

Appendix 1 – Regional Policy Statement Objectives and Policies

N.B This document uses the same colour coding as the RPS Change 1 Appeals version dated September 2025, as follows:

- Provisions in black text have been made fully operative by GWRC
- Provisions in black text with underline and ~~strike through~~ are part of Change 1 but are not operative. In this case, both the Change 1 provision that is under appeal and the same provision in the Operative Regional Policy Statement 2013 must be considered.
- Provisions in **red text** are under appeal to the Environment Court. In this case, both the Change 1 provision that is under appeal and the same provision in the Operative Regional Policy Statement 2013 must be considered.

Integrated management

Integrated Management Objective A

Integrated management of the region's natural and physical resources:

(a) is guided by Te Ao Māori; and

(b) incorporates mātauranga Māori in partnership with mana whenua / tangata whenua; and

(c) recognises and provides for ki uta ki tai – the holistic nature and interconnectedness of all parts of the natural environment; and

(d) recognises and provides for the relationship of mana whenua / tangata whenua with te taiao and protects and enhances mana whenua / tangata whenua values, in particular mahinga kai; and

(e) is informed by the input of communities; and

(f) protects and enhances the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems; and

(g) recognises the dependence of humans on a healthy natural environment; and

(h) recognises the role of the resource management and planning system in reducing gross greenhouse gas emissions; and

(i) recognises the role of both natural and physical resources, including highly productive land and regionally significant infrastructure, in providing for well-functioning urban and rural areas and improving the resilience of communities to climate change; and

(j) recognises the benefits of protecting and utilising the region's significant mineral resources; and

(k) responds effectively to the current and future effects of climate change, population growth, and development pressures and opportunities.

Policy IM.1 Integrated management – ki uta ki tai – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a regional or district plan, local authorities shall adopt an integrated approach to the management of the region's natural and physical resources, including by:

a) partnering with mana whenua / tangata whenua to provide for mana whenua / tangata whenua involvement in resource management and decision making; and

b) recognising the interconnectedness between air, freshwater, land, coastal marine areas, ecosystems and all living things – ki uta ki tai; and

c) recognising that the effects of activities may extend beyond immediate and directly adjacent area, and beyond organisational or administrative boundaries; and

d) recognising the interrelationship between natural and physical resources; and

e) making decisions based on the best available information, improvements in

f) technology, science, and mātauranga Māori; and

g) requiring Māori data and mātauranga Māori to be interpreted within Te Ao Māori while upholding Māori data sovereignty.

Climate Change

Objective CC.1

The Wellington Region is a low-emission and climate- resilient region, where climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation are an integral part of:

a) sustainable air, land, freshwater, and coastal management; and

b) well-functioning urban areas and rural areas; and

c) the planning and delivery of infrastructure (including regionally significant infrastructure).

Objective CC.4

Nature-based solutions are an integral part of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation, improving the health, well-being and resilience of people and communities, indigenous biodiversity, and natural and physical resources.

Objective CC.6

Resource management and adaptation planning increases the resilience of communities, infrastructure and the natural environment to the short, medium, and long-term effects of climate change.

Policy CC.1 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with transport demand and infrastructure – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall include objectives, policies, rules and/or methods that require that all new and altered land transport infrastructure to be designed, constructed, and operated in a way that contributes to an efficient transport network, maximises mode shift from private vehicles to public transport and active modes and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by:

a) enabling multi-modal transport networks and infrastructure to serve and support development in locations which minimise travel distances between residential, employment and other essential services, and within walkable catchments of public transport routes where practicable; and

b) utilising existing space to remove barriers for access to walking, cycling and public transport; and

c) where providing new infrastructure or capacity upgrades on the transport network, prioritise walking, cycling and public transport, such as improved or new bus and cycle lanes and measures, to prioritise the need of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport above the car.

Policy CC.7: Protecting, restoring, enhancing and sustainably managing ecosystems that provide nature-based solutions to climate change – non-regulatory

Work with and support landowners, mana whenua / tangata whenua, and other key stakeholders to protect, restore, enhance or sustainably manage ecosystems that provide nature-based solutions to climate change.

