

Waikato Regional Policy Statement

Te Tauākī Kaupapahere
o te rohe o Waikato

Waikato
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Waikato



Waikato Regional Council

Regional Policy Statement for the Waikato Region

The Waikato Regional Council resolved, by resolution on 4 December 2018, to insert Objective 3.27 in accordance with the requirements of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity 2016.

The Waikato Regional Policy Statement was updated on 19 December 2018 to meet this mandatory requirement.

Signed by Waikato Regional Council by the affixing its Common Seal in the presence of



A Livingston
Chairperson



V Payne
Chief Executive Officer



Dated at Hamilton this 12th day of December 2018.

Waikato Regional Council

Regional Policy Statement for the Waikato Region

Waikato Regional Council has prepared the Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement in accordance with section 60 and the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.

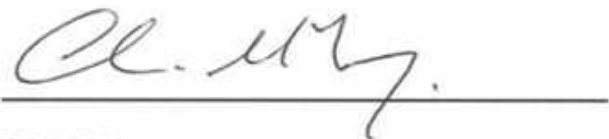
The Waikato Regional Council resolved, by resolution on 28 April 2016, to approve and make operative the Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement.

The Regional Policy Statement became operative on the 20th day of May 2016

Signed by Waikato Regional Council by the affixing of its Common Seal in the presence of



PA Southgate
Chairperson



CDA McLay
Chief Executive Officer



Dated at Hamilton this 28th day of April 2016.

Waikato Regional Council

Waikato Regional Policy Statement Change 1

Waikato Regional Council prepared Waikato Regional Policy Statement Change 1 - National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 and Future Proof Strategy update (Change 1) in accordance with Section 60 and the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Waikato Regional Council resolved, by resolution on 25 June 2026, to approve and make operative Change 1.

Change 1 will become operative on 15 July 2026.

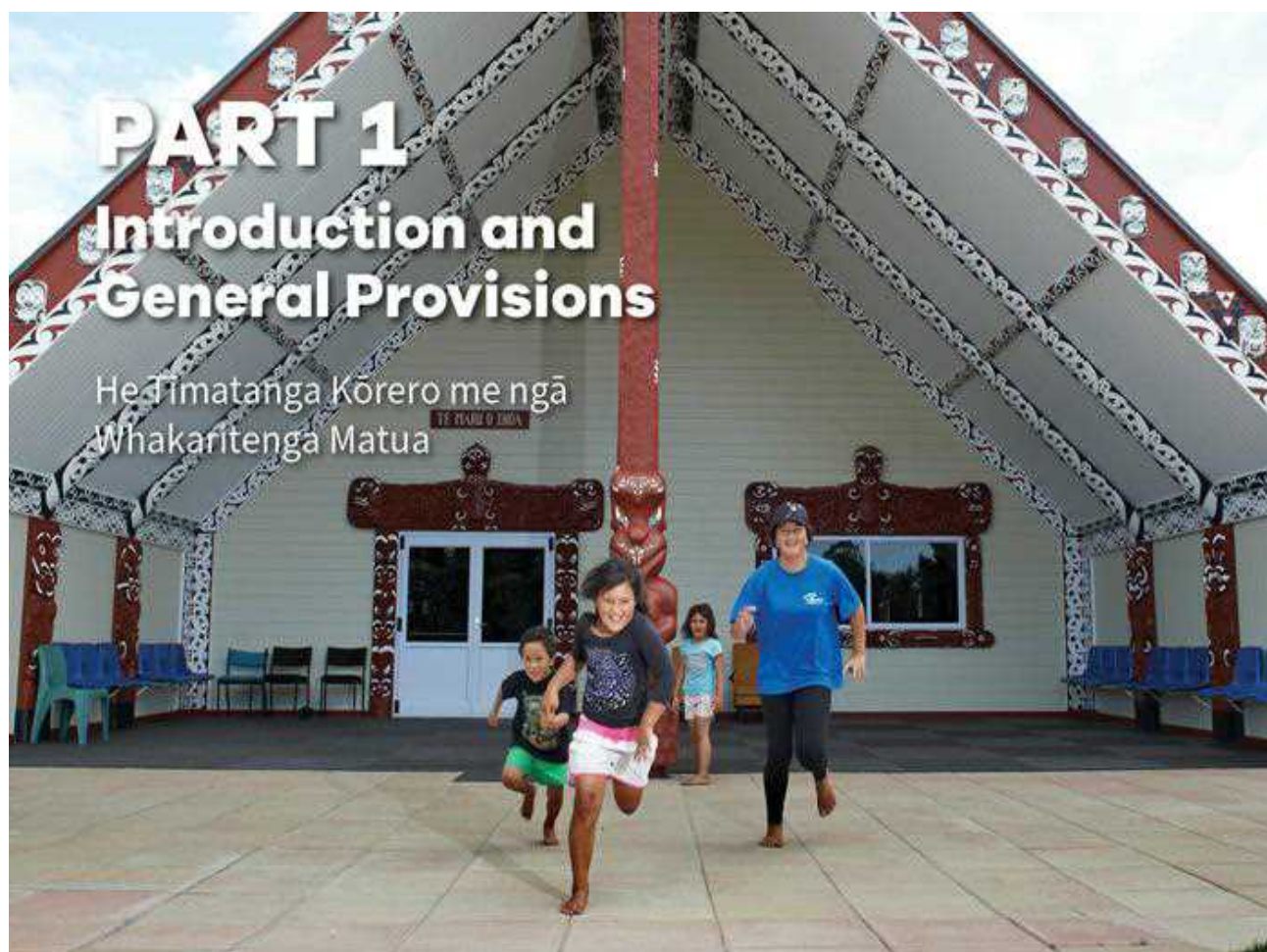
Signed by Waikato Regional Council by the affixing of its Common Seal in the presence of


W Maher
Chairperson




C McLay
Chief Executive Officer

Dated at Hamilton 25th day of June 2026.



1.1 Foreword

I love the Waikato region: its beautiful natural environment, its vibrant city and towns, and the excellent services and opportunities.

Looking after the health of our environment is especially important and, like me, the people of the Waikato have an amazing passion for it.

It's not surprising – we have iconic landscapes, rivers, mountains and coastal areas, and a strong desire for healthy water, soil and air.

These all need protecting to meet many of our economic, cultural and recreational needs – water for safe drinking and swimming, soil for agriculture and horticulture, land for housing, geothermal resources for energy generation, and clean air. But our needs and lifestyles place a heavy demand on these resources through pollution and waste from land use, industry and vehicle use.

There are many big and varied issues which need to be addressed – from climate change, ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity to management of the built environment, natural hazards and geothermal resources.

That's where Waikato's Regional Policy Statement has a major role to play so our region can be enjoyed by future generations.

It's a planning tool that will help the regional, city and district councils decide what needs to be done to keep and enhance the environmental conditions that drive our economy and provide us with the quality of life our region currently enjoys.

Importantly, it focuses councils on ensuring the way we use our natural resources doesn't tip the balance and compromise the ability of future generations to provide for their own needs.

It's been really important to us to hear the thoughts of the people in our region and the community has had a big influence on the Regional Policy Statement. We released the proposed Regional Policy Statement for public comment in 2010. Two years later, following four months of submissions and deliberations on the evidence, a hearings committee released more than 10,000 separate decisions.

A healthy environment is critical to our region's economy and ensuring everyone benefits from the quality of life most of us enjoy now.

We all have a part to play, because it's only by working together that we can ensure our region's natural resources are protected for a better and brighter future.

Paula Southgate

Chairperson

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the Resource Management Act is stated in section 5:

- (1) *The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.*
- (2) *In this Act, sustainable management means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while—*
- (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
 - (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
 - (c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.*

The Resource Management Act requires every region to prepare a regional policy statement. The purpose of a regional policy statement is to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act by providing an overview of the resource management issues of the region, and policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the **natural and physical resources**.

