opportunities in appropriate circumstances for Māori involvement in decision making, for example when a consent application or notice of requirement is dealing with cultural localities or issues of cultural significance, and Māori experts, including pūkenga<sup>2</sup>, may have knowledge not otherwise available;
- (e) take into account any relevant iwi resource management plan and any other relevant planning document recognised by the appropriate iwi authority or hapū

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<sup>1</sup> Mātauranga Māori: as defined in the Glossary.

<sup>2</sup> Pūkenga: as defined in the Glossary.

and lodged with the council, to the extent that its content has a bearing on resource management issues in the region or district; and

- (i) where appropriate incorporate references to, or material from, iwi resource management plans in regional policy statements and in plans; and
  - (ii) consider providing practical assistance to iwi or hapū who have indicated a wish to develop iwi resource management plans;
- (f) provide for opportunities for tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga over waters, forests, lands, and fisheries in the coastal environment through such measures as:
- (i) bringing cultural understanding to monitoring of natural resources;
  - (ii) providing appropriate methods for the management, maintenance and protection of the taonga of tangata whenua;
  - (iii) having regard to regulations, rules or bylaws relating to ensuring sustainability of fisheries resources such as taiāpure, mahinga mātaītai or other non commercial Māori customary fishing; and
- (g) in consultation and collaboration with tangata whenua, working as far as practicable in accordance with tikanga Māori, and recognising that tangata whenua have the right to choose not to identify places or values of historic, cultural or spiritual significance or special value:
- (i) recognise the importance of Māori cultural and heritage values through such methods as historic heritage, landscape and cultural impact assessments; and
  - (ii) provide for the identification, assessment, protection and management of areas or sites of significance or special value to Māori, including by historic analysis and archaeological survey and the development of methods such as alert layers and predictive methodologies for identifying areas of high potential for undiscovered Māori heritage, for example coastal pā or fishing villages.

### **Policy 3    Precautionary approach**

- (1) Adopt a precautionary approach towards proposed activities whose effects on the coastal environment are uncertain, unknown, or little understood, but potentially significantly adverse.
- (2) In particular, adopt a precautionary approach to use and management of coastal resources potentially vulnerable to effects from climate change, so that:
  - (a) avoidable social and economic loss and harm to communities does not occur;
  - (b) natural adjustments for coastal processes, natural defences, ecosystems, habitat and species are allowed to occur; and
  - (c) the natural character, public access, amenity and other values of the coastal environment meet the needs of future generations.

### **Policy 4    Integration**

Provide for the integrated management of natural and physical resources in the coastal environment, and activities that affect the coastal environment. This requires:

- (a) co-ordinated management or control of activities within the coastal environment, and which could cross administrative boundaries, particularly:
  - (i) the local authority boundary between the coastal marine area and land;
  - (ii) local authority boundaries within the coastal environment, both within the coastal marine area and on land; and
  - (iii) where hapū or iwi boundaries or rohe cross local authority boundaries;

- (b) working collaboratively with other bodies and agencies with responsibilities and functions relevant to resource management, such as where land or waters are held or managed for conservation purposes; and
- (c) particular consideration of situations where:
  - (i) subdivision, use, or development and its effects above or below the line of mean high water springs will require, or is likely to result in, associated use or development that crosses the line of mean high water springs; or
  - (ii) public use and enjoyment of public space in the coastal environment is affected, or is likely to be affected; or
  - (iii) development or land management practices may be affected by physical changes to the coastal environment or potential inundation from coastal hazards, including as a result of climate change; or
  - (iv) land use activities affect, or are likely to affect, water quality in the coastal environment and marine ecosystems through increasing sedimentation; or
  - (v) significant adverse cumulative effects are occurring, or can be anticipated.

**Policy 5 Land or waters managed or held under other Acts**

- (1) Consider effects on land or waters in the coastal environment held or managed under:
  - (a) the Conservation Act 1987 and any Act listed in the 1st Schedule to that Act; or
  - (b) other Acts for conservation or protection purposes;
 and, having regard to the purposes for which the land or waters are held or managed:
  - (c) avoid adverse effects of activities that are significant in relation to those purposes; and
  - (d) otherwise avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of activities in relation to those purposes.
- (2) Have regard to publicly notified proposals for statutory protection of land or waters in the coastal environment and the adverse effects of activities on the purposes of that proposed statutory protection.

**Policy 6 Activities in the coastal environment**

- (1) In relation to the coastal environment:
  - (a) recognise that the provision of infrastructure, the supply and transport of energy including the generation and transmission of electricity, and the extraction of minerals are activities important to the social, economic and cultural well-being of people and communities;
  - (b) consider the rate at which built development and the associated public infrastructure should be enabled to provide for the reasonably foreseeable needs of population growth without compromising the other values of the coastal environment;
  - (c) encourage the consolidation of existing coastal settlements and urban areas where this will contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of sprawling or sporadic patterns of settlement and urban growth;
  - (d) recognise tangata whenua needs for papakāinga<sup>3</sup>, marae and associated developments and make appropriate provision for them;

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<sup>3</sup> Papakāinga: as defined in the Glossary.

- (e) consider where and how built development on land should be controlled so that it does not compromise activities of national or regional importance that have a functional need to locate and operate in the coastal marine area;
  - (f) consider where development that maintains the character of the existing built environment should be encouraged, and where development resulting in a change in character would be acceptable;
  - (g) take into account the potential of renewable resources in the coastal environment, such as energy from wind, waves, currents and tides, to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations;
  - (h) consider how adverse visual impacts of development can be avoided in areas sensitive to such effects, such as headlands and prominent ridgelines, and as far as practicable and reasonable apply controls or conditions to avoid those effects;
  - (i) set back development from the coastal marine area and other water bodies, where practicable and reasonable, to protect the natural character, open space, public access and amenity values of the coastal environment; and
  - (j) where appropriate, buffer areas and sites of significant indigenous biological diversity, or historic heritage value.
- (2) Additionally, in relation to the coastal marine area:
- (a) recognise potential contributions to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities from use and development of the coastal marine area, including the potential for renewable marine energy to contribute to meeting the energy needs of future generations;
  - (b) recognise the need to maintain and enhance the public open space and recreation qualities and values of the coastal marine area;
  - (c) recognise that there are activities that have a functional need to be located in the coastal marine area, and provide for those activities in appropriate places;
  - (d) recognise that activities that do not have a functional need for location in the coastal marine area generally should not be located there; and
  - (e) promote the efficient use of occupied space, including by:
    - (i) requiring that structures be made available for public or multiple use wherever reasonable and practicable;
    - (ii) requiring the removal of any abandoned or redundant structure that has no heritage, amenity or reuse value; and
    - (iii) considering whether consent conditions should be applied to ensure that space occupied for an activity is used for that purpose effectively and without unreasonable delay.

## **Policy 7 Strategic planning**

- (1) In preparing regional policy statements, and plans:
  - (a) consider where, how and when to provide for future residential, rural residential, settlement, urban development and other activities in the coastal environment at a regional and district level, and:
  - (b) identify areas of the coastal environment where particular activities and forms of subdivision, use and development:
    - (i) are inappropriate; and
    - (ii) may be inappropriate without the consideration of effects through a resource consent application, notice of requirement for designation or Schedule 1 of the Act process;
 and provide protection from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development in these areas through objectives, policies and rules.

- (2) Identify in regional policy statements, and plans, coastal processes, resources or values that are under threat or at significant risk from adverse cumulative effects. Include provisions in plans to manage these effects. Where practicable, in plans, set thresholds (including zones, standards or targets), or specify acceptable limits to change, to assist in determining when activities causing adverse cumulative effects are to be avoided.

## **Policy 8 Aquaculture**

Recognise the significant existing and potential contribution of aquaculture to the social, economic and cultural well-being of people and communities by:

- (a) including in regional policy statements and regional coastal plans provision for aquaculture activities in appropriate places in the coastal environment, recognising that relevant considerations may include:
  - (i) the need for high water quality for aquaculture activities; and
  - (ii) the need for land-based facilities associated with marine farming;
- (b) taking account of the social and economic benefits of aquaculture, including any available assessments of national and regional economic benefits; and
- (c) ensuring that development in the coastal environment does not make water quality unfit for aquaculture activities in areas approved for that purpose.

## **Policy 9 Ports**

Recognise that a sustainable national transport system requires an efficient national network of safe ports, servicing national and international shipping, with efficient connections with other transport modes, including by:

- (a) ensuring that development in the coastal environment does not adversely affect the efficient and safe operation of these ports, or their connections with other transport modes; and
- (b) considering where, how and when to provide in regional policy statements and in plans for the efficient and safe operation of these ports, the development of their capacity for shipping, and their connections with other transport modes.

## **Policy 10 Reclamation and de-reclamation**

- (1) Avoid reclamation of land in the coastal marine area, unless:
  - (a) land outside the coastal marine area is not available for the proposed activity;
  - (b) the activity which requires reclamation can only occur in or adjacent to the coastal marine area;
  - (c) there are no practicable alternative methods of providing the activity; and
  - (d) the reclamation will provide significant regional or national benefit.
- (2) Where a reclamation is considered to be a suitable use of the coastal marine area, in considering its form and design have particular regard to:
  - (a) the potential effects on the site of climate change, including sea level rise, over no less than 100 years;
  - (b) the shape of the reclamation, and, where appropriate, whether the materials used are visually and aesthetically compatible with the adjoining coast;
  - (c) the use of materials in the reclamation, including avoiding the use of contaminated materials that could significantly adversely affect water quality, aquatic ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity in the coastal marine area;
  - (d) providing public access, including providing access to and along the coastal marine area at high tide where practicable, unless a restriction on public access is appropriate as provided for in policy 19;



- (e) the ability to remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the coastal environment;
  - (f) whether the proposed activity will affect cultural landscapes and sites of significance to tangata whenua; and
  - (g) the ability to avoid consequential erosion and accretion, and other natural hazards.
- (3) In considering proposed reclamations, have particular regard to the extent to which the reclamation and intended purpose would provide for the efficient operation of infrastructure, including ports, airports, coastal roads, pipelines, electricity transmission, railways and ferry terminals, and of marinas and electricity generation.
- (4) De-reclamation of redundant reclaimed land is encouraged where it would:
- (a) restore the natural character and resources of the coastal marine area; and
  - (b) provide for more public open space.

### **Policy 11 Indigenous biological diversity (biodiversity)**

To protect indigenous biological diversity in the coastal environment:

- (a) avoid adverse effects of activities on:
  - (i) indigenous taxa<sup>4</sup> that are listed as threatened<sup>5</sup> or at risk in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists;
  - (ii) taxa that are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources as threatened;
  - (iii) indigenous ecosystems and vegetation types that are threatened in the coastal environment, or are naturally rare<sup>6</sup>;
  - (iv) habitats of indigenous species where the species are at the limit of their natural range, or are naturally rare;
  - (v) areas containing nationally significant examples of indigenous community types; and
  - (vi) areas set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biological diversity under other legislation; and
- (b) avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities on:
  - (i) areas of predominantly indigenous vegetation in the coastal environment;
  - (ii) habitats in the coastal environment that are important during the vulnerable life stages of indigenous species;
  - (iii) indigenous ecosystems and habitats that are only found in the coastal environment and are particularly vulnerable to modification, including estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, dunelands, intertidal zones, rocky reef systems, eelgrass and saltmarsh;
  - (iv) habitats of indigenous species in the coastal environment that are important for recreational, commercial, traditional or cultural purposes;
  - (v) habitats, including areas and routes, important to migratory species; and
  - (vi) ecological corridors, and areas important for linking or maintaining biological values identified under this policy.

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<sup>4</sup> Taxa: as defined in the Glossary.

<sup>5</sup> Examples of taxa listed as threatened are: Maui's dolphin, Hector's dolphin, New Zealand fairy tern, Southern New Zealand dotterel.

<sup>6</sup> Naturally rare: as defined in the Glossary.

**Policy 12 Harmful aquatic organisms**

- (1) Provide in regional policy statements and in plans, as far as practicable, for the control of activities in or near the coastal marine area that could have adverse effects on the coastal environment by causing harmful aquatic organisms<sup>7</sup> to be released or otherwise spread, and include conditions in resource consents, where relevant, to assist with managing the risk of such effects occurring.
- (2) Recognise that activities relevant to (1) include:
  - (a) the introduction of structures likely to be contaminated with harmful aquatic organisms;
  - (b) the discharge or disposal of organic material from dredging, or from vessels and structures, whether during maintenance, cleaning or otherwise; and whether in the coastal marine area or on land;
  - (c) the provision and ongoing maintenance of moorings, marina berths, jetties and wharves; and
  - (d) the establishment and relocation of equipment and stock required for or associated with aquaculture.

