



AGENDA

Policy & Planning

Tuesday 29 August 2023, 10.30am

Policy and Planning Committee

29 August 2023 09:00 AM - 05:00 PM



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Whakataka te hau

Karakia to open and close meetings

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	Cease the winds from the west
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga	Cease the winds from the south
Kia mākinakina ki uta	Let the breeze blow over the land
Kia mātaratara ki tai	Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Kia hī ake ana te atakura	Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air
He tio, he huka, he hauhu	A touch of frost, a promise of glorious day
Tūturu o whiti whakamaua kia tina.	Let there be certainty
Tina!	Secure it!
Hui ē! Tāiki ē!	Draw together! Affirm!

Nau mai e ngā hua

Karakia for kai

Nau mai e ngā hua	Welcome the gifts of food
o te wao	from the sacred forests
o te ngakina	from the cultivated gardens
o te wai tai	from the sea
o te wai Māori	from the fresh waters
Nā Tāne	The food of Tāne
Nā Rongo	of Rongo
Nā Tangaroa	of Tangaroa
Nā Maru	of Maru
Ko Ranginui e tū iho nei	I acknowledge Ranginui above and
Ko Papatūānuku e takoto ake nei	Papatūānuku below
Tūturu o whiti whakamaua kia	Let there be certainty
tina	Secure it!
Tina! Hui e! Taiki e!	Draw together! Affirm!



Date 29 August 2023

Subject: **Policy and Planning Committee Minutes – 18 July 2023**

Approved by: A D McLay, Director - Resource Management
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 3198935

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 18 July 2023 at 10.30am
- b) notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on Tuesday 7 August 2023.

Matters arising

Appendices/Attachments

Document: 3190351 [Minutes Policy and Planning – 18 July 2023](#).



Date 18 July 2023

Venue: Taranaki Regional Council Boardroom, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford

Document: 3190351

Present	C S Williamson	Chairperson
	D M Cram	
	S W Hughes	
	B J Bigham	(zoom)
	C L Littlewood	(ex officio)
	N W Walker	(ex officio)
	E Bailey	Iwi Representative (zoom)
	P Moeahu	Iwi Representative
	M Ritai	
	G Boyde	Stratford District Council
	B Haque	New Plymouth District Council
Attending	Mr S J Ruru	Chief Executive
	Mr A D McLay	Director - Resource Management
	Ms A J Matthews	Director - Environment Quality
	Mr D R Harrison	Director - Operations
	Mr M J Nield	Director - Corporate Services
	Ms L Hawkins	Planning Manager
	Mr F Kiddle	Strategy lead
	Ms J Harvey	Policy Analyst
	Mr C Woollen	Communications Adviser
	Miss A Smith	Science Communications Adviser
	Mrs M Jones	Governance Administrator
	Miss N A Chadwick	Executive Assistant to Chief Executive

The meeting opened with a group Karakia at 10.30am.

Apologies: Were received and sustained from Councillors A L Jamieson and D H McIntyre

1. Confirmation of Minutes Policy and Planning Committee 14 March 2023

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) took as read and confirmed the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council held at 10.30 on 6 June 2023 at Taranaki Regional Council 47 Cloten Road Stratford
- b) noted the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on Tuesday 27 June 2023.

Hughes/Walker

2. Freshwater Update

- 2.1 Ms L Hawkins, Policy Manager, spoke to the memorandum to provide the Committee with an update of the Freshwater Implementation programme.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the July 2023 update on the freshwater implementation programme.

Walker/Filbee

(*10.49 J Harvey joined meeting)

3. Freshwater Farm Plans - Phasing

- 3.1 Ms L Hawkins, Policy Manager, spoke to the memorandum to provide the Committee with an overview of the process to phase in Freshwater farm plans in Taranaki.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled - *Freshwater Farm Plans – Phasing*
- b) noted that a memorandum providing an overview of the regulations and their implementation processes will be brought to the committee in the future
- c) endorsed the guiding principles and roll out plan for farm plan phasing as set out in Appendix 1 to this memorandum , and endorse this to be submitted to the Ministry for the Environment when requested
- d) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the *Local Government Act 2002*
- e) determined that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the *Local Government Act 2002* to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determined that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Williamson/Hughes

4. Dam Safety Requirements

- 4.1 Mr F Kiddle – Strategy Lead, spoke to the Memorandum to inform members of the change to the regulation of dam safety and the implications for the Taranaki Regional Council and the dam owners.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum *New dam safety requirements*
- b) noted that on 13 May 2024 the *Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022* will commence, bringing with them modest new requirements for the Council to implement
- c) noted that before the regulations commence, the Council will need to update its *Dangerous Dams Policy*, which must be adopted in accordance with the special consultative procedure.

Walker/Boyde

5. Change to the Emission Trading Scheme Submission

- 5.1 Mr F Kiddle – Strategy Lead, spoke to the Memorandum to seek approval for the draft submissions on the two consultation documents on the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (the NZ ETS) and the permanent forest category within the NZ ETS.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled *Emissions Trading Scheme Consultation*
- b) noted submissions close on 11 August 2023
- c) approved Council officers drafting submissions on the two NZ ETS consultation documents for review by the Policy and Planning Committee out of session via email prior to submission
- d) noted that the final submissions will be presented at the next meeting of the Policy & Planning committee for retrospective endorsement after the submissions have been made
- e) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the *Local Government Act 2002*
- f) determined that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the *Local Government Act 2002* to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determined that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Walker/Boyde

6. Pesticides in Ground Water

- 6.1 Ms A Matthews, Director – Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum to provide the committee with an overview of the findings of the *National Survey of Pesticides in Groundwater 2022*.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the report *National Survey of Pesticides in Groundwater 2022*
- b) noted the findings and recommendations.

Williamson/Haque

7. Coastal Plan Operative

- 7.1 Ms L Hawkins, Policy Manger, spoke to the memorandum to update the committee that approval of the Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki had been received from the Minister for Conservation and the proposed plan will shortly be made operative.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received this report, outlining that the Regional Coastal Plan will be made operative on a date determined by the Chief Executive
- b) noted the success of the mediation process in resolving appeals on the Plan and the avoidance of an expensive Environment Court process for all parties.

Walker/Boyde

8. Key Native Ecosystems Programme update

- 8.1 Mr D Harrison, Director – Operations, spoke to the memorandum to provide an update on the identification of eight new Key Native Ecosystems sites.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received this memorandum and the attached inventory sheets for Oki Oki Titoki, Doug and Suzanne Raper Bush, Moerangi, Harold's Bush, Kawaiti, A & P Bush Remnants, Stony River Block, and Redbranch Bush.
- b) noted that the aforementioned sites have indigenous biodiversity values of regional significance and should be identified as Key Native Ecosystem sites.

Hughes/Filbee

There being no further business the Committee Chairperson, C S Williamson, declared the meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee closed with karakia at 11.48am.

**Policy and
Planning**

Chairperson: _____

C S Williamson



Date 29 August 2023

Subject: **Freshwater Implementation Report March 2023**

Approved by: A D McLay, Director - Resource Management
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 3198756

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with a Freshwater implementation project update.

Executive summary

2. Set out in this memorandum is an update on the progress of implementing the Essential Freshwater package from central government. The memorandum focusses on the key tasks undertaken since the previous Committee meeting, and identifies risks associated with the project and achievement of the project timeframe.
3. The attached report focusses on the key streams of work associated with the essential freshwater package. This being policy development as part of the Natural Resources Plan, implementation of the Freshwater Farm Plan regulations and the communications and engagement timeline.

Recommendation

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the August 2023 update on the freshwater implementation programme.

Background

4. This memorandum updates Members on progress in implementing the Essential Freshwater Package. An implementation programme was previously presented to, and approved by, the Committee. This report provides an overview on the progress of the work programme and provides an opportunity for discussion relating to progress and risks identified.

Discussion

5. The attached report (Attachment 1) provides a high level overview of the progress made in the past 6 weeks since the last Committee meeting, and those tasks to be undertaken

in the coming 6 weeks. It also identifies risks associated with the programme, and a copy of the high level engagement strategy.

6. Key discussion points are included in this covering memorandum to draw Members attention to key areas of work.

Engagement approach

7. Engagement with key stakeholders, industry groups and the wider community on the draft National Objective Framework (NOF) process is scheduled to occur across September and October. Community Consultation will largely be undertaken utilising an online approach, seeking support from key industry bodies to assist in promoting the survey with their interested community.
8. Workshop sessions are planned with the Special Interest Groups (SIG) to work through the detail of the NOF discussion documents. These discussions have been broken into four areas – Industry Sector, Primary Sector, Advocacy Groups and Central and local Government bodies. The workshops will enable detailed discussion to be undertaken, with feedback being collected through sessions. There will also be the opportunity for written feedback outside of these sessions.

Draft NOF Progress

9. A milestone has been reached with a package of information supporting the ‘building blocks’ of the NOF being finalised. This has culminated in the preparation of a Discussion Document for each Freshwater Management Unit (FMU). Each Discussion Document provides the following:
 - 9.1. Overview of the FMU
 - 9.2. A draft Te Mana o Te Wai objective
 - 9.3. Draft long term vision
 - 9.4. Draft values and environmental outcomes
 - 9.5. Baseline identification
 - 9.6. Principles for drafting Target Attribute States.
10. Supporting these Discussion Documents are a series of technical memos covering the compulsory attributes.
11. The Discussion Documents have been informed by previous engagement processes and the position statements received from Ngā Iwi o Taranaki. This work has underpinned the drafting presented in the documents and will continue to be influential as policy continues to be developed.
12. The purpose of these discussion documents is to provide the basis for the upcoming community consultation and are being used with the existing conversations with iwi to refine and update the draft framework.

Working with Iwi

13. On the 10th of August a hui was held between TRC Councillors and Iwi Chairs and Chief Executives. Not all could attend the hui. The purpose of this hui was twofold in that it provided the opportunity for the draft NOF to be presented, but also more broadly allowed discussion on the approach to working with iwi to develop enduring partnership and a reflection on what has been working and what hasn't. Fresh water

management units were also discussed. It was noted that further revisions were not possible prior to notification due to NOF processes dependencies. The broader conversation around the approach to building a partnership with iwi on all resource matters acknowledged the challenges of the timeframes of implementing the freshwater package has on developing meaningful relationships.

14. There are challenges for both iwi and Council in implementing the NPSFM. The requirement to notify the Freshwater components of the NRP by 31 December 2024 is a statutory requirement. This presents challenges around the way iwi and TRC work together in this process, acknowledging limitations on resourcing, information and established relationships present for both. This is however a step on a process to building an enduring partnership with iwi across all matters of resource management.
15. The outcome of this meeting is for further work to be done between TRC and iwi on mapping out a long-term way of working, particularly in light of the opportunities presented through the Resource Management reform processes. This work will be reported to the Steering Group set up for region wide discussions and strategy development. The steering group comprises local government and iwi chief executives.
16. The specific challenges for plan implementation for the December 2024 deadline are more tightly bound. From the hui on the 10th a review into the Pou Taiao Agreement will be undertaken. A particular focus around how the Pou Taiao positions can work more closely in co-drafting with the policy team will be explored, as will the approach with each iwi regarding involvement and engagement with them and hapū. It is evident that there will be some matters which cannot be developed to the extent desired by iwi through this process, however, this is where the link with the broader partnership development and programme of work will be critical.
17. The Natural Resources Plan is part of an ongoing journey to establish a programme of work to implement Government direction and legislation, a recent example of which is the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.
18. Staff have begun work with the Pou Taiao in relation to potential amendments to the Agreement. The outcomes of these discussions will be presented to the Steering Group at a meeting early September.
19. With regard to continuing conversations with iwi in relation to the draft NOF process, a hui on the 24th August with Ngā Iwi o Taranaki will provide the opportunity for the draft framework and baselines to be explored in detail. To further support the refinement and updates of the draft framework, TRC will provide the opportunity to work with iwi / hapū over the next couple of months as best works for them. These may be via continued discussions collectively with Ngā Iwi or Taranaki, individually or by FMU.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

20. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

21. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks

including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Iwi considerations

22. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.
23. As set out in the discussion, continued conversations are being held with iwi to refine the approach of working closely together. Specifically in relation to the NOF process, work is ongoing with the Pou Taiao and hapū level engagement has commenced with those hapū who have expressed a desire.

Community considerations

24. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

25. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 3199122: [Freshwater Implementation Progress Report August 2023](#)

<p style="text-align: center;">Freshwater Implementation Project Report to Policy & Planning Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">August 2023</p>			
	Progress in the last six weeks	Key tasks in the coming six weeks	Risks
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Te Mana o Te Wai as a draft objective for the plan, and to be included in consultation. Finalise draft NOF visions through to environmental outcomes. Finalise technical reports of baseline states. Modelling of mitigations and outcomes continues to inform setting of target attribute states for rivers and lakes. Hui with Pou Taiao to present draft NOF visions through to environmental outcomes framework. Hui with Council and iwi Chairs and CEs 10th August focussed on draft NOF visions through to environmental outcomes framework and also the partnership work required more broadly between iwi and TRC Finalise discussion documents for consultation in September Two position statements received by TRC from Pou Taiao: (1) Te Mana o Te Wai; (2) Values and Outcomes. State of environment monitoring network recommendations drafting underway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Pou Taiao Agreement and seek endorsement for any updates. Finalise consultation material for the draft NOF consultation – including website updates, survey, SIG workshop. Consultation period for draft NOF consultation begin and carry through to mid October. Begin work on defining attributes for non-compulsory values – including a process work with iwi. Planning and commencing overall Target Attribute State process with science leads, initial focus on compulsory attributes. Continuing work with iwi regarding Mahinga Kai – specifically the technical process and links with the NOF. Finalise the architecture of the freshwater components of the NRP and begin drafting region wide provisions. Review/finalise the nutrient SCAMP mitigations memo, lake water quality modelling report and threatened species report. Working Group on Freshwater Farm Plan process stood up in Council. Some initial conversations with iwi underway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High risk – Partnership with iwi. Risk that the timeframes, complexity of issues and the need to be working in an agile manner to develop the policy framework will impact on the partnership approach being fostered. High risk –mahinga Kai gaps in the NOF framework are unable to be completed in time for Community Consultation. Position statement has been received, but we need to work with iwi regarding updates to fit in the framework of the plan. Medium risk – process of consulting with iwi and community concurrently on the draft NOF presents risks to the partnership approach with iwi. Mitigations being discussed with Pou Taiao and as part of the review of the Pou Taiao Agreement.
Freshwater Farm Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of rollout plan by Council. Standing up of internal working group to manage rollout. Project and risk planning. Attendance at hui with Waikato and Environment Southland to reflect on the lessons learned from these first tranche regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping out of an Action Plan. Begin conversations with Ngaa Rauru. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD based on project and risk planning.

Engagement and Communication Strategy (Policy Development)

Set out below is a high level summary of the engagement approach and timing for key components supporting the policy development. Also noted is a high level timeline for key communications and engagement activity. Note this engagement plan does not including Council working with their tangata whenua partners, this process is subject to an alternative approach led with the Pou Taiao and Council’s Iwi communications advisor.

Phase	Stage	What	Who	Timing*
Phase 1	Seek to understand Focus: gathering info from audiences about what’s important to them	This phase has covered seeking input on a variety of high level freshwater matters including visions for Freshwater in Taranaki, identification of values for freshwater management and feedback on the proposed FMU boundaries. Input has been sought through a variety of mediums including online surveys, social pinpoint, face to face meetings and drop-in sessions (ie Stratford A&P show).	Community and special interest groups.	Apr 2021 to Mar 2023
Phase 2	Test options Focus: building and discussion on options that meet the region’s wants and needs	There are two key steps in this process: 1. Testing the building blocks of the National Objectives Framework. A discussion document for each FMU is being prepared and will cover visions, values, baselines and environmental outcomes. 2. Testing limits and targets. Continuing to build the National Objectives Framework, this step will present options for the limits and targets for the new plan. This phase will also likely include region wide policy framework discussions.	1. Community – via online consultation opportunity. Special interest groups including industry bodies, catchment groups, government agencies, district councils, environmental NGOs – via workshop discussions. 2. Community and special interest groups. A series of face to face meetings around the region and opportunity for online feedback.	Aug 2023 to Mar 2024
Phase 3	Present preferred solution Focus: presentation of best options (draft plan)	A draft plan will be compiled and through requirements of the RMA an opportunity for written feedback provided.	Clause 3 – listed in the RMA, and special interest groups.	Mid 2024
Phase 4	Notification: Public submissions Focus: formal communication relating to Plan notification	The Freshwater components of the NRP must be notified by December 2024. Once notified all interested parties will have the opportunity formally submit written submissions on the notified plan.	All interested parties.	End 2024 for notification. Submission period early 2025.

* Note the timing is indicative only, as a full programme review is currently being undertaken.

Essential Freshwater Engagement Strategy timeline

	Seek to understand								Test options					Solution		Notification									
	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-Mar '24	Apr-Jun '24	Jul-Sep '24	Oct-Dec '24	Jan-Mar '25	
Phase 1: Seek to understand																									
Freshwater Visions																									
Freshwater Values																									
FMU boundaries																									
Phase 2: Test Options																									
Freshwater Visions																									
Freshwater Values																									
Environmental outcomes																									
Phase 3: Present Preferred solution																									
Draft plan clause 3 consultation																									
Phase 4: Notification																									
Plan notification + consultation																									
Inform: NES Rules																									
Nitrogen Cap																									
Stock Exclusion																									
Land intensification																									
Freshwater Farm Plans																									
Intensive Winter Grazing																									
Structures in rivers																									
Feedlots and stockholding																									



Date: 29 August 2023

Subject: **New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme Submission**

Approved by: A D McLay, Director - Resource Management
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 3196765

Purpose

1. To seek endorsement of the Taranaki Regional Council's (the Council) submission on a consultation document on the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS), a consultation document on the permanent forest category within the NZ ETS, and a survey on the Maximising Forest Carbon Programme.

Executive summary

2. Council submissions were made on both the *Review of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme* consultation and the *Redesigned NZ ETS Permanent Forest Category* consultation on 11 August 2023. A Council response was also made on regarding the *Maximising Forest Carbon Programme survey*. Prior to this, the draft submission and proposed survey response were circulated to the Policy & Planning Committee via email and feedback incorporated. Endorsement of the submission and survey response is sought.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum titled *New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme Submission*
- b) endorses the submission in Attachment One addressing both the *Review of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme* consultation and the *Redesigned NZ ETS Permanent Forest Category* consultation
- c) endorses the Council's response on the *Maximising Forest Carbon Programme* survey set out in Attachment Two
- d) determines that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the *Local Government Act 2002*
- e) determines that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the *Local Government Act 2002* to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determines that it does not require further

information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Background

3. The Government undertook multiple consultations simultaneously on the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS). The first relates to the overall form of the NZ ETS. The second is specifically on the permanent forestry category within the NZ ETS. Both of these consultations closed on 11 August 2023. The *Emissions Trading Scheme Consultation Memorandum* (#3185762) presented to the Policy & Planning Committee (the Committee) on 18 July 2023 provided an overview of both these consultations, set out initial views from Council officers, and sought initial guidance from the Committee.
4. The Government also sought feedback on the research priorities under the *Maximising Forest Carbon Programme*. This is a research and policy programme focused on developing research-led improvements to measure and reward forest carbon storage. This was done through an online survey that closed on 8 August 2023 with questions covering:
 - which species or forests to prioritise for research;
 - which regions should be focused on;
 - what other forest management activities should be considered for research; and
 - what experience or interest is there in using remote sensing technology in forest work or on-farm.
5. A draft submission and proposed survey responses were circulated to the Committee on 3 August 2023 for out of session comment. Comments received were incorporated into the final submission submitted on 11 August 2023.

Issues

6. Successful climate mitigation and a reduction in gross emissions is essential for limiting the impacts of climate change on Taranaki communities. A well-managed just transition to a low-carbon future is also needed to avoid adverse effects on livelihoods.
7. The incentives created by the NZ-ETS will have a significant impact on land-use across the region, particularly in the hill country. This will have flow in impacts for biodiversity, erosion, natural hazard risk, sediment loads in rivers, and economic wellbeing.

Discussion

8. The final submission aligns with the initial views set out in the previous memorandum and resulting committee discussion. One deviation was that the support for bonds was refocused on their potential regarding transition forests. This was to avoid overly penalising responsible operators of traditional permanent forestry – especially noting the other enforcement options to address non-compliance. Greater emphasis was also placed on taking a well thought through process for considering what exotics are excluded. This was noting that while the risks of some exotics, such as *Pinus radiata*, are well known, the benefit-risk profiles of other exotics are more complicated.
9. The responses to the survey set out in Attachment Two seek to focus research on areas related to broader biodiversity outcomes. This was around better understanding the

sequestration potential of natives to potentially make their planting more cost effective and focusing research on the carbon benefits of pest control.

10. There are no significant risks associated with the submission and survey response. Both focus on areas within the Council's mandate (i.e. climate change mitigation, biodiversity and erosion control). Emphasis was also made on ensuring that changes do not undermine the ability of the general populous to get involved with removal activities. Such as through smaller-scale on-farm plantings. General support for redesigning the NZ ETS to focus on gross emissions reductions also aligns with advice from the Climate Change Commission.

Options

11. The options are:
 - (a) Endorse the submission and survey as submitted.
 - (b) Endorse the submission and survey subject to officials preparing an amended submission based on committee feedback and submitting this.
 - (c) Not endorse the submission and direct officials to request the withdrawal of the submission.
12. With the draft submission and survey response having been circulated to committee members out of session for comment, option a is recommended. Option b is workable but there are no guarantees the additional comments would be accepted. Option c is not recommended. If Taranaki wants to ensure effective climate mitigation while avoiding negative land-use related effects, it is important to be active in these consultations.

Significance

13. Officials have assessed that the decision to endorse the submission as not significant under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

14. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

15. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Iwi considerations

16. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

17. The Council's submission emphasised the importance of the Crown working in partnership with Māori regarding the NZ ETS.

Community considerations

18. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

19. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 3198073: [TRC Submission on Proposed Changes to the NZ ETS](#)

Document 3196799: [Council responses on the Maximising Forest Carbon Programme survey](#)



12 August 2023
Document: 3192052

NZS review
Ministry for the Environment
And
Redesigning the NZ ETS permanent forest category consultation
Ministry for Primary Industries

Submission on the review of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme and a redesigned NZ ETS permanent forest category

The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) relates strongly to the work of the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC). To ensure the well-being of Taranaki communities, TRC places great importance on successful climate mitigation and ensuring a just transition to a low carbon future. The differing forestry incentives created by the NZ ETS also have a large impact on the Council's broader environmental functions. The extent and type of forestry effects biodiversity, erosion control, natural hazard risk and sediment loads in rivers.

To support effective climate action, TRC supports the intent of redesigning the NZ ETS to better drive gross emissions reductions. Carbon removal through forestry cannot be relied upon forever to drive mitigation. And the longer the country leaves action on reducing gross emissions, the greater the risk of either a failure to abate or significant transition shocks. As emphasized by the He Pou a Rangi Climate Change Commission in their 2023 draft advice, it is clear that under the current settings, the NZ ETS will not drive the change the country needs.

TRC also supports changes to the permanent forest category in the NZ ETS. The locking up of large swathes of the country in certain exotics, mainly *Pinus radiata*, carries with it both risk and significant opportunity cost. Risks from wilding pines and the impacts of pests, diseases and extreme weather events undermining long-term carbon storage. And opportunity costs around the wider biodiversity benefits that could be provided through native afforestation. There is also the cost from the loss of productive capacity that, while lower-return in the short-term compared to permanent forestry, provides flexibility and opportunities for future generations.

It is also important to emphasize that not all exotics carry the same risks. Some can also provide important benefits; for example, for land stabilization. Any restrictions to the permanent forest category need to be based on a nuanced assessment of different species.

The Council welcomes the consideration given in both documents on potential impacts of Māori interests. Iwi and hapū play an integral role in forest management. On New Zealand's zero carbon journey, it is imperative that the Crown work in partnership with Māori to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles.

Review of the NZ ETS

The below table sets out TRC's response to select questions in the review of the NZ ETS consultation document.

Question	Response
Do you agree with the summary of the impacts of exotic afforestation?	TRC notes that the impacts focus on permanent exotic afforestation. They do not address the risks associated with the production forestry the NZ ETS also incentivizes. While these risks are managed through other channels, they should still be acknowledged. There is also no mention of the opportunity cost associated with exotic afforestation compared to native.
Do you agree with the case for driving gross emissions reductions through the NZ ETS?	Yes. However, the land-use and technology change to achieve gross emissions reductions will be disruptive, increasing the importance of a strong focus on a just transition and direct support to communities and internationally exposed industries.
Do you agree with our assessment of the cost impacts of a higher emissions price?	TRC agrees with the assessment of costs broadly, but we note there is a lack of detail on modelled costs beyond households (e.g. costs on business and industry).
How important do you think it is that we maintain incentives for removals?	Incentives for removals must remain. They are an important tool for reaching climate goals, can provide economic opportunities, and deliver important co-benefits particular when planted on marginal land. Getting involved in removal activities also provides a good entry point for land-owners to support climate action.
Do you agree with the Government's primary objective for the NZ ETS review to consider whether to prioritise gross emissions reductions in the NZ ETS, while maintaining support for removals?	Yes. First and foremost the NZ ETS is a tool to meet long-term climate goals. Removals are a key part of this, but are secondary to reducing gross emissions.
Chapter 5: Do you agree that the NZ ETS should drive levels of emissions removals that are sufficient to help meet Aotearoa New Zealand's climate change goals in the short to medium term and provide a sink for hard-to-abate emissions in the longer term?	Yes. Such a system is essential to support successful climate mitigation.
Are there any additional assessment criteria or considerations that should be taken into account to assess options?	An additional criteria to consider is how much an option provides flexibility for further expansion in the future. For example, the ability to which an option can easily be expanded to capture new sources of sequestration or be coupled with a separate biodiversity initiative.

<p>Of the four options proposed, which one do you prefer? Why?</p>	<p>TRC supports Option 4 to split the NZ ETS into two. This option strikes the best balance between prioritising gross emissions while still providing for removals. A standalone market for gross reductions can ensure the carbon price is sufficient to drive gross reductions. It can also facilitate better pacing of reductions to support a just transition. While the separate removals market ensures forestry remains part of the national climate toolbox. A separate removals market would likely provide more flexibility to include other removal sources in the future (e.g. blue carbon) or integrate with other tools to better overcome the cost barriers to native afforestation (e.g. biodiversity credits).</p>
<p>Based on your preferred option(s), what other policies do you believe are required to manage any impacts of the proposal?</p>	<p>A dedicated roadmap or strategy for the ongoing development of the system is needed. For example, how is machine learning being considered to aid in the demarcation of forestry areas, what is the plan for quantifying blue carbon sequestration, or what are the opportunities for mixed exotic-indigenous forestry to increase sequestration while providing biodiversity co-benefits?</p> <p>Noting the separate consultation on biodiversity credits, it is also important that a stand-alone removals market be designed so it can be potentially integrated with other tools in the future. Facilitating this would help reduce administrative costs for applicants.</p>
<p>Should the incentives in the NZ ETS be changed to prioritise removals with environmental co-benefits such as indigenous afforestation?</p>	<p>This depends on the structure of the system itself. Environmental co-benefits should be prioritised if they do not interfere with gross emissions reductions. A separate removals market is much more likely to provide for this than the current system.</p>
<p>Should a wider range of removals be included in the NZ ETS?</p>	<p>Additional removals should be included where appropriate accounting methodologies exist and suitable technology solutions exist to make that accounting (including verification) cost-effective. A specific strategy should be developed on how to expand the range of included removals and suitable research incentives created.</p>
<p>What other mechanisms do you consider could be effective in rewarding co-benefits or recognising other sources of removals?</p>	<p>The release of the consultation document on biodiversity credits is a welcome step to better rewarding relevant co-benefits. TRC also notes that ongoing discussions around how to manage agricultural emissions is also a key opportunity to facilitate smaller scale removals.</p>

Changes to the permanent forest category

The below table sets out TRC's response to select questions redesigned NZ ETS permanent forest category consultation document.

Of the options, what is your preferred approach?	TRC supports the entrance of exotic forests under restricted circumstance, with those circumstances being related to species, planting scale, and regarding Māori owned land. A more robust exercise than provided in the consultation paper is required to determine these exceptions. But key factors to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a focus on avoiding species that are particularly risky (e.g. wilding risk) and devoid of co-benefits (noting that some exotics can still support native biodiversity for example); • upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and • facilitating small-scale plantings by landowners, especially on marginal land where exotics can provide faster establishing erosion control.
Do you think there is an opportunity to use permanent forests to stabilise erosion-prone land?	Yes and this co-benefit should be factored in when determining where permanent exotic plantings can occur.
Do you think the Government should consider restricting the permanent forest category to exotic species with a low wilding risk?	Yes.
Do you agree with the proposal for a specific carbon accounting method for transition forests?	Yes. A bespoke accounting method is needed to incentivise the use of transition forests and lessen the impact for permanent exotic forestry transitioning in the future. A system needs to avoid having to pay back credits as a forest transitions.
Of these options [on forest management], what is your preferred approach? Why? Are there other options you prefer, that we haven't considered?	Consideration should be given to any new forest management requirements being applied differentially based on forest size. It is important to not disincentivize small-scale plantings.
What are your views on forest management plans?	Bespoke forest management plans should, at least initially, focus on large-scale permanent forestry. The rollout of freshwater farm plans will likely provide many useful insights to inform how any system for forest management plans might operate. An ongoing discussion, not a one off consultation, with the sector is also needed to determine roles and responsibilities in any new management system.
Do you think there should be new or expanded	More enforcement tools would be beneficial. Abatement and infringement notices can be a particularly effective tool to promote compliance and ensure issues are caught and

compliance tools for permanent forests?	addressed early. The withholding of units would also prove a particularly strong enforcement tool in the case of serious non-compliance. Finally, any use of bonds needs to be careful to not penalize compliant operations. But they could be useful in the case of transition forests to address the risk of a forest not transitioning.
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This content of this submission will be formally considered by the TRC Planning and Policy Committee on 29 August 2023. Any comments or amendments from the Committee will be provided after that meeting.

Yours faithfully



S J Ruru
Chief Executive

Council responses on the Maximising Forest Carbon Programme survey closing 8 August 2023

Question	Response
What species or forests do you most want to see prioritised for research (select all that apply)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planted mixed native forest (e.g. for restoration) • Naturally regenerating mixed native forest (e.g. regenerating on farms) • Space-planted poplars and willows (e.g. for erosion control)
Please also tell us why you selected the above answer(s)?	Noting research indicates their current carbon total sequestration is underestimated, accurate carbon accounting for mixed and regenerating native forest is essential if the greater cost barriers to native afforestation are to be overcome. Better accounting for space-planted poplars and willows can also help provide more incentives for landowners to manage erosion prone land.
Based on your answer above, what regions do you think we should focus on for our research?	Not answered.
What other forest management activities should we consider for research?	Pest control.
What experience or interest do you have in using remote sensing technology in your work with forests or on-farm (select all that apply)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be interested in self-measurement of forests using remote sensing technology • Would see value in the industry adopting more efficient and cost-effective methods for measuring carbon in forests



Date 29 August 2023

Subject: **National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023**

Approved by: A D McLay, Director - Resource Management
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 3196955

Purpose

1. To outline the Taranaki Regional Council's responsibilities relating to the *National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023*.

Executive summary

2. The *National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023* (NPS-IB) aims to maintain indigenous biodiversity so that there is at least no overall loss. In achieving this aim, local authorities need to work in partnership with tangata whenua, to the degree they want to be involved. With some exceptions, the NPS-IB does not apply to freshwater ecosystems or the coastal marine area.
3. While many responsibilities under the NPS-IB fall on territorial authorities, there are significant requirements on the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) as well. The Council must:
 - by August 2026, have begun drafting a regional biodiversity strategy for completion by 4 August 2033 – the existing *Biodiversity Strategy for the Taranaki Regional Council* does not meet requirements in the NPS-IB;
 - by August 2028, have assisted the territorial authorities to identify and map significant natural areas (SNAs);
 - by August 2031, have recorded areas outside SNAs used by highly mobile fauna and updated the regional policy statement to provide protection;
 - by August 2031, have assessed the percentage of indigenous vegetation cover in the region and set targets to achieve at least 10% coverage in the regional policy statement; and
 - as soon as practicable, begin developing a monitoring plan for indigenous biodiversity – noting there are dependencies with the previous requirements.

4. Giving effect to the NPS-IB will be a significant exercise for the region in need of a dedicated implementation plan. Council officers will engage with the territorial authorities and iwi to agree a way forward.
5. Regardless of the details of an implementation plan, the Council does not have sufficient biodiversity funding in the *Long Term Plan 2021/2031* to give effect to the NPS-IB. With upwards of 150,000 hectares of remnant indigenous vegetation needing to be assessed, assisting with SNA identification and mapping is the most pressing priority.
6. The territorial authorities, who have core responsibility for SNA identification and mapping, will likely request Council support in this process. Any costs associated with the Council supporting on-the-ground identification can likely be recovered from the territorial authorities. Costs associated with providing regional leadership and coordination may be shared or some may fall solely on Council.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives this Memorandum entitled *National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023*
- b) notes that the *National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023* came into effect on 4 August 2023
- c) notes that the *National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023* will have significant resourcing implications for the Taranaki Regional Council
- d) notes that the most immediate funding priority is to assist territorial authorities in identifying and mapping significant natural areas;
- e) notes that Council officers will develop an implementation plan for the *National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023*
- f) notes that, to the extent they wish to be involved, council officers will develop the implementation plan in partnership with iwi and the territorial authorities.

Background

7. New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity continues to decline. Threats such as climate change, habitat clearance, pests and pollution are pushing many ecosystems to the point of collapse. The loss of these ecosystems, and the species they support, would have a dire impact on economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being.
8. To protect terrestrial indigenous biodiversity, the *National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity* (NPS-IB) came into effect on 4 August 2023. The aim of the NPS-IB is to maintain indigenous biodiversity so that there is at least no overall loss. The NPS-IB provides direction to councils on their responsibilities to provide a more consistent and robust approach to terrestrial biodiversity management. With some exceptions, the NPS-IB does not apply to freshwater ecosystems or in the coastal marine area.
9. Regional and territorial authorities have different biodiversity responsibilities under the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA). Regional councils set high-level objectives, policies and methods for managing indigenous biodiversity across their region. They also control the effects of land-use (e.g. through specific rules and consenting processes) on freshwater and coastal water ecosystems. Territorial authorities control the effects of land use on indigenous biodiversity broadly – while taking care to not duplicate what

regional councils cover in freshwater or coastal marine areas. Councils have the ability to agree on other arrangements, such as where a regional council takes over some consenting functions from territorial authorities. This has not occurred in Taranaki.

Discussion

Overarching requirements

10. The NPS-IB sets a range of decision-making principles to guide the implementation of all aspects of the policy statement. These are:
 - prioritise the mauri, intrinsic value and wellbeing of indigenous biodiversity
 - take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi)
 - recognise the bond between tangata whenua and indigenous biodiversity based on whakapapa relationships
 - recognise the obligation and responsibility of care that tangata whenua have as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity
 - recognise the role of people and communities (including landowners) as stewards of indigenous biodiversity
 - enable the application of te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori
 - form strong and effective partnerships with tangata whenua.
11. Flowing from this, anything a council needs to do under the NPS-IB generally is to be done in partnership with tangata whenua, to the extent they wish to be involved. Councils must also work with tangata whenua to investigate formal engagement mechanisms under the RMA (e.g. transfer of powers, joint management agreements, or Mana Whakahono ā Rohe).
12. The Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) will need to engage with tangata whenua from the start of the NPS-IB process, including identifying the extent to which they want to be involved. A considered approach for engaging with communities and landowners is also required.

Significant Natural Areas

13. Under the policy statement, territorial authorities are required to identify significant natural areas (SNAs) in their district and protect them in their plans. Identification is done through a prescribed process. How to manage effects is also set out in detail. Territorial authorities have to notify changes to their plans to give effect to the SNA requirements, including identifying SNAs, by 4 August 2028.
14. Based on initial discussions, it is likely that all three territorial authorities will request assistance in SNA identification and mapping from the Council, as provided for in the NPS-IB. The NPS-IB does not provide any further detail on what level of assistance is required, leaving this up to the discretion of local authorities. At the very least, regional councils could provide an important coordination function to assure consistency in SNA identification. Under the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki (RPS)*, the Council has a broad responsibility to identify and monitor areas with significant indigenous biodiversity.
15. The resourcing implications across all Taranaki councils to identify and map SNAs will be significant. Based on analysis of remnant indigenous vegetation, there are upwards of

150,000 hectares in need of SNA assessment. On top of this, habitat of indigenous fauna outside areas of significant indigenous vegetation are also potential SNAs.

