Part two

Resource management issues, objectives and summary of policies and methods to achieve the objectives of the Regional Policy Statement

Part two provides an overview of the regionally significant resource management issues, (including the issues of significance to iwi authorities) addressed by the Regional Policy Statement. They are addressed under the topic headings:

- Air quality
- Coastal environment
- Energy and infrastructure
- Geothermal resources
- Integrated resource management
- Iwi resource management
- Matters of national importance
- Natural hazards
- Treaty Co-governance
- Urban and rural growth management
- Water quality and land use
- Water quantity

Each topic includes a summary table showing all the objectives that relate to that topic and the titles of the policies and methods to achieve those objectives. The table also includes a reference to other policies that also need to be considered to gain an overview of the issue across the full scope of the Statement.

2.1 Air quality

While the Bay of Plenty region is generally considered to have good air quality, the region does experience localised problems that impact on the amenity and health of the community. Degradation of air quality can be caused by:

Odours – e.g. sewage;

Particulates – e.g. smoke and dust; and

Chemicals – e.g. spray drift.

Amenity values are the qualities and characteristics of an area that influence how people appreciate that area. Amenity values may be diminished through poor air quality. However, people should also be reasonable about the expected amenity of an area. What may be considered offensive or objectionable in an urban area may not necessarily be considered offensive or objectionable in a rural area. As an example, in rural areas background odours from agriculture and horticulture are part of the rural amenity and should be expected and anticipated.

The main sources of odour within the region are from geothermal activity, intensive agricultural activities, sewage-treatment facilities and industrial activities.

Particulate contamination can occur from a number of activities. Smoke emissions arise from many combustion processes, including domestic heating and farm burn-offs. Dust emissions arise from activities such as subdivision development, vehicle movements on unsealed yards and quarrying. Particulates have many adverse effects. These include lung and eye irritation, soiling of clean surfaces and a general reduction in amenity values.

A key air shed in the Bay of Plenty region is the gazetted Rotorua Urban Airshed. The Rotorua Urban Airshed has exceeded national environmental standards for air quality. The main cause is domestic fires used for home heating which release fine particulate matter. Although monitoring shows that air quality elsewhere in the region is meeting the national standards, it is still important to manage air quality. The Operative Bay of Plenty Regional Air Plan, in particular, plays a significant role through rules on discharges to air.

There is potential in the region for the use of cleaner renewable fuels combined with modern burning technologies. These can reduce fine particulate matter compared with non-renewable fuels.

A range of chemicals and combustion gases are released by industrial activities within the region. These emissions may result from activities such as pulp and paper processes or from the use of solvents. Sprays and chemical compounds, including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and fumigants (such as Methyl Bromide) used for horticultural, agricultural and quarantine or pre-shipment purposes, are also of concern when used inappropriately.

Conflict can arise when sprays affect other properties. The use of agrichemical sprays may result in significant benefits to community wellbeing e.g. through increased production and pest control and eradication, and limitation of biosecurity risk. However, the inappropriate use of agrichemicals has the potential to damage the health and wellbeing of communities.

The region includes geothermal systems which naturally discharge the odorous compound hydrogen sulphide (H_2S). In and around these geothermal systems the H_2S odour may be a feature of the existing air quality.

Greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, are produced from the burning of fossil fuels. Central government is responsible for managing the effects of greenhouse gases on climate change, where as local authorities are required to manage the effects of climate change on the environment. This chapter does not directly address greenhouse gases or climate change.

2.1.1 Regionally significant air quality issues

1 Impacts of odours, particulates and chemicals on amenity and well-being

Some odours, particulates, and the emission of chemicals degrade amenity, human health and well-being when they are inconsistent with the existing activities or air quality of the area or when they are not adequately mitigated. An example would be when dust soils surfaces or smoke odour is objectionable.

2 Effects of fine particulate matter on human health

Fine particulate matter harms human health. Domestic heating fires are the main source of fine particulate matter in some areas.

Table 1 Air quality objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 1 The adverse effects of odours, chemical emissions and particulates are avoided, remedied or mitigated so as to protect people and the environment.	Policy AQ 1A: Discouraging reverse sensitivity associated with odours, chemicals and particulates	133	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	City and district councils	211
			Method 6: Agrichemical users to apply best practice	Regional council	212
			Method 24: Provide information about reducing air pollution	Regional council	220
	Policy AQ 2A: Managing adverse effects from the discharge of odours, chemicals, and particulates	133	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 6: Agrichemical users to apply best practice	Regional council	212
			Method 24: Provide information about reducing air pollution	Regional council	220
			Method 53: Research and monitor the effects of discharges	Regional council	225
			Method 54: Research and monitor agrichemical spraydrift effects on human health	Regional council	225
	Policy AQ 3A: Managing adverse effects of fine particulate contamination	134	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 5: Bylaws to manage unacceptable levels of fine particulate contamination	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 24: Provide information about reducing air pollution	Regional council, city and district councils	220
			Method 38: Integrate management of airsheds	Regional council, city and district councils	223

2.2 Coastal environment

The coastal environment covers the coastal marine area seaward of the high tide mark, as well as land influenced by coastal processes. The inland boundary of the Bay of Plenty's coastal environment has been identified and mapped (refer to Appendix I). From the southern end of Homunga Bay, north of Waihī Beach to Pōtikirua (as per Map 1), the region's coastal environment contains significant habitats, outstanding landscape features and sites of historic heritage. The coastal environment also provides for a diverse range of human activities. The natural character ranges from the largely unmodified rocky headlands and bays of the East Cape, through the significant estuaries of Ohiwa, Maketū and Tauranga, and along the sandy coastline stretching from Ōpōtiki to Waihī Beach. The coast is subject to increasing population pressure close to the major settlements, particularly Tauranga.

Coastal waterways, estuaries and harbours also provide outstanding habitats for many species of birds, some of which are threatened species. Tauranga Harbour (Te Awanui), Ohiwa Harbour, Maketū Estuary and Little Waihī Estuary are nationally and internationally significant sites for shorebirds, meeting criteria for wetlands of international importance. The coastal environment also provides habitat for both marine and native freshwater fish species, several of which are at risk.

Coastal dune systems contain a range of threatened flora and fauna, including the northern New Zealand dotterel, variable oystercatcher, black katipo spider, moco skink, sand pimelea, pingao and sand tussock. The endemic nationally vulnerable Thornton kanuka occurs along the Whakatāne coast.

Tangata whenua have strong links with the coastal environment, value its mauri, its mana and all it offers. The region's identity and significance to Māori are closely intertwined with the coastal environment. Many sites are associated with iwi histories, traditions and tikanga Māori. For example, mahinga mātaitai (places to gather seafood) and tauranga waka (canoe landing places). Some of these sites embody spiritual and sacred values, such as urupa (burial places) and other waahi tapu. Of particular concern to tangata whenua is the damage and destruction of special cultural sites, as well as the discharge of human and other wastes into the coastal environment, which causes a loss of mauri to the water body and the region. Kaimoana is essential to coastal iwi and hapū relationships to the environment in particular as part of the tikanga of food gathering and as indicators of the health of coastal environments. The health and abundance of kaimoana can be threatened by the cumulative effects of landuse and development.

The coastal environment makes a major contribution to the regional community for general enjoyment, amenity and recreation. Access to the coast and the associated unique values of the coastal environment contribute to its attractiveness as a place to live and work and locate certain activities. The coastal environment of the
Bay of Plenty region includes major urban centres, existing and proposed settlements and nationally significant infrastructure such as the Port of Tauranga and the state highway network. Large areas of land based primary production exist and are anticipated to continue in the coastal environment. Many of these activities are essential to the social and economic well-being of the region. A majority of the region's coastal environment is in private ownership.

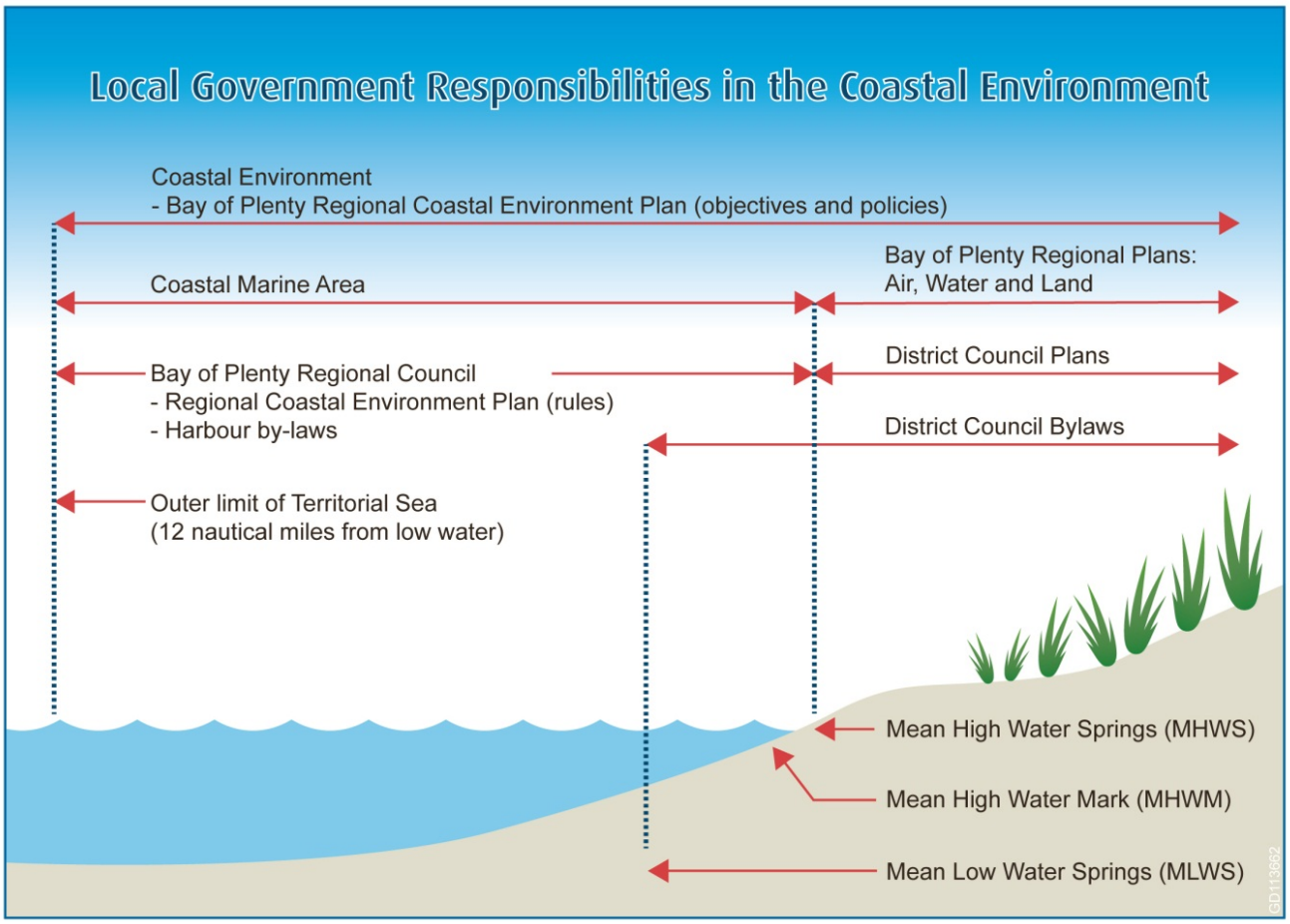
2.2.1 Integrated management of the coastal environment

There are several challenges to achieving integrated management of the coastal environment. Although mean high water springs (MHWS) is the jurisdictional boundary between district and regional councils, it does not mark the extent of the coastal environment. Land above the high water mark which is heavily influenced by coastal processes and is inextricably linked to the coastal marine area (the area below MHWS extending out to the 12-mile limit). The coastal environment meets a significant portion of housing demand within the region. Population growth and associated demand for coastal living and development increases the requirement for infrastructure and community facilities, some of which spans the "wet" and "dry" parts of the coastal environment and requires an integrated approach to planning. In addition, the coastal marine area is managed by several agencies responsible for different aspects such as fisheries, marine reserves and the allocation of coastal space.

The objectives and policies focus on identifying and providing for consistent management and providing for a collective approach to integrated management across the wet and dry parts of the coastal environment. This will improve the likelihood that the coastal environment is managed to recognise and value its distinctive characteristics.

The management of growth in the western Bay of Plenty sub-region has been provided for through the Urban and Rural Growth Management policies and methods and in section 2.8. In order to achieve an integrated management approach to urban development in these areas, as required under section 30(1)(a) of the Act, it is appropriate that all relevant objectives and policies be considered together to provide for sustainable growth of the sub-region and give effect to this Regional Policy Statement.

Objectives and policies directing integrated management of the coastal environment are located in the Integrated Resource Management topic area.



2.2.2 Natural character and the ecological functioning of the coastal environment

Natural character of the coastal environment exists on a spectrum from heavily modified “low” natural character as would be experienced in some coastal settlements through “high” for areas such as Ōkurei Point which still possess elements of pristineness to pristine “outstanding” natural character remaining on some offshore islands and Ōhiwa Harbour. Natural character of the coastal environment comprises natural elements, patterns and processes and includes the following attributes: biophysical, ecological, geological and geomorphological aspects; natural landforms such as headlands, peninsulas, cliffs, dunes, wetlands, reefs, freshwater springs and surf breaks; the natural movement of water and sediment; places or areas that are wild or scenic; natural darkness and experiential elements.

Healthy coasts, beaches, inter-tidal areas and estuaries are dependent on good land management within the catchment and the quality of the water (stormwater and wastewater) that reaches the coast. Sediment and nutrients from earthworks, stormwater, wastewater, horticulture, plantation forestry, bush, scrub and native forest areas and agriculture have all affected coastal water quality and shellfish beds in the past and continue to have an incremental or cumulative effect. Increased sediment and nutrient input has the capacity to change ecosystem dynamics, encouraging the growth of some naturally occurring but rapidly colonising species, such as mangroves, which can displace other native plant species and providing additional nutrient for nuisance species, such as sea lettuce, which can have a detrimental impact.

Natural character, natural function and biodiversity are also affected by activities such as seawalls, reclamations, vehicle use and earthworks, which affect the natural processes that underpin the proper functioning of the coastal environment by modifying the dunes, foreshore and the seabed. Hard structures such as seawalls and reclamations alter sediment movement along beaches and estuaries and can cause erosion problems in some areas and deposition problems in others. The incremental loss of the area above Mean High Water Springs as a result of coastal erosion and sea level rise may cause the coastline to migrate inland reducing the high tide beach area. Where private beachfront property development extends very close to this area the resulting “coastal squeeze” effectively privatises the beachfront and can increase demand for hard engineering solutions to protect private assets at a cost to ratepayers. Coastal squeeze can adversely affect biodiversity, ecosystem health, public access, recreation and the general amenity of the coast.

Successfully meeting the requirement to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment is difficult, as inappropriate development often occurs incrementally. Inappropriate development on the coast can reduce its capacity to act as a buffer from natural hazards processes; its ability to provide public access and amenity and its ability to continue to provide habitat for animals and plants that live in the coastal area.

While the Bay of Plenty Coast Care and Estuary Care groups are making significant progress in restoring the form and function of the region’s dune systems and estuaries, the natural character of the coast continues to face challenges from incremental loss and degradation in the face of pressure to meet the demands of the growing population.

In some cases there is an opportunity to make provision for enhancement of the coastal environment including through appropriately planned use and development.

2.2.3 Use and allocation of coastal resources

Coastal use and development can also result in conflict and competition for space, where uses and activities are not compatible or are not managed proactively and effectively. Management of coastal space to avoid conflicts, protect the rights of existing and lawfully established uses, retain amenity values and meet safety and navigation requirements is crucial and requires direction on which activities take priority, as well as guidance on managing the cumulative effects of coastal development. This can be achieved by providing direction (including in resource management planning documents) on the appropriate location and form of use and development within the coastal environment, encouraging development in areas where the natural character has already been highly compromised (except where areas and opportunities for restoration and rehabilitation have been identified) and constraining development on undeveloped land (except where land has been identified as an appropriate location of future urban growth within Appendix D and E).

The coastal marine area is public space, managed by regional councils, just as national parks are public space managed by the Department of Conservation. Unfortunately the Act does not have mechanisms to support the management of this common space in a way that sends fair economic signals to potential users. This can result in incentives to develop and effectively privatise public space. Poor integration with other marine resources legislation compounds the problem.

It is important therefore that the Statement provides direction to enable the appropriate location of activities with a functional need to locate in the coastal marine area such as ports and supporting infrastructure as well as recreational facilities. Direction is also required to minimise the amount of public space occupied by avoiding ‘unnecessary’ activities that could locate elsewhere, efficient use and sharing of space and discouraging speculation and the locking up of public space.

2.2.4 Coastal hazards

New and existing coastal development can increase coastal hazard risk if assets are located too close to dynamic coastal margins, occupying areas that are or may become hazard zones and interfering with natural coastal processes and defences.

