

PART 2

Resource Management Overview

He Whakarāpopototanga o te Whakahaere Rawa



SRMR — Significant resource management issues for the region

The Resource Management Act requires regional policy statements to state the regionally significant resource management issues of the region. This section fulfils this requirement.

The Resource Management Act also requires regional policy statements to state the resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities. As explained in RMIA — Resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities in the region, each of the six issues in SRMR — Significant resource management issues for the region are significant to tangata whenua.

Issues

SRMR-I1 — State of resources

Declining quality and quantity of natural and physical resources impacts their life-supporting capacity, reduces intrinsic values and ecosystem services and in general reduces our ability to provide for our wellbeing.

While addressing this issue generally, specific focus should be directed to addressing the following matters:

1. restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipā Rivers;
2. unacceptable risk to human health from poor air quality caused by fine particulate matter;
3. effects of intensive land based activities by the accumulation of contaminants from point and non-point sources in soils and the effects on water quality;
4. efficient allocation and efficient use of freshwater resources;
5. effects of sedimentation and nutrients in estuaries and harbours that is not derived from natural processes;
6. indigenous biodiversity decline;
7. increasing potential for conflicts between activities in the coastal marine area;
8. increasing demand and competition for fresh water and the need for management responses to address conflicting demands, existing over-allocation at a catchment level, and to avoid any further over allocation;
9. the interrelationship between the volume of water abstracted and the quality of the water remaining in the water body;
10. the availability of water to enable people and communities to provide for their existing and future social, economic and cultural wellbeing;
11. better integration of land use and water resource planning;
12. riparian margins and the interrelationship between the land and water interface, and impact on freshwater quality and quantity; and
13. loss of outstanding natural landscapes and features and the natural character of the coastal environment and wetlands, and lakes, and rivers and their margins.

SRMR-I1 is addressed by the following objectives:	
IM-O1 — Integrated management	GEO-O1 — Geothermal
IM-O2 — Resource use and development	LF-O1 — Mauri and values of fresh water bodies
IM-O3 — Decision making	LF-O2 — Allocation and use of fresh water

<i>IM-O4 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River</i>	<i>LF-O3 — Riparian areas and wetlands</i>
<i>IM-O5 — Climate change</i>	<i>LF-O4 — Values of soil</i>
<i>IM-O6 — Ecosystem services</i>	<i>LF-O5 — High class soils</i>
<i>IM-O7 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment</i>	<i>ECO-O1 — Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity</i>
<i>IM-O8 — Sustainable and efficient use of resources</i>	<i>EIT-O1 — Energy</i>
<i>IM-O9 — Amenity</i>	<i>HAZ-O1 — Natural hazards</i>
<i>IM-O10 — Public access</i>	<i>HCV-O1 - Historic and cultural heritage</i>
<i>AIR-O1 — Air quality</i>	<i>NATC-O1 — Natural character</i>
<i>CE-O1 — Coastal environment</i>	<i>NFL-O1 — Outstanding natural features and landscapes</i>
<i>CE-CMA-O2 — Mauri and health of marine waters</i>	<i>UFD-O1 — Built environment</i>

SRMR-I2 — Effects of climate change

The effects of climate change (including climate variability) may impact our ability to provide for our wellbeing, including health and safety.

While addressing this issue generally, specific focus should be directed to the following matters:

1. increased potential for storm damage and weather-related natural hazards;
2. long-term risks of sea level rise to settlements and infrastructure such as through increased coastal flooding and erosion; and
3. ability for urban environments to support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and to be resilient to the current and future effects of climate change.

SRMR-I2 is addressed by the following objectives:	
<i>IM-O1 — Integrated management</i>	<i>CE-O1 — Coastal environment</i>
<i>IM-O2 — Resource use and development</i>	<i>LF-O2 — Allocation and use of fresh water</i>
<i>IM-O3 — Decision making</i>	<i>ECO-O1 — Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity</i>
<i>IM-O5 — Climate change</i>	<i>HAZ-O1 — Natural hazards</i>
<i>IM-O6 — Ecosystem services</i>	<i>UFD-O1 — Built environment</i>

SRMR-I3 — Providing for energy demand

With increasing demand for energy coupled with Government objectives and targets regarding renewable electricity generation, there is an increasing need for improvements in the way we use energy, and for new energy projects and associated infrastructure, and increasing need to manage potential adverse effects on natural and physical resources.

While addressing this issue generally, specific focus should be directed to addressing the following matters:

1. how the increasing demand for energy is to be met;
2. potential for conflicts between activities to meet energy demand and other land or water uses including natural values;
3. the need to locate renewable energy generation infrastructure where the resource exists;
4. the need to maintain the efficiency of, and production from, existing renewable electricity generation activities;
5. the need for the continued existence, and operation of the Waikato Hydro-scheme as significant national infrastructure; and
6. security of supply.

SRMR-I3 is addressed by the following objectives:

<i>IM-O1 — Integrated management</i>	<i>CE-O1 — Coastal environment</i>
<i>IM-O2 — Resource use and development</i>	<i>GEO-O1 — Geothermal</i>
<i>IM-O3 — Decision making</i>	<i>LF-O2 — Allocation and use of fresh water</i>
<i>IM-O6 — Ecosystem services</i>	<i>EIT-O1 — Energy</i>
<i>IM-O8 — Sustainable and efficient use of resources</i>	<i>UFD-O1 — Built environment</i>

SRMR-I4 — Managing the built environment

Development of the built environment including infrastructure has the potential to positively or negatively impact on our ability to sustainably manage natural and physical resources and provide for our wellbeing.

While addressing this issue generally, specific focus should be directed to the following matters:

1. high pressure for development in Hamilton City, Waipā District, Waikato District, around Lake Taupō, along the Waikato River and in the coastal environment;
2. increasing potential for natural hazards;
3. increasing conflict with, and demands for, new infrastructure;
4. the need to use existing infrastructure efficiently and to maintain and enhance that infrastructure;
5. protecting domestic and municipal water supply sources from the adverse effects of land use;
6. the effect of development on access to mineral resources (particularly aggregates), high class soils, and future energy development sites;
7. increasing impacts on and conflicts with existing resource users;
8. the underperformance of some elements of Hamilton's central business district and consequential effects on its function, amenity and vitality as a result of unplanned dispersal of retail and office development;
9. the integrated relationship between land use and development, and the transport infrastructure network;
10. the contribution of regionally significant industry and primary production to economic, social and cultural wellbeing, and the need for those industries to access natural and physical resources, having regard to catchment specific situations;
11. increased need for the future provision of infrastructure to respond to resource demands from within and outside the region and the need to enable efficient installation of that infrastructure;
12. the availability of water to meet existing, and reasonably justifiable and foreseeable domestic or municipal supply requirements to support planned urban growth, including promoting the integration of land use and water planning; and
13. the need to strategically manage urban growth to ensure there is sufficient development capacity for residential and business land whilst contributing to well-functioning urban environments.

SRMR-I4 is addressed by the following objectives:

<i>IM-O1 — Integrated management</i>	<i>CE-O1 — Coastal environment</i>
<i>IM-O2 — Resource use and development</i>	<i>GEO-O1 — Geothermal</i>
<i>IM-O3 — Decision making</i>	<i>EIT-O1 — Energy</i>
<i>IM-O5 — Climate change</i>	<i>HAZ-O1 — Natural hazards</i>
<i>IM-O8 — Sustainable and efficient use of resources</i>	<i>HCV-O1 - Historic and cultural heritage</i>
<i>IM-O9 — Amenity</i>	<i>NATC-O1 — Natural character</i>
<i>AIR-O1 — Air quality</i>	<i>UFD-O1 — Built environment</i>

SRMR-I5 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment (te taiao)

The relationship tangata whenua have with the domains of Ranginui and Papatūānuku is of paramount importance and this relationship is being damaged through:

1. activities which degrade the mauri of the environment, including through cumulative effects;
2. loss of access to, and use and enjoyment of, resources and places;
3. loss or diminishment of the ability of tangata whenua to be involved in or influence management decisions; and
4. loss of ability to exercise and provide for kaitiakitanga.

SRMR-I5 is addressed by the following objectives:

<i>IM-O1 — Integrated management</i>	<i>CE-CMA-O2 — Mauri and health of marine waters</i>
<i>IM-O2 — Resource use and development</i>	<i>LF-O1 — Mauri and values of fresh water bodies</i>
<i>IM-O3 — Decision making</i>	<i>LF-O2 — Allocation and use of fresh water</i>
<i>IM-O4 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River</i>	<i>LF-O3 — Riparian areas and wetlands</i>
<i>IM-O6 — Ecosystem services</i>	<i>LF-O4 — Values of soil</i>
<i>IM-O7 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment</i>	<i>ECO-O1 — Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity</i>
<i>IM-O8 — Sustainable and efficient use of resources</i>	<i>HCV-O1 - Historic and cultural heritage</i>
<i>IM-O9 — Amenity</i>	<i>NATC-O1 — Natural character</i>
<i>IM-O10 — Public access</i>	<i>NFL-O1 — Outstanding natural features and landscapes</i>
<i>CE-O1 — Coastal environment</i>	<i>UFD-O1 — Built environment</i>

SRMR-I6 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

The health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, its major tributary the Waipā River, and their catchments has been and continues to be degraded. Of particular concern is:

1. adverse effects on the mauri of the Waikato and Waipā Rivers;
2. the ability of the Waikato and Waipā Rivers to sustainably and safely provide food and cultural, economic and recreation opportunities;
3. the effect this has on the relationship of Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Arawa River Iwi, Maniapoto and Raukawa and the regional community with the rivers; and
4. the need to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River while providing for the existence and continued operation and output of the Waikato hydro scheme.