Other key regional council requirements

Requirement	Implementation comments
<p>By 4 August 2031, record areas outside SNAs used by specified highly mobile fauna, then update the regional policy statement (RPS) to provide protection.</p>	<p>Requires engaging with a range of stakeholders to identify what information they hold.</p> <p>Requires determination of which species are indigenous to Taranaki and where they have been recorded.</p> <p>Only required to identify areas where information is available (i.e. not actively gathering new information). But this is also unlikely to achieve significant protection.</p> <p>Need to update the RPS to identify sites and provide relevant objectives and policies. Policy framework to protect highly mobile fauna areas likely to be complicated.</p>
<p>By 4 August 2031, assess the percentage of indigenous vegetation cover in the region, and then set targets of at least 10% coverage in the RPS.</p>	<p>Can be done as a desktop exercise, by ground truthing, or both. In practice, both are likely required.</p> <p>Must be done in collaboration with territorial authorities and tangata whenua.</p> <p>Requires revision and improvements to the national Land Cover Database.</p>
<p>By 4 August 2026, begin drafting regional biodiversity strategy for completion by 4 August 2033.</p>	<p>The <i>Biodiversity Strategy for the Taranaki Regional Council</i> does not meet requirements under the NPS-IB. It is focused on Council actions and does not provide the required direction to the wider region. A new strategy is required.</p> <p>Purpose is to promote landscape-scale restoration of the region's indigenous biodiversity.</p> <p>Will be a substantial document and technically demanding to produce.</p> <p>Needs to be regional, collaborative and inclusive.</p>
<p>As soon as practicable, develop a monitoring plan for indigenous biodiversity in the region.</p>	<p>Must work with tangata whenua, territorial authorities, relevant agencies and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Can build upon the existing <i>Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Plan</i>.</p> <p>To the extent possible and where tangata whenua agree, must use scientific monitoring methods, and mātauranga Māori and tikanga Māori monitoring methods equally.</p> <p>While to be done as soon as practicable, has dependencies with other NPS-IB requirements (e.g. need to identify highly mobile fauna areas before you can monitor them).</p>

Impact on resourcing and work programmes

16. There will likely be significant impact on the Council's core biodiversity functions. Supporting SNA identification, identifying highly mobile fauna areas, drafting the regional biodiversity strategy, and giving effect to the new monitoring requirements are all large pieces of work. As required by the NPS-IB, the exact scope and timeline of this work needs to be agreed between the Council, the territorial authorities and tangata whenua.
17. The provision of community information and technical advice could also be significant. Considering the broad biodiversity knowledge and experience they hold, there will be a tendency for territorial authorities to look at regional councils to provide this. However, the core land-use management requirements (e.g. processing consents) in the NPS-IB fall on territorial authorities. The building of technical capacity between councils will need to be well planned.
18. Council officers will engage with the territorial authorities and iwi to agree a way forward for giving effect to the NPS-IB, with an eye to developing a joint implementation plan. Any implementation plan will also need to have regard to cross-over with the new resource management regime. Especially regarding requirements to identify areas needing protection under the forthcoming Spatial Planning Act.
19. Staff will also be called on to participate in national processes underway to support the NPS-IB. For example, the development of a national ecosystems map to inform national ecosystem prioritisation and producing the next version of the National Land Cover Database.
20. Council Officers are already working to integrate the NPS-IB requirements into the *Proposed Natural Resources Plan for Taranaki*. The new plan will replace and integrate the RPS and the three regional plans, the Freshwater Plan, Air Plan and Soil Plan. Public notification is intended for the end of 2024.
21. The NPS-IB is unlikely to have a significant impact on Council resource consenting processes. The vast majority of consents captured by the NPS-IB are the responsibility of territorial authorities. But there may be edge cases where the Council needs to apply the NPS-IB. In these cases, care will be need to avoid duplicating consenting requirements with what the territorial authorities require.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

22. Implementation of the NPS-IB by the Council will likely require significant increases to biodiversity funding than that currently provided for in the *Long Term Plan 2021/2031* and estimates. The quotient and timing of that funding need to be informed by further discussions with the territorial authorities and iwi. However, funding to assist in SNA identification is very likely the most immediate need.
23. Costs associated with SNA identification and mapping will be shared differently depending on what is delivered. Where the Council provides direct on-the-ground support to a territorial authority (e.g. staff ground truthing sites in a district), these costs can likely be recovered from the territorial authority. Some administrative and support costs would be shared across all councils (e.g. a shared GIS platform). Finally, some costs may be shared or fall solely on the Council (e.g. a biodiversity coordinator position to support consistent NPS-IB implementation across the region and drive delivery of Council specific requirements).

Policy considerations

24. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Iwi considerations

25. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.
26. Council officers will work in partnership with iwi in giving effect to the NPS-IB, to the extent iwi wish to be involved. The first step will be to discuss the development of an implementation plan.

Community considerations

27. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.
28. The Council will engage with communities (including landowners) to give effect to the NPS-IB's decision making principles and promote the active participation of the community in implementation.

Legal considerations

29. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 3191903: [National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023](#)

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

2023



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Authority

This National Policy Statement was approved by the Governor-General under section 52(2) of the Resource Management Act 1991 on 31 May 2023 and is published by the Minister for the Environment under section 54 of that Act on 7 July 2023.

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Part 1: Preliminary provisions

1.1 Title

- (1) This is the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023.

1.2 Commencement

- (1) This National Policy Statement comes into force on the day that is 28 days after notification in the New Zealand Gazette.

1.3 Application

- (1) This National Policy Statement applies to indigenous biodiversity in the terrestrial environment throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.
- (2) However:
 - (a) geothermal ecosystems are covered by this National Policy Statement, whether or not they are in the terrestrial environment (but excluding any within the coastal marine area) (see clause 3.13); and
 - (b) specified highly mobile fauna are covered by this National Policy Statement, whether or not they use areas outside the terrestrial environment (such as the coastal marine area or water bodies) for part of their life cycle (see clause 3.20); and
 - (c) provisions relating to promoting restoration and increasing indigenous vegetation cover extend to include natural inland wetlands (see clauses 3.21 and 3.22); and
 - (d) regional biodiversity strategies may extend to include areas outside the terrestrial environment, including the coastal marine area and water bodies (see clause 3.23); and
 - (e) if an SNA (significant natural area) contains a natural inland wetland, the wetland may be treated as part of the SNA it is located in.
- (3) Nothing in this National Policy Statement applies to the development, operation, maintenance or upgrade of renewable electricity generation assets and activities and electricity transmission network assets and activities. For the avoidance of doubt, renewable electricity generation assets and activities, and electricity transmission network assets and activities, are not “specified infrastructure” for the purposes of this National Policy Statement.

1.4 Relationship with other national directions and iwi participation legislation

- (1) Both the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and this National Policy Statement apply in the terrestrial coastal environment.

- (2) If there is a conflict between the provisions of this National Policy Statement and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (or any later New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement issued under the Act), the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement prevails.
- (3) If there is a conflict between the provisions of this National Policy Statement and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 or the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020, the latter prevail.
- (4) To avoid doubt, nothing in this National Policy Statement limits any relevant provision of any iwi participation legislation (as defined in section 58L of the Act).

1.5 Decision-making principles

- (1) This National Policy Statement prioritises the mauri and intrinsic value of indigenous biodiversity and recognises people's connections and relationships with indigenous biodiversity.
- (2) It recognises that the health and wellbeing of people and communities are dependent on the health and wellbeing of indigenous biodiversity and that in return people have a responsibility to care for and nurture it. It acknowledges the web of interconnectedness between indigenous species, ecosystems, the wider environment, and the community, at both a physical and metaphysical level.
- (3) Consistent with this, the decision-making principles that must inform the implementation of this National Policy Statement are as follows:
 - (a) prioritise the mauri, intrinsic value and wellbeing of indigenous biodiversity:
 - (b) take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi):
 - (c) recognise the bond between tangata whenua and indigenous biodiversity based on whakapapa relationships:
 - (d) recognise the obligation and responsibility of care that tangata whenua have as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity:
 - (e) recognise the role of people and communities (including landowners) as stewards of indigenous biodiversity:
 - (f) enable the application of te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori:
 - (g) form strong and effective partnerships with tangata whenua.

1.6 Interpretation

- (1) In this National Policy Statement:

acknowledged taonga means indigenous species, populations, or ecosystems that tangata whenua have identified as taonga under clause 3.19 but that are not, or not yet, identified in a plan

Act means the Resource Management Act 1991

biodiversity compensation means a conservation outcome that meets the requirements in Appendix 4 and results from actions that are intended to compensate for any more

than minor residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity after all appropriate avoidance, minimisation, remediation, and biodiversity offsetting measures have been sequentially applied

biodiversity offset means a measurable conservation outcome that meets the requirements in Appendix 3 and results from actions that are intended to:

- (a) redress any more than minor residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity after all appropriate avoidance, minimisation, and remediation measures have been sequentially applied; and
- (b) achieve a net gain in type, amount, and condition of indigenous biodiversity compared to that lost.

buffer refers to a defined space between core areas of ecological value and the wider landscape that helps to reduce external pressures; and **buffering** has a corresponding meaning

commencement date means the date on which this National Policy Statement comes into force

connectivity refers to the structural or functional links or connections between habitats and ecosystems that provide for the movement of species and processes among and between the habitats or ecosystems

decision-making principles means the seven decision-making principles in clause 1.5(3)

ecological district means:

- (a) in relation to geothermal ecosystems in the Taupō Volcanic Zone, the Taupō Volcanic Zone; and
- (b) for all other areas, the ecological districts as shown in McEwen, W Mary (ed), 1987. *Ecological regions and districts of New Zealand*. Wellington: Department of Conservation.

ecological integrity means the extent to which an ecosystem is able to support and maintain its:

- (a) composition (being its natural diversity of indigenous species, habitats, and communities); and
- (b) structure (being its biotic and abiotic physical features); and
- (c) functions (being its ecological and physical processes).

ecosystem means the complexes of organisms and their associated physical environment within an area (and comprise: a biotic complex, an abiotic environment or complex, the interactions between the biotic and abiotic complexes, and a physical space in which these operate)

ecosystem function means the abiotic (physical) and biotic (ecological and biological) flows that are properties of an ecosystem

ecosystem services are the benefits obtained from ecosystems such as:

- (a) supporting services, (eg, nutrient cycling, soil formation, habitat creation):

- (b) provisioning services, (eg, food, freshwater, wood, fibre, fuel):
- (c) regulating services, (eg, water purification, climate regulation, flood regulation, disease regulation):
- (d) cultural services, (eg, aesthetic, spiritual, educational, recreational).

effects management hierarchy means an approach to managing the adverse effects of an activity on indigenous biodiversity that requires that:

- (a) adverse effects are avoided where practicable; then
- (b) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, they are minimised where practicable; then
- (c) where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable; then
- (d) where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, biodiversity offsetting is provided where possible; then
- (e) where biodiversity offsetting of more than minor residual adverse effects is not possible, biodiversity compensation is provided; then
- (f) if biodiversity compensation is not appropriate, the activity itself is avoided.

electricity transmission network means the electricity transmission network that:

- (a) comprises the network of transmission lines, cables, stations, substations and works used to connect grid injection points and grid exit points used to convey electricity in New Zealand; and
- (b) is owned by Transpower New Zealand Limited; and
- (c) is commonly known as the National Grid.

electricity transmission network assets means the physical components of the electricity transmission network, along with all access roads and tracks required to operate and maintain those assets

fragmentation, in relation to indigenous biodiversity, refers to the fragmentation of habitat that results in a loss of connectivity and an altered spatial configuration of habitat for a given amount of habitat loss

functional need means the need for a proposed activity to traverse, locate or operate in a particular environment because the activity can only occur in that environment

geothermal ecosystem means a dynamic life-supporting system made up of a group of living organisms that are located within a geothermal system and are adapted to, and reliant on, geothermal resources

geothermal SNA means an SNA that includes one or more geothermal ecosystems

geothermal system means a system, defined by scientific investigation, that:

- (a) comprises:
 - (i) geothermal energy, stored as water or steam; and

- (ii) the rocks confining it; and
 - (iii) associated water, steam, and gas emissions; and
 - (iv) the geothermal surface features resulting from those emissions; and
- (b) is believed to have no hydrological connection to another system.

habitat means the area or environment where an organism or ecological community lives or occurs naturally for some or all of its life cycle, or as part of its seasonal feeding or breeding pattern; but does not include built structures or an area or environment where an organism is present only fleetingly

highly mobile fauna area means an area outside an SNA that is identified under clause 3.20 as an area used intermittently by specified highly mobile fauna

identified taonga means acknowledged taonga that are identified in a district plan (as provided for in clause 3.19)

indigenous biodiversity means the living organisms that occur naturally in New Zealand, and the ecological complexes of which they are part, including all forms of indigenous flora, fauna, and fungi, and their habitats

indigenous vegetation means vascular and non-vascular plants that, in relation to a particular area, are native to the ecological district in which that area is located

maintenance, in relation to indigenous biodiversity, has the meaning in clause 1.7

mātauranga Māori means Māori customary knowledge, traditional knowledge, or intergenerational knowledge and is held by tangata whenua at place

mosaic means a pattern of two or more interspersed ecosystems, communities, or habitats that contribute to the cumulative value of ecosystems in a landscape

natural inland wetland has the meaning in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020

natural range, in relation to a species, refers to the geographical area within which that species can be expected to be found naturally (without human intervention)

operational need means the need for a proposal or activity to traverse, locate or operate in a particular environment because of technical, logistical or operational characteristics or constraints

plantation forest has the meaning in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017

policy statements and plans includes regional policy statements and proposed regional policy statements, and regional plans, district plans, and proposed plans

publish, in relation to an obligation on a local authority to publish material, means to make the material freely available to the public on the local authority's internet website or another web-based platform

reconstruction means reintroducing and maintaining appropriate biota to recreate an ecosystem that would not regenerate or recolonise even with best practice restoration interventions

renewable electricity generation assets means the physical components required for renewable electricity generation, along with the assets and infrastructure (such as cabling, access roads, and tracks) required to store the generated electricity and connect it to transmission or distribution networks or direct to end users

resilience, in relation to an ecosystem, means the ability of the ecosystem to recover from and absorb disturbances, and its capacity to reorganise into similar ecosystems

restoration means the active intervention and management of modified or degraded habitats, ecosystems, landforms, and landscapes in order to maintain or reinstate indigenous natural character, ecological and physical processes, and cultural and visual qualities, and may include enhancement activities

sequence means a series of ecosystems or communities, often physically connected, that replace one another through space

SNA, or significant natural area, means:

- (a) any area that, after the commencement date, is notified or included in a district plan as an SNA following an assessment of the area in accordance with Appendix 1; and
- (b) any area that, on the commencement date, is already identified in a policy statement or plan as an area of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna (regardless of how it is described); in which case it remains as an SNA unless or until a suitably qualified ecologist engaged by the relevant local authority determines that it is not an area of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna.

species means a group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of freely exchanging genes or interbreeding, including subspecies, varieties and organisms that are indeterminate.

specified covenant or kawenata means a covenant or kawenata that is:

- (a) registered against the record of title or lease agreement (as relevant), under any of the following:
 - (i) section 22 of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1977;
 - (ii) Section 27 or section 27A of the Conservation Act 1987;
 - (iii) Section 76 and 77 of the Reserves Act 1977; and
- (b) is identified, with the agreement of the relevant landowner or lessee and the prior written consent of the covenantee, by the relevant local authority as a specified covenant or kawenata

specified highly mobile fauna means the Threatened or At Risk species of highly mobile fauna that are identified in Appendix 2

specified infrastructure means any of the following:

- (a) infrastructure that delivers a service operated by a lifeline utility (as defined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002):
- (b) regionally or nationally significant infrastructure identified as such in a National Policy Statement, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, or a regional policy statement or plan:
- (c) infrastructure that is necessary to support housing development, that is included in a proposed or operative plan or identified for development in any relevant strategy document (including a future development strategy or spatial strategy) adopted by a local authority, in an urban environment (as defined in the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020):
- (d) any public flood control, flood protection, or drainage works carried out:
 - (i) by or on behalf of a local authority, including works carried out for the purposes set out in section 133 of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941; or
 - (ii) for the purpose of drainage, by drainage districts under the Land Drainage Act 1908:
- (e) defence facilities operated by the New Zealand Defence Force to meet its obligations under the Defence Act 1990.

specified Māori land means land that is any of the following:

- (a) Māori customary land and Māori freehold land (as defined in Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993):
- (b) land set apart as a Māori reservation under Part 17 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 or its predecessor, the Māori Affairs Act 1953:
- (c) land held by or on behalf of an iwi or a hapū if the land was transferred from the Crown, a Crown body, or a local authority with the intention of returning the land to the holders of mana whenua over the land:
- (d) land vested in the Māori Trustee that is constituted as a Māori reserve by or under the Māori Reserved Land Act 1955, and remains subject to that Act:
- (e) land that forms part of a natural feature that has been declared under an Act to be a legal entity or person (including Te Urewera land within the meaning of section 7 of the Te Urewera Act 2014):
- (f) the maunga listed in section 10 of the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014:
- (g) Treaty settlement land, being land held by a post-settlement governance entity (as defined in the Urban Development Act 2020) where the land was transferred or vested and held (including land held in the name of a person such as a tipuna of the claimant group, rather than the entity itself):
 - (i) as part of redress for the settlement of Treaty of Waitangi claims; or
 - (ii) by the exercise of rights under a Treaty settlement Act or Treaty settlement deed.

suitably qualified ecologist means a professional ecologist with a background and expertise in conducting terrestrial ecological assessments

terrestrial environment means land and associated natural and physical resources above mean high-water springs, excluding land covered by water, water bodies and freshwater ecosystems (as those terms are used in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020) and the coastal marine area

Threatened or At Risk, and **Threatened or At Risk (declining)** have, at any time, the meanings given in the *New Zealand Threat Classification System Manual* (Andrew J Townsend, Peter J de Lange, Clinton A J Duffy, Colin Miskelly, Janice Molloy and David A Norton, 2008. Science & Technical Publishing, Department of Conservation, Wellington), available at: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/sap244.pdf>, or its current successor publication

urban environment has the meaning in clause 1.4 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020.

- (2) Terms defined in the Act and used in this National Policy Statement have the meanings in the Act, except as otherwise specified.
- (3) Terms defined in the National Planning Standard issued under section 58E of the Act and used in this National Policy Statement have the meanings in that Standard, unless otherwise specified.

1.7 Maintaining indigenous biodiversity

- (1) Maintaining indigenous biodiversity requires:
 - (a) the maintenance and at least no overall reduction of all the following:
 - (i) the size of populations of indigenous species:
 - (ii) indigenous species occupancy across their natural range:
 - (iii) the properties and function of ecosystems and habitats used or occupied by indigenous biodiversity:
 - (iv) the full range and extent of ecosystems and habitats used or occupied by indigenous biodiversity:
 - (v) connectivity between, and buffering around, ecosystems used or occupied by indigenous biodiversity:
 - (vi) the resilience and adaptability of ecosystems; and
 - (b) where necessary, the restoration and enhancement of ecosystems and habitats.

1.8 Incorporation by reference

- (1) Clause 2(1) of Schedule 1AA of the Act does not apply to any material incorporated by reference in this National Policy Statement.
- (2) All material incorporated by reference in this National Policy Statement is available at <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/national-policy-statements/national-policy-statement-for-indigenous-biodiversity/>.

Part 2: Objective and policies

2.1 Objective

- (1) The objective of this National Policy Statement is:
- (a) to maintain indigenous biodiversity across Aotearoa New Zealand so that there is at least no overall loss in indigenous biodiversity after the commencement date; and
 - (b) to achieve this:
 - (i) through recognising the mana of tangata whenua as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (ii) by recognising people and communities, including landowners, as stewards of indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (iii) by protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity as necessary to achieve the overall maintenance of indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (iv) while providing for the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of people and communities now and in the future.

2.2 Policies

Policy 1: Indigenous biodiversity is managed in a way that gives effect to the decision-making principles and takes into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Policy 2: Tangata whenua exercise kaitiakitanga for indigenous biodiversity in their rohe, including through:

- (a) managing indigenous biodiversity on their land; and
- (b) identifying and protecting indigenous species, populations and ecosystems that are taonga; and
- (c) actively participating in other decision-making about indigenous biodiversity.

Policy 3: A precautionary approach is adopted when considering adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity.

Policy 4: Indigenous biodiversity is managed to promote resilience to the effects of climate change.

Policy 5: Indigenous biodiversity is managed in an integrated way, within and across administrative boundaries.

Policy 6: Significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna are identified as SNAs using a consistent approach.

Policy 7: SNAs are protected by avoiding or managing adverse effects from new subdivision, use and development.

Policy 8: The importance of maintaining indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs is recognised and provided for.

Policy 9: Certain established activities are provided for within and outside SNAs.

Policy 10: Activities that contribute to New Zealand's social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing are recognised and provided for as set out in this National Policy Statement.

Policy 11: Geothermal SNAs are protected at a level that reflects their vulnerability, or in accordance with any pre-existing underlying geothermal system classification.

Policy 12: Indigenous biodiversity is managed within plantation forestry while providing for plantation forestry activities.

Policy 13: Restoration of indigenous biodiversity is promoted and provided for.

Policy 14: Increased indigenous vegetation cover is promoted in both urban and non-urban environments.

Policy 15: Areas outside SNAs that support specified highly mobile fauna are identified and managed to maintain their populations across their natural range, and information and awareness of highly mobile fauna is improved.

Policy 16: Regional biodiversity strategies are developed and implemented to maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity at a landscape scale.

Policy 17: There is improved information and regular monitoring of indigenous biodiversity.

Part 3: Implementation

3.1 Overview of Part 3

- (1) This Part sets out a non-exhaustive list of things that must be done to give effect to the Objective and Policies in Part 2 of this National Policy Statement, but nothing in this Part limits the general obligation under the Act to give effect to that Objective and those Policies.
- (2) Nothing in this Part limits a local authority's functions and duties under the Act in relation to indigenous biodiversity.
- (3) In this Part:
 - (a) Subpart 1 sets out general approaches to implementing this National Policy Statement:
 - (b) Subpart 2 sets out provisions relating to the identification of SNAs, the management of adverse effects on SNAs, and the general management of indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs:
 - (c) Subpart 3 sets out additional specific requirements relating to indigenous biodiversity.

Subpart 1 – Approaches to implementing this National Policy Statement

3.2 Role of decision-making principles

- (1) Local authorities must engage with tangata whenua, people and communities (including landowners) to ensure that the decision-making principles inform, and are given effect to, when implementing this National Policy Statement in their regions and districts.

3.3 Tangata whenua as partners

- (1) Every local authority must involve tangata whenua (to the extent they wish to be involved) as partners in the management of indigenous biodiversity and, in particular:
 - (a) when identifying the local approach to giving effect to the decision-making principles; and
 - (b) in the processes (including decision-making processes) for managing the implementation of this National Policy Statement; and
 - (c) when making or changing policy statements and plans that relate to indigenous biodiversity or give effect to this National Policy Statement; and
 - (d) in developing Regional Biodiversity Strategies, including setting the vision for landscape-scale restoration of indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (e) in determining how to identify and manage the indigenous species, populations and ecosystems of those species that are taonga; and

- (f) in enabling mātauranga Māori to be applied at all stages of management of indigenous biodiversity.
- (2) When involving tangata whenua as required by subclause (1), and particularly when making or changing objectives, policies, or methods to give effect to this National Policy Statement, local authorities must:
- (a) ensure that engagement with tangata whenua:
 - (i) is early, meaningful, and in accordance with tikanga Māori; and
 - (ii) has regard to the different levels of whānau, hapū, and iwi decision-making structures; and
 - (b) in managing indigenous biodiversity, recognise and value the mana of tangata whenua as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (c) provide specific opportunities for tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga in accordance with tikanga Māori; and
 - (d) allow for the sustainable customary use of indigenous biodiversity in accordance with tikanga.
- (3) Local authorities must work with tangata whenua to investigate the use of mechanisms available under the Act to involve tangata whenua in the management of, and decision-making about, indigenous biodiversity, such as:
- (a) transfers or delegations of power under section 33 of the Act:
 - (b) joint management agreements under section 36B of the Act:
 - (c) Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (iwi participation arrangements) under subpart 2 of Part 5 of the Act.
- (4) When a local authority considers the use of mechanisms to involve tangata whenua in the management of indigenous biodiversity the local authority must:
- (a) record the matters considered and the reasons for any decisions reached, or for not making a decision; and
 - (b) publish those matters and reasons as soon as practicable after the consideration, unless publication would be contrary to any legal obligation.
- (5) Local authorities must, with the consent of tangata whenua, enable the application of mātauranga Māori relating to indigenous biodiversity when implementing this National Policy Statement.
- (6) Local authorities must actively involve tangata whenua in developing processes for managing information provided by tangata whenua (including providing for how it may remain confidential if appropriate), particularly in relation to the identification and management of species, populations, and ecosystems as taonga (in accordance with clause 3.19).

3.4 Integrated approach

- (1) Local authorities must manage indigenous biodiversity and the effects on it from subdivision, use and development in an integrated way, which means:

- (a) recognising the interconnectedness of the whole environment and the interactions between the terrestrial environment, freshwater, and the coastal marine area; and
- (b) providing for the coordinated management and control of subdivision, use and development, as it affects indigenous biodiversity across administrative boundaries; and
- (c) working towards aligning strategies and other planning tools required or provided for in legislation that are relevant to indigenous biodiversity.

3.5 Social, economic, and cultural wellbeing

- (1) Local authorities must consider:
 - (a) that the protection, maintenance, and restoration of indigenous biodiversity contributes to the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of people and communities; and
 - (b) that the protection, maintenance, and restoration of indigenous biodiversity does not preclude subdivision, use and development in appropriate places and forms; and
 - (c) the exercise of kaitiakitanga by tangata whenua in protecting, maintaining, and restoring indigenous biodiversity within their rohe; and
 - (d) the importance of forming partnerships in protecting, maintaining, and restoring indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (e) the role of people and communities, particularly landowners, as stewards of indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (f) the value of supporting people and communities in understanding, connecting to, and enjoying indigenous biodiversity.

3.6 Resilience to climate change

- (1) Local authorities must promote the resilience of indigenous biodiversity to climate change, including at least by:
 - (a) allowing and supporting the natural adjustment of habitats and ecosystems to the changing climate; and
 - (b) considering the effects of climate change when making decisions on:
 - (i) restoration proposals; and
 - (ii) managing and reducing new and existing biosecurity risks; and
 - (c) maintaining and promoting the enhancement of the connectivity between ecosystems, and between existing and potential habitats, to enable migrations so that species can continue to find viable niches as the climate changes.
- (2) Local authorities must recognise the role of indigenous biodiversity in mitigating the effects of climate change.

3.7 Precautionary approach

- (1) Local authorities must adopt a precautionary approach toward proposed activities where:
 - (a) the effects on indigenous biodiversity are uncertain, unknown, or little understood; but
 - (b) those effects could cause significant or irreversible damage to indigenous biodiversity.

Subpart 2 – Significant natural areas (SNAs)

3.8 Assessing areas that qualify as SNAs

- (1) Every territorial authority must undertake a district-wide assessment of the land in its district to identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna that qualify as SNAs.
- (2) The assessment must be done using the assessment criteria in Appendix 1 and in accordance with the following principles:
 - (a) **partnership:** territorial authorities engage early with tangata whenua and landowners and share information about indigenous biodiversity, potential management options, and any support and incentives that may be available:
 - (b) **transparency:** territorial authorities clearly inform tangata whenua and landowners about how any information gathered will be used and make existing information, draft assessments and other relevant information available to tangata whenua and relevant landowners for review:
 - (c) **quality:** wherever practicable, the values and extent of natural areas are verified by physical inspection; but if a physical inspection is not practicable (because, for instance, the area is inaccessible, or a landowner does not give access) the local authority uses the best information available to it at the time:
 - (d) **access:** if a physical inspection is required, permission of the landowner is first sought and the powers of entry under section 333 of the Act are used only as a last resort:
 - (e) **consistency:** the criteria in Appendix 1 are applied consistently, regardless of who owns the land:
 - (f) **boundaries:** the boundaries of areas of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna are determined without regard to artificial margins (such as property boundaries) that would affect the extent or ecological integrity of the area identified.
- (3) If the values or extent of a proposed SNA are disputed by the landowner, the local authority must conduct a physical inspection of the area, unless a physical inspection is not practicable; and in that case the local authority must use the best information available to it at the time.
- (4) If requested by a territorial authority, the relevant regional council must assist the territorial authority in undertaking its district-wide assessment.

- (5) A territorial authority need not comply with subclause (1) in respect of any SNA referred to in paragraph (b) of the definition of SNA, (ie, an area already identified as an SNA at the commencement date) if, within four years after the commencement date, a suitably qualified ecologist engaged by the territorial authority confirms that the methodology originally used to identify the area as an SNA, and its application, is consistent with the assessment approach in Appendix 1.
- (6) If a territorial authority becomes aware (as a result of a resource consent application, notice of requirement or any other means) that an area may be an area of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna that qualifies as an SNA, the territorial authority must:
 - (a) conduct an assessment of the area in accordance with subclause (2) as soon as practicable; and
 - (b) if a new SNA is identified as a result, include it in the next appropriate plan or plan change notified by the territorial authority.
- (7) If a suitably qualified ecologist confirms that an area that qualifies as an SNA comprises or contains a geothermal ecosystem, the SNA is a geothermal SNA.
- (8) An area of Crown-owned land may qualify as an SNA without the need for the assessment required by subclause (1), using Appendix 1, if:
 - (a) the land is managed by the Department of Conservation under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other Act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act; and
 - (b) the territorial authority is reasonably satisfied, after consultation with the Department of Conservation, that all or most of the area would qualify as an SNA under Appendix 1; and
 - (c) the area is:
 - (i) a large and more-or-less contiguous area managed under a single protection classification (such as a national park); or
 - (ii) a large, compact, and more-or-less contiguous area under more than one classification (such as adjoining reserves and a conservation park); or
 - (iii) a well-defined landscape or geographical feature (such as an island or mountain range); or
 - (iv) a scientific, scenic or nature reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, a sanctuary area, ecological area, or wildlife management area under the Conservation Act 1987, or an isolated part of a national park.

3.9 Identifying SNAs in district plans

- (1) A territorial authority must notify a plan or plan change to include as an SNA each area in its district that is identified as qualifying as an SNA.
- (2) The notified plan or plan change must include:
 - (a) the location of the SNA and a description of its attributes; and
 - (b) a map of the area; and
 - (c) specify whether the SNA is a geothermal SNA.

- (3) When a territorial authority does its 10-yearly plan review, it must assess its district in accordance with clause 3.8 (1) and (2) to determine whether changes are needed.

3.10 Managing adverse effects on SNAs of new subdivision, use, and development

- (1) This clause applies to any new subdivision, use, or development that is in, or affects, an SNA, except as provided in:
 - (a) subclause (6); and
 - (b) clauses 3.12 and 3.18 (about SNAs on specified Māori land); and
 - (c) clause 3.13 (about geothermal SNAs); and
 - (d) clause 3.14 (about plantation forestry activities).
- (2) Each of the following adverse effects on an SNA of any new subdivision, use, or development must be avoided, except as provided in clause 3.11:
 - (a) loss of ecosystem representation and extent:
 - (b) disruption to sequences, mosaics, or ecosystem function:
 - (c) fragmentation of SNAs or the loss of buffers or connections within an SNA:
 - (d) a reduction in the function of the SNA as a buffer or connection to other important habitats or ecosystems:
 - (e) 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.
- (3) Any adverse effects on an SNA of a new subdivision, use, or development that are not referred to in subclause (2), or that occur as a result of the exceptions in clause 3.11, must be managed by applying the effects management hierarchy.
- (4) Where adverse effects on an SNA are required to be managed pursuant to subclause (3) by applying the effects management hierarchy, an applicant must be required to demonstrate:
 - (a) how each step of the effects management hierarchy will be applied; and
 - (b) if biodiversity offsetting or biodiversity compensation is applied, the applicant has complied with principles 1 to 6 in Appendix 3 and 4 and has had regard to the remaining principles in Appendix 3 and 4, as appropriate.
- (5) If land in an SNA is covered by a specified covenant or kawenata, a local authority may, at the request of the landowner or lessee, allow certain specified activities within the SNA that may not be consistent with policy statements and plans made under this clause, provided that:
 - (a) the local authority is satisfied that the specified activities:
 - (i) are consistent with the specified covenant or kawenata and any current management plan approved by the covenantee; and
 - (ii) are for the purpose of protecting, restoring or accessing the SNA's ecological values; and

- (b) the covenantee gives its prior written consent to the exemption for the specified activities; and
 - (c) if the land is Crown owned, the appropriate Crown agency gives its prior written consent to the exemption for the specified activities.
- (6) Nothing in this clause applies to adverse effects on an SNA from any of the following:
- (a) any use or development required to address a high risk to public health or safety;
 - (b) the sustainable customary use of indigenous biodiversity conducted in accordance with tikanga;
 - (c) work or activity of the Crown within the boundaries of any area of land held or managed under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other Act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act (other than land held for administrative purposes), provided that the work or activity:
 - (i) is undertaken in a way that is consistent with any applicable conservation management strategy, conservation management plan, or management plan established under the [Conservation Act 1987](#), or any other Act specified in [Schedule 1](#) of that Act; and
 - (ii) does not have a significant adverse effect beyond the boundary of the land;
 - (d) work within Te Urewera of Te Urewera Board, the chief executive of Tūhoe Te Uru Taumatua, or the Director-General of Conservation, provided that the work:
 - (i) is for the purpose of managing Te Urewera under the Te Urewera Act 2014 and is consistent with the Te Urewera Act and the management plan under that Act; and
 - (ii) does not have a significant adverse effect on the environment beyond the boundary of Te Urewera; and
 - (e) the harvest of indigenous tree species from an SNA that is carried out in accordance with a forest management plan or permit under Part 3A of the Forests Act 1949.
- (7) Every local authority must make or change its policy statements and plans to be consistent with the requirements of this clause.

3.11 Exceptions to clause 3.10(2)

- (1) Clause 3.10(2) does not apply, and any adverse effects on an SNA of a new subdivision, use or development must be managed in accordance with clause 3.10(3) and (4), if:
- (a) the new subdivision, use or development is required for the purposes of any of the following:
 - (i) construction or upgrade (if the upgrade does not meet the requirements of clause 3.15(2)) of specified infrastructure that provides significant national or regional public benefit;
 - (ii) mineral extraction that provides significant national public benefit that could not otherwise be achieved using resources within New Zealand; but this subparagraph does not apply to any mineral extraction that is coal mining, and subparagraph (iv) applies instead;

- (iii) aggregate extraction that provides significant national or regional public benefit that could not otherwise be achieved using resources within New Zealand;
 - (iv) the operation or expansion of any coal mine that was lawfully established before the commencement date (see clause 1.2); except that, after 31 December 2030, this exception applies only to such coal mines that extract coking coal; and
 - (b) there is a functional need or operational need for the new subdivision, use or development to be in that particular location; and
 - (c) there are no practicable alternative locations for the new subdivision, use or development.
- (2) Clause 3.10(2) does not apply, and any adverse effects on an SNA of a new use or development must be managed in accordance with clause 3.10(3) and (4), if:
- (a) the new use or development is associated with a single residential dwelling on an allotment created before the commencement date; and
 - (b) there is no practicable location within the allotment where a single residential dwelling and essential associated on-site infrastructure can be constructed in a manner that avoids the adverse effects specified in clause 3.10(2).
- (3) If a new use or development is for the purpose of maintaining or restoring an SNA and does not involve the permanent destruction of significant habitat of indigenous biodiversity, clause 3.10(2) does not apply, and any adverse effects on the SNA must be managed:
- (a) in accordance with clause 3.10(3) and (4); or
 - (b) under any alternative management approach that is consistent with the objectives, policies and methods developed for the purpose of clause 3.21.
- (4) Clause 3.10(2) does not apply, and any adverse effects on an SNA of a new use or development must be managed in accordance with clauses 3.10(3) and (4), if the use or development:
- (a) is in an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna (other than an area managed under the Forests Act 1949) that was established and is managed primarily for a purpose other than the maintenance or restoration of that indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (b) the loss of indigenous biodiversity values is necessary to meet that purpose.
- (5) Clause 3.10(2) does not apply, and any adverse effects on an SNA of a new use or development must be managed in accordance with clause 3.10(3) and (4), if the use or development is an activity associated with the harvest of indigenous tree species from an SNA carried out in accordance with a forest management plan or permit under Part 3A of the Forests Act 1949, such as track clearance or timber storage, but not the harvesting of the trees itself (see clause 3.10(6)(e)).

3.12 SNAs on specified Māori land

- (1) SNAs on specified Māori land must be managed in accordance with clause 3.18, except that:

- (a) geothermal SNAs on specified Māori land must be managed in accordance with clause 3.13; and
 - (b) SNAs within plantation forests must be managed in accordance with clause 3.14.
- (2) To avoid doubt, if any specified Māori land ceases to be used for plantation forestry activities, the land must be managed in accordance with clause 3.18, and not under clause 3.14.

