

**PART P**

**MONITORING**



## **P. MONITORING**

### **P.1 INTRODUCTION**

Under section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991 the Council is required to gather information, monitor and maintain records on resource management matters.

Monitoring and review of the District Plan is carried out in accordance with Sections 35 and 75 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to ensure that Council is promoting the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Information from monitoring:

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Change 64  
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- enables Council to carry out its functions under the Act;
- identifies where appropriate action should be taken to ensure compliance with the intent of the Act;
- allows Council to consider refinements to the contents of the Plan; and
- enables the community to be informed about how the Plan's provisions are performing.

#### **P.1.1 Monitoring Programme**

The monitoring programme of the Council has three components:

- Compliance monitoring;
- State of the environment monitoring;
- Monitoring the suitability and effectiveness of the provisions of the Plan.

## **P.2 COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

Compliance monitoring involves:

- (a) checking whether provisions of the Plan are being complied with;
- (b) regularly reviewing compliance with conditions of resource consents;
- (c) determining whether environmental effects as a result of the exercise of a consent are at anticipated levels and not causing unexpected problems; and
- (d) noting whether permitted activities are creating adverse environmental effects.

### **P.2.1 Compliance Monitoring Programme**

- (a) Monitoring whether resource consents issued are in compliance with rules in the Plan;
- (b) Monitoring whether conditions of resource consents are complied with, including any enforcement action;
- (c) Monitoring whether activities comply with the Plan; and
- (d) Monitoring the effects of the exercise of resource consents and permitted activities on natural and physical resources.

The environmental effects of granting some resource consents can be uncertain. It is therefore sensible, in assessing and granting resource consents, to adopt a precautionary approach (especially when information about potential effects is limited).

The Council will, therefore, adopt a precautionary approach to compliance monitoring. Consent holders may be required to take corrective actions to rehabilitate or protect damaged resources where the results of monitoring show that this is necessary.

## **P.3 STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Section 35(2) of the Resource Management Act 1991 places a duty on local authorities to monitor the state of the environment in their district.

**(Note:** This requirement to monitor is no less stringent than the requirements to provide an Annual Plan and Report under the Local Government Act 2002.)

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Council's annual programme for monitoring the state of the district's natural and physical resources will be set out in the Annual Plan and the documents accompanying that plan.

While some additional programmes will require developing, a wide range of information is already collected by Council which will form the basis of state of the environment monitoring. A state of the environment programme includes the following:

- Analysing and regularly reporting on ecological, social and economic trends of significance to the district's environment;
- Establishing and monitoring bottom line environmental conditions (i.e. the limits of environmental systems).
- Identifying where and how environmental change is occurring - distinguishing between natural and human-related activity.
- Understanding and trying to anticipate adverse environmental effects as a result of human activities;
- Assessing and reporting on social and economic implications resulting from environmental change;
- Identifying future environmental effects that may arise from social and economic trends;
- Establishing community expectations and standards for environmental quality;
- Indicating priorities for monitoring and management - because resources are limited, and all aspects of the district's environment cannot be monitored at once.

## **P.4 REVIEW OF THE SUITABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PLAN**

The Act establishes a general duty for the Council to monitor the suitability and effectiveness of the Plan (Section 35(2)(b)).

In addition, the Council is required to state in the Plan the procedures to be used to review the matters set out in Section 75(2)(a)-(h) and to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan as a means of achieving its objectives and policies.

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Council's Annual Report provides interim measures of the suitability and effectiveness of the Plan (e.g. number of resource consents processed, results of major investigations).

Any person may request the Council to make a change to the Plan. Changes to the Plan provide an indication of its suitability and effectiveness. A report will be provided five years after the Plan becomes operative, which will include:

- (a) An assessment of the issues and objectives in the light of feedback from community boards, interest groups, the media and the community.
- (b) An assessment of the degree to which the Plan has guided decision making on individual resource consent applications and the degree to which they have been accepted by the community.
- (c) An assessment of the degree to which anticipated environmental outcomes have been achieved.
- (d) Recommendations for any changes to the Plan.

The Plan will be reviewed 10 years from the time it becomes operative, as required under the Act and in accordance with the provisions of the First Schedule.

## **P.5 REPORTING**

A District Plan monitoring report will be prepared each year after the Plan becomes operative. The report will contain results of compliance monitoring carried out, results of other monitoring programmes carried out and recommendations for monitoring to be carried out or Plan changes.

A State of the District Environment Report will be produced once every five years.