**Policy 13 Preservation of natural character**

- (1) To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and to protect it from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:
  - (a) avoid adverse effects of activities on natural character in areas of the coastal environment with outstanding natural character; and
  - (b) avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities on natural character in all other areas of the coastal environment;  
including by:
    - (c) assessing the natural character of the coastal environment of the region or district, by mapping or otherwise identifying at least areas of high natural character; and
    - (d) ensuring that regional policy statements, and plans, identify areas where preserving natural character requires objectives, policies and rules, and include those provisions.
- (2) Recognise that natural character is not the same as natural features and landscapes or amenity values and may include matters such as:
  - (a) natural elements, processes and patterns;
  - (b) biophysical, ecological, geological and geomorphological aspects;
  - (c) natural landforms such as headlands, peninsulas, cliffs, dunes, wetlands, reefs, freshwater springs and surf breaks;
  - (d) the natural movement of water and sediment;
  - (e) the natural darkness of the night sky;
  - (f) places or areas that are wild or scenic;
  - (g) a range of natural character from pristine to modified; and
  - (h) experiential attributes, including the sounds and smell of the sea; and their context or setting.

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<sup>7</sup> Harmful aquatic organisms: as defined in the Glossary.

## **Policy 14 Restoration of natural character**

Promote restoration or rehabilitation of the natural character of the coastal environment, including by :

- (a) identifying areas and opportunities for restoration or rehabilitation;
- (b) providing policies, rules and other methods directed at restoration or rehabilitation in regional policy statements, and plans;
- (c) where practicable, imposing or reviewing restoration or rehabilitation conditions on resource consents and designations, including for the continuation of activities; and recognising that where degraded areas of the coastal environment require restoration or rehabilitation, possible approaches include:
  - (i) restoring indigenous habitats and ecosystems, using local genetic stock where practicable; or
  - (ii) encouraging natural regeneration of indigenous species, recognising the need for effective weed and animal pest management; or
  - (iii) creating or enhancing habitat for indigenous species; or
  - (iv) rehabilitating dunes and other natural coastal features or processes, including saline wetlands and intertidal saltmarsh; or
  - (v) restoring and protecting riparian and intertidal margins; or
  - (vi) reducing or eliminating discharges of contaminants; or
  - (vii) removing redundant structures and materials that have been assessed to have minimal heritage or amenity values and when the removal is authorised by required permits, including an archaeological authority under the Historic Places Act 1993; or
  - (viii) restoring cultural landscape features; or
  - (ix) redesign of structures that interfere with ecosystem processes; or
  - (x) decommissioning or restoring historic landfill and other contaminated sites which are, or have the potential to, leach material into the coastal marine area.

## **Policy 15 Natural features and natural landscapes**

To protect the natural features and natural landscapes (including seascapes) of the coastal environment from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:

- (a) avoid adverse effects of activities on outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes in the coastal environment; and
- (b) avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy, or mitigate other adverse effects of activities on other natural features and natural landscapes in the coastal environment;

including by:

- (c) identifying and assessing the natural features and natural landscapes of the coastal environment of the region or district, at minimum by land typing, soil characterisation and landscape characterisation and having regard to:
  - (i) natural science factors, including geological, topographical, ecological and dynamic components;
  - (ii) the presence of water including in seas, lakes, rivers and streams;
  - (iii) legibility or expressiveness—how obviously the feature or landscape demonstrates its formative processes;
  - (iv) aesthetic values including memorability and naturalness;
  - (v) vegetation (native and exotic);

- (vi) transient values, including presence of wildlife or other values at certain times of the day or year;
  - (vii) whether the values are shared and recognised;
  - (viii) cultural and spiritual values for tangata whenua, identified by working, as far as practicable, in accordance with tikanga Māori; including their expression as cultural landscapes and features;
  - (ix) historical and heritage associations; and
  - (x) wild or scenic values;
- (d) ensuring that regional policy statements, and plans, map or otherwise identify areas where the protection of natural features and natural landscapes requires objectives, policies and rules; and
- (e) including the objectives, policies and rules required by (d) in plans.

**Policy 16 Surf breaks of national significance**

Protect the surf breaks<sup>8</sup> of national significance for surfing listed in Schedule 1, by:

- (a) ensuring that activities in the coastal environment do not adversely affect the surf breaks; and
- (b) avoiding adverse effects of other activities on access to, and use and enjoyment of the surf breaks.

**Policy 17 Historic heritage identification and protection**

Protect historic heritage<sup>9</sup> in the coastal environment from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development by:

- (a) identification, assessment and recording of historic heritage, including archaeological sites;
- (b) providing for the integrated management of such sites in collaboration with relevant councils, heritage agencies, iwi authorities and kaitiaki;
- (c) initiating assessment and management of historic heritage in the context of historic landscapes;
- (d) recognising that heritage to be protected may need conservation;
- (e) facilitating and integrating management of historic heritage that spans the line of mean high water springs;
- (f) including policies, rules and other methods relating to (a) to (e) above in regional policy statements, and plans;
- (g) imposing or reviewing conditions on resource consents and designations, including for the continuation of activities;
- (h) requiring, where practicable, conservation conditions; and
- (i) considering provision for methods that would enhance owners' opportunities for conservation of listed heritage structures, such as relief grants or rates relief.

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<sup>8</sup> Surf break: as defined in the Glossary.

<sup>9</sup> Refer to definition in section 2 of the Act.

## **Policy 18 Public open space**

Recognise the need for public open space within and adjacent to the coastal marine area, for public use and appreciation including active and passive recreation, and provide for such public open space, including by:

- (a) ensuring that the location and treatment of public open space is compatible with the natural character, natural features and landscapes, and amenity values of the coastal environment;
- (b) taking account of future need for public open space within and adjacent to the coastal marine area, including in and close to cities, towns and other settlements;
- (c) maintaining and enhancing walking access linkages between public open space areas in the coastal environment;
- (d) considering the likely impact of coastal processes and climate change so as not to compromise the ability of future generations to have access to public open space; and
- (e) recognising the important role that esplanade reserves and strips can have in contributing to meeting public open space needs.

## **Policy 19 Walking access**

- (1) Recognise the public expectation of and need for walking access to and along the coast that is practical, free of charge and safe for pedestrian use.
- (2) Maintain and enhance public walking access to, along and adjacent to the coastal marine area, including by:
  - (a) identifying how information on where the public have walking access will be made publicly available;
  - (b) avoiding, remedying or mitigating any loss of public walking access resulting from subdivision, use, or development; and
  - (c) identifying opportunities to enhance or restore public walking access, for example where:
    - (i) connections between existing public areas can be provided; or
    - (ii) improving access would promote outdoor recreation; or
    - (iii) physical access for people with disabilities is desirable; or
    - (iv) the long-term availability of public access is threatened by erosion or sea level rise; or
    - (v) access to areas or sites of historic or cultural significance is important; or
    - (vi) subdivision, use, or development of land adjacent to the coastal marine area has reduced public access, or has the potential to do so.
- (3) Only impose a restriction on public walking access to, along or adjacent to the coastal marine area where such a restriction is necessary:
  - (a) to protect threatened indigenous species; or
  - (b) to protect dunes, estuaries and other sensitive natural areas or habitats; or
  - (c) to protect sites and activities of cultural value to Māori; or
  - (d) to protect historic heritage; or
  - (e) to protect public health or safety; or
  - (f) to avoid or reduce conflict between public uses of the coastal marine area and its margins; or
  - (g) for temporary activities or special events; or
  - (h) for defence purposes in accordance with the Defence Act 1990; or

- (i) to ensure a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent; or
  - (j) in other exceptional circumstances sufficient to justify the restriction.
- (4) Before imposing any restriction under (3), consider and where practicable provide for alternative routes that are available to the public free of charge at all times.

**Policy 20 Vehicle access**

- (1) Control use of vehicles, apart from emergency vehicles, on beaches, foreshore, seabed and adjacent public land where:
  - (a) damage to dune or other geological systems and processes; or
  - (b) harm to ecological systems or to indigenous flora and fauna, for example marine mammal and bird habitats or breeding areas and shellfish beds; or
  - (c) danger to other beach users; or
  - (d) disturbance of the peaceful enjoyment of the beach environment; or
  - (e) damage to historic heritage; or
  - (f) damage to the habitats of fisheries resources of significance to customary, commercial or recreational users; or
  - (g) damage to sites of significance to tangata whenua; might result.
- (2) Identify the locations where vehicular access is required for boat launching, or as the only practicable means of access to private property or public facilities, or for the operation of existing commercial activities, and make appropriate provision for such access.
- (3) Identify any areas where and times when recreational vehicular use on beaches, foreshore and seabed may be permitted, with or without restriction as to type of vehicle, without a likelihood of any of (1)(a) to (g) occurring.

**Policy 21 Enhancement of water quality**

Where the quality of water in the coastal environment has deteriorated so that it is having a significant adverse effect on ecosystems, natural habitats, or water based recreational activities, or is restricting existing uses, such as aquaculture, shellfish gathering, and cultural activities, give priority to improving that quality by:

- (a) identifying such areas of coastal water and water bodies and including them in plans;
- (b) including provisions in plans to address improving water quality in the areas identified above;
- (c) where practicable, restoring water quality to at least a state that can support such activities and ecosystems and natural habitats;
- (d) requiring that stock are excluded from the coastal marine area, adjoining intertidal areas and other water bodies and riparian margins in the coastal environment, within a prescribed time frame; and
- (e) engaging with tangata whenua to identify areas of coastal waters where they have particular interest, for example in cultural sites, wāhi tapu, other taonga, and values such as mauri, and remedying, or, where remediation is not practicable, mitigating adverse effects on these areas and values.

**Policy 22 Sedimentation**

- (1) Assess and monitor sedimentation levels and impacts on the coastal environment.
- (2) Require that subdivision, use, or development will not result in a significant increase in sedimentation in the coastal marine area, or other coastal water.
- (3) Control the impacts of vegetation removal on sedimentation including the impacts of harvesting plantation forestry.
- (4) Reduce sediment loadings in runoff and in stormwater systems through controls on land use activities.

**Policy 23 Discharge of contaminants**

- (1) In managing discharges to water in the coastal environment, have particular regard to:
  - (a) the sensitivity of the receiving environment;
  - (b) the nature of the contaminants to be discharged, the particular concentration of contaminants needed to achieve the required water quality in the receiving environment, and the risks if that concentration of contaminants is exceeded; and
  - (c) the capacity of the receiving environment to assimilate the contaminants;and:
  - (d) avoid significant adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats after reasonable mixing;
  - (e) use the smallest mixing zone necessary to achieve the required water quality in the receiving environment; and
  - (f) minimise adverse effects on the life-supporting capacity of water within a mixing zone.
- (2) In managing discharge of human sewage, do not allow:
  - (a) discharge of human sewage directly to water in the coastal environment without treatment; and
  - (b) the discharge of treated human sewage to water in the coastal environment, unless:
    - (i) there has been adequate consideration of alternative methods, sites and routes for undertaking the discharge; and
    - (ii) informed by an understanding of tangata whenua values and the effects on them.
- (3) Objectives, policies and rules in plans which provide for the discharge of treated human sewage into waters of the coastal environment must have been subject to early and meaningful consultation with tangata whenua.
- (4) In managing discharges of stormwater take steps to avoid adverse effects of stormwater discharge to water in the coastal environment, on a catchment by catchment basis, by:
  - (a) avoiding where practicable and otherwise remedying cross contamination of sewage and stormwater systems;
  - (b) reducing contaminant and sediment loadings in stormwater at source, through contaminant treatment and by controls on land use activities;
  - (c) promoting integrated management of catchments and stormwater networks; and
  - (d) promoting design options that reduce flows to stormwater reticulation systems at source.

- (5) In managing discharges from ports and other marine facilities:
  - (a) require operators of ports and other marine facilities to take all practicable steps to avoid contamination of coastal waters, substrate, ecosystems and habitats that is more than minor;
  - (b) require that the disturbance or relocation of contaminated seabed material, other than by the movement of vessels, and the dumping or storage of dredged material does not result in significant adverse effects on water quality or the seabed, substrate, ecosystems or habitats;
  - (c) require operators of ports, marinas and other relevant marine facilities to provide for the collection of sewage and waste from vessels, and for residues from vessel maintenance to be safely contained and disposed of; and
  - (d) consider the need for facilities for the collection of sewage and other wastes for recreational and commercial boating.

**Policy 24 Identification of coastal hazards**

- (1) Identify areas in the coastal environment that are potentially affected by coastal hazards (including tsunami), giving priority to the identification of areas at high risk of being affected. Hazard risks, over at least 100 years, are to be assessed having regard to:
  - (a) physical drivers and processes that cause coastal change including sea level rise;
  - (b) short-term and long-term natural dynamic fluctuations of erosion and accretion;
  - (c) geomorphological character;
  - (d) the potential for inundation of the coastal environment, taking into account potential sources, inundation pathways and overland extent;
  - (e) cumulative effects of sea level rise, storm surge and wave height under storm conditions;
  - (f) influences that humans have had or are having on the coast;
  - (g) the extent and permanence of built development; and
  - (h) the effects of climate change on:
    - (i) matters (a) to (g) above;
    - (ii) storm frequency, intensity and surges; and
    - (iii) coastal sediment dynamics;

taking into account national guidance and the best available information on the likely effects of climate change on the region or district.