3.13 Geothermal SNAs

- (1) Every local authority that has a geothermal SNA in its region or district must work in partnership with tangata whenua to make or change its policy statements and plans to include objectives, policies, and methods that, in relation to any new subdivision, use, and development, provide a level of protection of the geothermal SNA that:
- (a) either:
 - (i) reflects the vulnerability of the geothermal SNA to use or development; or
 - (ii) in the case of a local authority that has, at the commencement date, classified its geothermal systems, is consistent with the geothermal system classification (whether the same or different from the classification at the commencement date) that applies in the region in which the geothermal SNA is located; and
 - (b) applies, to the extent practicable, the approach in clause 3.10(2) and (3) to the geothermal SNA; and
 - (c) in the case of a geothermal SNA on specified Māori land, provides for new occupation, use, and development that enables tangata whenua to use and develop geothermal resources in a manner that has regard to the vulnerability of the geothermal SNA to use or development, or is consistent with the geothermal system classification in which the geothermal SNA is located (as applicable), and in accordance with tikanga; and
 - (d) requires the decision-maker on any resource consent application to:
 - (i) have particular regard to the adverse effects described in clause 3.10(2) when managing adverse effects on the geothermal SNAs; and
 - (ii) consider any practicable measures for the restoration of the geothermal SNAs.
- (2) Any assessment of the vulnerability of a geothermal SNA must be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.
- (3) In relation to a geothermal SNA, this clause prevails over any other provision of this National Policy Statement that might apply to the SNA, other than clause 3.15 (about established activities affecting SNAs), which applies to geothermal SNAs in the same way as it applies to other SNAs.

3.14 Plantation forestry activities

- (1) Except as provided in subclause (2), the adverse effects of plantation forestry activities in any existing plantation forest on any SNA must be managed in a manner that:

- (a) maintains indigenous biodiversity in the SNA as far as practicable; while
 - (b) providing for plantation forestry activities to continue.
- (2) Despite clause 3.10, any part of an SNA that is within an area of an existing plantation forest that is planted, or is intended to be, replanted in trees for harvest must be managed over the course of consecutive rotations of production in the manner necessary to maintain the long-term populations of any Threatened or At Risk (declining) species present in the area.
- (3) Every local authority must make or change its policy statements and plans to be consistent with the requirements of this clause.

3.15 Managing adverse effects of established activities on SNAs

- (1) For the purpose of this clause, **established activity** means an activity (including maintenance, operation, and upgrade) that:
- (a) is in, or affects, an SNA; and
 - (b) is not a new subdivision, use, or development.
- (2) Local authorities must include objectives, policies, and methods in their policy statements and plans to enable specified established activities, or specified types of established activities, to continue where the effects of the activity on an SNA (including cumulative effects):
- (a) are no greater in intensity, scale, or character over time than at the commencement date; and
 - (b) do not result in the loss of extent, or degradation of ecological integrity, of an SNA.
- (3) If an established activity does not meet the requirements of subclause (2), the activity must be managed under clauses 3.10 to 3.14 or clause 3.18 (as relevant) as if it were a new use or development.
- (4) To avoid doubt, nothing in this clause affects existing use rights under sections 10 or 20A of the Act.

3.16 Indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs

- (1) If a new subdivision, use, or development is outside an SNA and not on specified Māori land, any significant adverse effects of the new subdivision, use, or development on indigenous biodiversity outside the SNA must be managed by applying the effects management hierarchy.
- (2) All other adverse effects of any activities that may adversely affect indigenous biodiversity that is outside an SNA (other than indigenous biodiversity on specified Māori land (see clause 3.18)), must be managed to give effect to the objective and policies of this National Policy Statement.
- (3) Every local authority must make or change its policy statements and plans to be consistent with the requirements of this clause.

3.17 Maintenance of improved pasture for farming

- (1) This clause applies to the maintenance of improved pasture for farming where it may affect an SNA.
- (2) Local authorities must allow the maintenance of improved pasture to continue if:
 - (a) there is adequate evidence to demonstrate that the maintenance of improved pasture is part of a regular cycle of periodic maintenance of that pasture; and
 - (b) any adverse effects of the maintenance of improved pasture on an SNA are no greater in intensity, scale, or character than the effects of activities previously undertaken as part of the regular cycle of periodic maintenance of that pasture; and
 - (c) the improved pasture has not itself become an SNA; and
 - (d) the land is not an uncultivated depositional landform; and
 - (e) the maintenance of improved pasture will not adversely affect a Threatened or At Risk (declining) species.

- (3) In this clause:

depositional landform means a landform that is alluvial (matter deposited by water, (eg, fans, river flats, and terraces), colluvial (matter deposited by gravity at the base of hillslopes, (eg, talus), or glacial (matter deposited by glaciers, (eg, moraines and outwash)

exotic pasture species means a pasture species identified in the *National List of Exotic Pasture Species* (see clause 1.8)

improved pasture means an area of land where exotic pasture species have been deliberately sown or maintained for the purpose of pasture production, and species composition and growth has been modified and is being managed for livestock grazing

maintenance of improved pasture includes the removal of indigenous vegetation for the purpose of maintaining the improved pasture, whether the removal is by way of cutting, crushing, applying chemicals, draining, burning, cultivating, over-planting, applying seed of exotic pasture species, mob stocking, or making changes to soils, hydrology, or landforms.

Subpart 3 – Specific requirements

3.18 Specified Māori land

- (1) Local authorities must work in partnership (which includes acting in good faith) with tangata whenua and owners of specified Māori land to develop, and include in policy statements and plans, objectives, policies, and methods that, to the extent practicable:
 - (a) maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity on specified Māori land; and
 - (b) protect SNAs and identified taonga on specified Māori land.
- (2) Objectives, policies, and methods developed under this clause must:

- (c) enable new occupation, use, and development of specified Māori land to support the social, cultural, and economic wellbeing of tangata whenua; and
 - (d) enable the provision of new papakāinga, marae and ancillary community facilities, dwellings, and associated infrastructure; and
 - (e) enable alternative approaches to, or locations for, new occupation, use, and development that avoid, minimise, or remedy adverse effects on SNAs and identified taonga on specified Māori land, and enable options for offsetting and compensation; and
 - (f) recognise and be responsive to the fact that there may be no or limited alternative locations for tangata whenua to occupy, use, and develop their lands; and
 - (g) recognise that there are circumstances where development will prevail over indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (h) recognise and be responsive to any recognised historical barriers tangata whenua have faced in occupying, using, and developing their ancestral lands.
- (3) The decision-maker on any resource consent application must, when considering matters affecting specified Māori land, take into account all the matters in subclause (2).
- (4) Subclauses (2) and (3) do not apply to specified Māori land to the extent that the land is subject to full or partial legal protection under legislation for the purpose of protecting indigenous biodiversity on that land (such as, for example protection provided by covenants or land classifications under the Reserves Act 1977, the Conservation Act 1987, or the National Parks Act 1980).
- (5) Local authorities must consider and realise opportunities to provide incentives for the protection and maintenance of indigenous biodiversity, and the protection of SNAs and identified taonga, on specified Māori land.
- (6) Policy statements and plans developed for the purpose of this clause do not prevail over any management strategies or plans developed in the legislation referred to in paragraphs (e) and (f) of the definition of specified Māori land.
- (7) In subclause (1), **owners of specified Māori land** include managers of lands referred to in paragraphs (e) and (f) of the definition of specified Māori land, and any trustee of specified Māori land.

3.19 Acknowledged and Identified taonga

- (1) Every territorial authority must work in partnership with tangata whenua of any rohe in their district, using an agreed process, to determine the indigenous species, populations, and ecosystems in that rohe that are taonga (and these are **acknowledged taonga**).
- (2) Local authorities must recognise that tangata whenua have the right not to determine the indigenous species, populations and ecosystems in their rohe that are taonga, and to choose the level of detail at which any acknowledged taonga, or their location or values, are described.
- (3) If tangata whenua agree, territorial authorities must identify acknowledged taonga in their district plans (and these are **identified taonga**) by:

- (a) describing the taonga and, to the extent agreed by tangata whenua, mapping their location and describing their values; and
 - (b) describing, to the extent agreed by tangata whenua, the historical, cultural, and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with the taonga.
- (4) Local authorities must work in partnership with tangata whenua to protect both acknowledged and identified taonga as far as practicable and to involve tangata whenua (to the extent that they wish to be involved) in the management of identified taonga.
- (5) Identified taonga located on specified Māori land must be managed under clause 3.18, but if identified taonga are located within an SNA that is not on specified Māori land:
- (a) the identified taonga must be managed in a manner consistent with the management approach applying to the SNA; and
 - (b) the matters listed in subclause (6) must be taken into account in managing the SNA.
- (6) In managing effects on identified taonga, local authorities must recognise that the possible adverse effects on identified taonga include effects on:
- (a) the mauri of the taonga:
 - (b) the values of the taonga as identified by tangata whenua:
 - (c) the historical, cultural, and spiritual relationship of tangata whenua with the taonga, as identified by tangata whenua.
- (7) Local authorities must make or change their policy statements and plans as necessary to ensure that the sustainable customary use of identified taonga by tangata whenua in accordance with tikanga and in a manner consistent with the protection of the identified taonga is provided for.
- (8) Before acknowledged taonga are identified in a proposed district plan, the territorial authority must notify the relevant landowner of the presence of the taonga.
- (9) To avoid doubt, the following cannot be acknowledged as taonga under this clause:
- (a) aquatic species:
 - (b) populations and ecosystems solely located in waterbodies:
 - (c) populations and ecosystems in the coastal marine area.

3.20 Specified highly mobile fauna

- (1) Where information about areas used by specified highly mobile fauna is available, every regional council must record areas outside SNAs that are highly mobile fauna areas, by working together with tangata whenua (in the manner required by clause 3.3), any potentially affected landowners, territorial authorities in its region, and the Department of Conservation.
- (2) If it will help manage adverse effects on specified highly mobile fauna, regional councils must include in their regional policy statements (where practicable) a map and description of each highly mobile fauna area in the region.

- (3) Local authorities must include objectives, policies, or methods in their policy statements and plans for managing the adverse effects of new subdivision, use, and development on highly mobile fauna areas, in order to maintain viable populations of specified highly mobile fauna across their natural range.
- (4) Local authorities must provide information to their communities about:
 - (a) highly mobile fauna and their habitats; and
 - (b) best practice techniques for managing adverse effects on any specified highly mobile fauna and their habitats in their regions and districts.

3.21 Restoration

- (1) Local authorities must include objectives, policies, and methods in their policy statements and plans to promote the restoration of indigenous biodiversity, including through reconstruction of areas.
- (2) The objectives, policies, and methods must prioritise all the following for restoration:
 - (a) SNAs whose ecological integrity is degraded:
 - (b) threatened and rare ecosystems representative of naturally occurring and formerly present ecosystems:
 - (c) areas that provide important connectivity or buffering functions:
 - (d) natural inland wetlands whose ecological integrity is degraded or that no longer retain their indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna:
 - (e) areas of indigenous biodiversity on specified Māori land where restoration is advanced by the Māori landowners:
 - (f) any other priorities specified in regional biodiversity strategies or any national priorities for indigenous biodiversity restoration.
- (3) Local authorities must consider providing incentives for restoration in priority areas referred to in subclause (2), and in particular where those areas are on specified Māori land, in recognition of the opportunity cost of maintaining indigenous biodiversity on that land.
- (4) In relation to activities in areas prioritised for restoration, local authorities must consider:
 - (a) requiring conditions for restoration or enhancement on resource consents that are new or being reviewed; and
 - (b) recommending conditions on any new designations.

3.22 Increasing indigenous vegetation cover

- (1) Every regional council must assess the percentage of indigenous vegetation cover in:
 - (a) each of its urban environments; and
 - (b) its non-urban environments.

- (2) The assessment may be done by a desktop analysis, by ground truthing, or both, and must be done in collaboration with relevant territorial authorities, and tangata whenua (to the extent they wish to be involved).
- (3) Regional councils must:
 - (a) set a target of at least 10% indigenous vegetation cover for any urban or non-urban environment that has less than 10% cover of indigenous vegetation; and
 - (b) consider, in consultation with tangata whenua and territorial authorities, setting higher targets for urban and non-urban environments that already have at least 10% coverage of indigenous vegetation; and
 - (c) include any indigenous vegetation cover targets in their regional policy statements.
- (4) Local authorities must promote the increase of indigenous vegetation cover in their regions and districts through objectives, policies, and methods in their policy statements and plans:
 - (a) having regard to any targets set under subclause (3) by regional councils; and
 - (b) giving priority to all the following:
 - (i) areas referred to in clause 3.21(2);
 - (ii) ensuring indigenous species richness appropriate to the ecosystem;
 - (iii) restoration at a landscape scale across the region;
 - (iv) using species, and seed from species, that are local to the area.

3.23 Regional biodiversity strategies

- (1) Every regional council must prepare a regional biodiversity strategy that complies with Appendix 5 in collaboration with territorial authorities, tangata whenua, communities and other identified stakeholders.
- (2) Local authorities must have regard to the relevant regional biodiversity strategy when developing restoration objectives, policies, and methods for inclusion in regional policy statements and plans.

3.24 Information requirements

- (1) Every local authority must make or change its policy statements and plans to require that, in relation to an application for a resource consent for an activity that would have more than minor adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity, the application is not considered unless it includes a report that:
 - (a) is prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist and, as required, any other person with suitable expertise, such as someone with expertise in mātauranga Māori; and
 - (b) complies with subclause (2); and
 - (c) is commensurate with the scale and significance (to indigenous biodiversity) of the proposal.
- (2) The report must:

- (a) include a description of the existing ecological features and values of the site; and
- (b) include a description of the adverse effects of the proposal on indigenous biodiversity and how those effects will be managed; and
- (c) identify any effects on identified taonga; and
- (d) identify the ecosystem services associated with indigenous biodiversity at the site; and
- (e) include an assessment of the ecological integrity and connectivity within and beyond the site; and
- (f) include mātauranga Māori and tikanga Māori assessment methodology, where relevant; and
- (g) if biodiversity offsetting is proposed, set out:
 - (i) a detailed plan of what is proposed, including a quantified loss and gain calculation, the currency used in the calculation, and the data that informs the calculation and plan; and
 - (ii) a description of how the relevant principles in Appendix 3 of this National Policy Statement have been addressed; and
 - (iii) an assessment of the likely success of the plan in achieving a net gain in biodiversity values; and
- (h) if biodiversity compensation is proposed, set out:
 - (i) a detailed plan of what is proposed; and
 - (ii) a description of how the relevant principles in Appendix 4 of this National Policy Statement have been addressed; and
 - (iii) an assessment of the likely success of the plan in achieving its outcomes.

3.25 Monitoring by regional councils

- (1) Regional councils must work with tangata whenua, territorial authorities, relevant agencies and other relevant stakeholders to develop a monitoring plan for indigenous biodiversity in their regions and each of their districts.
- (2) Every monitoring plan must:
 - (a) establish methods and timeframes for monitoring:
 - (i) the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity in, and the ecological integrity and physical extent of, SNAs; and
 - (ii) the maintenance of identified taonga; and
 - (iii) the achievement of restoration objectives established under clause 3.21; and
 - (iv) the percentage of indigenous vegetation cover in urban and non-urban environments in its region, as required under clause 3.22.
 - (b) use best practice methods, or nationally agreed standards or methods, for monitoring areas that allow for comparability; and

- (c) to the extent possible, where tangata whenua agree, use scientific monitoring methods and mātauranga Māori and tikanga Māori monitoring methods equally; and
 - (d) recognise the importance of long-term trends in monitoring results, and the relationship between results and the overall state of indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (e) establish methods, such as action plans, for responding to monitoring that indicates the objectives of this National Policy Statement will not be met.
- (3) Methods and timeframes may include different methods and timeframes relating to SNAs and identified taonga but, if national monitoring methods are available, must use those methods.

Part 4: Timing

4.1 Timing generally

- (1) Every local authority must give effect to this National Policy Statement as soon as reasonably practicable.
- (2) Local authorities must publicly notify any changes to their policy statements and plans that are necessary to give effect to this National Policy Statement within eight years after the commencement date.

4.2 Timing for planning provisions for SNAs

- (1) Local authorities must publicly notify any policy statement or plan or changes to these necessary to give effect to subpart 2 of Part 3 (significant natural areas) and clause 3.24 (Information requirements) within five years after the commencement date.

4.3 Timing for regional biodiversity strategies

- (1) A regional council that, at the commencement date, has or is in the process of preparing a regional biodiversity strategy must update or complete the strategy within 10 years after the commencement date.
- (2) A regional council that, at the commencement date, has not prepared or begun to prepare a regional biodiversity strategy must initiate preparation of a strategy within three years after the commencement date, and must complete it within 10 years after the commencement date.

4.4 Existing policy statements and plans

- (1) To the extent that policy statements and plans already (at the commencement date) give effect to this National Policy Statement, local authorities are not obliged to make changes to wording or terminology merely for consistency with it.
- (2) In case of dispute, the onus is on the local authority to show that, despite the different wording or terminology used, their policy statement or plan does implement this National Policy Statement.
- (3) However, if a local authority chooses to amend an operative policy statement or plan by merely changing wording or terminology for consistency with this National Policy Statement, the amendment is to be treated as the correction of a minor error (and therefore, under clause 20A of Schedule 1 of the Act, the amendment can be made without using a process in that Schedule).

Appendix 1: Criteria for identifying areas that qualify as significant natural areas (SNAs)

This appendix sets out the criteria for identifying significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna in a specific area, so that the area qualifies as an SNA.

1 What qualifies as an SNA

- (1) An area qualifies as an SNA if it meets any one of the attributes of the following four criteria:
 - (a) representativeness:
 - (b) diversity and pattern:
 - (c) rarity and distinctiveness:
 - (d) ecological context.
- (2) If an area would qualify as an SNA solely on the grounds that it provides habitat for a single indigenous fauna species that is At Risk (declining), and that species is widespread in at least three other regions, the area does not qualify as an SNA unless:
 - (a) the species is rare within the region or ecological district where the area is located; or
 - (b) the protection of the species at that location is important for the persistence of the species as a whole.
- (3) If an area would qualify as an SNA solely on the grounds that it contains one or more indigenous flora species that are Threatened or At Risk (declining), and those species are widespread in at least three other regions, the area does not qualify as an SNA unless:
 - (a) the species is rare within the region or ecological district where the area is located; or
 - (b) the protection of the species at that location is important for the persistence of the species as a whole.

2 Context for assessment

- (1) The context for an assessment of an area is:
 - (a) its ecological district; and
 - (b) for the rarity assessment only, its ecological district, its region and the national context.

3 Manner and form of assessment

- (1) Every assessment must include at least:

- (a) a map of the area; and
 - (b) a general description of its significant attributes, with reference to relevant criteria (as specified below); and
 - (c) a general description of the indigenous vegetation, indigenous fauna, habitat, and ecosystems present; and
 - (d) additional information, such as the key threats, pressures, and management requirements; and
 - (e) for SNAs in areas of Crown-owned land referred to in clause 3.8(8), the conservation management strategy or plan or national park management plan that applies to the area.
- (2) An assessment under this appendix must be conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist (which, in the case of an assessment of a geothermal ecosystem, requires an ecologist with geothermal expertise).

A Representativeness criterion

- (1) Representativeness is the extent to which the indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna in an area is typical or characteristic of the indigenous biodiversity of the relevant ecological district.

Key assessment principles

- (2) Significant indigenous vegetation has ecological integrity typical of the indigenous vegetation of the ecological district in the present-day environment. It includes seral (regenerating) indigenous vegetation that is recovering following natural or induced disturbance, provided species composition is typical of that type of indigenous vegetation.
- (3) Significant indigenous fauna habitat is that which supports the typical suite of indigenous animals that would occur in the present-day environment. Habitat of indigenous fauna may be indigenous or exotic.
- (4) Representativeness may include commonplace indigenous vegetation and the habitats of indigenous fauna, which is where most indigenous biodiversity is present. It may also include degraded indigenous vegetation, ecosystems and habitats that are typical of what remains in depleted ecological districts. It is not restricted to the best or most representative examples, and it is not a measure of how well that indigenous vegetation or habitat is protected elsewhere in the ecological district.
- (5) When considering the typical character of an ecological district, any highly developed land or built-up areas should be excluded.
- (6) The application of this criterion should result in identification of indigenous vegetation and habitats that are representative of the full range and extent of ecological diversity across all environmental gradients in an ecological district, such as climate, altitude, landform, and soil sequences. The ecological character and pattern of the indigenous vegetation in the ecological district should be described by reference to the types of indigenous vegetation and the landforms on which it occurs.

Attributes of representativeness

- (7) An area that qualifies as an SNA under this criterion has at least one of the following attributes:
 - (a) indigenous vegetation that has ecological integrity that is typical of the character of the ecological district:
 - (b) habitat that supports a typical suite of indigenous fauna that is characteristic of the habitat type in the ecological district and retains at least a moderate range of species expected for that habitat type in the ecological district.

B Diversity and pattern criterion

- (1) Diversity and pattern is the extent to which the expected range of diversity and pattern of biological and physical components within the relevant ecological district is present in an area.

Key assessment principles

- (2) **Diversity of biological components** is expressed in the variation of species, communities, and ecosystems. Biological diversity is associated with variation in physical components, such as geology, soils/substrate, aspect/exposure, altitude/depth, temperature, and salinity.
- (3) **Pattern** includes changes along environmental and landform gradients, such as ecotones and sequences.
- (4) **Natural areas** that have a wider range of species, habitats or communities or wider environmental variation due to ecotones, gradients, and sequences in the context of the ecological district, rate more highly under this criterion.

Attributes of diversity and pattern

- (5) An area that qualifies as a significant natural area under this criterion has at least one of the following attributes:
 - (a) at least a moderate diversity of indigenous species, vegetation, habitats of indigenous fauna or communities in the context of the ecological district:
 - (b) presence of indigenous ecotones, complete or partial gradients or sequences.

C Rarity and distinctiveness criterion

- (1) Rarity and distinctiveness is the presence of rare or distinctive indigenous taxa, habitats of indigenous fauna, indigenous vegetation or ecosystems.

Key assessment principles

- (2) **Rarity** is the scarcity (natural or induced) of indigenous elements: species, habitats, vegetation, or ecosystems. Rarity includes elements that are uncommon or threatened.
- (3) **The list of Threatened and At Risk species** is regularly updated by the Department of Conservation. Rarity at a regional or ecological district scale is defined by regional or district lists or determined by expert ecological advice. The significance of nationally

listed Threatened and At Risk species should not be downgraded just because they are common within a region or ecological district.

- (4) **Depletion of indigenous vegetation or ecosystems** is assessed using ecological districts and land environments.
- (5) **Distinctiveness** includes distribution limits, type localities, local endemism, relict distributions, and special ecological or scientific features.

Attributes of rarity and distinctiveness

- (6) An area that qualifies as an SNA under this criterion has at least one of the following attributes:
 - (a) provides habitat for an indigenous species that is listed as Threatened or At Risk (declining) in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists:
 - (b) an indigenous vegetation type or an indigenous species that is uncommon within the region or ecological district:
 - (c) an indigenous species or plant community at or near its natural distributional limit:
 - (d) indigenous vegetation that has been reduced to less than 20 per cent of its pre-human extent in the ecological district, region, or land environment:
 - (e) indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna occurring on naturally uncommon ecosystems:
 - (f) the type locality of an indigenous species:
 - (g) the presence of a distinctive assemblage or community of indigenous species:
 - (h) the presence of a special ecological or scientific feature.

D Ecological context criterion

- (1) Ecological context is the extent to which the size, shape, and configuration of an area within the wider surrounding landscape contributes to its ability to maintain indigenous biodiversity or affects the ability of the surrounding landscape to maintain its indigenous biodiversity.

Key assessment principles

- (2) Ecological context has two main assessment principles:
 - (a) the characteristics that help maintain indigenous biodiversity (such as size, shape, and configuration) in the area; and
 - (b) the contribution the area makes to protecting indigenous biodiversity in the wider landscape (such as by linking, connecting to or buffering other natural areas, providing 'stepping stones' of habitat or maintaining ecological integrity).

Attributes of ecological context

- (3) An area that qualifies as an SNA under this criterion has at least one of the following attributes:

- (a) at least moderate size and a compact shape, in the context of the relevant ecological district:
- (b) well-buffered relative to remaining habitats in the relevant ecological district:
- (c) provides an important full or partial buffer to, or link between, one or more important habitats of indigenous fauna or significant natural areas:
- (d) important for the natural functioning of an ecosystem relative to remaining habitats in the ecological district.

Appendix 2: Specified highly mobile fauna

Scientific name	Common name	Ecosystem	Threat category
<i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i>	ngutu parore/wrybill	coastal/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Increasing)
<i>Anas chlorotis</i>	pāteke/brown teal	wetland/riverine	Threatened (Nationally increasing)
<i>Anas superciliosa superciliosa</i>	pāraera/grey duck	wetland/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Vulnerable)
<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i>	pīhoihoi/NZ pipit	forest/open	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Apteryx australis</i> 'northern Fiordland'	northern Fiordland tokoeka	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Vulnerable)
<i>Apteryx australis australis</i>	southern Fiordland tokoeka	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Endangered)
<i>Apteryx haastii</i>	roa/great spotted kiwi	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Vulnerable)
<i>Ardea modesta</i>	kotuku/white heron	wetland/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Critical)
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	matuku/bittern	wetland/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Critical)
<i>Bowdleria punctate stewartiana</i>	mātātā/Stewart Island fernbird	wetland/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Vulnerable)
<i>Bowdleria punctata punctata</i>	koroātito/South Island fernbird	wetland/riverine	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Bowdleria punctata vealeae</i>	mātātā/North Island fernbird	wetland/riverine	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Calidris canutus rogersi</i>	huahou/lesser knot	coastal/riverine	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Chalinolobus tuberculatus</i>	pekapeka/long-tailed bat	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Critical)
<i>Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus</i>	pohowera/banded dotterel	coastal/riverine	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Charadrius obscurus aquilonius</i>	tūtiriwhatu/northern NZ dotterel	coastal/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Increasing)
<i>Charadrius obscurus obscurus</i>	tūtiriwhatu/southern NZ dotterel	coastal/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Critical)
<i>Chlidonias albobriatus</i>	tara pirohe/black- fronted tern	coastal/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Endangered)
<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	matuku moana/reef heron	coastal/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Endangered)
<i>Falco novaeseelandiae ferox</i>	kārearea/bush falcon	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Increasing)
<i>Falco novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i>	kārearea/eastern falcon	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Vulnerable)

Scientific name	Common name	Ecosystem	Threat category
<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i> 'southern'	kārearea/southern falcon	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Endangered)
<i>Gallirallus australis greyi</i>	North Island weka	forest/open	At Risk (Relict)
<i>Gallirallus philippensis assimilis</i>	moho pererū/banded rail	wetland/riverine	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	tōrea/South Island pied oystercatcher	coastal/riverine	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	tōrea tai/variable oystercatcher	coastal/riverine	At Risk (Recovering)
<i>Himantopus novaeseelandiae</i>	kakī/black stilt	wetland/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Critical)
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	taranui/Caspian tern	coastal/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Vulnerable)
<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>	whio/blue duck	riverine	Threatened (Nationally Vulnerable)
<i>Larus bulleri</i>	tarāpukā/black-billed gull	coastal/riverine	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i>	tarāpunga/red-billed gull	coastal/riverine	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i>	kuaka/eastern bar-tailed godwit	coastal/riverine	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Mystacina tuberculata aoupourica</i>	pekapeka/northern short-tailed bat	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Endangered)
<i>Mystacina tuberculata rhyacobia</i>	pekapeka/central short-tailed bat	forest/open	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Mystacina tuberculata tuberculata</i>	pekapeka/southern short-tailed bat	forest/open	At Risk (Recovering)
<i>Nestor meridionalis meridionalis</i>	kākā/South Island kākā	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Vulnerable)
<i>Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis</i>	kākā/North Island kākā	forest/open	At Risk (Recovering)
<i>Nestor notabilis</i>	kea	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Endangered)
<i>Petroica australis australis</i>	kakariwai/South Island robin	forest/open	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Phalacrocorax varius varius</i>	kāruhiruhi/pied shag	coastal/riverine	At Risk (Recovering)
<i>Podiceps cristatus australis</i>	kāmana/southern crested grebe	wetland/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Vulnerable)
<i>Poliiocephalus rufopectus</i>	weweia/NZ dabchick	wetland/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Increasing)
<i>Porzana pusilla affinis</i>	koitareke/marsh crake	wetland/riverine	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Porzana tabuensis</i>	pūweto/spotless crake	wetland/riverine	At Risk (Declining)
<i>Sterna striata striata</i>	tara/white-fronted tern	coastal/riverine	At Risk (Declining)

Scientific name	Common name	Ecosystem	Threat category
<i>Sternula nereis davisae</i>	tara iti/NZ fairy tern	coastal/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Critical)
<i>Thinornis novaeseelandiae</i>	tuturuatu/NZ shore plover	coastal/riverine	Threatened (Nationally Critical)
<i>Xenicus gilviventris</i> 'northern'	pīwauwau/northern rock wren	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Critical)
<i>Xenicus gilviventris</i> 'southern'	pīwauwau/southern rock wren	forest/open	Threatened (Nationally Endangered)

Appendix 3: Principles for biodiversity offsetting

These principles apply to the use of biodiversity offsets for adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity.

- (1) **Adherence to effects management hierarchy:** A biodiversity offset is a commitment to redress more than minor residual adverse effects and should be contemplated only after steps to avoid, minimise, and remedy adverse effects are demonstrated to have been sequentially exhausted.
- (2) **When biodiversity offsetting is not appropriate:** Biodiversity offsets are not appropriate in situations where indigenous biodiversity values cannot be offset to achieve a net gain. Examples of an offset not being appropriate include where:
 - (a) residual adverse effects cannot be offset because of the irreplaceability or vulnerability of the indigenous biodiversity affected:
 - (b) effects on indigenous biodiversity are uncertain, unknown, or little understood, but potential effects are significantly adverse or irreversible:
 - (c) there are no technically feasible options by which to secure gains within an acceptable timeframe.
- (3) **Net gain:** This principle reflects a standard of acceptability for demonstrating, and then achieving, a net gain in indigenous biodiversity values. Net gain is demonstrated by a like-for-like quantitative loss/gain calculation of the following, and is achieved when the indigenous biodiversity values at the offset site are equivalent to or exceed those being lost at the impact site:
 - (a) types of indigenous biodiversity, including when indigenous species depend on introduced species for their persistence; and
 - (b) amount; and
 - (c) condition (structure and quality).
- (4) **Additionality:** A biodiversity offset achieves gains in indigenous biodiversity above and beyond gains that would have occurred in the absence of the offset, such as gains that are additional to any minimisation and remediation undertaken in relation to the adverse effects of the activity.
- (5) **Leakage:** Biodiversity offset design and implementation avoids displacing harm to other indigenous biodiversity in the same or any other location.
- (6) **Long-term outcomes:** A biodiversity offset is managed to secure outcomes of the activity that last at least as long as the impacts, and preferably in perpetuity. Consideration must be given to long-term issues around funding, location, management and monitoring.
- (7) **Landscape context:** Biodiversity offsetting is undertaken where this will result in the best ecological outcome, preferably close to the impact site or within the same ecological district. The action considers the landscape context of both the impact site

and the offset site, taking into account interactions between species, habitats and ecosystems, spatial connections, and ecosystem function.

- (8) **Time lags:** The delay between loss of, or effects on, indigenous biodiversity values at the impact site and the gain or maturity of indigenous biodiversity at the offset site is minimised so that the calculated gains are achieved within the consent period or, as appropriate, a longer period (but not more than 35 years).
- (9) **Science and mātauranga Māori:** The design and implementation of a biodiversity offset is a documented process informed by science and mātauranga Māori.
- (10) **Tangata whenua and stakeholder participation:** Opportunity for the effective and early participation of tangata whenua and stakeholders is demonstrated when planning biodiversity offsets, including their evaluation, selection, design, implementation, and monitoring.
- (11) **Transparency:** The design and implementation of a biodiversity offset, and communication of its results to the public, is undertaken in a transparent and timely manner.

Appendix 4: Principles for biodiversity compensation

These principles apply to the use of biodiversity compensation for adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity:

- (1) **Adherence to effects management hierarchy:** Biodiversity compensation is a commitment to redress more than minor residual adverse effects, and should be contemplated only after steps to avoid, minimise, remedy, and offset adverse effects are demonstrated to have been sequentially exhausted.
- (2) **When biodiversity compensation is not appropriate:** Biodiversity compensation is not appropriate where indigenous biodiversity values are not able to be compensated for. Examples of biodiversity compensation not being appropriate include where:
 - (a) the indigenous biodiversity affected is irreplaceable or vulnerable;
 - (b) effects on indigenous biodiversity are uncertain, unknown, or little understood, but potential effects are significantly adverse or irreversible;
 - (c) there are no technically feasible options by which to secure a proposed net gain within acceptable timeframes.
- (3) **Scale of biodiversity compensation:** The indigenous biodiversity values lost through the activity to which the biodiversity compensation applies are addressed by positive effects to indigenous biodiversity (including when indigenous species depend on introduced species for their persistence), that outweigh the adverse effects.
- (4) **Additionality:** Biodiversity compensation achieves gains in indigenous biodiversity above and beyond gains that would have occurred in the absence of the compensation, such as gains that are additional to any minimisation and remediation or offsetting undertaken in relation to the adverse effects of the activity.
- (5) **Leakage:** Biodiversity compensation design and implementation avoids displacing harm to other indigenous biodiversity in the same or any other location.
- (6) **Long-term outcomes:** Biodiversity compensation is managed to secure outcomes of the activity that last as least as long as the impacts, and preferably in perpetuity. Consideration must be given to long-term issues around funding, location, management, and monitoring.
- (7) **Landscape context:** Biodiversity compensation is undertaken where this will result in the best ecological outcome, preferably close to the impact site or within the same ecological district. The action considers the landscape context of both the impact site and the compensation site, taking into account interactions between species, habitats and ecosystems, spatial connections, and ecosystem function.
- (8) **Time lags:** The delay between loss of, or effects on, indigenous biodiversity values at the impact site and the gain or maturity of indigenous biodiversity at the compensation site is minimised so that the calculated gains are achieved within the consent period or, as appropriate, a longer period (but not more than 35 years).

- (9) **Trading up:** When trading up forms part of biodiversity compensation, the proposal demonstrates that the indigenous biodiversity gains are demonstrably greater or higher than those lost. The proposal also shows the values lost are not to Threatened or At Risk (declining) species or to species considered vulnerable or irreplaceable.
- (10) **Financial contributions:** A financial contribution is only considered if:
 - (a) there is no effective option available for delivering biodiversity gains on the ground; and
 - (b) it directly funds an intended biodiversity gain or benefit that complies with the rest of these principles.
- (11) **Science and mātauranga Māori:** The design and implementation of biodiversity compensation is a documented process informed by science, and mātauranga Māori.
- (12) **Tangata whenua and stakeholder participation:** Opportunity for the effective and early participation of tangata whenua and stakeholders is demonstrated when planning for biodiversity compensation, including its evaluation, selection, design, implementation, and monitoring.
- (13) **Transparency:** The design and implementation of biodiversity compensation, and communication of its results to the public, is undertaken in a transparent and timely manner.

Appendix 5: Regional biodiversity strategies

- (1) The purpose of a regional biodiversity strategy is to promote the landscape-scale restoration of the region's indigenous biodiversity.
- (2) To achieve its purpose, every regional biodiversity strategy, either alone or when read with related documents, must:
 - (a) set out a landscape-scale vision for the restoration of the region's indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (b) provide for resilience to biological and environmental changes, including those associated with climate change; and
 - (c) recognise biological and physical connections within, and between, the terrestrial environment, water bodies, and the coastal marine area; and
 - (d) support the achievement of any national priorities for indigenous biodiversity protection; and
 - (e) record:
 - (i) the actions and methods intended to promote the maintenance and restoration of indigenous biodiversity, and increase in indigenous vegetation cover, in the region; and
 - (ii) actions that will be undertaken by local or central government; and
 - (iii) actions that the community, including tangata whenua, will be supported or encouraged to undertake; and
 - (iv) how those actions will be resourced; and
 - (f) specify milestones for achieving the strategy's purpose; and
 - (g) specify how progress on achieving the strategy's purpose is to be monitored and reported on and measures to be taken if milestones are not being met.
- (3) A regional biodiversity strategy may also:
 - (a) include measures that are intended to implement other objectives, such as biosecurity, climate mitigation, amenity, or freshwater outcomes, where those measures also contribute to protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity; and
 - (b) identify areas intended for restoration in accordance with clause 3.21; and
 - (c) identify areas in which indigenous vegetation cover is proposed to be increased, in accordance with clause 3.22.
- (4) The following must be taken into account when developing a regional biodiversity strategy:
 - (a) any National Biodiversity Strategy issued by the Department of Conservation:

- (b) opportunities to engage the community, including tangata whenua, in conservation and, in particular, to connect urban people and communities to indigenous biodiversity:
- (c) opportunities for partnerships with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, Ngā Whenua Rāhui and others:
- (d) considering incentive opportunities specific to specified Māori land:
- (e) co-benefits, including for water quality and freshwater habitats, carbon sequestration and hazard mitigation:
- (f) alignment with strategies under other legislation.

Appendix 6: Glossary of ecological terms used in Appendices

For the purpose of this National Policy Statement the following terms have the meaning given:

Ecotone

Ecotone refers to a transition area between two or more ecosystems. Ecotones may be sharp transitions or gradients.

Gradient

Gradient refers to a gradual transition from one ecosystem to another over one or more environmental variables.

Irreplaceability

Irreplaceability is a measure of the uniqueness, replaceability and conservation value of biodiversity and the degree to which the biodiversity value of a given area adds to the value of an overall network of areas. It interacts with vulnerability, complexity and rarity to indicate the biodiversity value and level of risk for a given area.

Land environment

Land environment refers to a land environment identified in the Land Environments of New Zealand (LENZ) Classification System (Leathwick et al., 2003, as maintained by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research).