Policies directing avoidance and reduction of coastal hazard risk are located in the natural hazard topic area. Coastal environment policies relate to the effect of hard protection structures on the natural character of the coastal environment.

2.2.5 Regionally significant coastal environment issues

1 Significant adverse effects on the natural character and ecological functioning of the coastal environment

The natural character and ecological functioning of the region's coastal environment is adversely affected by inappropriate land use and development, hazard mitigation works, earthworks, recreational activities, encroachment, grazing, changes in land use and the presence of pest plants and animals.

2 Effects of land use on Tauranga Harbour and Ōhiwa Harbour

A number of land uses surrounding Tauranga and Ōhiwa Harbours and estuaries throughout the region, have resulted in increased rates of sedimentation. Sedimentation can affect harbours and estuaries by making navigation channels shallower, degrading habitats, such as sea grass, shellfish beds and spawning sites, and changing the environment to favour mangrove growth.

3 Managing the allocation of space for a range of competing uses within the coastal marine area

Providing for aquaculture, recreation, wild catch fishing, Māori customary activities, regionally significant infrastructure and marine access ways in a manner that avoids conflict and considers the cumulative impacts of these activities on the public space of the coastal marine area and the adjacent shore is challenging.

Table 2 Coastal environment objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 2 Preservation, restoration and, where appropriate, enhancement of the natural character and ecological functioning of the coastal environment	Policy CE 1B: Extent of the coastal environment	134	Method 1: District Plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy CE 2B: Managing adverse effects on natural character within the coastal environment	134	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	221
			Method 55: Identify and advocate for ecological corridors and buffer	Regional council	225
			Method 56: Identify areas for restoration or rehabilitation of natural character	Regional council	226
			Method 60: Enhance the natural character of the coastal environment where compromised	Regional council, city and district councils	226
			Method 61: Assess and classify areas of Indigenous biodiversity	Regional council	227
			Method 71: Identify coastal vehicle access requirements and restrictions	City and District councils	229
	Policy CE 3A: Identifying the key	135	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council,	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	constraints to use and development of the coastal marine area		Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Maori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 34: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical; resources.	Regional council, city and district councils	222
			Method 61: Assess and classify areas of indigenous biodiversity	Regional council	227
			Method 71: Identify coastal vehicle access requirements and restrictions	City and District councils	229
	Policy CE 4A: Protecting and restoring natural coastal margins	136	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	221
			Method 34: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical; resources.	Regional council, city and district councils	222
			Method 35: Integrated Catchment Management Plans	Regional council	223
			Method 37: Investigate the use of large scale wetlands	Regional council	223
			Method 49: Improve biodiversity values of open spaces	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 55: Identify priority ecological corridors and buffers	Regional council	225

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 56: Identify areas for restoration or rehabilitation of natural character	Regional council	226
			Method 59: Protect, restore and enhance natural coastal margins	Regional council	226
			Method 60: Enhance the natural character of the coastal environment where compromised	Regional council, city and district councils	226
			Method 63: Provide and support environmental education programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	228
			Method 71: Identify coastal vehicle access requirements and restrictions	City and District councils	229
	Policy CE 6B: Protecting indigenous biodiversity	137	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 61: Assess and classify areas of indigenous biodiversity	Regional Council	227
			Method 71: Identify coastal vehicle access requirements and restrictions	City and District councils	229
	Policy CE 7B: Providing for the management of mangroves	137	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes	Regional council	221
			Method 34: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical resources within the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	222

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 35: Integrated Catchment Management Plans	Regional council	223
	Policy CE 8B: Ensuring subdivision, use and development is appropriate to the natural character to the coastal environment	138	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 69: Mitigate environmental impacts from the use of public space within the coastal marine area	Regional council, city and district councils	228
			Method 71: Identify coastal vehicle access requirements and restrictions	City and District councils	229
	Policy CE 9B: Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of coastal ecosystems	139	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 34: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical resources within the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	222
			Method 37: Investigate the use of large scale wetlands	Regional council	223
			Method 49: Improve biodiversity values of open spaces	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 53: Research and monitor the effects of discharges	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 55: Identify priority ecological corridors and buffers	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 59: Protect, restore and enhance natural coastal margins	Regional council	226
			Method 60: Enhance the natural character of the coastal environment, where compromised	Regional council, city and district councils	226

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 62: Identify coastal waters having an adverse effect	Regional council	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	228
			Method 71: Identify coastal vehicle access requirements and restrictions	City and District councils	229
			Method 72: Support industry led environmental accords, guidelines and codes of practice	Regional council	229
	Policy CE 10B: Managing adverse effects of land-based activities in the coastal environment on marine water quality	140	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 34: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical resources within the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	222
			Method 35: Integrated Catchment Management Plans	Regional council	223
			Method 37: Investigate the use of large scale wetlands	Regional council	223
			Method 53: Research and monitor the effects of discharges	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 61: Assess and classify areas of indigenous biodiversity	Regional council	227
			Method 63: Provide and support environmental education programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	227
			Method 68: Investigate mechanisms to reduce litter in and adjacent to the coastal marine area	Regional council, city and district councils	228

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 72: Support industry led environmental accords, guidelines and codes of practice	Regional council	229
	Policy CE 11B: Allocating public space within the coastal marine area	141	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 69: Mitigate environmental impacts from the use of public space within the coastal marine area	Regional council	228
			Method 71: Identify coastal vehicle access requirements and restrictions	City and District councils	229
	Policy CE 12B: Avoiding inappropriate hazard mitigation in the coastal environment	142	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
Objective 3 Equitable and sustainable allocation of public space within the coastal marine area	Policy CE 3A: Identifying the key constraints to use and development of the coastal marine area	135	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 34: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical resources within the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	222
			Method 71: Identify coastal vehicle access requirements and restrictions	City and District councils	229
	Policy CE 5A: Provide for sustainable use and development of the coastal marine area	136	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 33: Take a collaborative approach to the management of the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	222
	Policy CE 11B: Allocating public space within the coastal marine area	141	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 69: Mitigate environmental impacts from the use of public space within the coastal marine area	Regional council	228

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 4 Enable subdivision, use and development of the coastal environment in appropriate locations	Policy CE 1B: Extent of the coastal environment	134	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy CE 3A: Identifying the key constraints to use and development of the coastal marine area	135	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Maori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 34: Take a whole of catchment approach to the management of natural and physical resources within the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	222
			Method 71: Identify coastal vehicle access requirements and restrictions	City and District councils	229
	Policy CE 8B: Ensuring subdivision, use and development is appropriate to the natural character of the coastal environment	138	Methods 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 69 Mitigate environmental impacts from the use of public space in the coastal marine area	Regional Council.	228
	Policy CE 11B: Allocating public space within the coastal marine area	141	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 69: Mitigate environmental impacts from the use of public space within the coastal marine area	Regional council	228
	Policy CE 13B: Enabling sustainable aquaculture	34	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy CE 5A: Provide for sustainable use and development of the coastal marine area	136	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 33: Take a collaborative approach to the management of the coastal environment	Regional council, city and district councils	222
	Policy CE 14B: Providing for ports	34	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy CE 15B: Recognising secondary ports	142	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211

Also see:

Objective 10: Cumulative and precedent effects of existing and new activities are appropriately managed (Table 5)

Objective 11: An integrated approach to resource management issues is adopted by resource users and decision makers (Table 5)

Objective 12: The timely exchange, consideration of and response to, relevant information by all parties with an interest in the resolution of a resource management issue (Table 5)

Objective 23: A compact, well designed urban form that effectively and efficiently accommodates the region's urban growth (Table 8)

Objective 24: An efficient, sustainable, safe and affordable transport network, integrated with the region's land use patterns (Table 8)

Objective 25: Subdivision use and development in the western Bay of Plenty is located and staged in a way that integrates with the long term planning and funding mechanisms of local authorities, central government agencies and network utility providers and operators whilst having regard to the growth plans of relevant industry sector groups (Table 8)

2.3 Energy and infrastructure

2.3.1 Energy

Energy is essential to the region, in ensuring that people live in warm and healthy homes and in supporting economic growth. The Bay of Plenty region has a large and varied amount of industry, including manufacturing, commercial businesses, agriculture, horticulture, forestry and tourism. These industries rely on having a secure and consistent energy supply. The transport sector is another big user of energy, with substantial amounts of freight being transported into and out of the Port of Tauranga. For the next few decades at least it is acknowledged that some industries will continue to use and rely on traditional non-renewable energy sources such as coal. However, the national and regional priority will continue to be reducing the dependency on non-renewable fuels and increasing the development and use of renewable energy sources.

The region generates electrical energy through hydro and geothermal resources. Geothermal resources, are expected to contribute significantly to meeting New Zealand's energy demand. Supporting and facilitating the development of renewable energy sources and generation across the region is a key requirement for the Statement to address, including small-scale generation.

The main future renewable energy resources for the region are likely to be geothermal, hydro, biomass and solar (including water heating and electricity generation). Tidal and wind are not regarded as being significant renewable energy sources, due to the low wind energy environment of the Bay of Plenty. However, opportunities to develop energy from wind and tidal sources may be developed in the future or may exist in some parts of the region.

Demand for energy from more sustainable sectors is expected to grow and traditional energy sources may not meet this increasing demand. Also, the rate of population growth being projected in the western Bay of Plenty will require upgrades to electricity transmission lines and new substations to meet demand. Enabling the on-going development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing electricity generation facilities is of regional and national significance, because of the benefits it brings to all the people of New Zealand.

The long-term challenges for the region include securing energy at affordable prices, responding to the effects of climate change, changes in supply of fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. National and regional priorities are developing and facilitating a more reliable security of electricity supply, reducing reliance on non-renewable energy, greater use and development of renewable energy sources including small and community-scale electricity generation and using energy more efficiently and conservatively. Regional and district planning documents must provide for renewable electricity generation activities, while also having regard to other relevant objectives and policies in this Regional Policy Statement.

The location and functional constraints associated with the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of renewable energy electricity generation and transmission infrastructure may conflict with the protection provisions for significant ecological, landscape, and cultural values. Such conflict will necessitate the balancing of the benefits of the generation and transmission of renewable energy against the protection provisions contained within statutory planning documents.

The National Policy Statement on renewable electricity generation recognises the national significance of renewable electricity generation and promotes the development, upgrade, maintenance and operation of new and existing generation, so by 2025 90% of New Zealand's electricity will come from renewable sources. The New Zealand Energy Strategy (2011), the New Zealand Energy and Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (2011) and the New Zealand Transport Strategy (2008) set the national vision and actions for energy and climate change. This chapter assists in implementing some of these national targets, although the role of the Statement in reducing greenhouse gas emissions is limited under the Act.

The National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission recognises the importance of secure and efficient electricity transmission for New Zealand.

2.3.2 Infrastructure

This section should be read in conjunction with the urban form and growth management chapter, particularly its provisions on the integration of land use and infrastructure, transport planning and development.

Regionally significant infrastructure is different from other infrastructure due to its scale, function, and benefits to the wider region and in some cases to the rest of the country. Some types of infrastructure are both nationally and regionally significant, for example renewable electricity generation activities and major roads such as the Tauranga Eastern Link. It is critical to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the region's communities and their health and safety.

Management of this infrastructure is spread across a number of utility operators, local authorities and Crown agencies. Examples include regional strategic transport networks, airports, ports, tele-communication facilities and other utilities (water, wastewater, stormwater, energy electricity and heat generation and transmission networks), regional parks and public hospitals. Careful planning is required to ensure adequate servicing of new developments, particularly where existing regionally significant infrastructure is already stretched or at capacity.

Some types of infrastructure can, by their very nature, produce adverse effects on existing activities, including land uses, and for the community. Infrastructure can also be adversely affected and compromised by certain developments, resulting in reverse sensitivity effects and by other events such as natural hazards or future climate change effects. Such effects need to be managed in a planned and effective manner. Local authorities will need to develop provisions to address these issues. There are a range of statutory and non-statutory mechanisms relevant to infrastructure (including easements).

2.3.3 Regionally significant energy and infrastructure issues

1 Reverse sensitivity effects on infrastructure

Inappropriate subdivision, use and development can result in reverse sensitivity effects on existing or planned infrastructure, as well as the maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure necessary to support the sustainable growth of the region.

2 Ineffective integration of land use, regionally significant infrastructure and transportation networks

Ineffective integration between land use, regionally significant infrastructure and the region's transport network can result in development patterns that increase the need for travel, reliance on motor vehicles and inefficient movement of freight. This increases road congestion, emissions and energy use (particularly from non-renewable sources), makes infrastructure provision inefficient and expensive and limits the opportunities for more sustainable modes of transport.

3 Improving security of electricity supply

The Bay of Plenty region and the wider New Zealand electricity generation transmission and distribution network is at risk from supply disruptions and energy shortages. This can impact on communities' ability to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing.

4 Increasing the use of renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency and conservation.

Increasing the use of renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency and conservation will reduce greenhouse gases, increase security of supply and benefit the community.

5 Effects of infrastructure

While infrastructure enables communities to provide for their social economic and cultural wellbeing, it can also generate adverse effects, including on existing lawfully established land uses.

Table 3 Energy and infrastructure objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 5 Provide for energy efficiency and conservation and promote the use and development of renewable energy sources	Policy EI 1B: Promoting the use and development of renewable energy sources	143	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy EI 2B: Promoting energy efficiency and conservation	144	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 4: Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan implementation	Regional council, city and district councils	212
Objective 6 Provide for the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of, and the use and development of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy	Policy EI 3B: Protecting nationally and regionally significant infrastructure	144	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 4: Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan implementation	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 10: Liaise on cross boundary issues specific to Waikato Regional Council	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 17: Identify and manage potential effects on infrastructure corridors	Regional, city and district councils	214
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 51: Liaise on cross boundary infrastructure issues	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy EI 4B: Recognising the benefits from nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and the use and development of renewable energy	145	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 10: Liaise on cross boundary issues specific to Waikato Regional Council	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 17: Identify and manage potential effects on infrastructure corridors	Regional, city and district councils	214
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 51: Liaise on cross boundary infrastructure issues	Regional, city and district councils	225

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy EI 5B: Managing adverse effects of regionally significant infrastructure on matters of national importance	146	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy EI 6B: On-going generation of electricity from existing power generation schemes	146	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
Objective 7 Provide for the appropriate management of: (a) any adverse environmental effects (including effects on existing lawfully established land uses) created by the development and use of infrastructure and associated resources; (b) any reverse sensitivity effects on established, consented or designated infrastructure.	Policy EI 7B: Managing the effects of infrastructure development and use	146	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 17: Identify and manage potential effects on infrastructure corridors	City and district councils	214

Also see:

Objective 23: A compact, well designed urban form that effectively and efficiently accommodates the region's urban growth (Table 8).

Objective 24: An efficient, sustainable, safe and affordable transport network, integrated with the region's land use patterns (Table 8).

Objective 25: Subdivision use and development in the western Bay of Plenty is located and staged in a way that integrates with the long term planning and funding mechanisms of local authorities, central government agencies and network utility providers and operators whilst having regard to the growth plans of relevant industry sector groups (Table 8).

Objective 26: The productive potential of the region's rural land resource is sustained and the growth and efficient operation of rural production activities are provided for (Table 8).

2.4 Geothermal resources

The geothermal resources of the Bay of Plenty Region result from the tectonic activity of the Taupō Volcanic Zone.

Geothermal systems are found in a broad band from Waimangu to the south of Rotorua to Whakaari (White Island) off the coast in the north-east of the region. The concentration of high-temperature geothermal systems in the Taupō volcanic zone is associated with the Pacific tectonic plate diving beneath the Australian plate. Magma rises above this subducting and melting plate to relatively close to the surface. Heat is transported to the surface via deep-circulating water convection cells. In impermeable areas, this occurs more by conduction. In these impermeable areas there will be high thermal gradients that could make attractive targets for enhanced geothermal system, or deep (>3.5km) system development targets. Such areas may have little or no surface expression but still have potential to supply energy for heat or electricity.

The characteristics of the near-surface systems (less than 3 km below the surface) vary. Some have substantial surface expression, while others have considerable heat potential and few surface features.

The geothermal systems have a wide range of values, not all of which are compatible. They include features, landscapes and ecologies that are rare and have internationally significant intrinsic value. This intrinsic value and the experiences of use of geothermal water via spa and hot pools forms a tourism draw-card of great economic importance to Rotorua and the wider Bay of Plenty. Some systems and their features have immense Māori cultural significance. The low-impact use of these systems has occurred for 500 years or more. Geothermal systems are also the source of considerable energy which can be used for direct heat purposes or to generate electricity. This potential for electricity generation provides an opportunity for Māori land holding entities to develop multiple owned Māori land and generate social and economic benefits as well as providing for the on-going relationship of Māori landowners with their ancestral lands and associated resources.