The contents of regional policy statements are set out in section 62 of the Resource Management Act:

- (1) *A regional policy statement must state —*
- (a) the significant resource management issues for the region; and*
 - (b) the resource management issues of significance to —*
 - (i) iwi authorities in the region; and*
 - (ii) the board of a foreshore and seabed reserve, to the extent that those issues relate to that reserve; and*
 - (c) the objectives sought to be achieved by the statement; and*
 - (d) the policies for those issues and objectives and an explanation of those policies; and*
 - (e) the methods (excluding rules) used, or to be used, to implement the policies; and*
 - (f) the principal reasons for adopting the objectives, policies, and methods of implementation set out in the statement; and*
 - (g) the environmental results anticipated from implementation of those policies and methods; and*
 - (h) the processes to be used to deal with issues that cross local authority boundaries, and issues between territorial authorities or between regions; and*
 - (i) the local authority responsible in the whole or any part of the region for specifying the objectives, policies, and methods for the control of the use of land —*
 - (i) to avoid or mitigate natural hazards or any group of hazards; and*
 - (ii) to prevent or mitigate the adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous substances; and*
 - (iii) to maintain indigenous biological diversity; and*
 - (j) the procedures used to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies or methods contained in the statement; and*
 - (k) any other information required for the purpose of the regional council's functions, powers, and duties under this Act.*
- (2) *If no responsibilities are specified in the regional policy statement for functions described in subsection (1)(i)(i) or (ii), the regional council retains primary responsibility for the function in subsection (1)(i)(i) and the territorial authorities of the region retain primary responsibility for the function in subsection (1)(i)(ii).*
- (3) *A regional policy statement must not be inconsistent with any water conservation order and must give effect to a national policy statement or New Zealand coastal policy statement.*

The planning framework is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

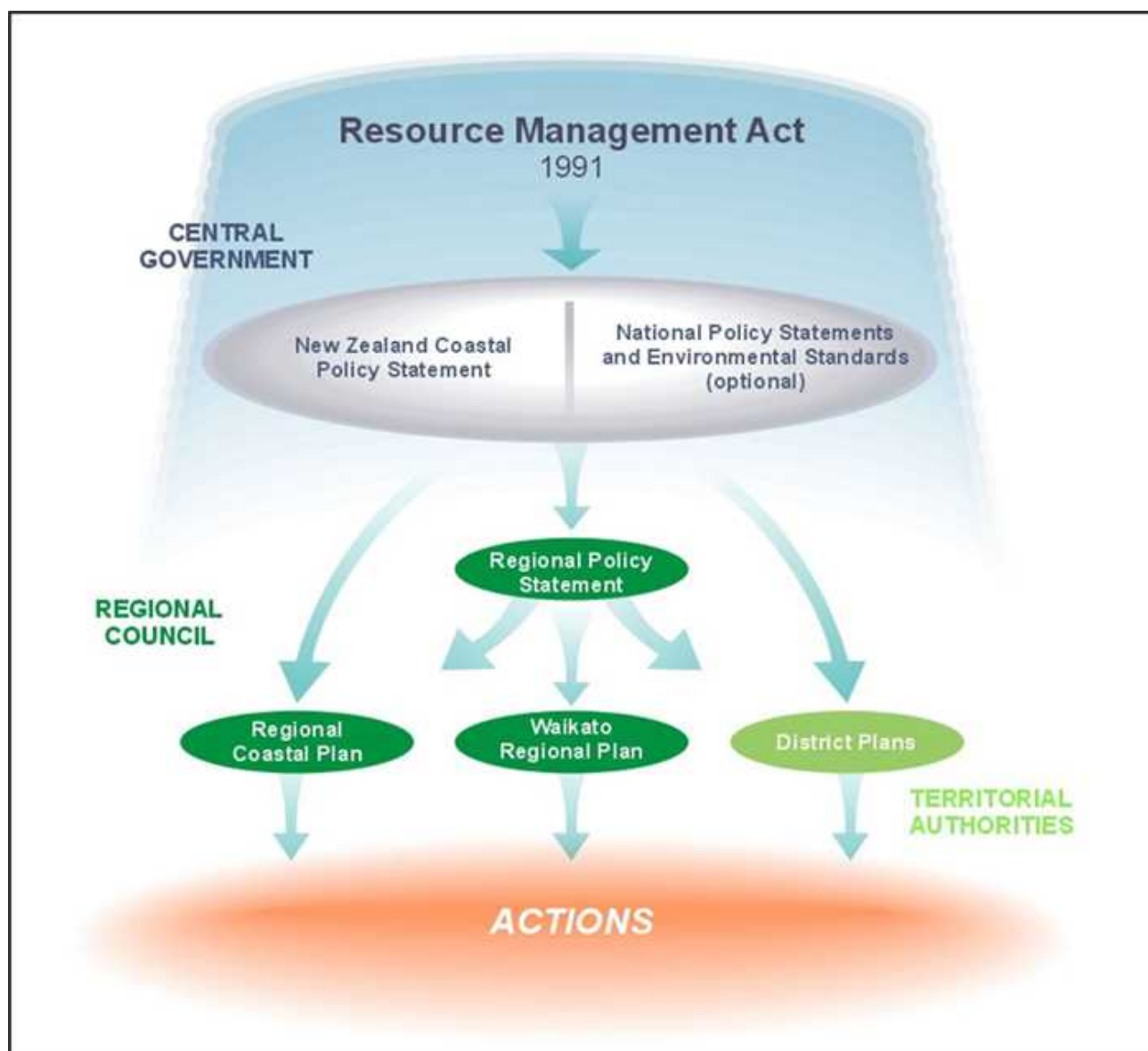


Figure 1 — Planning framework

1.3 Statutory context

1.3.1 Relationships with other policies and plans

The Resource Management Act establishes a system for resource management planning at the national, regional and local levels. The policy and planning documents provided for in the Resource Management Act are illustrated in Figure 2 below. Central to the purpose of each of these documents is the promotion of sustainable resource management.

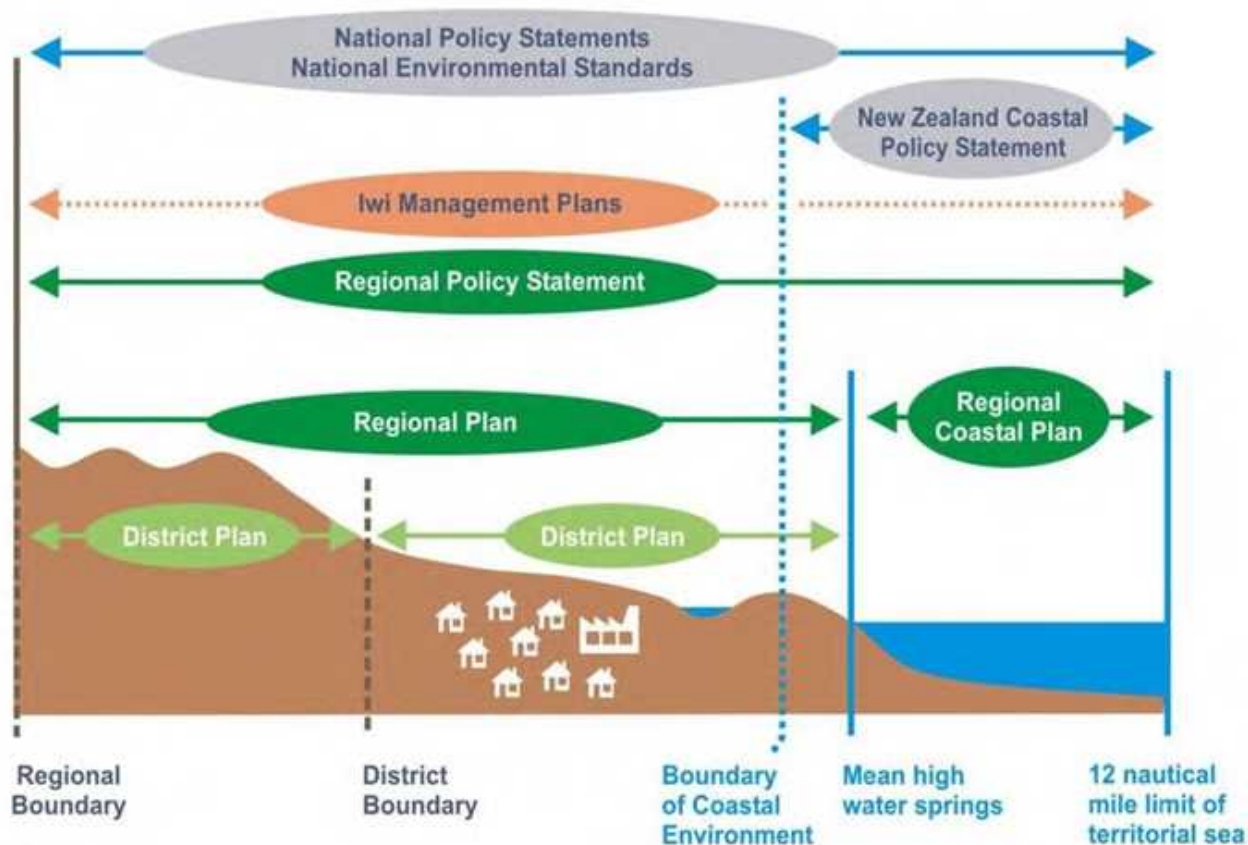


Figure 2 — Coverage of the resource management policy and planning

1.3.1.1 National Policy Statements, National Environmental standards and Regulations

The Resource Management Act enables central government to prepare national policy statements, national environmental standards and regulations. Further explanation on each of these is set out in sections 1.10 National policy statements and New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, 1.11 National environmental standards and 1.12 Regulations.