**Policy 25 Subdivision, use, and development in areas of coastal hazard risk**

In areas potentially affected by coastal hazards over at least the next 100 years:

- (a) avoid increasing the risk<sup>10</sup> of social, environmental and economic harm from coastal hazards;
- (b) avoid redevelopment, or change in land use, that would increase the risk of adverse effects from coastal hazards;
- (c) encourage redevelopment, or change in land use, where that would reduce the risk of adverse effects from coastal hazards, including managed retreat by relocation or removal of existing structures or their abandonment in extreme circumstances, and designing for relocatability or recoverability from hazard events;
- (d) encourage the location of infrastructure away from areas of hazard risk where practicable;
- (e) discourage hard protection structures and promote the use of alternatives to them, including natural defences; and
- (f) consider the potential effects of tsunamis and how to avoid or mitigate them.

**Policy 26 Natural defences against coastal hazards**

- (1) Provide where appropriate for the protection, restoration or enhancement of natural defences that protect coastal land uses, or sites of significant biodiversity, cultural or historic heritage or geological value, from coastal hazards.
- (2) Recognise that such natural defences include beaches, estuaries, wetlands, intertidal areas, coastal vegetation, dunes and barrier islands.

**Policy 27 Strategies for protecting significant existing development from coastal hazard risk**

- (1) In areas of significant existing development likely to be affected by coastal hazards, the range of options for reducing coastal hazard risk that should be assessed includes:
  - (a) promoting and identifying long-term sustainable risk reduction approaches including the relocation or removal of existing development or structures at risk;
  - (b) identifying the consequences of potential strategic options relative to the option of 'do-nothing';
  - (c) recognising that hard protection structures may be the only practical means to protect existing infrastructure of national or regional importance, to sustain the potential of built physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations;
  - (d) recognising and considering the environmental and social costs of permitting hard protection structures to protect private property; and
  - (e) identifying and planning for transition mechanisms and timeframes for moving to more sustainable approaches.
- (2) In evaluating options under (1):
  - (a) focus on approaches to risk management that reduce the need for hard protection structures and similar engineering interventions;

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<sup>10</sup> Risk: as defined in the Glossary.

- (b) take into account the nature of the coastal hazard risk and how it might change over at least a 100-year timeframe, including the expected effects of climate change; and
  - (c) evaluate the likely costs and benefits of any proposed coastal hazard risk reduction options.
- (3) Where hard protection structures are considered to be necessary, ensure that the form and location of any structures are designed to minimise adverse effects on the coastal environment.
  - (4) Hard protection structures, where considered necessary to protect private assets, should not be located on public land if there is no significant public or environmental benefit in doing so.

**Policy 28     Monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the NZCPS**

- (1) To monitor and review the effectiveness of the NZCPS in achieving the purpose of the Act, the Minister of Conservation should:
  - (a) in collaboration with local authorities collect data for, and, as far as practicable, incorporate district and regional monitoring information into a nationally consistent monitoring and reporting programme;
  - (b) undertake other information gathering or monitoring that assists in providing a national perspective on coastal resource management trends, emerging issues and outcomes;
  - (c) within six years of its gazettal, assess the effect of the NZCPS on regional policy statements, plans, and resource consents, and other decision making; and
  - (d) publish a report and conclusions on matters (a) to (c) above.

**Policy 29     Restricted Coastal Activities**

- (1) The Minister of Conservation does not require any activity to be specified as a restricted coastal activity in a regional coastal plan.
- (2) Local authorities are directed under sections 55 and 57 of the Act to amend documents as necessary to give effect to this policy as soon as practicable, without using the process in Schedule 1 of the Act, with the effect that:
  - (a) any activity specified as a discretionary activity and a restricted coastal activity becomes a discretionary activity only;
  - (b) any activity specified as a non-complying activity and a restricted coastal activity becomes a non-complying activity only.
- (3) Any application for a coastal permit for an activity specified as a restricted coastal activity that has been publicly notified before the date the amendments in clause (2) are made shall continue to be treated as an application for a restricted coastal activity for the purposes of section 117 of the Act.
- (4) Any other application for an activity specified as a restricted coastal activity made before the date of the amendments in clause (2), shall be considered as a discretionary or non-complying activity in accordance with the regional coastal plan or proposed regional coastal plan's classification and section 117 does not apply.

# Schedule 1

## Surf Breaks of National Significance

### **Northland**

Peaks - Shipwreck Bay

Peaks - Super tubes - Mukie 2 - Mukie 1

### **Waikato**

Manu Bay - Raglan

Whale Bay - Raglan

Indicators - Raglan

### **Taranaki**

Waiwhakaiho

Stent Road - Backdoor Stent - Farmhouse Stent

### **Gisborne**

Makorori Point - Centres

Wainui - Stock Route - Pines - Whales

The Island

### **Coromandel**

Whangamata Bar

### **Kaikoura**

Mangamaunu

Meatworks

### **Otago**

The Spit

Karitane

Whareakeake

Papatowai

# Glossary

<b>Hard protection structure</b>	Includes a seawall, rock revetment, groyne, breakwater, stop bank, retaining wall or comparable structure or modification to the seabed, foreshore or coastal land that has the primary purpose or effect of protecting an activity from a coastal hazard, including erosion.
<b>Harmful aquatic organisms</b>	Aquatic organisms which, if introduced into coastal water, may adversely affect the environment or biological diversity, pose a threat to human health, or interfere with legitimate use or protection of natural and physical resources in the coastal environment.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	As defined in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991, notwithstanding the reference in section 2 to section 30.
<b>Intertidal zone or area</b>	The landward boundary of the intertidal zone or area is the extreme high water of spring tides, which is the average of the two highest tides at the period of the year when the range of the tides is greatest. The seaward boundary of the intertidal zone or area is the extreme low water of spring tides, which is the average of the two lowest tides at the period of the year when the range of the tides is greatest.
<b>Land Typing</b>	Describes land types which form the basis over which land cover, land use and association information are addressed as the basis for land characterisation.
<b>Landscape characterisation</b>	Utilises the land typing base and overlay with land cover, land use and associations affecting or affected by coastal processes.
<b>Marine facilities</b>	Include ports, dry docks, slipways, moorings, marinas, moorings, boat servicing grids, wharves, jetties and ramps, offshore platforms, navigational aids, and associated structures and activities.
<b>Mātauranga Māori</b>	Māori customary knowledge, traditional knowledge or intergenerational knowledge.
<b>Mixing Zone</b>	The area within which ‘reasonable mixing’ of contaminants from discharges occurs in receiving waters and within which the relevant water quality standards do not apply.
<b>Naturally rare</b>	Originally rare: rare before the arrival of humans in New Zealand.
<b>Papakāinga development</b>	Development of a communal nature on ancestral land owned by Māori.
<b>Predictive Modelling</b>	Mathematical and computer modelling of archaeological location.
<b>Pūkenga</b>	A person skilled or versed in the customary and traditional knowledge, tikanga, arts, histories and genealogies of a particular iwi or hapū.

<b>Risk</b>	Risk is often expressed in terms of a combination of the consequences of an event (including changes in circumstances) and the associated likelihood of occurrence (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 <i>Risk management – Principles and guidelines</i> , November 2009).
<b>Substrate</b>	Material that forms the surface of the foreshore and seabed.
<b>Surf break</b>	A natural feature that is comprised of swell, currents, water levels, seabed morphology, and wind. The hydrodynamic character of the ocean (swell, currents and water levels) combines with seabed morphology and winds to give rise to a ‘surfable wave’. A surf break includes the ‘swell corridor’ through which the swell travels, and the morphology of the seabed of that wave corridor, through to the point where waves created by the swell dissipate and become non-surfable. ‘Swell corridor’ means the region offshore of a surf break where ocean swell travels and transforms to a ‘surfable wave’. ‘Surfable wave’ means a wave that can be caught and ridden by a surfer. Surfable waves have a wave breaking point that peels along the unbroken wave crest so that the surfer is propelled laterally along the wave crest.
<b>Taxa</b>	Named biological classification units assigned to individuals or sets of species (e.g. species, subspecies, genus, order, variety).

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement is a national policy statement under the Resource Management Act 1991. Its purpose is to state policies in order to achieve the purpose of the Act—‘to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources’—in relation to the coastal environment of New Zealand.

For information on coastal resource management, visit the Department of Conservation website: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

# Appendix 2: Full wording of relevant objectives and policies of the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region and Proposed RPS Change 1

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## Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region

Regional Policy Statement	
<b>Section 3.2 Coastal Environment (including public access)</b>	
<b>Objective 3</b>	<i>Habitats and features in the coastal environment that have significant indigenous biodiversity values are protected; and Habitats and features in the coastal environment that have recreational, cultural, historical or landscape values that are significant are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i>
<b>Objective 4</b>	<i>The natural character of the coastal environment is protected from the adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i>
<b>Objective 5</b>	<i>Areas of the Coastal Environment where natural character has been degraded are restored and rehabilitated.</i>
<b>Objective 6</b>	<i>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.</i>
<b>Objective 7</b>	<i>The integrity, functioning and resilience of physical and ecological processes in the Coastal Environment are</i>

<b>Regional Policy Statement</b>	
	<i>protected from the adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i>
<b>Objective 8</b>	<i>Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers is enhanced.</i>
<b>Policy 3</b> <b>Protecting high natural character in the coastal environment</b> <b>M</b>	<p><i>District and regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods to protect high natural character in the coastal environment from inappropriate subdivision, development and/or use. Natural character should be assessed considering the following matters, with a site determined as having high natural character when the landscape is slightly modified or unmodified, the land-cover is dominated by indigenous vegetation and/or the vegetation cover is natural and there are no apparent buildings, structures or infrastructure:</i></p> <p><i>(a) The extent to which natural elements, patterns and processes occur, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(i) natural elements: the products of natural processes – such as landforms, water forms, vegetation and land cover;</i></li> <li><i>(ii) natural processes: the ecological, climatic and geophysical processes that underlie the expression and character of the place, site or area;</i></li> <li><i>(iii) natural patterns: the visual expression or spatial distribution of natural elements which are, or which appear to be, a product of natural processes; and/or</i></li> <li><i>(iv) surroundings: the setting or context, such that the place, site or area contributes to an understanding of the natural history of the wider area.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>(b) The nature and extent of modifications to the place, site or area, including, but not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(i) physical alterations by people to the landscape, its landforms, waterforms, vegetation, land cover and to the natural patterns associated with these elements;</i></li> <li><i>(ii) the presence, location, scale and density of buildings and structures, including infrastructure, whether appearing to be interconnected or isolated, and the degree of intrusiveness of these structures on the natural character of the place;</i></li> </ul>



**Regional Policy Statement**

	<p>(iii) <i>the temporal character of the modification – such as, whether it is fleeting or temporary, transitory, transitional or a permanent alteration to the character of the place, site or area; and/or</i></p> <p>(iv) <i>any existing influences or pressures on the dynamic ecological and geophysical processes contributing to the presence and patterns of natural elements, such that these may change and the natural elements and/or patterns may become threatened over time.</i></p> <p>(c) <i>Social values: the place, site or area has meaning for a particular community or communities, including:</i></p> <p>(i) <i>sentimental: the natural character of a place, site or area has a strong or special association with a particular community; and/or</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>recognition: the place, site or area is held in high public esteem for its natural character value, or its contribution to the sense of identity of a particular community.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy 4</b> <b>Identifying the landward extent of the coastal environment</b> <b>M</b></p>	<p><i>District plans shall include policies and/or rules to identify the landward extent of the coastal environment using the following criteria:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>area or landform dominated by coastal vegetation or habitat;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>any landform affected by active coastal processes, excluding tsunamis;</i></p> <p>(c) <i>any landscapes or features, including coastal escarpments, that contribute to the natural character, visual quality or amenity value of the coast; and</i></p> <p>(d) <i>any site, structure, place or area of historic heritage value adjacent to, or connected with, the coastal marine area, which derives its heritage value from a coastal location.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy 35</b> <b>Preserving the natural character of the Coastal Environment</b></p>	<p><i>When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to preserving the natural character of the coastal environment by:</i></p>

**Regional Policy Statement**

<p><b>R</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) <i>minimising any adverse effects from point source and non-point source discharges, so that aquatic ecosystem health is safeguarded;</i></li><li>(b) <i>protecting the values associated with estuaries and bays, beaches and dune systems, including the unique physical processes that occur within and between them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, so that healthy ecosystems are maintained;</i></li><li>(c) <i>maintaining or enhancing amenity – such as, open space and scenic values – and opportunities for recreation and the enjoyment of the coast by the public;</i></li><li>(d) <i>minimising any significant adverse effects from use and enjoyment of the coast by the public;</i></li><li>(e) <i>safeguarding the life supporting capacity of coastal and marine ecosystems;</i></li><li>(f) <i>maintaining or enhancing biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystems; and</i></li><li>(g) <i>protecting scientific and geological features from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i></li></ul>
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<p><b>Policy 36</b> <b>Managing effects on natural character in the coastal environment</b></p> <p><b>R</b></p>	<p><i>When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, a determination shall be made as to whether an activity may affect natural character in the coastal environment, and in determining whether an activity is inappropriate particular regard shall be given to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) <i>the nature and intensity of the proposed activity including:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) <i>the functional need or operational requirement to locate within the coastal environment</i></li><li>(ii) <i>the opportunity to mitigate anticipated adverse effects of the activity</i></li></ul></li><li>(b) <i>the degree to which the natural character will be modified, damaged or destroyed including:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) <i>the duration and frequency of any effect, and/or</i></li><li>(ii) <i>the magnitude or scale of any effect;</i></li></ul></li></ul>
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**Regional Policy Statement**