SRMR-I6 is addressed by the following objectives:

<i>IM-O1 — Integrated management</i>	<i>LF-O1 — Mauri and values of fresh water bodies</i>
<i>IM-O2 — Resource use and development</i>	<i>LF-O2 — Allocation and use of fresh water</i>
<i>IM-O3 — Decision making</i>	<i>LF-O3 — Riparian areas and wetlands</i>
<i>IM-O4 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River</i>	<i>ECO-O1 — Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity</i>
<i>IM-O6 — Ecosystem services</i>	<i>EIT-O1 — Energy</i>
<i>IM-O7 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment</i>	<i>HCV-O1 - Historic and cultural heritage</i>
<i>IM-O8 — Sustainable and efficient use of resources</i>	<i>NATC-O1 — Natural character</i>
<i>IM-O9 — Amenity</i>	<i>NFL-O1 — Outstanding natural features and landscapes</i>
<i>IM-O10 — Public access</i>	<i>UFD-O1 — Built environment</i>
<i>GEO-O1 — Geothermal</i>	

Principal reasons

SRMR-PR1 — State of resources

Natural and physical resources include air, water, energy, minerals, soil, plants, animals and the things we build such as infrastructure. We rely on natural and physical resources for our social, cultural and economic wellbeing, as will future generations. Natural resources also have intrinsic value, or a value beyond their usefulness to us.

Through the use of natural and physical resources we provide for the necessities of life as well as the comforts and pleasures that come with prosperity. In order to remain prosperous and healthy, we need continued access to a healthy environment. We need to ensure ecosystems can continue to provide us with the services we rely on such as healthy soils to grow food, clean water for drinking and to service our farms and industries, wetlands to provide flood protection and water purification, clean air to breathe, and so on.

A healthy environment not only provides for our physical needs, but also influences our sense of wellbeing. People derive satisfaction from having access to natural areas and living in healthy and attractive surroundings. The health and mauri of the environment is important to the tangata whenua of the region who view much of the degradation that occurs as unacceptable. Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of the environment is consistent with the holistic and inter-connected view tangata whenua have of the environment, and their role as kaitiaki.

In many ways, our use of natural and physical resources is resulting in their declining quality and quantity or availability. Use of resources by one party can conflict with the way others want to use a resource. The matters of particular concern in the Waikato region are as follows:

- There are areas where poor air quality is resulting in unacceptable health risks. This mainly occurs in certain urban areas due to fine particulate matter.
- Some intensive land use practices are causing a reduction in soil quality including damage to soil structure, fertility and porosity, and a build-up of contaminants such as cadmium, zinc and fluorine. Some land uses are also resulting in reduced water quality in some areas, such as by causing an increase in nutrients, sediment, pathogens and algal growth in water bodies.
- There is an increase in demand and competition for fresh water, with some catchments that are already over allocated.
- Indigenous biodiversity, including fisheries, is continuing to decline, mainly due to reducing health and extent of natural ecosystems.
- Increasing pressure for development in the coastal marine area is likely to lead to increasing tensions between uses such as aquaculture, recreation, tourism, energy developments and sea floor mining.
- Increasing pressure on outstanding natural landscapes and features and the natural character of the coastal environment and inland water bodies from development.

SRMR-PR2 — Effects of climate change

Under the Resource Management Act, Waikato Regional Council is required to have particular regard to the effects of climate change. The council should ensure that we prepare for and adapt to these changes so that their impacts on us and on resources is minimised, and within New Zealand's urban environments that urban form supports reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and resilience to the current and future effects of climate change. New Zealand's response in terms of actions to reduce climate change is primarily a central government rather than a local government role.

As a result of climate change, the Waikato region is at risk from increasing sea levels and greater climate variability, including changing temperature and rainfall patterns, and increasing storm intensities.

In terms of resource management, the main immediate threats that need to be responded to are the effects from higher storm intensities and potential for weather-related natural hazards such as floods, slips and drought. In some cases, these pose significant risks to life and property.

Over the longer term, climate change and sea level rise is likely to increase risks to coastal properties due to increased coastal flooding and erosion. Although sea level rise will happen gradually, we need to make responsible decisions today about the nature of development in coastal areas if we are to minimise risks to our communities.

The changing climate will also lead to changes in the habitat range of plant and animal species, including pest and domestic species. We can therefore expect to face challenges in managing indigenous biodiversity and biosecurity including the increased incursions of pest species that may have previously been unable to survive in our climate. We can also expect there to be implications for primary production industries, such as:

- changes to the region's suitability for different types of farming; and
- water storage.

SRMR-PR3 — Providing for energy demand

Demand for energy is increasing in order to service our growing population, economic development, expanding urban areas and more technological lifestyles. We are travelling more and freighting more product, which is adding further to energy demand. On the supply side, we are facing a decline in availability of oil and an increase in its cost.

The Waikato region is rich in energy resources including geothermal, water (for hydro), coal, marine and wind. It is also a region crossed by important energy transmission lines that take gas and electricity from energy sources in the south to the Auckland region in the north. Historically the Waikato Region has been substantially shaped by the development of the Waikato Hydro Scheme which is a contributor to New Zealand's energy needs. Electricity generation and transmission activities in the Waikato Region make a contribution to national electricity generation capacity and supply. There is likely to be increasing demand for new electricity generation and transmission infrastructure through the region.

To provide for our increasing energy demands, there will be further pressure for development of the region's energy resources. We will need to find new ways of meeting energy demands into the future including the ability to apply local solutions in rural and remote areas. Central government has objectives and targets for renewable electricity generation recognising the need to focus on development of those sources. This will create a greater need to manage impacts on existing renewable electricity generation activities and promote new electricity generations from energy sources such as geothermal, wind, hydro, tides, wave energy and possibly biofuels. Development of renewable energy resources results in a range of local and national benefits including those associated with increased security of supply and reduced greenhouse emissions.

The development of new energy sources and related infrastructure poses potential for greater effects on resources such as water bodies, landscapes and biodiversity. It will also mean greater potential for conflicts with existing land and water uses. These matters need to be carefully managed into the future, to ensure that appropriate environmental outcomes are maintained while meeting renewable energy generation needs.

SRMR-PR4 — Managing the built environment

Under the Resource Management Act, physical resources must be sustainably managed. The built environment includes physical resources such as buildings and infrastructure, which are important for our social, economic and cultural wellbeing.

The Resource Management Act requires the strategic integration of infrastructure with land use. Efficient and effective infrastructure is crucial for our economic progress and social and physical wellbeing. However, land use change can adversely affect this, for example ribbon development along arterial roads can result in the slowing of traffic and may consequentially affect the efficiency of transport along these routes.

Development can also lead to a range of other undesirable and unsustainable outcomes if not appropriately managed. For example:

- reverse sensitivity issues;
- natural hazards are increasing due to ongoing development in hazard prone areas;
- The region supports a range of primary production activities, which require a range of attributes, such as soil, climate, water, access to transportation and labour. Inappropriate subdivision, use and development may limit access to such resources and hence the ability for primary production activities to be undertaken;
- minerals are sometimes made inaccessible by urban and rural-residential development. Such development can be very important to the region, but requires careful management to avoid these kinds of outcomes; and
- land use development that adversely affects municipal water supplies.

The benefits and positive effects of the use and development of resources also need to be recognised in order to achieve balance when assessing the potential effects of activities.

Hamilton's central business district's continued viability, vibrancy and accessibility is significant to the entire region. The previous planning framework has enabled an unplanned dispersal of retail and office development which has contributed to the underperformance of some elements of the central business district with consequential effects on its function, amenity and vitality.

Regionally significant industry and primary production play an important role in providing for the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of people and communities. The sustainable management of natural and physical resources needs to consider the ability and need for regionally significant industry and primary production to have appropriate access to resources in order for them to continue to successfully operate and develop, having regard to catchment specific situations. The National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land's objective is to protect highly productive land for use in land-based primary production, both now and into the future.

Territorial authorities manage land use change through district plans. Increasingly, tools such as structure plans and growth strategies are important in high growth areas. In areas of the region that are not experiencing the pressure of high growth, planning principles that prevent unsustainable outcomes should still be the foundation of district plans. There is a need to keep improving strategic planning for development in order to ensure ongoing development is sustainable.

SRMR-PR5 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment (te taiao)

Māori see the natural world holistically — being wholly inter-connected and complementary.

According to this concept Ranginui (sky), Papatūānuku (Earth), the mountains, open lands, rivers and the sea and the life therein exist seamlessly together and not as individual resources in isolation from one another. Māori believe that humans, too, form part of the natural world. An interdependent relationship exists between humans and the natural world. This allows people to live off the environment and use resources but at the same time requires them to ensure that they are cared for and protected. This relationship extends from ancestral beginnings and carries with it resource management knowledge (a component of mātauranga Māori) and responsibilities that are shared by successive generations. The nature of this relationship is recognised and provided for in Part II of the Resource Management Act.

Mātauranga Māori informs tikanga and kawa which guide resource management practices used by tangata whenua. An example of such a practice is the imposition of rāhui to enable regeneration of stocks, to preserve and protect species, or to minimise any adverse effects of resource use. The relationship with te taiao suffers when tangata whenua cannot fulfil their responsibilities, including managing resources to ensure mauri is preserved and that they are not depleted beyond their ability to replenish. These management responsibilities are embodied in the concept of kaitiakitanga. Kaitiakitanga extends beyond purely protection or preservation of resources to use and enjoyment, and includes for economic purposes.

An inability to influence decision making has been a long-standing and common concern of tangata whenua within the region. One of the impacts of this is on the ability of tangata whenua to effectively carry out their kaitiaki duties. While there has been improvement in recent years, including through the settlement of Treaty of Waitangi claims, this remains an issue for tangata whenua.

A lack of understanding, awareness and recognition of the nature and existence of cultural heritage and its importance to tangata whenua has frequently led to the destruction of areas, sites, places, landscapes or resources of significance, or the destruction of their values and/or of the relationship of tangata whenua with them.

SRMR-PR6 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

The relationship of the River Iwi with the Waikato River, and its major tributary the Waipā River, lies at the heart of their spiritual, cultural, historic and physical wellbeing and their identity.