1.3.1.2 Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

As part of the Waikato River Settlement between the Crown and Waikato-Tainui, Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato — the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River has been developed. This Vision and Strategy was developed by the Guardians Establishment Committee, iwi and communities of the Waikato River catchment and will be periodically reviewed by the Waikato River Authority.

1.3.1.3 Iwi planning documents

The Resource Management Act requires that planning documents recognised by an iwi authority, such as iwi management plans, be taken into account in the preparation of the regional policy statement, to the extent that it has bearing on the resource management issues of the region.

1.3.1.4 Statutory acknowledgements

A statutory acknowledgement is a means by which the Crown has formally acknowledged the statements made by iwi of their cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional association with a statutory area. Local authorities must attach information recording statutory acknowledgements to all statutory plans that wholly or partly cover the area. The attachment of such information is not subject to the provisions of Schedule 1 of the RMA. Statutory acknowledgements are listed in APP1 — Statutory acknowledgements to this Regional Policy Statement.

1.3.1.5 Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011

When preparing a regional policy statement a regional council must take into account, if it is lodged with the council, a planning document prepared by a customary marine title group under section 85 of this Act, to the extent that it has bearing on the resource management issues of the region. It must:

- recognise and provide for the matters in that document to the extent that they relate to the relevant customary marine title area; and
- take into account the matters in that document to the extent that they relate to a part of the common marine area outside the customary marine title area of the relevant group.

1.3.1.6 Regional plans

Each region is required to produce a regional coastal plan to assist the regional council to exercise its functions in the **coastal marine area**. It must be approved by the Minister of Conservation. Other regional plans are optional and if prepared must give effect to regional policy statements, and any national policy statement. Regional plans may contain rules that have the force and effect of a regulation under the Resource Management Act .

1.3.1.7 District plans

Territorial authorities are required to prepare district plans. District plans may contain rules to control the use of land, including subdivision. As with regional plans, district plans must also give effect to regional policy statements. It is through this that integrated management of regional council and territorial authority functions occurs.

In addition to the regional policy statement and plans mentioned above, the Resource Management Act also makes provision for the preparation of joint plans and for combined plans and regional policy statements. At this stage there are no joint plans within the Waikato region.

1.3.1.8 Other plans and strategies

Other plans and strategies prepared by local and central government agencies and other organisations are relevant to resource management and can contribute to achieving the objectives and policies of a regional policy statement. They may be prepared pursuant to other legislation, such as the Local Government Act or Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act, or they may be non-regulatory documents. Examples include:

- pest management strategies;
- structure plans;
- long-term plans;
- reserve management plans;
- conservation management strategies and plans;
- national energy efficiency and conservation strategies;
- civil defence and emergency management plans; and
- growth management strategies.

In addition, Waikato Regional Council must prepare a land transport plan for the region. The Land Transport Management Amendment Act 2013 requires that any regional land transport plan take into account any relevant regional policy statement.

1.3.2 Other relevant legislation

- Land Transport Act 2003
- Local Government Act 2002
- Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000

1.4 General approach

1.4.1 Integrated management

Integrated management requires the adoption of an approach that recognises and accounts for:

- the natural processes and basic principles that support life;
- the complex interactions between air, water, land and all living things;
- the needs of current and future generations;
- environmental, social, economic and cultural outcomes; and
- the need to work with agencies, landowners, resource users and communities.

This is achieved through the hierarchical relationship of regional policy statements to other policy and planning documents developed under the Resource Management Act and other legislation (including biosecurity and transport legislation), the cross-linkages within the regional policy statement, and the relationships between the implementation methods.

1.4.2 Policy horizon

This Regional Policy Statement is forward looking and takes a long-term approach to the identification and resolution of resource management issues. It recognises that issues often emerge or evolve over time (from years to decades or centuries), and that it will similarly take time to address them and halt or reverse any adverse trends.

This Regional Policy Statement looks 100 years into the future. This accords well with the purposes of sustainable management of our natural and physical resources, and meeting the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations. It recognises the long life of community infrastructure, including the fact that many critical infrastructural elements in the region are either the same structures or have been in the same location for the last century. Additionally, the effects of current activities are projected to take many years for their full impacts to be realised. Notwithstanding the 100 year policy horizon applying generally to the management of resources in the Waikato Region, a shorter policy horizon typically applies when modelling Development Geothermal Systems. However, it must be acknowledged that the Regional Geothermal Resource should be sustained for future generations.

While the Regional Policy Statement adopts a long timeframe, it has a 10-year review cycle as set out in the Resource Management Act. More information on this can be found in Chapter 4.1.

1.4.3 Structure of the Regional Policy Statement

This Regional Policy Statement is set out in five parts in accordance with the National Planning Standards.

1.4.3.1 Part 1 — Introduction and General provisions

Part 1 introduces the Regional Policy Statement, sets out the statutory context for the Waikato region, and includes definitions, abbreviations and a glossary. The section identifies national direction for the region and contains Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato – the Vision and

Strategy for the Waikato River, which is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato River and its catchments. This part will include a tangata whenua / mana whenua chapter, as required by the National Planning Standards, once it has been developed through a Schedule 1 process.

1.4.3.2 Part 2 — Resource Management Overview

This part sets out the significant resource management issues for the region and the resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities in the region. Six issues are identified in total. Waikato-Tainui, Maniapoto, Raukawa, Te Arawa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Hauraki have worked with Waikato Regional Council to ensure the issues of significance to them are reflected in the significant resource management issues for the region and addressed through the objectives, policies and methods in IM — Integrated management and Part 3. Each of the six issues identified is significant to tangata whenua.

Part 2 also includes the chapter on IM — Integrated management. The provisions contained within this chapter relate to the integrated management of resources generally and are relevant to the management of more than one resource. This chapter is the first of many setting out objectives, policies, methods, principal reasons and anticipated environmental results that relate to the chapter topic. An overview of each type of provision is set out in 1.4.3.3 Part 3 — Domains and Topics.

1.4.3.3 Part 3 — Domains and Topics

Part 3 contains four domain and seven topic chapters, each setting out objectives, policies, methods, principal reasons and anticipated environmental results that relate to the chapter topic.

The objectives identify the desired end state of the region's natural and physical resources. In many instances they are enduring targets and will take longer than the life of the Regional Policy Statement to be achieved. Achievement will be through the actions identified as policies and methods.

The policies and methods identify what action is to be taken by whom and by what means to achieve the objectives. This enables an appreciation of the effects of methods and provides an opportunity to measure success within the statutory 10-year review period. This is particularly useful in relation to long-term objectives.

The principal reasons contained within each domain and topic chapter provide additional explanation to the policies and methods.

Anticipated environmental results relating to each topic are included at the end of each domain and topic chapter. Where the objectives are aspirational in nature and are expected to endure beyond the life of the Regional Policy Statement, the anticipated environmental results will be used as a measure of success.

1.4.3.4 Part 4 — Evaluation and Monitoring

This part identifies the procedures to be used for monitoring the effectiveness of the Regional Policy Statement in achieving the stated objectives. It also relies upon the anticipated environmental results contained within IM — Integrated Management and each of the topic and domain chapters.

1.4.3.5 Part 5 — Appendices and Maps

This part includes all Appendices and Maps referred to within the Parts 1 to 4.