	<p>(iii) the irreversibility of adverse effects on natural character values;</p> <p>(iv) whether the activity will lead to cumulative adverse effects on the natural character of the site/area.</p> <p>(c) the resilience of the site or area to change;</p> <p>(d) the opportunities to remedy or mitigate previous damage to the natural character;</p> <p>(e) the existing land uses on the site.</p>
<p><b>Policy 37</b>  <b>Safeguarding life supporting capacity of coastal ecosystems</b>  <b>R</b></p>	<p>When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of coastal and marine ecosystems by maintaining or enhancing:</p> <p>(a) any area within the intertidal or subtidal zone that contains unique, rare, distinctive or representative marine life or habitats;</p> <p>(b) areas used by marine mammals as breeding, feeding or haul out sites;</p> <p>(c) habitats in the coastal environment that are important during the vulnerable life stages of indigenous species;</p> <p>(d) habitats, corridors and routes important for preserving the range, abundance, and diversity of indigenous and migratory species;</p> <p>(e) any area that contain indigenous coastal ecosystems and habitats that are particularly vulnerable to modification – such as, estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, dunelands, rocky reef systems and salt marshes; and</p> <p>(f) the integrity, functioning and resilience of physical and ecological processes.</p>
<p><b>Policy 38</b>  <b>Identifying the landward extent of the coastal environment</b>  <b>R</b></p>	<p>When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a District Plan, particular regard shall be given to whether the proposal is within the Coastal Environment using the following criteria:</p> <p>(a) any area or landform dominated by coastal vegetation or habitat;</p>

## Regional Policy Statement

	<p>(b) any landform affected by active coastal processes, excluding tsunami;</p> <p>(c) any landscapes or features, including coastal escarpments, that contribute to the natural character, visual quality or amenity value of the coast; and</p> <p>(d) any site, structure, place or area of historic heritage value adjacent to, or connected with, the coastal marine area, which derives its heritage value from a coastal location</p>
<p><b>Policy 53</b></p> <p><b>Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers</b></p> <p><b>R</b></p>	<p>When considering an application for a subdivision consent, or a coastal or land use consent on public land, or a change, variation or review of a district plan to address subdivision or rezoning, particular regard shall be given to enhancing public access to, and along:</p> <p>(a) areas of the coastal marine area, and lakes and rivers with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values identified in accordance with policy 21;</li><li>(ii) areas of indigenous ecosystems and habitats, and areas with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in accordance with policy 23;</li><li>(iii) outstanding natural features and landscapes identified in accordance with policy 25;</li><li>(iv) special amenity landscapes identified in accordance with policy 27;</li><li>(v) places, sites and areas with high natural character identified in accordance with policy 36; and</li><li>(vi) the rivers and lakes identified in Table 15 of Appendix 1;</li></ul> <p>(b) Wellington Harbour and Porirua (Onepoto Arm and Pāuatāhanui Inlet) Harbour;</p> <p>Except where there is a need to protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(c) sensitive indigenous habitats of species;</li><li>(d) the health or safety of people;</li><li>(e) sensitive cultural and historic heritage values; and/or</li><li>(f) the integrity and security of regionally significant infrastructure.</li></ul>

<b>Regional Policy Statement</b>	
<p><b>Policy 64</b> <b>Supporting a whole of catchment approach</b> <b>NR</b></p>	<p><i>Take a whole of catchment approach that recognises the inter-relationship between land and water, and support environmental enhancement initiatives to restore and enhance:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>coastal features, ecosystems and habitats;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>aquatic ecosystems and habitats; and</i></p> <p>(c) <i>indigenous ecosystems and habitats.</i></p>
<b>Section 3.4 Fresh water (including public access)</b>	
<p><b>Objective 13</b></p>	<p><i>The region's rivers, lakes and wetlands support healthy functioning ecosystems.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy 15</b> <b>Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation clearance</b> <b>M</b></p>	<p><i>Regional and district plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that control earthworks and vegetation disturbance to minimise:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>erosion; and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>silt and sediment runoff into water, or onto land that may enter water, so that aquatic ecosystem health is safeguarded.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy 41</b> <b>Minimising the effects of earthworks and vegetation disturbance</b> <b>R</b></p>	<p><i>When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a regional or district plan, particular regard shall be given to controlling earthworks and vegetation disturbance to minimise:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>erosion; and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>silt and sediment runoff into water, or onto or into land that may enter water, so that healthy aquatic ecosystems are sustained.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy 43</b> <b>Protecting aquatic ecological function of water bodies</b> <b>R</b></p>	<p><i>When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>maintaining or enhancing the functioning of ecosystems in the water body;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>maintaining or enhancing the ecological functions of riparian margins;</i></p>

<b>Regional Policy Statement</b>	
	<p>(c) <i>minimising the effect of the proposal on groundwater recharge areas that are connected to surface water bodies;</i></p> <p>(d) <i>maintaining or enhancing the amenity and recreational values of rivers and lakes, including those with significant values listed in Table 15 of Appendix 1;</i></p> <p>(e) <i>protecting the significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values of rivers and lakes, including those listed in Table 16 of Appendix 1;</i></p> <p>(f) <i>maintaining natural flow regimes required to support aquatic ecosystem health;</i></p> <p>(g) <i>maintaining fish passage;</i></p> <p>(h) <i>protecting and reinstating riparian habitat, in particular riparian habitat that is important for fish spawning;</i></p> <p>(i) <i>discouraging stock access to rivers, lakes and wetlands; and</i></p> <p>(j) <i>discouraging the removal or destruction of indigenous wetland plants in wetlands.</i></p>
<b>Section 3.8 Natural Hazards</b>	
<b>Objective 19</b>	<i>The risks and consequences to people, communities, their businesses, property and infrastructure from natural hazards and climate change effects are reduced.</i>
<b>Policy 29</b> <b>Avoiding inappropriate subdivision and development in areas at high risk from natural hazards</b> <b>M</b>	<i>Regional and district plans shall:</i> <p>(a) <i>identify areas at high risk from natural hazards; and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>include policies and rules to avoid inappropriate subdivision and development in those areas.</i></p>
<b>Section 3.10 Resource management with tangata whenua</b>	
<b>Objective 27</b>	<i>Mahinga kai and natural resources used for customary purposes, are maintained and enhanced, and these resources are healthy and accessible to tangata whenua.</i>

## Regional Policy Statement

**Policy 49**  
**Recognising**  
**and**  
**providing for**  
**matters of**  
**significance**  
**to tangata**  
**whenua**

**R**

*When preparing a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, the following matters shall be recognised and provided for:*

- (a) the exercise of kaitiakitanga;*
- (b) mauri, particularly in relation to fresh and coastal waters;*
- (c) mahinga kai and areas of natural resources used for customary purposes; and*
- (d) places, sites and areas with significant spiritual or cultural historic heritage value to tangata whenua.*

*M policies which must be implemented in accordance with stated methods in the RPS*

*R policies to which particular regard must be had when varying a district plan*

*NR policies that outline non-regulatory actions to help achieve the objectives of the RPS*

# Proposed RPS Change 1

<b>Proposed RPS Change 1</b>	
<b>3.1A Climate Change (New Chapter)</b>	
<b><u>Objective CC.1</u></b>	<u>By 2050, the Wellington Region is a low-emission and climate-resilient region, where climate change mitigation and adaptation are an integral part of:</u>  <u>(a) sustainable air, land, freshwater, and coastal management,</u> <u>(b) well-functioning urban environments and rural areas, and</u> <u>(c) well-planned infrastructure.</u>
<b><u>Policy CC.4</u></b>  <b><u>Climate resilient urban areas – district and regional plans</u></b>	<u>District and regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods to provide for climate-resilient urban areas by providing for actions and initiatives described in Policy CC.14 which support delivering the characteristics and qualities of well-functioning urban environments.</u>
<b>3.2 Coastal Environment (including public access)</b>	
<b><u>Policy 3</u></b>  <b><u>Protecting high natural character in the coastal environment – district and regional plans</u></b>	<u>District and regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods to protect high natural character in the coastal environment from inappropriate subdivision, development and/or use. Natural character should be assessed considering the following matters, with a site determined as having high natural character when the landscape is slightly modified or unmodified, the land-cover is dominated by indigenous vegetation and/or the vegetation cover is natural and there are no apparent buildings, structures or infrastructure:</u>  <u>(a) The extent to which natural elements, patterns and processes occur, including:</u>  <u>(i) natural elements: the products of natural processes – such as landforms, <del>waterforms</del> <u>water forms</u>, vegetation and land cover;</u>  <u>(ii) natural processes: the ecological, climatic and geophysical processes that underlie the expression and character of the place, site or area;</u>



**Proposed RPS Change 1**

- (iii) natural patterns: the visual expression or spatial distribution of natural elements which are, or which appear to be, a product of natural processes; and/or*
- (iv) surroundings: the setting or context, such that the place, site or area contributes to an understanding of the natural history of the wider area.*
- (b) The nature and extent of modifications to the place, site or area, including, but not limited to:*
  - (i) physical alterations by people to the landscape, its landforms, water forms, vegetation, land cover and to the natural patterns associated with these elements;*
  - (ii) the presence, location, scale and density of buildings and structures, including infrastructure, whether appearing to be interconnected or isolated, and the degree of intrusiveness of these structures on the natural character of the place;*
  - (iii) the temporal character of the modification – such as, whether it is fleeting or temporary, transitory, transitional or a permanent alteration to the character of the place, site or area; and/or*
  - (iv) any existing influences or pressures on the dynamic ecological and geophysical processes contributing to the presence and patterns of natural elements, such that these may change and the natural elements and/or patterns may become threatened over time.*
- ~~*(c) Social values: the place, site or area has meaning for a particular community or communities, including:*~~
  - ~~*(i) sentimental: the natural character of a place, site or area has a strong or special association with a particular community; and/or*~~
  - ~~*(ii) recognition: the place, site or area is held in high public esteem for its natural character value, or its contribution to the sense of identity of a particular community.*~~

**3.4 Fresh Water (including public access)**

**Objective 12**

Natural and physical resources of the region are managed in a way that prioritises:

## Proposed RPS Change 1

- (a) first, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems
- (b) second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water)
- (c) third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future; and

Te Mana o te Wai encompasses six principles relating to the roles of tangata whenua and other New Zealanders in the management of freshwater, and these principles inform this RPS and its implementation.

The six principles are:

- (a) Mana whakahaere: the power, authority, and obligations of tangata whenua to make decisions that maintain, protect, and sustain the health and well-being of, and their relationship with, freshwater
- (b) Kaitiakitanga: the obligation of tangata whenua to preserve, restore, enhance, and sustainably use freshwater for the benefit of present and future generations
- (c) Manaakitanga: the process by which tangata whenua show respect, generosity, and care for freshwater and for others
- (d) Governance: the responsibility of those with authority for making decisions about freshwater to do so in a way that prioritises the health and well-being of freshwater now and into the future
- (e) Stewardship: the obligation of all New Zealanders to manage freshwater in a way that ensures it sustains present and future generations, and
- (f) Care and respect: the responsibility of all New Zealanders to care for freshwater in providing for the health of the nation.

And the Statements of Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa

The quantity and quality of fresh water:

- (a) meet the range of uses and values for which water is required;
- (b) safeguard the life-supporting capacity of water bodies; and
- (c) meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.

## Proposed RPS Change 1

**Policy 14**  
**Urban**  
**development**  
**effects on**  
**freshwater**  
**and the**  
**coastal**  
**marine area**  
**Minimising**  
**contamination**  
**in stormwater**  
**from new**  
**development -**  
**regional plans**

Regional plan objectives, policies, and methods including rules, must give effect to Te Mana o te Wai and in doing so must:

- (a) Enable the active involvement of mana whenua / tangata whenua in freshwater management (including decision-making processes), and Māori freshwater values are identified and provided for;
- (b) Adopt an integrated approach, ki uta ki tai, that recognises the interconnectedness of the whole environment to determine the location and form of urban development;
- (c) Require the control of both land use and discharge effects from the use and development of land on freshwater and the coastal marine area;
- (d) Achieve the target attribute states set for the catchment;
- (e) Require the development, including stormwater discharges, earthworks and vegetation clearance meet any limits set in a regional plan;
- (f) Require that urban development is designed and constructed using the principles of Water Sensitive Urban Design;
- (g) Require that urban development located and designed to minimise the extent and volume of earthworks and to follow, to the extent practicable, existing land contours;
- (h) Require that urban development is located and designed to protect and enhance gully heads, rivers, lakes, wetlands, springs, riparian margins and estuaries;
- (i) Require riparian buffers for all waterbodies and avoid piping of rivers;
- (j) Require hydrological controls to avoid adverse effects of runoff quantity (flows and volumes) and maintain, to the extent practicable, natural stream flows;
- (k) Require stormwater quality management that will minimise the generation of contaminants, and maximise, to the extent practicable, the removal of contaminants from stormwater; and
- (l) Identify and map rivers and wetlands.