The challenge is to manage the resource to support the intrinsic and traditional cultural values while providing for the use of the energy resource. This is done by taking a region-wide approach to the geothermal systems in the Bay of Plenty, and providing for the different values at a regional level, rather than trying to provide for all values within each system. Managing the geothermal systems in a sustainable manner requires understanding their capacity, and allocating and managing within that capacity.

For the geothermal resource, sustainability (over a defined period of time) and renewability are affected by the level of use.

“Sustainable use” acknowledges that a reduction in enthalpy (heat energy available for use) of the accessible part of the geothermal system could occur, due to extractive use. The extraction rates required for economic use mean that the resource could be used at a rate that could deplete it over a small number of future generations, making it economically unavailable for a few generations until the heat supply recovers. Use can also affect geothermal surface features. Assessing proposals for extractive use of a geothermal system will be done on a case by case basis in terms of the definition of sustainable use.

In the Bay of Plenty, allocation decisions must take account of potential use of the resource by several users within the same system, and take account of potential effects on the system’s Significant Geothermal Features (SGFs). Assessing the likely capacity of a geothermal system requires both monitoring of the system and modelling its likely response. Allocation of the resource to maximise its use requires a holistic understanding of the allocation parameters and impacts of all users. Without robust information a conservative management regime would be required, to provide a greater margin from potential adverse effects.

Rotorua has been built on top of what would otherwise be classified as a protected geothermal system, with many SGFs. Management of urban development to avoid exposing people to the hazards of geothermal activity and to protect geothermal features from the effects of intensive development are both required.

To manage the range of values and uses of the geothermal systems in the Bay of Plenty, the systems are classified. The purpose of the Bay of Plenty geothermal classification is to manage the region's geothermal resource sustainably by establishing different management purposes for different systems. In this way the extractive use of the resource is confined to some geothermal systems, while other systems are protected for their intrinsic values. The different classifications provide a management purpose for each geothermal management group, based on identifying the region's geothermal systems' physical characteristics. These also determine the potential for extractive use (heat or fluid). The way in which these characteristics are considered in the classification process is set out in Policy GR 1A and Table 12.

2.4.1 Regionally significant geothermal resources issues

1 Adverse effects on the intrinsic values of geothermal systems

The intrinsic values of geothermal systems, their natural features, ecologies and cultural value are vulnerable to the effects of surrounding land use, groundwater use and use of water from the geothermal system.

2 Allocation of geothermal resources

Geothermal resources are regarded as a significant source of renewable electricity in New Zealand. They also have intrinsic values in their natural state; have been used for hundreds of years for cultural customary practices, as well as being a tourism attraction. There is significant potential for the use and development of geothermal energy resources in the region. Using the regional geothermal resource for energy development and protecting its other values is a difficult balance. Management of values that have been detrimentally affected is also required.

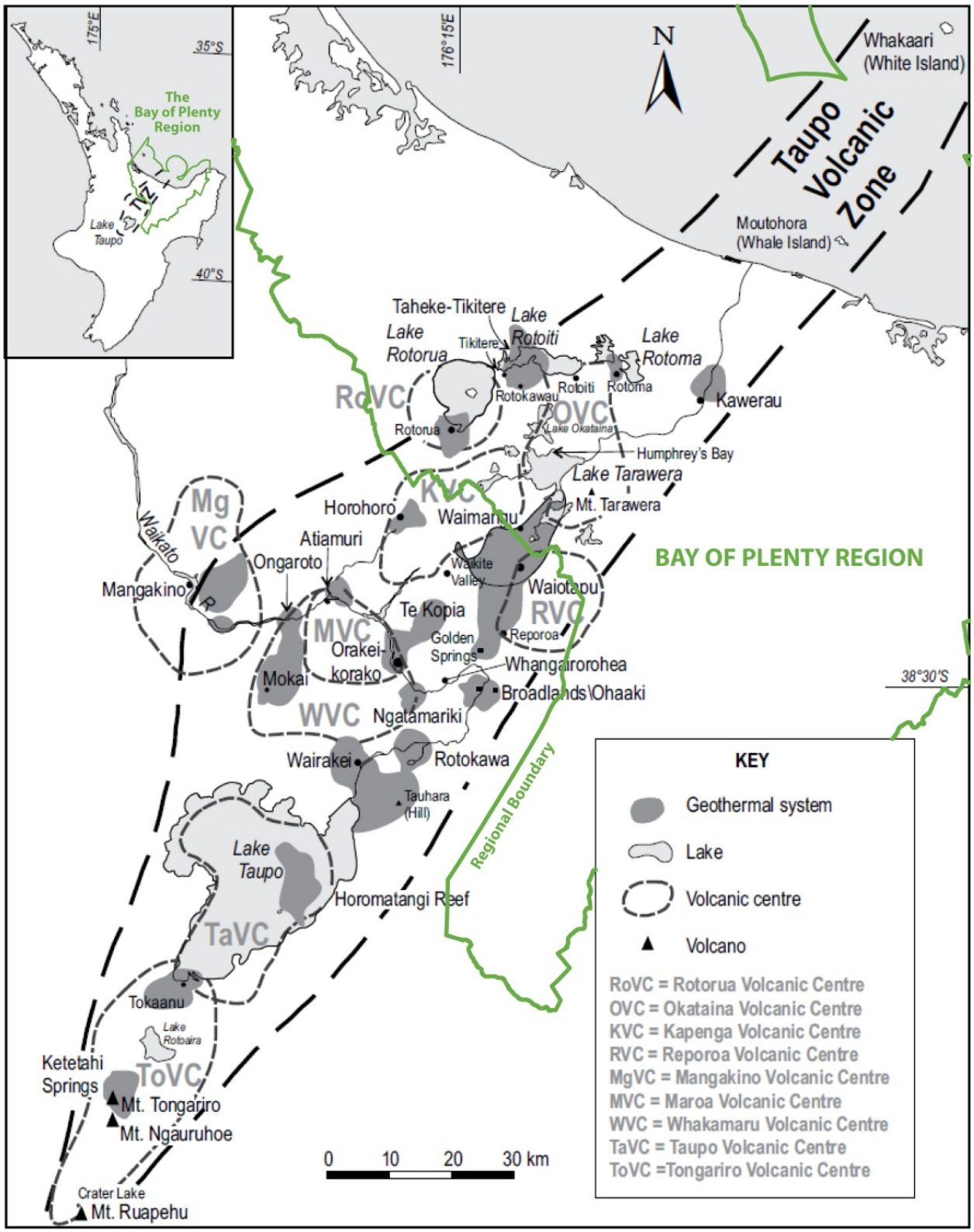
3 Lack of information

A lack of information and knowledge about the regional geothermal resource and effects of its use can create uncertainty for management of the resource, and it is difficult and expensive to assess the quantity and nature of the resource.

4 Need for integrated management

The interconnected nature of the resource necessitates an integrated approach to the management of the regional geothermal resource at a regional and inter-regional level to allow for its sustainable management.

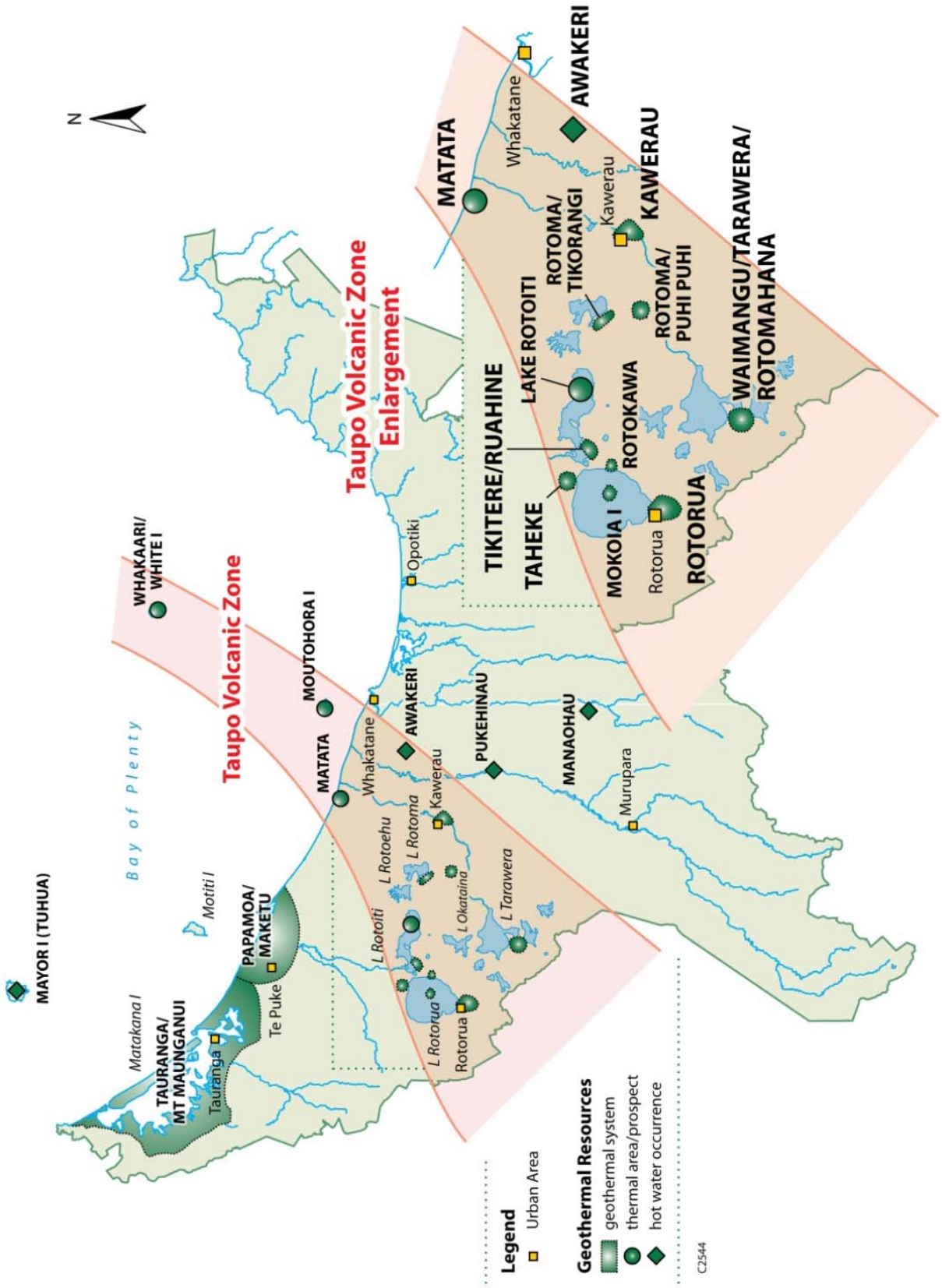
Taupō Volcanic Zone



Map 3

Map of Taupō volcanic zone. NB Accurate information on system connections and boundaries need to be sought elsewhere, as this map is indicative only. Source Waikato Regional Council map by L Cotterall.

Geothermal fields in the Bay of Plenty



Map 4

NB Accurate information on system connections and boundaries need to be sought elsewhere, as this map is indicative only.

Table 4 Geothermal resources objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 8 Holistic and sustainable management of the regional geothermal resource by providing for: (a) protection of some systems with Significant Geothermal Features; (b) enabling use and development of other geothermal systems; in accordance with each system's management purpose as specified in Table 12	Policy GR 1A: Requiring classification of geothermal systems	147	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
	Policy GR 2A: Requiring integrated management of geothermal systems	150	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 25: Provide geothermal environmental education programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	221
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	221
	Policy GR 3A: Providing for the sustainable use of geothermal resources	150	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
	Policy GR 5B: Requiring information for use of the geothermal resource	151	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy GR 6B: Managing geothermal use, takes and discharges	151	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy GR 7B: Requiring integrated geothermal system management	152	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy GR 8B: Requiring geothermal discharge to be in accordance with a discharge strategy	153	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy GR 9B: Assessing and managing effects on significant geothermal features	153	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 22: Assessment of significant geothermal features	Regional council, city and district councils	216
	Policy GR 12B: Protecting research systems	155	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
Objective 9 Development and use of land and non-geothermal water is compatible with protection, development and use of geothermal systems in accordance with each system's classification management purpose	Policy GR 4A: Protecting and managing significant geothermal features	151	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
	Policy GR 10B: Using geothermal resources and non-geothermal water	154	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy GR 11B: Requiring information for activities over or adjacent to geothermal resources	154	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy GR 12B: Protecting research systems	155	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211

2.5 Integrated resource management

Integrated resource management refers to relationships between agencies, users and their values, legislation, policy statements, plans, resource consents, and other mechanisms, which enable the promotion of sustainable resource management.

Effective and efficient resource management requires taking an integrated approach and working with other parties. It also requires taking a non-regulatory approach to achieve desired outcomes. Taking an integrated resource management approach ensures the region's communities are not caught unprepared by sudden or cumulative changes either in the environment, or in the pressures and demands on resources.

Integrated resource management requires a holistic view that looks beyond organisational, spatial or administrative boundaries. For integrated management to be effective and efficient it requires a coherent and consistent approach with agencies involved in resource management working together in a collaborative manner.

The division of resource management functions between regional and city and district councils requires close co-ordination to ensure an efficient allocation of resource management functions and duties. Duplication and omissions are inefficient and could also result in adverse effects on the environment.

Local authorities have many different, and sometimes competing, functions, including support for or involvement in the activities of others. There will often be opportunities to design activities so positive outcomes are maximised – for example, in providing and managing reserves, authorities can also promote positive indigenous biodiversity and natural character outcomes through the choice of appropriate species for planting. Land managers will often similarly have options to amend their practices to achieve positive environmental outcomes. It has been shown that adoption of better environmental practices can often provide economic benefits.

Overlapping roles and responsibilities of central and local government agencies can lead to confusion, inefficiencies and frustration. In some cases clear and consistent delegation and transfer of powers to the appropriate community of interest for decision making and control may be desirable.

Stemming from recognition of the inter-related nature of resources is the recognition that the appropriate scale of management will be different depending on the resource or issue. For example, attempting to manage water quality in one stretch of a river without addressing the upstream causes of degradation will have limited success, while the coastal environment is specifically identified as a management unit.

To achieve the best outcome for the Bay of Plenty region, it is necessary to ensure consistency in resource management approaches. This will be achieved through the amendment of regional and district plans to give effect to this Statement and adoption of consistent approaches and bottom-lines.

Taupo and Rotorua District Councils come under the regional policy jurisdiction of both Bay of Plenty and Waikato Regional Councils. Strong liaison and joint effort on cross-boundary issues will help ensure that the district councils are able to develop statutory policy in a way that efficiently and effectively accommodates the variables of governance between the two regions.

Use and enjoyment of resources is integral to kaitiakitanga and the relationship tāngata whenua have with their resources.

Some activities will be deemed appropriate despite the fact they will actually or potentially create adverse effects. This will usually occur when the positive effects the activity will generate are considered to outweigh the adverse. Notwithstanding the positive effects, the Act requires adverse effects to be remedied or mitigated where they are not avoided.

Investigations may be necessary to identify or confirm resource management issues or to determine whether a particular issue needs further action. Where a council does not have sufficient information or knowledge about an issue to enable it to adequately undertake its functions, further research may be needed. Councils should recognise that other parties incur costs in gathering and providing information to councils.

Integrated resource management needs to include a component that pays heed to the attitudes of people within their environment and communities of interest. Any particular policy approach can have an adverse impact upon communities, individuals or ecosystems.

2.5.1 Integrated resource management issues of significance

1 Inefficient use and wasted resources

Inefficiencies, wasted resources and adverse effects on the environment may result if councils do not have a mutual understanding of their roles, duplicate resource management effort, and resources are not used appropriately.

2 Inappropriate responses due to poor information and late involvement of affected parties

When issues are poorly understood, and key users, developers and protectors are involved late in resource management decision making, inappropriate responses result.

3 Understanding the changing environment and community concerns

Unless understanding of the changing environment, including the potential impacts of climate change, and associated community concerns is maintained, resource management will not be effective in addressing the adverse effects of activities.

4 Certainty about roles and responsibilities

Users, developers and protectors of resources seek certainty from those administering resource management about their roles and responsibilities.