To Waikato-Tainui the Waikato River is a tūpuna which has mana and in turn represents the mana and mauri of the tribe. Ngāti Tūwharetoa have a direct interest in, and special relationship with, the Waikato River. This includes the rights and responsibilities associated with kaitiakitanga. The people of Raukawa have their own unique and ancient relationship with the Waikato River. Prominent in their beliefs is the hereditary right and responsibility to protect the river. Te Arawa River Iwi comprise Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa, Ngāti Kearoa-Ngāti Tuarā and Tuhourangi-Ngāti Wahiao. Te Arawa River Iwi exercise mana whakahaere in accordance with their long-established tikanga to ensure the wellbeing of the Waikato River. The Waipā River forms part of the catchment of the Waikato River. It flows within the rohe of Ngāti Maniapoto and is integral to their spiritual, cultural, historic and physical wellbeing and their identity.

Deeds and settlements between the Crown and the respective Waikato River Iwi acknowledge that the deterioration of the health of the Waikato River while the Crown had authority over the river has been a source of distress. They set in place a framework with the overarching purpose of restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for current and future generations.

The Waikato River is at the heart of the social and economic development of the Waikato region. It supports the domestic and municipal needs of the region and is important for many reasons, including for primary production, powering the Waikato Hydro Scheme, providing drinking water and for cultural and recreational activity. This, along with the intensification of land use throughout the catchment, has caused the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its major tributary, the Waipā River, to be degraded.

This Regional Policy Statement recognises that the Waikato and Waipā Rivers are degraded and an important resource that requires balanced management and planning. It contains provisions aimed at restoring the rivers' health as a regional priority while continuing to provide for the communities they support.

RMIA — Resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities

Regional policy statements are required to state the resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities. 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 chapter SRMR — Significant resource management issues for the region and addressed through the objectives, policies and methods in Parts 2 and 3 of the Regional Policy Statement. Each of the six issues in the chapter SRMR — Significant resource management issues for the region is significant to tangata whenua.

IM — Integrated management

Objectives

IM-O1 — Integrated management

Natural and physical resources are managed in a way that recognises:

1. the inter-relationships within and values of water body catchments, riparian areas and wetlands, the coastal environment, the Hauraki Gulf and the Waikato River;
2. natural processes that inherently occur without human management or interference;
3. the complex interactions between air, water, land and all living things;
4. the needs of current and future generations;
5. the relationships between environmental, social, economic and cultural wellbeing;
6. the need to work with agencies, landowners, resource users and communities; and
7. the interrelationship of natural resources with the built environment.

IM-O1 addresses the following issues:	
<i>SRMR-I1 — State of resources</i> <i>SRMR-I2 — Effects of climate change</i> <i>SRMR-I3 — Providing for energy demand</i> <i>SRMR-I4 — Managing the built environment</i> <i>SRMR-I5 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment (te taiao)</i> <i>SRMR-I6 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment</i>	
IM-O1 is achieved by the following policies:	
<i>IM-P1 — Integrated approach</i> <i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i> <i>IM-P3 — Tangata whenua</i> <i>IM-P4 — Regionally significant industry and primary production</i> <i>CE-P1 — Planning for development in the coastal environment</i> <i>CE-P2 — Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems</i> <i>CE-CMA-P3 — Interests in the coastal marine area</i> <i>CE-CMA-P4 — Marine water quality</i> <i>GEO-P1 — Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource</i> <i>GEO-P3 — Development Geothermal Systems</i> <i>LF-P1 — Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-P2 — Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands</i> <i>LF-P3 — All fresh water bodies</i>	<i>LF-P4 — Catchment-based intervention</i> <i>LF-P5 — Waikato River catchment</i> <i>LF-P6 — Allocating fresh water</i> <i>LF-P7 — Efficient use of fresh water</i> <i>ECO-P1 — Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity</i> <i>ECO-P2 — Protect significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna</i> <i>HAZ-P1 — Natural hazard risk management approach</i> <i>UFD-P1 — Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development</i> <i>UFD-P10 — Governance collaboration in the Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P18 — Tier 3 local authority areas outside the Future Proof Strategy</i> <i>UFD-P19 — Being responsive to significant unintended and out-of-sequence growth within tier 3 local environments</i>

IM-O2 — Resource use and development

Recognise and provide for the role of sustainable resource use and development and its benefits in enabling people and communities to provide for their economic, social and cultural wellbeing, including by maintaining and where appropriate enhancing:

1. access to natural and physical resources to provide for regionally significant industry and primary production activities that support such industry;

2. the life supporting capacity of soils, water and ecosystems to support primary production activities;
3. the availability of energy resources for electricity generation and for electricity generation activities to locate where the energy resource exists;
4. access to the significant mineral resources of the region; and
5. the availability of water for municipal and domestic supply to people and communities.

IM-O2 addresses the following issues:	
<i>SRMR-I1 — State of resources</i> <i>SRMR-I2 — Effects of climate change</i> <i>SRMR-I3 — Providing for energy demand</i> <i>SRMR-I4 — Managing the built environment</i> <i>SRMR-I5 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment (te taiao)</i> <i>SRMR-I6 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment</i>	
IM-O2 is achieved by the following policies:	
<i>IM-P1 — Integrated approach</i> <i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i> <i>IM-P3 — Tangata whenua</i> <i>IM-P4 — Regionally significant industry and primary production</i> <i>IM-P5 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value</i> <i>IM-P6 — Maintain and enhance public access</i> <i>IM-P7 — Appropriate restrictions on public access</i> <i>AIR-P2 — Manage discharges to air</i> <i>AIR-P3 — Manage adverse effects on amenity</i> <i>CE-P1 — Planning for development in the coastal environment</i> <i>CE-CMA-P3 — Interests in the coastal marine area</i> <i>CE-CMA-P4 — Marine water quality</i> <i>GEO-P1 — Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource</i> <i>GEO-P2 — Significant Geothermal Features</i> <i>GEO-P3 — Development Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P4 — Limited Development Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P6 — Research Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P7 — Small Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P8 — Geothermal characteristics valued by tangata whenua</i> <i>LF-P1 — Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-P2 — Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands</i> <i>LF-P3 — All fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-P4 — Catchment-based intervention</i> <i>LF-P5 — Waikato River catchment</i> <i>LF-P6 — Allocating fresh water</i> <i>LF-P7 — Efficient use of fresh water</i> <i>LF-P8 — Maintain or enhance the life supporting capacity of the soil resource</i>	<i>LF-P10 — Peat soils</i> <i>LF-P11 — High class soils</i> <i>ECO-P1 — Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity</i> <i>ECO-P3 — Collaborative management</i> <i>EIT-P1 — Significant infrastructure and energy resources</i> <i>HAZ-P1 — Natural hazard risk management approach</i> <i>HAZ-P2 — Manage activities to reduce the risks from natural hazards</i> <i>HCV-P1 — Managing historic and cultural heritage</i> <i>HCV-P2 — Relationship of Māori to taonga</i> <i>HCV-P3 — Effects of development on historic and cultural heritage</i> <i>NATC-P1 — Preserve natural character</i> <i>NFL-P1 — Outstanding natural features and landscapes</i> <i>UFD-P1 — Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development</i> <i>UFD-P2 — Co-ordinating growth and infrastructure</i> <i>UFD-P3 — Marae and papakāinga</i> <i>UFD-P4 — Energy demand management</i> <i>UFD-P5 — Access to minerals</i> <i>UFD-P10 — Governance collaboration in the Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P11 — Adopting Future Proof land use pattern</i> <i>UFD-P12 — Density targets for Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P13 — Commercial development in the Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P14 — Rural-residential development in Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P18 — Tier 3 local authority areas outside the Future Proof Strategy</i> <i>UFD-P19 — Being responsive to significant unintended and out-of-sequence growth within tier 3 local environments</i>

IM-O3 — Decision making

Resource management decision making is holistic and consistent and:

1. is aligned across legislation and national and regional strategies;
2. takes an integrated approach to managing resources that cross regional and functional

- boundaries;
3. adopts an appropriate planning timeframe;
 4. adopts a precautionary approach, including the use of adaptive management, where appropriate, towards any proposed activity whose effects may be significant or irreversible but are as yet uncertain, unknown or little understood;
 5. is transparent;
 6. has regard to the potential for cumulative effects from activities;
 7. is based on the best available information, including mātauranga Māori;
 8. allows for flexible solutions for local variations;
 9. recognises that time may be needed for change to occur;
 10. includes working with tangata whenua;
 11. includes working with key stakeholders;
 12. considers a mix of methods to achieve objectives; and
 13. results in solutions which include processes to minimise conflicts.