Freshwater

Objective 12

The mana of the Region's waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems is restored and protected by ongoing management of land and water that:

a) returns the Region's water bodies and freshwater ecosystems to, and thereafter maintains them, in a state of tūhauora/good health; and

b) improves the health and wellbeing of the Region's degraded waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems; and

c) applies the Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy of obligations by prioritising:

(i) first, the health and wellbeing of waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems,

(ii) second, the health needs of people

(iii) third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future; and

d) recognises and provides for the individual natural characteristics and processes of waterbodies including their natural form, and their associated ecosystems; and

- e) incorporates and protects mātauranga Māori and acknowledges and provides for the connections and relationships of mana whenua / tangata whenua with freshwater; and
- f) provides for the ability of mana whenua / tangata whenua to safely undertake their cultural and spiritual practices associated with freshwater, including mahinga kai; and
- g) actively involves mana whenua / tangata whenua in decision- making in relation to the Region's waterbodies; and
- h) includes engagement with communities, stakeholders, and territorial authorities; and
- i) supports the wellbeing and safety of the community, by providing for the ability to carry out recreational activities, in and around freshwater environments; and
- j) supports and protects an abundance and diversity of freshwater habitats for indigenous freshwater species and, where appropriate, the habitat of trout and salmon; and
- k) supports the reasonable, sustainable and efficient use of water for activities that benefit the Region's economy, including primary production activities, innovation and tourism.

Policy 40 Maintaining and improving the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems – consideration

When considering an application for a regional resource consent, the regional council must have regard to:

- a) managing water quality, flows and water levels and aquatic habitats of water bodies in a way that improves the health and well-being of degraded waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems, and at least maintains the health and wellbeing of all other water bodies and freshwater ecosystems; and
- b) managing water quality in the coastal marine area in a way that maintains and, where degraded, protects and enhances the health and well-being of coastal waterbodies and the health and wellbeing of marine; and
- c) providing for mana whenua / tangata whenua values, including mahinga kai; and
- d) partnering with mana whenua / tangata whenua; and
- e) maintaining or enhancing the ecological functions of riparian margins; and
- f) minimising the effect of proposals such as gravel extraction, exploratory drillings, flood protection and works in the beds of lakes and rivers on groundwater recharge areas that are connected to surface water bodies; and
- g) maintaining or enhancing the amenity and recreational values of rivers and lakes, including those with significant values listed in Table 15 of Appendix 1; and
- h) protecting the values of rivers and lakes that have significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values as identified in Table 16 of Appendix 1; and
- i) maintaining natural flow regimes required to support aquatic ecosystem health; and

- j) maintaining or enhancing space for rivers to undertake their natural processes; and
- k) maintaining fish passage except when this conflicts with clause (o); and
- l) protecting and reinstating riparian habitat, in particular riparian habitat that is important for fish spawning; and
- m) restricting stock access to estuaries rivers, lakes and wetlands; and
- n) avoiding the removal or destruction of indigenous wetland plants in wetlands; and
- o) protecting the habitat of indigenous freshwater species; and
- p) protecting the habitat of trout and salmon, insofar as this is consistent with clause (o).

Policy 41 Managing the effects of earthworks and vegetation clearance – consideration

When considering an application for a regional resource consent for earthworks or vegetation clearance, have regard to:

- a) the extent to which the activity minimises erosion; and
- b) in the absence of environmental outcomes, target attribute states, or limits for suspended sediment for the relevant Freshwater Management Unit or part-Freshwater Management Unit, the extent to which silt and sediment runoff into water, or onto or into land that may enter water, will be minimised; and
- c) the extent to which the activity results in adverse effects on aquatic ecosystem health, indigenous biodiversity in water bodies and receiving environments.

Policy 42: Effects on freshwater and receiving environments from urban development – consideration

When considering an application for a regional resource consent that relates to urban development the regional council must have regard to:

- a) adopting an integrated approach, ki uta ki tai, that recognises the interconnectedness of the whole environment to determine the location and form of urban development; and
- b) protecting and enhancing Māori freshwater values, including mahinga kai, in partnership with mana whenua / tangata whenua; and
- c) providing for mana whenua / tangata whenua and their relationship with their culture, land, water, wāhi tapu and other taonga; and
- d) incorporating the use of mātauranga Māori to ensure the effects of urban development are considered appropriately; and
- e) the effects of use and development of land on water, including the effects on receiving environments (both freshwater and the coastal marine area); and
- f) the target attribute states set for the catchment; and