Table 5 Integrated resource management objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 10 Cumulative effects of existing and new activities are appropriately managed	Policy IR 1B: Applying a precautionary approach to managing natural and physical resources	155	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 10: Liaise on cross boundary issues specific to Waikato Regional Council	Regional council, city and district councils	212
	Policy IR 3B: Adopting an integrated approach	156	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 9: Provide information to address matters of common interest	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 41: Collaborate on matters of shared interest	Regional council, city and district councils	223
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, Heritage NZ, city and district councils	228
	Policy IR 5B: Assessing cumulative effects	157	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 10: Liaise on cross boundary issues specific to Waikato Regional Council	Regional council, city and district councils	212
	Policy IR 6B: Promoting consistent and integrated management across jurisdictional boundaries	158	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 9: Provide information to address matters of common interest	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223
			Method 51: Liaise on cross boundary infrastructure issues	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, Heritage NZ, city and district councils	228
	Policy IR 7C: Allocating responsibilities for land-use controls for hazardous substances	158	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy WQ 3B: Allocating water	187	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional council	221
			Method 31: Voluntary Water User Groups and agreements	Regional council	222
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional Council	223
			Method 43: Promote the enhancement of mauri	Regional Council	224

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 44: Developing mauri models	Regional Council	224
	Policy WQ 4B: Establishing common review dates for the taking of water	188	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional council	221
	Policy WQ 5B: Reviewing resource consents for the taking of water	188	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional council	221
	Policy WQ 6B: Ensuring water availability	189	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional council	221
			Method 32: Prepare and provide information to reduce water demand	Regional Council	222
Objective 11 An integrated approach to resource management issues is adopted by resource users and decision makers	Policy IR 1B: Applying a precautionary approach to managing natural and physical resources	155	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 10: Liaise on cross boundary issues specific to Waikato Regional Council	Regional council, city and district councils	212
	Policy IR 2B: Having regard to the likely effects of climate change	155	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy IR 3B: Adopting an integrated approach	156	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 9: Provide information to address matters of common interest	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 47: Collaborate on matters of shared interest	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, Heritage NZ, city and district councils	228
	Policy IR 5B: Assessing cumulative effects	157	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 10: Liaise on cross boundary issues specific to Waikato Regional Council	Regional council	212
	Policy IR 7C: Allocating responsibilities for land-use controls for hazardous substances	158	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy IR 8C: Allocating responsibilities for land-use controls for indigenous biodiversity	159	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy IR 9B: Taking an integrated approach towards biosecurity	159	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 12 The timely exchange, consideration of and response to relevant information by all parties with an interest in the resolution of a resource management issue	Policy IR 4B: Using consultation in the identification and resolution of resource management issues	156	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 40: Promote the development of a rural advisory panel	Regional council	223
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
	Policy IW 3B: Recognising the Treaty in the exercise of functions and powers under the Act	161	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing Pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy IW 6B: Encouraging tangata whenua to identify measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse cultural effects	163	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing Pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225

Also see:

Objective 14: Partnerships between Bay of Plenty Regional Council, district and city councils and iwi authorities (Table 6).

2.6 Iwi resource management

Resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities in the region are required by section 62(1)(b)(i) of the Act to be identified and included in the Statement. Issues of significance to iwi are those which have arisen consistently during consultation undertaken with iwi authorities and hapū through the review of the Operative Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement, and a comprehensive analysis of planning documents recognised by iwi authorities of the region and lodged with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

2.6.1 The Māori environmental resource management system

The Māori environmental resource management system is based on the traditional beliefs of Māori, starting from the creation. Ranginui (sky father) and Papatuanuku (mother earth) are the parents, and from their union came atua or gods who became the first kaitiaki of the domains of the world of light, te ao marama, and presided over domains in the natural world. Principal among these were:

Tānemāhuta:	*atua of the forests and all living things within them.*
Tangaroa:	*atua of the fish in the sea and sea life.*
Tūmatauenga:	*atua of war and guardian of the marae atea.*
Tāwhirimatea:	*atua of the winds and storms.*
Rūaumoko:	*atua of earthquakes and volcanoes.*
Haumietiketike:	*atua of fern roots and other wild foods.*
Rongo-mā-Tāne:	*atua of the sweet potato and of cultivated foods.*
Tutewehiwehi:	*the grandson of Tangaroa and the atua of amphibians and the inland water creatures.*

The domains of atua provide the linkages across resources giving a holistic and integrated approach to environmental management. The relationship between atua, representing the environment, and Māori is expressed by way of kaitiakitanga.

The Māori environmental resource management system requires the healthy existence of mauri within individual natural, physical and metaphysical resources. The correct maintenance of this mauri guarantees the ongoing life of that resource. As traditionally practised, it ensures that resources are sustainably managed for future generations.

The goal of the Māori environmental resource management system is the maintenance of mauri through kaitiakitanga. Where the mauri may be compromised, the appropriate tikanga Māori and kawa would need to be followed.

Recognition of atua by Māori was achieved through the practice of karakia (prayer), kawa (protocol) and tikanga Māori (practices). This regime of social controls maintained the integrity of Māori society and led to a sensitive environmental management system. The key to this was the concept of mauri.

In maintaining the mauri within the domain of atua, a set of cultural practices was developed and became the tikanga Māori of tribal groups. There are some similarities across tribes but also some significant differences or variations. The concepts of tapu and rāhui are common to all tribes but with variations on the way in which they are used. Tikanga Māori sought to unify the elements of all things in a holistic way. It is an evolving process, able to adapt to modern circumstance from within the holistic and traditional framework. In this context the use of institutions, such as tapu and rāhui, are legitimate resource management tools.

The Māori environmental resource management system can interface with the western resource management system which has been developed largely on a scientific and secular basis. This requires evolving interaction and shared understandings. This process will have profound effects on the way decision makers view and manage natural and physical resources.

2.6.2 Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles

The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are to be taken into account in achieving the purpose of the Act to promote sustainable management of natural and physical resources of the region. Tangata whenua consider their rangatiratanga over their taonga have never been extinguished and that resource management decisions should be in accordance with Treaty principles.

2.6.3 Recognition of te tino rangatiratanga

Rangatiratanga generally relates to the principle of self-management or autonomy. Te tino rangatiratanga refers to the right of iwi to retain control over their tribal resources and taonga. Kāwanatanga is the exercise of governmental authority by the Crown and its delegates – local authorities. A shared understanding of the relationship between tino rangatiratanga and kāwanatanga is necessary for the mutual recognition by the Crown and tangata whenua of each other's rights and responsibilities.

2.6.4 Kaitiakitanga

Kaitiakitanga is a central manifestation of the Māori resource management system and should be recognised as both a practice and the result of a philosophy of resource management. The recognition of kaitiakitanga implies the recognition of kaitiaki as the implementers. Under the Act, 'kaitiakitanga' means the exercise of guardianship, and in relation to a resource, includes the ethic of stewardship based on the nature of the resource itself. However, tangata whenua understanding of kaitiakitanga is not so limited and embraces spiritual and non-tangible aspects as well.

2.6.5 Recognition of iwi, hapū and whānau

Māori society has traditional and well-established structures. Those having dealings with, or required to consult, tangata whenua, should be aware of the various levels at which tino rangatiratanga and mana whenua is exercised. Such bodies should ensure that they deal at the appropriate level relative to the issue under consideration.

2.6.6 Tangata whenua environmental values and decision making

In the preparation of policies and plans, consideration should be given to tangata whenua being enabled through resources and assistance to fully participate in the plan and policy preparation processes. Iwi/hapū concerns regarding consent applications are based on their historical treatment by local authorities, and the impact that this has had on the use and management of their resources.

Rangatiratanga should be recognised and taken into account in all resource areas, for example such things as the management and control of selected coastal and marine resources. The particular resources and types of control would be identified by tangata whenua in consultation with councils. These matters could include, but not be limited to, the management and control of waahi tapu and waahi tupuna (ancestral sites).

The Act provides a network of requirements and obligations on local authorities to incorporate many aspects of the Māori environmental resource management system in their resource management practice.

2.6.7 Degradation of mauri

Mauri can be harmed by insensitive resource use. For example, the health and vitality of the sea, streams and rivers and plants and animals they support can be threatened by activities – such as discharges of pollutants; stormwater and sewage; runoff of contaminants from land; excessive water use; changing the course of water bodies, or diverting water between catchments and rivers. Māori consider that rivers are the life blood of land and that the wellbeing of natural resources is reflected in the wellbeing of people.

Similarly, the mauri of the land and air and the plants and animals they support can be harmed by practices such as clearance of vegetation, soil disturbance and waste disposal.

There needs to be better interpretation by resource management decision makers of the effects activities and development have on mauri. Mauri in relation to water means life and the living. It has the capacity to generate, regenerate and uphold creation. Because of this, all living things in the water and its environs, are dependent on its mauri for their well-being and sustenance. Hence, each water type is seen as a taonga and is sacred due to the potential prosperity it can give to Māori associated with it. The mauri of each waterway is a separate entity and cannot be mixed with the mauri of another. There are clearly effects on mauri caused by water pollution, agricultural spray, fertilizer run-off and effluent discharges.

2.6.8 Development of multiple owned Māori land

Multiple-owned Māori land is more difficult to develop than land in general title. Local authorities are well placed to help hapū, Māori land holding trusts and incorporations and iwi plan for the strategic development of their land. Māori land is not valued solely for monetary considerations, there is a strong desire for tangata whenua to retain and live on or develop their ancestral lands for their social, economic and cultural well-being.

Facilitating the appropriate development of multiple-owned Māori land will promote the sustainable management of land as a natural and physical resource while also preserving, protecting, recognising and strengthening the cultural and spiritual aspects of the land. This involves the integrated, holistic and orderly management of the effects of development and redevelopment.

Maori land holding entities play an important role in sustaining and maintaining the relationship of Maori with their ancestral lands and taonga. Maori land holding entities represent the whanau, hapu and/or iwi who hold mana whenua and exercise kaitiakitanga over particular ancestral lands and resources within their care.

2.6.9 Iwi and hapū resource management plans

A considerable number of iwi and hapū resource management plans have been formally lodged with and recognised by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Iwi and hapū have clear expectations that, where relevant, these resource management planning documents will be considered in resource management decision-making processes.

2.6.10 Resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities

1 Inadequate recognition of kaitiakitanga, the Māori environmental resource management system and Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles

Kaitiakitanga, the Māori environmental resource management system and Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles are not always recognised, considered and provided for in resource management decision-making processes.

2 Insufficient protection of tangata whenua environmental values

Planning and resource consent decisions can provide insufficient protection of tangata whenua environmental values.

3 Inconsistent inclusion of tangata whenua in resource management decision making

Inconsistent inclusion by local authorities of tangata whenua in resource co-management and decision-making, particularly in terms of the Bay of Plenty's geothermal, fresh and coastal water resources.

4 Degradation of mauri

The mauri of water, land, air and geothermal resources has been degraded and needs to be protected and restored.

5 Difficulties developing Māori land

Legislative provisions, lack of infrastructure and prior planning and resource allocation means multiple-owned Māori land is often more difficult to develop than general land.

6 Inadequate recognition and provision for iwi/hapū resource management plans

Iwi and hapū resource management planning documents are not always recognised and provided for in resource management decisions.

Also specific to iwi and hapū authorities, but dealt with in the matters of national importance section, is the following issue:

7 Damage and destruction of special cultural sites

Waahi tapu, sites of traditional cultural activities and other ancestral sites and taonga with which Māori have a special relationship continue to be damaged or destroyed by land use and development activities.

Also specific to iwi and hapū authorities, but dealt with in the integrated resource management section, is the following issue:

8 Inappropriate responses due to poor information and late involvement of affected parties

When issues are poorly understood, and key users, developers and protectors are involved late in resource management decision making, inappropriate responses result.

Table 6 Iwi resource management objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 13 Kaitiakitanga is recognised and the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) are systematically taken into account in the practice of resource management	Policy IW 3B: Recognising the Treaty in the exercise of functions and powers under the Act	161	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy IW 1B: Enabling development of multiple-owned Māori land	160	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 57: Identify, map and protect view shafts	Regional council, city and district councils	226
	Policy IW 7D: Cultivating partnerships between iwi and statutory management agencies	163	Method 9: Provide information to address matters of common interest	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 47: Collaborate on matters of shared interest	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy IR 4B: Using consultation in the identification and resolution of resource management issues	156	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
Objective 14 Partnerships between Bay of Plenty Regional Council, district and city councils and iwi authorities	Policy IR 3B: Adopting an integrated approach	156	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 47: Collaborate on matters of shared interest	Regional council, city and district councils	224
	Policy IR 4B: Using consultation in the identification and resolution of resource management issues	156	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 40: Promote the development of a rural advisory panel	Regional council	223
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
	Policy IR 6B: Promoting consistent and integrated management across jurisdictional boundaries	158	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
	Policy IR 7C: Allocating responsibilities for land-use controls for hazardous substances	158	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy IW 7D: Cultivating partnerships between iwi and statutory management agencies	163	Method 9: Provide information to address matters of common interest	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 47: Collaborate on matters of shared interest	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
Objective 15 Water, land, coastal and geothermal resource management decisions have regard to iwi and hapū resource management planning documents	Policy IW 4B: Taking into account iwi and hapū resource management plans	162	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
	Policy IW 6B: Encouraging tangata whenua to identify measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse cultural effects	163	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy IW 8D: Encouraging the development of iwi and hapū resource management plans	163	Method 66: Assist with developing iwi and hapū resource management plans	Regional council, city and district councils	228
Objective 16 Multiple-owned Māori land is developed and used in a manner that enables Māori to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and their health and safety, while maintaining and safeguarding its mauri	Policy IW 1B: Enabling development of multiple-owned Māori land	160	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 57: Identify, map and protect view shafts	Regional council, city and district councils	226
	Policy IW 2B: Recognising matters of significance to Māori	160	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy IW 5B: Adverse effects on matters of significance to Māori	162	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy IW 6B: Encouraging tangata whenua to identify measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse cultural effects	163	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy UG 22B: Providing for papakāinga	180	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
Objective 17 The mauri of water, land, air and geothermal resources is safeguarded and where it is degraded, where appropriate, it is enhanced over time	Policy IW 5B: Adverse effects on matters of significance to Māori	162	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy IW 6B: Encouraging tangata whenua to identify measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse cultural effects	163	Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
	Policy IW 2B: Recognising matters of significance to Māori	160	Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 43: Promote the enhancement of mauri	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 44: Developing mauri models	Regional council	224

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy WQ 2A: Setting and applying instream flows and allocation limits for taking freshwater	186	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
	Policy WQ 3B: Allocating water	187	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
			Method 31: Voluntary water user groups and agreements	Regional Council	222
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional Council	223
			Method 43: Promote the enhancement of mauri	Regional Council	224
			Method 44: Developing mauri models	Regional Council	224
	Policy WQ 8B: Managing consented water takes to ensure efficient use	189	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
			Method 31: Voluntary water user groups and agreements	Regional Council	222

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Also see: **Objective 12:** The timely exchange, consideration of and response to, relevant information by all parties with an interest in the resolution of a resource management issue (Table 5). **Objective 18:** The protection of historic heritage and outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development (Table 7).					

2.7 Matters of national importance

Matters of national importance contribute to what is special about the Bay of Plenty region. They are part of our identity as New Zealanders, influencing our values and behaviour and structuring our lifestyles.

Under section 6 of the Act all persons exercising functions and powers under the Act are required to recognise and provide for matters of national importance including:

- Preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- Protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- Protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.
- Maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, rivers and their margins.
- Relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.
- Protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- Protection of recognised customary activities.

Historic heritage (sites, buildings or areas) comes under threat from a range of human activities and natural processes. The identification and protection of historic heritage and outstanding natural features and landscapes is important in retaining our identity and sense of history.

Tangata whenua connections with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga means that future generations of tangata whenua, as part of their identity, will have enduring, intergenerational connections with their taonga.

Tangata whenua, landowners and people who have lived in an area for a long time generally appreciate what is special about their place. As people become informed about their local historic heritage and natural features and landscapes, many welcome opportunities to participate with the community in the recognition of those values and places. Local knowledge may be valuable for increasing the wider community's understanding of its historic heritage and natural features and landscapes. In recognition of the wider appreciation of those values and places, the Bay of Plenty Regional council, city and district councils, along with other heritage protection agencies, contribute specialist knowledge, expertise and other resources to promote the management of historic heritage and natural features and landscapes and their protection for future generations.

The Bay of Plenty encompasses a diverse range of the nation's most dramatic and internationally recognised landscapes. These landscapes are strongly influenced by water, and include lakes, harbours, estuaries and a long, varied coastline, while geothermal surface features (geysers, mud pools and steam fields) contribute a distinctive active component. A range of landforms, such as mountain ranges, volcanic plateaux and coastal plains, add to the region's diversity. The region also includes areas of indigenous forest cover and plantation forest, which contribute strongly to the pattern of landscape.

Some natural features, such as those associated with the region's geothermal resources, Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour, Mount Tarawera, Whakaari/White Island, and the Motu River, are widely recognised. They contribute to what is special about the Bay of Plenty region. However, many historic heritage places are not obviously apparent, including numerous sites associated with human occupation such as waahi tapu and pa sites.

Historic places may include:

- Historic trails, military roads, boundaries and boundary markers.
- Landing places associated with early settlement.
- Constructions (such as jetties and wharves, dams etc.).
- Wrecks of vessels.
- Buildings and places associated with early history, or which are otherwise representative of a certain period or style.
- Notable trees.

Archaeological sites, both identified and unidentified, are a specific type of historic heritage which is protected by the Historic Places Act 1993. Historic heritage can sometimes be difficult to determine or identify and as a consequence may be unknowingly destroyed or modified. It is difficult to assess the significance of historic heritage, due to the fact that it may often have strong local recognition but little in any wider context. Also, the fact that much historic heritage remains inadequately surveyed or documented limits the assessment of its relative significance.