IM-O3 addresses the following issues:	
<i>SRMR-I1 — State of resources</i> <i>SRMR-I2 — Effects of climate change</i> <i>SRMR-I3 — Providing for energy demand</i> <i>SRMR-I4 — Managing the built environment</i> <i>SRMR-I5 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment (te taiao)</i> <i>SRMR-I6 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment</i>	
IM-O3 is achieved by the following policies:	
<i>IM-P1 — Integrated approach</i> <i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i> <i>IM-P3 — Tangata whenua</i> <i>IM-P4 — Regionally significant industry and primary production</i> <i>IM-P5 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value</i> <i>AIR-P1 — Improve degraded air quality</i> <i>AIR-P2 — Manage discharges to air</i> <i>AIR-P3 — Manage adverse effects on amenity</i> <i>CE-P1 — Planning for development in the coastal environment</i> <i>CE-P2 — Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems</i> <i>CE-CMA-P3 — Interests in the coastal marine area</i> <i>CE-CMA-P4 — Marine water quality</i> <i>GEO-P1 — Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource</i> <i>GEO-P2 — Significant Geothermal Features</i> <i>GEO-P3 — Development Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P4 — Limited Development Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P5 — Protected Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P6 — Research Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P7 — Small Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P8 — Geothermal characteristics valued by tangata whenua</i> <i>LF-P1 — Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-P2 — Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands</i> <i>LF-P3 — All fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-P4 — Catchment-based intervention</i> <i>LF-P5 — Waikato River catchment</i> <i>LF-P6 — Allocating fresh water</i>	<i>ECO-P1 — Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity</i> <i>ECO-P2 — Protect significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna</i> <i>ECO-P3 — Collaborative management</i> <i>EIT-P1 — Significant infrastructure and energy resources</i> <i>HAZ-P1 — Natural hazard risk management approach</i> <i>HAZ-P2 — Manage activities to reduce the risks from natural hazards</i> <i>HAZ-P4 — Contaminated land</i> <i>HCV-P1 — Managing historic and cultural heritage</i> <i>HCV-P2 — Relationship of Māori to taonga</i> <i>HCV-P3 — Effects of development on historic and cultural heritage</i> <i>NATC-P1 — Preserve natural character</i> <i>NFL-P1 — Outstanding natural features and landscapes</i> <i>UFD-P1 — Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development</i> <i>UFD-P2 — Co-ordinating growth and infrastructure</i> <i>UFD-P5 — Access to minerals</i> <i>UFD-P6 — Information collection</i> <i>UFD-P10 — Governance collaboration in the Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P11 — Adopting Future Proof land use pattern</i> <i>UFD-P12 — Density targets for Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P13 — Commercial development in the Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P14 — Rural-residential development in Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P15 — Monitoring and review in the Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P18 — Tier 3 local authority areas outside the Future Proof Strategy</i>

LF-P7 — Efficient use of fresh water
LF-P11 — High class soils

UFD-P19 — Being responsive to significant unintended and out-of-sequence growth within tier 3 local environments

IM-O4 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River

The health and wellbeing of the Waikato River is restored and protected and Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River) is achieved.

IM-O4 addresses the following issues:	
SRMR-I1 — State of resources SRMR-I5 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment (te taiao) SRMR-I6 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment	
IM-O4 is achieved by the following policies:	
IM-P1 — Integrated approach IM-P2 — Collaborative approach IM-P3 — Tangata whenua IM-P5 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value IM-P6 — Maintain and enhance public access GEO-P3 — Development Geothermal Systems GEO-P4 — Limited Development Geothermal Systems GEO-P5 — Protected Geothermal Systems GEO-P6 — Research Geothermal Systems GEO-P7 — Small Geothermal Systems LF-P1 — Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies LF-P2 — Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands	LF-P3 — All fresh water bodies LF-P4 — Catchment-based intervention LF-P5 — Waikato River catchment LF-P6 — Allocating fresh water LF-P7 — Efficient use of fresh water ECO-P1 — Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity ECO-P3 — Collaborative management HCV-P1 — Managing historic and cultural heritage HCV-P2 — Relationship of Māori to taonga NATC-P1 — Preserve natural character UFD-P1 — Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development

IM-O5 — Climate change

Land use is managed to:

1. avoid the potential adverse effects of climate change induced weather variability and sea level rise on:
 - a. amenity;
 - b. the built environment, including infrastructure;
 - c. indigenous biodiversity;
 - d. natural character;
 - e. public health and safety; and
 - f. public access.
2. support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions within urban environments and ensure urban environments are resilient to the current and future effects of climate change.

IM-O5 addresses the following issues:	
SRMR-I1 — State of resources SRMR-I2 — Effects of climate change SRMR-I4 — Managing the built environment	
IM-O5 is achieved by the following policies:	
IM-P1 — Integrated approach IM-P2 — Collaborative approach	LF-P6 — Allocating fresh water LF-P7 — Efficient use of fresh water

<i>IM-P3 — Tangata whenua</i> <i>IM-P6 — Maintain and enhance public access</i> <i>CE-P1 — Planning for development in the coastal environment</i> <i>CE-CMA-P3 — Interests in the coastal marine area</i>	<i>HAZ-P1 — Natural hazard risk management approach</i> <i>HAZ-P2 — Manage activities to reduce the risks from natural hazards</i> <i>UFD-P1 — Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development</i> <i>UFD-P10 — Governance collaboration in the Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P11 — Adopting Future Proof land use pattern</i> <i>UFD-P18 — Tier 3 local authority areas outside the Future Proof Strategy</i> <i>UFD-P19 — Being responsive to significant unintended and out-of-sequence growth within tier 3 local environments</i>
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IM-O6 — Ecosystem services

The range of ecosystem services associated with natural resources are recognised and maintained or enhanced to enable their ongoing contribution to regional wellbeing.

IM-O6 addresses the following issues:	
<i>SRMR-I1 — State of resources</i> <i>SRMR-I2 — Effects of climate change</i> <i>SRMR-I3 — Providing for energy demand</i> <i>SRMR-I5 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment (te taiao)</i> <i>SRMR-I6 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment</i>	
IM-O6 is achieved by the following policies:	
<i>IM-P1 — Integrated approach</i> <i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i> <i>IM-P3 — Tangata whenua</i> <i>IM-P4 — Regionally significant industry and primary production</i> <i>AIR-P1 — Improve degraded air quality</i> <i>AIR-P2 — Manage discharges to air</i> <i>CE-P1 — Planning for development in the coastal environment</i> <i>CE-P2 — Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems</i> <i>CE-CMA-P3 — Interests in the coastal marine area</i> <i>CE-CMA-P4 — Marine water quality</i> <i>GEO-P3 — Development Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P4 — Limited Development Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P5 — Protected Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P6 — Research Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P7 — Small Geothermal Systems</i>	<i>LF-P1 — Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-P2 — Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands</i> <i>LF-P3 — All fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-P4 — Catchment-based intervention</i> <i>LF-P5 — Waikato River catchment</i> <i>LF-P6 — Allocating fresh water</i> <i>LF-P7 — Efficient use of fresh water</i> <i>LF-P8 — Maintain or enhance the life supporting capacity of the soil resource</i> <i>LF-P9 — Soil contaminants</i> <i>LF-P10 — Peat soils</i> <i>LF-P11 — High class soils</i> <i>ECO-P1 — Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity</i> <i>HAZ-P4 — Contaminated land</i> <i>UFD-P1 — Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development</i>

IM-O7 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment

The relationship of tangata whenua with the environment is recognised and provided for, including:

1. the use and enjoyment of natural and physical resources in accordance with tikanga Māori, including mātauranga Māori; and
2. the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki.

IM-O7 addresses the following issues:
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<i>SRMR-I1 — State of resources</i> <i>SRMR-I5 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment (te taiao)</i> <i>SRMR-I6 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment</i>	
IM-O7 is achieved by the following policies:	
<i>IM-P1 — Integrated approach</i> <i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i> <i>IM-P3 — Tangata whenua</i> <i>IM-P4 — Regionally significant industry and primary production</i> <i>IM-P5 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value</i> <i>IM-P6 — Maintain and enhance public access</i> <i>IM-P7 — Appropriate restrictions on public access</i> <i>CE-CMA-P3 — Interests in the coastal marine area</i> <i>CE-CMA-P4 — Marine water quality</i> <i>GEO-P8 — Geothermal characteristics valued by tangata whenua</i> <i>LF-P1 — Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-P2 — Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands</i> <i>LF-P3 — All fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-P4 — Catchment-based intervention</i>	<i>LF-P5 — Waikato River catchment</i> <i>LF-P6 — Allocating fresh water</i> <i>LF-P7 — Efficient use of fresh water</i> <i>LF-P8 — Maintain or enhance the life supporting capacity of the soil resource</i> <i>ECO-P1 — Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity</i> <i>ECO-P3 — Collaborative management</i> <i>HCV-P1 — Managing historic and cultural heritage</i> <i>HCV-P2 — Relationship of Māori to taonga</i> <i>NATC-P1 — Preserve natural character</i> <i>NFL-P1 — Outstanding natural features and landscapes</i> <i>UFD-P1 — Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development</i> <i>UFD-P3 — Marae and papakāinga</i> <i>UFD-P5 — Access to minerals</i>

IM-O8 — Sustainable and efficient use of resources

Use and development of natural and physical resources, excluding minerals, occurs in a way and at a rate that is sustainable, and where the use and development of all natural and physical resources is efficient and minimises the generation of waste.

IM-O8 addresses the following issues:	
<i>SRMR-I1 — State of resources</i> <i>SRMR-I3 — Providing for energy demand</i> <i>SRMR-I4 — Managing the built environment</i> <i>SRMR-I5 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment (te taiao)</i> <i>SRMR-I6 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment</i>	
IM-O8 is achieved by the following policies:	
<i>IM-P1 — Integrated approach</i> <i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i> <i>IM-P3 — Tangata whenua</i> <i>IM-P4 — Regionally significant industry and primary production</i> <i>AIR-P1 — Improve degraded air quality</i> <i>AIR-P2 — Manage discharges to air</i> <i>CE-CMA-P3 — Interests in the coastal marine area</i> <i>GEO-P1 — Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource</i> <i>GEO-P3 — Development Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P4 — Limited Development Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P5 — Protected Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P6 — Research Geothermal Systems</i> <i>GEO-P7 — Small Geothermal Systems</i> <i>LF-P1 — Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies</i>	<i>LF-P6 — Allocating fresh water</i> <i>LF-P7 — Efficient use of fresh water</i> <i>LF-P9 — Soil contaminants</i> <i>LF-P10 — Peat soils</i> <i>LF-P11 — High class soils</i> <i>EIT-P1 — Significant infrastructure and energy resources</i> <i>HAZ-P4 — Contaminated land</i> <i>UFD-P1 — Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development</i> <i>UFD-P2 — Co-ordinating growth and infrastructure</i> <i>UFD-P4 — Energy demand management</i> <i>UFD-P5 — Access to minerals</i> <i>UFD-P12 — Density targets for Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P13 — Commercial development in the Future Proof area</i> <i>UFD-P18 — Tier 3 local authority areas outside the Future Proof Strategy</i> <i>UFD-P19 — Being responsive to significant unintended</i>

and out-of-sequence growth within tier 3 local environments

IM-O9 — Amenity

1. The qualities and characteristics of areas and features, valued for their contribution to amenity, are maintained or enhanced; and
2. Where intensification occurs in urban environments, built development results in attractive, healthy, safe and high-quality urban form which responds positively to local context whilst recognising that amenity values change over time in response to the changing needs of people, communities and future generations, and such changes are not, of themselves, an adverse effect.