- g) the extent to which the urban development, including stormwater discharges, meets any limits set in a regional plan and the effect of any exceedances; and
- h) the extent to which urban development incorporates water sensitive urban design techniques and hydrological control to minimise the generation of contaminants from stormwater runoff, and maximise, to the extent practicable, the removal of contaminants from stormwater; and
- i) the extent to which urban development is located and designed to protect and enhance the health and wellbeing of adjacent rivers, lakes, wetlands, springs, riparian margins, and receiving environments, including the natural form and flow of the waterbody; and
- j) the extent to which hydrological control minimises adverse effects of runoff quantity (flows and volumes) and other potential adverse effects on natural stream values; and
- k) the provision of riparian buffers for urban development adjacent to natural waterbodies; and
- l) the extent to which the development avoids piping of rivers and whether there is a functional need for the activity in that location; and
- m) the practicability of daylighting rivers within the area proposed for urban development area; and
- n) efficient end use of water and alternate water supplies for non- potable use; and
- o) protecting drinking water sources from inappropriate use and development; and
- p) applying a catchment approach to wastewater networks including partnering with mana whenua as kaitiaki and allowance for appropriately designed overflow points where necessary to support growth and consideration of different approaches to wastewater management to resolve overflow.

Indigenous ecosystems

Objective 16

Indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, other significant habitats of indigenous fauna, and the ecosystem processes that support these ecosystems and habitats, are ~~maintained-protected~~ and, where appropriate, enhanced and restored to a healthy functioning state.

Objective 16B

Mana whenua / tangata whenua values relating to indigenous biodiversity, particularly taonga species, and the important relationship between indigenous ecosystem health and well-being, are given effect to in decision- making, and mana whenua / tangata whenua are supported to exercise their kaitiakitanga for indigenous biodiversity.

Policy 47: Managing effects on indigenous ecosystems and other habitats with significant habitats of indigenous fauna – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, a determination shall be made as to whether an

activity may affect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, other significant habitats of indigenous fauna, and the ecosystem processes that support these ecosystems and habitats, and in determining whether the proposed activity is inappropriate particular regard shall be given to:

- a) maintaining connections within, or corridors between, habitats of indigenous flora and fauna and/or enhancing the connectivity between fragmented indigenous habitats; and
- b) providing adequate buffering around areas of significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats from other land uses; and
- c) managing natural wetlands for the purpose of aquatic ecosystem health, recognising the wider benefits, such as for indigenous biodiversity, water quality and holding water in the landscape; and
- d) avoiding the cumulative adverse effects of the incremental loss of indigenous ecosystems and habitats; and
- e) providing seasonal or core habitat for indigenous species; and
- f) protecting the life supporting capacity of indigenous ecosystems and habitats; and
- g) ~~remedying or mitigating~~ minimising or remedying adverse effects on the indigenous biodiversity values where avoiding adverse effects is not practicably achievable except where Clause (i) and (j) apply; and
- h) the need for a precautionary approach to be adopted when assessing and managing the potential for adverse effects on indigenous ecosystems and habitats, where;
 - (i) the effects on indigenous biodiversity are uncertain, unknown, or little understood; and
 - (ii) those effects could cause significant or irreversible damage to indigenous biodiversity; and
- i) the provisions to protect significant biodiversity values in Policy 24B, and Policy 24C and the principles for biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation in Policy 24A, except that Policy 24A and Policy 24B do not apply to REG activities and ET activities; and
- j) the provisions to manage the adverse effects of REG activities and ET activities on significant biodiversity values in Policy 24D; and
- k) protecting indigenous biodiversity values of significance to mana whenua / tangata whenua, including those associated with a significant site for mana whenua / tangata whenua identified in a regional or district plan; and
- l) enabling established activities affecting significant biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment to continue, where the effects of the activities:
 - (i) are no greater in intensity, scale and character; and
 - (ii) do not result in loss of extent, or degradation of ecological integrity, of any significant biodiversity values; and

m) ensuring that the adverse effects of plantation forestry activities on significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment are managed in a way that:

(i) maintains significant indigenous biodiversity values as far as practicable, while enabling plantation forestry activities to continue; and

(ii) where significant biodiversity values are within an existing plantation forest, maintains the long-term populations of any Threatened or At Risk (declining) species present in the area over the course of consecutive rotations of production.