Leakage

Leakage, also referred to as environmental leakage, occurs when interventions aimed at reducing adverse environmental impacts at one site may be locally successful, but increase pressures or adverse impacts elsewhere. For example, displacing the causes of biodiversity loss in an offset area to another location.

Like-for-like

Like-for-like is the degree of similarity in biodiversity values between impact and offset sites across; the type of biodiversity; amount of biodiversity; biodiversity condition; equivalence over time; and spatial context. Biodiversity offsets are designed to ensure biodiversity impacts are offset with biodiversity that is very similar to the biodiversity that is being impacted in that it has the same ecosystems, vegetation, habitats and species.

Sequence

Sequence means the change in ecosystem composition along environmental gradients. Sequences can contain many gradients and ecosystem transitions. They can encompass a full range of alpine to coastal ecosystems, including dunes, wetlands and forests.

Vulnerability

Vulnerability is an estimate of the degree of threat of destruction or degradation that indigenous biodiversity faces from change, use or development. It is the degree to which an ecosystem, habitat or species is likely to be affected by, is susceptible to or able to adapt to harmful impacts or changes. It interacts with the irreplaceability, complexity and rarity to indicate the biodiversity value and level of risk for a given area.



Date 29 August 2023

Subject: **Spatial Planning Gap Analysis Report**

Approved by: A D McLay, Director - Resource Management
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 3199276

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to present to the Committee the final report by BECA for the Spatial Planning Gap Analysis project.

Executive summary

2. This item summarises the joint project with district councils to undertake a gap analysis of information that may be required for future spatial planning work.
3. The report has now been received by the councils', provides an overview of the work that will be needed in future spatial planning processes, and sets out key recommendations for next steps.
4. A useful framework has been provided for councils and Iwi to move forward on and differences in the existing and new planning processes and outcomes identified.
5. The project is not to deliver a spatial plan or provide any management direction from a spatial perspective. It is to provide a baseline to guide work to meet requirements in Taranaki to deliver a future Regional Spatial Strategy.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives the memorandum *Spatial Planning Gap Analysis Report*
- b) notes the attached report from BECA - *Inputs to support spatial planning decision making (data and information gap analysis)*
- c) notes a useful planning framework has been provided for Councils and Iwi to move forward on.

Background

6. In March 2023, the Committee received a memorandum advising of the joint project with district councils to undertake a gap analysis of information required for future

spatial planning work. Consultants BECA were commissioned to undertake this work. BECA has national experience with spatial planning.

7. The work is in response to the resource management reforms underway and the proposal to split the Resource Management Act (RMA) into two separate Acts – the Spatial Planning Act (SP Bill) and the Natural Built Environment Act (NBE Bill). The project aims to provide an outline of what information will be needed ahead of any requirements under new legislation, but also to assist informing current policy development processes in considering future requirements.
8. To inform existing and future processes TRC and the district councils jointly appointed BECA (by cost share arrangement) to assist the councils to take proactive steps to investigate the opportunities to align the existing plan development processes under the RMA with that of future requirements.
9. The purpose is to assist the region to understand its spatial plan readiness as is a foreshadowed requirement for Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) development within the resource management reforms. It was to also support the development of the Natural Resources Plan (NRP), particularly the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) component to align as best it can with any future spatial process.
10. The work undertaken by BECA was completed through both desktop analysis of information held by the councils (both qualitative and quantitative GIS) and iwi (Iwi Management Plans), and through two workshops discussions with the councils. The second workshop was attended by iwi – Ngati Ruanui, Ngaruahine, Ngati Mutunga, Ngaa Rauru and Te Atiawa.
11. It is important to be clear that the purpose of this report is not to deliver a spatial plan or provide any management direction from a spatial perspective. It is to provide a baseline to guide work to meet requirements in Taranaki to deliver a future RSS.

Discussion

Methodology and approach

12. The BECA report (report) focusses on the key differences between the process undertaken to inform a RPS and that which will be required to inform a RSS. In doing so, it identifies the common areas of regionally significant issues and objectives and the process of requiring inputs to inform plan development and decision-making. It sets out the information required to inform the development of the plan.
13. A key finding of the report is that there is a fundamental difference through how inputs are collected and considered. Traditionally, inputs into planning processes have primarily focussed on identifying constraints to inform decision-making, including geospatial layers. Under the new system, a well-being outcome focus requires a layered approach of 'positive' data and information to guide decision-making. These layers include – geospatial layers (traditionally linked to identifying constraints), information applying a well-being lens (i.e. climate change, equity, justice and health) and investment and funding opportunities (i.e. feasibility, implementation and delivery).
14. In absence of a regionally agreed vision and objectives (this will be the task of future RSS development), BECA reviewed existing strategies and plans (including Iwi Management Plans) to draw aspirations to align with the well-being approach of the RSS requirements. They also analysed the inputs held by councils from a geospatial perspective.

15. The desktop work, along with inputs from the workshops, identified key issue areas that are helpful to frame the discussion around information requirements. These key issues are:
 - 15.1. Housing, infrastructure and urban environments.
 - 15.2. Blue green networks, Te Mana o Te Wai, and biodiversity.
 - 15.3. Land use sustainability (highly productive land, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission).
 - 15.4. Cultural and heritage / landscape issues.
 - 15.5. Resilience and climate change adaptation.
16. It must be noted that although Cultural and heritage / landscape issues is identified as a key theme, it was raised by iwi that a Te Ao Māori approach (including mātauranga) should be integrated throughout all components of a RSS. This perspective is supported by all councils, and as such is a recommendation for future work. To support the gap analysis identification, this theme continues to be referenced to understand the potential gap in information that may be needed to support the above-mentioned approach.

Analysis

17. With regard to Geo spatial layers, typically there was good coverage across the councils. However, a number of limitations exist in taking this information forward to the RSS. This includes:
 - 17.1. Insufficient incorporation of a Te Ao Māori and mātauranga approach. This will need to be investigated further.
 - 17.2. Some compatibility issues between the data sets.
 - 17.3. Regular updating to ensure currency – particularly relevant to datasets which rely on live mapping or consenting.
 - 17.4. Further investigations within data sets to create specific layers – this largely relates to land use.
18. There is also a number of datasets that could be used in the new system which are held by other organisations. Access to these datasets will need to be addressed in any future processes.
19. With regard to the collection of well-being information only a discrete number of potential inputs were confirmed. Given the emerging nature of this work it is possible that this information is held by council teams more broadly or exists but requires further analysis within the new system to complete. However, insight into the equity aspect of a number datasets is a significant gap in the well-being information across the board.

Report recommendations

20. To assist with working through the gap analysis, potential priority inputs have been identified in the report. An analysis on timeframe, cost and difficulty to assist future decisions has been provided. These priorities exclude the consideration of Te Ao Māori and mātauranga as these elements will need to be picked up through a subsequent complementary work stream with iwi, and apply an approach across all inputs. Therefore, the completion of this complementary work may alter the priority inputs identified.

21. The priority inputs for both geospatial layers and wellbeing information are summarised below¹:
 - 21.1. Geospatial layers – there are 19 layers identified falling within the following categories – key gaps that cannot be sourced from other organisations; infrastructure gaps; hazards and climate change research; and layers derived from existing council information.
 - 21.2. Wellbeing information – there are 20 information layers identified within the following categories – Taranaki as a ‘working region’; responding to climate change; and quality and equity.
22. Beyond working through the priority inputs required for the future system, the report makes recommendations for short term actions that the councils could process to support the ongoing work. These are summarised below:
 - 22.1. *Taking a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and integrating mātauranga* - this involves undertaking a separate work stream with iwi to understand how a Te Ao Māori and Tiriti based approach and mātauranga can be effectively integrated into the development of inputs as an overarching ‘lens’ for the future system.
 - 22.2. *Development of a vision and objectives* – in partnership with iwi/ tangata whenua and the community.
 - 22.3. *Definition exercise for RSS inputs* – council teams, to work together to agree definition around what is considered to be the relevant information / data set for individual inputs.
 - 22.4. *Understanding the role of different council teams for well-being information* – identifying which other teams in Councils may already be working with such information and the identification within Council as to who is leading further work when required.
 - 22.5. *Collaborating for success* – confirm potential roles for key partners and groups in developing RSS inputs.
 - 22.6. *Thinking about how the inputs will be used* – thinking about how to use these inputs holistically to support decision-making.
 - 22.7. *Reconciling this report with updates to the proposed legislation* – reviewing the content of the report in relation to final SP Bill and NBE Bill when enacted.

Next steps

23. Whilst the BECA work was being undertaken, the Taranaki Region (all councils and Iwi) agreed to participate in a scoping study with the Ministry for the Environment with regard to the implementation of the new system as a potential tranche one region. This scoping work is underway and is being led by Te Topuni Ngarahu / Te Aranga.
24. The report will now inform the work that is being undertaken through the scoping study, and it is considered appropriate for the recommendations of this report to be furthered through this process.

¹ Tables 6.2 and 6.3 in the BECA report.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

25. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.
26. As set out in the memorandum, a cost share arrangement has been agreed between TRC and the District Councils. TRC has agreed to pay 1/3 of the costs, with the remainder 2/3 being shared between the District Councils with cost apportioned to population.

Policy considerations

27. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Iwi considerations

28. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.
29. As identified in the report direct involvement from Iwi has been limited and a clear recommendation of the report is for this work to be undertaken separately to inform future spatial planning processes. This work could be undertaken as part of the RSS scoping study work.

Community considerations

30. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

31. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 3196630: [BECA Taranaki Spatial Planning Report](#).

Sens



Inputs to support spatial planning decision making

Data and information gap analysis

REVISION B

Prepared for the councils of the Taranaki region
Prepared by Beca Limited

4 August 2023



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Sensitivity: General

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Appendices

Appendix A – Relevant Clauses of Spatial Planning Bill and Natural and Built Environment Bill: Full Text

Appendix B – Full list of council strategy, plan and statement visions

Appendix C – Full table of potential geospatial layers identified and database

Appendix D – Full table of potential wellbeing information

Appendix E – Table of potential responsibility for geospatial layers

Sensitivity: General

Revision History

Revision N°	Prepared By	Description	Date
	Marsha Badon, Matt Paterson, Ting Kuy	Final Report	10.07.2023
Revision A	Marsha Badon	Amendments to key sections	02.08.2023
Revision B	Marsha Badon	Final updates to footnotes	04.08.2023

Document Acceptance

Action	Name	Signed	Date
Prepared by	Marsha Badon, Matt Paterson, Ting Kuy		10.07.2023
			01.08.20203
Reviewed by	Robert Brodnax		13.07.2023
Approved by	Hywel Edwards		13.07.2023
			02.08.2023
on behalf of	Beca Limited		

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Executive Summary

The focus of our report is a gap analysis of the inputs required to inform decision making for a future Taranaki Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) under the new resource management system. Our investigations seek to assist the Councils of the Taranaki region to take proactive steps to align regional processes across the existing and proposed resource management systems.

The new system is positive outcome focused. Accordingly, decision making for RSS will need to be informed by both geospatial layer and well-being information/data inputs. In some instances, overlap is possible, and we recommend well-being information is translated geospatially, where possible.

Through a three-step process of identification, analysis and recommendation we have confirmed the extent to which existing geospatial layers and well-being information and data already held by the councils satisfies RSS requirements under the new system as proposed in recently released draft legislation.

Our overall findings can be summarised as:

- RSS Decision making under the new resource management system will be greatly reliant on the evidence base and hence the new system will be input 'heavy'.
- A regionally agreed RSS vision and objectives developed in partnership with iwi/ tangata whenua and the community will guide the final nature and prioritisation of inputs.
- The new system provides the opportunity to work with Iwi to take a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and integrate mātauranga an overarching 'lens' across all inputs (and beyond).
- There is good availability of constraint based environmental geospatial layers across the councils.
- The nature of the incoming system requirements (e.g. restoration and enhancement, limits and targets) and new requirements means that some existing geospatial layers will no longer be considered 'settled' and/or additional data will be required.
- Well-being information is an emerging area where less information is held directly by planning teams.
- In particular, well-being information and data needs to be nuanced to the question being asked.
- For the Taranaki region a well-being focus on quality and equity to manage outcomes is important.
- Multiple inputs (geospatial layers and well-being information) can be obtained from other sources (internal and external).
- There are several recommended short-term actions (beyond obtaining priority inputs) that the councils could progress to support the ongoing confirmation, development and procurement of inputs to support RSS decision making.

From a long list of options (Section 4.2), we have identified a suite of potential priority inputs that the region may seek to obtain in the short term to support decision making for a future RSS based on:

- a. the requirements of the new system
- b. potential significances for the region (based on an example vision and objectives)
- c. what we heard at workshops with the council teams.

Summary tables of our recommendations on potential priority inputs to obtain and key next steps to assist the transition to the new system follows.

For full details on linkage to a potential RSS vision and objectives, the new system requirements, responsibility, timeframe, cost and difficulty refer to our full tables in Section 5.

Geospatial layers – potential priority inputs

Priority	Potential Priority Layer	Details
Layers that cannot be sourced from other agencies/ organisations	Significant natural areas	Review for NPDC and STDC [to meet new statutory requirements] and new layer for SDC
	Possible wetland development (restoration)	New process and layer for all councils
	Future urban zones	Confirm and obtain for all councils (to include analysis)
Layers are likely to exist but are held by infrastructure providers and/or the private sector ¹	Energy transmission lines/ national grid infrastructure	Understanding existing and future infrastructure corridors and investment
	Power stations	
	Wind farms (onshore and offshore)	
	Gas transmission network	
	Other network utilities	
Layers that could be obtained by working with Crown Research Institutes for climate change science ²	Areas suitable for managed retreat	New process to be informed by the Climate Adaptation Act (CAA)
	Possible sea wall/dyke/grounding pumping locations	New process to be informed by the CAA for areas to be defended instead of managed retreat
	Sea level rise	To confirm up to date estimates based on best practice science
	Flooding (general)	
Layers that can be derived from existing council information sources	Existing coastal structures	To understand coastal risk
	Forestry areas	To understand rural land use, resources and where change might occur
	Mining/extraction	
	Agricultural industrial facilities	
	Petroleum/Minerals permits	
	Oil/Gas Wells	
	Sea Walls	To understand coastal risk, and locations of existing defences

¹ The findings in this table derive from information provided by council teams. Where further information is held inhouse it should be reviewed for sufficiency with our recommendation.

² The Councils have identified that work has been commissioned under this priority. This work should be reviewed for sufficiency with our recommendation.

Well-being information – potential priority inputs

Priority	Potential Priority Information/Data	Key Issue Area
Taranaki is a “working region hence information and data supporting industry and energy and transmission networks are considered a priority input.	Regional Housing and Business Assessment	Housing, infrastructure and urban environments
	Regional infrastructure capacity assessment	Land use sustainability
	Productive Capacity	
	Potential impacts of rural land use change on communities	
	Renewable energy generation and transmission opportunities and barriers (e.g. onshore & offshore wind farms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, infrastructure and urban environments • Land use sustainability
	Forestry and Carbon Forestry opportunities and barriers	
	Also see environmental inputs in ‘Quality and equity’ section below	
Responding to the unknowns associated with climate change	Risk to life from extreme weather events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience and climate change adaptation • Housing, infrastructure and urban environments
	Impacts of known events on daily activities	
	Transport modelling – at risk routes	
	Infrastructure vulnerability assessments	
	Risk/ liability to infrastructure providers and regulators (e.g. councils)	
	Consequences of changes in industry in response to climate change	Housing, infrastructure and urban environments
	Also see climate related inputs in ‘Quality and equity’ section below	
Incorporating quality and equity into decision making	Composition of groups across vulnerable areas (e.g. income, age)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience and climate change adaptation • Housing, infrastructure and urban environments
	Composition of groups across potential retreat areas (to help inform what these communities need)	
	Risk profile of different groups in vulnerable areas and potential retreat areas	
	Potential impacts of rural land use change on communities	
	Ease of/how equitable is access to jobs, services and amenities	Housing, infrastructure and urban environments
	Housing quality	
	Ecological integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use sustainability • Blue Green networks – Te mana o te wai, biodiversity
	Quality of natural environment features	

Recommended next steps

Recommended next step	Short term actions
Taking a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and integrating mātauranga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ complementary workstream with Iwi to understand how mātauranga, Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach can be effectively integrated into the development of inputs for the RSS as an overarching ‘lens’ (and potentially beyond e.g. vision and objectives). ✓ workstream to include a process for determining how mātauranga is managed and protected. ✓ Reconciling the contents of this report with the outcomes of that workstream.
Development of a vision and objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ developing of a vision in partnership with iwi/ tangata whenua and the community is the next stage in the process of developing an RSS and confirming priority inputs.
Definition exercise for inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ definition exercise to confirm an agreed information/data set for individual inputs across all councils (both geospatial layers and well-being information and data).
Understanding the role of different council teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ identify which other council teams may already be working with well-being information/ have the greatest capability in this area (e.g. strategy or research teams). ✓ a principal team (planning or beyond) should then be identified to lead the region’s well-being workstream moving forward.
Collaborating for success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ confirm potential roles for key partners and groups etc in agreeing and developing RSS inputs (and beyond). ✓ start socialising/agreeing these roles and responsibilities with them and relationship building to enable an effective and efficient process when work gets underway on an RSS.
Thinking about how you want to use the inputs (e.g. methods and models)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Start thinking about how to recommend the RPC use these inputs holistically (taking an integrated approach to topics, matters and outcomes) to support decision making. This is in the context of the questions being asked and the associated methods and models that can best help answer those questions with the inputs available.
Reconciling this report with recommended updates to the proposed legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ reviewing the contents of this report in relation to the Environment Select Committee’s proposed amendments to key clauses of the Spatial Planning (SP) Bill and The Natural and Built Environments (NBE) Bill. ✓ A similar review will also be required when the SP Bill and NBE Bill are enacted; and for efficiency the councils may seek to hold on a review of our report until this time.

2 Project Overview

2.1 Overview

Context

Taranaki Regional Council is progressing a review of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) as a key statutory planning document for the region under the Resource Management Act (RMA). This work is progressing alongside central governments finalisation of a new resource management system that proposes a revised focus for resource management in Aotearoa³ and a new suite of strategies and plans. To reflect the transitional nature of this period and the coming paradigm shift, the councils of the Taranaki region are seeking to understand how they can take proactive steps to align processes across the existing and proposed resource management systems.

Project goal

Our investigations seek to assist the Councils of the Taranaki region to take proactive steps to align regional processes across the existing and proposed resource management systems. This being the proposed move from an effects focused RPS (and 'down-stream' framework) under the incumbent system to a positive outcome focused Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) under the incoming system. The focus of our investigations is a gap analysis, based on what the councils of the region already hold, of the inputs required to inform decision making for a RSS under the new system. Our investigations are based, primarily, on the requirements of Spatial Planning Bill (SP Bill) Clauses 16 (General contents and form of regional spatial strategies) and 17 (Contents of regional spatial strategies: key matters) and Natural and Built Environment Bill (NBE Bill) Clause 5 (System outcomes).

Project purpose

Our aim is to help enable the integrated use of Taranaki's region-wide planning documents under the future resource management system (and the effective incorporation of existing documents into that system) to meet statutory requirements and to support positive outcomes and the achievement of regional priorities.

Project limitations

The proposed legislation for the new system is progressing and being amended at pace to achieve enactment this political term. Accordingly, this report represents a 'point in time' view of what could be required under the new system based on the proposals in the NBE Bill and the SP Bill introduced to Parliament on 15 November 2022.

In the week preceding the finalisation of this report (27 June 2023) the Environment Select Committee reported to the House on the NBE Bill and the SP Bill making a suite of recommended amendments to improve the efficacy of the bills. These amendments will have implications for the accuracy of some references within this report but a high-level review of the proposed amendments indicates that the principles and key matters discussed in this report remain true.

³ The existing RMA system is focused on managing effects on the natural environment and the new system is focused on achieving positive outcomes across the four well-beings (cultural, environmental, social and economic).

2.2 Why this work is needed

A changing resource management system

The Government is seeing to repeal the RMA and enact three new pieces of legislation this parliamentary term. The new laws are the:

- **Spatial Planning Act (SPA)**, which requires the development of long-term regional spatial strategies to help coordinate and integrate decisions made under relevant legislation
- **Natural and Built Environment Act (NBA)**, which represents the main replacement for the RMA, to protect and restore the environment while better enabling development
- **Climate Adaptation Act (CAA)** to address complex issues associated with managed retreat, and funding and financing climate adaptation.

This represents a significant step change from the existing system, requiring the regionalisation of resource management and providing specific legislation for statutory regional spatial planning and climate change management.

While limited information is currently known on the CAA, the SP and NBE Bills were introduced to Parliament on 15 November 2022. The primary purpose of the new system as proposed at NBE Bill Clause 3(3) (Environment Select Committee report to the House 27 June 2023 version) is to enable the use, development, and protection of the environment in a certain way and to recognise and uphold Te Oranga o te Taiao⁴⁵. This is intended to occur through enabling the use and development of the environment in a way that promotes the well-being of both present and future generations, subject to protecting the health of the natural environment through proscribed environmental limits. This positive wellbeing⁶ outcomes focus of the new system moves away from the effects focus of the incumbent system and has significant implications for the evidence base requirements to support decision making for regional spatial planning documents and decision making itself.

In addition, the new system seeks to redefine the resource management strategies and plans that must be developed and the level at which and ways in which they must be developed. This includes the proposed move from an RPS and regional plans that inform local level plans under the existing RMA to an RSS and regional Natural and Built Environment (NBE) Plan approach under the new system. This has significant implications for the regions, particularly in the context of moving from an RPS to an RSS, which is the focus of our investigations, as discussed below.

⁴ As proposed in the NBE Bill te Oranga o te Taiao means the health of the natural environment, the essential relationship between the health of the natural environment and its capacity to sustain life, the interconnectedness of all parts of the environment, and the intrinsic relationship between iwi and hapū and te Taiao.

⁵ In the Select Committee's report to the House on the SP and NBE Bills on 27 June 2023 amendment to the purpose is recommended to provide a single, clear purpose: to uphold te Oranga o te Taiao. The Committee recommend inserting clause 3(2) to provide that the purpose must be achieved in a way that protects the health of the natural environment. Subject to this, it must be achieved in a way that enables the use and development of the environment in a way that promotes intergenerational well-being.

⁶ NBE Bill Clause 7 confirms that well-being means the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of people and communities, and includes their health and safety.

From RPS to RSS

2.2.1 RPS under the RMA

Under the RMA (existing system) a RPS is required to identify the regionally significant issues for the management of the regions natural and physical resources. The RPS identifies key issues for the region and sets out what needs to be achieved in relation to those issues (objectives) and the way in which the objectives will be realised (policies and methods). Regional plans and district plans are developed under the RPS by regional councils or territorial authorities of the region for their region, city or district. The purpose of these plans is to assist regional councils and territorial authorities in carrying out their functions to achieve the sustainable management purpose of the RMA. Regional and district plans must 'give effect to' regional policy statements (and national policy statements) and must not be inconsistent with regional policy statements. **Figure 1**⁷ illustrates the relationship between the key elements of the RMA.

Figure 1: Relationship between the key elements of the RMA



2.2.2 RSS under the new system

Under the new system the SPA will require each region to develop a RSS to inform a NBE Plan for the region. As confirmed by the Ministry for the Environment⁸ RSS are intended to see central government, local government and Māori working together, in consultation with the community, to identify how their region will grow, adapt and change over the next thirty-plus years. They will focus on significant issues and

⁷ New Zealand Government, Improving our resource management system report , February 2013: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/unitary-plan/history-unitary-plan/documentssection32reportproposedaup/appendix-3-1-14.pdf>

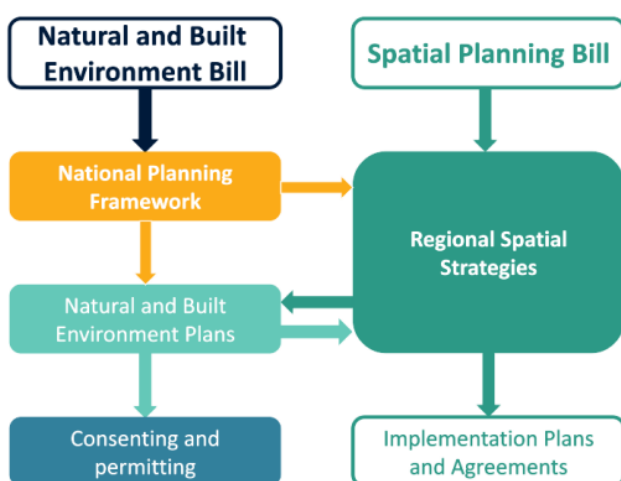
⁸ New Zealand Government, Key components of our future resource management system, November 2022: <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/rma/resource-management-system-reform/key-components-of-our-future-resource-management-system/>

opportunities facing the region. RSS will set out a vision and objectives to guide a region’s development accompanied by a set of priority actions to turn the vision into a reality. RSS will identify areas that:

- are suitable for development
- may require protection, improvement and restoration
- require infrastructure
- are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and natural hazards.

It is intended that key high-level decisions and trade-offs will be identified and resolved during the development of RSS. This is aimed at reducing disputes later during the development of a NBE plan and consent applications. **Figure 2**⁹ illustrates the relationship between the key elements of the new system.

Figure 2: Relationship between the key elements of the proposed new resource management system



2.2.3 How RPS may be subsumed under the new resource management system

It is likely, from the information we have now, that the content of RPS will be subsumed into both the RSS and NBE Plan under the new system as follows:

	RPS Component	Location under new RM system	Relevant clause from the SP and NBE Bills
1	Identification of regionally significant issues and objectives for what needs to be achieved based on those issues	RSS	SP Bill Clause 16(1)
2	Policies and methods for achieving the defined objectives	NBE Plan	NBE Bill Clause 105(1)
3	Inputs to inform decision making	RSS and NBE Plan	SP Bill Clause 17(1)

1. Issues and objectives

RPS issues and objectives can transition well into the new system being well connected to the vision and objectives required in an RSS to guide the region’s development and change over the period covered by the

⁹ New Zealand Government, Our future resource management system Developing the next stages report, April 2023: <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/our-future-rm-system-developing-the-next-stages.pdf>

strategy. The key for enabling a smooth transition is for the issues and objectives considered in the RPS to connect well/ have given consideration to the key components of the SPA and NBEA, including:

- SP Bill Clause 17 (Contents of regional spatial strategies: key matters)
- NBE Bill Clause 3 (Purpose of this Act) – to include te Oranga o te Taiao, the four well-beings and the implications of potential environmental limits and targets
- NBE Bill Clause 5 (System outcomes).

2. Policies and methods

RPS policies and methods for achieving the defined objectives will likely relocate to the NBE plan. The NBE Bill confirms that NBE plans will have similar functions to those performed by RPS and district and regional plans under the current system in regulating land use and natural resource use in each region through rules and policies. They will:

- give effect to the NPF:
- apply environmental limits and targets set in the NPF, and set environmental limits and targets for the region if directed by the NPF:
- be consistent with the relevant RSS.

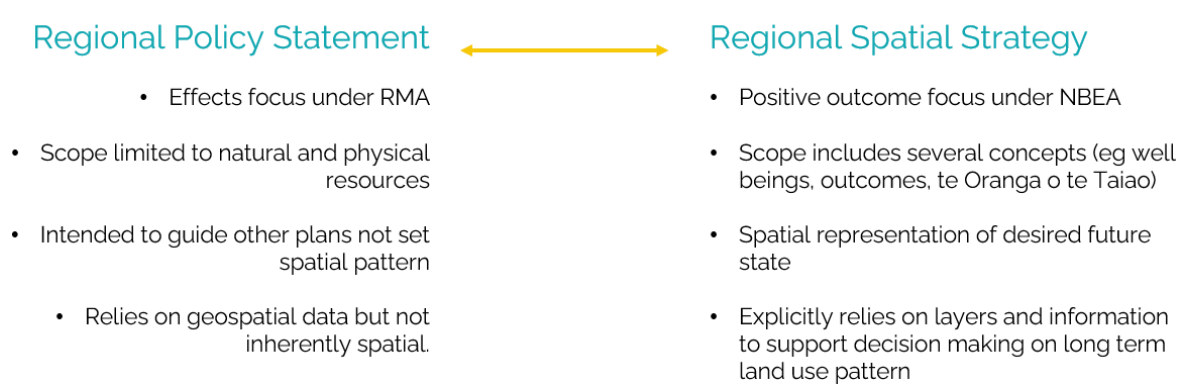
Based on the potential ‘split’ of the RPS under the new system the Councils of the region will need to be mindful when developing the RSS that it’s vision and objectives will set the tone for what policies, methods and rules reach the NBE plan.

3. Inputs to inform decision making

Input requirements are not provided for RPS under the RMA or RSS in the SP Bill¹⁰. The inputs (primarily geospatial layers) used to inform RPS decision making will likely continue to be relevant and valuable for RSS and NBE Plan processes under the new system. Because of the nature of an RPS, however, they are unlikely to be sufficient for decision making for an RSS but will go some way to addressing natural environment components of the RSS. These fundamental differences (as shown in **Figure 3**) warrant investigation on what other inputs might be needed for an RSS so gaps can be identified, and processes can be aligned (where possible) during the current review of the Taranaki RPS.

The remainder of this report will focus on our investigation on what inputs might be needed for an RSS and identified gaps in information held by the Councils of the region.

Figure 3: Differences between RPS and RSS



¹⁰ This statement acknowledges some statutory inputs in existing national direction (eg Housing and Business Assessment under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development)

While there are limited statutory requirements on inputs for RSS to inform decision making the SP and NBE Bills confirm key matters for consideration in an RSS and the system outcomes that must be sought that we can draw from to help understand the gaps. These matters will, of course, need to be considered in terms of how they interact with te Oranga o te Taiao and the four well-beings.

We have used these key matters and system outcomes as the basis for our inputs gap analysis.

Key matters for an RSS and system outcomes

The **Tables 1 and 2** summarise the key matters for an RSS as defined in the SP Bill and the system outcomes of the NBEA as proposed in the NBE Bill. As noted, they are 'point in time' and based on the proposals in the Bills as introduced to Parliament on 15 November 2022¹¹.

The Purpose of the SPA as proposed at Clause 3 of the SP Bill confirms that the purpose of the Act is to provide for RSS that assist in achieving the purpose of the NBEA and the system outcomes set out in that Act. Hence, there is a clear and intentional correlation between the key matters that must be considered in an RSS and the broader system outcomes.

Table 1: SP Bill Clause 17(1): Contents of regional spatial strategies: key matters

1(a) Natural Environment (protection, restoration enhancement)	1(b) Cultural Heritage (inc. areas with resources that are of significance to Māori)	1(c) Urban Development (areas appropriate for)
1(d) Natural Resources (developing, using, or extracting)	1(e) Rural Land Use (areas that are appropriate to be reserved or change is anticipated)	1(f) Coastal Marine Areas (areas appropriate for development or significant change in use)
1(g) Major Infrastructure (that are required to meet current and future needs)	1(h) Other Infrastructure (opportunities to make better use of existing infrastructure)	1(i) Natural Hazards (and measures for reducing risks and increasing resilience)
1(j) Climate Change (measures for addressing those effects and increasing resilience)	1(k) Constrained areas (where any development /change in use needs to be carefully managed)	1(l) Business and Residential Activity (the indicative location of)

Table 2: NBE Bill Clause 5: System Outcomes

(a) Natural Environment	(b) Climate change and natural hazards	(c) Well-functioning urban and rural areas
(d) Highly productive land	(e) Relationship of iwi and hapu	(f) Protected customary rights
(g) Cultural Heritage	(h) Coastal marine area access	(i) Infrastructure to support wellbeing

¹¹ The recommendations of the Select Committee to the House on 27 June 2023 propose amendment to these key matters and outcomes and we are likely to see some change for the Second reading of the Bills.

2.3 Approach

Focus and method

Responding to feedback from the councils on what would be of the most value, our approach has been to complete a gap analysis of the inputs required to inform decision making for a RSS under the new system (based on what the councils of the region already hold). We have then sought to confirm how potential priority inputs could be obtained and potential costs and timelines. The intention is that our findings can:

- Support the scoping/ issues identification stage of your RPS review; and
- Inform the issue areas and directions stage of your RPS review.

In the absence of a defined list of inputs required to inform RSS decision making our gap analysis is based on the requirements of SP Bill Clauses 16 (General contents and form of regional spatial strategies) and 17 (Contents of regional spatial strategies: key matters) and NBE Bill Clause 5 (System outcomes).

Inputs

Traditionally, inputs into planning processes have primarily comprised geospatial layers that focus on identifying constraints to inform decision making on where growth/ development should not occur¹². This is, in part, because traditional planning processes have been limited to regional and district plans; but is also true of first-generation Urban Growth Partnership spatial plans that leveraged from available inputs¹³. Under the new system (which proposes a well-beings outcome focus and incorporates concepts of te Oranga o te Taiao, restoration and enhancement) satisfying new requirements to identify how their region will grow, adapt and change over the next thirty-plus years through a RSS cannot be done through constraint focused geospatial layers alone. Rather, other forms of positive data and information are required to guide decision making. Ultimately, we consider there to be three layers of inputs required to inform RSS decision making to meet the requirements of the SPA and NBEA and enable the implementation and delivery of outcomes, these being:

- **Input layer 1:** Geospatial layers (traditionally linked to identifying and managing constraints in the context of growth)
- **Input layer 2:** Other forms of data, information and modelling that provide a four well-beings lens to help decision makers make choices that support positive outcomes and well-functioning urban and rural environments. Examples of where other forms of data, information and modelling are required to help inform decision making include climate change, equity, justice and health; but other forms of data are relevant in most instances.
- **Input layer 3:** Investment and funding opportunities that will impact on feasibility, implementation and delivery, and that will guide/inform the prioritisation and sequencing of growth/ specific actions.

Input layer 3 (investment and funding opportunities) is important for enabling the successful implementation and delivery of an RSS. Clause 15(2) of the SP Bill proposes that the role of an RSS is limited to supporting a co-ordinated approach to infrastructure funding and investment rather than being informed by funding and

¹² We acknowledge the NPS UD requirements for a Housing and Business Assessment for Tier 1 and 2 authorities to understand capacity requirements and sufficiency.

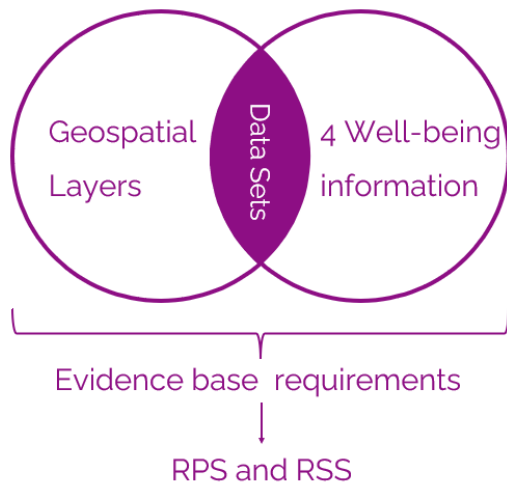
¹³ It is noted that second generation plans are seeking to fill some of these gaps, particularly in relation to well-beings, collaboration, integrating mātauranga and participation. These second-generation plans will be a good information source for further investigations in terms of how this information was sourced and from whom, what was achievable to source and how it was integrated into both decision making, scenario testing and optioneering.

investment as an input to inform decision making¹⁴. Accordingly, while included here for completeness, input layer 3 is out of scope of this piece of work and the remainder of this report will focus on input layers one and two relating to geospatial layers and other information/data.

As shown in **Figure 4**, geospatial layers (input layer 1) and other information and data (input layer 2) comes together to as the evidence base to inform decision making for both RPS under the incumbent RMA and RSS under the incoming system (albeit limited information and data has been integrated into RPS to date).

Based on how we use them currently geospatial layers and other forms of four well-being information can be seen as distinct inputs represented in models (geospatial layers) and dashboards and reports (information and data) that must be cross referenced. The exception is where well-being information can be easily presented as or translated into data sets and modelled geospatially. Limited geospatial representation of information has been used to date, however, as this work can be time consuming and potentially complex. Notwithstanding, the geospatial representation of well-being information and data is an emerging area and we may see this become more frequently adopted as technological advancements provide new efficient models and methods for translating this information.

Figure 4: Inputs supporting decision making for regional processes



In terms of geospatial layers and well-being information **Table 3** provides a summary of key defining factors and differences between the two types of inputs.

¹⁴ The Select Committees recommendations to the House on 27 June 2023 do include an amendment to Clause 54(2) (contents of implementation plans) of the SP Bill to require implementation plans to set out a summary of decision that have been made by any person about funding or investment.

Table 3: Key defining factors and differences between geospatial layers and well-being information and data

Geospatial Layers	Well-being Information and Data
More existing best practice and information currently held than for well-being information	The path 'less trodden' to date to support decision making through RPS, first generation spatial plans and district plan processes
Primarily constraints based	Second generation spatial plans (particularly Urban Growth Partnership plans) are seeking to address some gaps, particularly in relation to collaboration and integrating mātauranga.
Largely environmentally focused	Identifying relevant inputs requires nuance on the question being asked (led by an agreed vision)
Settled baselines exist for some matters but these may not be sufficient for the new system (eg climate change) and will not address restoration or enhancement	Existing frameworks exist that can be drawn from

2.4 Relationships with existing Council strategies/plans

The councils of the Taranaki region recognise a variety of strategies and plan developed at regional and local levels, including by Iwi across the Region (see **Appendix B** for a full list of strategies and plans). Many of these plans include a vision and these should inform the development of issues and objectives for the RPS and a vision and objectives for a future RSS.