IM-O9 addresses the following issues:

SRMR-I1 — State of resources
 SRMR-I4 — Managing the built environment
 SRMR-I5 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
 SRMR-I6 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

IM-O9 is achieved by the following policies:

IM-P1 — Integrated approach IM-P2 — Collaborative approach IM-P3 — Tangata whenua IM-P5 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value IM-P6 — Maintain and enhance public access AIR-P1 — Improve degraded air quality AIR-P2 — Manage discharges to air AIR-P3 — Manage adverse effects on amenity CE-P1 — Planning for development in the coastal environment CE-P2 — Safeguard coastal/marine ecosystems CE-CMA-P3 — Interests in the coastal marine area CE-CMA-P4 — Marine water quality GEO-P1 — Sustainable management of the Regional Geothermal Resource GEO-P2 — Significant Geothermal Features GEO-P3 — Development Geothermal Systems GEO-P4 — Limited Development Geothermal Systems	GEO-P5 — Protected Geothermal Systems GEO-P6 — Research Geothermal Systems GEO-P7 — Small Geothermal Systems LF-P1 — Approach to identifying fresh water body values and managing fresh water bodies LF-P2 — Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands LF-P3 — All fresh water bodies LF-P4 — Catchment-based intervention LF-P5 — Waikato River catchment LF-P6 — Allocating fresh water ECO-P1 — Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity HAZ-P1 — Natural hazard risk management approach HCV-P1 — Managing historic and cultural heritage NFL-P1 — Outstanding natural features and landscapes UFD-P1 — Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development UFD-P12 — Density targets for Future Proof area UFD-P18 — Tier 3 local authority areas outside the Future Proof Strategy
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IM-O10 — Public access

Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers is maintained and enhanced.

IM-O10 addresses the following issues:

SRMR-I1 — State of resources
 SRMR-I5 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment (te taiao)
 SRMR-I6 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River catchment

IM-O10 is achieved by the following policies:

IM-P1 — Integrated approach IM-P2 — Collaborative approach	CE-CMA-P3 — Interests in the coastal marine area LF-P1 — Approach to identifying fresh water body values
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<i>IM-P3 — Tangata whenua</i> <i>IM-P5 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value</i> <i>IM-P6 — Maintain and enhance public access</i> <i>IM-P7 — Appropriate restrictions on public access</i> <i>CE-P1 — Planning for development in the coastal environment</i>	<i>and managing fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-P2 — Outstanding fresh water bodies and significant values of wetlands</i> <i>LF-P3 — All fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-P4 — Catchment-based intervention</i> <i>LF-P5 — Waikato River catchment</i> <i>UFD-P1 — Planned and co-ordinated subdivision, use and development</i>
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Another relevant objective is:

GEO-O1 — Geothermal

Policies

IM-P1 — Integrated approach

An integrated approach to resource management will be adopted that:

1. recognises the inter-connected nature of natural and physical resources (including spatially and temporally) and the benefits of aligning the decisions of relevant management agencies across boundaries;
2. maximises the benefits and efficiencies of working together;
3. recognises the multiple values of natural and physical resources including ecosystem services;
4. responds to the nature and values of the resource and the diversity of effects (including cumulative effects) that can occur;
5. maximises opportunities to achieve multiple objectives;
6. takes a long-term strategic approach which recognises the changing environment and changing resource use pressures and trends;
7. applies consistent and best practice standards and processes to decision making; and
8. establishes, where appropriate, a planning framework which sets clear limits and thresholds for resource use.

The relevant objectives are:

<i>IM-O1 — Integrated management</i> <i>IM-O2 — Resource use and development</i> <i>IM-O3 — Decision making</i> <i>IM-O4 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River</i> <i>IM-O5 — Climate change</i> <i>IM-O6 — Ecosystem services</i> <i>IM-O7 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment</i> <i>IM-O8 — Sustainable and efficient use of resources</i> <i>IM-O9 — Amenity</i> <i>IM-O10 — Public access</i> <i>AIR-O1 — Air quality</i> <i>CE-O1 — Coastal environment</i> <i>CE-CMA-O2 — Mauri and health of marine waters</i>	<i>GEO-O1 — Geothermal</i> <i>LF-O1 — Mauri and values of fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-O2 — Allocation and use of fresh water</i> <i>LF-O3 — Riparian areas and wetlands</i> <i>LF-O4 — Values of soil</i> <i>LF-O5 — High class soils</i> <i>ECO-O1 — Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity</i> <i>EIT-O1 — Energy</i> <i>HAZ-O1 — Natural hazards</i> <i>HCV-O1 — Historic and cultural heritage</i> <i>NATC-O1 — Natural character</i> <i>NFL-O1 — Outstanding natural features and landscapes</i> <i>UFD-O1 — Built environment</i>
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IM-P2 — Collaborative approach

Waikato Regional Council will:

1. recognise and provide for the unique role that territorial authorities have in the implementation of the provisions of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement; and
2. encourage collaboration, participation and information sharing between resource management agencies, tangata whenua and relevant stakeholders, particularly where there are shared or overlapping responsibilities or functions for issues or resources, and including when resources or issues cross boundaries.

The relevant objectives are:	
<i>IM-O1 — Integrated management</i> <i>IM-O2 — Resource use and development</i> <i>IM-O3 — Decision making</i> <i>IM-O4 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River</i> <i>IM-O5 — Climate change</i> <i>IM-O6 — Ecosystem services</i> <i>IM-O7 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment</i> <i>IM-O8 — Sustainable and efficient use of resources</i> <i>IM-O9 — Amenity</i> <i>IM-O10 — Public access</i> <i>AIR-O1 — Air quality</i> <i>CE-O1 — Coastal environment</i> <i>CE-CMA-O2 — Mauri and health of marine waters</i>	<i>GEO-O1 — Geothermal</i> <i>LF-O1 — Mauri and values of fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-O2 — Allocation and use of fresh water</i> <i>LF-O3 — Riparian areas and wetlands</i> <i>LF-O4 — Values of soil</i> <i>LF-O5 — High class soils</i> <i>ECO-O1 — Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity</i> <i>EIT-O1 — Energy</i> <i>HAZ-O1 — Natural hazards</i> <i>HCV-O1 — Historic and cultural heritage</i> <i>NATC-O1 — Natural character</i> <i>NFL-O1 — Outstanding natural features and landscapes</i> <i>UFD-O1 — Built environment</i>

IM-P3 — Tangata whenua

Tangata whenua are provided appropriate opportunities to express, maintain and enhance the relationship with their rohe through resource management and other local authority processes.

The relevant objectives are:	
<i>IM-O1 — Integrated management</i> <i>IM-O2 — Resource use and development</i> <i>IM-O3 — Decision making</i> <i>IM-O4 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River</i> <i>IM-O5 — Climate change</i> <i>IM-O6 — Ecosystem services</i> <i>IM-O7 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment</i> <i>IM-O8 — Sustainable and efficient use of resources</i> <i>IM-O9 — Amenity</i> <i>IM-O10 — Public access</i> <i>AIR-O1 — Air quality</i> <i>CE-O1 — Coastal environment</i> <i>CE-CMA-O2 — Mauri and health of marine waters</i>	<i>GEO-O1 — Geothermal</i> <i>LF-O1 — Mauri and values of fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-O2 — Allocation and use of fresh water</i> <i>LF-O3 — Riparian areas and wetlands</i> <i>LF-O4 — Values of soil</i> <i>LF-O5 — High class soils</i> <i>ECO-O1 — Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity</i> <i>EIT-O1 — Energy</i> <i>HAZ-O1 — Natural hazards</i> <i>HCV-O1 — Historic and cultural heritage</i> <i>NATC-O1 — Natural character</i> <i>NFL-O1 — Outstanding natural features and landscapes</i> <i>UFD-O1 — Built environment</i>

IM-P4 — Regionally significant industry and primary production

The management of natural and physical resources provides for the continued operation and development of regionally significant industry and primary production activities by:

1. recognising the value and long term benefits of regionally significant industry to economic, social and cultural wellbeing;
2. recognising the value and long term benefits of primary production activities which support regionally significant industry;
3. ensuring the adverse effects of regionally significant industry and primary production are

- avoided, remedied or mitigated;
4. co-ordinating infrastructure and service provision at a scale appropriate to the activities likely to be undertaken;
 5. maintaining and where appropriate enhancing access to natural and physical resources, while balancing the competing demand for these resources;
 6. avoiding or minimising the potential for reverse sensitivity; and
 7. promoting positive environmental outcomes.

The relevant objectives are:	
<i>IM-O1 — Integrated management</i> <i>IM-O2 — Resource use and development</i> <i>IM-O3 — Decision making</i> <i>IM-O6 — Ecosystem services</i> <i>IM-O7 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment</i> <i>IM-O8 — Sustainable and efficient use of resources</i> <i>CE-O1 — Coastal environment</i> <i>CE-CMA-O2 — Mauri and health of marine waters</i>	<i>GEO-O1 — Geothermal</i> <i>LF-O1 — Mauri and values of fresh water bodies</i> <i>LF-O2 — Allocation and use of fresh water</i> <i>LF-O4 — Values of soil</i> <i>LF-O5 — High class soils</i> <i>EIT-O1 — Energy</i> <i>UFD-O1 — Built environment</i>

IM-P5 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value

Areas of amenity value are identified, and those values are maintained and enhanced. These may include:

1. areas within the coastal environment and along inland water bodies;
2. scenic, scientific, recreational or historic areas;
3. areas of spiritual or cultural significance;
4. other landscapes or seascapes or natural features; and
5. areas adjacent to outstanding natural landscapes and features that are visible from a road or other public place.