Policy IE.2 Giving effect to mana whenua / tangata whenua roles and values when managing indigenous biodiversity – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a plan change, variation or review of a district plan for subdivision, use or development that may impact on indigenous biodiversity, recognise and provide for mana whenua / tangata whenua values and relationships associated with indigenous biodiversity, including by, but not restricted to:

a) giving effect to the decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity and, once they are established, the local expressions of the decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity developed through Method IE.1; and

b) enabling mana whenua / tangata whenua to exercise their roles as kaitiaki; and

c) incorporating the use of mātauranga Māori in the management and

d) monitoring of indigenous biodiversity; and

e) supporting mana whenua / tangata whenua to access and exercise sustainable customary use of indigenous biodiversity, including for mahinga kai and taonga, in accordance with tikanga.

Policy IE.2: Giving effect to mana whenua / tangata whenua roles and values when managing indigenous biodiversity – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a plan change, variation or review of a district plan for subdivision, use or development that may impact on indigenous biodiversity, recognise and provide for mana whenua / tangata whenua values and relationships associated with indigenous biodiversity, including by, but not restricted to:

a) giving effect to the decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity and, once they are established, the local expressions of the decision-making principles for indigenous biodiversity developed through Method IE.1; and

b) enabling mana whenua / tangata whenua to exercise their roles as kaitiaki; and

c) incorporating the use of mātauranga Māori in the management and

d) monitoring of indigenous biodiversity; and

e) supporting mana whenua / tangata whenua to access and exercise sustainable customary use of indigenous biodiversity, including for mahinga kai and taonga, in accordance with tikanga.

Policy IE.2A: Maintaining indigenous biodiversity in the terrestrial environment – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a plan change, variation or review of a district plan or regional plan, indigenous biodiversity in the terrestrial environment that does not have significant indigenous biodiversity values as identified under Policy 23 and is not on Māori land, shall be maintained by:

- a) avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects of REG activities and ET activities to the extent practicable; and
- b) managing any significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity from any other proposed activity by applying the effects management hierarchy; and
- c) managing all other adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity to achieve at least no overall loss in indigenous biodiversity within the Wellington Region or district as applicable.

Natural Hazards

Objective 19

~~The risks and consequences to people, communities, their businesses, property, and infrastructure and the environment from natural hazards and the effects of climate change effects are reduced~~ avoided or minimised.

Objective 20

~~Hazard mitigation measures, structural works and other activities do not increase the risk and consequences of natural hazard events.~~

Natural hazard mitigation measures and climate change adaptation activities minimise the risks from natural hazards, and impacts on, Te Mana o te Wai, taonga species, sites of significance to mana whenua / tangata whenua, natural processes, indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity.

Objective 21

~~The resilience of our communities, infrastructure are more resilient to natural hazards, including the impacts and the natural environment to natural hazards is strengthened~~ improved, including to the short, medium, and long term effects of climate change, and sea level rise, is strengthened, and people are better prepared for the consequences of natural hazard events.

Policy 29: Avoiding inappropriate Managing subdivision, use and development in areas at high risk from natural hazards – district and regional plans

Regional and district plans shall manage subdivision, use and development in areas at risk from natural hazards as follows:

- a) identify areas at high risk from potentially affected by natural hazards; and

b) use a risk-based approach to assess the consequences to new or existing subdivision, use and development from natural hazard and climate change impacts over at least a 100 year planning horizon which identifies the hazards or risks as being low, medium or high; and

c) include hazard overlays, objectives, policies and rules to manage new and existing avoid inappropriate subdivision, use and development in those areas where the hazards or risks are assessed as low to medium in order to minimise or not increase the risks from natural hazards; and

d) include hazard overlays, objectives, policies and rules to avoid new and minimise or not increase the risks to existing subdivision, use and development and hazard sensitive activities in areas where the hazards or risks are assessed as high, unless there is a functional or operational need to be located in these areas.

Policy 51: Avoiding or Minimising the risks and consequences of natural hazards – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review to a district or regional plan, the risk and consequences of natural hazards on people, communities, their property and infrastructure shall be avoided or minimised, and/or in determining whether an activity is inappropriate particular regard shall be given to:

a) the ~~frequency and magnitude~~ likelihood and consequences of the range of natural hazards that may adversely affect the ~~proposal or development~~ subdivision, use or development, including residual risk those that may be exacerbated by climate change and sea level rise; and

b) the ~~potential for climate change and sea level rise to increase in the frequency or magnitude of a hazard event;~~

b) whether the location of the ~~subdivision, use or~~ development will foreseeably require hazard mitigation works in the future; and