Heritage protection forms one of the key areas of iwi and hapū concern. This ensures culturally important elements such as marae, waahi tapu, language, care for the elderly, and cultural values are appropriately recognised and protected.

Waahi tapu (sacred sites) are of special significance to Māori. They give Māori reference points for direction and growth and ensure a stable cultural development. Removal or destruction of waahi tapu causes great concern and threatens the integrity of tribal identity and growth. These sites can be divided into two groups – those which are in the public domain and those which are known only to each particular iwi/hapū or whānau.

The Bay of Plenty region has a distinct assemblage of species, habitats and ecosystems which impart to it a unique and recognisable character. This character is dependent upon the interconnectedness and holistic nature of the constituent parts – they do not exist in isolation but are collectively essential to the wellbeing of the biosphere, upon which all life depends. If we weaken one element the ramifications are felt throughout the rest of the system. Conversely, by maintaining healthy and fully-functioning ecosystems we sustain the life-supporting capacity of the natural environment.

In order to maintain healthy ecosystems it is necessary to maintain species and assemblage diversity, and to enable the continued operation of ecological processes. However, maintenance of these can be achieved only by ensuring the survival of all indigenous species of flora and fauna, both rare and commonplace, in their natural communities and habitats. It also requires the preservation of both significant and representative samples of all classes of natural biological systems. These are addressed by specific provisions of Part II of the Act.

Natural character is a difficult concept to define. It includes at least ecological and physical values and may also include spiritual and aesthetic values. The Act requires recognition of, and provision for, as a matter of national importance, the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins (refer section 6(a)). Taking an example: at the broadest scale, the natural character of the region's coastal environment would certainly include the pohutukawa fringe of the eastern Bay of Plenty coastline and the broad sweep of sandy beaches from Waihī Beach to Ōpōtiki. However, natural character exists on a continuum of scales, from the broad to the detailed. Recognition of natural character at the detailed level will advance with time.

It is also difficult to identify significant habitats and ecosystems. These difficulties stem from research limitations as well as from limitations in information systems. Firstly, although there has been a vast amount of research undertaken on the ecological values of various parts of the region, much of it is dated. Very little of this research was undertaken using the same methods (i.e., there is little consistency to make comparisons meaningful), and there has been no detailed region-wide survey.

Given the costs associated with protection and management of natural ecological values it is necessary that priorities be determined. An accurate assessment of the value of an area is the first step in assigning such priorities. The difficulties referred to above affect the prioritising of areas for protection.

Although there are large areas of habitat already reserved within the Bay of Plenty, these do not encapsulate the full range of habitat types that comprise the biological character of the region. A great many types (or best examples thereof) exist only on privately owned land and often are not formally protected. The habitat types, which are under-represented in the protected area networks include: lowland and coastal forest and river habitats; geothermal, freshwater, wetland, estuarine and marine ecosystems; coastal dunelands and frost flats. The identification and protection of these remnants is of the highest priority, but must be undertaken in full consultation and negotiation with landowners.

The enhancement of public access to the coastal marine area, lakes, rivers and their margins (refer section 6(d)) is a key resource management issue for present and future generations. Where land is publicly owned, public access can be enhanced by providing walking tracks and recreational areas. Where land is privately owned, city and district councils can take esplanade reserves or strips as part of subdivisions. To date, there has been no strategic planning in the region to identify where public access should be enhanced.

2.7.1 Regionally significant issues for matters of national importance

1 Damage and destruction of special cultural sites

Waahi tapu, sites of traditional cultural activities and other ancestral sites and taonga with which Māori have a special relationship continue to be damaged or destroyed by land use and development activities.

2 Inadequate recognition and provision for matters of national importance

Places or areas warranting recognition and/or provision as matters of national importance are still being degraded and lost through inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

3 Risks to special areas in private ownership

Many sites and areas warranting recognition and/or provision for as matters of national importance are in private ownership, making them vulnerable to pressures of development, and placing the responsibility and cost for protection and management on landowners. A lack of awareness about the significance and management of these areas increases the risk to these places. The protection of privately owned representative ecosystems, communities and habitats is a high priority but requires meaningful and sensitive negotiations with relevant landowners.

4 Difficulties identifying and measuring cumulative degradation to matters of national importance

Matters of national importance continue to be degraded, often as a result of the cumulative effects of development and land-use changes. These cumulative effects are often not recognised and are hard to identify and measure.

5 Effects of growth and development pressures on access to the coast, lakes and rivers, ancestral sites and historic heritage

Growth, development and increased population pressures can lead to a loss of access to the coast, lakes and rivers, and undermine tangata whenua access to their ancestral lands, historic and cultural sites, and water for traditional cultural practices.

Table 7 Matters of national importance objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 18 The protection of historic heritage and outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.	Policy IW 2B: Recognising matters of significance to Māori	160	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 57: Identify, map and protect view shafts	Regional council, city and district councils	226
	Policy IW 5B: Adverse effects on matters of significance to Māori	162	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy MN 1B: Recognise and provide for matters of national importance	164	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites	Regional council, city and district councils	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	228
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, NZ	228
	Policy MN 3B: Using criteria to assess values and relationships in regard to section 6 of the Act	166	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, NZ	228
	Policy MN 7B: Using criteria to assist in assessing inappropriate development	169	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy MN 8B: Managing effects of subdivision, use and development	169	Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 19 The preservation of the natural character of the region's coastal environment (including coastal marine areas) wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins	Policy MN 1B: Recognise and provide for matters of national importance	164	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites	Regional council, city and district councils	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	228
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, NZ	228
	Policy MN 3B: Using criteria to assess values and relationships in regard to section 6 of the Act	166	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, NZ	228
	Policy MN 7B: Using criteria to assist in assessing inappropriate development	169	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy MN 8B: Managing effects of subdivision, use and development	169	Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
Objective 20 The protection of significant indigenous habitats and ecosystems, having particular regard to their maintenance, restoration and intrinsic values.	Policy MN 1B: Recognise and provide for matters of national importance	164	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites	Regional council, city and district councils	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	228
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, NZ	228
	Policy MN 2B: Giving particular consideration to protecting significant indigenous habitats and ecosystems	165	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	221
			Method 27: Provide information about sustainable land management practices	Regional council, city and district councils	221
			Method 39: Promote coordination among conservation management agencies	Regional council, city and district councils and the Department of Conservation.	223
			Method 49: Improve biodiversity values of open spaces	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 55: Identify priority ecological corridors and buffers	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites	Regional council, city and district councils	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	228
	Policy MN 3B: Using criteria to assess values and relationships in regard to section 6 of the Act	166	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, NZ	228
	Policy MN 4B: Encouraging ecological restoration	167	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes	Regional council	221
			Method 39: Promote coordination among conservation management agencies	Regional council, city and district councils and the Department of Conservation	223
			Method 49: Improve biodiversity values of open spaces	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 55: Identify priority ecological corridors and buffers	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 63: Provide and support environmental education programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	227
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites	Regional council, city and district councils	227
	Policy IR 8C: Allocating responsibilities	159	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	for land-use controls for indigenous biodiversity		Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy IR 9B: Taking an integrated approach towards biosecurity	159	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy MN 7B: Using criteria to assist in assessing inappropriate development	169	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy MN 8B: Managing effects of subdivision, use and development	169	Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
	Policy WQ 2A: Setting and applying instream flows and allocation limits for taking freshwater	186	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
	Policy WQ 6B: Ensuring water availability	189	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
			Method 32: Prepare and provide information to reduce water demand	Regional Council	222
	Policy WQ 7B: Reducing water demand	189	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 31: Voluntary water user groups and agreements	Regional Council	222
			Method 32: Prepare and provide information to reduce water demand	Regional Council	222
	Policy WQ 8B: Managing consented water takes to ensure efficient use	189	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
			Method 31: Voluntary water user groups and agreements	Regional Council	222
Objective 21 Recognition of and provision for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga	Policy IW 1B: Enabling development of multiple-owned Māori land	160	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 57: Identify, map and protect view shafts	Regional council, city and district councils	226
	Policy IW 2B: Recognising matters of significance to Māori	160	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes	Regional council, city and district councils	221
			Method 27: Provide information about sustainable land management practices	Regional council, city and district councils	221

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 39: Promote coordination among conservation management agencies	Regional council, city and district councils and the Department of Conservation	223
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 49: Improve biodiversity values of open spaces	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 55: Identify priority ecological corridors and buffers	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites	Regional council, city and district councils	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	228
	Policy IW 5B: Adverse effects on matters of significance to Māori	162	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy MN 1B: Recognise and provide for matters of national importance	164	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites	Regional council, city and district councils	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	228
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, NZ	228

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy MN 3B: Using criteria to assess values and relationships in regard to section 6 of the Act	166	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, NZ	228
	Policy MN 7B: Using criteria to assist in assessing inappropriate development	169	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy MN 8B: Managing effects of subdivision, use and development	169	Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
	Policy UG 22B: Providing for papakāinga	180	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy WQ 2A: Setting and applying instream flows and allocation limits for taking freshwater	186	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
	Policy WQ 3B: Allocating water	188	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional council	221
			Method 31: Voluntary Water User Groups and agreements	Regional council	222
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional Council	223
			Method 43: Promote the enhancement of mauri	Regional Council	224
			Method 44: Developing mauri models	Regional Council	224
	Policy WQ 4B: Establishing common review dates for the taking of water	188	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional council	221
	Policy WQ 5B: Reviewing resource consents for the taking of water	188	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional council	221
Objective 22 The coastal marine area, lakes and rivers are generally accessible to the public	Policy IW 2B: Recognising matters of significance to Māori	160	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	223

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy MN 1B: Recognise and provide for matters of national importance	164	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 8: Identify areas or sites in the coastal environment of significance or special value to Māori	Regional council, city and district councils	212
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing	Regional council, city and district councils	224
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites	Regional council, city and district councils	227

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	228
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, NZ	228
	Policy MN 3B: Using criteria to assess values and relationships in regard to section 6 of the Act	166	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 70: Taking an inter-agency approach	Regional council, Department of Conservation, NZ	228
	Policy MN 5B: Encouraging public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers	167	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites	Regional council, city and district councils	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	228
			Method 66: Assist with developing iwi and hapū resource management plans	Regional council, city and district councils	228

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy MN 6B: Restricting public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers	168	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites	Regional council, city and district councils	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves	Regional council, city and district councils	228
			Method 66: Assist with developing iwi and hapū resource management plans	Regional council, city and district councils	228
			Method 71: Identify coastal vehicle access requirements and restrictions	City and district councils.	229
	Policy MN 7B: Using criteria to assist in assessing inappropriate development	169	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
	Policy MN 8B: Managing effects of subdivision, use and development	169	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas	Regional council, city and district councils	213

2.8 Urban and rural growth management

An overarching framework is necessary to sustainably manage growth in the region to enable development of a sustainable regional urban and rural form.

Accommodating and managing growth can be a challenge, particularly where different parts of the region have distinct needs and pressures. The aim is to manage growth in a planned, sustainable manner while minimising the impact on existing communities and retaining the characteristics and values of the region.

The Statement seeks to direct and maintain compact, well-designed and strongly connected urban areas to effectively and efficiently accommodate growth. This urban form will ensure both urban and rural communities are physically connected and developed in an integrated, planned manner. Applying the region's high-quality urban design and live-work-play principles is an effective means of ensuring good urban form.

Growth is a regional issue because what occurs in one area will invariably have an effect on other places. Employment provided by business parks and residential activity provided by new suburbs or redeveloped established areas will affect the form and function of towns and transportation. Managed growth intervention recognises the actual or potential effects urban growth can have on people and communities, and the important role that efficient infrastructure (e.g., electricity networks, road, rail, ports, airports, drainage, telecommunications, dams, water and wastewater networks) plays in supporting settlement growth and prosperity. Managed growth intervention also supports efficient and effective servicing in a way that does not compromise the operation, maintenance and upgrading of infrastructure.

The protection and development of the region's strategic transport networks and corridors, including on-going connectivity between communities, are essential for sustainable growth. Such an approach will also support the development of ports, horticulture, agriculture, forestry, quarrying, tourism and future mining, manufacturing and production industries.

The region's key urban areas are:

- Eastern Bay of Plenty: Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Kawerau.
- Western Bay of Plenty: Tauranga City, Te Puke, Ōmokoroa, Waihī Beach and Katikati.
- Central Bay of Plenty: Rotorua City.

Between these urban areas are extensive areas of rural land and smaller settlements.

Management of growth and development within rural areas is also important, particularly given the existing and future importance of primary industries (including agriculture, horticulture, forestry, quarrying and mining) to the region's economy. Rural production activities (including associated processing plants and research facilities) contribute to social and economic wellbeing and are dependent on access to and use of natural and physical resources and need to be protected from constraints introduced by incompatible or sensitive activities.

The Bay of Plenty's population is steadily growing with the western Bay of Plenty sub-region projected to contain most of the population growth to 2021. Growth in the other districts is not expected to exceed 5% (Statistics New Zealand).

The western Bay of Plenty sub-region has determined through its 50-year growth management strategy (SmartGrowth Strategy and Implementation Plan, 2007) how the pressures of growth will be best managed in a time, resource and cost-effective manner. The districts of Rotorua, Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Kawerau have different pressures. Rotorua and Whakatāne District Councils have undertaken their own urban growth strategies.

The management of growth in western Bay of Plenty sub-region has been provided for through policies in this section and through the identification of Growth Management Areas as detailed in Appendices C, D and E. In order to achieve an integrated management approach to urban development in these areas, as required under section 30(1)(a) of the Act, it is appropriate that all relevant objectives and policies shall be considered together to provide for sustainable growth of the sub-region and give effect to this Regional Policy Statement.

2.8.1 Regionally significant urban and rural growth management issues

1 Un-coordinated growth and development

Sporadic and un-coordinated growth and development can adversely affect urban and rural amenity values, heritage, health and safety, transportation costs, the provision and operation of infrastructure, the use and development of productive rural land and important mineral resources, and access to community, social, employment and commercial facilities.

2 Land supply and inefficient patterns of land use

An imbalance of land supply, demand and uptake can have adverse economic and social effects yet it is very difficult to plan and predict. Inefficient patterns of land use and ad hoc development are difficult and costly to service and maintain. Unplanned growth and inefficient land use also have the potential to adversely affect rural production activities and to reduce the ability of versatile land to be used for a range of productive purposes.

3 Fragmentation of rural land

Productive rural land (in particular versatile land) is a valuable finite resource on which rural production activities rely. Those activities are in turn significant contributors to the regional and national economies. Fragmentation of the rural land resource for purposes unrelated to rural production has the potential to constrain or compromise the ability to use such land for a range of productive purposes.

4 Impacts of poor urban design and urban growth on communities

Communities which develop without high quality urban design and appropriate social infrastructure, including that necessary to cater for an aging population, are likely to be less cohesive and to experience reduced amenity. Poor urban design can also lead to reduced physical access and connectivity to facilities and open spaces, and a reduction in people's health and wellbeing. Patterns of urban growth which fail to reflect the aspirations, needs and concerns of existing affected communities are likely to be problematic.

5 Effects of urban and rural subdivision on natural features and landscapes

Urban and rural subdivision patterns create pressures that reduce the values of natural features and landscapes to people and communities.

6 Operation and growth of rural production activities

The continued operation and growth of rural production activities face competition for natural and physical resources and are vulnerable to constraints arising from sensitive or incompatible activities.

7 Conflict between incompatible or sensitive activities and rural production activities in rural areas

The efficient operation and growth of rural production activities in rural areas are at risk from the establishment of sensitive or incompatible non-productive uses (including rural lifestyle activities) through the creation of reverse sensitivity effects which have the potential to unreasonably constrain or inhibit the use and development of, as well as access to, regionally significant natural and physical resources.

8 Integration of land use and infrastructure

A lack of integration between land use and infrastructure, including utilities and transport, may result in poor infrastructure investment decisions, public funding pressures and inefficient land-use patterns and may also compromise the operation of existing and proposed transport infrastructure.

9 Intensive urban development

More intensive urban development is necessary to accommodate growth but has the potential to:

- Adversely impact on the residential character and amenity values of existing urban areas.
- Create unforeseen social, economic and cultural effects.
- Increase road congestion leading to restricted movement of goods and services to, from, and within the region, and compromising the efficient operation of the transport network.