1.4.4 General interpretation

The following are intended to assist the reader in the general interpretation and use of this policy statement:

- Objectives are intended to be achieved through the implementation of policies and methods in this document. Policies and methods are to be interpreted as outlined in the Resource Management Act 1991, whereby the methods are not part of the policy, but are a means to achieve the policy. The policies and methods are interrelated and are to be read as a package. Text boxes are included below methods to identify the relationship between policies and methods and to assist with reading them as a package.
- Unless otherwise specified, the items included in bulleted or numbered lists are provided in no order or priority and all factors should be considered equal.
- The terms that are defined are set out in the Definitions chapter. Māori terms that require further explanation are contained in the Glossary.
- All consent holders are required, where practicable, to avoid the adverse effects of their activities, and to remedy or mitigate them if they have not been avoided.
- Regional policy statements do not contain rules. Any rules that stem from the implementation of policies must be translated through a district or regional plan. In general the term 'control' has been used in methods in this document where it is anticipated that rules will be necessary to implement the method (this may or may not be in combination with non-regulatory methods).
- This Regional Policy Statement has adopted the following standard terminology:
 - 'Shall' has been used where methods are of a directive nature, where little discretion is intended to be exercised, and where it is intended that district or regional plans shall give effect to the method.
 - 'Should' has been used where it is intended that the direction should be followed, except where there are good reasons not to, as demonstrated in a s32 report or other appropriate evaluation or analysis.
 - 'Will' has been used in those methods that apply to only the Waikato Regional Council and where it is intended that the direction should be followed, except where there are good reasons not to, as demonstrated in a s32 report or other appropriate evaluation or analysis.
- Some activities will be deemed appropriate despite the fact they will or may create adverse effects. This will generally occur when the positive effects the activity will generate are considered to outweigh the adverse effects. This document refers to these adverse effects as 'unavoidable adverse effects'.
- Where a provision in this document refers to both regional plans and district plans, it is intended that the provision will be applied through both documents but within the functions and jurisdiction of the respective authorities as outlined in the Resource Management Act and this Regional Policy Statement.
- While district plans are required to give effect to the Regional Policy Statement, territorial authorities may choose to adopt a stronger or more restrictive management regime within the areas under their control. In this respect the provisions of this policy statement can be considered as 'bottom lines'.
- Chapter IM — Integrated management of the Regional Policy Statement relates to the management of natural and physical resources generally. This chapter generally contains provisions that apply across multiple domains. As such, the provisions of this chapter should be read in conjunction with and in addition to all of the domain and topic chapters.
- Some policies and methods that were originally drafted to integrate across topics have been located within one chapter using a 'best fit' approach to meet the National Planning Standard structure requirements. In some instances, cross-references are also included within another

chapter to highlight where a provision is particularly relevant to more than one topic. The domain and topic chapters are intended to be read as a whole, rather than in isolation, to understand the interrelationships between all provisions.

- Where lists are provided and the same conjunction (and/or) is intended for the entire list, the conjunction is placed only between the second to last and the last list items.

1.4.5 Area covered by the Regional Policy Statement

This Regional Policy Statement is a statement of policy for the Waikato region as constituted by the Local Government (Waikato Region) Reorganisation Order 1989 (see Map 1). The local authorities comprising the Waikato region are:

- Waikato Regional Council
- the territorial authorities of:
 - a) Thames-Coromandel District
 - b) Hauraki District (including Franklin)
 - c) Waikato District (including Franklin)
 - d) Matamata-Piako District
 - e) Hamilton City
 - f) Waipa District
 - g) South Waikato District
 - h) Otorohanga District
 - i) Waitomo District
 - j) Rotorua District (in part)
 - k) Taupo District (in part).

Regional and district plans prepared by these authorities must give effect to the Regional Policy Statement for the Waikato region.

1.4.6 Principal reasons for adopting

1.4.6.1 Background

Section 62(1)(f) of the Resource Management Act requires that regional policy statements state the principal reasons for adopting objectives, policies and implementation methods.

When adopting a proposed regional policy statement the council must also adopt a draft consideration of alternatives, benefits and costs as outlined in Section 32(2) of the (Section 32 analysis). This analysis:

- a. contains detailed reasons for each provision;
- b. outlines the reasons why each objective is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act; and
- c. discusses whether, having regard to their efficiency and effectiveness, the policies and methods are the most appropriate for achieving the objectives.

The report also evaluates the benefits and costs of policies and methods and the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information available.

The principal reasons for adopting each provision are included in the Section 32 analysis and readers should refer to this.

1.4.6.2 Objectives

All objectives in the Regional Policy Statement have been adopted to address the significant resource management issues for the region and resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities in the region outlined in Part 2.

The regionally significant issues were identified from analysis of the state of the environment, existing regional plans and strategies (including the operative Regional Policy Statement and iwi management plans), and feedback received from councillors, tangata whenua, territorial authorities and other stakeholders in workshops and committee meetings.

Achievement of the objectives will promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in line with the purpose of the Resource Management Act.

Chapter 3 of the Section 32 analysis provides the principal reasons for adopting each objective.

1.4.6.3 Policies and methods

The policies in the Regional Policy Statement set the course of action that is to be followed to achieve the objectives.

Policies are supported by principal reasons as well as the description of the anticipated environmental results in each chapter, and processes for monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies are contained in Chapter 4.1.

Methods state the actions that will or should be undertaken to implement the policies. There are two types of methods – regulatory and non-regulatory. Policies may be implemented through either or both type of method.

Regulatory methods include those which direct what will or should be included in regional plans, the Waikato Regional Land Transport Plan and district plans.

Non-regulatory methods include those that specify guidance should or will be prepared, methods for integrated management of resources, investigation of resources needed and support and assistance required to implement the policies.

The effectiveness and efficiency of each policy and its accompanying methods is evaluated in depth in Part B of the Section 32 analysis. In general, specific policy/method packages have been adopted because they have been assessed as the most effective and efficient combination to achieve the objectives. The evaluation of the preferred policy and method packages provided in the Section 32 analysis should therefore be considered the principal reasons for adopting the policies and methods contained in this Regional Policy Statement.

1.5 Cross boundary matters

[This is a mandatory chapter under the National Planning Standards. Content is being developed for this chapter and will be introduced via a Schedule 1 Resource Management Act process.]

1.6 Definitions

* denotes definitions from the Resource Management Act Māori terms in <i>italics</i> within a definition are explained in Chapter 1.8 Glossary.	
Accidental discovery protocols	Establish the steps to be taken in the event that historic heritage (such as archaeological or <i>wāhi tapu</i> sites) is unexpectedly discovered during subdivision, use or development.
Additional infrastructure	Has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (as set out in the box below) Means: a. public open space b. community infrastructure as defined in section 197 of the Local Government Act 2002 c. land transport (as defined in the Land Transport Management Act 2003) that is not controlled by local authorities d. social infrastructure, such as schools and healthcare facilities e. a network operated for the purpose of telecommunications (as defined in section 5 of the Telecommunications Act 2001) f. a network operated for the purpose of transmitting or distributing electricity or gas
Allocable flow	The amount of water in a water body that can be allocated for take or use.
Amenity values*	Those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.
Annual exceedance probability	The estimated probability of an event occurring in any one year — for example, a 1% annual exceedance probability means an event that has an estimated probability of occurrence of 1 per cent in any one year.
Biodiversity	The variability among living organisms, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.
Blue-green network	An overlay of the current and envisioned blue-green spatial framework that incorporates and integrates key elements such as wetlands, riverbeds, riparian corridors, significant biodiversity sites, habitat corridors, reserves, Department of Conservation land, parks, significant gardens, playgrounds, urban areas with high

	degree of tree cover, walking tracks and routes, cycling tracks, cycleways, bridal tracks, protected landscapes and viewshafts, and other key elements such as buffer zones as relevant.
Built environment	Buildings, physical infrastructure and other structures in urban, rural and the coastal marine area, and their relationships to natural resources, land use and people.
Catchment	The area of land that provides water to a water body.
Coastal environment	The environment where the coast is a significant part or element, comprising at least: a. the coastal marine area; b. islands within the coastal marine area; c. areas where coastal processes, qualities or influences are significant, including coastal lakes, lagoons, tidal estuaries, salt marshes, coastal wetlands, and the margins of these; d. areas at risk from coastal hazards; e. coastal vegetation and the habitat of indigenous coastal species, including migratory birds; f. elements and features that contribute to natural character, visual qualities or amenity values; g. items of cultural and historic heritage in the coastal marine area or on the coast; h. inter-related coastal marine and terrestrial systems, including the intertidal zone; and i. physical resources and built facilities, including infrastructure, that have modified the coastal environment.
Coastal marine area*	The foreshore, seabed, and coastal water, and air space above the water: a. of which the seaward boundary is the outer limits of the territorial sea; b. of which the landward boundary is the line of mean high water springs, except that where that line crosses a river, the landward boundary at that point shall be whichever is the lesser of- i. 1 kilometre upstream from the mouth of the river; or ii. The point upstream that is calculated by multiplying the width of the river mouth by 5.
Commercial development	The range of commercial activities including office, retail and commercial service provision.
Common marine and coastal area	The marine and coastal area ("MCA") excluding private title and conservation areas. The MCA is defined in the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 as meaning: a. the area that is bounded — i. on the landward side, by the line of mean high-water springs; and