The relevant objectives are:
<i>IM-O7 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment</i> <i>IM-O9 — Amenity</i> <i>IM-O10 — Public access</i> <i>CE-O1 — Coastal environment</i> <i>HCV-O1 — Historic and cultural heritage</i>

IM-P6 — Maintain and enhance public access

Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers will be maintained and enhanced by:

1. providing direction about where and when additional access should be established;
2. ensuring that subdivision, use and development do not constrain the ability of the land/water edge to adjust over time in response to natural processes, including the effects of climate change; and
3. ensuring subdivision, use and development do not result in inappropriate loss of existing public access.

The relevant objectives are:
<i>IM-O4 — Health and wellbeing of the Waikato River</i>

IM-O5 — Climate change
IM-O7 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment
IM-O9 — Amenity
IM-O10 — Public access
CE-O1 — Coastal environment
LF-O3 — Riparian areas and wetlands

IM-P7 — Appropriate restrictions on public access

Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers will only be restricted where necessary:

1. to protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitats of indigenous fauna;
2. to protect tangata whenua values;
3. to protect public health or safety;
4. to ensure a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent;
5. to avoid conflicts with activities of landowners or occupiers;
6. to protect the stability of banks or dunes;
7. to protect historic heritage;
8. for temporary activities or special events;
9. for defence purposes in accordance with the Defence Act 1990; or
10. in other exceptional circumstances sufficient to justify the restriction, notwithstanding the national importance of maintaining that access.

The relevant objectives are:

IM-O7 — Relationship of tangata whenua with the environment
IM-O10 — Public access
CE-O1 — Coastal environment
LF-O4 — Values of soil
ECO-O1 — Ecological integrity and indigenous biodiversity

Another relevant policy is:

LF-P3 — All fresh water bodies

Methods

IM-M1 — Amendments to regional and district plans

Amendments to regional and district plans to give effect to this Regional Policy Statement shall be notified within two years of its operative date.

The relevant policy is:

IM-P1 — Integrated approach

IM-M2 — Land use change and intensification

Waikato Regional Council will work with territorial authorities to identify and manage the adverse effects of large-scale land use change or intensification, by taking account of:

1. the potential to adversely affect the range of natural and physical resources, including effects occurring off site;
2. the potential cumulative effects;
3. opportunities to manage adverse effects in collaboration with territorial authorities, tangata whenua, industry, landowners and other stakeholders; and
4. options for managing adverse effects including:
 - a. regulatory and non-regulatory methods;
 - b. education and advocacy; and
 - c. use of economic instruments.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P1 — Integrated approach</i>

IM-M3 — Co-ordinated approach

Waikato Regional Council will seek opportunities to align its own activities, including the provision of works and services, regulation, education programmes and environmental initiatives, to maximise the benefits achieved.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P1 — Integrated approach</i>

IM-M4 — Plans and strategies

In developing plans and strategies for the management of resources, Waikato Regional Council will:

1. adopt an appropriate scale of management;
2. seek opportunities to promote positive environmental outcomes across a range of resources; and
3. consider relevant industry guidelines and codes of practice that represent appropriate industry practice and management approaches.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P1 — Integrated approach</i>

IM-M5 — Environmental management plans

Waikato Regional Council will collaborate with territorial authorities, tangata whenua, industry and stakeholders to investigate the benefits of and options for developing property level environmental management plans to promote positive outcomes and manage the effects of rural land uses including farming.

Environmental management plans should identify:

1. potential and actual adverse effects of the current land use;
2. options/recommendations for addressing identified adverse effects;
3. an implementation plan to address identified adverse effects;
4. options and opportunities for environmental enhancement;
5. recommended sustainable land management practices; and
6. any monitoring required.

The relevant policy is:*IM-P1 — Integrated approach***IM-M6 — Advocacy and education**

Waikato Regional Council will promote an integrated approach to resource management, including by:

1. promoting sustainable land management practices;
2. educating landowners/managers about the adverse effects of land use practices, including off-site and cumulative effects;
3. promoting understanding of the values and benefits of resources in contributing to community wellbeing through providing ecosystem services;
4. promoting understanding of the different ways in which resources are valued by people and communities;
5. advocating for consistent application of best practices standards and processes, including best practice tikanga and mātauranga Māori;
6. encouraging research to increase understanding of the effects of climate change on the Waikato region;
7. making submissions on the long-term plans and annual plans of territorial authorities to seek the appropriate allocation of resources to give effect to the Regional Policy Statement; and
8. advocating to central government agencies, tangata whenua, and other stakeholders to assist implementation of the Regional Policy Statement.

The relevant policy is:*IM-P1 — Integrated approach***IM-M7 — Planning approach**

Regional and district plans shall:

1. ensure that cumulative adverse effects are managed;
2. recognise the long timeframes at which natural physical processes operate (e.g. coastal erosion and accretion cycles) and adopt at least a 100-year planning timeframe to allow for changes in these processes, while acknowledging that a shorter timeframe typically applies when modelling Development Geothermal Systems;
3. adopt a precautionary approach towards any proposed activity whose effects may be significant or irreversible but are as yet uncertain, unknown or little understood, including the use and management of coastal resources particularly vulnerable to effects from climate change; and
4. recognise lag times between human actions and environmental results.

The relevant policy is:*IM-P1 — Integrated approach***IM-M8 — Economic instruments**

Waikato Regional Council will investigate and implement options for using economic instruments in regional council planning documents where appropriate, to assist in the management of natural and physical resources. Options may include:

1. offsets or financial contributions for adverse effects generated by consented activities;
2. differential rates and remissions policies for managing land-based activities, particularly where a public good is provided by private interests;
3. full-cost pricing to ensure negative externalities are borne by those responsible where possible;
4. occupation charges for the use of public space; and
5. tradable permits to assist in the efficient management of resources.

The relevant policy is:

IM-P1 — Integrated approach

IM-M9 — Offsite mitigation of adverse effects

Local authorities should consider the following priorities (not listed in order of importance) for restoration or enhancement as possible alternatives to onsite mitigation in situations where it is not appropriate or practical to mitigate the adverse effects of an activity on site:

1. public access to and along the coastal marine area and land adjacent to the coast and inland water bodies;
2. health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchment;
3. functioning and stability of natural physical processes (including by retirement of land along the coastal margin, retirement of steep land from production, and enhancement of riparian areas);
4. indigenous biodiversity (including creation, restoration and enhancement of wetlands and corridors);
5. degraded geothermal features/characteristics; and
6. natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins.

The relevant policy is:

IM-P1 — Integrated approach

IM-M10 — Other plans and strategies

Local authorities should, where appropriate, seek consistency with the objectives and policies of the Regional Policy Statement in other plans and strategies, including:

1. asset management plans;
2. long-term plans;
3. regional pest management strategies;
4. regional land transport plans;
5. navigation safety and other bylaws;
6. Waikato Regional Council zone management plans;
7. civil defence and emergency management group plans;
8. structure plans;
9. growth strategies; and
10. reserve management plans.

The relevant policy is:

IM-P1 — Integrated approach

IM-M11 — Incorporating effects of climate change

Local authorities should, and regional and district plans shall, recognise and provide for the projected effects of climate change, having particular regard to:

1. historic long-term local climate data;
2. projected increase in rainfall intensity, taking account of the most recent national guidance and assuming a minimum increase in temperature of 2.1°C by 2090 (relative to 1990 levels); and
3. projected increase in sea level, taking into account the most recent national guidance and assuming a minimum increase in sea level of 0.8m by 2090 (relative to 1990 levels).

The relevant policy is:

IM-P1 — Integrated approach

IM-M12 — Monitoring and information gathering

Waikato Regional Council will:

1. track changes in use of natural and physical resources to ensure early identification of land use and resource use trends that may result in adverse effects on the environment;
2. develop and maintain processes and resources to enable the effects of activities, including cumulative effects, to be monitored;
3. monitor the state of resources and ensure that an appropriate level of understanding is available and maintained to assist policy and management initiatives;
4. identify relevant ecosystem services and assess their role and value to the region;
5. identify and integrate mātauranga Māori indicators and measures as part of the information and monitoring regime;
6. consider opportunities for communities to be involved in local monitoring programmes; and
7. investigate the use of integrated spatial planning tools including to explore alternative long-term development options and associated trade-offs.

The relevant policy is:

IM-P1 — Integrated approach

IM-M13 — Co-ordinated approaches to resource management

Waikato Regional Council will collaborate with territorial authorities, tangata whenua and other agencies with resource management responsibilities to ensure consistent and co-ordinated approaches to resource management planning, including by:

1. working proactively with tangata whenua and territorial authorities in the early stages of preparing resource management plans and strategies;
2. providing advice on the intended implementation of regional council policy;
3. facilitating regular liaison with tangata whenua and other local authorities on resource management issues; and
4. avoiding duplication in consent requirements.

The relevant policy is:

IM-P2 — Collaborative approach

IM-M14 — Local authority implementation agreements

Waikato Regional Council and territorial authorities shall develop and agree implementation agreements that provide further detail as to how the local authorities will collaborate to effectively and efficiently implement the Waikato Regional Policy Statement. The agreement shall address at least the following:

1. the timing of implementation;
2. the sharing of resources to implement the Regional Policy Statement;
3. respective implementation priorities; and
4. the integration of functions and approaches in order to maximise efficiency to avoid duplication.

The relevant policy is:
IM-P2 — Collaborative approach

IM-M15 — Recognition of interests

Local authorities should:

1. ensure appropriate processes and opportunities are established and maintained to inform relevant agencies, including neighbouring local authorities, relevant infrastructure providers, tangata whenua and other relevant stakeholders of any anticipated regional or district plan changes or reviews, growth strategies, structure plans, and land use or subdivision consent processes which may have an effect on the interests of these parties; and
2. provide opportunities for meaningful involvement in such processes.