Table 8 Urban and rural growth management objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 23 A compact, well designed and sustainable urban form that effectively and efficiently accommodates the region's urban growth	Policy UG 8B: Implementing high quality urban design and live-work-play principles	173	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 4: Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan implementation	Regional council	212
			Method 17: Identify and manage potential effects on infrastructure corridors	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 58: Investigate and plan for intensification within existing urban areas	City and district councils	226
	Policy UG 9B: Co-ordinating new urban development with infrastructure	173	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 4: Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan implementation	Regional council	212
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 19: Provision of infrastructure outside of structure plan areas	Regional council, city and district councils	216
			Method 50: Inform transportation strategies and funding	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 51: Liaise on cross boundary infrastructure issues	Regional council, city and district councils	225
	Policy UG 10B: Rezoning and development of urban land – investment and infrastructure considerations	174	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
	Policy UG 11B: Managing the effects of subdivision, use and development on infrastructure	175	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 19: Provision of infrastructure outside of structure plan areas	Regional council, city and district councils	216
	Policy UG 12B: Providing quality open spaces	175	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 67: Support rural structure plans	Regional council, city and district councils	228
	Policy UG 17B Urban growth management outside of the western Bay of Plenty sub-region	177	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
Objective 24 An efficient, sustainable, safe and affordable transport network, integrated with the region's land use patterns	Policy UG 1A: Protecting the national and regional strategic transport network	169	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 4: Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan implementation	Regional council	212
	Policy UG 2A: Identifying a consistent road hierarchy	170	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 4: Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan implementation	Regional council	212
			Method 13: Develop a roading hierarchy	City and district councils	213
	Policy UG 3A: Promoting travel demand management across the region	170	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 4: Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan implementation	Regional council	212
			Method 17: Identify and manage potential effects on infrastructure corridors	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 19: Provision of infrastructure outside of structure plan areas	Regional council, city and district councils	216

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy UG 13B: Promoting the integration of land use and transportation	175	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
Objective 25 Subdivision use and development in the western Bay of Plenty is located and staged in a way that integrates with the long term planning and funding mechanisms of local authorities, central government agencies and network utility providers and operators whilst having regard to the growth plans of relevant industry sector groups	Policy UG 22B: Providing for papakāinga	180	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	211
	Policy UG 25B: Targets for housing development capacity – western Bay of Plenty sub-region	181	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 14: Monitor and review growth – western Bay of Plenty sub-region	Regional Council	213
			Method 16: Consider amendments to the urban limits – western Bay of Plenty sub-region	Regional Council, city and district councils	214
	Policy UG 21B: Provision for utilisation of mineral resources	179	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing varying or reviewing plans	Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	211
			Method 52: Provide for the sustainable management of versatile land	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 67: Support rural structure plans	Regional council, city and district councils	228
	Policy UG 16B: Providing for new business land – western Bay of Plenty sub-region	177	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
	Policy UG 15B: Accommodating population growth through greenfield and residential intensification development – western Bay of Plenty sub-region	176	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	211
			Method 14: Monitor and review growth – western Bay of Plenty sub-region	Regional council	213
			Method 16: Consider amendments to the urban limits – western Bay of Plenty sub-region	Regional council, city and district councils	214

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy UG 14B: Restricting urban activities outside the urban limits – western Bay of Plenty sub-region	176	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	211
	Policy UG 4A: Providing for residential development yields in district plans - western Bay of Plenty sub-region	171	Method 1: District plan implementation	Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	211
	Policy UG 6A: Sequencing of urban growth development - western Bay of Plenty sub-region	172	Method 1: District plan implementation	Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	214
			Method 50: Inform transportation strategies and funding	Regional council, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	225
			Method 51: Liaise on cross boundary infrastructure issues	Regional council, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	225
	Policy UG 7A: Providing for the expansion of existing business land - western Bay of Plenty sub-region	172	Method 1: District plan implementation	Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	211
			Method 67: Support rural structure plans	Regional council, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	228
	Policy UG 5A: Establishing urban Limits - western Bay of Plenty sub-region	172	Method 1: District plan implementation	Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council	211
			Method 14: Monitor and review growth – western Bay of Plenty sub-region	Regional council	213
			Method 16: Consider amendments to the urban limits – western Bay of Plenty sub-region	Regional council	214
Objective 26 The productive potential of the region's rural land resource is sustained and	Policy UG 17B: Urban growth management outside of the western Bay of Plenty sub-region	177	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
the growth and efficient operation of rural production activities are provided for			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
	Policy UG 18B: Managing rural development and protecting versatile land	178	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 52: Provide for the sustainable management of versatile land	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 67: Support rural structure plans	Regional council, city and district councils	228
	Policy UG 23B: Providing for the operation and growth of rural production activities	180	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 20: Plan provisions enabling efficient operation and growth of rural production activities.	Regional council, city and district councils	216
	Policy UG 19B: Providing for rural lifestyle activities – western Bay of Plenty	178	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 52: Provide for the sustainable management of versatile Land	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 67: Support rural structure plans	Regional council, city and district councils	228
	Policy UG 20B: Managing reverse sensitivity effects on rural production activities and infrastructure in rural areas	179	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 67: Support rural structure plans	Regional council, city and district councils	228
	Policy UG 24B: Managing reverse sensitivity effects on rural production activities in urban areas.	180	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 20: Plan provisions enabling efficient operation and growth of rural production activities.	Regional council, city and district councils	216

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy UG 21B: Provision for utilisation of mineral resources	179	Method 1: District plan implementation	City and district councils	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 52: Provide for the sustainable management of versatile land	Regional council, city and district councils	225
			Method 67: Support rural structure plans	Regional council, city and district councils	228
	Policy IR 9B: Taking an integrated approach towards biosecurity	159	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy WQ 6B: Ensuring water availability	189	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
			Method 32: Prepare and provide information to reduce water demand	Regional Council	222

2.9 Water quality and land use

This section summarises the issues and objectives for managing the land and fresh water resources of the region, and therefore indirectly managing the region's freshwater and coastal receiving environments. The quality of surface and groundwater results directly from the way land is used in that water's catchment. Land use can also affect the qualities of soil and needs to be managed to protect the finite characteristics of soil on which life depends. Sustainable land management includes operating within the ecological limits of the environment. The resultant policies and methods seek to safeguard the quality of water, minimise soil loss, maintain soil health and ensure land use is integrated with receiving environments.

The water quality and land use section is an integration of three components:

- Land use and management
- Water quality
- Soil health and productivity.

Land use activities and land management affect the state of our lakes, rivers, streams and coastal waters. The degraded water quality of the lakes within the Rotorua district and the declining water quality of Tauranga Harbour (Te Awanui) are the most important issues for the region to address in the next 10 years. The planning framework under the Act allows for regional rules to address both discharges and land use. Discharges are required to be authorised whereas the use of land may be regulated for water-quality purposes.

Unsustainable uses of land give rise to adverse effects on both land and water. The clearance of vegetation and soil disturbance can harm the mauri of the land and the plants and animals it supports. Contaminants such as those from livestock, fertiliser run-off and sewage effluent discharges can affect the mauri of water and contact recreation may be unsafe when contaminants exceed set levels.

Industry-led initiatives are underway with the intention of reducing nutrient exports from land to water.

Erosion associated with storm events or the continued long-term release of sediments from land can result in degradation of lakes, streams, rivers and, ultimately, the sea. The significant increase in mangroves in the Tauranga and Ohiwa harbours, for example, is largely a result of sediment accumulation from land use changes.

A management framework for land and water in the Bay of Plenty needs to recognise the inter-relationship between land use activities that occur in catchments and the cumulative adverse effects that subsequently occur in waterways and then in the coastal marine area by:

- Setting clear objectives for the required future state of the region's water bodies and the land use activities within their catchments, including for the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes; and
- Adopting a catchment-based management approach to sensitive catchments in the region.

Enhancement and restoration of degraded ecosystems, in terms of functions and service, and protection and maintenance of freshwater bodies are major components of the management approach. It emphasises managing land use activities in a way that will aid the maintenance or enhancement of water quality, particularly in vulnerable freshwater bodies and in those that are identified as having significant ecological values. Integrated land use management means that all elements of the environment are included in land use decisions, whether such decisions are made by land owners or regional, city or district councils.

The Kaimai Mamaku Range is an example of an integrated catchment management approach being undertaken across the Bay of Plenty and Waikato regional boundaries to improve ecosystem health and address water quality, land management and pest management issues. It involves NZ Landcare Trust, the Department of Conservation, iwi, community groups and landowners.

2.9.1 Water quality and land use

The regulatory regime for the management of water quality is established by the Act. Any discharge of a contaminant into water, or onto land from where it may enter water, must be expressly allowed by a national environmental standard, a regulation, a rule in a regional plan or a resource consent. A rule in a regional plan may not permit any such discharge that would result in specified adverse effects. In exceptional circumstances a resource consent may be granted for a discharge with such effects. A rule in a regional plan may control the use of land for the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of water in water bodies and coastal water.

The operative Bay of Plenty Regional Water and Land Plan establishes a framework for managing the region's land and water bodies. The plan applies water quality classifications to lakes, rivers and streams. Many water bodies are not meeting their classification standards, often due to faecal contamination.

The Statement directs regional and district plans, and informs the consideration of applications for resource consent on regionally significant water-quality and land use issues that require policy direction beyond that in operative plans. When cited by the relevant iwi, a statutory acknowledgement may be evidence of the iwi's association with an area that is the subject of a resource consent application.

Water quality is affected by discharges of contaminants that, either directly from point source discharges or indirectly through diffuse discharges on to or into land, result in the contaminants getting into surface or ground water.

Point source discharges are subject to conditions on discharge permits in accordance with relevant rules in regional plans and collectively no longer constitute a regionally significant issue, although some stormwater discharges pose an issue yet to be fully addressed.

Non-point source or diffuse discharges of nutrients from land into groundwater, streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, harbours and other coastal water, deriving from certain rural activities and land management practices, present a regionally significant issue. Some past and present farming practices are resulting in excessive concentrations of nutrients entering fresh and coastal waters. Ongoing changes in farming practices such as lower impact horticulture and more efficient dairying and pastoral farming that result in lower nutrient losses will help reduce concentrations of nutrients entering fresh and coastal waters.

Water quality is affected by the amount of contaminants discharged and the quantity of water in the receiving water body. The process for setting freshwater limits should have regard to the cumulative impacts of all activities, and any effect on life-supporting capacity or physiochemical parameters. For particular water levels and flows, each water body is able to assimilate only a certain amount of nutrients or other contaminants before its values are unacceptably compromised. Levels of contaminants and water quantity are to be managed together to achieve water quality and allow for the taking and use of water.

Excessive contaminant discharges can result in adverse effects occurring that are specified in the Act as being unacceptable. Catchments with water bodies where these effects occur or are likely are referred to as 'catchments at risk'.

In catchments at risk, the Statement sets overall target levels to which specific contaminants are to be reduced, including nitrogen into Lake Rotorua in particular, but does not dictate how the reduction is to be achieved. The Regional Water and Land Plan is to require managed reduction of discharges until each at-risk catchment's target level is met.

In catchments at risk, land use change that threatens water quality is to be allowed only if resource consent is obtained. In all catchments, expected benefits of land use change for water quality are to be regarded as positive effects in the consideration of proposals for such change. District and regional plans should ease the process of changing to land uses or activities that better support the achievement of water quality objectives. For example, where nutrients degrade water quality, district plans will assist changes to land use activities with reduced nutrient losses.

In catchments at risk, the capacity of a water body to assimilate a contaminant is to be allocated among land use activities. The allocation should result in an equitable outcome and allow for the balancing of public and private costs and benefits.

Parliament, through the Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act 2006, has recognised that development around the edges of the lakes has resulted in an increased nutrient load flowing into the lakes. Excess nitrogen and phosphorus has led to the growth of blue-green algae in the lakes. This environmental degradation has affected the mana and wairua of the lakes for Te Arawa iwi.

The Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act 2006 established the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group. The group comprises Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Rotorua District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The purpose of the Group is to contribute to the promotion of the sustainable management of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes and their catchments, for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, while recognising and providing for the traditional relationship of Te Arawa with their ancestral lakes.

Alongside the regulatory regime established in regional plans, voluntary initiatives and other interventions may directly reduce the levels of contaminants discharged. This Statement does not require that these initiatives and interventions be undertaken but provides the target towards which they should be directed. Such initiatives and interventions may, however, require authorisation under the Act by resource consent or a rule in a plan.

2.9.2 Soil health and productivity

Much of the wealth of the region derives from its primary production which, in turn, is dependent on the productive capacity of the region's soils. Sustaining the potential of soil to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations and safeguarding its life-supporting capacity are essential to enabling people and communities to provide for their well-being. The two main pressures on the region's soils relate to soil loss and soil health.

Volcanic ash soils, covering most of the region's productive land, are prone to surface erosion where there is little vegetation cover. Research in the Tauranga Harbour catchment has shown that highest losses occur for pasture areas, steep slopes and soils that are less well-drained. Stream bank erosion also contributes to soil loss, particularly where stream margins are managed inappropriately or not retired from grazing. Land management practices as well as maintenance of the quality of indigenous vegetation through active pest management can address these causes.

The main threats to soil health are the use of heavy machinery and intensive livestock grazing. Protection of the health and intactness of vulnerable or high-quality soils includes maintaining the physical, chemical and biological properties that enable soils to retain their ecosystem function and range of uses.

2.9.3 Regionally significant water quality and land use issues

1 Decline in water quality from land use

Some land use and land management practices lead to erosion and soil loss resulting in water quality degradation and accelerated accumulation of sediment in Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour and other receiving environments.

Water quality is declining and the mauri of water has been degraded in parts of the region. Currently, the decline is being caused primarily by non-point source discharges from agricultural and urban land use activities.

2 Effects of nutrient discharges on Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes

Agricultural discharges of nitrogen and phosphorus are a significant contributor to reducing water quality in the majority of the lakes of the Rotorua district.

3 Soil health is being reduced by unsustainable land management activities

Land management practices and uses that are incompatible with the capability of a soil to sustain them are reducing that soil's health and life-supporting capacity.

Table 9 Water quality and land use objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 27 The quality and mauri of water in the region is maintained or, where necessary to meet the identified values associated with its required use and protection, enhanced	Policy WL 1B: Enabling land use change	181	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
Objective 28 Enhance the water quality in the lakes of the Rotorua district and other catchments at risk	Policy WL 2B: Defining catchments at risk	182	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 21: Monitor surface water quality in relation to at-risk triggers	Regional council	216
	Policy WL 3B: Establishing limits for contaminants entering catchments at risk	182	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
	Policy WL 4B: Requiring consent for increased discharges in catchments at risk	183	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
	Policy WL 5B: Allocating the capacity to assimilate contaminants	184	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 28: Undertake consultation to identify water quality standards and targets for the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes	Regional council	221
	Policy WL 6B: Managing the reduction of nutrient losses	184	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 28: Undertake consultation to identify water quality standards and targets for the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes	Regional council	221

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 29 Land use activities are: 1 within the capability of the land to support the activity; 2 integrated with the wider environmental values of their surroundings; and 3 within the capacity of receiving waters to assimilate any discharge	Policy WL 7B: Minimising the effects of land and soil disturbance	185	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 36: Provide protocols for managing land and soil disturbance	Regional council, city and district councils	223
	Policy WL 8B: Providing for regular reviews of regional council consent conditions	186	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211

2.10 Water quantity

Section 2.11 does not apply to the take and use of geothermal water, which is addressed in Section 2.4. However, Section 2.11 does apply to any take and use of freshwater which may be associated with geothermal resource use activities (such as water needed for drilling activities).

Water is essential for all life and is valued for its usefulness and intrinsic qualities. The use and development of fresh water resources plays an important role in providing for the region's wellbeing. Both surface and groundwater are highly valued in the Bay of Plenty region for a variety of reasons including:

- Economic – for primary production, power generation, and industry;
- Environmental – maintaining healthy ecosystems;
- Social – for water supply and safe swimming;
- Cultural – mahinga kai and mauri; and
- Recreation – for fishing and boating.

While water is a renewable resource, it is finite. The use of water resources needs to be prioritised to maximise the benefit to the region's communities. The amount of water taken for municipal supply, horticultural production, frost protection, industrial uses and farm pasture irrigation has increased significantly in the past 10 years. Increasing population and economic growth in the region has meant an increased demand for water and the pressure on water resources is also likely to increase as a result of climate change (a predicted effect of climate change is that droughts will occur more frequently).

Opportunities for improved water management include:

- Improving the way water is collected, stored and used.
- Exploring alternative sources e.g. rainwater harvesting.
- Addressing conflicting demands for water.
- Working collaboratively across key industry sectors.
- Identifying areas of the region where water supply is plentiful and making that water available for use.

Water management provisions seek to provide for conflicting values and potential opportunities, while meeting future needs, maintaining the life-supporting capacity of water, and minimising inappropriate or inefficient use.

Priority of allocation may be required as total water allocation approaches sustainability limits. Allocation of water and the discharge of contaminants are to be managed together to allow for the taking and use of water and the maintenance of water quality.

Providing for a strategic review of existing consented water takes and the potential reallocation of water within a catchment ensures the taking and use of water is sustainable. Efficient use is required to ensure that the most benefit is obtained from its use.

Water conservation is required to reduce the pressure on resources. Water conservation, harvesting and storage are to be encouraged to enable the taking of water at high flows and stored for later use.

2.10.1 Regionally significant water quantity issues

1 Increasing pressure on finite water resources

There is increasing pressure on finite water resources. As communities grow the demand for water intensifies. The amount of water used for primary production, power generation, water supply and industry is expected to continue to increase.

