

Asset management policy – Flood protection, river management and land drainage infrastructural assets

Waikato Regional Council
Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
HAMILTON 3240

April 2019

Doc #: 14204400

Contents

1	Purpose, objective and scope	1
2	Definitions	1
3	Policy statement	2
3.1	Strategic direction	2
3.2	Principles	2
3.3	Objectives	2
3.4	Provisions	2
4	Level of asset management	3
5	Policy review	3
6	Roles and responsibilities	4
7	Policy owner and approval	4

1 Purpose, objective and scope

Council manages integrated catchment activities and associated assets on behalf of the ratepayers of the Waikato Region to a value of \$584 million. The assets provide services to the region and are essential in ensuring community protection, economic productivity and general community wellbeing. These assets ensure the provision of services to meet the community's needs and support the delivery of services set out in the Council's Long Term Plan (LTP).

An effective asset management programme:

- Highlights the significant river and flood protection related infrastructural investment built up over many years.
- Provides security to substantial community investment including property, urban centres and life line networks including energy reticulation and transportation networks.
- Supports the ongoing economic productivity of land which in turn protects land values and agricultural investment.
- Te Tangata – protects the people of Waikato region.

Council has an obligation to manage its infrastructure assets effectively and this policy sets out Council's approach. This policy applies to the following infrastructure assets:

- River management, drainage and flood protection assets (including related embankment, structure, in-river structure and channel assets).
- Catchment management assets owned by council (soil conservation)

This policy does not apply to the following assets; Land and property (owned or leased), vehicle fleet, information technology related assets, furniture and fittings, and other equipment (telemetry etc). In addition, it does not include those soil conservation assets that are subject to Land Improvement Agreement or similar memorandum/covenant where they under the ownership of other parties.

2 Definitions

Infrastructural assets: Stationary systems (or networks) that serve defined communities where the system as a whole is intended to be maintained indefinitely to a specified level of service by the continuing replacement and refurbishment of its components.

Infrastructure Management Strategy: The Local Government Act 2002 Amendment 2014 requires councils to prepare an infrastructure management strategy. The strategy must identify the issues that may impact on infrastructure management over the coming 30 year period and the strategies that are to be put in place to address those issues.

Asset management: The combination of management, financial, economic, engineering and other practices applied to physical assets with the objective of providing the required level of service in the most cost effective manner.

Asset management plan: Documented information that specifies the activities, resources and timescales required for an individual asset, or a grouping of assets, to achieve Council's management objectives.

Integrated catchment management: incorporates the range of issues which need to be considered and connected in order to carry out effective and sustainable management of a catchment.

3 Policy statement

Zone plans (ZP's) and/or asset management plans (AMP's) will serve as the primary means of fulfilling council's statutory obligations for compliance with the Local Government Act 2002, Resource Management Act 1991, Building Act 2004, Land Transport Management Act 2001, and Health Act 1956.

3.1 Strategic direction

The policy recognises the Waikato Regional Council's Strategic Direction 2016-2019 in particular, the **Council Mission** which is:

'Working together to build a Waikato region that has a healthy environment, a strong economy and vibrant communities'

It also reflects the **Priority Areas** confirmed by council namely - iwi Maori co-governance, community partnerships, land and water and regional development.

3.2 Principles

Council will adhere to the following core principles in the planning and decision making related to the creation, acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal of infrastructure assets:

- Achievement of Council's strategic outcomes
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Financial, social and environmental sustainability
- Continuous improvement
- Customer and stakeholder focus
- Optimisation of life cycle costs
- Risk basis.

3.3 Objectives

The objectives for asset management planning and practices are to:

- Ensure that Council services and infrastructure assets are provided in a sustainable manner with appropriate levels of services.
- Ensure that Council infrastructure assets are managed in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements.
- Ensure a lifecycle approach is taken for all decisions on infrastructure assets.
- Ensure that an integrated catchment management approach is taken to the planning, delivery, operation, renewal and disposal of infrastructure assets.
- Ensure that Council has regard to iwi, community and relevant stakeholders associated with the delivery of services and the management of infrastructure assets.

3.4 Provisions

Council is committed to ensuring that it provides reliable and cost effective river management, flood protection and drainage services for the benefit of the Waikato Region. Council demonstrates that commitment by:

1. Development and maintenance of zone and asset management plans across the eight zones that comprise the region.
2. Engaging with community, stakeholders and iwi in the development of appropriate levels of service for inclusion in Council asset management plans
3. Complying with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.
4. Planning for a sustainable, reliable and effective flood protection and drainage network to meet the region's present and future needs.
5. Using a risk based assessment to optimise 'whole of life' costs and maximising the benefits of infrastructure assets.
6. Considering any impacts on the environment and seeking to enhance the environment where possible whilst undertaking asset management.
7. Providing adequate resources to undertake regular agreed levels of inspections to identify hazards, risks and asset condition.
8. Ensuring an appropriate mix of competent staff to maintain asset management capability and expertise.
9. Striving for continuous improvement and innovation in the management of assets.
10. Using National Codes of Practice¹ for determining the management of flood protection assets and dams.

4 Level of asset management

Council uses the International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM) as the basis for asset management, for assessing asset maturity and for continual improvement. Council strives to have all categories identified in the Manual as being within the 'Intermediate' range (categories are Core, Intermediate, Advanced). The Council will receive regular updates on the progress on asset management improvement.

5 Policy review

This policy will be reviewed after a period of three years from the date of approval of based on the Long Term Plan (LTP) cycle. When considering any changes to the policy, consultation will include the following, as a minimum:

- Chief Executive
- Director Integrated Catchment Management
- Director Science and Strategy
- Chief Financial Officer.

Any changes will also be reported to the Catchment Committees in place in each zone.

¹ This currently refers to the "The New Zealand Dam Safety Guidelines" only. This footnote will be updated if other codes of practice are identified that are relevant to this Policy.

6 Roles and responsibilities

To achieve this policy, the following key roles and responsibilities apply:

Role	Responsibility
ICM Director	Overall responsibility for ensuring the development of asset management policies and procedures.
Business Services Section Manager	Responsibility for overseeing the implementation of asset management policy, review of asset management outcomes and ensuring alignment with Councils strategic direction across all zones.
Zone Manager	Responsibility for developing and maintaining asset and zone plans and ensuring appropriate budget provisions are made for asset management. Responsibility for stakeholder engagement, delivery of work programmes and reporting.
Asset Management Team Leader	Responsible for maintaining asset data and providing relevant information to Zone Managers. This includes identification of maintenance, renewal and disposal requirements for all assets across all zones. Also responsible for the management and review of the Infrastructure Management Strategy.

7 Policy owner and approval

The owner of this policy is the Director Integrated Catchment Management.

This policy was originally approved by Council on 26/02/2015.

This policy was updated and changes approved by Council on 30 April 2019.