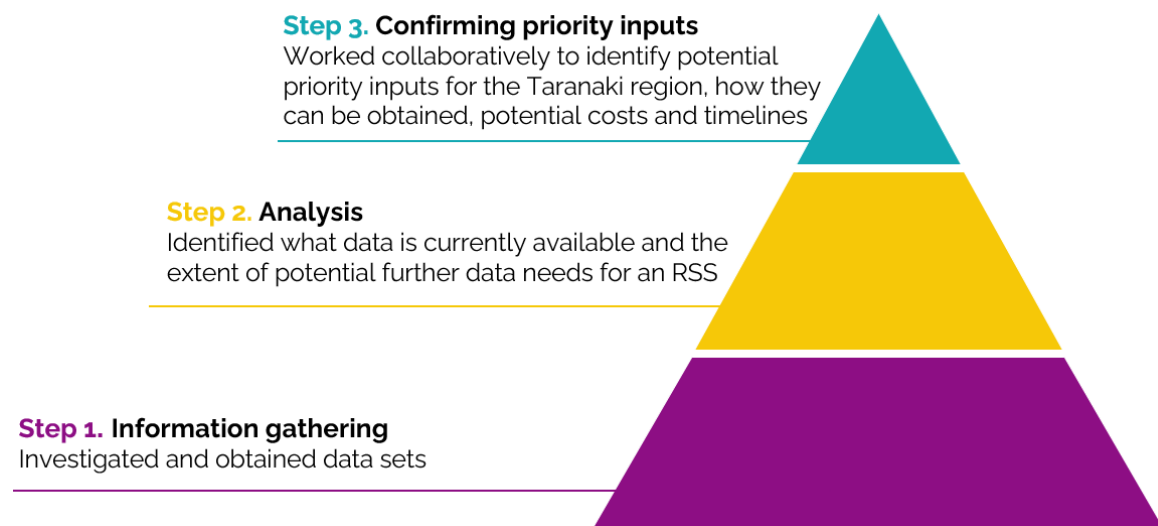
To acknowledge the link between a RSS vision and objectives and the inputs to inform decision making (i.e., a vision and objectives will guide what inputs are most relevant for an RSS) we have included a high level consideration of these strategy and plan visions in our investigations.

3 Project Process and Relevant Matters

3.1 Process

Our gap analysis of inputs required to inform RSS decision making for the Taranaki region have involved a three-step process of investigation as shown in **Figure 5**. Our process transitioned from understanding regional aspirations and information gathering (to reflect that a vision and objectives will guide what inputs are most relevant for an RSS), to analysing inputs held by the councils of the Taranaki region in the context of potential RSS inputs. We have then used this analysis to provide recommendations on how to respond to potential gaps in the evidence base for an RSS based on the inputs held by the councils of the region to inform the RPS.

Figure 5: Three step process of investigation for our inputs gap analysis



Notes:

Step 1: A regionally agreed vision and objectives are yet to be developed and this work is being progressed under a separate Taranaki Regional Council led RPS workstream and is at early stage. Accordingly, our investigations focused on a workshop with the council teams and drawing from existing strategies and plans.

Step 2: We completed separate analysis on potential RSS inputs and whether those inputs were held by the councils of the region already for both geospatial layers and well-being information/data. In terms of analysing the geospatial layers held by the councils our investigations included a consideration of availability, responsibility and technical compatibility. For well-being information/data, which is more of an emerging area and is heavily linked to a vision and objectives, our primary focus was to analyse what potential future inputs could be based on what we heard at step one and the system outcomes and key matters within the SP and NBE Bills. To inform our step three work we held a second workshop with the council teams to test our step two thinking and seek to identify priorities.

Step 3: We focused on identifying 'quick win' gaps to fill, where gaps could be filled drawing from other forms of exiting Council information, and potential priority input gaps across geospatial layers and well-being information/data based on an identified suite of potential priority issues. We also sought to identify how priority input gaps could be obtained, roles for different parties (e.g. who would lead this work/ need to be involved), potential time and cost required.

3.2 Relevant matters

Iwi representation and input into this project

3.2.1 Overarching Commentary

The Taranaki Councils have been clear on the importance of Iwi involvement in defining and developing the evidence base inputs required to inform RSS decision making. This is in terms of both recognising:

- Iwi as the potential owner of existing inputs (both geospatial layers and well-being information) and a key collaborator in the development of new inputs that inform decision making.
- The importance of take a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach.
- Mātauranga as an important knowledge system that is key to achieving the purpose of the NBEA to recognise and uphold te Oranga o te Taiao.

While this initial analysis largely centres on a gap analysis, future collaboration with Iwi has been identified as a necessary Council led action to complement and expand on our work (see subsection below on *Future processes that could complement this work* for further details). Notwithstanding, it was agreed that where Iwi attendance at our project workshops could be secured this would provide invaluable contributions to help align our report with future work and would be useful for understanding what future investigations with Iwi should look like.

3.2.2 Project Step 1 – Information and data gathering

Due to the nature of our first workshop subject matter and the short lead in timeline for the workshop the councils of the region agreed that collaboration with Iwi would begin in project step two (analysis). During our workshop with the Council teams the importance of Iwi representation in developing a vision and objectives was emphasised by the team. In addition, the existing council strategy and plan visions we were provided to inform our work included Iwi Management Plans and other documents developed with Iwi.

3.2.3 Project Step 2 - Analysis

Our project step two workshop focused on analysing what layers, information and data may be required to inform RSS decision making¹⁵. The workshop was split into two sessions focusing on geospatial layers and well-being information/data respectively.

a. Well-being information/data session

The councils were able to secure some Iwi representation at the session, though not for all groups. During the session attendees provided valuable feedback on the need for/ value of taking a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and integrating mātauranga as an overarching lens across all inputs for RSS decision making (i.e., geospatial layers and well-being information/data) rather than seeking to represent through a siloed 'cultural' category of layers and information/data.

b. Geospatial layers session

It was agreed with the council teams prior to the session that a comprehensive investigation with Iwi to evaluate the geospatial inputs needed to inform RSS decision making was required. It was decided that this should be progressed as a distinct complementary workstream rather than trying to retrofit into our analysis work, which was already somewhat progressed based on layers already known to be used to inform existing

¹⁵ This being based on what we had heard at the first workshop and the visions in existing strategies and plans of relevance.

spatial planning processes. See subsection below on *Future processes that could complement this work* for further details on this complementary workstream.

3.2.4 Project Step 3 – Confirming priority output requirements

Our third project step did not include a specific workshop component. Notwithstanding, in confirming potential priorities (that may be relevant for a future regional vision) to inform our recommendations we have given regard to the feedback received from Iwi representatives in our well-being information/data workshop on a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and an overarching mātauranga 'lens'.

Future processes that could complement this work

3.2.5 Associated processes with Iwi

To meet the purpose and requirements of the new resource management system there is an identified need to complete a subsequent complementary workstream with Iwi to build on the RSS inputs investigations in this report.

This complementary workstream should cover all inputs (these being geospatial layers and well-being information/data), and from the conversation in our workshop session should investigate the value of and process for applying and integrating a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and an overarching mātauranga 'lens' to all inputs for RSS decision making.

This complementary workstream, or a subsequent one, should also seek to investigate what layers are already held by Iwi, what further layers are required and matters of ownership and privacy etc.

3.2.6 Interplay with potential Tranche 1 process - scoping work

The requirements of the new systems are a key driver for this project. During this project the Ministry for the Environment ("the Ministry") began conversations with several regions regarding the transition processes to the new resource management system. Within this transition process, and with the aim of getting implementation underway promptly, the Ministry will support up to three 'first tranche' regions to:

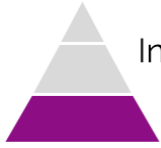
- establish their regional planning committees
- and then develop their first regional spatial strategies and natural and built environment plans.

The Taranaki region is participating in a scoping exercise with the Ministry for the transition. The aim of this process is to better understand what is required to get work required by the new system underway and what support is needed from central government.

Participation in the scoping study does not commit the region, or the Ministry, to be a tranche one region. However, it provides the opportunity to delve into the detail of what will be needed and the quantum of that work, this project now provides an important input into the scoping exercise.

There will also likely be further opportunities through the scoping exercise to build on the work that has been completed through this project. Working closely with Iwi to understand their perspective of gaps and opportunities may be one related stream of work that the scoping exercise can help fill.

4 STEP 1: Information gathering



Investigated and obtained existing data and information

4.1 Investigation

Overview

The SP Bill¹⁶ requires an RSS to include a vision and objectives for the region's environment to:

- a. guide the development of the strategy in a way that upholds Te Oranga o te Taiao and achieves the system outcomes of the NBEA; and
- b. direct Regional Planning Committees (RPCs) on the extent to which the RSS key matters at Clause 17 of the SP Bill should be considered of strategic importance to the region – and hence should be provided for in the RSS¹⁷.

This linking of the vision and objectives to the defining of the strategic importance of key matters for RSS at (b) above is central to enabling regions to confirm a list of inputs (potentially regionally specific) to help inform decision making based on an understanding for each RSS key matter of:

- how in depth the evidence base needs to be
- what type of evidence base is required

There is unlikely to be a 'one size fits all' answer for the evidence base required to inform RSS decision making (ie the extent and depth of analysis required for individual inputs). Rather, the level and depth of analysis required for different inputs will be subject to the region's context, issues, priority and scale; and ultimately the nature and focus of the RSS vision and objectives.

There are two primary approaches to confirming a vision and objectives. The first is to leverage from a discrete number of explicit topics often framed as problem or opportunity statements (such as housing, employment, transport or waste). The second is to take a thematic approach that integrates different topics to create unified positive outcomes. A strawman example of a thematic approach to creating objectives using the clause 17 key matters from the SP Bill would be addressing C17(1)(a) [areas requiring protection], C17(1)(c) [urban development and change], C17(1)(e) [significant change in the type of rural use] and C17(1)(k) [carefully managing change] through an objective of supporting balanced regional development.

An integrated thematic approach to developing a regional vision and objectives is considered (by us) most suited to the new system where there are a suite of interconnected outcomes (NBEA) and matters for consideration (SPA) that regions will be required to consider (and potentially address) alongside improved integration between the planning statutes. Given that RSS will navigate regional and sub-regional contexts, adopting a thematic approach will be useful for enabling both a holistic focus on geographic areas while also allowing for a 'mountains-to-sea' approach to achieving wellbeing outcomes across a region.

¹⁶ A vision and objectives for an RSS are required by Clause 16 (General contents and form of regional spatial strategies) of the Spatial Planning Bill.

¹⁷ The stipulation on 'the extent which these matters are significant to the region' is included within Clause 16(1) of the SP Bill. The proposed amendment of Clause 16 of the SP Bill by the Select Committee seeks to strengthen this requirement.

For the Taranaki region a regionally agreed vision and objectives are yet to be developed for the future RSS and will likely be progressed as part of the RSS development process. Therefore, the initial stage of our investigations leveraged from indicative key issue areas from our national Urban Growth Partnership Spatial Plan projects and existing vision statements from Taranaki strategies and plans that could inform a future vision and objectives.

Our investigations on regional aspirations that may be relevant for a future RSS vision involved the following three stages, as detailed in the subsections below:

1. Leveraging from indicative key issue areas from our national Urban Growth Partnership Spatial Plan projects during a workshop with the council teams.
2. Acknowledging existing regional and local level visions contained within existing strategies, plans and statements.
3. Pulling it all together to inform our analysis and recommendations on priority input gaps to inform RSS decision making.

Workshop session with council teams from across the Taranaki region

Issue areas identified based on the focus areas for existing Urban Growth Partnership spatial plans discussed at our workshop session with the council teams were:



- Housing, infrastructure and urban environments
- Blue Green networks – Te mana o te wai, biodiversity
- Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation etc)
- Cultural and heritage/landscape issues
- Resilience and climate change adaptation

As shown in **Table 4**, our workshop discussion identified that there was no singular area of priority within the five issue areas discussed. Rather, all five issue areas were considered relevant to the region by the council teams based on known aspirations; with at least one focus dropping out of the conversation for each as a potential regional priority. In addition, it was confirmed that there could be further key issue areas and priorities for the region beyond the five areas discussed in the workshop.

As Iwi were not represented at the meeting, issue area four (cultural and heritage/landscape issues) was only discussed at a high level. It was agreed that a fuller conversation on this issue area should be progressed as part of the proposed complementary workstream with Iwi (See Section 6 *Recommended next steps* for further details).

Table 4: Workshop with Council teams – issues and focus areas

Key Issue Area	Focus
Housing, infrastructure and urban environments	Understanding how people want to live and move within the district and any barriers.
Blue Green networks – Te mana o te wai, biodiversity	Achieving the ‘Source to Sea’ vision.
Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission etc)	Managing a just transition in the context of constraints and opportunities.
Cultural and heritage/landscape issues ¹⁸	Factoring cultural considerations into decision making while responding to other challenges.
Resilience and climate change adaptation	Understanding the vulnerability of existing and future areas to hazards (climate and volcanic risks).

Review of existing strategies, plans and statements

The Councils of the Taranaki region recognise a variety of council, Iwi and community led visions for the region and subregions as defined in the suite of regional and local level strategies, plans and statements.

Based on the subject matter of the associated strategies, plans (including Iwi Management Plans) and statements the visions span a variety of matters, including:

• Coastal	• Emissions reduction	• Community development
• Biodiversity	• Infrastructure	• Digital
• Land and transport	• Long Term Plans	• Economy
• Waste	• Communications and engagement	• Environment and sustainability

Our review identified consistent vision themes from across the strategies that can be considered as principles, these being:



A full list of vision and issues statements as provided by the Councils is included at **Appendix B**.

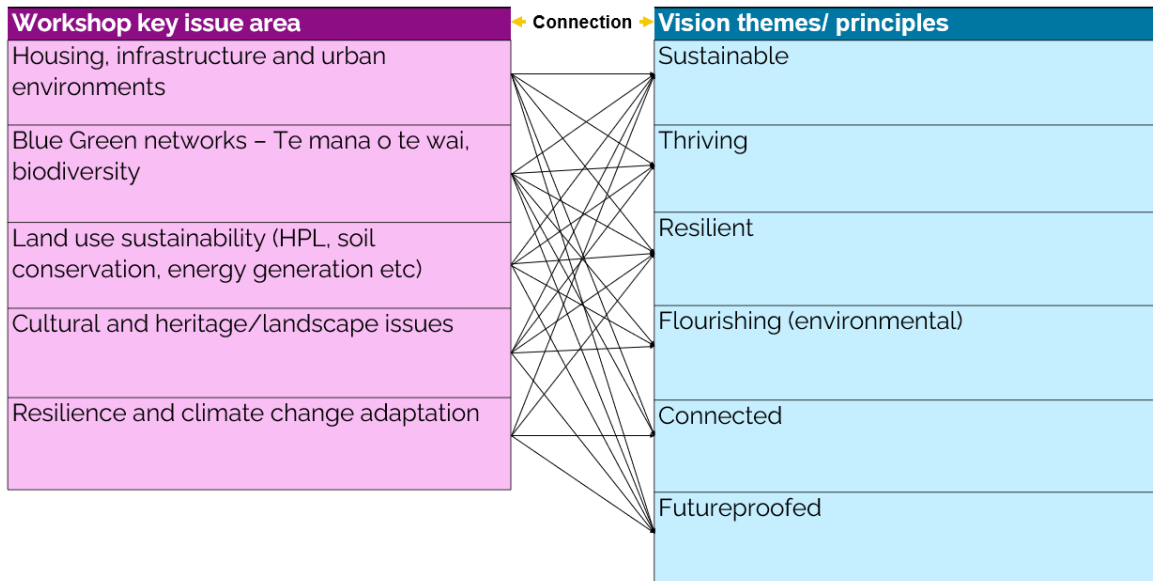
Pulling it all together

To sense check whether what we heard in our workshop with the council teams aligned with the vision themes/principles coming through council recognised strategies, plans and statements we completed a connection exercise, summarised in **Figure 6**. This exercise confirmed that there was significant connection between the key issue areas and vision themes/principles.

Therefore, we were able to think about the key issue areas and vision themes/principals holistically to inform our recommendations on potential priority input gaps for the councils of the region.

¹⁸ Note: This key issue area is included for completeness on the topics presented for discussion only. Feedback received was that Te Ao Māori and mātauranga should be integrated through all components of an RSS and be integral to the approach and this is a recommended complementary workstream.

Figure 6: Connection between workshop key issue areas and council recognised visions/principles



4.2 Obtaining existing data sets and information

Stepping through the process of obtaining the data and information

Identifying what data and information could be required to support decision making for a Taranaki RSS and then working collaboratively with the Councils of the region to confirm the inhouse availability of these layers involved a three staged process, as follows:

1. Identifying relevant clauses of the SP and NBE Bills relating to system outcomes and key matters of relevance for an RSS and linking to confirm connection (*intended to allow us to think about how data and information can satisfy both components of the legislation efficiently and effectively*).

Section 3.2.1

2. Confirming long list of potential inputs from 'top down' assessment of what data and information could be required for an RSS to satisfy the linked system outcomes and key matters in the draft legislation. For geospatial layers a long list could be derived directly from the draft legislation. For well being information it was necessary to link to subset topics of relevance to the draft legislation.

Section 3.2.2

3. Working collaboratively with the councils of the region to complete a stocktake of the data and information held inhouse from our long list of potential inputs.

Section 3.2.3

Linking system outcomes and key matters to confirm connection

Table 5 represents our high-level suggested linkage (by broad topic) between the key matters that an RSS must consider¹⁹ (to the extent they are strategically important to the region) and the system outcomes that an RSS must assist in achieving²⁰. This table is not exhaustive and has been developed solely for the purpose of illustrating how the inputs identified through this report in association with the key matters that an RSS must consider also contribute to realising the system outcomes that an RSS must assist in achieving.

Table 5: Potential linkage between NBEA system outcomes and SPA key matters for an RSS by broad topic

Topic	CI 17 matter	Key Matters	CI 5 outcomes	System outcomes
Environmental (inc. coastal)	A	Areas that may require protection, restoration, or enhancement	A	Protection/ restoration of the natural environment.
			F	Protection of protected customary rights
	F	Areas of the coastal marine area that are appropriate for development or significant change in use	H	Providing public access to water bodies
			C	Well-functioning urban and rural areas
'Cultural' ²¹ matters	B	Areas of cultural heritage and areas with resources that are of significance to Māori	H	Providing public access to water bodies
			E	Recognition of iwi and hapū
			F	Protection of protected customary rights
Land Use and Development	C	Areas that are appropriate for urban development and change, including existing, planned, or potential urban centres of scale	G	Conservation of cultural heritage
			C	Well-functioning urban and rural areas
	D		I	Provision of infrastructure services

¹⁹ As required by Clause 17 of the SP Bill.

²⁰ As defined at Clause 5 of the NBE Bill and required by Clause 3 of the SP Bill.

²¹ We use the term 'cultural' here in absence of a better alternative at the time of completing our connection exercise. It has been included in our report for completeness on the topics presented for discussion only. Feedback received was that Te Ao Māori and mātauranga should be integrated through all components of an RSS and be integral to the approach and this is a recommended complementary workstream.

Topic	CI 17 matter	Key Matters	CI 5 outcomes	System outcomes
		Areas that are appropriate for developing, using, or extracting natural resources, including generating power ²²	C	Well-functioning urban and rural areas
	E	Areas that are appropriate to be reserved for rural use or where there is expected to be significant change in the type of rural use	D	Availability of HPL for land-based primary production
			C	Well-functioning urban and rural areas
	I	Indicative location of planned or potential business and residential activities and the likely general scale and intensity of those activities	C	Well-functioning urban and rural areas
Infrastructure	G	Major existing, planned, or potential infrastructure required to meet current and future needs	I	Provision of infrastructure services
	H(i)	Other infrastructure ²³ matters, including— opportunities to make better use of existing infrastructure		
	H(ii)	Other small-to-medium-sized infrastructure required to meet future needs or enable development		
Climate Change and Hazards	I	Areas that are vulnerable to significant risks arising from natural hazards	B	Climate change, natural hazards and emissions reduction
	Ji	Areas that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change both now and in the future, and measures for addressing those effects and increasing resilience in the region, including indicative locations for— major new infrastructure that would help to address the effects of climate change in the region; and	B	Climate change, natural hazards and emissions reduction
			I	Provision of infrastructure services

²² Transmission is not explicitly included within SP Bill Clause 17(1)(d)

²³ Clause 7 of the NBE Bill (15 November 2022 version) confirms that infrastructure means the structures, facilities and networks required to support the functioning of communities and the health and safety of people

Sensitivity: General

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Topic	CI 17 matter	Key Matters	CI 5 outcomes	System outcomes
	Jii	Areas that are suitable for land use changes that would promote climate change mitigation and adaptation	B	Climate change, natural hazards and emissions reduction
	K	Areas where any development or significant change in use needs to be carefully managed because the areas are subject to constraints (other than those described in paragraphs (i) and (j))	C	Well-functioning urban and rural areas

Long list of potential data and information

4.2.1 Long list of potential geospatial layers

To help provide thinking on appropriate inputs for a Taranaki RSS based on the key matters of strategic importance to the region **Table 6** below provides our long list of geospatial layers that could be required to meet RSS evidence base requirements. Because our workshop with the council teams on regional aspirations and the breadth of visions in existing documents both indicated that there are likely to be several key matters of strategic importance that will require robust evidencing, we have sought to provide a long list for each key matter²⁴. This list leverages from similar work done for urban growth partnership spatial planning practice in New Zealand. This list is not intended to be definitive – it is intended to provide indicative thinking on the types of geospatial information that could be relevant for the Taranaki region.

Many of these geospatial layers could be relevant for multiple subclauses of Clause 17 of the SP Bill. Examples of this are provided in **Table 7** and a more comprehensive suggested relevance for individual layers across the Clause 17 matters is included in the table at **Appendix C**.

Table 6: Potential data layers by SP Bill key matters

Clause	Sub Clause	Potential Layers
17	1	Contents of regional spatial strategies: key matters
	(a)	<p>areas that may require protection, restoration, or enhancement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Land • Reserves • Natural wetlands • Possible wetland development • Coastal marine area • Significant natural areas • Significant ecological areas • Riparian margins • Significant surf breaks • Significant / outstanding landscapes • Notable trees • Significant geological features • Highly productive soils • Streams/rivers including riparian margins • Catchment management areas • Estuarine habitats • Coral • Topography/LIDAR
	(b)	<p>areas of cultural heritage and areas with resources that are of significance to Māori²⁵:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory acknowledgement areas • Culturally significant area • Historic heritage sites • Culturally significant landscapes • Viewshafts

²⁴ In response to feedback from iwi at our second workshop we have excluded Te Ao Māori and mātauranga from consideration within this project and recommended that this is investigated as a subsequent complementary workstream with iwi and Māori.

²⁵ Our long list for Clause 17(1) key matter (b) is limited to known geospatial layers used in existing spatial plans. Engagement with iwi and Māori will be required to confirm the sufficiency of these layers in responding to this key matter.

Clause	Sub Clause	Potential Layers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marae • Significant Natural Areas • Conservation Land • Significant Ecological Areas • Streams/Rivers including riparian margins • Protected/sensitive marine areas
	(c) areas that are appropriate for urban development and change, including existing, planned, or potential urban centres of scale:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Zones • Future urban zones • Housing and Industrial land capacity assessments • Centres • Business land • Contaminated sites (HAIL) • Flood mapping • Tsunami mapping • Sea Level Rise (SLR) mapping • Fault lines • Aquifers • Geotech layers • Liquefaction • Topography/LIDAR
	(d) areas that are appropriate for developing, using, or extracting natural resources, including generating power:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry areas • Quarry/Aggregate mining locations • Geological base-maps • Wind farms (onshore / offshore within 12 nautical miles of coastline) • Wind maps • Rural zones • Sea floor bathymetry • Hydrological surveys • Petroleum/Minerals Permits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exploration ○ Mining/extraction ○ Prospecting • Block offers • Oil/Gas Wells • Hydrogeological models • Solar mapping • Sunshine hours • Utility networks/Power Stations • Gas transmission pipelines • Coastal Marine Area • Topography/LIDAR
	(e) areas that are appropriate to be reserved for rural use or where there is expected to be significant change in the type of rural use:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly productive soils • Future urban zones • Rural zones • Flood mapping • Agricultural industrial facilities • Slope aspect/stability

Clause	Sub Clause	Potential Layers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind farms (onshore / offshore within 12 nautical miles of coastline) • Significant / outstanding landscapes • Rainfall information • Drainage infrastructure • Residential areas within forest fire zones • Areas suitable for managed retreat • Possible wetland development • Catchment management areas • Forestry management • Topography/LIDAR
	<p>(f) areas of the coastal marine area that are appropriate for development or significant change in use:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal marine area • Sea level rise • Existing coastal structures • Port and coastal facilities • Significant / outstanding landscapes • Wind farms • Flood mapping • Tsunami mapping • Sea Level Rise (SLR) mapping • Fault lines • Aquifers • Geotech layers • Liquefaction • Estuarine habitats • Coral
	<p>(g) major existing, planned, or potential infrastructure or major infrastructure corridors, networks, or sites (including existing designations) that are required to meet current and future needs:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Roads • State Highways • Railway Lines • Airport • Public transport network • Three waters utilities • Ports • Waste • Rivers including riparian margins • Flood defence infrastructure • National Grid network • Agricultural industrial facilities • Contaminated sites (HAIL) • Gas transmission lines • Other network utilities • Future urban zone • Infrastructure capacity assessments • Designations • Fault lines • Volcanic hazards • Aquifers • Geotech layers • Infrastructure that would lower carbon emissions for transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cycleways ○ Pedestrian Infrastructure

Clause	Sub Clause	Potential Layers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban tree canopy ○ Bus Improvements ○ Local, Regional and National Rail connections ● Topography/LIDAR ● Other significant infrastructure
	(h) other infrastructure matters, including—	See above
	h(i) opportunities to make better use of existing infrastructure; and	See above
	h(ii) the need for other small-to-medium-sized infrastructure required to meet future needs or enable development:	See above
	(i) areas that are vulnerable to significant risks (arising from natural hazards) and measures for reducing those risks and increasing resilience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flood mapping ● Flood defence infrastructure ● Tsunami mapping ● Sea Level Rise (SLR) mapping ● Temperature mapping (existing and potential future) ● Sea temperature (existing and potential future) ● Slope aspect/stability ● Rainfall information ● Drainage infrastructure ● Welfare centres ● Rockfall ● Coastal inundation area ● Forest fire zones/Firebreaks ● Fault lines ● Geohazards ● Volcanic hazards ● Liquefaction ● Sea walls ● Estuarine habitats ● Topography/LIDAR
	(j) areas that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change both now and in the future, and measures for addressing those effects and increasing resilience in the region, including indicative locations for—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flood mapping ● Residential areas within sea level rise zone ● Residential areas within flooding or future flooding areas ● Residential areas within forest fire zones ● Drought/rainfall modelling ● Estuarine habitats ● Coastal marine area
	(i) major new infrastructure that would help to address the effects of climate change in the region; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Possible sea wall/dyke/groundwater pumping locations ● Infrastructure that would lower carbon emissions for transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cycleways ○ Pedestrian Infrastructure

Clause	Sub Clause	Potential Layers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban tree canopy ○ Bus Improvements ○ Local, Regional and National Rail connections ● Topography/LIDAR
	(ii) areas that are suitable for land use changes that would promote climate change mitigation and adaptation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Areas suitable for managed retreat ● Possible wetland development ● Catchment management areas ● Forestry management
	(k) areas where any development or significant change in use needs to be carefully managed because the areas are subject to constraints (other than those described in paragraphs (i) and (j)):	See above (i-j)
	(l) the indicative location of planned or potential business and residential activities and the likely general scale and intensity of those activities, if that information is necessary to inform the consideration of any other matters listed in this subsection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Population projections ● District Plan Layers ● Future urban zone ● Infrastructure capacity assessments ● Housing and Industrial land capacity assessments ● Centres ● Business land ● Commercial concept plans ● Noise contours

Table 7: Data layer examples by subclauses

Layer	Relevant Subclauses
Rivers	1a, 1b, 1g
Coastal marine area	1a, 1b, 1f
Highly productive soils	1a, 1e
Catchment management area	1a, 1e, 1j(ii)
Future urban zones	1c, 1e, 1g, 1l

4.2.2 Long list of potential wellbeing information

Identifying relevant frameworks to draw from

The environmental effects focus of the existing RMA means that the incorporation of well-being information and data into spatial planning processes to inform decision making on positive outcomes is an emerging area. The National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS UD) has been the primary existing

direction requiring qualitative forms of analysis relating to housing and business²⁶. It is debateable, however, how much these requirements have been met for existing processes.

There are existing frameworks that can be leveraged from to help understand what a well-functioning urban and rural environment looks like in each region in terms of:

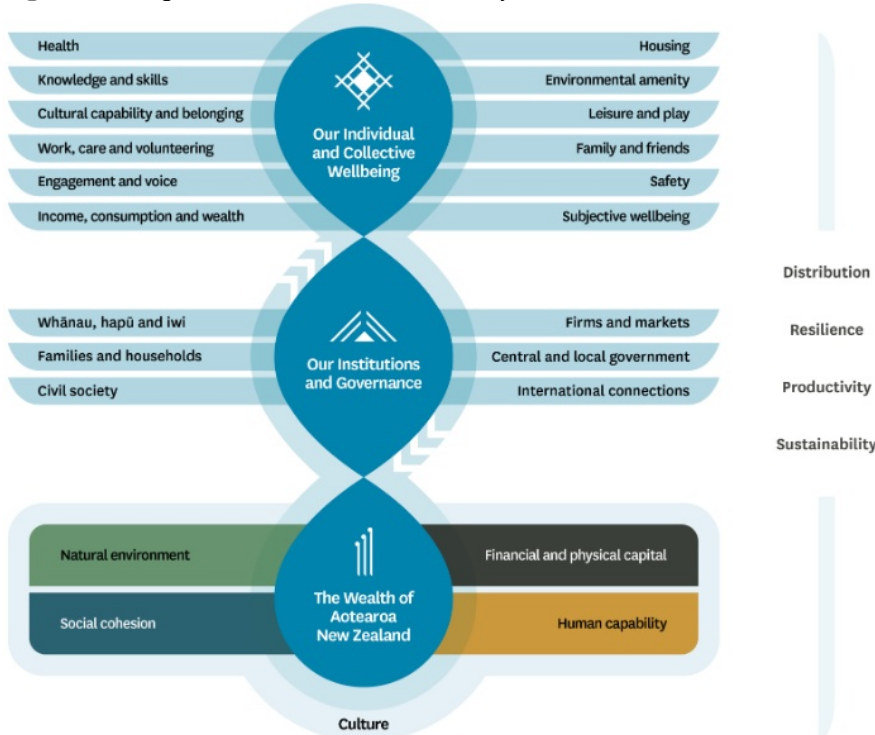
- the process of linking through from a vision to objectives, to the four well-beings, to inputs; and
- what inputs could be valuable for supporting decision making on strategically important key matters to achieve positive well-being outcomes associated with a vision and objectives.

The key framework we will discuss in this report is the New Zealand Treasury’s Living Standards Framework.

The Living Standards Framework (LSF)

The Treasury has created the LSF as a flexible framework to understand the drivers of wellbeing and to consider the broader impacts of policy advice in a systematic and evidenced way. Drawing on a range of data and evidence (See **Error! Reference source not found.**) to understand the interdependencies and trade-offs across the different dimensions of wellbeing is consistent with robust economics and policy analysis. When developing the RSS the Taranaki RPC could use a localised version of this framework to ensure spatial trade-offs and interdependencies are systemically evidenced and understood for the region. In a similar vein the Waikato Wellbeings represent an attempt by a region to take the UN Sustainable Development Outcomes and the LSF together to develop a regional approach to wellbeing which could form a strong core to an RSS for the Waikato Region²⁷.

Figure 7: Living standards framework hierarchy



²⁶ Eg Section 3.23(2) requirement to assess how well the current and likely future demands for housing different groups in the community are met, including the demand for different types and forms of housing.

²⁷ The Waikato Wellbeing Project: <https://www.waikatowellbeingproject.co.nz/>.

Developing example inputs for each priority matter identified at Workshop 1

There is significant availability of well-being information and data (covering a variety of topics) that can be readily accessed from a variety of public sources to provide RSS inputs to inform decision making, including:

- StatsNZ
- Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga (Ministry for Housing and Urban Development) stats and insights
- Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa – Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand
- Universities (eg Lincoln University)

Ultimately, identifying what well-being information and data is of relevance to informing a particular region's RSS decision making requires nuance and is subject to the question being asked²⁸ (based on an agreed vision and objectives [and potentially associated principles]), as shown in **Figure 8**.

Figure 8: Illustrative process for identifying relevant well-being inputs



In the absence of an agreed regional vision and objectives/principles for a future RSS under the incoming resource management system our starting point for creating a long list of potential well-being inputs, as for the geospatial layer inputs at section 3.2.2.1 above, was the RSS key matters from the SP Bill and the system outcomes from the NBE Bill.

In our early investigations to identify well-being and information and data of potential relevance to the key matters and system outcomes of the new system it became clear that in some instances both the key matters and system outcomes were too broad to enable an interpretation into specific potential inputs relevant to the Taranaki region. To help solve this problem, we made the decision to instead develop long lists of potential well-being inputs based on the key issue areas (and their associated focus area) discussed in our workshop with the council teams. In taking this approach we were most likely to be identifying inputs of relevance to the Taranaki region. **Table 8** below provides examples of how the five key issue areas potentially primarily intersect with the key matters and system outcomes required to be considered in RSS decision making under the new system to show how a long list derived from the key issue areas aligns with the requirements of the new system.

Subsequently, **Tables 9 – 13** provide our long list of potential well-being inputs for each of the five key issue areas. In accordance with our overarching approach to defer to a subsequent complementary council led workstream with Iwi on taking a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and the integration of mātauranga as a lens across all inputs we have not attempted to do this in our tables. In addition, to respond to initial feedback from Iwi representatives of the region that the overall approach to this key issue requires further consideration with Iwi our suggested potential inputs for the key issue on cultural considerations has been limited to a discrete number of suggested layers derived from existing sources.

As for geospatial layers, many of these suggested well-being information and data sets could be relevant for multiple of the key issue areas (and hence subclauses of Clause 17 of the SP Bill and system outcomes). Examples of this overlap are provided in **Table 14**.

Our long list of potential well-being inputs is available as on table at **Appendix D**.

²⁸ This statement is also true for geospatial layer inputs.

Table 8: Table of potential primary intersection between our key issue areas and the new legislation

Key Issue Area	SP Bill Key Matters	NBE Bill Outcomes
Housing, infrastructure and urban environments	<p>(c) areas that are appropriate for urban development and change</p> <p>(e) areas that are appropriate to be reserved for rural use or where there is expected to be significant change in the type of rural use</p> <p>(g) major existing, planned, or potential infrastructure or major infrastructure corridors, networks, or sites (including existing designations) that are required to meet current and future needs</p> <p>(h) other infrastructure matters</p> <p>(k) areas where any development or significant change in use needs to be carefully managed</p> <p>(l) the indicative location of planned or potential business and residential activities</p>	<p>(c) well functioning urban and rural areas that are responsive</p> <p>(i) the ongoing and timely provision of infrastructure services</p>
Blue Green networks – Te mana o te wai, biodiversity	<p>(a) areas that may require protection, restoration, or enhancement</p>	<p>(a) ecological integrity, mana, and mauri</p> <p>(f) the protection of protected customary rights</p>
Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission etc)	<p>(a) areas that may require protection, restoration, or enhancement</p> <p>(d) areas that are appropriate for developing, using, or extracting natural resources</p> <p>(e) areas that are appropriate to be reserved for rural use or where there is expected to be significant change in the type of rural use</p> <p>(f) areas of the coastal marine area that are appropriate for development or significant change in use</p> <p>(k) areas where any development or significant change in use needs to be carefully managed</p>	<p>(a) ecological integrity, mana, and mauri</p> <p>(c) well-functioning urban and rural areas that are responsive</p> <p>(d) the availability of highly productive land for land-based primary production</p> <p>(f) the protection of protected customary rights</p>

Key Issue Area	SP Bill Key Matters	NBE Bill Outcomes
Cultural and heritage/landscape issues ²⁹	<p>(b) areas of cultural heritage and areas with resources that are of significance to Māori</p> <p>(e) areas that are appropriate to be reserved for rural use or where there is expected to be significant change in the type of rural use</p> <p>(k) areas where any development or significant change in use needs to be carefully managed</p>	<p>(a) ecological integrity, mana, and mauri</p> <p>(e) the relationship of iwi and hapū and the exercise of their kawa, tikanga (including kaitiakitanga), and mātauranga</p> <p>(g) the conservation of cultural heritage</p> <p>(h) enhanced public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers</p>
Resilience and climate change adaptation	<p>(a) areas that may require protection, restoration, or enhancement</p> <p>(c) areas that are appropriate for urban development and change</p> <p>(d) areas that are appropriate for developing, using, or extracting natural resources</p> <p>(e) areas that are appropriate to be reserved for rural use or where there is expected to be significant change in the type of rural use</p> <p>(g) major existing, planned, or potential infrastructure or major infrastructure corridors, networks, or sites (including existing designations) that are required to meet current and future needs</p> <p>(i) areas that are vulnerable to significant risks arising from natural hazards</p> <p>(j) areas that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change</p>	<p>(b) natural hazards, the effects of climate change and emissions reduction</p>

²⁹ We use the term ‘cultural’ here in absence of a better alternative at the time of completing our intersection exercise. It has been included in our report for completeness on the topics presented for discussion only. Feedback received was that Te Ao Māori and mātauranga should be integrated through all components of an RSS and be integral to the approach and this is a recommended complementary workstream.