c) the potential for injury or loss of life, social and economic disruption and civil defence emergency management and ~~civil defence~~ implications – such as access routes to and from the site; and

d) whether the subdivision, use or development causes any change in the risks and consequences from natural hazards in areas beyond the ~~application~~ development site; and

e) ~~minimising effects the impact of the proposed~~ subdivision, use or development on any natural features that may act as a buffer to reduce the impacts from natural hazards; and ~~and where development should not interfere with their ability to reduce the risks of natural hazards;~~

f) avoiding inappropriate subdivision, use or and development and hazard sensitive activities where the hazards and risks are assessed as high in areas at high risk from natural hazards, unless there is a functional or operational need to be located in these areas; and

g) appropriate the potential need for hazard risk management and/or adaptation and mitigation measures for subdivision, use or development in moderate-risk areas where the hazards and risks are assessed as low to moderate, including an assessment of residual risk; and

h) the allowance for floodwater conveyancing in identified overland flow paths and stream corridors; and

i) the need to locate habitable floor areas and access routes levels of habitable buildings and buildings used as places of employment above the 1% annual exceedance probability (1:100 year) flood level, in identified flood hazard areas; and

j) whether Te Ao Māori or mātauranga Māori provides a broader understanding of the hazards and risk management options.

Policy 52: Avoiding or Minimising adverse effects of hazard mitigation measures – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, for hazard mitigation measures, particular regard shall be given to:

~~a) the need for structural protection works or hard engineering methods;~~

a) whether non-structural nature-based solutions, Mātauranga Māori, or soft engineering methods options provide a more appropriate option solution; and

b) avoiding structural protection works or hard engineering methods unless it is necessary to protect existing development, regionally significant infrastructure or property from unacceptable risk and the works form part of a long-term hazard risk management strategy that represents the best practicable option for the future; and

c) the long-term viability of maintaining a hard engineering approach with particular regard to changing risks from natural hazards over time due to climate change; and

d) adverse effects on Te Mana o te Wai, mahinga kai, taonga species, natural processes, and the indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity; and

e) sites of significance to mana whenua / tangata whenua, including those identified in a planning document recognised by an iwi authority and lodged with a local authority or scheduled in a district or regional plan; and

f) any change in natural hazard risk to nearby areas as a result of changes to natural processes from the hazard mitigation works; and

g) the cumulative effects of isolated hard engineering structural protection works; and

h) any residual risk remaining after mitigation works are in place, so that they minimise reduce and or do not increase the risks from of natural hazards.

Regional form, design and function

Objective 22

A compact, well-designed, climate- resilient, accessible, and environmentally responsive regional form with well- functioning urban areas and rural areas, where:

(a) there is sufficient development capacity to meet the needs of current and future generations, improve housing affordability and quality, and provide access to a diversity of housing typologies within neighbourhoods which enable choice; and

(b) Māori are able to express their culture and traditions, and the relationship of mana whenua / tangata whenua with their culture, ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga is provided for; and

(c) Te Mana o te Wai is given effect to; and

(d) intensification occurs within existing urban zones in appropriate places where it is environmentally responsive; and

(e) subdivision, use and development is located, designed, and constructed in a way that is climate-resilient and contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

(f) built environments, including integrated transport infrastructure, meet the health and wellbeing needs of all people, with multi-modal access including active transport, between housing, jobs, community services, centres, green space, and open space; and

(g) the biophysical characteristics, location, recognised values, capability and limitations of land inform its use and development; and

(h) the productive capacity of rural land is retained; and

(i) new or upgraded infrastructure is integrated and sequenced with development; and

(k) development densities are sufficient to support the provision and ongoing maintenance of infrastructure; and

(l) a variety of residential, commercial, mixed use and industrial development in appropriate locations is provided which contributes to viable and vibrant centres at a range of scales, and industrial based employment locations; and

(m) the safe and efficient operation of regionally significant infrastructure is protected from potential reverse sensitivity effects.