2 Competing demands

As groundwater and surface water become more limited the competition builds for this resource.

3 Over-abstraction

Over-abstraction is degrading some water resources. Adverse effects of over-abstraction can include reduced water quantity and quality, and degraded mauri ecological, recreational and amenity values.

4 Inefficient use

The inefficient use of water arises where a greater volume of water is taken than that required to operate the use. It also occurs when an activity wastes water.

5 Understanding water use

There is incomplete knowledge of many of the region's water resources which restricts the ability to determine the amount of water available for allocation.

Table 10 Water quantity objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
Objective 30 The quantity of available water: (a) provides for a range of uses and values; (b) is allocated and used efficiently; (c) safeguards the mauri and life supporting capacity of water bodies; and (d) meets the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.	Policy WQ 1A: Promoting efficient water use, water harvesting and water transfers	186	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional Council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
			Method 31: Voluntary water user groups and agreements	Regional Council	222
			Method 32: Prepare and provide information to reduce water demand	Regional Council	222
	Policy WQ 2A: Setting and applying instream flows and allocation limits for taking freshwater	186	Method 2: Regional plan implementation	Regional Council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
			Method 45: Involve iwi and hapū in the development of regional plans	Regional Council	224
	Policy WQ 3B: Allocating water	187	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
			Method 31: Voluntary water user groups and agreements	Regional Council	222
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua	Regional Council	223
			Method 43: Promote the enhancement of mauri	Regional Council	224
			Method 44: Developing mauri models	Regional Council	224

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy WQ 4B: Establishing common review dates for the taking of water	188	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional council	221
	Policy WQ 5B: Reviewing resource consents for the taking of water	188	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional council	221
	Policy WQ 6B: Ensuring water availability	189	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
			Method 32: Prepare and provide information to reduce water demand	Regional Council	222
	Policy WQ 7B: Reducing water demand	189	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
			Method 31: Voluntary water user groups and agreements	Regional Council	222
			Method 32: Prepare and provide information to reduce water demand	Regional Council	222

Objectives	Policy titles	Page	Method titles	Implementation	Page
	Policy WQ 8B: Managing consented water takes to ensure efficient use	189	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction	Regional Council	221
			Method 31: Voluntary water user groups and agreements	Regional Council	222

Also see:

Objective 2: Preservation, restoration and, where appropriate, enhancement of the natural character and ecological functioning of the coastal environment (Table 2).

Objective 10: Cumulative effects of existing and new activities are appropriately managed (Table 5).

Objective 14: Partnerships between Bay of Plenty Regional Council, district and city councils and iwi authorities (Table 6).

Objective 15: Water, land, coastal and geothermal resource management decisions have regard to iwi resource management planning documents (Table 6).

Objective 17: The mauri of water, land, air and geothermal resources is safeguarded and where it is degraded, where appropriate, it is enhanced over time (Table 6).

Objective 20: The protection of significant indigenous habitats and ecosystems, having particular regard to their maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation and intrinsic values (Table 7).

Objective 21: Recognition of and provision for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga (Table 7).

Objective 26: The productive potential of the region's rural land resource is sustained and the growth and efficient operation of rural production activities are provided for (Table 9).

Objective 27: The quality and mauri of water in the region is maintained or, where necessary to meet the identified values associated with its required use and protection, enhanced (Table 10).

2.11 Natural hazards

Natural occurrences become hazards when they adversely affect human life, property, or other aspects of the environment.

Under the Act, regional councils have the function of controlling the use of land to avoid or mitigate natural hazards and city and district councils have the function of controlling any actual or potential effects of the use, development or protection of land to avoid or mitigate natural hazards. These controls, when exercised through plans, are subject to section 32 evaluation. Such controls are among a wide range of available responses to the risk of natural hazards.

Local authorities also have a broad civil defence and emergency management (CDEM) role. This includes identifying and communicating hazards, and the four Rs:

- Planning and implementing risk *reduction*;
- Maintaining a state of *readiness* (having the capacity and planning in place should an event occur);
- *Responding* at the time of a civil defence emergency; and
- Overseeing *recovery* operations once an event has occurred.

Local authorities' RMA functions of avoiding or mitigating natural hazards contribute to the first of those "Rs" - risk reduction.

Within te Ao Māori, the Māori environmental resource management system recognises the association of several atua with natural occurrences that can lead to natural hazards. As well as Ranginui and Papatūānuku, these include Rūaumoko, atua of earthquakes and volcanoes, Tangaroa, atua of the fish in the sea and sea life, and Tāwhirimatea, atua of the winds and storms. It is evident from oral histories that Māori have long observed, recorded, monitored and forecast changes in the physical environment. These forms of local knowledge contribute to hazard avoidance and mitigation. Appropriate sharing of these local understandings can inform and raise community awareness of past hazard events and the potential for them to occur again.

Territorial authorities have particular roles in communicating information about natural hazards through land information memoranda (LIMs) under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and project information memoranda (PIMs) under the Building Act 2004. Those Acts do not limit what natural hazards are to be included in these memoranda even though some natural hazards affecting the Bay of Plenty region are not specified by those Acts as being required to be included.

The Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Plan identifies a wide range of natural hazards that affect the region. The natural occurrences and associated hazards that exist in the region are as follows:

Natural occurrence	Resulting natural hazard
Volcanic activity	Ash fall Pyroclastic and lava flow Landslip, debris flow and lahar Geothermal hazard Caldera unrest
Earthquakes	Fault rupture Liquefaction and lateral spreading Ground shaking Landslide and rock fall Tsunami
Coastal/marine processes	Coastal inundation Coastal erosion
Extreme (prolonged or intense) rainfall	Flooding Landslide Debris flow/flood

Taking a risk management approach means that the extent to which we manage natural hazards depends on the risk they present. Risk is the combination of likelihood and consequence. That is, the risk of a natural hazard is determined by a combination of an event's likelihood (i.e. the chance of it occurring) and its potential consequence (i.e. amount of damage it would cause should it occur).

The damage from a natural hazard event possible in the Bay of Plenty can range from minor disruption to significant loss of life and property. Similarly, the likelihood of natural hazards range from very frequent (e.g. annual) events to events that may only happen on average once every few thousand years. The highest risk hazards are those with a high likelihood of a very damaging event.

For some natural hazards (such as flooding) steps can be taken to reduce the likelihood of an event occurring. However for most natural hazards whether an event occurs is largely beyond human control. In those circumstances, the way to reduce risk is to ensure that the consequences of events, when they occur, are as low as practicable.

Although far from the only tool available to local authorities to manage risk associated with natural hazards, land use control is important. It responds to the evaluated level of natural hazard risk to protect lives and property. Similarly, conditions relating to how land is used can be imposed to reduce or avoid the consequences should an event occur. That is why the Act provides for local authorities to control land use to avoid or mitigate natural hazards. Other statutes, for example the Building Act 2004, also address aspects of natural hazards.

However, controlling land use to limit the potential consequences of a natural hazard can be costly and disruptive to communities and affected property owners. Conversely, under-acknowledgement of high hazard risk in land use planning decisions would be irresponsible and contrary to sustainable management. Hence, local authorities need to recognise the benefit of other interventions and ensure the level of land use control is proportional to the remaining risk that exists (and that risk is assessed by considering both the likelihood of an event and the event's potential consequences).

An ongoing challenge is the complex and uncertain nature and frequency of natural hazards, particularly those that are of low likelihood.

In taking a risk-based approach to managing natural hazards the Statement follows the risk management process prescribed in the New Zealand Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009. This is illustrated in Figure 2 below.

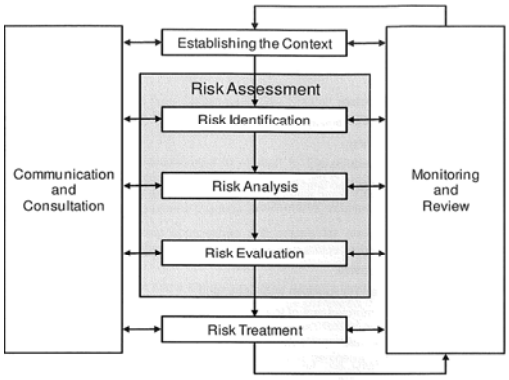


Figure 2 Risk management process from AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009.

The core components of the risk management process form the framework for the natural hazards policies as shown in Appendix K. The process of identify, analyse, evaluate and reduce[2] risk applies consistently to all natural hazards.

[2] Although risk management terminology refers to "treating" risk, in the context of the Statement this stage of the process is referred to as risk reduction.

The methodology for carrying out the risk analysis and evaluation stages of the process is provided as Appendix L.

Potential risk reduction measures are contained in Appendix M.

The Statement also needs to provide clarity and direction for the risk evaluation and risk treatment stages. In that regard the Statement sets risk thresholds and a management framework requiring different policy responses depending on the level of risk that is present.

Allowance must also be made for some activities that are specifically provided for by this Statement that inherently add to risk. Integrated management, required under section 30(1)(a) of the Act, recognises that the establishment or continuance of such activities is provided for (albeit natural hazard risk needs to be managed).

Geothermal energy development is an example. Such development, of necessity, must be located within geothermal fields and may increase both the consequence and, if not properly managed, the likelihood of a geothermal hazard (such as subsidence or hydrothermal eruption). The geothermal provisions of section 2.4 of this Statement specifically provide for such development and provide the policy framework to manage hazard risk associated with use and development of geothermal energy resources. Accordingly, geothermal hazard risks are not managed under this section of this Statement. Those risks will be managed under this Statement's section 2.4 and the Geothermal Resources Policies and Methods.

Similarly, the management of urban growth in the region has been provided for in district plans and, in the western Bay of Plenty sub-region, through the Urban and Rural Growth Management policies and methods and in section 2.9. As more detailed planning and consenting is undertaken for those growth areas, the natural hazard risk will need to be identified and managed. However, by specifically providing for western Bay of Plenty urban limits in Appendix E, the Statement anticipates that any required risk reduction can be achieved within those urban limits while providing for urban development. This does not obviate the need to manage natural hazard risk by, for example, influencing the design and location of development within growth areas. Method 18 of the Statement is a key means by which that can occur.

Growth will increase pressure to develop in areas susceptible to natural hazards. Also, some existing settlements and lifeline utilities are located on land that may be subject to natural hazards. Hence, although the risk assessment process should be consistently applied across the region, the management response to identified risk will vary according to the nature of the land uses potentially affected.

Risk management is not a static exercise. Potential consequences may change as development patterns change and intensify over time (potentially increasing exposure to an event). Furthermore knowledge of hazards and their likelihood may change over time. For that reason, although the responsibility for natural hazard risk assessment falls predominantly on the regional, city and district councils as part of plan-making processes, some targeted risk assessment may be necessary for large-scale developments particularly in the period before regional and district plans are changed to give effect to the natural hazards provisions of the Statement.

Another key factor is climate change. While not regarded as a natural hazard in its own right, climate change may increase the risk associated with some natural hazards. In the Bay of Plenty, heavy rainfall events and flooding may occur more frequently. Drought could occur more frequently, particularly in coastal areas, and the impact of storms of tropical origin might be greater. The rate at which sea level is expected to rise is one area of uncertainty. The long-term effects of climate change and uncertainty about the magnitude of anticipated effects need to be taken into account in decision making about avoiding or mitigating hazards and risk reduction.

2.11.1 Regionally significant natural hazard issues

1 Potential for natural hazard events to generate major or catastrophic consequences

Many natural hazards in the Bay of Plenty have the potential to generate major or catastrophic consequences for people and communities.

2 Availability of natural hazard risk information

In making their individual choices about where they live and work, and how they develop the land, people require sound information on natural hazard risks.

3 Existing risks from natural hazards

Existing land uses and lifeline utilities are at risk from a wide range of natural hazards, including low-likelihood but
high-consequence natural hazards (particularly earthquake, tsunami and volcano related hazards).

4 Co-ordinating agencies' roles to avoid and mitigate natural hazards and manage residual risk

Integrated management requires many agencies to co-ordinate their roles in avoiding and mitigating existing and potential natural hazards, and managing any residual risk

Table 10a Natural hazards objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page no.	Method titles	Implementation	Page no.
Objective 31 Avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards by managing risk for people's safety and the protection of property and lifeline utilities	Policy NH 1B: Taking a risk management approach	190	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy NH 2B: Classifying risk	191	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy NH 3B: Natural hazard risk outcomes	192	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 23B: Investigate and apply measures to reduce natural hazard risk	Regional council, city and district councils	217
			Method 73: Provide information and guidance on natural hazards	Regional council, city and district councils	229
			Method 74: Collaborate to establish natural hazard risk	Regional council, city and district councils	230
	Policy NH 4B: Managing natural hazard risk on land subject to urban development	193	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 23A: Review hazard and risk information	Regional council, city and district councils	217
	Policy NH 5B: Avoiding increasing and encouraging reducing natural hazard risk in the coastal environment	194	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 23B: Investigate and apply measures to reduce natural hazard risk	Regional council, city and district councils	217

Objectives	Policy titles	Page no.	Method titles	Implementation	Page no.
			Method 23C: Natural defences against natural hazards	Regional council, city and district councils	217
	Policy NH 6B: Exemptions from the natural hazard risk management approach	194	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy NH 7A: Identifying areas susceptible to natural hazards	195	Method 1A: City and district plan implementation (phased)	City and district councils	211
			Method 2A: Regional plan implementation (phased)	Regional council	211
			Method 23A: Review hazard and risk information	Regional council, city and district councils	217
	Policy NH 8A: Assessment of natural hazard risk at the time of plan development	196	Method 1A: City and district plan implementation (phased)	City and district councils	211
			Method 2A: Regional plan implementation (phased)	Regional council	211
			Method 23A: Review hazard and risk information	Regional council, city and district councils	217
	Policy NH 9B: Assessment of natural hazard risk at the time of subdivision, or change or intensification of land use before Policies NH 7A and NH 8A have been given effect to	197	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 23A: Review hazard and risk information	Regional council, city and district councils	217
	Policy NH 10B: Assessment of natural hazard risk at the time of subdivision, or change or intensification of land use after Policies NH 7A and NH 8A have been given effect to	198	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 23A: Review hazard and risk information	Regional council, city and district councils	217

Objectives	Policy titles	Page no.	Method titles	Implementation	Page no.
	Policy NH 11B: Providing for climate change	199	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans	Regional council, city and district councils	211
	Policy NH 12A: Managing natural hazard risk through regional, city and district plans	199	Method 1A: City and district plan implementation (phased)	City and district councils	211
			Method 2A: Regional plan implementation (phased)	Regional council	211
			Method 18: Structure plans for land use changes	Regional council, city and district councils	214
			Method 23B: Investigate and apply measures to reduce natural hazard risk	Regional council, city and district councils	217
	Policy NH 13C: Allocation of responsibility for natural hazard identification and risk assessment	200	Method 23A: Review hazard and risk information	Regional council, city and district councils	217
	Policy NH 14C: Allocation of responsibility for land use control for natural hazards	201	Method 23A: Review hazard and risk information	Regional council, city and district councils	217
			Method 23B: Investigate and apply measures to reduce natural hazard risk	Regional council, city and district councils	217
			Method 24A: Provide guidance on taking a risk management approach to natural hazards	Regional council	220

2.12 Treaty Co-governance

Treaty of Waitangi settlement legislation has resulted in the establishment of co-governance entities between iwi and local government.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement is required to be amended to recognise and provide for the outcomes of statutory documents prepared under treaty settlement legislation. Those requirements may vary dependent on the legislation.

The purpose of this section is to fulfil the requirements of treaty settlement legislation in so far as it relates to the Regional Policy Statement. It is to be read in conjunction with the Treaty Co-governance Compendium Document, which is an important document that provides context for this section of the Regional Policy Statement, although it does not form part of the Regional Policy Statement. The Treaty Co-governance Compendium Document, which can be accessed at Council offices and on its website, includes a copy of Te Ara Whanui o Rangitaiki - Pathways of the Rangitāiki, the approved River document that was prepared under the treaty settlement legislation. That document includes detail of the historical association each iwi has to its ancestral awa and/or moana (waterbodies)

2.12.1 Rangitāiki River

The Ngati Manawa Claims Settlement Act 2012 and Ngati Whare Claims Settlement Act 2012 established the Rangitāiki River Forum (the Forum), with representation from local authorities (Whakatane District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Taupo District Council), Ngati Whare, Ngati Manawa, Ngati Awa and Ngati Tuwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) iwi.

The Forum developed the Rangitāiki River document (Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki – Pathways of the Rangitaiki).

The Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement must recognise and provide for the vision, objectives and desired outcomes of the Rangitāiki River document.

The vision for the Rangitāiki River is ‘a healthy river, valued by the community, protected for future generations. Tihe Mauri ora.’ ‘E ora ana te mauri o te awa o Rangitāiki, e manaakitia ana e te iwi, e tiakina ana mo ngā whakatipuranga o muri mai. Tihe Mauri Ora.’