Long lists of potential well-being inputs for key issue areas

Table 9: Potential long list of well-being inputs for housing, infrastructure and urban environments key issue area

Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
Housing, infrastructure and urban environments	Understanding how people want to live and move within the district and any barriers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and Business Assessment • Population projections • Demographics – Age, income, ethnicity etc. • Household composition/ overcrowding • Housing choice • Housing quality • Housing affordability (ownership and renting) • Housing availability • Housing equity (i.e. how equitable/fair are housing outcomes) • Resource consents/ Building completions – numbers and typology • Poverty and homelessness • Living preferences and lifestyles (community satisfaction survey) • Urban/rural distribution • Vehicle Kilometre Travelled figures • Distance travelled to employment – inc. by income bracket? • Ease of/how equitable³⁰ is access to jobs • Ease of/how equitable is access to schools and training • Ease of/how equitable is access to the natural environment • Ease of/how equitable is access to healthcare • Ease of/how equitable is access to broader formal and informal social infrastructure and services • Ease of/how equitable is access to high speed internet • Employment, qualifications and skillsets (existing and desired) • Employment, qualification and skillset equity (i.e. how equitable/ fair are outcomes) • Renewable energy generation and transmission opportunities (e.g. offshore wind farms) – in the context of industry and jobs • Forestry and Carbon Forestry opportunities – in the context of industry and jobs • Renewable energy generation and transmission barriers (e.g. offshore wind farms) – in the context of industry and jobs

³⁰ In all instances ease and equity of access to include movement element eg travel time by mode and access to transport options.

Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry and Carbon Forestry barriers – in the context of industry and jobs • How equitable are employment and industry opportunities (e.g. renewable energy generation, forestry) • Infrastructure capacity assessment • Stormwater quality • Potential impacts of rural land use change on communities • Risk/ liability to infrastructure providers and regulators (e.g. councils)

Table 10: Potential long list of well-being inputs for blue and green networks key issue area

Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
Blue Green networks – Te mana o te wai, biodiversity	Achieving the ‘Source to Sea’ vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological integrity (expected natural living and non-living elements) • Stormwater quality • Quality of water resources • Quality of natural vegetation • Quality of marine environment • Quality of natural heritage • Quality of habitats • Conservation efforts • Physical and legal access for Iwi to mahinga kai • Ease of/how equitable is access to the natural environment • Te mana o te wai insights (raised at workshop 1) • Levels of pollution • Cultural connections between landmarks and places • Physical and legal access to traditional places • Soil health • Data on public Perceptions of New Zealand's Environment • Identification of integrated/ interdependent networks • Spectrum/extent of biodiversity by area • Risk/ liability to infrastructure providers and regulators (e.g. councils)

Table 11: Potential long list of well-being inputs for land use sustainability key issue area

Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission etc)	Managing a just transition in the context of constraints and opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure capacity assessment • Regional production • Production by industry • Productive Capacity • Renewable energy generation and transmission opportunities (e.g. offshore wind farms) • Forestry and Carbon Forestry opportunities • Renewable energy generation and transmission barriers (e.g. offshore wind farms) – in the context of industry and jobs • Forestry and Carbon Forestry barriers – in the context of industry and jobs • Ease of/how equitable is access to schools and training • Ease of/how equitable is access to the natural environment • Ease of/how equitable is access to healthcare • Ease of/how equitable is access to broader formal and informal social infrastructure and services • Soil health • Stormwater quality • Potential impacts of rural land use change on communities • Risk/ liability to infrastructure providers and regulators (e.g. councils)

Table 12: Potential long list of well-being inputs for cultural and heritage/landscape issues key issue area³¹

Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
Cultural and heritage/landscape issues	Factoring cultural considerations into decision making while responding to other challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural connections between landmarks and places • Physical and legal access to traditional places • Physical and legal access for Iwi to mahinga kai • Māori connection to marae • Levels of engagement in cultural activities • Location of Māori owned land

³¹ We use the term ‘cultural’ here in absence of a better alternative at the time of completing our long list of potential well-being inputs. It has been included in our report for completeness on the topics presented for discussion only. Feedback received was that Te Ao Māori and mātauranga should be integrated through all components of an RSS and be integral to the approach and this is a recommended complementary workstream. Our suggested potential inputs for the key issue on cultural considerations has been limited to a discrete number of suggested layers derived from existing sources.

Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living preferences • Location of Papakāinga and connectivity to desired services and amenities

Table 13: Potential long list of well-being inputs for land use sustainability key issue area

Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
Resilience and climate change adaptation	Understanding the vulnerability of existing and future areas to hazards (climate and volcanic risks).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of hazard events (including future expected frequency i.e. increased) • Impacts of known flooding events on daily activities • Impacts of other known events on daily activities • Risk to life from extreme weather events • Cost (all 4 well-beings) of extreme weather events • Recovery duration for extreme weather events (eg rebuild processes) • Cumulative risk • Transport modelling – at risk routes • Egress ability by area • Natural hazard regulation (e.g. wetlands as a percentage of land cover) • Mapping of well-being risk for future climate • Social and economic consequences of changes in industry in response to climate change • Vulnerability assessments (e.g. infrastructure hazard durability/ upgrade cost) • Composition of groups across vulnerable areas (e.g. income, ethnicity, age etc.) • Composition of groups across potential retreat areas (to help inform what these communities need and where they could move to) • Risk profile of different groups in vulnerable areas and potential retreat areas (to inform equity issue of who has chosen to be there and who was placed there etc.) • Community awareness of hazards and vulnerability • Risk/ liability to infrastructure providers and regulators (e.g. councils)

Interplay between potential inputs and multiple issue areas

Table 14: Key examples of where potential priority well-being inputs are relevant to multiple key issue areas

Potential Priority Well-being Inputs	Potentially relevant key issue areas
Risk/ liability to infrastructure providers and regulators (e.g. councils)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, infrastructure and urban environments • Blue Green networks – Te mana o te wai, biodiversity • Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission etc)

Potential Priority Well-being Inputs	Potentially relevant key issue areas
Renewable energy generation and transmission opportunities and barriers (e.g. offshore wind farms) – in the context of industry and jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience and climate change adaptation • Housing, infrastructure and urban environments • Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission etc)
Forestry and Carbon Forestry opportunities and barriers – in the context of industry and jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, infrastructure and urban environments • Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission etc)
Stormwater quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, infrastructure and urban environments • Blue Green networks – Te mana o te wai, biodiversity • Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission etc)
Access to the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, infrastructure and urban environments • Blue Green networks – Te mana o te wai, biodiversity • Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission etc)
Infrastructure capacity assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, infrastructure and urban environments • Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission etc)
“Ease of/how equitable is access” inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, infrastructure and urban environments • Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission etc)

Data and information stocktake approach

4.2.3 Geospatial layers

To understand what geospatial layers are held across the four Taranaki Councils we created a database to centrally identify and characterise the geospatial layers. This database is included in our full geospatial layer analysis table at **Appendix C**. In developing up the scope for this project it was agreed that the creation of a GIS viewer to act as a 'compendium' for these layers was not required at this stage.

Our database was developed in three steps:

1. Sorting the potential geospatial information from Table 6 at Section 3.2.2.1 (*Long list of potential geospatial layers*) under broad domains (to use LSF terminology, rather than their actual domains) to better align with existing data structures. These domains are:
 - Land environment
 - Transport
 - Freshwater and marine environments
 - Hazards
 - Cultural and heritage
 - Power and infrastructure
 - Development and planning
 - Other
2. Searching the open database portals held by most councils for data which could align with the spatial layers identified. A link to the data was added where relevant.
3. Sense checking and refining the layers identified at (2) with the Councils GIS officers, receiving additional data, and identifying where data might be acquired from if not directly available from the Taranaki councils (e.g. third party information from central government agencies, or infrastructure providers such as Transpower).

4.2.4 Well-being information

To understand what well-being information and data are held across the four Taranaki Councils we provided the councils with the long list of potential well-being inputs defined in Tables 9 – 13 at Section 3.2.2.2 (*Long list of potential wellbeing information*). Our intention was to confirm which of the potential information and data is currently held by the councils respectively (for the region or at a district level) in the form of:

- Data sets
- Reports and assessments
- Satisfaction feedback

This was in the context of a readily available input or where information/data could be derived from within another existing report or data set to create the input.

5 STEP 2: Analysis



Identified what data is currently available and the extent of potential further data needs for an RSS

5.1 Analysis introduction

Our analysis of the layers identified through the stocktake (Sections 3.2.3 & 3.2.4 above) included collaborative working with the councils of the regions and some Iwi representatives through workshop sessions. Three key feedback themes came through from the sessions, as follows:

	Topic	Relevant Type of Input	Key Feedback Theme
1	Filling the gaps	Geospatial layers	Councils hold information that could be used to develop some of the layers identified as a gaps
2	Getting the focus right	Well-being information and data	Quality and equity are important and should be sufficiently addressed in the suggested inputs
3	Taking a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and integrating mātauranga	Geospatial layers & well-being information and data	A Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach is needed and mātauranga should be an overarching lens on all inputs not siloed in a cultural 'category' and has links to quality and equity

Our analysis (Section 4) and subsequent confirmation of potential priority input gaps (Section 5) respond to this feedback for (1) *filling the gaps* and (2) *getting the focus right*.

For (3) *Taking a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and integrating mātauranga* we acknowledge the implications of the suggested approach on the potential input requirements identified within this report, which do not incorporate an intentional overarching Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach or a mātauranga lens. Our recommendations on next steps and further actions (Section 6) provides a key recommendation to progress a complementary workstream with Iwi to complete this work and reconcile with the findings of this report.

5.2 Geospatial data analysis

Overall approach

Our analysis represents a point in time assessment of layers identified through collaborative working with the councils of the Taranaki region. Our analysis considers the availability of layers, the responsibility for layers, and the currency and technical compatibility of the layers. To reflect that the Taranaki region is yet to define a vision and outcomes that will guide the selection of inputs our focus for this analysis component of the project was all geospatial layers that could be relevant for informing RSS decision making by an RPC. The potential relevance of individual layers for a Taranaki specific RSS is covered off separately at Section 5 *Confirming potential priority input gaps*.

We have not sought to confirm the sufficiency of data as many existing RMA geospatial layers could not be settled based on the requirements of the new system. This is for a variety of reasons, including:

- further data is required to support decision making for new concepts [restoration or enhancement] or new key matters [climate change, renewable energy]; or

- proposed limits and targets go beyond the level of existing information held.

Hence, in the context of the new system a notable proportion of the geospatial layers required will need to be considered as emerging rather than settled data sets.

There is also a key issue around existing geospatial layers potentially not including a sufficient incorporation of a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach or mātauranga that would impact on the sufficiency of existing layers and how settled they are. As discussed above, there is no comment on the nature or extent of this matter within this report, but we recommend this is investigated further.

Availability and responsibility of data held by Taranaki Councils

A key assumption of this analysis is that Taranaki's RPC will inherit the geospatial layers from existing Regional and Territorial Authority databases to inform the RSS. Our analysis has only considered data to be available for the purposes of the RSS, therefore, if it is held directly by Taranaki Regional Council (TRC), New Plymouth District Council (NPDC), Stratford District Council (SDC) or South Taranaki District Council (STDC). Data that was not held directly by a one of the councils identified as a gap.

We acknowledge that the Councils are not the "source of truth" for many of the geospatial layers, however, and some layers may be available from third parties (e.g., National Grid infrastructure from Transpower, or Geological Base Maps from GNS). In such instances our identification of a gap relates to the absence of already obtaining the existing layer from another source.

Table 15 provides a summary of geospatial layers held by the Taranaki Councils based on the long list of potential layers described in Section 3.2.1 above. Within the table we have also sought to reflect that Regional Councils and Territorial Authorities have different responsibilities under the RMA, and hence different focuses for the respective datasets they hold³². A full breakdown of assumed data responsibilities is provided in **Appendix E**.

A colour coding system has been applied to **Table 15** to define availability of layers for each council, where the layer is currently held and a defined responsibility (where this is relevant).

Table key:

	Data available and held by that council
	Data available but held by another council
	Additional and/or different data was held by a council
	Data not directly held by the councils
	Data confirmed to be available but not able to be released
'X'	Area of defined responsibility

Table annotations:

*	also noted in Table 19 <i>Remaining geospatial layer gaps</i>
**	also noted in Table 18 <i>Layers that can be derived from existing data/information</i>
***	also noted in Table 17 <i>Data layers held by third parties</i>

Table 15: Summary of potential RSS input geospatial layers held by the Taranaki Councils

Category	Dataset Requirement	TRC	NPDC	SDC	STDC
Land Environment	Conservation Land				

³² In general, TRC holds most of the physical environmental and coastal datasets, and local councils hold more of the data relevant to district planning and urban/rural development. RSS will require information and data from across these responsibilities.

Category	Dataset Requirement	TRC	NPDC	SDC	STDC
	Reserves				
	Significant Natural Areas*		X	X	X
	Significant Ecological Areas	X			
	Significant landscape features				
	Notable trees		X	X	X
	Highly productive soils	X			
	Soil classes	X			
	LIDAR/Topography				
	Contaminated sites (HAIL)	X			
	Forestry**				
	Land value				
	Urban tree canopy***		X	X	X
	Transport	Local Roads		X	X
State Highways					
Railway Lines					
Public transport network		X			
Cycleways/shared paths***			X	X	X
Pedestrian Infrastructure			X	X	X
Freshwater and marine environments	Streams/Rivers	X			
	Coastal marine area	X			
	Sea level rise***				
	Existing coastal structures**	X			
	Natural Wetlands	X			
	Estuarine Habitats	X			
	Significant Surf Breaks	X			
	Protected/sensitive marine areas - greater level of detail	X			
Hazards	Flood overlays				
	Coastal inundation area				
	Fault lines/geohazards				
	Volcanic geohazards	X			
	Liquefaction prone areas***				
	Flood defence infrastructure	X			
	Tsunami Mapping				
Cultural/Heritage ³³	Culturally significant area				
	Historic heritage sites		X	X	X
	Culturally significant landscapes				

³³ We use the term ‘cultural’ here in absence of a better alternative at the time of completing our geospatial analysis. It has been included in our report for completeness on the topics presented for discussion only. Feedback received was that Te Ao Māori and mātauranga should be integrated through all components of an RSS and be integral to the approach and this is a recommended complementary workstream.

Category	Dataset Requirement	TRC	NPDC	SDC	STDC
	Viewshafts of Maunga/Landscape features*		X	X	X
	Iwi statutory acknowledgement areas	X			
Power/infrastructure	Petroleum/Minerals Permits				
	Block offers***				
	Oil/Gas Wells**				
	Utility networks/Power Stations***				
	Three waters utilities		X	X	X
	National Grid***				
	Transmission lines***				
	Water/drainage infrastructure		X	X	X
	Sea Walls**		X	X	X
Development/Planning	Urban Zones		X	X	X
	Future urban zones *		X	X	X
	Housing and Industrial land capacity assessments*		X	X	X
	Designations*		X	X	X
	District Plan Layers (land use/zoning)		X	X	X
	Catchment management areas	X			
	Rural zones		X	X	X
Other	Airport*				
	Welfare Centre				
	Commercial Concept Plans*				
	Noise*				
	Port of Taranaki				

Currency and technical compatibility

A high-level approach was taken to review the currency and technical compatibility of the geospatial layers.

5.2.1 Currency

Layers for features that are affected by change should be looked at more regularly and the data should be updated more frequently than data captured for features which don't change as often. For example, layers that rely on climate change modelling assumptions or flooding modelling should be updated as necessary to reflect the most relevant risk profile and methodologies for the data³⁴. If the Taranaki councils are not the “source of truth” for these layers, then formal processes should be established with the layer owners to update the data sets.

In addition, there are several layers held by TRC through a live environmental monitoring system. **Table 16** identifies some of these potential layers.

³⁴ It was noted in our workshop sessions with council teams that the flooding layers for Taranaki region are out of date and new ones are being developed. The updated layers will likely be ready in July 2024.

Table 16: Live data sets

Data source	Data Requirement
Live data points	Sea Temperature
	Rainfall information
	Temperature mapping
	Wind maps

These “live data points” (amongst other forms of environmental data) are collected by TRC at single point monitoring locations around the Taranaki region. They are helpful in providing a live picture of environmental conditions in that location, at specific times.

This information could be used in a RSS context to develop longer term average maps, that could assist with answering spatial planning questions. For example, average wind speed maps could assist with identifying areas suitable for renewable energy development.

5.2.2 Technical compatibility

Most of the layers provided to us by the councils and obtained from the councils open data portals are compatible with GIS software i.e., most layers were provided in a shapefile or a feature service format. These datasets likely don't require any additional processing and are in a format that is readily available for map production using standard GIS software.

The pathways dataset from STDC is in a map info file type. This will need to be converted to a GIS format before use for map production. Similarly, the TRC LiDAR dataset would also need additional processing and conversion to a GIS format to be more useful for map production.

As discussed above, datasets that rely on live mapping inputs, or resource consent databases will need to be regularly updated to ensure accuracy and compatibility. Converting these to a spatial format for an RSS will also require additional work to ensure they are useful for map production.

Data layers not directly held by the councils of the region

Many of the layers that could be used by the RPC to inform the RSS are developed by other organisations, including central government agencies, infrastructure providers and the private sector. **Table 17** below provides a summary of where potential geospatial layers not currently held by councils could be sourced.

Table 17: Data layers held by third parties

Dataset Requirement	Possible Source
Significant geological features	GNS
Cycleways/shared paths	Waka Kotahi for cycleways/shared paths adjacent to State Highways
Road safety data	Waka Kotahi
Sea level rise	NIWA/NEMA
Tsunami	NIWA/NEMA/GNS
Coral	NIWA
Rockfall	Landcare database (LRIS portal) and/or GNS
Forest fire zones/Firebreaks	FENZ
Residential areas within sea level rise zone	NIWA
Residential areas within forest fire zones	FENZ
Liquefaction prone areas	GNS

Dataset Requirement	Possible Source
Possible wetland development	DOC/Community Groups/Landcare research/Private landowners
Geological basemaps	GNS
Sea floor bathymetry	NIWA
Prospecting	NZ Petroleum & Minerals
Block offers	NZ Petroleum & Minerals
Hydrogeological models	NZ Petroleum & Minerals and/or GNS
Transmission lines	Transpower, Lines Companies, Spark, Chorus etc.
Gas Transmission Pipeline	Firstgas
Power stations (Electricity)	Power Generation Companies
National grid infrastructure	Transpower
Other network utilities	Chorus, ISPs, Lines Companies, Telecommunications Companies
Aquifers	GNS
Offshore wind farms	Power Generation Companies
Wind farms	Power Generation Companies
Shipping lanes / flight paths	Port and Airport

Layers that can be derived from existing Taranaki councils information

Table 18 identifies several geospatial layers (mostly land use layers) that were identified as a gap in the database but that council teams identified at our workshop sessions could be derived from other existing council information.

Table 18: Layers that can be derived from existing data/information

Data source	Data Requirement
Resource and/or building consents database	Existing coastal structures
	Port and coastal facilities
	Forestry Areas
	Quarry/Aggregate mining locations
	Petroleum/Minerals Permits*
	Exploration
	Mining/extraction
	Oil/Gas Wells*
	Agriculture industrial facilities (dairy factory, processing plant etc.)
	Sea Walls
	Forestry management
LIDAR	Solar mapping
	Slope aspect

*SDC have layers which cover the Taranaki region for petroleum/minerals permits and oil/gas wells NPDC have sea walls and coastal structures.

These data layers are all land uses that should require a resource consent from TRC or a territorial authority to occur. Because of this, it is possible to produce a map of the property boundaries, with a pin in the centre showing where the resource consent has been granted to allow the activity to occur.

While the information already held by councils to inform these layers is helpful at a high-level (by identifying broad clustering of activities), it is lacking in a spatial analysis extent. This is because there is no “ready to

use” layer identifying the spatial extend of the identified land uses that would be relevant to preparing an RSS and responding to the key matters in Clause 17 of the SP Bill.

For example, sea walls (in most cases) require a coastal occupation permit from TRC. TRC has a resource consent database that can be queried to identify coastal structures - however these are just point locations on a map. There is no existing database that identifies spatially areas landward areas defended by seawalls. Knowing this information will be helpful for addressing several of the Clause 17 key matters for an RSS. These layers could be developed from the existing council held information, as the resource consent database should likely identify these spatially, however this would likely require an individual resource consent level investigation to develop this.

The councils also have access to detailed LIDAR datasets. We understand that slope aspect, (and therefore sun exposure), as well as detailed topographic datasets can be generated from this. This high-resolution data would be helpful for addressing several of the Clause 17 key matters for an RSS; particularly those relating to rural land use, infrastructure, climate change, and natural resource extraction and power generation.

Remaining geospatial layer gaps

Table 19 below identifies remaining geospatial layer gaps that do not fall into any of the above categories. There are a mix of reasons why these layers appear as gaps. It could be simply because these features do not exist in their respective district plans³⁵ or because the layer is not available in an accessible spatial form³⁶.

Table 19: Remaining geospatial layer gaps

Category	Dataset Requirement	Notes
Land Environment	Significant natural areas	SDC haven't supplied this. NPDC and STDC have this
	Reserves	SDC haven't supplied this. NPDC and STDC have this
Freshwater and marine environments	Possible wetland development	-
Hazards	Other sensitive sites (except for cultural & wetlands)	-
Cultural/Heritage	Viewshafts	NPDC have this
Development/Planning	Areas suitable for managed retreat	-
	Possible sea wall/dyke/groundwater pumping locations (for sea level rise mitigation)	-
	Designations	SDC haven't supplied this. NPDC and STDC have this
	Future urban zones	NPDC and STDC have this
Other	Airport	SDC have an aerodrome. NPDC and STDC have this data
	Commercial concept plans	STDC have this
	Waste	
	Noise	SDC haven't supplied this. NPDC have this, and STDC have Fonterra noise boundaries
	Other significant infrastructure	-

³⁵ This appears likely for viewshafts for SDC and STDC for example, because the process to create the data set doesn't exist yet.

³⁶ An example of a layer that may not be available spatially is noise.

5.3 Wellbeing information analysis

From our stocktake exercise with the councils (see Section 3.2.4) on the long list of potential well-being inputs³⁷ (see Section 3.2.2) a discrete number of potential inputs were confirmed as held by the council planning teams.

Given the emerging nature of well-being inputs as an informant of decision making it is possible that further potential long list information and data is held in-house by other council teams to inform broader workstreams (eg strategy and/or research teams). These inputs can continue to be identified by the councils post the finalisation of our report. In addition, there will be multiple data sets that are being/ can be readily accessed by the councils from other sources but is not held in-house, such as:

- StatsNZ
- Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga (Ministry for Housing and Urban Development) stats and insights
- Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa – Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand
- Tertiary education facilities

All potential inputs identified as held by the council planning teams through the stock take related to our key issue area of housing, infrastructure and urban environments (with a focus area of ‘understanding how people want to live and move within the district and any barriers’). This is expected as existing RMA requirements have primarily focused on requirements relating to housing and business in association with the NPS UD³⁸.

NPDC confirmed the availability of a housing capacity assessment (completed in 2021) for the district and provided their district plan zoning map as an indicator of urban/rural distribution. The equivalent district plan map will be available for all councils, and hence, this is an example of where a potential input is available and held by all councils but was not reflected in our analysis because the data request may have been ambiguous. Moving forward it will be important for the council teams to work together to agree what they consider to be the relevant information/data set for each of our long list inputs (i.e definition process) so that they can be identified consistently across the councils where they exist.

The remaining potential inputs identified through the stocktake with council planning teams (excluding Vehicle Kilometre Travelled) were district level but available for all three districts. These comprised:

- Demographics – age and ethnicity
- Income and housing affordability
- Housing overcrowding
- Residential and non-residential building consents data
- Poverty and homelessness
- Employment – filled jobs, industry and broad skill level.

Vehicle Kilometre Travelled was provided as a regional level data set only.

All the above represent important well-being inputs for the key issue area and focus area of ‘understanding how people want to live and move within the district and any barriers’ (and potentially beyond). We note, however, these data sets do not provide any insight on quality or equity (eg equitable access). This is a significant gap based on the feedback from our workshop sessions and, more broadly, for achieving well-

³⁷ These being data sets, reports or assessments, and satisfaction feedback.

³⁸ We acknowledge emerging requirements in the National Policy Statements on Freshwater and Indigenous Biodiversity but these are unlikely to be held by councils yet.

functioning outcomes as required under the new system³⁹. For example, the data sets for housing affordability, overcrowding, poverty and homelessness, and employment do not tell us anything about how equitable/inequitable these statistics are for different groups so that this can be considered in decision making (e.g. Māori, older people, renters, homeowners, low-income households, visitors, and seasonal workers). Alternatively, in relation to quality considerations⁴⁰, the housing affordability data sets do not currently link to housing outcomes based on what people can afford to pay (e.g., the condition of the dwelling or how well connected it is).

Unlike for geospatial layer analysis we have not attempted to identify sources for all individual well-being layer gaps for the long list of potential inputs in this analysis section of our report. The primary reasons for this are:

- in some instances, we have created the potential input based on the key issue areas or in response to what we heard at our workshop sessions on the specific issues and outcomes sought for the Taranaki region; and hence it will not be available to source from elsewhere.
- Different external sources or one external source may have similar information/ data and deciding which one is most appropriate to inform RSS decision making will be subject to the nuanced nature of the question being asked (led by the agreed vision for the region).
- We have suggested an extensive long list and it is unlikely that the councils will seek to obtain all the layers to inform RSS decision making.

Hence, we have limited our consideration of how potential layers could be obtained to the suggested priority gap layers in Section 5.

³⁹ Well -functioning urban and rural areas is a system outcome within the NBE Bill that RSS are required to assist in achieving.

⁴⁰ in the context of a focus area of 'understanding how people want to live and move within the district and any barriers'

6 STEP 3: Confirming potential priority input gaps








Worked collaboratively to identify what the further priority inputs needed look like for the Taranaki region, how they can be obtained, potential costs and timelines

6.1 Potential priority areas introduction

As detailed in Section 3.1 *Investigating regional aspirations* the SP Bill⁴¹ requires the strategic importance of key matters for a region’s RSS (and hence the depth and type of evidence base for these matters) to be defined by the overarching RSS vision and objectives for that region.

For the Taranaki region a regionally agreed vision and objectives are yet to be developed. To inform this project on inputs we have, therefore, drawn from key issue areas identified through our Urban Growth Partnership Spatial Plan projects (discussed with council teams at our workshops) and vision statements from within existing Taranaki strategies and plans recognised by the councils, as shown in **Table 20**, to inform our potential priority inputs tables in sections 5.2 and 5.3.

Table 20: Indicative key issue areas and existing Taranaki vision statements

Indicative key issue areas					
Housing, infrastructure, and urban environments 	Blue Green networks – Te mana o te wai, biodiversity 	Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation) 	Cultural and heritage/ landscape issues ⁴² 	Resilience and climate change adaptation ⁴³ 	
Key themes in existing Taranaki vision statements					
Sustainable	Thriving	Resilient	Flourishing (environment)	Connected	Futureproofed

The potential priority inputs tables in sections 5.2 and 5.3 represent our key recommendations on RSS input gaps that the councils should start working to fill in the short term. To recognise council capacity our list is not exhaustive and is limited to inputs associated with key reason categories. The reasons we have prioritised these layers includes:

⁴¹ A vision and objectives for an RSS are required by Clause 16 (General contents and form of regional spatial strategies) of the Spatial Planning Bill.

⁴² We use the term ‘cultural’ here in absence of a better alternative at the time of writing. It has been included in our report for completeness on the topics presented for discussion only. Feedback received was that Te Ao Māori and mātauranga should be integrated through all components of an RSS and be integral to the approach and this is a recommended complementary workstream.










⁴³ Based on the proposals for the new resource management system and the nature of the issue it is likely that climate change should be considered as an overarching theme/ lens rather than an individual topic.

- alignment with the requirements of the new system
- relevance to matters of greater strategic importance
- alignment with the indicative key issue areas and existing Taranaki vision statements
- relevance to the function of the region
- ease of obtaining as a 'quick win'
- length of time required to obtain.

In accordance with our approach to defer to a subsequent complementary council led workstream with Iwi on taking a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and the integration of mātauranga (as a lens across all inputs) the potential priority inputs identified within this report exclude a consideration of a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach or mātauranga. The outcomes of this complementary workstream may require expansion, reorientation, or replacement of the identified priority inputs.

The potentially unsettled nature of individual inputs in the context of the new system requirements and the emerging nature of some matters (e.g., resilience and climate change) could also impact on the content and focus of priority inputs within this report. The identified priority inputs should be reviewed periodically as further direction and guidance on the new system is released and as work on the individual inputs progresses.

6.2 Potential priority geospatial layer inputs

Priority Area	Justification	Layer	Relevant example objectives (taken from the key issue areas)	SP Bill Clause 17 matter	Relevant national direction instrument (as a chapter of the NPF)	Lead ⁴⁴⁵	Support/inputs	Timeframe	Cost	Difficulty ⁴⁴⁶ (1 – 3)
Potential key gaps that cannot be sourced from other agencies/ organisations	These layers are all the responsibility of the Taranaki Councils, particularly responding to meeting the input requirements of relatively new national direction (NPS-IB, NPS-FM, NPS-UD) which are going to be carried over into the new NPF. As the methodologies for these fulfilling these pieces of national direction are still quite new (particularly the NPS-IB) care should be taken to “future proof” these systems for the future NBE plans, and spatial planning purposes under the new system, to minimise re-work, and to make sure data sets are comparable across planning regimes. These datasets have strong alignment with the key issue areas from workshop 1 and vision themes from existing documents.	Significant natural areas <i>(Review for NPDC and STDC [to meet new statutory requirements] and new layer for SDC.)</i>		1a	National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023	Territorial Authorities	Regional Council, community groups, Iwi	Short term	\$	1
		Possible wetland development <i>(New process and layer for all councils)</i>	 	1a, 1i	National policy statement for freshwater management 2020	Regional Council	Territorial Authorities, community groups, Iwi	Short – long term	\$\$	3
		Future urban zones <i>(Confirm and obtain for all councils)</i>		1c	National policy statement for urban development 2020	Territorial Authorities	Community groups, Iwi	Medium term	\$\$	1
Infrastructure and industry related gaps, and/or future investment plans where layers are likely to exist but are held by infrastructure providers and/or the private sector	These datasets are not held by the Taranaki Councils, but could be obtained subject to time spent developing relationships. There will be significant value in the new spatial planning system to developing relationships with these organisations, and understanding the value that these datasets will provide to the Taranaki region, and also to those third parties – particularly private sector companies – in having their data included	Energy transmission lines/ national grid infrastructure <i>(Understanding existing and future infrastructure corridors and investment)</i>		1g	National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities 2009	Transpower	Regional Council & Territorial Authorities	Short term	\$	1
		Power Stations <i>(Understanding existing and future infrastructure corridors and investment)</i>	 	1d	N/A	Private Sector	Regional Council & Territorial Authorities	Short term	\$\$	1
		Wind farms (onshore and offshore) <i>(Understanding existing and future infrastructure corridors and investment)</i>	 	1d, 1e, 1f	New Zealand coastal policy statement 2010	Private Sector	Regional Council & Territorial Authorities, Ministry of Business,	Medium term	\$\$	2

⁴⁴⁵ The leads and supports for creating the inputs will provide them to Regional Planning Committees to inform RSS decision making.
















⁴⁴⁶ This responds to current statutory responsibilities and arrangements but may be subject to change based on the review of Local Government.

⁴⁴⁷ The timeframe, cost and difficulty scaling within this table represents our anticipated level of requirement only. The council teams should use these estimations as an early guide to inform more detailed investigation on the effort and process required to obtain individual layers by the Taranaki councils.

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STEP 3: Confirming potential priority input gaps

Priority Area	Justification	Layer	Relevant example objectives (taken from the key issue areas)	SP Bill Clause 17 matter	Relevant national direction instrument (as a chapter of the NPF)	Lead ⁴⁴⁵	Support/inputs	Timeframe	Cost	Difficulty ⁴⁶ (1 – 3)	
	within the spatial planning process.						Innovation and Employment				
		Gas Transmission Network <i>(Understanding existing and future infrastructure corridors and investment)</i>	 	1g	N/A	First Gas & Territorial Authorities	Private sector, Regional Council	Medium term	\$	1	
		Other network utilities <i>(Understanding existing and future infrastructure corridors and investment)</i>	 	1g	N/A	Private Sector & Territorial Authorities	Private sector, Lines companies	Medium term	\$	1	
Hazards and climate change research	These data sets could be obtained by working with Crown Research Institutes for relevant climate change science as it relates to managed retreat, natural hazards and flooding layers. The upcoming climate change adaptation act will likely provide a framework for how the appropriate levels of data should be developed/provided, and this will be relevant to inclusion within the RSS process.	Areas suitable for managed retreat <i>(New process to be informed by the CAA)</i>	 	1ii			TBC	TBC	Medium – Long term	\$\$\$	3
		Possible sea wall/dyke/grounding pumping locations <i>(New process to be informed by the CAA, for areas to be defended instead of managed retreat)</i>	 	1i			TBC	TBC	Long term	\$\$\$	3
		Sea level rise <i>(To confirm up to date estimates based on best practice science)</i>	 	1f, 1i	New Zealand coastal policy statement 2010	NIWA	Regional Council & Territorial Authorities	Long term	\$\$\$	2	
		Flooding <i>(To confirm up to date estimates based on best practice science)</i>	  	1i	N/A	Regional Council & Territorial Authorities	NIWA	Medium term	\$\$	2	
		Layers that can be derived from existing council information sources	Existing coastal structures <i>(To understand coastal risk)</i>	 	1f	New Zealand coastal policy statement 2010	Regional Council	Territorial Authorities	Short term	\$	1

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STEP 3: Confirming potential priority input gaps











Priority Area	Justification	Layer	Relevant example objectives (taken from the key issue areas)	SP Bill Clause 17 matter	Relevant national direction instrument (as a chapter of the NPF)	Lead ⁴⁴⁵	Support/inputs	Timeframe	Cost	Difficulty ⁴⁶ (1 – 3)
	particularly in the rural and/or coastal environment. Understanding where rural industrial facilities, forestry areas, and seawalls are, and the influence of these spaces will be critical to responding to the key matters in the SP bill.	Forestry areas <i>(To understand rural land use, resources and where change might occur)</i>	 	1d, 1e	National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry	Territorial Authorities	Regional Council, Ministry of Primary Industries, Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service	Short term	\$\$	2
		Mining/extraction <i>(To understand rural land use, resources and where change might occur)</i>	 	1d	N/A	Territorial Authorities	Regional Council & NZ Petroleum and Minerals, GNS	Short term	\$	1
		Agricultural industrial facilities <i>(To understand rural land use, resources and where change might occur)</i>		1e	N/A	Territorial Authorities	Regional Council, Fonterra Co Operative Group Ltd, Ballance Agri-Nutrients Ltd, Other private sector	Short term	\$	1
		Sea Walls <i>(To understand coastal risk, and locations of existing defences)</i>	 	1f, 1i, 1j	New Zealand coastal policy statement 2010	Territorial Authorities	Regional Council	Short term	\$	2
		Oil/Gas Wells <i>(To understand rural land use, resources and where change might occur)</i>	 	1d	N/A	Territorial Authorities	Regional Council	Short term	\$	1
		Petroleum/Minerals permits <i>(To understand where future resource extraction could occur)</i>	 	1d		Territorial Authorities	Regional Council & NZ Petroleum and Minerals	Short term	\$	1

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| STEP 3: Confirming potential priority input gaps |

6.3 Potential priority wellbeing information inputs

Priority Area	Justification	Information/ data set	Relevant example objectives (taken from the key issue areas)	SP Bill Clause 17 key matter	Relevant national direction instrument (as a chapter of the NPF)	Lead ⁴⁴	Support/inputs	Timeframe	Cost	Difficulty ⁴⁵ (1 – 3)
Taranaki is a “working region”.	Feedback at our workshop sessions was that Taranaki is a “working region” and that this needs to be reflected in the inputs into an RSS to enable informed decision making for key land use issues. Accordingly, information and data relating to industry and energy and transmission networks are considered a priority input gap. It will be important to start working with infrastructure providers early to understand what inputs they already have and socialising the value of sharing this information to inform RSS decision making. This value is particularly in the context of the inputs they provide helping to inform the 30 year growth pattern in a way that is most likely to support their interests (e.g. identification of future land uses that can be included in the RSS).	Regional Housing and Business Assessment		1c, 1e, 1l	National Policy Statement for Urban Development 2020	Regional Council & Territorial Authorities	Private sector, community groups, Iwi	Medium term	\$\$	2
		Regional infrastructure capacity assessment		1c, 1e, 1l		Regional Council & Territorial Authorities	Private sector, community groups, Iwi	Short term	\$\$	1
		Productive Capacity		1e	National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Soils 2023	Regional Council	Landcare Research, Private Sector	Medium term	\$\$	2
		Potential impacts of rural land use change on communities		1e		Territorial Authorities	Landowners	Long term	\$\$	2
		Renewable energy generation and transmission opportunities and barriers (e.g. offshore wind farms)	 	1e, 1f, 1g	NA <i>NB: National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission is potentially relevant to the information.</i>	Energy companies	Territorial Authorities, Transpower, Regional Council	Medium term	\$	2
		Forestry and Carbon Forestry opportunities and barriers	 	1e, 1f, 1g	NA <i>NB: National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry is potentially relevant to the information.</i>	Territorial Authorities	Regional Council, Ministry of Primary Industries, Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service, Landowners	Short – Long term	\$	2
		Also see environmental inputs in ‘Quality and equity’ section below								
Responding to the unknowns associated with climate change	Climate change is a key issue for all regions of New Zealand and will require due consideration in the decision making for a future Taranaki	Risk to life from extreme weather events	 	1c, 1f, 1i, 1j	NA	Territorial Authorities, Civil Defence/NEMA	Regional Councils, Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand,	Short – Long term	\$\$	3

⁴⁴ The leads and supports for creating the inputs will provide them to Regional Planning Committees to inform RSS decision making.