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

~~(a) a viable and vibrant regional central business district in Wellington city;~~

~~(b) an increased range and diversity of activities in and around the regionally significant centres to maintain vibrancy and vitality;~~

~~(c) sufficient industrial based employment locations or capacity to meet the region's needs;~~

~~(d) development and/or management of the Regional Focus Areas identified in the Wellington Regional Strategy;~~

~~(e) urban development in existing urban areas, or when beyond urban areas, development that reinforces the region's existing urban form;~~

~~(f) strategically planned rural development; a range of housing (including affordable housing);~~

~~(g) integrated public open spaces;~~

~~(h) integrated land use and transportation;~~

~~(i) improved east-west transport linkages;~~

~~(j) efficiently use existing infrastructure (including transport network infrastructure); and (k) essential social services to meet the region's needs.~~

Objective 22A

To achieve sufficient development capacity to meet expected housing demand in the short-medium and long term in any tier 1 urban environment within the Wellington Region, the housing bottom lines in Appendix 7.9A are to be met or exceeded in the short- medium and long term in the tier 1 urban environment.

Policy 31 Enabling intensification to contribute to well- functioning urban areas **Identifying and promoting higher density and mixed-use development – district plans**

District plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that enable intensification within existing urban zones where it contributes to a compact, well-designed, climate-resilient, accessible and environmentally responsive regional form with well- functioning urban areas by:

a) for any tier 1 territorial authority, identifying a range of building heights and urban form densities (while recognising identified qualifying matters in that area) to:

(i) realise as much development capacity as possible in city centre zones, and

(ii) enable high density development within metropolitan centre zones; and any other locations, within at least a walkable catchment of:

a. existing and planned rapid transit stops, along networks identified as existing and planned transit in the current Regional Land Transport Plan, or

b. edge of city centre zones and metropolitan centre zones, or

c. areas with a range of commercial activities and community services, and

(iii) enable medium density development, and

(iv) otherwise reflect the purpose of, and level of commercial activity and community services, within and adjacent to town, local and neighbourhood centres; and

b) for any other territorial authority not identified as a tier 1 territorial authority, identifying areas for greater building height and urban form densities within, and adjacent to town centre zones where appropriate and either:

(i) where there is good access to existing or planned active and public transport to a range of commercial activities and community services, or

(ii) to meet relative demand for housing and business use in that location.

~~District plans shall:~~

~~a) identify key centres suitable for higher density and/or mixed-use development;~~

~~b) identify locations, with good access to the strategic public transport network, suitable for higher density and/or mixed-use development; and~~

~~e) include policies, rules and/or methods that encourage higher density and/or mixed use development in and around these centres and locations, so as to maintain and enhance a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form.~~

Policy 54: Achieving the region's urban design principles – consideration

When considering an application for a notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, for development, particular regard shall be given to achieving the region's urban design principles in Appendix 2.

Policy 55: Managing greenfield development to contribute to well-functioning urban areas and rural areas ~~Maintaining a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form – consideration~~

~~When considering an~~ An application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district plan for urban development beyond the region's existing urban zones ~~urban areas (as at March 2009), will contribute to achieving a compact, well-designed, climate-resilient, accessible and environmentally responsive regional form if: particular regard shall be given to whether:~~

a) the location, design and layout of the urban proposed development is the most appropriate option to achieve Objective 22:

1. contributes to well-functioning urban areas, as articulated in Policy UD.5; and

2. is well-connected to the existing urban area, which means it:

(i) is adjacent to existing urban zones with access to employment and amenities, and either,

(ii) is along existing or planned transport corridors that provide for multi-modal transport options, including public transport, or

(iii) supports the efficient and effective delivery of planned new or upgraded transport infrastructure including for public transport; and

3. concentrates building heights and densities to:

(i) maximise access to, and efficient use of, existing infrastructure,

(ii) use land to be zoned urban efficiently,

(iii) support viable and vibrant neighbourhood, local, town, metropolitan and city centres, and

(iv) support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by use of low and zero-carbon emission transport modes, including efficient provision of public transport services; and

4. applies specific management or protection for values or resources required by this Regional Policy Statement, including:

(i) managing subdivision, use and development in accordance with the risk from natural hazards as required by Policy 29.