The Rangitāiki River and its tributaries have played an important role in the lives of the many Bay Plenty hapu and iwi that live alongside them. As kaitiaki, hapu and iwi traditionally carried the responsibility of ensuring the health and wellbeing of the Rangitāiki River and its resources, for the benefit of present and future generations.

2.12.2 Significant Issues affecting the Rangitāiki River Catchment

1 The Rangitāiki River is no longer providing an abundance of food

The Rangtāiki River and its tributaries have historically provided a highly valued tuna fishery which sustained the way of life of local people for generations.

Widespread land use changes within the Rangitāiki River Catchment have resulted in a decrease in the numbers of freshwater fish (ikawai) such as the native tuna (kuwharuwharu) and whitebait species (Inanga, Banded Kokopu and Giant Kokopu). The clearance of indigenous vegetation for plantation forestry, pasture, and urbanisation together with the establishment and maintenance of hydro-electrical power generation schemes, flood protection schemes, large irrigation schemes and factories have reduced water quality, riparian margins, indigenous fish habitats and restricted indigenous fish passage. The introduction of trout species has also contributed to the reduction in numbers of indigenous fish species within the catchment.

Numbers of tuna in the Rangitāiki River Catchment are declining due to a range of causes, including the commercial harvest of tuna and the establishment and maintenance of flood protection schemes.

2 Water quality is not always good enough for swimming or drinking

In general, water quality within the Rangitāiki River Catchment ranges from fair to excellent. However monitoring results are showing high concentrations of bacteria and nitrogen in parts of the catchment and trends of decreasing water quality. These changes affect the suitability of waterways within the catchment for contact recreation and in certain areas used as sources for safe drinking water. Water quality degradation is affected by a range of land uses and land management practices in the catchment.

3 The special qualities and mauri (life force) of the Rangitāiki River needs to be restored to ensure it can be used for holding rituals and ceremonies

The Rangitāiki River and its tributaries are a taonga of great cultural significance and a key source of spiritual and material wellbeing. The degradation of the Rangitāiki River has reduced its spiritual values and compromised the ability of iwi to exercise kaitiakitanga (stewardship) and conduct their tīkanga (customs) and kawa (ceremonies).

4 There is a need to rebuild the strong relationships that people once had with the Rangitāiki River

The interactions between the river and its people have become restricted as the community aspirations for the Rangitāiki River have dwindled. There is an opportunity for young people in particular to learn more about how the river contributes to their environmental, cultural and spiritual wellbeing, and how to look after it.

5 Activities in the Rangitāiki River Catchment have degraded its amenity values and quality of the environment

Many of the activities established within the Rangitāiki River Catchment within the last century have changed the natural pattern of the Rangitāiki River and have degraded its amenity values, quality of the environment, natural features and characteristics.

Applying the Rangitāiki River Catchment provisions

The Rangitāiki River catchment objectives, policies and methods, set out in Table 10b, only apply to the Rangitāiki River Catchment area within the Bay of Plenty region identified in Map 4aa. These provisions should be read along with other region wide provisions. For clarification the following Rangitāiki River Catchment specific objectives shall prevail over the equivalent region wide objectives. Objective 39 prevails over Objective 22. Objective 34 prevails over Objective 27.

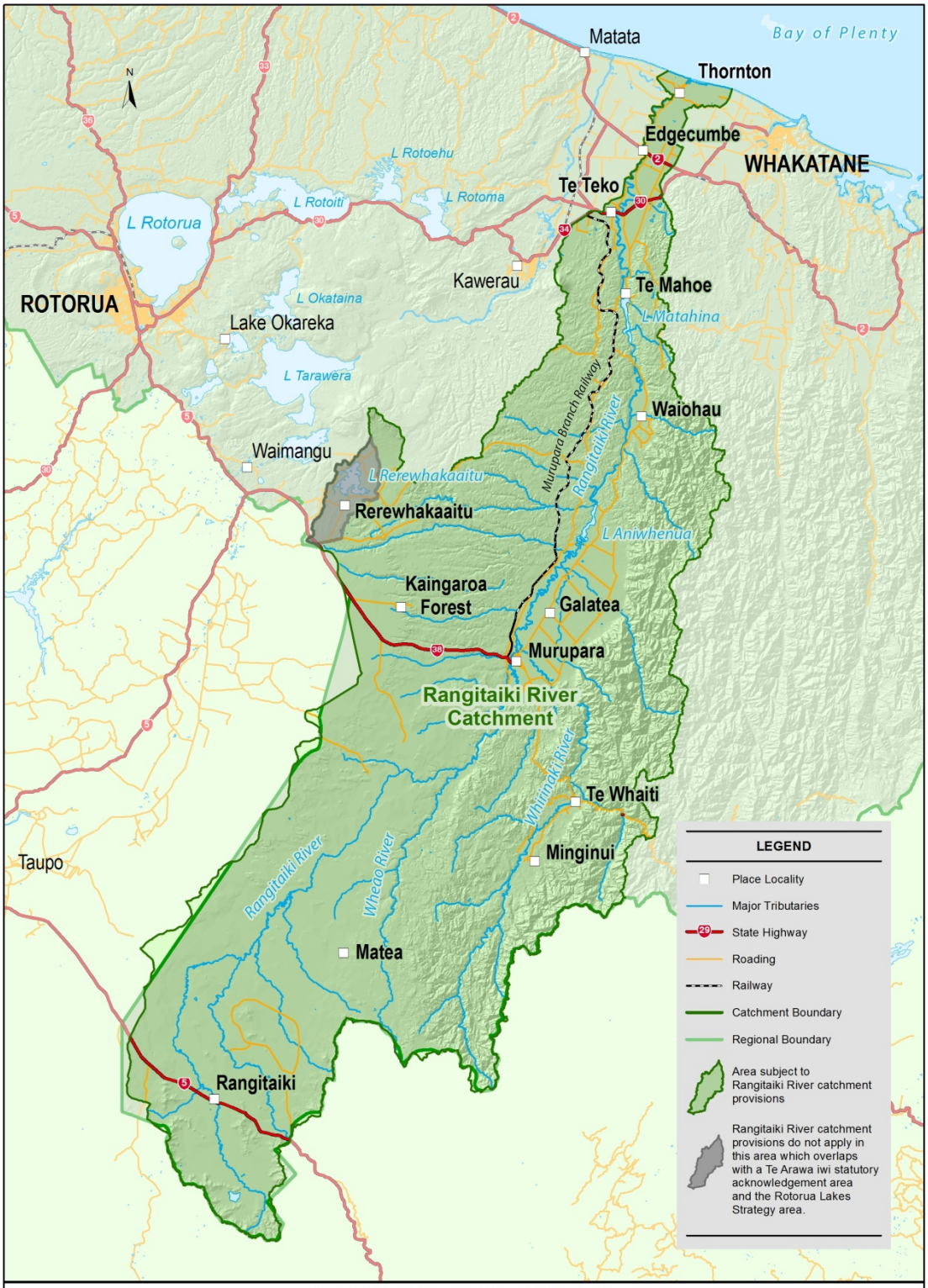

Bay of Plenty
Matata
Thornton
Edgecumbe
WHAKATANE
Te Teko
L Rotoehu
L Rotoiti
L Rotoma
L Rotorua
ROTORUA
Kawerau
Te Mahoe
L Okataina
Lake Okareka
L Matahina
L Tarawera
Waiohau
Waimangu
L Rerewhakaaitu
Rerewhakaaitu
Murupara Branch Railway
Rangitaiki River
L Aniwhenua
Kaingaroa Forest
Galatea
Murupara
Rangitaiki River Catchment
Whirinaki River
Te Whaiti
Minginui
Taupo
Rangitaiki River
Whaeao River
Matea
Rangitaiki
LEGEND
Place Locality
Major Tributaries
State Highway
Roading
Railway
Catchment Boundary
Regional Boundary
Area subject to Rangitaiki River catchment provisions
Rangitaiki River catchment provisions do not apply in this area which overlaps with a Te Arawa iwi statutory acknowledgement area and the Rotorua Lakes Strategy area.
Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement
Bay of Plenty REGIONAL COUNCIL
Rangitaiki River Catchment
SCALE = 1 : 500000
0 5 10 15 20 25 km
Map 4aa
C2125 - 12 Sept 2016

Table 10b Rangitāiki River objectives and titles of policies and methods to achieve the objectives.

Objectives	Policy titles	Page no.	Method titles	Implementation	Page no.
Objective 32 Tuna within the Rangitaiki Catchment are protected, through measures including enhancement and restoration of their habitat and migration paths.	Policy RR 1B: Restoring and enhancing tuna habitat and migration pathways.	202	Method 23D: Require structures to provide passage for tuna migration up and down the Rangitāiki River.	Regional Council	217
			Method 23R: Consultation regarding tuna passage.	Regional Council	219
			Method 23E: Develop an action plan to provide passage for migrating tuna in the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council	217
			Method 23F: Support the use of rāhui to restrict harvesting of tuna in the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council, district councils, Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries and iwi authorities.	218
			Method 23G: Advocate the termination of commercial tuna harvesting within the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council, district councils, Department of Conservation, Ministry for Primary Industries and iwi authorities.	218
			Method 75: Promote measures to protect, monitor and understand tuna in the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council and iwi authorities.	230
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans.	Regional Council and district councils.	211
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes.	Regional Council and district councils.	221
			Method 63: Provide and support environmental education programmes.	Regional Council and district councils.	227

Objectives	Policy titles	Page no.	Method titles	Implementation	Page no.
	Policy MN 2B: Giving particular consideration to protecting significant indigenous habitats and ecosystems. Policy MN 4B: Encouraging ecological restoration.	165	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans.	Regional Council and district councils.	211
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes.	Regional Council and district councils.	221
			Method 27: Provide information about sustainable land management practices.	Regional Council and district councils.	221
			Method 39: Promote coordination among conservation management agencies.	Regional Council and district councils.	223
			Method 49: Improve biodiversity values of open spaces.	Regional Council and district councils.	225
			Method 55: Identify priority ecological corridors and buffers.	Regional Council and district councils.	225
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites.	Regional Council and district councils.	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves.	Regional Council and district councils.	228
Objective 33 Habitats that support indigenous species and linkages between indigenous ecosystems within the Rangitāiki River Catchment are created, enhanced where degraded, and protected where significant.	Policy RR 2B: Promoting the protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats within the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	203	Method 23H: Rangitāiki River Catchment Annual Work Programme.	Regional Council, district councils and iwi authorities.	218
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans.	Regional Council and district councils.	211
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes.	Regional Council and district councils.	221
			Method 27: Provide information about sustainable land management practices.	Regional Council and district councils.	221

Objectives	Policy titles	Page no.	Method titles	Implementation	Page no.
			Method 39: Promote coordination among conservation management agencies.	Regional Council and district councils.	223
			Method 49: Improve biodiversity values of open spaces.	Regional Council and district councils.	225
			Method 55: Identify priority ecological corridors and buffers.	Regional Council and district councils.	225
			Method 63: Provide and support environmental education programmes.	Regional Council and district councils.	227
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites.	Regional Council and district councils.	227
	Policy MN 2B: Giving particular consideration to protecting significant indigenous habitats and ecosystems. Policy MN 4B: Encouraging ecological restoration.	165	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans.	Regional Council and district councils.	211
			Method 26: Facilitate and support community based ecological restoration programmes.	Regional Council and district councils.	221
			Method 27: Provide information about sustainable land management practices.	Regional Council and district councils.	221
			Method 39: Promote coordination among conservation management agencies.	Regional Council and district councils.	223
			Method 49: Improve biodiversity values of open spaces.	Regional Council and district councils.	225
			Method 55: Identify priority ecological corridors and buffers.	Regional Council and district councils.	225
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites.	Regional Council and district councils.	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves.	Regional Council and district councils.	228

Objectives	Policy titles	Page no.	Method titles	Implementation	Page no.
Objective 34 Water quality in the Rangitāiki River Catchment is maintained and improved where degraded.	Policy RR 3B: Establishing water quality limits within the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	204	Method 23I: Develop environmental flow, flow variability and water quality limits.	Regional Council	218
			Method 23J: Develop strategies for managing water, wastewater and stormwater.	District council	218
			Method 2: Regional plan implementation.	Regional Council	211
			Method 23K: Identify key sources and locations of illegal refuse dumping in the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council and district councils.	218
			Method 23L: Identify forecast and assess emerging pressures on resources and opportunities to restore water quality in the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council, district councils and iwi authorities.	218
Objective 35 The social economic and cultural wellbeing of communities in the Rangitāiki River Catchment is enabled within the limits of the rivers and receiving environment.	Policy RR 4B: Enabling the efficient use and development of resources.	205	Method 2: Regional plan implementation.	Regional Council	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction.	Regional Council	221
			Method 32: Prepare and provide information to reduce water demand.	Regional Council	222
	Policy WQ 2A: Setting and applying instream flows and allocation limits for taking freshwater. Policy WQ 3B: Allocating water.	186	Method 76: Collaborate on actions to achieve a healthy Rangitāiki River.	Regional Council	230
			Method 2: Regional Plan implementation.	Regional Council	211
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans.	Regional Council and district council.	211
			Method 30: Research and monitor water allocation and abstraction.	Regional Council	221

Objectives	Policy titles	Page no.	Method titles	Implementation	Page no.
			Method 23I: Develop sustainable environmental flow and catchment load limits.	Regional Council	218
			Method 23M: Establish cultural health indicators for the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council and district councils.	219
Objective 36 The relationship between communities and the Rangitāiki River Catchment is recognised and encouraged.	Policy RR 5D: Encouraging the strengthening of relationships between communities and the Rangitāiki River.	205	Method 77: Provide and support environmental education programmes within the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council and district councils.	230
			Method 23M: Establish cultural health indicators for the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council and iwi authorities.	219
Objective 37 The practice of kaitiakitanga in decision-making is recognised and provided for when managing ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga in the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Policy IW 2B: Recognising matters of significance to Māori. Policy IW 6B: Encouraging tangata whenua to identify measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse cultural effects.	160	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans.	Regional Council and district councils.	211
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas.	Regional Council and district councils.	213
			Method 12: Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects.	Regional Council and district councils.	213
			Method 41: Promote consultation with potentially affected tangata whenua.	Regional Council and district councils.	223
			Method 42: Evaluate matters of significance to tangata whenua.	Regional Council and district councils.	224
			Method 43: Promote the enhancement of mauri.	Regional Council and district councils.	224
			Method 46: Consider the necessity of consulting potentially affected tangata whenua during consent processing.	Regional Council and district councils.	224

Objectives	Policy titles	Page no.	Method titles	Implementation	Page no.
			Method 48: Consider appointing pūkenga to hearing committees.	Regional Council and district councils.	225
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites.	Regional Council and district councils.	227
			Method 78: Promote information sharing between iwi, industry and the community in the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council, district councils and iwi authorities.	230
	Policy IW 5B: Adverse effects on matters of significance to Māori.	162	Method 23N: Develop protocols for recognising and exercising iwi and hapū mana including kaitiakitanga in the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council, district councils and iwi authorities.	219
			Method 23O: Support development of an inventory of information on tīkanga on waterways in the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council, district councils and iwi authorities.	219
			Method 23P: Develop a protocol for accessing, holding and using the wāhi tapu information.	Regional Council, district councils and iwi authorities.	219
			Method 23Q: Support the development of sites and areas of cultural significance within the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council and iwi authorities.	219
			Method 78 Promote information sharing between iwi, industry and the community in the Rangitāiki River Catchment.	Regional Council, district councils and iwi authorities.	230
Objective 38 The qualities and characteristics of areas and features that contribute to the amenity values and quality of the Rangitāiki River Catchment environment are maintained and enhanced	Policy RR 6C: Promote drainage and flood protection works that minimise adverse effects on amenity values	206	Method 23H: Rangitāiki River Catchment Annual Work Programme.	Regional Council, district councils and iwi authorities.	218
			Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans.	Regional Council and district councils.	211

Objectives	Policy titles	Page no.	Method titles	Implementation	Page no.
where degraded			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas.	Regional Council and district councils.	213
Objective 39 Access to the Rangitāiki River and its tributaries is maintained and enhanced	Policy MN 5B: Encouraging public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers Policy MN 6B: Restricting public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers	167	Method 3: Resource consents, notices of requirement and when changing, varying, reviewing or replacing plans.	Regional Council and district councils.	211
			Method 23T: Retain and enhance public and cultural access to and along the Rangitāiki River.	Regional Council, district councils and iwi authorities.	220
			Method 23S: Remove or adapt structures impeding cultural and recreational access in the Rangitāiki River.	Regional Council and district councils.	220
			Method 23H: Rangitāiki River Catchment Annual Work Programme.	Regional Council, district councils and iwi authorities.	218
			Method 11: Recognise statutory acknowledgement areas.	Regional Council and district councils.	213
			Method 64: Encourage agencies and landowners to protect key sites.	Regional Council and district councils.	227
			Method 65: Advocate to establish reserves.	Regional Council and district councils.	228