⁴⁵ This responds to current statutory responsibilities and arrangements but may be subject to change based on the review of Local Government.

⁴⁶ The timeframe, cost and difficulty scaling within this table represents our anticipated level of requirement only. The council teams should use these estimations as an early guide to inform more detailed investigation on the effort and process required to obtain individual layers by the Taranaki councils.

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STEP 3: Confirming potential priority input gaps

Priority Area	Justification	Information/ data set	Relevant example objectives (taken from the key issue areas)	SP Bill Clause 17 key matter	Relevant national direction instrument (as a chapter of the NPF)	Lead ^{44a}	Support/inputs	Timeframe	Cost	Difficulty ⁴⁵ (1 – 3)
	RSS, as required by SP Bill Clause 17(1)(j) (relating to addressing the effects of climate change and increasing resilience) and NBE Bill Clause 5(b) (relating to the reduction of risks arising from and better resilience to the effects of climate change). In addition, the proposed Climate Adaptation Act (CAA) will provide direct requirements relating the complex and distinctive issues associated with managed retreat such as funding, compensation, land acquisition, liability and insurance.						Metservice, NIWA, Waka Kotahi – NZ Transport Agency			
		Impacts of known events on daily activities	 	1c, 1f, 1i, 1j	NA	Territorial Authorities, NEMA	Regional Councils, Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand, Metservice, NIWA, Waka Kotahi – NZ Transport Agency	Short – Long term	\$\$	3
		Transport modelling – at risk routes	 	1c, 1f, 1g, 1h	NA	Waka Kotahi – NZ Transport Agency, Territorial Authorities, KiwiRail	Regional Councils, NEMA	Medium term	\$\$	2
		Vulnerability assessments (e.g. infrastructure hazard durability/ upgrade cost)	 	1c, 1g, 1h	NA	Territorial Authorities, Regional Council, Waka Kotahi, infrastructure providers, KiwiRail	Treasury, Metservice, NIWA	Medium term	\$\$	2
		Risk/ liability to infrastructure providers and regulators (e.g. councils)	 	1c, 1f, 1g, 1h	NA	Territorial Authorities, Regional Council, Waka Kotahi, infrastructure providers, KiwiRail	Treasury, Metservice, NIWA	Medium term	\$\$	2
		Consequences (primarily social and economic) of changes in industry in response to climate change		1j	NA	Territorial authorities	Private sector	Medium – long term	\$\$\$	3
		Also see climate related inputs in 'Quality and equity' section below								
Requirements for quality and equity (from national direction instruments and the new system requirements)	Feedback at our workshop sessions was that quality and equity measures are particularly important well-being inputs. This is for:	Composition of groups across vulnerable areas (e.g. income, ethnicity, age etc.)	 	1i, 1j	NA	Regional council	Territorial Authorities	Short – medium term	\$\$	2
		Composition of groups across potential retreat areas (to help inform what these communities need	 	1i, 1j	NA	Territorial Authorities	Statistics New Zealand, Regional Council	Short – medium term	\$\$	2

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STEP 3: Confirming potential priority input gaps

Priority Area	Justification	Information/ data set	Relevant example objectives (taken from the key issue areas)	SP Bill Clause 17 key matter	Relevant national direction instrument (as a chapter of the NPF)	Lead ^{42a}	Support/inputs	Timeframe	Cost	Difficulty ^{42b} (1 – 3)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> thinking beyond availability to understand the fairness of decisions responding to new system requirements on restoration and enhancement. responding to new system requirements on limits and targets reflecting a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and mātauranga more holistically. 	and where they could move to)								
		Risk profile of different groups in vulnerable areas and potential retreat areas (to inform equity issue of who has chosen to be there and who was placed there etc.)	 	1i, 1j	NA	Territorial Authorities	Statistics New Zealand, Regional Council, NEMA	Short – medium term	\$\$	2
		Potential impacts of rural land use change on communities	 	1c, 1e	National Policy Statement for Urban Development 2020	Territorial Authorities	Private sector, Landowners, Regional Council	Medium – long term	\$\$\$	3
		Ease of/how equitable is access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> jobs schools and training high speed internet healthcare formal and informal social infrastructure natural environment 		1c, 1h		Territorial Authorities, Waka Kotahi	Regional Council	Medium term	\$\$	2
		Housing quality		1c		Territorial Authorities	MBIE	Short term	\$\$	2
		Ecological integrity	 	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 1i, 1j	National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023	Territorial Authorities, Regional Councils	MfE, DoC	Medium term	\$\$	2
		Quality of ^{42c} : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> water stormwater natural vegetation marine environment 	 	1a, 1b, 1c	National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020, New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010	Territorial Authorities, Regional Councils	MfE, DoC	Medium term	\$\$	2

^{42a} For environmental quality information and data (and beyond) there is benefit in translating to geospatial layers to help target areas for restoration and enhancement etc.

7 Recommended next steps

7.1 Short term actions in association with potential RSS inputs

Next steps introduction

This section seeks to identify a key suite of recommended short-term actions (beyond obtaining priority inputs identified in Section 5 above) that the councils could progress to support the ongoing confirmation, development and procurement of inputs to support RSS decision making. Our suggested key short term actions are summarised in the list below with further details for each included in the subsequent subsections.

- Taking a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and integrating mātauranga
- Development of a vision in partnership with iwi/ tangata whenua and the community
- Definition exercise for inputs
- Understanding the role of different council teams
- Collaborating for success
- Thinking about how you want to use the inputs (e.g. methods and models)
- Reconciling this report with recommended updates to the proposed legislation

Taking a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and integrating mātauranga

Short term action(s):

- complementary workstream with Iwi to understand how a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and mātauranga can be effectively integrated into the development of inputs for the RSS as an overarching 'lens' (and beyond e.g. developing a vision and objectives [see recommendation on developing a vision and objectives below]).
- workstream to include a process for determining how mātauranga is managed and protected.
- Reconciling the contents of this report with the outcomes of that workstream.

The feedback at our project step two workshop session was that effective collaboration with Iwi in the identification and development of the RSS evidence base (and beyond) is crucial for meeting both the purpose and requirements of the new system⁵¹, achieving the joint and separate outcomes sought in an RSS, taking a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach, and the meaning and role of mātauranga⁵² in the context of RSS.

In spatial planning mātauranga sits well alongside western sciences and knowledge systems⁵³ and the key to thinking about RSS inputs, as we heard it at our project step two workshop session, will be to elevate the mana of mātauranga (in the context of RSS inputs) alongside western knowledge. Mātauranga is the

⁵¹ These include the NBE Bill Clause 3 purpose of recognising and upholding te Oranga o te Taiao and the NBE Bill Clause 5 outcomes (c) Well-functioning areas that meet the needs of people and communities and (e) relationship of iwi and hapū.

⁵² Mātauranga includes 'language, whakapapa, technology, systems of law and social control, systems of property and value exchange, forms of expression, and much more' (Waitangi Tribunal 2011a. Ko Aotearoa tēnei: a report into claims concerning New Zealand law and policy affecting Māori culture and identity: te taumata tuatahi. Wellington, Legislation Direct. 268 p.)

⁵³ NZ Herald article on how mātauranga Māori is being rolled out in schools: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/how-matauranga-maori-is-being-rolled-out-in-schools-rangi-matamua-explains-the-knowledge-system/HBESUUZ3UFFSVLF64Y5JMJ24KE/>

intellectual property of Iwi and hapū, can only be used in an RSS process with their consent and effective mātauranga revitalisation must be Māori-led. This elevation, therefore, can only be achieved through effective partnership with Iwi, who will need to be asked (in the context of RSS inputs) to identify the mātauranga in their rohe that is relevant to spatial planning and the issues that they want the RSS to address, and then to confirm/ help to develop/ provide the relevant inputs.

We recommend, therefore, that the councils progress as a matter of priority a complementary workstream with Iwi to understand how a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and mātauranga can be effectively integrated into the development of inputs for the RSS as an overarching 'lens' once a vision and objectives for the RSS have been agreed⁵⁴. It will be important to include conversations on a process for determining how mātauranga is managed and protected within this workstream.

Leveraging from our investigations this complementary workstream could also seek to identify what this integration and 'lens' could look like for RSS inputs based on the example vision, key issue areas, consistent vision themes and potential long list of inputs within this report. The outcomes of this complementary workstream may require expansion, reorientation, or replacement of the potential priority inputs within this report and we recommend confirming where amendment of the potential priorities is required as soon as possible after the complementary workstream is completed.

There is potential for complexity when working across multiple Iwi that will require time and resources from all parties. Hence this partnership component of confirming and developing inputs for RSS decision making needs to be properly resourced and enable staged input over time to manage complexity. Opportunities to leverage from existing structures to support other processes (e.g. Covid-19 crisis and emergency response) is recommended.

Integrating a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and mātauranga as a lens over all inputs will have implications for the long list of potential inputs suggested in this report. It is likely that many of these geospatial layers and well-being information will still be relevant, it will just be necessary to understand the extent to which they satisfy a dual lens.

In terms of existing approaches that could be drawn from, the most innovative example of early attempts to incorporate mātauranga in spatial planning is rapidly evolving in SmartGrowth in the Western Bay of Plenty where the partners have commissioned a Tāngata Whenua Spatial Planning Project. Other second generation spatial plans (particularly Urban Growth Partnership plans) are also seeking to address some gaps, particularly in relation to collaboration and integrating mātauranga. Further investigation on these processes is recommended to support future workstreams.

Leveraging from what we heard at our well-being information session we have provided more detailed recommendations to the government's new Spatial Planning Policy Office (SPPO) on the potential value of the above mātauranga approach for RSS inputs to inform decision making and more broadly. We recommend seeking to discuss our recommendations with the SPPO in connection with the Tranche 1 process - scoping work (discussed in Section 2.2 *Relevant Matters*) and to expand on our report to the SPPO to include a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach.

⁵⁴ While mātauranga (and a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach) will be important for setting RSS vision and objectives for the purposes of our project scope we have limited our recommendation to RSS inputs. The region may seek to progress these connected components as a single workstream.

Development of a vision and objectives

Short term action(s):

- Developing a vision in partnership with iwi/ tangata whenua and the community is the next stage in the process of developing an RSS.

In anticipation of a future RSS process and to enable the region to confirm inputs required it will be important to work collaboratively with iwi/ tangata whenua and the community to confirm a vision and objectives to guide spatial planning processes. The vision should include a Te Ao Māori and a Tiriti based approach and integrate mātauranga as an overarching lens.

Definition exercise for RSS inputs

Short term action(s):

- definition exercise to agree what they consider to be the relevant information/data set for individual inputs (both geospatial layers and well-being information and data).

Moving forward it will be important for the council teams to work together through a definition exercise to agree what they consider to be the relevant information/data set for individual inputs (both geospatial layers and well-being information and data). This will allow the councils to consistently identify where they hold inputs and to be clear about what external source an input should come from when it cannot be obtained inhouse.

An example of where this would have been advantageous within our project is our potential well-being input on urban and rural distribution that was suggested in association with the housing, infrastructure and urban environments key issue area (which included a focus on understanding how people want to live and move within the district and any barriers). For this input NPDC provided us with their proposed district plan zoning map. Other councils may not have provided this map, potentially because it was not how they interpreted the input.

Having this agreed definition and clarity for individual inputs will be particularly important under the new system for aligning the scope of inputs in connection with quality and equity matters (e.g., enhancement and restoration), where limits and targets apply and when specific positive outcomes are sought.

Understanding the role of different council teams for well-being information

Short term action(s):

- identify which other council teams may already be working with well-being information/ have the greatest capability in this area (e.g. strategy or research teams).
- a principal team (planning or beyond) should then be identified to lead the region's well-being workstream moving forward.

As an emerging area we recommend the council planning teams across the four councils of the region work together to identify which other council teams may already be working with well-being information/ have the greatest capability in this area (e.g. strategy or research teams). A principal team (planning or beyond) should then be identified to lead the region's well-being workstream moving forward (in terms of maintaining existing and locating new inputs). There is potential to utilise a regional approach to managing well-being

inputs for a regional strategy that responds to cross council capability and capacity. This approach would also lend itself well to developing a regional well-being dashboard.

Collaborating for success

Short term action(s):

- confirm potential roles for key partners and groups etc in agreeing and developing RSS inputs (and beyond). Subsequently, it will be important to start socialising/agreeing these roles and responsibilities with them and relationship building to enable an effective and efficient process when work gets underway on an RSS
- start socialising/agreeing these roles and responsibilities with them and relationship building to enable an effective and efficient process when work gets underway on an RSS.

Confirming and obtaining inputs to inform RSS decision making and beyond (eg RSS methodologies and analysis) will involve many different partners and groups etc with interests in an RSS, and hence the RPC will not be having to do all this work alone. These partners and groups etc will input into the process through different roles and at different points in the RSS cycle such as developing the evidence base, and scenario and option selection. Their potential roles can potentially be best summarised through a responsibility matrix, as per the image below.



Drawing from those with an interest in the process will be important for achieving true community led planning and the spectrum of parties extends from the people around the table to invested parties, to include:

- Central government agencies
- Local government partners
- Iwi and Māori
- RPC sub-committees
- Implementation partners
- The private sector
- The community.

While the councils will have strong existing relationships with many of these partners and groups etc we recommend undertaking a specific workstream in the short term to confirm potential roles for key partners and groups etc in agreeing and developing RSS inputs (and beyond). Subsequently, it will be important to

start socialising/agreeing these roles and responsibilities with them and relationship building to enable an effective and efficient process when work gets underway on an RSS.

Thinking about how you want to use the inputs (e.g., methods and models)

Short term action(s):

- Start thinking about how to recommend the RPC use these inputs holistically (taking an integrated approach to topics, matters and outcomes) to support decision making. This is in the context of the questions being asked and the associated methods and models that can best help answer those questions with the inputs available.

To design and evaluate RSS, RPCs will need to use spatial analysis methods and draw from assessment tools that can help them understand their regions patterns, relationships, and the impacts of urban growth based on the layers of inputs that form the RSS evidence base. Of the three layers of inputs⁵⁵ required to inform RSS decision making to meet the requirements of the SPA and NBEA and enable the implementation and delivery of outcomes the scope of this report is geospatial layers and well-being information/data inputs for RSS.

It will be important to start thinking (in the short term) about how to recommend the RPC use these inputs holistically (taking an integrated approach to topics, matters and outcomes) to support decision making. This is in the context of the questions being asked and the associated methods and models that can best help answer those questions with the inputs available. There are a suite of analysis methods and assessment tools that could support the RPC's decision making using inputs when developing RSS. These methods and tools all have different relationships to the four well-beings (social, cultural, economic and environmental), inform decision making through different lenses and are suited to different stages of the process or specific issues.

Analysis techniques should be treated as informative tools for decision making not determinative. No single tool is likely to give a definitive answer to the problems being addressed by a spatial strategy. The RPC's choice of model to support decision making should be based on where the region needs to fall on a continuum of the use of modelling as an evaluative tool (based on the level of analysis and assessment required for key matters) and the questions wanting to be asked of the model. It is important that those using models understand their limitations, critical assumptions and strengths and weaknesses (which are different for each model) and use them with care and only where the models are relevant to the questions being asked as part of the RSS. Thinking laterally beyond the models themselves, it will also be important to ensure that there is transparency for RPCs and beyond (e.g., Iwi, other partners, the community) on the inputs into the model and how the model was used to inform decision making for the RSS.

Reconciling this report with recommended updates to the proposed legislation

Short term action(s):

- reviewing the contents of this report in relation to the Environment Select Committee's proposed amendments to key clauses of the SP Bill and The NBE Bill.
- A similar review will also be required when the SP Bill and NBE Bill are enacted; and for efficiency the councils may seek to hold on a review of our report until this time.

⁵⁵ Section 1.3 confirms that the three input layers are geospatial layers, well-being information and data, and investment and funding opportunities.

The investigations in this report are based on the draft versions of the SP Bill and NBE Bill introduced to Parliament on 15 November 2022. In the weeks preceding the finalisation of this report the Environment Select Committee reported to the House on the NBE Bill and the SP Bill making a suite of recommended amendments to improve the efficacy of the bills (27 June 2023).

We recommend reviewing the contents of this report (particularly in relation to the NBE Bill Clause 3 [purpose of the Act] and Clause 5 [system outcomes], and SP Bill Clause 17 [Contents of regional spatial strategies: key matters]). From a high-level review of the Environment Select Committee recommendations for the aforementioned clauses of the bills it appears that the underlying principles of the clauses are the same as the 15 November 2022 version. Hence, while some amendment of sub clause numbers and content does appear to have changed for those sub clauses the fundamental considerations in our report remain relevant.

A similar review will also be required when the SP Bill and NBE Bill are enacted; and for efficiency the councils may seek to hold on a review of our report until this time.

Sensitivity: General

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Appendix A – Relevant Clauses of Spatial Planning Bill and Natural and
Built Environment Bill: Full Text

Spatial Planning Bill

Part 2 – Regional Spatial Strategies

Subpart 2 – Scope and Content of Regional Spatial Strategies

Clauses 15 – 18

Clause 15 - Scope of regional spatial strategies

15 Scope of regional spatial strategies

- (1) A regional spatial strategy must—
 - (a) set the strategic direction for the use, development, protection, restoration, and enhancement of the environment of the region for a time-span of not less than 30 years; and
 - (b) provide for the integrated management of the environment, including by providing strategic direction for the instruments in the planning system that are referred to in **section 4**; and
 - (c) support the efficient and effective management of the environment; and
 - (d) give effect to the national planning framework to the extent that the framework directs; and
 - (e) otherwise be consistent with the national planning framework.
- (2) In meeting the requirements of this section and **section 16**, a regional spatial strategy must support a co-ordinated approach to infrastructure funding and investment by central government, local authorities, and other infrastructure providers.

Clause 16 - General contents and form of regional spatial strategies

16 General contents and form of regional spatial strategies

- (1) A regional spatial strategy must—
 - (a) set out a vision and objectives for the region's development and change over the period covered by the strategy; and
 - (b) set out the actions that must be taken as a matter of priority to achieve that vision and those objectives (the **priority actions**); and
 - (c) provide strategic direction on the following, to the extent that the regional planning committee considers they are of strategic importance to the region:
 - (i) the key matters listed in **section 17**; and
 - (ii) any other matters that the regional planning committee considers are of sufficient significance in terms of **section 18**.
- (2) A regional spatial strategy must be in the form prescribed by the national planning framework and the regulations.

Clause 17 - Contents of regional spatial strategies: key matters**17 Contents of regional spatial strategies: key matters**

- (1) The key matters referred to in **section 16(1)(c)(i)** are as follows:
- (a) areas that may require protection, restoration, or enhancement:
 - (b) areas of cultural heritage and areas with resources that are of significance to Māori:
 - (c) areas that are appropriate for urban development and change, including existing, planned, or potential urban centres of scale:
 - (d) areas that are appropriate for developing, using, or extracting natural resources, including generating power:
 - (e) areas that are appropriate to be reserved for rural use or where there is expected to be significant change in the type of rural use:
 - (f) areas of the coastal marine area that are appropriate for development or significant change in use:
 - (g) major existing, planned, or potential infrastructure or major infrastructure corridors, networks, or sites (including existing designations) that are required to meet current and future needs:
 - (h) other infrastructure matters, including—
 - (i) opportunities to make better use of existing infrastructure; and
 - (ii) the need for other small-to-medium-sized infrastructure required to meet future needs or enable development:
 - (i) areas that are vulnerable to significant risks arising from natural hazards, and measures for reducing those risks and increasing resilience:
 - (j) areas that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change both now and in the future, and measures for addressing those effects and increasing resilience in the region, including indicative locations for—
 - (i) major new infrastructure that would help to address the effects of climate change in the region; and
 - (ii) areas that are suitable for land use changes that would promote climate change mitigation and adaptation:
 - (k) areas where any development or significant change in use needs to be carefully managed because the areas are subject to constraints (other than those described in **paragraphs (i) and (j)**):
 - (l) the indicative location of planned or potential business and residential activities and the likely general scale and intensity of those activities, if that information is necessary to inform the consideration of any other matters listed in this subsection.
- (2) In this section, **urban centre of scale** means an urban area that is used mainly for a range of commercial, community, recreational, and residential activities that service a region, district, city, town, or a group of suburbs or neighbourhoods.

Sensitivity: General

Clause 18 - Scope of regional spatial strategies

18 Contents of regional spatial strategies: other matters of sufficient significance

- (1) A matter is of **sufficient significance** for the purposes of **section 16(1)(c)(ii)** if the regional planning committee considers that the matter meets 1 or more of the following criteria:
 - (a) the matter is likely to do either or both of the following at a level of regional significance:
 - (i) increase or reduce the use of land or water, or change the way that it is used;
 - (ii) increase, reduce, or change transport patterns (being patterns relating to location, frequency, or modes of travel):
 - (b) the matter relates to environmental effects that are best managed at a regional level (such as effects on water catchments or effects caused by greenhouse gas emissions):
 - (c) the matter is of a scale or significance that requires planning for, or investment in, infrastructure to be done or arranged at a regional level:
 - (d) the matter is critical to the development or functioning of the region or any of its cities:
 - (e) the matter is critical to the national or regional economy:
 - (f) the matter relates to a nationally significant feature or activity:
 - (g) the matter requires collaboration—
 - (i) between 2 or more infrastructure providers; or
 - (ii) between 2 or more local authorities; or
 - (iii) between 1 or more local authorities and the central government.
- (2) For the purposes of **subsection (1)**, something may be of regional or national significance regardless of whether it directly affects the entire region or country.

Sensitivity: General

B

Appendix B – Full list of council strategy, plan and statement visions

Primary documents

Document	Vision	Link
Taranaki Regional Council		
Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/22 – 2026/27	A vibrant, resilient, connected region with a safe transport system enhancing liveable places.	https://trc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Buses-Transport/Transport-Planning/RLTP2021/RLTP2021final-web-v2.pdf
Draft Freshwater Vision (for consultation 2022 – to be amended)	The mauri and life supporting capacity of Taranaki’s freshwater supports our community to swim in it, drink from it and harvest resources for use. It is clean and fresh, with healthy functioning ecosystems and biodiversity connectivity across each catchment. The use of all freshwater is respectful to reflect its value as taonga.	https://www.trc.govt.nz/environment/freshwater/lets-korero-essential-freshwater/essential-freshwater-vision/
Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki	<i>Taranaki tangata tūtahi ki te uru – Taranaki people standing as one on the west</i> In this vision statement, ‘Taranaki’ refers to the people, the mountain, the land and the region. The word ‘tūtahi’ refers to standing together, as one people, cohesively for a specific purpose, to achieve a united goal for the benefit of our region. The concepts of sustainability and protection of the region’s resources are central to community aspirations and remain integral to the well-being and vibrancy of the region. It is pivotal to the entire region of Taranaki, from Parininihi to Waitōtara, that all physical and natural resources are maintained and protected. Working together, the eight Taranaki iwi, the Taranaki Regional Council, and the wider community seek a unified approach toward maintaining, promoting, developing and protecting the natural and physical resources of the region for future generations. This vision recognises the roles and responsibilities shared by all people in Taranaki to ensure the sustainable and focused protection of air, land (soil), water and coastal environments for economic, social, cultural and recreational purposes.	https://www.trc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Plans-policies/CoastalPlanReview/Interim-Version-of-the-Proposed-Coastal-Plan.pdf
Biodiversity strategy (2017)	The full range of Taranaki’s indigenous ecosystems and species are maintained in a healthy and fully functioning state, from the mountain to the ocean depths and from protected areas to productive landscapes. Agencies, community groups and individuals work cooperatively in partnership, taking an integrated, efficient and cost effective approach that is based on sound science.	https://www.trc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Plans-policies/BioStrategy/BiodiversityStrategy2017-web.pdf

	People living in Taranaki value and better understand biodiversity so that we can all enjoy and share in its benefits, as the foundation of a sustainable economy and society.	
New Plymouth District Council		
Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031	Our vision is for New Plymouth District to be the Sustainable Lifestyle Capital	Our vision (npdc.govt.nz)
Ngāmotu New Plymouth City Centre Strategy	With land and people together, our city thrives for all	Ngāmotu New Plymouth City Centre Strategy (npdc.govt.nz)
Emissions Reduction Plan (Draft – final version yet to be adopted)	No stated vision – but does highlight key priority actions etc.	https://www.npdc.govt.nz/media/lolfees/ecm-8778038-district-wide-emissions-reduction-plan-2022-for-consultation-12-7.pdf
Infrastructure Strategy 2021 - 2051	No 'vision', but objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking care of what we have • Resilience and responding to climate change • Planning for growth • Meeting the needs of the community and reducing our impact on the environment. 	https://www.npdc.govt.nz/media/p3zicim/infrastructure-strategy.pdf
Stratford District Council		
Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031	A vibrant, resilient and connected community in the heart of Taranaki	https://www.stratford.govt.nz/our-council/council-documents/long-term-plan
South Taranaki District Council		
2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan	South Taranaki the most liveable District	https://www.southtaranaki.com/our-council/plans-strategies-and-reports/long-term-plans/long-term-plan-2021-31
Environment and Sustainability Strategy	A Sustainable South Taranaki: A District that appreciates its natural environment and its physical and human resources in planning delivery and protection.	https://www.southtaranaki.com/our-council/environment-and-sustainability/environment-and-sustainability-strategy
Community-led		
Taranaki 2050 roadmap (developed region-wide)	A vision for Taranaki by 2050 that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong sustainable environment 	https://www.taranaki.co.nz/assets/Uploads/Like-No-Other/Taranaki-2050-Roadmap.pdf

through a co-design process with the local community)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education options that move and flex with a changing world • Attractive jobs • A similar lifestyle to the one we enjoy now, shared by all • Leading the way in sustainable, low-emissions energy • A region that looks out for and cares for itself and its people 	
Iwi visions		
Te Kaahui o Rauru	<i>Whakatipungia Ngaa Raurutanga</i> Ngaa Rauru thriving and excelling across future generations.	https://www.rauru.iwi.nz/ko-wai
Ngāti Ruanui		
Te Korowai o Ngāruahine	<i>Ka Ora Taku Toa, Kia Tū Ngāruahine Ai Tātou</i> Ka ora taku toa is our rallying cry that we must flourish and thrive. Ngāruahine iwi take every action to be a healthy, wealthy and culturally vibrant iwi and 'ka ora taku toa' is our vision for Ngāruahine iwi.	https://ngaruahine.iwi.nz/about-te-korowai-o-ngaruahine-trust/
Te Kahui o Taranaki Iwi	<i>Taiao, Taiora</i> <i>Ko te oranga o te whenua</i> <i>Ko te oranga o te tangata</i> The health of the environment is the health of the people.	https://taranaki.iwi.nz/our-environment/
Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa	Empowering and sustaining our connection to people, place and environment <i>E tangi ana nga reanga o uta, e mahara ana ngā reanga a tai mā te aha rā e whakamahana ai taku ora kia tina.</i> <i>He kawenga ki te whenua, ki ngā uri o Kāhui Pō me Te Kāhui Ao.</i> <i>Ko ahau Ko Tai whenua, Ko Tai tangata, Ko Tai ao, ko Ko Tai whenua, Ko Tai tangata, Ko Tai ao, ko ahau.</i> <i>Whakarongo, whakarongo, whakarongo ki te tangi o te manu e karanga nei; tui, tui, whiti, whiti ora.</i> When our environmental ecosystems are in distress, our confidence and identity is affected. It is our responsibility to maintain this relationship, the	https://teatiawa.iwi.nz/tai-whenua-tai-tangata-tai-ao/

	balance and natural order of all life. The ecosystem defines my quality of life. Listen to the cry of the birds calling for unity.	
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Subsidiary documents

Document	Vision	Link
Taranaki Regional Council		
Towards Predator-Free Taranaki	The shared vision is to see abundant and diverse native wildlife and plants flourishing in Taranaki in the absence of introduced predators, which are one of the greatest threats to Taranaki's biodiversity, lifestyles and livelihoods; particularly in tourism and primary industries.	https://www.trc.govt.nz/environment/working-together/towards-predator-free-taranaki/about-towards-predator-free-taranaki/
Regional Public Transport Plan 2020 - 2030	Accessible and integrated public passenger transport services that cater for the needs of the people of Taranaki (including the transport disadvantaged) at a reasonable cost and in a manner which contributes to a prosperous, connected, healthy, vibrant and environmentally sustainable community	https://www.trc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Plans-policies/Transport/RPTPDraft-Aug2020-web.pdf
Regional Walkways and Cycleways Strategy	To provide greater transport choice and opportunities for people to discover and enjoy Taranaki's unique environment through walking and cycling.	https://www.trc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Plans-policies/Transport/walk-cycleways.pdf
Waste management and Minimisation Strategy for Taranaki (2016)	People in Taranaki will use all resources efficiently and at a sustainable rate. In so doing, we will no longer regard waste as inevitable, or see it as someone else's problem. We will identify and practice methods for reducing waste and improving resource efficiency.	https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/waste-management-and-minimisation-strategy/
New Plymouth District Council		
Tapuae Roa – Economic Development Strategy	Talented People, Attractive Lifestyle, Modern, High Value Economy	https://www.npdc.govt.nz/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/strategies/economic-development-strategy-tapuae-roa/
New Plymouth District Blueprint (2015)	No stated vision and has largely been implemented through the District Plan and Long Term Plan	N/A
Waste Minimisation Plan 2017 - 2023	Zero waste by 2050	https://www.npdc.govt.nz/media/utynxp2e/waste-management-and-minimisation-plan-2017.pdf

Community Board Plans	<p>Inglewood Community Board: <i>To advocate for the Inglewood district residents and businesses and protect the environment and assets to ensure the community thrives for future generations.</i></p> <p>Waitara Community board: <i>Inclusive, vibrant and culturally relevant to all.</i></p> <p>Clifton Community Board: <i>To respect the rights and values of all people. Advocate for safe, healthy and vibrant communities, making the uniqueness of Clifton the 'Northern Gateway to Taranaki' so people will want to visit, live and work here for generations to come.</i></p>	https://www.npdc.govt.nz/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/plans/community-board-plans/
Heritage Strategy	A district that values, recognises and cares for its heritage resources.	https://www.npdc.govt.nz/media/twlpkn1/plans-and-strategies-heritage-strategy.pdf
Stratford District Council		
Communications and Engagement Strategy	An engaged community, where everyone feels connected and able to participate in decision making opportunities.	https://www.stratford.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2cvuccag1cxbygm8445/hierarchy/Council%20Documents/Strategies/Communication%20%20Engagement%20Strategy%20Final%20-%20June%202020.pdf
Community Development Strategy	An engaged community, where everyone has an opportunity to participate.	https://www.stratford.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2cvuccag1cxbygm8445/hierarchy/Council%20Documents/Strategies/Community%20Development%20Strategy%20-%20web.pdf
Digital Enablement Plan	Digital community, digital economy, digital Stratford.	https://www.stratford.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2cvuccag1cxbygm8445/hierarchy/Council%20Documents/Strategies/Stratford%20District%20Digital%20Enablement%20Plan.pdf
Economic Development Strategy	To maintain and grow the population of Stratford District. To increase opportunities for residents and visitors to Stratford and to increase the wealth of residents located in the district.	https://www.stratford.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2cvuccag1cxbygm8445/hierarchy/Stratford%202035/Economic_Development_Strategy_Document_-_WEB.pdf
Waste Management and Minimisation Plan	Towards zero waste.	https://www.stratford.govt.nz/our-services/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-management-and-minimisation-plans

Sensitivity: General

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Appendix C – Full table of potential geospatial layers identified and database

Sensitivity: General

| Recommended next steps |

Sensitivity: General

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Appendix D – Full table of potential wellbeing information

Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
<p>Housing, infrastructure and urban environments</p>	<p>Understanding how people want to live and move within the district and any barriers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and Business Assessment • Population projections • Demographics – Age, income, ethnicity etc. • Household composition/ overcrowding • Housing choice • Housing quality • Housing affordability (ownership and renting) • Housing availability • Housing equity (i.e. how equitable/fair are housing outcomes) • Resource consents/ Building completions – numbers and typology • Poverty and homelessness • Living preferences and lifestyles (community satisfaction survey) • Urban/rural distribution • Vehicle Kilometre Travelled figures • Distance travelled to employment – inc. by income bracket? • Ease of/how equitable⁵⁶ is access to jobs • Ease of/how equitable is access to schools and training • Ease of/how equitable is access to the natural environment • Ease of/how equitable is access to healthcare • Ease of/how equitable is access to broader formal and informal social infrastructure and services • Ease of/how equitable is access to high speed internet • Employment, qualifications and skillsets (existing and desired) • Employment, qualification and skillset equity (i.e. how equitable/ fair are outcomes) • Renewable energy generation and transmission opportunities (e.g. offshore wind farms) – in the context of industry and jobs • Forestry and Carbon Forestry opportunities – in the context of industry and jobs • Renewable energy generation and transmission barriers (e.g. offshore wind farms) – in the context of industry and jobs • Forestry and Carbon Forestry barriers – in the context of industry and jobs • How equitable are employment and industry opportunities (e.g. renewable energy generation, forestry)

⁵⁶ In all instances ease and equity of access to include movement element eg travel time by mode and access to transport options.

Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure capacity assessment • Stormwater quality • Potential impacts of rural land use change on communities • Risk/ liability to infrastructure providers and regulators (e.g. councils)
Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well Being Inputs
Blue Green networks – Te mana o te wai, biodiversity	Achieving the ‘Source to Sea’ vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological integrity (expected natural living and non-living elements) • Stormwater quality • Quality of water resources • Quality of natural vegetation • Quality of marine environment • Quality of natural heritage • Quality of habitats • Conservation efforts • Physical and legal access for iwi to mahinga kai • Ease of/how equitable is access to the natural environment • Te mana o te wai insights (raised at workshop 1) • Levels of pollution • Cultural connections between landmarks and places • Physical and legal access to traditional places • Soil health • Data on public Perceptions of New Zealand's Environment • Identification of integrated/ interdependent networks • Spectrum/extent of biodiversity by area • Risk/ liability to infrastructure providers and regulators (e.g. councils)
Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
Land use sustainability (HPL, soil conservation, energy generation and transmission etc)	Managing a just transition in the context of constraints and opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure capacity assessment • Regional production • Production by industry • Productive Capacity • Renewable energy generation and transmission opportunities (e.g. offshore wind farms) • Forestry and Carbon Forestry opportunities • Renewable energy generation and transmission barriers (e.g. offshore wind farms) – in the context of industry and jobs

Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry and Carbon Forestry barriers – in the context of industry and jobs • Ease of/how equitable is access to schools and training • Ease of/how equitable is access to the natural environment • Ease of/how equitable is access to healthcare • Ease of/how equitable is access to broader formal and informal social infrastructure and services • Soil health • Stormwater quality • Potential impacts of rural land use change on communities • Risk/ liability to infrastructure providers and regulators (e.g. councils)
Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
Cultural and heritage/landscape issues⁵⁷	Factoring cultural considerations into decision making while responding to other challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural connections between landmarks and places • Physical and legal access to traditional places • Physical and legal access for iwi to mahinga kai • Māori connection to marae • Levels of engagement in cultural activities • Location of Māori owned land • Living preferences • Location of Papakāinga and connectivity to desired services and amenities
Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
Resilience and climate change adaptation	Understanding the vulnerability of existing and future areas to hazards (climate and volcanic risks).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of hazard events (including future expected frequency i.e. increased) • Impacts of known flooding events on daily activities • Impacts of other known events on daily activities • Risk to life from extreme weather events • Cost (all 4 well-beings) of extreme weather events • Recovery duration for extreme weather events (eg rebuild processes) • Cumulative risk • Transport modelling – at risk routes • Egress ability by area

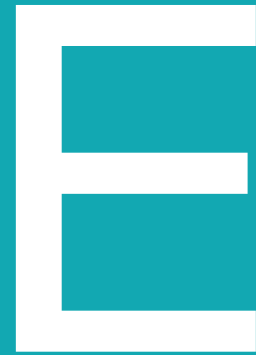
⁵⁷ To respond to feedback from iwi representatives of the region that the overall approach to this key issue requires further consideration with iwi our suggested potential inputs for the key issue on cultural considerations has been limited to a discrete number of suggested layers derived from existing sources. A subsequent workstream is required to explore this issue further.