The relevant policy is:
IM-P2 — Collaborative approach

IM-M16 — Consistent information systems

Local authorities should:

1. ensure that, as far as practicable, information is collected, analysed and stored using methods and technologies that are consistent and compatible to enable easy sharing of such information;
2. develop protocols as to how and when information will be shared; and
3. consider developing shared information services.

The relevant policy is:
IM-P2 — Collaborative approach

IM-M17 — Joint planning

Waikato Regional Council will investigate opportunities for joint initiatives (including across regional boundaries) particularly in relation to managing:

1. the coastal environment;
2. the Waikato River and its catchment;
3. the Hauraki Gulf;
4. geothermal resources;
5. Lake Rotorua and its catchment;

6. Kaimai-Mamaku catchments; and
7. groundwater resources.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i>

IM-M18 — General cross-boundary issues

Waikato Regional Council will work with adjoining local authorities, tangata whenua and other agencies, including central government to identify resource management issues that cross boundaries and to reach agreements and put in place mechanisms for managing issues that are identified.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i>

IM-M19 — Cross-boundary issues specific to Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Waikato Regional Council will liaise with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council to ensure:

1. any regional plans for that part of the Rotorua Lake catchment within the Waikato region are consistent with the objectives set for the lake, particularly in relation to managing land use and nutrient discharge levels;
2. consistent management across jurisdictional boundaries of the Kaimai-Mamuku Ranges and the geothermal resource in the Taupō volcanic zone, including through means such as memoranda of understanding; and
3. integrated management and strategic planning of inter-regional transport networks and infrastructure.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i>

IM-M20 — Hauraki Gulf Forum

Waikato Regional Council will:

1. actively participate in and contribute to the Hauraki Gulf Forum;
2. advocate for the Hauraki Gulf Forum to play an active role in management, research, advocacy and education in relation to the Hauraki Gulf and its catchments; and
3. liaise with relevant Forum partners and other stakeholders to investigate preparation of a spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i>

IM-M21 — Hazardous substances

Regional and district plans shall recognise and provide for the following division of responsibilities

when developing provisions for the control of the use of land for the prevention or mitigation of any adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal or transportation of hazardous substances:

1. Waikato Regional Council shall be responsible for developing objectives, policies, rules and other methods for land in the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers; and
2. territorial authorities shall be responsible for developing objectives, policies, rules and other methods for all other land.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i>

IM-M22 — Natural hazards

For the purposes of avoiding or mitigating natural hazards, territorial authorities shall be responsible for the control of the use of land except for the following, which shall be the responsibility of the Waikato Regional Council:

- a. the control of the use of land in the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers; and
- b. the control of structures in primary hazard zones.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i>

IM-M23 — Indigenous biodiversity

In carrying out their resource management functions, local authorities shall maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity. Territorial authorities shall be responsible for the control of the use of land to maintain indigenous biodiversity, excluding land in the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers, which shall be the responsibility of the Waikato Regional Council.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P2 — Collaborative approach</i>

IM-M24 — Strategic partnerships with iwi authorities

Waikato Regional Council will seek to develop strategic and formal partnerships with iwi authorities which should include addressing the following:

1. involvement in regional plan development and review;
2. involvement in resource consent processes; and
3. protocols for information sharing and transfer.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P3 — Tangata whenua</i>

IM-M25 — Tangata whenua involvement

Local authorities should ensure that tangata whenua have appropriate opportunities to be involved in relevant resource management processes, including:

1. developing and implementing plans and strategies;
2. developing and implementing monitoring and enhancement programmes;
3. decision making; and
4. by establishing formal arrangements such as joint management agreements or memoranda of understanding or co-management.

The relevant policy is:

IM-P3 — Tangata whenua

IM-M26 — Kaitiakitanga

Local authorities should work with tangata whenua to develop:

1. an understanding of the application of kaitiakitanga;
2. processes and protocols for providing for the practical expression of kaitiakitanga, which may include:
 - a. agreeing who should be consulted, when and how;
 - b. establishing formal arrangements such as joint management agreements or memoranda of understanding;
 - c. tangata whenua representation on hearings and other council committees;
 - d. support for preparation, implementation and review of iwi and hapū planning documents;
 - e. establishing an inventory of matters raised by tangata whenua and best practice responses to reduce duplication of effort; and
3. protocols for information sharing and transfer including of mātauranga Māori.

The relevant policy is:

IM-P3 — Tangata whenua

IM-M27 — Use and enjoyment of resources

In developing relevant resource management processes, including regional and district plans, local authorities should provide for the wellbeing of tangata whenua by enabling appropriate access to and use and enjoyment of their resources.

The relevant policy is:

IM-P3 — Tangata whenua

IM-M28 — Plan provisions

District and regional plans should provide for regionally significant industry and primary production by:

1. identifying appropriate provisions, including zones, to enable the operation and development of regionally significant industry, which for new development is consistent with UFD-P11 and Table 35;
2. maintaining the life supporting capacity of soil to support primary production;
3. maintaining and where appropriate enhancing access to natural and physical resources for regionally significant industry and primary production, while balancing the competing demand for these resources;

4. recognising the potential for regionally significant industry and primary production activities to have adverse effects beyond its boundaries and the need to avoid or minimise the potential for reverse sensitivity effects;
5. recognising the need to ensure regionally significant industry is supported by infrastructure networks of appropriate capacity;
6. recognising the benefits of enabling the co-location of regionally significant industry to support efficient use of infrastructure, and minimise transportation requirements;
7. recognising and balancing the competing demands for resources between regionally significant industry, primary production and other activities;
8. ensuring the adverse effects of regionally significant industry and primary production are avoided, remedied or mitigated; and
9. promoting positive environmental outcomes.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P4 — Regionally significant industry and primary production</i>

IM-M29 — Collaboration

Local authorities, the NZ Transport Agency, other infrastructure and service providers, and industry organisations should collaborate in respect to the design, co-ordination and provision of infrastructure and services.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P4 — Regionally significant industry and primary production</i>

IM-M30 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value

Regional and district plans shall ensure that:

1. areas of amenity value to regional or district communities are:
 - a. identified using accepted criteria and methodologies; and
 - b. appropriately recognised;
2. the qualities and characteristics for which they are valued are maintained or enhanced;
3. subdivision, use and development is managed to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the identified values of areas of amenity value; and
4. when recognising and providing for areas of amenity value, consideration shall be given to the changing and evolving nature of land management practices that means the visual amenity values may also change.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P5 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value</i>
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IM-M31 — Amenity value of the coastal environment

Regional and district plans shall ensure that the amenity values of the coastal environment are maintained or enhanced, including by:

1. recognising the contribution that open space makes to amenity values and providing appropriate protection to areas of open space;
2. maintaining or enhancing natural sites or areas of particular value for outdoor recreation;

3. employing suitable development setbacks to avoid a sense of encroachment or domination of built form, particularly on areas of public open space and along the coastal edge;
4. avoiding forms and location of development that effectively privatise the coastal edge and which discourage or prevent public access to and use of the coast;
5. recognising that some areas derive their particular character and amenity value from a predominance of structures, modifications or activities, and providing for their appropriate management;
6. ensuring the removal of derelict or unnecessary structures within the coastal marine area;
7. encouraging appropriate design of new structures and other development to enhance existing amenity values;
8. maximising the public benefits to be derived from developments;
9. ensuring public access to public areas is enhanced where practicable; and
10. recognising the role of esplanade reserves and strips in contributing to public open space needs.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P5 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value</i>
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IM-M32 — Enhance public values in the coastal environment

Local authorities should seek to incorporate the enhancement of public amenity values, including when undertaking works and services or preparing or reviewing growth strategies, structure plans, or regional and district plans.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P5 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value</i>
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IM-M33 — Regional and district plans

Regional and district plans shall:

1. provide for the enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers by:
 - a. identifying areas where it is appropriate; or
 - b. establishing criteria to enable assessment through resource consent processes of when it would be appropriate; and
 - c. including provisions to ensure it occurs in appropriate circumstances and locations;
2. recognise that activities which result in:
 - a. lowering of the beach face and loss of a high-tide beach, either immediately or over time; and
 - b. loss (either in whole or in part) of existing lawful public access to and along the coastal marine area, including to beach areas from adjacent land; are inappropriate in terms of effects on public access to and along the coastal marine area;
3. require that where subdivision, use or development requires a restriction on public access they should provide for, or contribute to, the provision or enhancement of public access elsewhere; and
4. avoid adverse effects of activities on access to, use and enjoyment of surf breaks of national significance for surfing.

The relevant policy is:*IM-P6 — Maintain and enhance public access***IM-M34 — Enhance public access**

Local authorities should enhance public access to and along the coastal marine area, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, including through negotiation of access arrangements with landowners/managers. In determining priorities, local authorities should consider whether:

1. suitable alternative access is already available;
2. the access would link other existing accessible areas;
3. the area to be accessed has particular cultural, amenity or other values; or
4. the access would improve the range of access opportunities, including allowing access to less mobile members of the community.

The relevant policy is:*IM-P6 — Maintain and enhance public access***IM-M35 — Restrictions on public access**

Regional and district plans shall identify the circumstances when it is appropriate to restrict public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers and provide for alternative routes, where practicable, in the coastal environment, in accordance with IM-P7.

The relevant policy is:*IM-P7 — Appropriate restrictions on public access***IM-M36 — Regional plan restrictions on vehicle use in the coastal environment**

Regional plans shall ensure inappropriate vehicle use in sensitive areas of the coastal environment, including the foreshore, beaches and dunes is avoided, in order to protect:

1. the stability of dunes (including through damage to sand-binding dune vegetation), or other geological systems and processes;
2. indigenous vegetation;
3. shellfish beds;
4. habitat important to threatened or at risk species and ecological corridors connecting such areas;
5. areas important to migratory species, and to vulnerable stages of indigenous species;
6. people's safety and enjoyment of the coast;
7. damage to historic heritage;
8. damage to habitats of fisheries resources of significance to customary, commercial or recreational users; and
9. damage to sites of significance to tangata whenua.