	ii. on the seaward side, by the outer limits of the territorial sea; and b. includes the beds of rivers that are part of the coastal marine area (within the meaning of the Resource Management Act 1991); and c. includes the airspace above, and the water space (but not the water) above, the areas described in paragraphs (a) and (b); and d. includes the subsoil, bedrock, and other matter under the areas described in paragraphs (a) and (b).
Contaminant*	Includes any substance (including gases, odorous compounds, liquids, solids and micro-organisms) or energy (excluding noise) or heat, that either by itself or in combination with the same, similar, or other substances, energy, or heat — a. when discharged into water, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of water; or b. when discharged onto or into land or into air, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of the land or air onto or into which it is discharged.
Contaminated land*	Means land that has a hazardous substance in or on it that — a. has significant adverse effects on the environment; or b. is reasonably likely to have significant adverse effects on the environment.
Cultural impact assessments	Reports documenting Māori cultural values, interests and associations with an area or a resource and the potential impacts of a proposed activity on these. They are tools to facilitate meaningful and effective participation of Māori in impact assessment and should be regarded as technical advice, much like any other technical report such as ecological or hydrological assessments.
Cultural value assessments	Variations of cultural impact assessments. These can be used in assessing or providing background information when preparing plans. They can identify and describe values pertaining to an area or resource. They differ from cultural impact assessments in that they may not include a description of effects as they do not relate to a specific activity. However, they may address broad level impacts of development occurring or anticipated in that area. Cultural value assessments can provide direction as to the relevant issues and how these should best be addressed.
Development area	A development area spatially identifies and manages areas where plans such as concept plans, structure

	plans, outline development plans, master plans or growth area plans apply to determine future land use or development.
Domestic or municipal supply	Means a reticulated supply publicly or privately owned where the net take is: a. for the primary purpose of human drinking, sanitation and household needs wherever they arise; or b. for the purpose of enabling local authorities to meet their general responsibilities (wherever they arise) under the Local Government Act 2002, the Health Act 1956 and relevant legislation, including supply for the purposes of industrial and agricultural use.
Ecological sequence	A series of two or more connected ecosystems or vegetation types that retain natural transition zones along an environmental gradient. Ecological sequences that are not common in the Waikato region include, but are not restricted to: a. native dune vegetation through to coastal scrub or forest; b. lake margins or geothermal systems to native forest; and c. coastal to alpine vegetation. Such sequences should be largely intact (e.g. perhaps bisected by roads but not by large tracts of non-native land cover), such that they can be traversed by the majority of indigenous species that are reliant on such sequences for the completion of part or all of their life-cycles (either by deliberate movement or dispersal of propagules such as seed or pollen). An exceptional representative sequence will be one of the best examples of its type, taking into account its intactness, composition and ecological processes.
Ecological sustainability	A site's ability to continue to exist as an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna when taking into account its size, shape, buffering from external effects, connection to other natural areas and likely threats. It may change naturally into a different habitat but will continue to contain mainly indigenous species and remain of natural character.
Ecosystem services	The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include: a. provisioning services (such as food and water); b. regulating services (such as flood and disease control); c. cultural services (such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits); and d. supporting services (such as nutrient cycling); that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.

Electricity generation activities	Means the construction, operation and maintenance of structures associated with electricity generation. This includes small and community-scale distributed generation activities and the system of electricity conveyance required to convey electricity to the distribution network and/or the national grid and electricity storage technologies associated with renewable electricity.
Electricity transmission network/ electricity transmission	All mean part of the national grid (assets used or owned by Transpower NZ Limited) of transmission lines and cables (aerial, underground and undersea, including the high-voltage direct current link), stations and sub-stations and other works used to connect grid injection points and grid exit points to convey electricity throughout the North and South Islands of New Zealand.
Endemic	Indigenous species occurring naturally in the Waikato region and nowhere else.
Fine particulate matter	Particulate matter with an effective aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns and below (PM ₁₀).
Fresh water*	Means all water except coastal water and geothermal water.
Fresh water body	Fresh water (including in the coastal marine area) in a river, lake, stream, pond, wetland or aquifer or any part thereof. It excludes geothermal water.
Full range of ecosystem types	The nine broad ecosystem types that occur in the Waikato region: a. native forest and scrub; b. swamps and bogs; c. streams, rivers and lakes; d. beaches and dunes; e. marine and estuarine ecosystems; f. coastal islands; g. geothermal ecosystems; h. karst ecosystems; and i. high mountain lands.
Future Proof area	Land within the boundaries of Waikato District, Waipā District and Hamilton City as at 31 October 2010 (shown on Map 43).
Geothermal characteristics	The attributes or values that are included in the make-up of any part of the Regional Geothermal Resource. A geothermal system has a particular set of characteristics, a geothermal feature has another set of characteristics, and the characteristics of the Regional Geothermal Resource include these plus another set of attributes specific to the wider resource.
Geothermal energy*	Means energy derived or derivable from and produced within the earth by natural heat phenomena, and

	includes all geothermal water.
Geothermal feature	A surface manifestation of geothermal processes or discharges. It includes steam-fed features, geothermal water-fed features and remnant features such as hydrothermal eruption craters and ancient sinters.
Geothermal system	An individual body of geothermal energy and geothermal water, not believed to be hydrologically connected to any other body. Such a system includes material containing heat or energy surrounding any geothermal water, and all plants, animals and other characteristics dependent on the body of geothermal energy and geothermal water.
Geothermal water*	Means water heated within the earth by natural phenomena to a temperature of 30 degrees Celsius or more; and includes all steam, water, and water vapour, and every mixture of all or any of them that has been heated by natural phenomena.
Greenfield	An undeveloped or agricultural tract of land that is a potential site for industrial or urban development.
Hazardous substance*	Includes, but is not limited to, any substance defined in section 2 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 as a hazardous substance
Heritage order*	Means a provision made in a district plan to give effect to a requirement made by a heritage protection authority under section 189 or section 189A of the Resource Management Act.
Heritage protection authority*	Means a. any minister of the Crown including: i. the Minister of Conservation acting either on his or her own motion or on the recommendation of the New Zealand Conservation Authority, a local conservation board, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, or a Fish and Game Council; and ii. the Minister of Māori Development acting either on his or her own motion or on the recommendation of an iwi authority; b. a local authority acting either on its own motion or on the recommendation of an <i>iwi</i> authority; c. Heritage New Zealand in so far as it exercises its functions under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014; or d. a body corporate that is approved as a heritage protection authority under section 188 of the Resource Management Act.
High class soils	Those soils in Land Use Capability Classes I and II (excluding peat soils) and soils in Land Use Capability Class IIIe1 and IIIe5, classified as Allophanic Soils, using the New Zealand Soil Classification.

High risk flood zones	Land that is subject to river or surface flooding during an event with an annual exceedance probability of no more than one per cent, and during such an event: i. the depth of flood waters exceeds one metre; ii. the speed of flood waters exceeds two metres / second; or iii. the flood depth multiplied by the flood speed exceeds one.
Highly productive land	Has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 (as set out in the box below) Means land that has been mapped in accordance with clause 3.4 and is included in a regional policy statement as required by clause 3.5 (but see clause 3.5(7) for what is treated as highly productive land before the maps are included in an operative regional policy statement and clause 3.5(6) for when land is rezoned and therefore ceased to be highly productive land).
Historic and cultural heritage	a. Those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures, deriving from any of the following qualities: i. archaeological; ii. architectural; iii. cultural; iv. historic; v. scientific; vi. technological; and b. includes: i. historic sites, structures, places, and areas; ii. archaeological sites; iii. sites of significance to Māori, including <i>wāhi tapu</i>; and iv. surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources.
Indigenous	In relation to species, native to or occurring naturally in New Zealand as opposed to introduced by humans.
Infrastructure*	Means a. pipelines that distribute or transmit natural or manufactured gas, petroleum, biofuel or geothermal energy; b. a network for the purpose of telecommunication as defined in section 5 of the Telecommunications Act 2001; c. a network for the purpose of radiocommunication as defined in section 2(1) of the Radiocommunications Act 1989; d. facilities for the generation of electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and

	support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, excluding facilities, lines, and support structures if a person— i. uses them in connection with the generation of electricity for the person's use; and ii. does not use them to generate any electricity for supply to any other person; e. a water supply distribution system, including a system for irrigation; f. a drainage or sewerage system; g. structures for transport on land by cycleways, rail, roads, walkways, or any other means; h. facilities for the loading or unloading of cargo or passengers transported on land by any means; i. an airport as defined in section 2 of the Airport Authorities Act 1966; j. a navigation installation as defined in section 2 of the Civil Aviation Act 1990; k. facilities for the loading or unloading of cargo or passengers carried by sea, including a port-related commercial undertaking as defined in section 2(1) of the Port Companies Act 1988; or l. anything described as a network utility operation in regulations made for the purposes of the definition of network utility operator in section 166 of the Resource Management Act.
Integrated Transport Assessment	A comprehensive review of all the potential transport impacts of a development proposal.
Intrinsic value	the value something has in itself or for its own sake (rather than its use value, for example).
Iwi authority*	Means the authority which represents an <i>īwi</i> and which is recognised by that <i>īwi</i> as having authority to do so.
Large Geothermal System	A geothermal system that generally covers a large area and contains large volumes of heated rock and geothermal fluid of temperatures above 100°C. Large Geothermal Systems include those shown on Map 21.
Lifeline utilities	Entities named or described in Part A, or that carries on a business described in Part B of Schedule 1 of the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002 and their associated essential infrastructure and services.
Local authority*	Means a regional council or territorial authority.
Mineral*	Means a naturally occurring inorganic substance beneath or at the surface of the earth, whether or not under water; and includes all metallic minerals, non-metallic minerals, fuel minerals, precious stones, industrial rocks and building stones, and a prescribed substance within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1945.