- (ii) protecting indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values as identified by Policy 23,
- (iii) protecting outstanding natural features and landscape values as identified by Policy 25,
- (iv) protecting historic heritage values as identified by Policy 22,
- (v) giving effect to Te Mana o te Wai consistent with Policy 42,
- (vi) providing for climate resilience and supporting a low and zero carbon multi-modal transport network consistent with
- (vii) Policies CC.1, CC.4, CC.4A, CC.9, CC.14 and CC.14A,
- (viii) providing for mana whenua / tangata whenua values, including their relationship with their culture, ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga,
- (ix) protecting Regionally Significant Infrastructure from incompatible or inappropriate adjacent land uses, consistent with Policy 8,
- (x) protecting significant mineral resources from incompatible or inappropriate adjacent land uses, consistent with Policy 60, and
- (xi) managing effects on natural character in the coastal environment, consistent with Policy 36; and

b) if the proposed development has regard to is consistent with the Future Development Strategy the Council's growth and/or development framework or strategy that describes where and how future urban development should will occur in that district; and/or

c) a structure plan has been prepared to a level of detail commensurate to the scale of the urban development, in partnership with mana whenua / tangata whenua where undertaken by a local authority.; and

d) for a plan change, it would add significantly to development capacity in accordance with Policy UD.3.

Policy 56: Managing development in rural areas – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent or a change, variation or review of a district plan for subdivision, use, and development, in rural areas (as at March 2009), seek to manage adverse effects on rural areas by considering whether the proposal: particular regard shall be given to whether:

a) ~~the proposal will result in a loss of~~ retains the productive capability capacity of the rural area, including cumulative impacts that would reduce the potential for food and other primary production and reverse sensitivity issues for existing production activities, including extraction and distribution of aggregate minerals; and

b) minimises the potential for reverse sensitivity issues, including on existing production activities, and extraction and distribution of aggregate minerals operations; and

- c) ~~(b) the proposal will reduce~~ retains or enhances the amenity ~~aesthetic~~, cultural and open space values in rural areas between and around settlements; and
- d) provides for mana whenua / tangata whenua values, including the relationship with their traditions, ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga; and
- e) ~~(c) the proposals location, design or density will~~ supports reductions in greenhouse gas emissions ~~minimise demand for non-renewable energy resources~~ through appropriate location, design and density of development; and
- f) is climate-resilient; and
- g) gives effect to Te Mana o Te Wai; and
- h) for urban development, is consistent with Policy 55; and
- i) ~~(d) for other development the proposal~~
 - (i) has regard to is consistent with the Future Development Strategy the relevant city or district council growth and/or development framework or strategy that addresses future rural development; or
 - (ii) where inconsistent with the Future Development Strategy (j) in the absence of a framework or strategy, the proposal would will increase pressure for public services and infrastructure beyond existing infrastructure capacity.

Policy 57: Integrating land use and transportation – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district plan, seek to achieve integrated land use and transport within the Wellington Region by: ~~for subdivision, use or development, particular regard shall be given to the following matters, in making progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy:~~

- a) locating development in areas near centres and well-served by existing or planned public transport, to minimise private vehicle travel and trip length and maximise mode shift to public transport or active modes; and
- b) supporting connectivity with, and accessibility to public services or amenities, key centres of employment activity or retail activity via public and active transport networks; and
- c) supporting a safe, reliable, equitable, inclusive and efficient transport network including through connections with the wider transport network; and
- d) providing safe and accessible multi-modal transport networks along connected routes that are designed for public and active transport, while recognising that the delivery of public transport services may not always be efficient or practical; and
- e) supporting and enabling the rapid transport network and the growth corridors in the Wellington Region, including:
 - (i) Western Growth Corridor – Tawa to Levin;
 - (ii) Eastern Growth Corridor – Hutt to Masterton;

(iii) Let's Get Wellington Moving Growth Corridor; and

f) minimising the potential for reverse sensitivity effects on the safe and efficient operation of transport corridors.

~~a) whether traffic generated by the proposed development can be accommodated within the existing transport network and the impacts on the efficiency, reliability or safety of the network;~~

~~b) connectivity with, or provision of access to, public services or activities, key centres of employment activity or retail activity, open spaces or recreational areas;~~

~~e) whether there is good access to the strategic public transport network;~~

~~d) provision of safe and attractive environments for walking and cycling; and~~

~~e) whether new, or upgrades to existing, transport network infrastructure have been appropriately recognised and provided for.~~

Policy 58: Co-ordinating land use with development and operation of infrastructure – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a plan change, variation or review of a district plan, ~~for subdivision, use or development,~~ seek to achieve development that is integrated with infrastructure, in a way that: particular regard shall be given to whether the proposed subdivision, use or development is located and sequenced to:

a) makes effective, efficient and safe use of existing infrastructure capacity; and

b) makes provision for the development, funding, implementation and operation of infrastructure serving the area in question; and

c) all infrastructure required to serve new development is available or is able to be delivered in a timeframe appropriate to service the development, and this may require timing or staging development accordingly.