The relevant policy is:*IM-P7 — Appropriate restrictions on public access***IM-M37 — Other mechanisms for restricting vehicle use in the coastal environment**

Local authorities should:

1. collaborate with tangata whenua, the Department of Conservation, NZ Police and other agencies and stakeholders to identify and address issues arising from the use of vehicles in sensitive areas of the coastal environment, including the foreshore, beaches and dunes; and
2. consider the appropriateness of imposing restrictions on vehicle use using mechanisms such as:
 - a. district plan rules regarding accessways and roading; and
 - b. local or regional bylaws.

The relevant policy is:

<i>IM-P7 — Appropriate restrictions on public access</i>
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Other relevant methods are:

<i>CE-M7 — Managing the coastal environment</i>

<i>CE-M8 — Identifying the extent of the coastal environment</i>
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Principal reasons

IM-PR1 — Integrated approach

Traditional approaches to resource management have sometimes failed to adequately recognise the inter-related nature of natural resources, and the different values ascribed to them. This policy seeks to address this and, in doing so, to achieve effective and efficient resource management and value for money for those funding different activities. It also seeks that we are not caught unprepared by sudden or cumulative changes either in the environment, or in the pressures and demands on resources.

Local authorities have many different, and sometimes competing, functions, including support for or involvement in the activities of others. There will often be opportunities to design activities so that the positive outcomes are maximised — for example, in providing and managing reserves, authorities can also promote positive indigenous biodiversity and natural character outcomes through the choice of appropriate species for planting. Land managers will often similarly have options to amend their practices to achieve positive environmental outcomes. It has been shown that adopting better environmental practices can often provide economic benefits also. IM-M5 promotes property level management plans that identify area specific best practice and signals that these plans may be used in future regulatory regimes.

Stemming from recognition of the inter-related nature of resources is the recognition that the appropriate scale of management will be different depending on the resource or issue being managed. For example, attempting to manage water quality in one stretch of a river without addressing the causes of degradation will have limited success. The coastal environment is specifically identified as a management unit to be recognised. The definition of coastal environment in 1.6 Definitions represents a regional scale application of the coastal environment elements defined in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010. Note that methods IM-M7 and IM-M8 relating to Policy IM-P1 are located in the coastal environment chapter and a cross reference included in this chapter.

To achieve the best outcome for the Waikato region, it is necessary to ensure a level of consistency in resource management approaches. This will be achieved through the amendment of regional and

district plans to give effect to this Regional Policy Statement and adoption of consistent approaches and bottom-lines, such as contained in IM-M7 and IM-M11. IM-M2 recognises that generally as the scale of land use change or land use intensification increases, so does the potential for significant environmental effects. Such changes can be rapid and relatively localised, such as conversion of an area of forest to a pastoral farm, or they can be slower and cumulative, such as increasing use of fertiliser over time for farming generally or spreading rural-residential development. IM-M2 is not intended to capture crop and harvest cycles or other seasonal or rotational farming practices.

Some activities will be deemed acceptable despite the fact that they will actually or potentially create adverse effects. This will usually occur when the positive effects the activity will generate are considered to outweigh the adverse effects. IM-M8 and IM-M9 set out mechanisms by which adverse effects can be remedied or mitigated, including through offsite mitigation where this will result in a better outcome.

IM-PR2 — Collaborative approach

Integrated resource management requires a holistic view that looks beyond organisational, spatial or administrative boundaries. For integrated management to be effective and efficient it requires a coherent and consistent approach and that agencies or organisations involved in resource management work together in a collaborative manner. This is because there is overlap in the functions of local authorities and also resources and issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries. IM-M13 - IM-M17 set out principles and processes to guide collaboration between agencies. The process for managing environmental effects that cross boundaries is set out in IM-M18 and IM-M19 as required by the Resource Management Act. IM-M20 also addresses a particular resource (the Hauraki Gulf) that crosses jurisdictional boundaries.

IM-M21, IM-M22 and IM-M23 allocate the respective management responsibilities for hazardous substances, natural hazards and indigenous biodiversity as required by the Resource Management Act. Both regional and territorial authorities have functions under the Act in respect of these matters so clear delineation of responsibilities is necessary to avoid duplication and inconsistencies.

IM-PR3 — Tangata whenua

Recognising and providing for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga is a matter of national importance under the Resource Management Act. Ways of acknowledging and providing for this relationship are set out in IM-M24 - IM-M26. IM-M24 signals Waikato Regional Council's intent to continue to develop strategic partnerships with the iwi authorities of the region.

An important element of this relationship is the kaitiaki responsibilities of tangata whenua. Section 7 of the Resource Management Act requires local authorities to have particular regard to kaitiakitanga. However, it is also important to be aware that tangata whenua within the region will differ in how they want their kaitiaki role to be recognised. IM-M26 provides for these differences.

Use and enjoyment of resources is integral to the principle of kaitiakitanga and the relationship tangata whenua have with their resources. Marae and papakāinga are one form of development that may be sought on Māori land — this is addressed within UFD — Urban form and development.

IM-PR4 — Regionally significant industry and primary production

IM-P4 recognises the important role that regionally significant industry and primary production plays in contributing to the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of people and communities. Activities such as dairying, forestry and horticulture also have a direct relationship with the management and continued viability of rural activities. Some regionally significant industries also provide an anchor to support other industries and communities within rural and urban settings. The economic benefits contribute significantly to the vitality of settlements ranging in size from rural villages to Hamilton City. The policy will provide for an integrated approach to the management of resources such as water, energy and infrastructure which are essential to regionally significant industry and primary production activities. The policy also recognises that there is also the potential for regionally significant industry and primary production to generate adverse effects which need to be managed.

IM-M28 sets out the matters that regional and district plans should have regard to in order to provide for regionally significant industry and primary production activities, while recognising there are competing demands on those resources that need to be balanced. IM-M29 helps ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to the provision of infrastructure and services for regionally significant industry.

IM-P4 and its Methods must be considered in the context of other objectives, policies, and methods in the Regional Policy Statement including those which provide for the protection or allocation of natural resources and the management of the built environment.

IM-PR5 — Maintain and enhance areas of amenity value

Local authorities must have particular regard to the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values under the Resource Management Act. Some areas will be particularly valued by communities for their amenity, and it is appropriate to provide for the maintenance or enhancement of the amenity values of these areas to protect communities' sense of place, appreciation and enjoyment.

Local authorities should also recognise that amenity values often exist due to the existing and historical management and development of land use in a particular location or landscape. For example, rural landscapes often derive their amenity value from the presence of productive land use such as pastoral farming, and associated structures such as hay barns. These landscapes are not always static, and may continue to change and evolve as a result of changing management practices. IM-P5 is not intended to ensure that the landscapes remain static, but to ensure the values attributed to these types of landscapes are maintained or enhanced, even through change.

The coastal environment is particularly valued by our communities for its amenity values, including its open spaces, and local authorities should ensure that these values are recognised when planning for development and processing resource consents. Individuals' amenity values are also relevant under the Resource Management Act and should be assessed on a case-by-case basis through resource consent processes.

IM-PR6 — Maintain and enhance public access

IM-P6 recognises that maintaining and enhancing public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers is a matter of national importance. Maintaining and enhancing access requires both identifying where new access is required, and ensuring that existing and future access is not lost as a direct result of development or, in the coastal environment, from development that constrains movement of dry beach areas landward as a result of erosion or sea level rise. This will be achieved through regional and district plans and other mechanisms such as direct negotiation or

purchase.

IM-PR7 — Appropriate restrictions on public access

Maintaining public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers is a matter of national importance under the Resource Management Act, and access should be maintained unless there are exceptional reasons for restricting it. There will be instances or locations where it is appropriate to restrict access for the reasons set out in IM-P7. In some locations access may be controlled by other legislation or statutory authorities. The methods recognise that in addition to identifying when public access generally should be restricted, it is appropriate that vehicle use is specifically restricted in some locations because of the adverse effects that may arise from use of vehicles in the coastal environment. Managing the use of vehicles in coastal areas requires a multi-agency approach.

Anticipated environmental results

IM-AER1	Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato is being implemented.
IM-AER2	Land use activities are appropriately managed to avoid, remedy or mitigate future adverse effects, including the effects of climate change and reverse sensitivity effects.
IM-AER3	The benefits of property-level environmental management plans are investigated and options developed.
IM-AER4	The coastal environment of the Waikato region is identified and incorporated into relevant regional and district plans.
IM-AER5	No unanticipated adverse effects on the marine environment are caused by land use activities and vice versa.
IM-AER6	Processes to track and anticipate land and resource use trends and effects are established.
IM-AER7	District plans give effect to the Regional Policy Statement.
IM-AER8	Cross-boundary issues are identified and addressed in a consistent manner in regional and district plans.
IM-AER9	Processes for regular liaison with tangata whenua and other local authorities are established.
IM-AER10	Mechanisms are in place with Auckland Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council and Taranaki Regional Council regarding the management of cross-boundary issues.
IM-AER11	Mechanisms are in place to ensure the consistent management of geothermal resources and the Rotorua Lake catchment between Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions.
IM-AER12	Preparation of a spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf is investigated.
IM-AER13	Formal partnership agreements exist between the Waikato Regional Council and iwi authorities of the region.
IM-AER14	The lineal extent of esplanade reserves and strips along waterways and the coast is increased.

IM-AER15	Opportunities for access along the coast, lakes and rivers are increased.
IM-AER16	Any loss of existing public access is mitigated or remedied so that the ability to get to and along the coast is maintained.
IM-AER17	There is no damage to dunes and other sensitive coastal areas from vehicles.