Minimum flow	The minimum flow required in a water body to provide for the values of that water body.
Natural and physical resources*	Includes land, water, air, soil, minerals and energy, all forms of plants and animals (whether native to New Zealand or introduced), and all structures.
Natural character	In relation to the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, the degree of naturalness of an area, as evidenced by the degree to which it possesses qualities and features that are products of nature as opposed to products of human activities.
Natural hazard*	Means any atmospheric or earth or water related occurrence (including earthquake, tsunami, erosion, volcanic and geothermal activity, landslip, subsidence, sedimentation, wind, drought, fire, or flooding), the action of which adversely affects or may adversely affect human life, property, or other aspects of the environment
Natural hazard risk	The probability or likelihood of specified negative consequence to life, well-being, property, economic activity, environmental or other specified values, due to a particular hazard or group of hazards. Three levels of risk are identified in the Regional Policy Statement: a. intolerable: risk which cannot be justified and risk reduction is essential e.g. residential housing being developed in a primary hazard zone; b. tolerable: risk within a range that a community can live with so as to secure certain net benefits. It is a range of risk that is not regarded as negligible or as something to ignore, but rather as something to be kept under review and reduced if possible; and c. acceptable: risk which is minor, and the cost of further reducing risk is largely disproportionate to the benefits gained e.g. residential housing being developed beyond coastal setbacks.
Naturally rare	(Originally rare) rare before the arrival of humans in New Zealand.
Network utility operator*	Means a person who: a. undertakes or proposes to undertake the distribution or transmission by pipeline of natural or manufactured gas, petroleum, biofuel or geothermal energy; or b. operates or proposes to operate a network for the purpose of: i. telecommunication as defined in section 5 of the Telecommunications Act 2001; or ii. radiocommunication as defined in section 2(1) of the Radiocommunications Act 1989; or c. is an electricity operator or electricity distributor as

	defined in section 2 of the Electricity Act 1992 for the purpose of line function services as defined in that section; or d. undertakes or proposes to undertake the distribution of water for supply (including irrigation); or e. undertakes or proposes to undertake a drainage or sewerage system; or f. constructs, operates, or proposes to construct or operate, a road or railway line; or g. is an airport authority as defined by the Airport Authorities Act 1966 for the purposes of operating an airport as defined by that Act; or h. is a provider of any approach control service within the meaning of the Civil Aviation Act 1990; or i. undertakes or proposes to undertake a project or work prescribed as a network utility operation for the purposes of this definition by regulations made under the Resource Management Act; and the words network utility operation have a corresponding meaning.
No net loss	Means no reasonably measurable overall reduction in the type, extent, long-term viability and functioning of indigenous biodiversity. When the term is applied in a policy context it has regard to the overall contribution of regulatory and non-regulatory methods as contained in local indigenous biodiversity strategies. It does not create a no adverse effects regime.
Non-point source discharge	Discharges not having a single point of origin or not introduced into the receiving environment from a specific outlet or facility.
Overwhelming	Instances where the magnitude of a natural hazard event exceeds the design of the structural defence.
Peat soils	Those soils defined as Organic Soils in the New Zealand Classification System.
Point source discharge	Discharges from a stationary or fixed facility.
Primary production	Means the commercial production of raw material and basic foods, and which relies on the productive capacity of soil or water resources of the region. This includes the cultivation of land, animal husbandry/farming, horticulture, aquaculture, fishing, forestry, or viticulture. It does not include hobby farms, rural residential blocks, or land used for mineral extraction.
Primary hazard zone	An area in which the risk to life, property or the environment from natural hazards is intolerable.
Protected customary right	An activity, use, or practice: a. established by an applicant group in accordance

	with subpart 2 of Part 3 of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011; and b. recognised by - i. a protected customary rights order as identified in subpart 2 of Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011; or ii. an agreement made under section 95 of the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011.
Qualifying matter	Has the same meaning as in section 771 or 770 Resource Management Act 1991.
Reasonable mixing	The spatial zone or temporal period, outside of which a contaminant is expected to have no more than minor effects on the air, land or water into which it is discharged.
Regional Geothermal Resource	Includes all geothermal energy (including geothermal water), material containing heat or energy (derived from within the earth) surrounding any geothermal water, and all plants, animals, micro-organisms and characteristics dependent on the geothermal energy located in the region.
Regionally significant industry	Means an economic activity based on the use of natural and physical resources in the region and is identified in regional or district plans, which has been shown to have benefits that are significant at a regional or national scale. These may include social, economic or cultural benefits
Regionally significant infrastructure	Includes: a. pipelines for the distribution or transmission of natural or manufactured gas or petroleum; b. infrastructure required to permit telecommunication as defined in the Telecommunications Act 2001; c. radio apparatus as defined in section 2(1) of the Radio Communications Act 1989; d. the national electricity grid, as defined by the Electricity Industry Act 2010; e. a network (as defined in the Electricity Industry Act 2010); f. infrastructure for the generation and/or conveyance of electricity that is fed into the national grid or a network (as defined in the Electricity Industry Act 2010); g. significant transport corridors as defined in Map 25 and 26; h. lifeline utilities, as defined in the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002, and their associated essential infrastructure and services; i. municipal wastewater treatment plants, water

	supply treatment plants and bulk water supply, wastewater conveyance and storage systems, municipal supply dams (including Mangatangi and Mangatawhiri water supply dams) and ancillary infrastructure; j. flood and drainage infrastructure managed by Waikato Regional Council; k. Hamilton City bus terminal and Hamilton Railway Station terminus; and l. Hamilton International Airport.
Renewable electricity generation	Means generation of electricity from solar, wind, hydro-electricity, geothermal, biomass, tidal, wave, or ocean current energy sources.
Residual risk	The risk associated with existing natural hazard structural defences such as stopbanks and seawalls, including the risk of failure of a defence or of a greater than design event occurring.
Residual Risk Zone	An area subject to residual risk - that is the area that would be at risk from a natural hazard event but for a structural defence
Reverse sensitivity	Is the vulnerability of a lawfully established activity to a new activity or land use. It arises when a lawfully established activity causes potential, actual or perceived adverse environmental effects on the new activity, to a point where the new activity may seek to restrict the operation or require mitigation of the effects of the established activity.
Riparian areas	The strip of land adjacent to a water body and which contributes, or may contribute, to the maintenance and enhancement of the natural functioning, quality and character of the water body.
Rural settlement	A cluster of residential, commercial, light industrial and/or community activities that are located in a rural area.
Rural-residential development	Residential development in rural areas which is predominantly for residential activity and is not ancillary to a rural or agricultural use. This includes rural lifestyle zone developments.
Sensitive activities	Activities that are affected by the adverse effects typically associated with some lawful activities, for example, dust, spray or noise from a quarry/port facility or rural production activity, noise in an entertainment precinct or smells from a sewage treatment facility.
Significant Geothermal Features	Significant Geothermal Features in Development and Limited Development Systems are those geothermal features that are considered significant and are listed and mapped in the Waikato Regional Plan. In Protected,