<b>Proposed RPS Change 1</b>	
	<del>Regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that protect aquatic ecosystem health by minimising ecotoxic and other contaminants in stormwater that discharges into water, or onto or into land that may enter water, from new subdivision and development.</del>
<b>Policy 15</b> <b><u>Managing</u></b> <b><u>Minimising</u></b> <b><u>the effects of</u></b> <b><u>earthworks</u></b> <b><u>and</u></b> <b><u>vegetation</u></b> <b><u>disturbance –</u></b> <b><u>district and</u></b> <b><u>regional plans</u></b>	<p>Regional and district plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that control earthworks and vegetation disturbance to <u>minimise the extent necessary to achieve the target attribute states for water bodies and freshwater ecosystems including the effects of these activities on the life-supporting capacity of soils, and to provide for mana whenua / tangata whenua and their relationship with their culture, land, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga.</u></p> <p><del>(a) erosion; and</del></p> <p><del>(b) silt and sediment runoff into water, or onto land that may enter water, aquatic ecosystem health is safeguarded</del></p>
<b>Policy 18</b> <b><u>Protecting and</u></b> <b><u>restoring</u></b> <b><u>aquatic</u></b> <b><u>ecological</u></b> <b><u>function</u></b> <b><u>health of</u></b> <b><u>water bodies –</u></b> <b><u>regional plans</u></b>	<p>Regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that protect and restore the ecological health of water bodies, including:</p> <p><u>(a) managing freshwater in a way that gives effect to Te Mana o te Wai;</u></p> <p><u>(b) actively involve mana whenua / tangata whenua in freshwater management (including decision-making processes), and Māori freshwater values are identified and provided for;</u></p> <p><u>(c) there is no further loss of extent of natural inland wetlands and coastal wetlands, their values are protected, and their restoration is promoted;</u></p> <p><u>(d) achieving environmental outcomes, target attribute states and environmental flows and levels;</u></p> <p><u>(e) avoiding the loss of river extent and values;</u></p> <p><u>(f) protecting the significant values of outstanding water bodies;</u></p> <p><u>(g) protecting the habitats of indigenous freshwater species are protected;</u></p> <p><u>(h) Freshwater is allocated and used efficiently, all existing over-allocation is phased out, and future over-allocation is avoided;</u></p>

## Proposed RPS Change 1

- (i) promoting the retention of in-stream habitat diversity by retaining natural features – such as pools, runs, riffles, and the river's natural form;*
- (j) promoting the retention of natural flow regimes – such as flushing flows;*
- (k) promoting the protection and reinstatement of riparian habitat;*
- (l) promoting the installation of off-line water storage;*
- (m) measuring and evaluating water takes;*
- (n) ~~discourage~~ restricting the reclamation, piping, straightening or concrete lining of rivers;*
- (o) ~~discourage~~ restricting stock access to estuaries, rivers, lakes and wetland;*
- (p) ~~discourage~~ restricting the diversion of water into or from wetlands – unless the diversion is necessary to restore the hydrological variation to the wetland;*
- (q) ~~discourage~~ restricting the removal or destruction of indigenous plants in wetlands and lakes; and*
- (r) restoring and maintaining fish passage.*

**Policy FW.3**  
**Urban**  
**development**  
**effects on**  
**freshwater**  
**and the**  
**coastal**  
**marine area –**  
**district plans**

- District plans shall include objectives, policies, and methods including rules, that give effect to Te Mana o te Wai and section 3.5(4) of the NPS-FM, and in doing so must:*
- (a) Partner with mana whenua / tangata whenua in the preparation of district plans;*
  - (b) Protect and enhance Māori freshwater values, including mahinga kai;*
  - (c) Provide for mana whenua / tangata whenua and their relationship with their culture, land, water, wāhi tapu and other taonga;*
  - (d) Incorporate the use of mātauranga Māori to ensure the effects of urban development are considered appropriately;*
  - (e) Adopt an integrated approach, ki uta ki tai, that recognises the interconnectedness of the whole environment to determine the location and form of urban development;*

## Proposed RPS Change 1

- (f) Integrate planning and design of stormwater management to achieve multiple improved outcomes – amenity values, recreational, cultural, ecological, climate, vegetation retention;
- (g) Consider the effects on freshwater and the coastal marine area of subdivision, use and development of land;
- (h) Consider the use and development of land in relation to target attribute states and any limits set in a regional plan;
- (i) Require that Water Sensitive Urban Design principles and methods are applied during consideration of subdivision, the extent of impervious surfaces and in the control of stormwater infrastructure;
- (j) Require that urban development is located and designed to minimise the extent and volume of earthworks and to follow, to the extent practicable, existing land contours;
- (k) Require that urban development is located and designed to protect and enhance gully heads, rivers, lakes, wetlands, springs, riparian margins and estuaries;
- (l) Require riparian buffers for all waterbodies and avoid piping of rivers;
- (m) Require hydrological controls to avoid adverse effects of runoff quantity (flows and volumes) and maintain, to the extent practicable, natural stream flows;
- (n) Require efficient use of water;
- (o) Manage land use and development in a way that will minimise the generation of contaminants, including building materials, and the extent of impervious surfaces;
- (p) Consider daylighting of streams, where practicable; and
- (q) Consider the effects of land use and development on drinking water sources.

## 3.6 Indigenous Ecosystems

### **Objective 16A**

The region's indigenous ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, and restored to a healthy functioning state, improving their resilience to increasing environmental pressures, particularly climate change, and giving effect to Te Rito o te Harakeke.

<b>Proposed RPS Change 1</b>	
<b>Objective 16B</b>	<u>Mana whenua / tangata whenua values relating to indigenous biodiversity, particularly taonga species, and the important relationship between indigenous ecosystem health and well-being, are given effect to in decision-making, and mana whenua / tangata whenua are supported to exercise their kaitiakitanga for indigenous biodiversity.</u>
<b>3.8 Natural Hazards</b>	
<b>Objective 19</b>	<u>The risks and consequences to people, communities, <del>their</del> businesses, property, <del>and</del> infrastructure and the environment from natural hazards and the effects of climate change effects are <del>reduced</del> minimised.</u>
<b>Objective 21</b>	<u>The resilience of our <del>c</del>ommunities are <del>more</del> resilient to natural hazards, including the impacts and the natural environment to the short, medium, and long-term effects of climate change, and sea level rise is strengthened, and people are better prepared for the consequences of natural hazard events.</u>
<b>Policy 29</b> <b>Avoiding inappropriate Managing subdivision, use and development in areas at high-risk from natural hazards – district and regional plans</b>	Regional and district plans shall:  (a) identify areas <u>affected by</u> natural hazards; and  (b) <u>use a risk-based approach to assess the consequences to subdivision, use and development from natural hazard and climate change impacts over a 100 year planning horizon;</u>  (c) include <u>objectives, polices and rules to manage subdivision, use and development in those areas where the hazards and risks are assessed as low to moderate; and</u>  (d) <u>include objectives, polices and rules to avoid subdivision, use or development and hazard sensitive activities where the hazards and risks are assessed as high to extreme.</u>
<b>3.9 Regional Form, Design and Function</b>	
<b>Objective 22</b>	<u>Urban development, including housing and infrastructure, is enabled where it demonstrates the characteristics and qualities of well-functioning urban environments, which:</u>  (a) <u>Are compact and well designed; and</u>

## Proposed RPS Change 1

- (b) Provide for sufficient development capacity to meet the needs of current and future generations; and
- (c) Improve the overall health, well-being and quality of life of the people of the region; and
- (d) Prioritise the protection and enhancement of the quality and quantity of freshwater; and
- (e) Achieve the objectives in this RPS relating to the management of air, land, freshwater, coast, and indigenous biodiversity; and
- (f) Support the transition to a low-emission and climate-resilient region; and
- (g) Provide for a variety of homes that meet the needs, in terms of type, price, and location, of different households; and
- (h) Enable Māori to express their cultural and traditional norms by providing for mana whenua / tangata whenua and their relationship with their culture, land, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga; and
- (i) Support the competitive operation of land and development markets in ways that improve housing affordability, including enabling intensification; and
- (j) Provide for commercial and industrial development in appropriate locations, including employment close to where people live; and
- (k) Are well connected through multi-modal (private vehicles, public transport, walking, micro-mobility and cycling) transport networks that provide for good accessibility for all people between housing, jobs, community services, natural spaces, and open space.

~~A compact well designed and sustainable regional form that has an integrated, safe and responsive transport network and:~~

- ~~(a) a viable and vibrant regional central business district in Wellington city;~~
- ~~(b) an increased range and diversity of activities in and around the regionally significant centres to maintain vibrancy and vitality;~~
- ~~(c) sufficient industrial based employment locations or capacity to meet the region's needs;~~



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- ~~(d) development and/or management of the Regional Focus Areas identified in the Wellington Regional Strategy;~~
- ~~(e) urban development in existing urban areas, or when beyond urban areas, development that reinforces the region's existing urban form;~~
- ~~(f) strategically planned rural development;~~
- ~~(g) a range of housing (including affordable housing);~~
- ~~(h) integrated public open spaces;~~
- ~~(i) integrated land use and transportation;~~
- ~~(j) improved east-west transport linkages;~~
- ~~(k) efficiently use existing infrastructure (including transport network infrastructure); and~~
- ~~(l) essential social services to meet the region's needs.~~

# Appendix 3: Full wording of relevant objectives and policies of the Natural Resource Plan for the Wellington Region and Proposed NRP Change 1

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## Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

Natural Resources Plan	
<b>Objective 01</b> <b>Ki uta ki tai:</b> <b>mountains to the sea</b>	<i>Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area are managed as integrated and connected resources; ki uta ki tai – mountains to the sea.</i>
<b>Objective 02</b> <b>Ki uta ki tai:</b> <b>mountains to the sea</b>	<i>The importance and contribution of air, land, water and ecosystems to the social, economic and cultural well-being and health of people and the community are recognised in the management of those resources.</i>
<b>Objective 03</b> <b>Ki uta ki tai:</b> <b>mountains to the sea</b>	<i>Mauri particularly the mauri of fresh and coastal waters is sustained and, where it has been depleted, natural resources and processes are enhanced to replenish mauri.</i>
<b>Objective 04</b> <b>Ki uta ki tai:</b> <b>mountains to the sea</b>	<i>The intrinsic values of fresh water and marine ecosystems are recognised and the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems is safeguarded.</i>
<b>Objective 07</b> <b>Beneficial use</b>	<i>The recreational values of the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes and their margins and natural wetlands are maintained and where appropriate for recreational purposes, is enhanced.</i>

<b>Natural Resources Plan</b>	
<b>and development</b>	
<b>Objective O8 Beneficial use and development</b>	<i>Public access to and along the coastal marine area and rivers and lakes is maintained and enhanced, other than in exceptional circumstances, in which case alternative access is provided where practicable.</i>
<b>Objective O09 Beneficial use and development</b>	<i>The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of Regionally Significant Infrastructure, renewable energy generation activities and the utilisation of mineral resources are recognised.</i>
<b>Objective O10 Beneficial use and development</b>	<i>Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities that meets the needs of present and future generations are enabled in appropriate places and ways.</i>
<b>Objective O11 Beneficial use and development</b>	<i>Significant mineral resources and the ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade of Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities are protected from incompatible use and development occurring under, over, or adjacent to the infrastructure or activity.</i>
<b>Objective O12 Māori relationships</b>	<p><i>The relationships of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga are recognised and provided for, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) maintaining and improving opportunities for Māori customary use of the coastal marine area, rivers, lakes and their margins and natural wetlands, and</i></li> <li><i>(b) maintaining and improving the availability of mahinga kai species, in terms of quantity, quality and diversity, to support Māori customary harvest, and</i></li> <li><i>(c) providing for the relationship of mana whenua with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, including by maintaining or improving Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa so that the huanga identified in Schedule B are provided for, and</i></li> <li><i>(d) protecting sites with significant mana whenua values from use and development that will adversely affect their values and restoring those sites to a state where their characteristics and qualities sustain the identified values.</i></li> </ul>

<b>Natural Resources Plan</b>	
<b>Objective O13 Māori relationships</b>	<i>Kaitiakitanga is recognised and mana whenua actively participate in planning and decision-making in relation to the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.</i>
<b>Objective O14 Natural character, form and function</b>	<i>The natural character of the coastal marine area, natural wetlands, and rivers, lakes and their margins is preserved and protected from inappropriate use and development.</i>
<b>Objective O15 Natural Hazards</b>	<i>The hazard risk and residual hazard risk, from natural hazards and adverse effects of climate change, on people, the community, the environment and infrastructure are acceptable.</i>
<b>Objective O16 Natural Hazards</b>	<i>Inappropriate use and development in high hazard areas is avoided.</i>
<b>Objective O18 Water quality</b>	<p><i>Rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and coastal water are suitable for contact recreation and Māori customary use, including by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) maintaining water quality, or</i></li> <li><i>(b) improving water quality in:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(i) significant contact recreation fresh water bodies and sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa identified in Schedule B to meet, as a minimum and with reasonable timeframes, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.1, and</i></li> <li><i>(ii) coastal water and sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa identified in Schedule B to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.3, and</i></li> <li><i>(iii) all other rivers and lakes and natural wetlands to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the secondary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.2.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Note</i></p> <p><i>For the purposes of this objective 'a reasonable timeframe' is a date for the applicable water body or coastal marine area inserted into this Plan through the plan change/s required by the RMA to implement the NPS-FM 2020, or 2050 if no other date is specified by 31 December 2026.</i></p>