Sensitivity: General

| Recommended next steps |

Key Issue Area	Identified Focus Area	Potential Priority Well-being Inputs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural hazard regulation (e.g. wetlands as a percentage of land cover) • Mapping of well-being risk for future climate • Social and economic consequences of changes in industry in response to climate change • Vulnerability assessments (e.g. infrastructure hazard durability/ upgrade cost) • Composition of groups across vulnerable areas (e.g. income, ethnicity, age etc.) • Composition of groups across potential retreat areas (to help inform what these communities need and where they could move to) • Risk profile of different groups in vulnerable areas and potential retreat areas (to inform equity issue of who has chosen to be there and who was placed there etc.) • Community awareness of hazards and vulnerability • Risk/ liability to infrastructure providers and regulators (e.g. councils)

Sensitivity: General

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Appendix E – Table of potential responsibility for geospatial layers

Regional council responsibility	Territorial authority responsibility	Other, and/or responsibility of both
Significant ecological areas	Significant natural areas	Reserve land
Highly productive soils	Notable trees	
Soil classes	Urban tree canopy	Significant landscape features
Contaminated Sites (register)	Cycleways/shared paths	Significant geological features
Public transport network	Pedestrian infrastructure	Topography/LIDAR
Public transport improvements	Residential areas within sea level rise area	Forestry areas
Streams/rivers	Historic heritage sites	Land value
Coastal marine area	Viewshafts	State highways
Existing coastal structures	Local roads	Railway lines
Ports/coastal facilities	Three waters utilities	Road safety data
Natural wetlands	Urban zones	Slope aspect/stability
Potential wetland development areas	Future urban zones	Rainfall
Riparian margins	Housing and industrial land capacity assessments	Flood overlays
Significant surf breaks	Designations	Rockfall
Sea temperature	District plan layers/zoning	Coastal inundation
Coral	Areas suitable for managed retreat	Forest fire zones/firebreaks
Volcanic geohazards	Rural zones	Liquefaction prone areas
Flood defence infrastructure	Possible sea wall/dyke/groundwater pumping locations for climate change mitigation	Drought/rainfall modelling
Tsunami mapping	Waste infrastructure	Temperature mapping
	Sea walls	Culturally significant areas
		Culturally significant landscapes
		Statutory acknowledgement areas
		Quarry/aggregate mining areas
		Geological basemaps
		Wind maps
		Sea floor bathymetry
		Hydrological surveys
		Petroleum/minerals permits
		Exploration permits
		Extraction locations
		Prospecting
Block offers		
Oil/Gas wells		
Hydrogeological models		

Regional council responsibility	Territorial authority responsibility	Other, and/or responsibility of both
		Solar mapping
		Sunshine hours
		Utility networks/Electricity generation
		National grid infrastructure
		Transmission lines
		Agricultural industrial facilities
		Drainage infrastructure
		Aquifers
		Offshore wind farms
		On shore wind farms
		Airport
		Welfare Centres
		Port of Taranaki
		Other significant infrastructure
		Conservation land



Date: 29 August 2023

Subject: **National Direction for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat**

Approved by: A D McLay, Director - Resource Management
S J Ruru, Chief Executive

Document: 3198740

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Policy and Planning Committee on the recent release of the National Environmental Standards (NES) and National Policy Statement (NPS) for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat 2023, and the implications this will have on Council operations.

Executive summary

2. On 29 June 2023 the National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat (NES-GGEIPH) and National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat (NPS-GGEIPH) were Gazetted and these regulations now have come into force as of 27 July 2023.
3. The NES-GGEIPH and NPS-GGEIPH establish a policy direction and a rules framework under the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991. These regulations direct councils' decision-making regarding the prohibition and phased elimination of fossil fuels for process heat activities.
4. In summary, regional councils are required to:
 - either reduce or avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from process heat devices by implementing the regulations outlined in the NES-GGEIPH;
 - amend the Regional Air Quality Plan (without a Schedule 1 RMA process) to incorporate specific provisions set out in the NPS-GGEIPH, so that decision-makers:
 - acknowledge and manage the cumulative effects of GHG emissions on climate change; and
 - revise emissions plans to include current best practices and technological advancements that contribute to a reduction in overall GHG emissions.
5. The NPS-GGEIPH also requires regional councils, upon request by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE), to provide a report to the Minister on the details of consents

granted for the production of industrial process heat in the region, and the extent to which greenhouse gases have been reduced and emission plans implemented.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives this Memorandum, “National Direction for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat”
- b) notes the content of the NES-GGEIPH and NPS-GGEIPH (Appendix 1 and 2)
- c) notes the implementation requirements for the Council associated with the NES-GGEIPH rules framework, amendments to the Regional Air Quality Plan and reporting requirements when requested by the Minister for the Environment as set out in the NPS-GGEIPH
- d) endorses the public notification requirements (Appendix 3) associated with the necessary amendments from the NPS-GGEIPH for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat 2023 via s.55(2) and s.55(2A) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Background

6. There is an internationally accepted understanding that human-induced greenhouse gas emissions are the primary cause of global climate change. This recognition necessitates the need for urgent and collaborative action from the global community to reduce the concentration of GHG emissions released into the atmosphere from human activities.
7. In November 2022, amendments to the RMA empowered regional councils and local authorities to consider the effects of GHG emissions on climate change. Consequently, regional councils can now evaluate the impact of GHGs on climate change in their resource management planning documents and during the assessment of resource consent applications.
8. In response to this change, national direction has been developed to create a unified and consistent framework for managing this type of air discharge. On 29 June 2023 the NES-GGEIPH and NPS- GGEIPH were notified in the New Zealand Gazette and these regulations came into force on 27 July 2023.
9. The NES-GGEIPH and NPS- GGEIPH is narrow in focus and seeks to reduce GHG emissions from the industrial process heat sector. This sector includes the manufacturing of products, the processing of raw materials, and indoor plant production from horticulture. Some examples of activities that use process heat are: converting milk into milk powder, turning wood pulp into paper, or during production of metals. However, heat devices that burn fossil fuels for heating spaces or water heating in both domestic and commercial settings are excluded from the scope of this nation direction.

Discussion

Objective and policy intention

10. The objective of the NPS-GGEIPH is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by managing the discharges to air from the production of industrial process heat, in order to mitigate climate change and its current and future adverse effects on the environment and the wellbeing of people and communities. Different management pathways are set

out for how councils must manage new or existing process heat devices, which use either coal or other fossil fuels and deliver heat. The regulations create a stringent approach to the activities utilising fossil fuel process heat devices and sets clear expectations to phase out in appropriate development.

NES requirements

11. The NES-GGEIPH prescribes technical standards for how regional councils must manage discharges of contaminants to air that involves GHG emissions from industrial sectors using process heat. These regulations are now in force. In summary the NES-GGEIPH provides:

- relevant definitions for terminology used in both the NES-GGEIPH and NPS-GGEIPH¹;
- a rules framework that:
 - prohibits the discharge of GHGs from new low to medium temperature coal boilers effective immediately² and from existing coal boilers after 2037³; and
 - requires resource consents (restricted-discretionary) for new and existing fossil fuel (coal and other fossil fuels that are not coal) boilers that emit 500 tonnes and above of CO₂ per year, per site⁴.
- considerations for decision-makers when granting a restricted-discretionary resource consent, including:
 - a site-wide approach when the activity involves more than one heat device⁵;
 - an emissions plan (purpose and content) that set out actions for reduction of emissions⁶ and reviewed by a suitably qualified person for high-emissions sites⁷; and
 - matters of discretion, consent conditions, and consent duration that must be applied under this NES-GGEIPH⁸.

¹ s.3 [Interpretation] NES-GGEIPH 2023.

² s.7 [Prohibited activity: device is new, burns coal, and delivers heat at <300°C] NES-GGEIPH 2023.

³ s.9[Prohibited activity (from 2037): device is existing, burns coal, and delivers heat at <300°C] NES-GGEIPH 2023.

⁴ Sections:

6 [Restricted discretionary activity: device burns coal, delivers heat at ≥300°C, etc];

8 [Restricted discretionary activity (before 2037): device is existing, burns coal, delivers heat at <300°C, etc]; and

10 [Restricted discretionary activity: device burns fossil fuel (not coal), etc] NES-GGEIPH 2023.

⁵ s.12 [Consent authority must decide about site-wide approach to resource consent] NES-GGEIPH 2023.

⁶ Sections:

13 [Applicant must propose emissions plan]; and

15 [Purpose and content of emissions plan] NES-GGEIPH 2023.

⁷ s.14 [Suitably qualified person must review proposed emissions plan for high-emissions site] NES-GGEIPH 2022.

⁸ Sections:

16 [Matter specific to new device];

17 [Matters common to new and existing devices];

18 [Term of resource consent for new and existing devices]; and

19 [Conditions of resource consent for new and existing devices] NES-GGEIPH 2023.

12. The implications and the timing of decisions in accordance with the NES- GGEIPH has been summarised in the table below⁹:

NES requirements	Timeframe
Prohibited activity for no use of coal in new assets	Immediate effect
Resource consents for discharges currently permitted under regional plans	18 month period to apply for resource consents
GHG Plan requirement for consent renewals for coal use in existing assets up to 2037	Immediate effect on expiry of existing resource consents for discharge to air
Consents for use of other fossil fuels in new and existing assets, and GHG Plan requirement	Immediate effect for all new consents, and effect on expiry of existing consents

13. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in the number of resource consent applications. This is likely due to the reclassification of some activities, which were previously permitted, as now being restricted-discretionary.
14. To evaluate resource consents and guide applicants in preparing GHG emissions plans, additional technical knowledge and expertise may also be required. To support regional councils implement the NES-GGEIPH and NES-GGEIPH, MfE have provided written guidance. Furthermore, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) are developing additional advice on best practicable options and economic feasibility for reducing GHG emissions from process heat.

NPS requirements

15. The NPS- GGEIPH sets out the national objective of reducing GHG emissions from the production of heat for industrial processes to mitigate climate change. To implement the objective and policies of the NPS, regional councils must give effect to the three main policies summarised below:
- discharges to air of GHGs from heat devices are reduced or eliminated¹⁰;
 - regional councils must consider the cumulative effects of discharges to air of GHGs from heat devices when considering resource consent applications¹¹; and

⁹ Table adapted from “Regulatory Impact Statement: National Direction under the RMA on Industrial Greenhouse Gas Emissions” - https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/18.11.2022.-Redactions.-Final-RIS-national-direction-IGHGs_Redacted.pdf.

¹⁰ Clause 2.2 [Policies], Policy 1, NPS-GGEIPH 2023.

¹¹ Clause 2.2 [Policies], Policy 2, NPS-GGEIPH 2023.

- holders of resource consents for discharges to air of GHGs from heat devices are required to update relevant emissions plans to reflect technological developments and best practice¹².
16. Part 3 of the NPS contains clauses that must be inserted directly into a Regional Air Quality Plan. These changes are amendments referred to in sections 55(2) and 55(2A) of the RMA. This means that councils do not need use the process in Schedule 1 of the Act. The clauses to be included in the Regional Air Quality Plan are:
- *“Before granting a resource consent for the discharge of greenhouse gases to air from heat devices on a site, the regional council must:*
 - a) *consider the total discharges of greenhouse gases from all heat devices on the site that the application relates to; and*
 - b) *recognise that, cumulatively, all discharges of greenhouse gases resulting from the production of industrial process heat, regardless of volume, contribute to climate change, and any reduction in greenhouse gas emissions contributes to mitigating climate change.”¹³; and*
 - *“When considering an emissions plan as part of an application for a resource consent for a restricted discretionary activity relating to discharges to air of greenhouse gases from heat devices, the consent authority must consider:*
 - a) *the timing and content of updates of the emissions plan to be made by the holder of the consent; and*
 - b) *how those updates will reflect changes in technology and best practices.”¹⁴*
17. These changes are currently being made to the Regional Air Quality Plan, and a public notice of this change will be undertaken. The insertion of these provisions will provide support to consenting decisions and the framework within the NES-GGEIPH.
18. The NPS-GGEIPH mandates that regional councils must submit a report to the Minister upon the request of MfE. As specified under clause 3.4¹⁵, the content of this report must include: the resource consents granted under this national direction, volume of GHG emissions, the extent to which there has been reductions through emission plans and consent conditions, and the general compliance with the requirements.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

19. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council’s adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice. Implementing the requirements of the NES-GGEIPH and NPS-GGEIPH can be undertaken within in existing planned budget and programme.

Policy considerations

20. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks

¹² Clause 2.2 [Policies], Policy 3, NPS-GGEIPH 2023.

¹³ Clause 3.2 [Cumulative effects] NPS-GGEIPH 2023.

¹⁴ Clause 3.3 [Updating emissions plans] NPS-GGEIPH 2023

¹⁵ Clause 3.4 [Progress towards achieving national goals] NPS- GGEIPH 2023

including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Iwi considerations

21. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted long-term plan and/or annual plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Community considerations

22. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

23. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council. Updates to the Regional Air Quality Plan will be undertaken in accordance with s.55(2) and s.55(2A) of the Resource Management Act, and as such changes can be made without using the Schedule 1 process of the Act.

Appendices/Attachments

Appendix 1 – Document 3197262: [Resource Management National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat Regulations 2023](#)

Appendix 2 – Document 3197261: [National-Policy-Statement-for-Greenhouse-Gas-Emissions-from-Industrial-Process-Heat-2023](#)

Appendix 3 – Document 3198533: [Public Notice of Amendments to Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki](#)

2023/165



Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat) Regulations 2023

Cindy Kiro, Governor-General

Order in Council

At Wellington this 26th day of June 2023

Present:

The Hon Carmel Sepuloni presiding in Council

These regulations are made under [section 43](#) of the [Resource Management Act 1991](#)—

- (a) on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council; and
- (b) on the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment made in accordance with [section 44](#) of that Act.

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Regulations

- 1 Title**
These regulations are the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat) Regulations 2023.

2 Commencement

These regulations come into force on 27 July 2023.

3 Interpretation

In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,—

Act means the [Resource Management Act 1991](#)

back-up device means a heat device that produces industrial process heat—

- (a) for 400 hours or less each year; and
- (b) only when the heat is required but cannot be produced by another heat device at the site because its operation—
 - (i) is prevented by maintenance or an unexpected event; or
 - (ii) is not enough to meet a temporary, additional demand for the heat

carbon dioxide equivalent has the meaning given in [section 4\(1\)](#) of the Climate Change Response Act 2002

climate change effects, for a discharge, means the effects of the discharge on climate change (which are effects on the environment)

emissions plan means an emissions plan that satisfies [regulation 15](#)

existing, for a heat device,—

- (a) means a device that, before 27 July 2023, is installed and operational, or able to be operated, at a site; and
- (b) includes a device described in paragraph (a) after it is upgraded or improved; but
- (c) does not include a device that, on or after 27 July 2023, is installed in replacement of a device described in paragraph (a)

fossil fuel—

- (a) means any carbon-based fuel sourced from fossil hydrocarbon deposits; and
- (b) includes—
 - (i) coal, coke, diesel, liquid petroleum gas, natural gas, oil, peat, plastics, and used oil; and
 - (ii) any fuel wholly or partly derived from a fuel described in paragraph (a), including tyres used as fuel; but
- (c) does not include biomass or biogas

heat device—

- (a) means a device that produces industrial process heat (for example, a boiler, furnace, engine, or other combustion device); but
- (b) does not include a device used for the primary purpose of—

- (i) generating electricity, including a generator used for back-up electricity or for maintaining the electricity network; or
- (ii) transmitting electricity, including in mobile and fixed substations

high-emissions site means a site that, each year, emits more than 2,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gases from heat devices that—

- (a) burn any fossil fuel; and
- (b) are not back-up devices

industrial process heat—

- (a) means thermal energy that is used—
 - (i) in industrial processes, including in manufacturing and in the processing of raw materials; or
 - (ii) to grow plants or other photosynthesising organisms indoors; but
- (b) does not include thermal energy used in the warming of spaces for people's comfort (for example, heating of commercial offices)

low-emissions site means a site that, each year, emits less than 500 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gases from heat devices that—

- (a) burn any fossil fuel; and
- (b) are not back-up devices

new, for a heat device, means not existing

service means an end-use for which industrial process heat is produced

site means 1 or more parcels of land (whether or not they are contiguous) that are managed as a single operation.

4 Transitional, savings, and related provisions

The transitional, savings, and related provisions set out in [Schedule 1](#) have effect according to their terms.

5 Regulations apply only to certain effects

These regulations apply—

- (a) only to the climate change effects of the discharge of any greenhouse gas into the air (*see* [section 15\(2\)](#) of the Act); and
- (b) in addition to any other regulations, rules, or requirements about other effects of the discharge.

Part 1

Activities of discharging greenhouse gases from heat devices

Device burns coal

- 6 Restricted discretionary activity: device burns coal, delivers heat at $\geq 300^{\circ}\text{C}$, etc**
- (1) The discharge of any greenhouse gas from a heat device is a restricted discretionary activity if the device—
- burns coal; and
 - delivers heat at or above 300°C ; and
 - is not a back-up device; and
 - is not on a low-emissions site.
- (2) The discretion of a consent authority is restricted to the matters specified in—
- [regulations 16](#) and [17](#), if the device is new; or
 - [regulation 17](#), if the device is existing.
- (3) A resource consent granted for the activity must—
- last for the term specified in [regulation 18](#); and
 - impose the conditions specified in [regulation 19](#).
- 7 Prohibited activity: device is new, burns coal, and delivers heat at $< 300^{\circ}\text{C}$**
- The discharge of any greenhouse gas from a heat device is a prohibited activity if the device—
- is new; and
 - burns coal; and
 - delivers heat below 300°C .
- 8 Restricted discretionary activity (before 2037): device is existing, burns coal, delivers heat at $< 300^{\circ}\text{C}$, etc**
- (1) The discharge of any greenhouse gas from a heat device is a restricted discretionary activity if the device—
- is existing; and
 - burns coal; and
 - delivers heat below 300°C ; and
 - is not a back-up device; and
 - is not on a low-emissions site.
- (2) The discretion of a consent authority is restricted to the matters specified in [regulation 17](#).

- (3) A resource consent granted for the activity must—
- (a) last for the term specified in [regulation 18](#); and
 - (b) impose the conditions specified in [regulation 19](#).
- (4) This regulation is revoked on 1 January 2037.
- 9 Prohibited activity (from 2037): device is existing, burns coal, and delivers heat at <300°C**
- (1) The discharge of any greenhouse gas from a heat device is a prohibited activity if the device—
- (a) is existing; and
 - (b) burns coal; and
 - (c) delivers heat below 300°C.
- (2) This regulation takes effect on 1 January 2037.

Device burns fossil fuel (not coal)

- 10 Restricted discretionary activity: device burns fossil fuel (not coal), etc**
- (1) The discharge of any greenhouse gas from a heat device is a restricted discretionary activity if the device—
- (a) burns any fossil fuel other than coal; and
 - (b) is not a back-up device; and
 - (c) is not on a low-emissions site.
- (2) The discretion of a consent authority is restricted to the matters specified in—
- (a) [regulations 16](#) and [17](#), if the device is new; or
 - (b) [regulation 17](#), if the device is existing.
- (3) A resource consent granted for the activity must—
- (a) last for the term specified in [regulation 18](#); and
 - (b) impose the conditions specified in [regulation 19](#).

Part 2

Granting of resource consents for restricted discretionary activities

Requirements for granting resource consents for restricted discretionary activities

11 Requirements for granting resource consents for restricted discretionary activities

A resource consent may be granted for a restricted discretionary activity under these regulations only if [regulations 12 to 14](#) have been complied with.

12 Consent authority must decide about site-wide approach to resource consent

- (1) This regulation applies if a consent authority receives an application for a resource consent that—
 - (a) is for any restricted discretionary activity or activities, on a site, under these regulations; and
 - (b) involves 2 or more heat devices on the site, whether new or existing, or both (the **relevant heat devices**).
- (2) In determining the application in respect of the relevant heat devices, the consent authority must decide whether to apply a site-wide approach.
- (3) Under a site-wide approach, the consent authority—
 - (a) considers the total climate change effects of the discharges from all of the relevant heat devices; and
 - (b) if granting the resource consent, imposes any conditions (for example, a condition requiring compliance with an emissions plan, including any emissions reduction target in the plan) by reference to all of the relevant heat devices.

13 Applicant must propose emissions plan

The applicant for a resource consent for a restricted discretionary activity under these regulations must include with their application a proposed emissions plan for the activity.

14 Suitably qualified person must review proposed emissions plan for high-emissions site

- (1) This regulation applies if a restricted discretionary activity under these regulations relates to a heat device on a high-emissions site.
- (2) The applicant for a resource consent for the activity must provide to a suitably qualified person the proposed emissions plan that they intend to include in their application under [regulation 13](#).
- (3) The applicant must ensure that, at the applicant's cost, the suitably qualified person—
 - (a) reviews the proposed emissions plan, including its assessment of the best practicable option; and
 - (b) gives recommendations about whether—
 - (i) the proposed emissions plan satisfies [regulation 15](#); and
 - (ii) the assessment of the best practicable option is correct; and
 - (c) gives reasons for the recommendations.
- (4) The applicant must include the suitably qualified person's recommendations and reasons with their application to the consent authority.

- (5) In this regulation, **suitably qualified person** means a practitioner or other person who the relevant consent authority determines—
- (a) has expertise in the technology and practices of industrial process heat and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and
 - (b) is suitably qualified to provide an independent review and recommendations relating to the discharge of any greenhouse gas from a heat device.

15 Purpose and content of emissions plan

- (1) This regulation sets out the purpose and content of an emissions plan for a restricted discretionary activity.
- (2) The purpose is to set out actions and methods to reduce the carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gases discharged from the activity (the **emissions**), including by meeting any emissions reduction targets, in order to encourage, over time,—
 - (a) best practices in energy efficiency; and
 - (b) the transition from heat devices that burn fossil fuels to those that reduce the adverse climate change effects by—
 - (i) using different fuel sources or no fuel; and
 - (ii) emitting lower, or zero, emissions.
- (3) The content must include the following matters:
 - (a) the purpose of the activity and the 1 or more services to which it relates;
 - (b) the number of heat devices that are not back-up devices and are on, or proposed for, the site of the activity, and their age and fuel source (if any);
 - (c) both the thermal energy that is, or is to be, produced, and the thermal energy that is able to be produced, by—
 - (i) the heat device on or proposed for the site, if there is 1 such device; or
 - (ii) the heat devices on or proposed for the site, in total but separated by fuel source (if any), if there are 2 or more such devices;
 - (d) if the activity involves a new heat device, an assessment of any technically feasible and financially viable lower-emissions alternatives (as defined by [regulation 16\(2\)](#)) to the heat device;
 - (e) for any new or existing heat device that the activity involves,—
 - (i) an assessment of the best practicable option to prevent or minimise any actual or likely adverse climate change effect of—
 - (A) the activity; and

- (B) other discharges of greenhouse gases from all heat devices that are not back-up devices and are on or proposed for the same site (if any):
 - (ii) an assessment of any energy efficiency improvements that are available for the activity;
 - (iii) whether, and how, any of those improvements will be made;
 - (iv) a transition pathway that sets out—
 - (A) actions or methods to prevent or minimise the emissions and the adverse climate change effects of the activity; and
 - (B) emissions reduction targets for the activity that are appropriate for the scale, type, and site-specific circumstances of the activity, unless the best practicable option under subparagraph (i) provides no reasonable prospect of reducing the emissions during the term of the resource consent.
- (4) The content may include anything else relating to a matter to which the consent authority's discretion is restricted for the activity.
- (5) To avoid doubt, subclause (3)(b), (c), and (e)(i)(B) applies to all heat devices that are not back-up devices and are on or proposed for a site,—
 - (a) whether or not an existing resource consent applies to the devices, but subject to [section 43B\(6\) to \(7\)](#) of the Act (which states how existing resource consents prevail over these regulations); and
 - (b) whether or not they burn any fossil fuel.

Restricted discretionary activity: matters to which discretion is restricted

16 Matter specific to new device

- (1) For any restricted discretionary activity under these regulations that involves a new heat device, the specific matter to which a consent authority's discretion is restricted is the assessment of any technically feasible and financially viable lower-emissions alternatives to the heat device.
- (2) A **technically feasible and financially viable lower-emissions alternative** is an alternative to the proposed heat device that—
 - (a) provides an equivalent service while discharging a lower, or zero, carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gases; and
 - (b) is technically feasible for the applicant to use to provide the service, having regard to the current state of technical knowledge and the likelihood that the alternative can be successfully applied; and
 - (c) is financially viable, taking into account the following expected costs and benefits during a 20-year period starting on the date of the application:
 - (i) all capital costs:

- (ii) all operating costs:
- (iii) any financial benefits.

17 Matters common to new and existing devices

- (1) For any restricted discretionary activity under these regulations, the common matters to which a consent authority's discretion is restricted are as follows:
 - (a) the assessment of the best practicable option to prevent or minimise any actual or likely adverse climate change effect of—
 - (i) the activity; and
 - (ii) other discharges of greenhouse gases from all heat devices that are not back-up devices and are on or proposed for the same site (if any):
 - (b) the assessment of any energy efficiency improvements that are available for the activity:
 - (c) the actions or methods to prevent or minimise the carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gases discharged from the activity (the **emissions**) and the adverse climate change effects of the activity:
 - (d) any emissions reduction targets for the activity:
 - (e) the content of an emissions plan for the activity:
 - (f) requirements for the person to monitor the activity and report on it to the consent authority:
 - (g) the time frame for the consent authority to review the conditions of a resource consent granted for the activity.
- (2) To avoid doubt, subclause (1)(a)(ii) applies to all heat devices that are not back-up devices and are on or proposed for a site,—
 - (a) whether or not an existing resource consent applies to the devices, but subject to [section 43B\(6\) to \(7\)](#) of the Act (which states how existing resource consents prevail over these regulations); and
 - (b) whether or not they burn any fossil fuel.

Restricted discretionary activity: term of resource consent and its conditions

18 Term of resource consent for new and existing devices

- (1) This regulation specifies the term for which a resource consent must be granted for a restricted discretionary activity under these regulations.
- (2) If the activity relates to a new heat device, the term must be 20 years or less.
- (3) If the activity relates to an existing heat device, the term—
 - (a) must be 10 years or less; and
 - (b) if the heat device burns coal and delivers heat below 300°C, must end before 1 January 2037.

19 Conditions of resource consent for new and existing devices

- (1) For any restricted discretionary activity under these regulations, the conditions that must be imposed in a resource consent granted for the activity are specified in this regulation.
- (2) The first condition requires the holder to adopt the best practicable option described by [regulation 17\(1\)\(a\)](#), as assessed by the consent authority.
- (3) The second condition requires the holder to comply with an emissions plan for the activity that the consent authority has determined satisfies [regulation 15](#).
- (4) The third condition requires the holder to monitor their compliance with the emissions plan, including any emissions reduction targets, and to report to the consent authority on their monitoring.
- (5) To avoid doubt, other conditions may be imposed in accordance with [section 104C\(3\)](#) of the Act.

Schedule 1

Transitional, savings, and related provisions

[r 4](#)

Part 1

Provisions relating to these regulations as made

- 1 Existing permitted activities under certain rules continue for 18 months**
- (1) This clause applies if, immediately before 27 July 2023, a discharge to which these regulations apply is a permitted activity under a regional rule that has legal effect.
- (2) The discharge remains a permitted activity under the rule until the end of 26 January 2025, or until the rule ends if that happens sooner, despite the rule being more lenient than these regulations.
- (3) See [sections 43A\(1\)\(e\)](#) and [43B\(3\)](#) of the Act.
- 2 Existing activities under discharge permits**
- See [section 43B\(6\) to \(9\)](#) of the Act.

Diana Hawker,
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council.

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general effect.

These regulations are the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat) Regulations 2023. They come into force on 27 July 2023.

The regulations relate to—

- heat devices that produce industrial process heat (for example, boilers, furnaces, or engines); and
- the climate change effects of the discharge of any greenhouse gas into the air (a **discharge**).

If a discharge is an existing permitted activity under a regional rule that has legal effect, it remains a permitted activity under that rule for 18 months after 27 July 2023.

Part 1: activities of discharging greenhouse gases from heat devices

Heat devices that burn coal

The following relates to heat devices that burn coal.

For a device that delivers heat at or above 300°C, it is a restricted discretionary activity to discharge from a device (whether new or existing) unless it is a back-up device or on a low-emissions site (*see [regulation 6](#)*).

For a device that delivers heat below 300°C,—

- discharging from a new device is a prohibited activity (*see [regulation 7](#)*);
- discharging from an existing device is—
 - a restricted discretionary activity before 2037 unless it is a back-up device or on a low-emissions site (*see [regulation 8](#)*);
 - a prohibited activity from 2037 (*see [regulation 9](#)*).

Heat devices that burn other fossil fuel

The following relates to heat devices that burn any fossil fuel other than coal.

It is a restricted discretionary activity to discharge from a device (whether new or existing) unless it is a back-up device or on a low-emissions site (*see [regulation 10](#)*).

Part 2: granting of resource consents for restricted discretionary activities

A resource consent may be granted for a restricted discretionary activity under the regulations only if—

- the consent authority first decides whether to apply a site-wide approach, if applicable (*see [regulation 12](#)*); and
- the applicant provides a proposed emissions plan for the activity (*see [regulation 13](#)*); and
- for a heat device on a high-emissions site, the applicant obtains and provides a suitably qualified person's recommendations and reasons relating to the proposed emissions plan (*see [regulation 14](#)*).

Regulation 15 sets out the purpose of an emissions plan and its required content.

If a restricted discretionary activity involves a new device, the discretion of a consent authority is restricted to the specific matter specified in *regulation 16* and the common matters specified in *regulation 17*. If a restricted discretionary activity involves an existing device, discretion is restricted to the common matters. In either case, a resource consent for the activity must last for the term specified in *regulation 18* and impose the conditions specified in *regulation 19*.

Regulatory impact statement

The Ministry for the Environment produced a regulatory impact statement on 17 August 2021 to help inform the decisions taken by the Government relating to the contents of this instrument.

A copy of the regulatory impact statement can be found at—

Explanatory note	Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat) Regulations 2023	2023/165
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- <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/regulatory-impact-statement-national-direction-under-the-rma-on-industrial-greenhouse-gas-emissions/>
- <https://treasury.govt.nz/publications/informationreleases/ris>

Issued under the authority of the [Legislation Act 2019](#).

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 29 June 2023.

These regulations are administered by the Ministry for the Environment.



National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat 2023



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Authority

This National Policy Statement is issued by the Minister for the Environment under section 54 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

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Part 1: Preliminary provisions

1.1 Title

- (1) This is the National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat 2023.

1.2 Commencement

- (1) This National Policy Statement comes into force on 27 July 2023.

1.3 Application

- (1) This National Policy Statement applies to emissions of greenhouse gases from fossil fuel-fired heat devices.
- (2) Nothing in this National Policy Statement applies to heat devices that are:
 - (a) back-up heat devices; or
 - (b) heat devices on low-emissions sites.

1.4 Interpretation

- (1) Terms defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat) Regulations 2023 and used in this National Policy Statement (including the term **technically feasible and financially viable lower-emissions alternative**) have the meanings in those regulations, unless otherwise specified.
- (2) Terms defined in the Resource Management Act 1991 and National Planning Standards used in this National Policy Statement have the meanings in the Act and Standards, unless otherwise specified.

1.5 Application of section 55(2A) of Act

- (1) The changes to regional plans required by the following provisions of this National Policy Statement are amendments referred to in section 55(2) of the Act (which, because of section 55(2A) of the Act, means that the changes must be made without using a process in Schedule 1 of the Act):
 - (a) clause 3.2;
 - (b) clause 3.3.

Part 2: Objective and policies

2.1 Objective

- (1) The objective of this National Policy Statement is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by managing the discharges to air of greenhouse gases from the production of industrial process heat, in order to mitigate climate change and its current and future adverse effects on the environment and the wellbeing of people and communities.

2.2 Policies

Policy 1: Discharges to air of greenhouse gases from heat devices are reduced or eliminated by:

- (a) avoiding discharges from new heat devices that burn coal and deliver heat at or above 300 °C, unless there is no technically feasible and financially viable lower emissions alternative;
- (b) avoiding discharges from new heat devices that burn coal and deliver heat below 300 °C;
- (c) restricting discharges from existing heat devices that burn coal and deliver heat at or above 300 °C;
- (d) restricting and phasing out discharges from existing heat devices that burn coal and deliver heat below 300 °C;
- (e) avoiding discharges from new heat devices that burn any fossil fuel other than coal, unless there is no technically feasible and financially viable lower emissions alternative;
- (f) restricting discharges from existing heat devices that burn any fossil fuel other than coal.

Policy 2: Regional councils consider the cumulative effects of discharges of greenhouse gases when considering resource consent applications for discharges from heat devices.

Policy 3: Holders of resource consents for discharges to air of greenhouse gases from heat devices update relevant emissions plans to reflect technological developments and best practice.

Part 3: Implementing objective and policies

3.1 Outline of Part

- (1) This Part sets out what regional councils must do, in addition to meeting the requirements of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat) Regulations 2023, to implement or give effect to the objective and policies of this National Policy Statement.

3.2 Cumulative effects

- (1) Every regional council must include the following policy (or words to the same effect) in its regional plan:

“Before granting a resource consent for the discharge of greenhouse gases to air from heat devices on a site, the regional council must:

 - (a) consider the total discharges of greenhouse gases from all heat devices on the site that the application relates to; and
 - (b) recognise that, cumulatively, all discharges of greenhouse gases resulting from the production of industrial process heat, regardless of volume, contribute to climate change, and any reduction in greenhouse gas emissions contributes to mitigating climate change.”
- 2) Terms used in the policy in subclause (1) and defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat) Regulations 2023 have the meaning in those regulations.

3.3 Updating emissions plans

- (1) Every regional council must include the following policy (or words to the same effect) in its regional plan:

“When considering an emissions plan as part of an application for a resource consent for a restricted discretionary activity relating to discharges to air of greenhouse gases from heat devices, the consent authority must consider:

 - (a) the timing and content of updates of the emissions plan to be made by the holder of the consent; and
 - (b) how those updates will reflect changes in technology and best practices.”
- (2) Terms used in the policy in subclause (1) and defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat) Regulations 2023 have the meaning in those regulations.

3.4 Progress towards achieving national goals

- (1) Every regional council must, on request by the Minister for the Environment, provide a report to the Minister on:
 - (a) the number of resource consents granted for, and the consented volume of greenhouse gas emissions from, the production of industrial process heat in the region; and
 - (b) the extent to which the discharge of greenhouse gases from the production of industrial process heat has been reduced through emissions plans and other conditions of consents; and
 - (c) the extent to which emissions plans have been implemented; and
 - (d) compliance with any other conditions of consents for the discharge of greenhouse gases into air.
- (2) If the Minister specifies the form of, and timeframe for, reports required by subclause (1), regional councils must, to the extent practicable, provide the reports in the specified form and within the specified timeframe.

Part 4: Timing

4.1 Timing

- (1) This National Policy Statement applies from the date on which it comes into force (see clause 1.2).

Public Notice of Amendments to Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki

Taranaki Regional Council gives notice that, in accordance with s55(2A) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the Regional Air Quality Plan for Taranaki 2011 has been amended to incorporate clauses from the National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Industrial Process Heat (NPS-GGEIPH 2023) and accompanying consequential minor edits.

On 27 July 2023, the NPS-GGEIPH 2023 came into force. The NPS-GGEIPH 2023 sets a nationally consistent framework for how greenhouse gas emissions from industrial heat production must be managed to protect the environment and promote the wellbeing of current and future generations. It directs regional councils to amend their regional plans to incorporate specific provisions from NPS-GGEIPH 2023. These clauses are set out below:

NPS-GGEIPH 2023 Clauses

3.2 Cumulative effects

“Before granting a resource consent for the discharge of greenhouse gases to air from heat devices on a site, the regional council must:

- (a) consider the total discharges of greenhouse gases from all heat devices on the site that the application relates to; and
- (b) recognise that, cumulatively, all discharges of greenhouse gases resulting from the production of industrial process heat, regardless of volume, contribute to climate change, and any reduction in greenhouse gas emissions contributes to mitigating climate change”.

3.3 Updating emissions plans

“When considering an emissions plan as part of an application for a resource consent for a restricted discretionary activity relating to discharges to air of greenhouse gases from heat devices, the consent authority must consider:

- (a) the timing and content of updates of the emissions plan to be made by the holder of the consent; and
- (b) how those updates will reflect changes in technology and best practices.”

A copy of the revised Air Quality Plan is available on the Council’s website and paper copies are available at Taranaki Regional Council’s reception.

Steve Ruru

Chief Executive

Taranaki Regional Council

AGENDA AUTHORISATION

Agenda for the Policy and Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29 August 2023

Confirmed:



22 Aug, 2023 8:15:10 AM GMT+12

A D McLay

Director Resource Management

Approved:



21 Aug, 2023 3:54:31 PM GMT+12

S J Ruru

Chief Executive