	Research and Small Geothermal Systems, Significant Geothermal Features are those geothermal features that meet the description of one or more of the identified Significant Geothermal Feature Types listed in Table 21 (in APP2).
Significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitat of indigenous fauna	Any area that meets one or more of the criteria in APP5.
Significant mineral resources	Means mineral resources identified in accordance with UFD-M29.
Small Geothermal System	A geothermal system that: a. is not understood to be connected to a Large Geothermal System identified in the Waikato Regional Plan; and b. either: i. does not produce water with a temperature equal to or greater than 100°C or ii. does not occupy a volume of greater than 10 km³.
Soil quality	The life-supporting capacity of soil, including its biological, chemical and physical properties.
Solid fuel home heating appliance	A domestic heating appliance that burns solid fuel, including an appliance for interior space heating in buildings. This includes wood burners, pellet burners, domestic ranges and stoves, water heaters or central heating units, multi fuel (coal/wood and waste burning systems) and similar appliances, but excludes small scale domestic devices for smoking food.
Stock	Includes all cattle (including dairy and beef cattle), other heavy bovines and deer, sheep and goats.
Strategic industrial node	Means an area identified in the Future Proof Strategy where significant industrial activities already exist and/or new industrial growth is intended to occur to meet expected demand for industrial land. These areas are indicated as a general locality on Map 43 and as an allocation of land in Table 34 (APP12) and will be spatially defined through district planning processes.
Structure*	Means any building, equipment, device, or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land; and includes any raft.
Surf break	A natural feature that is comprised of swell, currents, water levels, seabed morphology, and wind. The hydrodynamic character of the ocean (swell, currents and water levels) combines with seabed morphology and winds to give rise to a "surfable wave". A surf break includes the "swell corridor" through which the swell

	travels, and the morphology of the seabed of that wave corridor, through to the point where waves created by the swell dissipate and become non-surfable. Surf breaks of national significance include the Whangamata Bar, Manu Bay, Whale Bay and Indicators at Raglan.
Sustainable yield	The amount of fresh water take from an aquifer that can be maintained indefinitely without causing adverse effects on the values in that aquifer.
Tangata whenua*	In relation to a particular area, means the <i>imi</i> , or <i>hapū</i> , that hold <i>mana whenua</i> over that area.
Taxa	Named biological classification units assigned to individuals or sets of species (e.g. species, subspecies, genus, order, variety).
Territorial authority	A city council or a district council named in Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 2002.
Tier 1 local authority	Has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (as set out in the box below) Means each local authority listed in column 2 of table 1 in the Appendix, and tier 1 regional council and tier 1 territorial authority have corresponding meanings.
Tier 3 local authority	Has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (as set out in the box below). Tier 3 local authority means a local authority that has all or part of an urban environment within its region or district, but is not a tier 1 or 2 local authority, and tier 3 regional council and tier 3 territorial authority have corresponding meanings.
Urban	A concentration of residential, commercial and/or industrial activities, having the nature of a city, town, suburb or a village which is predominantly non-agricultural or non-rural in nature.
Urban environment	Has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (as set out in the box below) means any area of land (regardless of size, and irrespective of local authority or statistical boundaries) that: a) is, or is intended to be, predominantly urban in character; and b) is, or is intended to be, part of a housing and labour market of at least 10,000 people
Water body*	Means fresh water or geothermal water in a river, lake, stream, pond, wetland or aquifer, or any part thereof, that

	is not located within the coastal marine area
Water management plan.	Is the short title for a Water Conservation, Demand Management and Drought Management Plan. It is a plan that establishes a long-term strategy for the water requirements of domestic or municipal suppliers and their communities. It also demonstrates that the volume of water required, including any increase over that previously authorised, has been justified and that the water take will be used efficiently and effectively
Well-functioning urban environments	Has the same meaning as in Policy 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (as set out in the box below) urban environments that, as a minimum: a) have or enable a variety of homes that: i) meet the needs, in terms of type, price, and location, of different households; and ii) enable Māori to express their cultural traditions and norms; and b) have or enable a variety of sites that are suitable for different business sectors in terms of location and site size; and c) have good accessibility for all people between housing, jobs, community services, natural spaces, and open spaces, including by way of public or active transport; and d) support, and limit as much as possible adverse impacts on, the competitive operation of land and development markets; and e) support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and f) are resilient to the likely current and future effects of climate change.
Wetland	Permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water, and land/water margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions, including within the coastal marine area.

1.7 Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Full terms
NES	National environmental standard
NPS	National policy statement
NZCPS	New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement
NPS-UD	National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020
ONFL	Outstanding natural features and landscapes

1.8 Glossary

Glossary entries are explanations of Māori terms used in the Regional Policy Statement rather than strict definitions

Term	Explanation
Ahi kā	Central to the concept of ahi kā is the notion of occupation, occupying a place with iwi, or hapū to maintain a representational presence on the part of whanau. This concept is linked with mana whenua, the idea of maintaining strong links to areas by occupation gives a sense of higher and senior priority over decision making.
Atua	Deities and personifications of supernatural beings. Examples of these include Ranginui and Papatūānuku.
Hapū	Collections of whānau groups living together in close location to one another and who extend from a common ancestor.
Iwi	A large number of whānau groups or collections of hapū who have common ancestry.
Kaitiaki	Those that safeguard taonga. They are usually people, but have also been known to be spiritual forces. It is not a role of ownership, but one of custodianship.
Kaitiakitanga	Is exemplified through the practices used by kaitiaki in safeguarding, protecting and caring for resources.
Kōhanga	A nursery and is commonly used for preschool facilities.
Kura	A school.
Mahinga kai	The process of cultivating food.
Mana	The authority or importance bestowed on and/or inherited by a person or people to act, direct, give counsel or make decisions among other things.
Mana whenua	The priority given to people to make decisions about the use of resources over an area of land that they are responsible for.
Marae	An area of land (not exclusive to Māori land) that may include independently, or collectively as a complex, a meeting house, dining hall, educational and other associated facilities and structures, as well as residential accommodation associated with the marae.
Mātauranga Māori	Traditional Māori knowledge - the body of knowledge originating from Māori ancestors, including the Māori world view and perspectives, Māori creativity and cultural practices.
Mauri	The life principle instilled in objects by Atua. Mauri is also the life principle that gives being and form to all things in the universe.
Papakāinga	The idea of a homestead, an area or local vicinity that holds close kinship ties. Often used to describe housing in association with a marae or pa, or otherwise on Māori land.

Papatūānuku	Earth Mother and wife of Ranginui.
Pātaka kai	Traditional food storehouse.
Rāhui	A tool used by kaitiaki to manage natural resources and are declared by kaitiaki to restrict access to and use of natural resources. Rāhui is a form of temporary restriction relating to the condition of a resource and the nature of the tapu in or around a specific area. Rāhui resemble prohibitions.
Ranginui	Sky Father and husband of Papatūānuku.
Raupatu	The confiscation of land and includes the related invasion, hostilities, war, loss of life, destruction of taonga and property, and consequent suffering, distress, and deprivation.
Rohe	The geographical area closely linked to iwi or hapū. That iwi or hapū will exercise mana over that area and so has mana whenua over it.
Taiao	The name given to identify the environment and nature.
Taonga	Treasures, or valuable items. Taonga is a broad concept and includes physical and metaphysical assets such as te reo and intellectual property and the traditional knowledge and use of these, social organisations and the arts.
Tapu	The sacred, dedicated, protected or that which is not ordinary or everyday. Tapu is the state or condition of a person or objects placed under the patronage of Atua. It is directly related to the mauri of a person, area or object and recognises an appreciation and respect of another life force.
Tikanga	Lore, custom, practice or commonsense thoughts that are based on the Māori belief system. The application of Tikanga is diverse and can vary, depending upon when and where an event takes place. Tikanga provides a framework for rules that govern harvesting, the care and respect for customary resources and for the environment.
Tūpuna	Ancestors.
Urupā	Burial ground or cemetery.
Wāhi tapu	A sacred site. These are defined locally by the hapū and iwi who are the kaitiaki for the wāhi tapu. These typically include burial grounds and sites of historical importance to the tribe. In order to protect particular sites from interference and desecration, some tribes will refuse to disclose the exact location to outsiders. When tapu is applied to places of significance to iwi, hapū and/or whānau, they are deemed wāhi tapu. The literal translation is “sacred place”. Places can become wāhi tapu for many reasons. In some instances, they signify ahi kā; in other instances, they can be burial grounds, places used for ritual cleansing or healing, or simply where past incidents occurred. Some wāhi tapu are places or landscapes considered tapu because of their magnitude, or symbolic representation of a hapū or iwi.
Wānanga	Forums for passing on traditional knowledge. It is often used to refer to modern tertiary institutions.

1.9 Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato — Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

1.9.1 Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010

The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 (the Waikato-Tainui Act) gave effect to the 2009 deed of settlement in respect of the raupatu claims of Waikato-Tainui over the Waikato River. The overarching purpose of the settlement is to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the river for future generations.

The purpose of the Waikato-Tainui Act, as set out in Section 4 is to:

- a. *give effect to the settlement of raupatu claims under the 2009 deed:*
- b. *recognise the significance of the Waikato River to Waikato-Tainui:*
- c. *recognise the vision and strategy for the Waikato River:*
- d. *establish and grant functions and powers to the Waikato River Authority:*
- e. *establish the Waikato River Clean-up Trust:*
- f. *recognise certain customary activities of Waikato-Tainui:*
- g. *provide co-management arrangements for the Waikato River:*
- h. *provide redress to Waikato-Tainui relating to certain assets:*
- i. *recognise redress to Waikato-Tainui of the Kiingitanga Accord and other accords provided for in the schedule of the Kiingitanga Accord.*

1.9.2 Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010

The Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 gives effect to the co-management deeds entered into between the Crown and Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi. The Crown and each iwi have agreed to the establishment and participation of each iwi in a co-governance framework. The overarching purpose of the Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 is to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for present and future generations.