**Natural Resources Plan**

**Objective O19**  
**Biodiversity,**  
**aquatic**  
**ecosystem**  
**health and**  
**mahinga kai**

*Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai in fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area are safeguarded such that:*

- (a) water quality, flows, water levels and aquatic and coastal habitats are managed to maintain biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health mahinga kai, and*
- (b) where an objective in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 or 3.8 is not met, a fresh water body or coastal marine area is meaningfully improved over so that the objective is met within a reasonable timeframe, and*
- (c) restoration of aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai is encouraged.*

*Note*

*For the purposes of this objective 'a reasonable timeframe' is a date for the applicable water body or coastal marine area inserted into this Plan through the plan change/s required by the RMA to implement the NPS-FM 2020, or 2050 if no other date is specified by 31 December 2026.*

**Objective O21**  
**Biodiversity,**  
**aquatic**  
**ecosystem**  
**health and**  
**mahinga kai**

*Vegetated riparian margins are established, maintained or restored to enhance water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai and indigenous biodiversity of rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and the coastal marine area.*

**Objective O22**  
**Biodiversity,**  
**aquatic**  
**ecosystem**  
**health and**  
**mahinga kai**

*The extent of natural wetlands is maintained or increased, their values are protected, and their condition is restored. Where the values relate to biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, restoration is to a healthy functioning state as defined by Table 3.7.*

**Objective O25**  
**Sites with**  
**significant**  
**values**

*Outstanding water bodies identified in Schedule A (outstanding water bodies) and their significant values are protected and restored. Where the significant values relate to biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, restoration is to a healthy functioning state including as defined by Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.*

<b>Natural Resources Plan</b>	
<b>Objective O26 Sites with significant values</b>	<i>Outstanding natural features and landscapes and their values are protected from inappropriate use and development.</i>
<b>Policy P1 Ki uta ki tai and integrated catchment management</b>	<p><i>Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area will be managed recognising ki uta ki tai by using the principles of integrated catchment management. These principles include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) decision-making using the catchment as the spatial unit, and</i></li> <li><i>(b) applying an adaptive management approach to take into account the dynamic nature and processes of catchments, and</i></li> <li><i>(c) coordinated management, with decisions based on best available information and improvements in technology and science, and</i></li> <li><i>(d) taking into account the connected nature of resources and natural processes within a catchment, and</i></li> <li><i>(e) recognising links between environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability of the catchment.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Policy P6 Uses of land and water</b>	<p><i>The cultural, social and economic benefits of using land and water for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) treatment, dilution and disposal of wastewater and stormwater, and</i></li> <li><i>(b) industrial processes and commercial uses associated with the potable water supply network, and</i></li> <li><i>(c) community and domestic water supply, and</i></li> <li><i>(d) food production and harvesting (including aquaculture), and</i></li> <li><i>(e) gravel extraction from rivers for flood protection and control purposes, and</i></li> <li><i>(f) irrigation and stock water, and</i></li> <li><i>(g) firefighting (emergency or training purposes), and</i></li> <li><i>(h) contact recreation and Māori customary use, and</i></li> <li><i>(i) transportation, including along, across, and access to, water bodies, and</i></li> </ul>

## Natural Resources Plan

- (j) *enabling urban development where it maintains the quality of the natural environment, and*
  - (k) *waste management facilities.*
- shall be recognised.*

### **Policy P7 Beneficial activities**

*The following activities are recognised as beneficial and generally appropriate:*

- (a) *activities for the purpose of restoring natural character, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai, outstanding water bodies, sites with significant mana whenua values, and sites with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and*
- (b) *activities that restore natural features such as beaches, dunes or wetlands that can buffer development from natural hazards, and*
- (c) *day-lighting of piped streams, and*
- (d) *removal of aquatic weeds, and pest plants and animal pests, and*
- (e) *the establishment of river crossings (culverts and bridges) or fences and fence structures that will result in the exclusion of regular livestock access from a water body, and*
- (f) *the retirement, fencing and planting and management of riparian margins, and*
- (g) *the retirement of erosion prone land from livestock access, and*
- (h) *maintenance, and use and upgrade of existing structures in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and the beds of rivers and lakes (noting that Policy P35 will apply with respect to fish passage), and*
- (i) *removal of dangerous or derelict structures in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and beds of lakes and rivers, and*
- (j) *structures necessary to provide for monitoring resource use or the state of the environment in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and beds of lakes and rivers, and*
- (k) *activities necessary to maintain safe navigation, and*
- (l) *artworks that support and enhance public open space.*

**Natural Resources Plan**

**Policy P8**  
**Public access to and along the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers**

*Maintain and enhance the extent or quality of public access to and along the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers except where it is necessary to:*

- (a) protect the values of estuaries, sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), sites with significant historic heritage value identified in Schedule E (historic heritage) and sites with significant indigenous biodiversity value identified in Schedule F (indigenous biodiversity), or*
- (b) protect public health and safety, or protect Wellington International Airport and Commercial Port Area security, or*
- (c) provide for a temporary activity such as construction, a recreation or cultural event or stock movement, and where the temporary restrictions shall be for no longer than reasonably necessary before access is fully reinstated, and*

*with respect to (a) and (b), where it is necessary to permanently restrict or remove existing public access, the loss of public access shall be mitigated or offset by providing enhanced public access at a similar or nearby location to the extent reasonably practicable.*

**Policy P9**  
**Contact Recreation and Māori customary use**

*Use and development avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on contact recreation and Māori customary use in fresh and coastal water, including by:*

- (a) providing water quality and, in rivers, flows suitable for the community's objectives for contact recreation and Māori customary use, and*
- (b) managing activities to maintain or enhance contact recreation values in the beds of lakes and rivers, including by retaining existing swimming holes and maintaining access to existing contact recreation locations, and*
- (c) encouraging improved access to suitable swimming and surfing locations, and*
- (d) providing for the passive recreation and amenity values of fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area.*

**Policy P11**  
**Benefits of regionally**

*When considering proposals that relate to the provision of regionally significant infrastructure, or renewable energy generation activities, particular regard will be given to the benefits of those activities.*



<b>Natural Resources Plan</b>	
<b>significant infrastructure and renewable electricity generation facilities</b>	
<b>Policy P13 Providing for regionally significant infrastructure and renewable electricity generation activities</b>	<p><i>The use, development, operation, maintenance, and upgrade of regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities are provided for, in appropriate places and ways. This includes by having particular regard to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) the strategic integration of infrastructure and land use, and</i></li> <li><i>(b) the location of existing infrastructure and structures, and</i></li> <li><i>(c) the need for renewable energy generation activities to locate where the renewable energy resources exist, and</i></li> <li><i>(d) the functional need and operational requirements associated with developing, operating, maintaining and upgrading regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Policy P14 The National Grid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) Recognise and provide for the benefits of the National Grid.</i></li> <li><i>(b) Enable the operation, maintenance or upgrade of existing National Grid assets.</i></li> <li><i>(c) Where the National Grid has a functional need or operational requirement to locate in the coastal environment, lakes, rivers or wetlands, manage the adverse effects of its activities on natural character, natural features and natural landscapes, and indigenous biodiversity by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(i) Seeking to avoid adverse effects of new development or major upgrades on values of:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. outstanding natural character,</i></li> <li><i>2. natural attributes and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes,</i></li> <li><i>3. indigenous biodiversity values of the aquatic ecosystems, habitats, species and areas listed in Policy P38(a).</i></li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Natural Resources Plan**

	<p>(ii) Seeking to avoid significant adverse effects of new development or major upgrades on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. other areas of natural character in the coastal environment,</li> <li>2. natural attributes and characteristics of other natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment,</li> <li>3. indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy P11(b) of the NZCPS.</li> </ol> <p>(iii) Having regard to the extent to which adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. through the route, site and method selection process, and</li> <li>2. given the constraints imposed by the activity's operational requirements.</li> </ol> <p>(iv) Recognising there may be some areas in the coastal environment where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. avoidance of adverse effects is required to protect the values, natural attributes and characteristics identified within (c)(i) 1, 2 and 3 above.</li> <li>2. avoidance of significant adverse effects is required to protect the values, natural attributes and characteristics identified within (c)(ii) 1, 2 and 3 above.</li> </ol> <p>(d) Remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the operation, maintenance, upgrade, major upgrade or development of the National Grid which cannot be avoided.</p> <p><i>In the event of any conflict with any other objectives and policies in the Plan relating to indigenous biodiversity within Policy P38, natural character, and natural features and natural landscapes, Policy P14 takes precedence.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P16 Flood protection activities</b></p>	<p>The use, maintenance and ongoing operation of existing catchment based flood and erosion risk management activities to manage the hazard risk of flooding to people, property, infrastructure and communities are provided for.</p>

<b>Natural Resources Plan</b>	
<b>Policy P17 New flood protection and erosion control</b>	<i>The social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of new catchment based flood and erosion risk management activities are recognised.</i>
<b>Policy P20 Māori values</b>	<i>The cultural relationship of Māori with air, land and water shall be recognised and the adverse effects on this relationship and their values shall be minimised</i>
<b>Policy P21 Exercise of kaitiakitanga</b>	<p><i>Kaitiakitanga shall be recognised and provided for by involving mana whenua in the assessment and decision-making processes associated with use and development of natural and physical resources including;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) managing activities in sites with significant mana whenua values listed in Schedule C (mana whenua) in accordance with tikanga and kaupapa Māori as exercised by mana whenua, and</i></li> <li><i>(b) the identification and inclusion of mana whenua attributes and values in the kaitiaki information and monitoring strategy in accordance with Method M2, and</i></li> <li><i>(c) identification of mana whenua values and attributes and their application through tikanga and kaupapa Māori in the maintenance and enhancement of mana whenua relationships with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Policy P23 Identification of outstanding/high natural character and outstanding natural features and landscapes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a) Identify in the Plan areas of outstanding and high natural character in the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area) and in wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins.</i></li> <li><i>(b) Identify in the Plan outstanding natural features and landscapes within the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area) and in wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins.</i></li> <li><i>(c) Until areas of high and outstanding natural character and outstanding natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment are mapped in this Plan, as assessment may be required as to whether an activity is within:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(i) An area of high or outstanding natural character</i></li> <li><i>(ii) An outstanding natural feature or landscape.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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*The need for such an assessment will depend on the level or scale of potential effects and the sensitivity of the receiving environment and shall take into account Policies 3 and 24 of the Regional Policy Statement. Any assessment shall be commensurate with the scale and significance of the effects that the use or development may have on the environment.*

Note

Refer to Method M31

**Policy P24  
Preserving and  
protecting  
natural  
character from  
inappropriate  
use and  
development**

*To preserve natural character and protect it from inappropriate use and development by:*

- (a) avoiding adverse effects of activities on the natural character of areas within the coastal environment that have outstanding natural character , and*
- (b) avoiding significant adverse effects and avoid remedy and mitigate other adverse effects of activities on the natural character of areas within the coastal environment that do not have outstanding natural character, and*
- (c) outside the coastal environment, avoiding and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating adverse effects of activities on the natural character of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that have outstanding natural character, provided that the outstanding natural character of the area taken as a whole is retained, and*
- (d) outside the coastal environment, avoiding and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating significant adverse effects of activities on the natural character of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that have high natural character, provided that the high natural character of the area taken as a whole is retained, and*
- (e) outside the coastal environment, avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects of activities on the natural character of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that are not addressed under (c) or (d) of Policy P24.*

**Policy P25  
High hazard  
areas**

*Use and development, including hazard mitigation methods, in on or over high hazard areas shall be managed to ensure that:*

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) <i>they have a functional need or operational requirement or there is no practicable alternative to be so located, and</i></li><li>(b) <i>an overall increase in risk of social, environmental and economic harm is avoided, and</i></li><li>(c) <i>the hazard risk and/or residual hazard risk to the development, assessed using a risk-based approach, is acceptable or as low as reasonably practicable, recognising that in some instances an increase in risk to the development may be appropriate, and</i></li><li>(d) <i>the development does not cause or exacerbate hazard risk in other areas, and unless effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated in accordance with a hazard risk management strategy, and</i></li><li>(e) <i>adverse effects on natural processes (coastal, riverine and lake processes) are avoided, remedied, or mitigated, and</i></li><li>(f) <i>natural cycles of erosion and accretion and the potential for natural features to fluctuate in position over time, including movements due to climate change and sea level rise over at least the next 100 years, are taken into account.</i></li></ul>
<p><b>Policy P26</b> <b>Diversion of flood waters in a floodplain</b></p>	<p><i>The diversion of flood waters from any river or lake resulting from earthworks or the erection, placement or extension of a structure within stopbanks or through the creation of new stopbanks shall be managed to ensure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) <i>any increase in hazard risk or residual hazard risk in other areas as a result of the diversion is avoided or mitigated, and</i></li><li>(b) <i>any adverse effects on natural processes are avoided, remedied, or mitigated, and</i></li><li>(c) <i>natural cycles of erosion and accretion and the potential for natural features to fluctuate in position over time, including movements due to climate change over at least the next 100 years, are taken into account.</i></li></ul>
<p><b>Policy P27</b> <b>Hazard mitigation measures</b></p>	<p><i>Hard hazard engineering mitigation and protection methods shall be discouraged except where it is necessary to protect:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) <i>existing, or upgrades to, infrastructure including regionally significant infrastructure, or</i></li></ul>