~~a) make efficient and safe use of existing infrastructure capacity; and/or~~

~~b) coordinate with the development and operation of new infrastructure.~~

Policy UD.3: Plan changes that provide for significant development capacity – consideration

For local authorities with jurisdiction over part, or all, of an urban environment, when determining whether a plan change for urban development will be treated as adding significantly to development capacity that is not otherwise enabled in a plan or is not in sequence with planned land release, the following criteria must be met:

- a) the plan change makes a significant contribution to meeting a need identified in the latest Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment, or a
 - (i) shortage identified through monitoring or otherwise for
 - (ii) a variety of housing that meets the regional, district, or local shortage of housing in relation to the particular type, size, or format, or
 - (iii) (iii) business space or land of a particular size or locational type, or

- (iv) community, cultural, health, or educational facilities; and
- b) a plan change will make a significant contribution to a matter in (a) if it:
 - (i) is of high yield relative to either the forecast demand or the identified shortfall,
 - (ii) will be realised in a timely manner, and
 - (iii) responds to demonstrated demand for the land use types proposed, for the short-medium term in that location; and
- c) where it provides for housing, the plan change will:
 - (i) as part of a mix of housing typologies, provide for high density development or medium density development, and
 - (ii) contribute to increasing housing affordability through a general increase in supply or through providing non-market housing; and
- d) the required infrastructure can be provided effectively and efficiently for the proposal, and without material impact on the capacity provided by existing or committed infrastructure for other feasible, reasonably expected to be realised developments, in the short-medium term; and
- e) the plan change justifies the need for additional urban-zoned land in that particular location to meet housing and business demand, demonstrating consideration of existing feasible, reasonably expected to be realised development capacity within existing urban zones; and
- f) the plan change can demonstrate it will mitigate any potential adverse effects on the ability of existing urban areas and rural areas to be well functioning, including by minimising potential reverse sensitivity effects and impacts on the feasibility, affordability, or deliverability of urban development anticipated by the district plan.

Policy UD.4 Achieving a compact regional form – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall include objectives, policies, rules and/or other methods requiring that subdivision, use and development occurs in a way that supports compact growth by prioritising:

- a) first, urban development (including unanticipated or out-of-sequence brownfield development) within existing urban zones, with a preference for higher densities in and adjacent to centres with a range of commercial activities and along existing or planned public transport corridors; then
- b) second, sequenced and planned greenfield urban development beyond existing urban zones, consistent with Policies 55 and 56; then
- c) third, unanticipated or out-of-sequence greenfield urban development that is well-connected along transport corridors, consistent with Policies 55 and 56, and adds significantly to development capacity consistent with Policy UD.3; then

d) fourth, residential or mixed use development in rural areas, consistent with Policy 56; and District and regional plans shall apply this hierarchy to enable development capacity while:

(i) enabling Māori to express their culture and traditions, and

(ii) requiring all infrastructure necessary to support development to be provided in an integrated and efficient way which prioritises the use or upgrading of existing infrastructure over the creation of new infrastructure; and

(iii) providing for a range of housing typologies and land uses, including mixed use development; and

(iv) for clauses (b) and (c), demonstrating that additional urban-zoned land is necessary and the most appropriate option to enable sufficient development capacity.

Policy UD.5: Contributing to well-functioning urban areas – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, a notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district plan for urban development, including housing and supporting infrastructure, seek to achieve well-functioning urban areas by:

a) providing for the characteristics of well-functioning urban environments, in a way that uses land efficiently; and

b) where providing housing, seeks to improve housing affordability, quality and choice and provide a diversity of typologies; and

c) providing for safe multi-modal access between housing, employment, services, amenities, green space, and local centres, preferably within walkable catchments and using low and zero-carbon emission transport modes; and

d) providing for and protecting mana whenua / tangata whenua values, sites of significance to mana whenua / tangata whenua, and their relationship to their culture, ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga; and

e) avoiding or mitigating potential adverse effects, including cumulative effects, of urban development on the natural environment, including on freshwater consistent with Policy 42; and

f) coordinating development with infrastructure while prioritising, where possible, the effective and efficient use of existing infrastructure; and

g) protecting the operation and safety of regionally significant infrastructure from potential reverse sensitivity effects.

Policy 59: Retaining highly productive agricultural land (Class I and II land) – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district plan, particular regard shall be given to safeguarding productive capability on Class I and II land.