Purpose

The purpose of the City of Lower Hutt District Plan (set by section 72 of the RMA) is to assist Hutt City Council to carry out its functions in order to achieve the purpose of the RMA.

The purpose of the RMA (set by section 5(1) of the RMA) is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Sustainable management is defined in the RMA as:

> *"managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural 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,*
> 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."*

Functions of territorial authorities (which includes Hutt City Council) are set in section 31 of the RMA. The functions include:

- Establishing, implementing, and reviewing 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,
- Establishing, implementing, and reviewing 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,
- Controlling any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land, including for the purpose of:
  - Avoiding or mitigating natural hazards, and
  - Preventing or mitigating any adverse effects of the development, subdivision, or use of contaminated land, and
  - Maintaining indigenous biological diversity,
- Controlling the emission of noise and mitigating the effects of noise,
- Controlling any actual or potential effects of activities in relation to the surface of water in rivers and lakes, and
- Any other functions specified in the Resource Management Act.

These functions inform the topics covered in this District Plan.

In responding to the city's resource management issues, the District Plan also assists Hutt City Council to achieve the community outcomes set out in the wider strategic framework, including the Long Term Plan, spatial planning document, and other plans and strategies.