<b>Natural Resources Plan</b>	
	<p>(b) <i>new regionally significant infrastructure, or</i></p> <p>(c) <i>significant existing development, and</i></p> <p><i>in respect of (a), (b) and (c):</i></p> <p>(d) <i>there is no reasonable or practicable alternatives to mitigate hazard risk and residual hazard risk, and</i></p> <p>(e) <i>the mitigation and protection methods are suitably located and designed, and where appropriate certified by a qualified, professional engineer, and</i></p> <p>(f) <i>the use of soft engineering options are incorporated and used, where appropriate,</i></p> <p><i>and either:</i></p> <p>(g) <i>any adverse effects are no more than minor, or</i></p> <p>(h) <i>where the environmental effects are more than minor the works form part of a hazard risk management strategy.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P28</b> <b>Effects of climate change</b></p>	<p><i>Particular regard shall be given to the potential for climate change</i></p> <p>(a) <i>to threaten biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, or</i></p> <p>(b) <i>to cause or exacerbate natural hazard events over at least the next 100 years that could adversely affect use and development</i></p> <p><i>including as a result of:</i></p> <p>(c) <i>coastal erosion and inundation (storm surge), and</i></p> <p>(d) <i>river and lake flooding and erosion, aggradation, decreased minimum flows, and</i></p> <p>(e) <i>stormwater ponding and impeded drainage, and</i></p> <p>(f) <i>relative sea level rise, reliable scientific data for the Wellington region.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P29</b> <b>Natural buffers</b></p>	<p><i>Provide for the restoration or enhancement of natural features such as beaches, dunes or wetlands that buffer development from natural hazards and ensure the adverse effects of use and development on them are avoided, remedied, or mitigated.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P30</b> <b>Biodiversity,</b></p>	<p><i>Manage the adverse effects of use and development on biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai to:</i></p>

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### **aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai**

#### *Hydrology*

- (a) *maintain or where practicable restore natural flow characteristics and hydrodynamic processes and the natural pattern and range of water level fluctuations in rivers, lakes and natural wetlands*

#### *Water quality*

- (b) *maintain or improve water quality including to assist with achieving objectives in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 of Objective O19, and*

#### *Aquatic habitat diversity and quality*

- (c) *maintain or where practicable restore aquatic habitat diversity and quality, including:*
- (i) *the form, frequency and pattern of pools, runs, and riffles in rivers, and*
  - (ii) *the natural form of rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and the coastal marine area, and*
- (d) *where practicable restore the connections between fragmented aquatic habitats, and*

#### *Critical habitat for indigenous aquatic species and indigenous birds*

- (e) *maintain or where practicable restore habitats that are important to the life cycle and survival of indigenous aquatic species and the habitats of indigenous birds in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and the beds of lakes and rivers and their margins that are used for breeding, roosting, feeding, and migration, and*

#### *Critical life cycle periods*

- (f) *avoid, minimise or remedy adverse effects on aquatic species at times which will most affect the breeding, spawning, and dispersal or migration of those species, including timing the activity, or the adverse effects of the activity, to avoid times of the year when adverse effects may be more significant, and*

#### *Riparian habitats*

- (g) *maintain or where practicable restore riparian habitats, and*

#### *Pests*

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	<p>(h) <i>avoid the introduction, and restrict the spread, of aquatic pest plants and animals.<sup>1</sup></i></p> <p><sup>1</sup> <i>Pests for the Wellington region are defined in the Wellington Regional Pest Management Strategy</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P36</b> <b>Restoring Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana</b></p>	<p><i>The ecological health and significant values of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana will be restored including by:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>managing activities, erosion-prone land, and riparian margins to reduce sedimentation rates and pollutant inputs, to meet the water quality, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives set out in Tables 3.4 to 3.8, and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>undertaking planting and pest management programmes in harbour and lake habitats and ecosystems.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P37</b> <b>Adverse effects on outstanding water bodies</b></p>	<p><i>The adverse effects of use and development on outstanding water bodies and their significant values identified in Schedule A (outstanding water bodies) shall be avoided, unless there is a functional need for operation, maintenance or upgrade of existing Regionally Significant Infrastructure in which case adverse effects of activities shall be managed by:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>avoiding adverse effects where practicable, and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>where adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimising them, and</i></p> <p>(c) <i>where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable, and</i></p> <p>(d) <i>where residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, offsetting is provided where possible.</i></p> <p><i>Proposals for biodiversity mitigation and biodiversity offsetting will be assessed against the principles listed in Schedule G1 (biodiversity mitigation), and Schedule G2 (biodiversity offsetting). A precautionary approach shall be used when assessing the potential for adverse effects on outstanding water bodies.</i></p> <p><i>Where more than minor adverse effects on outstanding water bodies cannot be avoided, minimised, remedied or redressed through biodiversity offsets, the activity is inappropriate.</i></p>



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**Policy P38  
Indigenous  
biodiversity  
values within the  
coastal  
environment**

*To protect the indigenous biodiversity values, use and development within the coastal environment shall:*

- (a) avoid adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(a) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) namely:
  - (i) indigenous taxa listed as threatened or at risk in the NZ Threat classification system lists or as threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and*
  - (ii) indigenous ecosystems and vegetation types in the coastal environment that are threatened or are naturally rare, and*
  - (iii) habitats of indigenous species where the species are at the limit of their natural range, or are naturally rare, and*
  - (iv) areas in the coastal environment containing nationally significant examples of indigenous community types, and*
  - (v) areas set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biological diversity under other legislation, and**
- (b) avoid significant adverse effects, on indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(b) (i) – (vi) of the NZCPS, and*
- (c) manage non-significant adverse effects of activities on indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(b) of the NZCPS by:
  - (i) avoiding adverse effects where practicable, and*
  - (ii) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimising them where practicable, and*
  - (iii) where adverse effects cannot be minimised they are remedied where practicable, and*
  - (iv) where residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, biodiversity offsetting is provided where possible, and*
  - (v) if biodiversity offsetting of residual adverse effects is not possible, the activity itself is avoided unless the activity is**

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	<p><i>regionally significant infrastructure then biodiversity compensation is provided, and</i></p> <p><i>(vi) the activity itself is avoided if biodiversity compensation cannot be undertaken in a way that is appropriate as set out in Schedule G3, including Clause 2 of that schedule, and</i></p> <p><i>(d) for all other sites within the coastal environment not meeting Policy 11(a) or (b) of the NZCPS, manage significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values using the effects management hierarchy set out in (b) to (g) of Policy P32.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P39</b> <b>Existing regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities within a site that meets any of the criteria in Policy P38(a)(i) - (v) or (b) or included in Schedule F5</b></p>	<p><i>Consider providing for the operation, maintenance, upgrade and extension of existing regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities within a site in the coastal environment that meets any of the criteria in Policy P38(a)(i) - (v) or (b) or included in Schedule F5 where:</i></p> <p><i>(a) there is a functional need or operational requirement for the activity to locate in that area, and</i></p> <p><i>(b) there is no practicable alternative on land or elsewhere in the coastal environment for the activity to be located, and</i></p> <p><i>(c) the activity provides for the maintenance and, where practicable, the enhancement or restoration of the affected significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes at, and in proximity to, the affected area, taking into account any consultation with the Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and mana whenua</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P42</b> <b>Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values</b></p>	<p><i>Protect in accordance with Policy P31 and Policies P38-P41 and, where appropriate, restore the following ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values:</i></p> <p><i>(a) the rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems identified in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), and</i></p> <p><i>(b) the habitats for indigenous birds identified in Schedule F2 (bird habitats), and</i></p> <p><i>(c) natural wetlands, including the natural wetlands identified in Schedule F3 (identified natural wetlands), and</i></p>

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	<p>(d) <i>the ecosystems and habitat-types with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal marine area identified in Schedule F4 (coastal sites) and Schedule F5 (coastal habitats).</i></p> <p>Notes</p> <p><i>All natural wetlands in the Wellington Region are considered to be ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values as they meet at least two of the criteria listed in Policy 23 of the Regional Policy Statement 2013 for identifying indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values; being representativeness and rarity.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P44</b>  <b>Managing effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values from activities outside these ecosystems and habitats</b></p>	<p><i>In order to protect the ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in accordance with Policy P42, particular regard shall be given to managing the adverse effects of use and development in areas outside of these ecosystems and habitats on physical, chemical and biological processes to:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>maintain ecological connections within and between these habitats, or</i></p> <p>(b) <i>provide for the enhancement of ecological connectivity between fragmented habitats through biodiversity offsets, and</i></p> <p>(c) <i>provide adequate buffers around ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and</i></p> <p>(d) <i>avoid cumulative adverse effects on, and the incremental loss of significant indigenous biodiversity values.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P52</b>  <b>Protecting natural features and landscapes from inappropriate use and development</b></p>	<p><i>To protect natural features and landscapes (including seascapes) of the coastal environment, rivers, lakes and their margins and natural wetlands and their values, from inappropriate use and development by:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>avoiding adverse effects of activities on the natural attributes and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment, and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>avoiding significant adverse effects of activities on the natural attributes and characteristics of natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment and avoid, remedy and mitigate other adverse effects of activities on other natural features and natural landscapes in the coastal environment, and</i></p>

<b>Natural Resources Plan</b>	
	<p>(c) <i>outside the coastal environment, avoiding and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating adverse effects of activities on the natural attributes and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes, provided that the values of the natural features or landscapes that contribute to its outstanding status are retained.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P53</b> <b>Significant geological features</b></p>	<p><i>The significant geological features identified in Schedule J (geological features) shall be protected by:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>avoiding significant adverse effects of use and development on significant geological features; and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects of activities on significant geological features.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P54</b> <b>Identified surf breaks</b></p>	<p><i>Use and development in and adjacent to the surf breaks identified in Schedule K (surf breaks) shall be managed by avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects on the recreational qualities and values of the surf breaks.</i></p> <p><i>Natural character in relation to those surf breaks will be managed in accordance with Policy P24.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P109</b> <b>Management of riparian margins</b></p>	<p><i>Maintain or restore water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai and natural character, and reduce the amount of contaminants entering surface water bodies, through the management of riparian margins including:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>the exclusion or restricted access of livestock likely to affect riparian margins or water quality,</i></p> <p>(b) <i>set-back distances from surface water bodies for some land use activities including earthworks, vegetation clearance, cultivation and break-feeding,</i></p> <p>(c) <i>encouraging the planting of appropriate riparian vegetation, and</i></p> <p>(d) <i>the control of pest plants and animals.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P139</b> <b>Functional need and efficient use</b></p>	<p><i>Use and development in the coastal marine area shall:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>have a functional need, or</i></p>

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	<p>(b) <i>have an operational requirement to locate within the coastal marine area, and no reasonable or practicable alternative to locating in the coastal marine area, or</i></p> <p>(c) <i>be use or redevelopment of, or on, existing structures in the Lambton Harbour Area; or</i></p> <p>(d) <i>for any other activity, it shall have no reasonable or practicable alternative to locating in the coastal marine area,</i></p> <p><i>and:</i></p> <p>(e) <i>be made available for public or multiple use unless a restriction on public access is necessary, and</i></p> <p>(f) <i>result in the removal of structures once redundant, except where operational requirements prevent this within the Cook Strait Cable Protection Zone and adjacent foreshore, and</i></p> <p>(g) <i>concentrate in locations where similar use and development already exists where practicable, and</i></p> <p>(h) <i>in respect of (a), (b) and (d) above, only use the minimum area necessary, and</i></p> <p>(i) <i>in respect of (c), makes efficient use of any occupied space</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P140</b> <b>Recreational values</b></p>	<p><i>The adverse effects of use and development in the coastal marine area on recreational values shall be managed by providing for a diverse range of recreational opportunities while avoiding conflicts and safety issues.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P141</b> <b>Public open space values and visual amenity</b></p>	<p><i>The adverse effects of new use and development on public open space and visual amenity viewed within, to and from the coastal marine area shall be avoided, remedied or mitigated by:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>having particular regard to any relevant provisions contained in any bordering territorial authorities' proposed and/or operative district plan, and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>managing use and development to be of a scale, location, density and design which is compatible with the natural character, natural features and landscapes and amenity values of the coastal environment and the functional needs, operational requirements and locational constraints, of the Commercial Port Area and the Wellington International Airport, and</i></p>