The purpose of the Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 is set out in Section 4. The Act -

- a. *recognises the significance of the Waikato River to Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi:*
- b. *recognises the vision and strategy for the Waikato River:*
- c. *establishes and grants functions and powers to the Waikato River Authority:*
- d. *establishes the Waikato River Clean-up Trust:*
- e. *acknowledges and provides a process that may recognise certain customary activities of Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi:*
- f. *provides co-management arrangements for the Waikato River.*

1.9.3 Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012

The Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012 gives effect to the co-management deeds entered into between the Crown and Ngāti Maniapoto. The overarching purpose of the Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012 is to restore and maintain the quality and integrity of the waters that flow into and form part of the Waipa River for present and future generations and the care and protection of the mana tuku iho o Waiwaia.

1.9.4 Waikato Regional Policy Statement

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato — the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River is set out in schedules to the above Acts. The Vision and Strategy is the primary direction-setting document for the Waikato and Waipa Rivers and their catchments which include the lower reaches of the Waipa River (for the area covered refer to Map 2).

Under the Acts, the Vision and Strategy is deemed, in its entirety, to be part of the Regional Policy Statement. The Regional Policy Statement cannot be inconsistent with the Vision and Strategy. If there is any inconsistency, the Vision and Strategy prevails over that part of the Regional Policy Statement. This also applies to any future reviews of the Vision and Strategy.

Objectives, policies and methods in IM — Integrated management and Part 3 of this Regional Policy Statement assist in achieving the purpose of the Vision and Strategy, however, should be read in conjunction with the Vision and Strategy in its entirety (section 1.9.5 below).

Sections 77I and 77O of the Resource Management Act 1991 as introduced by the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021 specify that giving effect to Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato — the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River is a qualifying matter in relation to applying the medium density residential standards and Policy 3 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (as amended May 2022). This means that plan provisions can be less enabling of urban development than required under the Act or the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 where necessary to accommodate a matter to give effect to Te Ture Whaimana.

1.9.5 Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

1.9.5.1 Vision for the Waikato River

Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura tangihia o te maataamuri

“The river of life, each curve more beautiful than the last”

Our vision is for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come.

1.9.5.2 Objectives for the Waikato River

In order to realise the Vision, the following Objectives will be pursued:

- a. The restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

- b. The restoration and protection of the relationships of Waikato-Tainui with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural, and spiritual relationships.
- c. The restoration and protection of the relationships of Waikato River Iwi according to their tikanga and kawa with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships.
- d. The restoration and protection of the relationships of the Waikato Region's communities, with the Waikato River, including their economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships.
- e. The integrated, holistic and co-ordinated approach to management of the natural, physical, cultural, and historic resources of the Waikato River.
- f. The adoption of a precautionary approach towards decisions that may result in significant adverse effects on the Waikato River, and in particular, those effects that threaten serious or irreversible damage to the Waikato River.
- g. The recognition and avoidance of adverse cumulative effects, and potential cumulative effects, of activities undertaken both on the Waikato River and within the catchment on the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- h. The recognition that the Waikato River is degraded and should not be required to absorb further degradation as a result of human activities.
 - i. The protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora and fauna.
 - j. The recognition that the strategic importance of the Waikato River to New Zealand's social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing, requires the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
- k. The restoration of water quality within the Waikato River so that it is safe for people to swim in and take food from over its entire length.
- l. The promotion of improved access to the Waikato River to better enable sporting, recreational, and cultural opportunities.
- m. The application to the above of both maatauranga Maaori and the latest available scientific methods.

1.9.5.3 Strategies for the Waikato River

To achieve the Objectives, the following Strategies will be implemented:

1. Ensure that the highest level of recognition is given to the restoration and protection of the Waikato River.
2. Establish what the current health status of the Waikato River is by utilising maatauranga Maaori and latest available scientific methods.
3. Develop targets for improving the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River by utilising maatauranga Maaori and latest available scientific methods.
4. Develop and implement a programme of action to achieve the targets for improving the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
5. Develop and share local, national and international expertise, including indigenous expertise, on rivers and activities within their catchments that may be applied to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
6. Recognise and protect waahi tapu and sites of significance to Waikato-Tainui and other Waikato River iwi (where they do decide) to promote their cultural, spiritual and historic relationship with the Waikato River.
7. Recognise and protect appropriate sites associated with the Waikato River that are of significance to the Waikato regional community.
8. Actively promote and foster public knowledge and understanding of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River among all sectors of the Waikato community.
9. Encourage and foster a 'whole of river' approach to the restoration and protection of the Waikato River, including the development, recognition and promotion of best practice methods

for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

10. Establish new, and enhance existing, relationships between Waikato-Tainui, other Waikato River iwi (where they so decide), and stakeholders with an interest in advancing, restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.
11. Ensure that cumulative adverse effects on the Waikato River of activities are appropriately managed in statutory planning documents at the time of their review.
12. Ensure appropriate public access to the Waikato River while protecting and enhancing health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.

1.10 National policy statements and New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

National policy statements and New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement	
National policy statements (NPSs) and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) form part of the Resource Management Act's policy framework and are prepared by central government. NPSs and the NZCPS contain objectives, policies and methods that must be given effect to by policy statements and plans. NPSs and the NZCPS must also be given regard to by consent authorities when making decisions on resource consent applications, alongside other considerations. The following table provides an overview of whether any relevant review/s of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement has been undertaken in relation to NPSs and the NZCPS.	
National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022	The policy statement was reviewed under Change 1 to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement in April 2023. Amendments to provisions were made to recognise the policy statement within the scope of Change 1, of which the primary purpose was to give effect to the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 and reflect the updated Future Proof Strategy. A further change to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement will be prepared to more fully review the policy statement and give full effect to it
National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020	The policy statement was reviewed in March 2022 to update Objective UFD-O2. Amendments to incorporate the national policy statement were notified in October 2022
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020	The policy statement has not yet been reviewed in March 2022 to update Objective UFD-O2. Amendments to incorporate the national policy statement were notified in October 2022
National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation 2011	The policy statement has been reviewed and the national policy statement incorporated in May 2016
New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010	The policy statement has been reviewed and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement incorporated in May 2016
National Policy	The policy statement has been reviewed and the national policy statement incorporated in May 2016

Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008	
Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 (sections 7 and 8)	The policy statement has been reviewed and the national policy statement incorporated in May 2016

1.11 National environmental standards

Central government can prepare technical standards relating to the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources (national environmental standards). These are a form of regulation (see 1.12 Regulations). Methods for implementing these standards can also be prescribed. This provides an opportunity to promote the use of consistent standards, requirements or recommended practices nationally. National standards override existing provisions in plans that require a lesser standard. However, where a plan specifies a higher standard it prevails over a national standard if the standard expressly says that a rule in a plan or consent may be more stringent than the standard.

National environmental standards

National environmental standards (NESs) are prepared by central government and can prescribe technical standards, methods (including rules) and/or other requirements for environmental matters throughout the whole country or specific areas. If an activity doesn't comply with an NES, it is likely to require a resource consent. NESs must be observed and enforced by local authorities. The following NESs are currently in force:

- Resource Management (National Environmental Standard on Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities) Regulations 2016
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Sources of Drinking Water) Regulations 2007
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Air Quality) Regulations 2004 (amended 2011)

1.12 Regulations

Regulations are a type of subordinate legislation. The power to make regulations under the Resource Management Act is contained in section 360.

Regulations

The regulations included in this chapter come under the Resource Management Act (excluding the national environmental standards listed above). These regulations are:

- Resource Management (Discount on Administrative Charges) Regulations 2010
- Resource Management (Exemption) Regulations 1996
- Resource Management (Exemption) Regulations 2017
- Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Regulations 2003
- Resource Management (Infringement Offences) Regulations 1999
- Resource Management (Marine Pollution) Regulations 1998
- Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010
- Resource Management (Network Utility Operations) Regulations 2016
- Resource Management (Transitional, Fees, Rents, and Royalties) Regulations 1991

1.13 [Tangata whenua/mana whenua]

[This is a mandatory chapter under the National Planning Standards. Content is being developed for this chapter and will be introduced via a Schedule 1 Resource Management Act process.]