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	<p>(c) <i>taking account of the future need for public open space in the coastal marine area.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P145</b> <b>Structures in sites with significant values</b></p>	<p><i>New structures, replacement of a structure or any addition or alteration to a structure in the coastal marine area in a site identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features) shall be avoided, except where:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>the new structure, replacement of the structure or any addition or alteration to the structure is for the specific purpose of providing protection for the values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) or Schedule J (geological features), or</i></p> <p>(b) <i>the structure is for educational, scientific or research purposes that will enhance the understanding and long-term protection of the coastal marine area, or</i></p> <p>(c) <i>the structure will provide for navigational safety, or</i></p> <p>(d) <i>it is necessary to enable the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of regionally significant infrastructure,</i></p> <p><i>and in respect of (a) to (d):</i></p> <p>(e) <i>there are no practicable alternative locations or methods of providing for the activity.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy P146</b> <b>Seawalls</b></p>	<p><i>The construction of a new seawall or the addition to or alteration or replacement of an existing seawall is inappropriate except where the seawall is required to protect:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>existing, or upgrades to, infrastructure, or</i></p> <p>(b) <i>new regionally significant infrastructure, or</i></p> <p>(c) <i>significant existing development,</i></p> <p><i>and in respect of (a), (b) and (c):</i></p> <p>(d) <i>there is no reasonable or practicable alternative means, and</i></p> <p>(e) <i>suitably located, designed and certified by a qualified, professional engineer, and</i></p> <p>(f) <i>designed to incorporate the use of soft engineering options where appropriate.</i></p>

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<p><b>Policy P147</b> <b>New boatsheds</b></p>	<p>New boatsheds shall be managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) avoiding the development of boatsheds outside Boatshed Management Areas (shown on Map 50), and</li> <li>(b) requiring that new boatsheds are compatible in scale, size and character to existing boatsheds.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy P148</b> <b>Boatsheds</b></p>	<p>The use of boatsheds for residential or other non-water-based activities shall be avoided.</p>
<p><b>Policy P150</b> <b>Deposition in a site with significant values</b></p>	<p>Deposition of sand, shingle or shell in a site in the coastal marine area identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features) shall be avoided except where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the activity is for the specific purpose of providing protection for the values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features), or</li> <li>(b) it involves renourishment for the purpose of managing coastal erosion, or</li> <li>(c) it provides for public amenity, or</li> <li>(d) the activity is carried out for the purposes of flood protection and/or erosion mitigation, and</li> <li>(e) the activity is carried out by or for local authorities, or</li> <li>(f) it is necessary to enable the efficient development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of regionally significant infrastructure,</li> </ul> <p>and in respect of (a) to (f):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(g) there are no practicable alternative locations or methods of providing for the activity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy P151</b> <b>Dumping in a site with significant values</b></p>	<p>Dumping in the coastal marine area in a site identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features) shall be avoided except where:</p>

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	<p>(a) <i>it is necessary to enable the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of regionally significant infrastructure, and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>there are no practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity.</i></p>
<b>Policy P152</b> <b>Reclamation, drainage and destruction</b>	<p><i>Reclamation, drainage or destruction in the coastal marine area shall be avoided except where:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>the reclamation, drainage or destruction is associated with the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of Regionally Significant Infrastructure, and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>there are no other locations outside the coastal marine area for the activity associated with the reclamation, drainage or destruction, and</i></p> <p>(c) <i>there are no practicable alternative methods of providing for the associated activity.</i></p>
<b>Policy P153</b> <b>Introduction of pest plants</b>	<i>The introduction of plants listed in the National Pest Plant Accord 2012 into the coastal marine area shall be avoided.</i>
<b>Policy P154</b> <b>Motor vehicles on the foreshore</b>	<p><i>District and city councils may restrict the use of motor vehicles on the foreshore, with the exception of vehicles associated with:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>surf lifesaving operations, or</i></p> <p>(b) <i>emergency situations, including (but not restricted to) firefighting, oil spills, rescue operations, salvage of vessels and marine mammal strandings, or</i></p> <p>(c) <i>local authority activities, or</i></p> <p>(d) <i>the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of regionally significant infrastructure.</i></p>
<b>Policy P155</b> <b>Motor vehicles in sites with significant value</b>	<i>The use of motor vehicles on the foreshore and seabed in a site identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites), Schedule F2c (birds-coastal), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) shall be avoided, except when required for surf lifesaving, emergency, law enforcement, Department of Conservation, local authority or regionally significant infrastructure purposes.</i>





# Proposed NRP Change 1

Proposed NRP Change 1	
<p><b>Fresh Water - Objective O18</b></p> <p><b>Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai - Objective O19</b></p>	<p>Objectives O18 and O19 do not apply to rivers, lakes, groundwater or coastal water within Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua. Objective O18 only applies to natural wetlands within Whaitua Te Whanganuia-Tara and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua.</p>
<p><b>Sites with significant values - Objective O25</b></p>	<p>Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, and 3.8 do not apply to Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua, and are therefore not relevant to defining a healthy functioning state within these whaitua.</p>
<p><b>Policy P36</b></p> <p><b>Restoring Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana</b></p>	<p>The ecological health and significant values of <del>Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana</del> will be restored including by:</p> <p>(a) managing activities, erosion-prone land, and riparian margins to reduce sedimentation rates and pollutant inputs, to meet the water quality, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives set out in Tables 3.4 to 3.8, and</p> <p>(b) undertaking planting and pest management programmes in harbour and lake habitats and ecosystems.</p>
8 Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara	
<p><b>Objective WH.01</b></p>	<p><u>The health of all freshwater bodies and the coastal marine area within Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara is progressively improved and is wai ora by 2100.</u></p> <p><u>Note</u></p> <p><u>In the wai ora state:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Āhua (natural character) is restored and freshwater bodies exhibit their natural quality, rhythms, range of flows, form, hydrology and character</u></li> <li>• <u>All freshwater bodies have planted margins</u></li> <li>• <u>All freshwater bodies and coastal waters have healthy functioning ecosystems and their water conditions and habitat support the</u></li> </ul>

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	<p><u>presence, abundance, survival and recovery of At-risk and Threatened species and taonga species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Mahinga kai and kaimoana species are healthy, plentiful enough for long term harvest and are safe to harvest and eat or use, including for manuhiri and to exercise manaakitanga</u></li><li>• <u>Mana whenua are able to undertake customary practices at a range of places throughout the catchment.</u></li></ul>
<p><b>Objective</b> <b>WH.02</b></p>	<p><u>The health and wellbeing of Te Whanganui-a-Tara’s groundwater, rivers and natural wetlands and their margins are on a trajectory of measurable improvement towards wai ora, such that by 2040:</u></p> <p><u>(a) water quality, habitats, water quantity and ecological processes are at a level where the state of aquatic life is maintained, or meaningful progress has been made towards improvement where degraded, and</u></p> <p><u>(b) the hydrology of rivers and erosion processes, including bank stability are improved and sources of sediment are reduced to a more natural level, and</u></p> <p><u>(c) the extent and condition of indigenous riparian vegetation is increased and improved, and</u></p> <p><u>(d) the diversity, abundance, composition, structure and condition of mahinga kai species and communities are increased, and</u></p> <p><u>(e) huanga of mahinga kai and Māori customary use for locations identified in Schedule B (Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa) are maintained or improved, and</u></p> <p><u>(f) mana whenua can safely connect with freshwater and enjoy a wider range of customary and cultural practices, including mahinga kai gathering, and</u></p> <p><u>(g) mana whenua and communities can safely connect with freshwater and enjoy a wider range of activities, including swimming and food gathering, and</u></p> <p><u>(h) freshwater of a suitable quality is available for the health needs of people.</u></p>
<p><b>Objective</b> <b>WH.03</b></p>	<p><u>The health and wellbeing of coastal water quality, ecosystems and habitats in Te Whanganui-a-Tara is maintained or improved to achieve the coastal water objectives set out in Table 8.1, and by 2040:</u></p>

**Proposed NRP Change 1**

- (a) sediment inputs into Mākara Estuary are reduced, and
- (b) high contaminant concentrations, including around discharge points, are reduced, and
- (c) diversity, abundance, composition, structure and condition of mahinga kai species and communities has increased, and
- (d) huanga of mahinga kai and Māori customary use for locations identified in Schedule B (Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa) are maintained or improved, and
- (e) the extent and condition of estuarine seagrass, saltmarsh and brackish water submerged macrophytes are increased and improved to support abundant and diverse biota, and
- (f) coastal areas support healthy functioning ecosystems, and their water conditions and habitats support the presence, abundance, survival, and recovery of At-risk and Threatened species and taonga species, and
- (g) mana whenua can safely connect with the coastal marine area and enjoy a wider range of customary and cultural practices, including mahinga kai gathering and tauranga waka, and
- (h) mana whenua and communities can safely connect with the coastal marine area and enjoy a wider range of activities, including food gathering and swimming.

**Objective  
WH.05**

- By 2040 the health and wellbeing of the Parangarahu Lakes and associated natural wetlands are on a trajectory of improvement towards wai ora, such that:
- (a) water quality, habitats, water quantity and ecological processes are at a level where the state of aquatic life is maintained, or meaningfully improved where degraded, to achieve the target attribute states in Table 8.2, and
  - (b) the lakes are not impacted by submerged invasive plants and support healthy native aquatic plants, and
  - (c) the lakes function as a productive nursery with breeding habitats of indigenous species, and
  - (d) riparian vegetation is present around the perimeter of each lake, and

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- (e) the diversity, abundance, composition, structure and condition of mahinga kai species and communities has increased, and
- (f) mana whenua can safely connect with and enjoy waterbodies to undertake a wider range of customary and cultural practices, including mahinga kai gathering, and
- (g) huanga of mahinga kai and Māori customary use for locations identified in Schedule B (Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa) are maintained or improved.

### 8.2.1 Ecosystem health and water quality

**Policy WH.P2**  
**Management of activities to achieve target attribute states and coastal water objectives**

Target attribute states and coastal water objectives will be achieved by regulating discharges and land use activities in the Plan, and non-regulatory methods, including Freshwater Action Plans, by:

- (a) prohibiting unplanned greenfield development and for other greenfield developments minimising the contaminants and requiring financial contributions as to offset adverse effects from residual stormwater contaminants, and
- (b) encouraging redevelopment activities within existing urban areas to reduce the existing urban contaminant load, and
- (c) imposing hydrological controls on urban development and stormwater discharges to rivers
- (d) requiring a reduction in contaminant loads from urban wastewater and stormwater networks, and
- (e) stabilising stream banks by excluding livestock from waterbodies and planting riparian margins with indigenous vegetation, and
- (f) requiring the active management of earthworks, forestry, cultivation, and vegetation clearance activities, and
- (g) soil conservation treatment, including revegetation with woody vegetation, of land with high erosion risk, and
- (h) requiring farm environment plans (including Freshwater Farm Plans) to improve farm practices that impact on freshwater.

### 8.2.4 Rural land use and earthworks

**Policy WH.P21:**  
**Managing diffuse discharges of**

Reduce diffuse discharges of nitrogen, phosphorus and Escherichia coli from farming activities by.

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**nutrients and Escherichia coli from farming activities**

- (a) capping, minimising and reducing diffuse discharges from individual rural properties in accordance with WH.P22, WH.P23 and WH.P24, and
- (b) applying target attributes states as limits on rural land use change and on the intensification of farming activities, and
- (c) progressively establishing and maintaining woody vegetation on highest erosion risk land (pasture) as a limit on land use, and
- (d) excluding stock from water bodies as a limit on land use, and
- (e) supporting good management practice through Wellington Regional Council's environmental restoration programmes.

**Policy WH.P29: Management of earthworks**

- The risk of sediment discharges from earthworks shall be managed by:
- (a) requiring retention of soil and sediment on the land using good management practices for erosion and sediment control measures that are appropriate to the scale and nature of the activity, and in accordance with the GWRC Erosion and Sediment Control Guideline for the Wellington Region (2021), for the duration of the land disturbance, and
  - (b) limiting the amount of land disturbed at any time, and
  - (c) designing and implementing earthworks with knowledge of the existing environmental site constraints, specific engineering requirements and implementation of controls to limit the discharge of sediment to receiving environments, and
  - (d) requiring erosion and sediment control measures to be installed prior to, and during earthworks and ensuring those controls remain in place and are maintained until the land is stabilised against erosion.

**Policy WH.P30: Discharge standard for earthworks**

- The discharge of sediment from earthworks over an area greater than 3,000m<sup>2</sup> shall:
- (a) not exceed 100g/m<sup>3</sup> at the point of discharge where the discharge is to a surface water body, coastal water, stormwater network or to an artificial watercourse, except that when the discharge is to a river with background total suspended solids that exceed 100g/m<sup>3</sup>, the discharge shall not, after the zone of reasonable mixing, decrease the visual clarity in the receiving water by more than:

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	<p><u>(i) 20% in River class 1 and in any river identified as having high macroinvertebrate community health in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), or</u></p> <p><u>(ii) 30% in any other river, and</u></p> <p><u>(b) be managed using good management practices in accordance with the GWRC Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for the Wellington Region (2021), to achieve the discharge standard in (a), and</u></p> <p><u>(c) be monitored by a suitably qualified person, and the results reported to the Wellington Regional Council.</u></p>
<p><b>Policy WH.P31:</b> <b>Winter shut down of earthworks</b></p>	<p><u>Earthworks over 3,000m<sup>2</sup> in area shall:</u></p> <p><u>(a) be shut down from 1st June to 30th September each year, and</u></p> <p><u>(b) prior to shut down, be stabilised against erosion and have sediment controls in place using good management practices in accordance with the GWRC Erosion and Sediment Control Guideline for the Wellington Region (2021).</u></p>