



4.1 Monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy statement

4.1.1 General

Waikato Regional Council has identified through this Regional Policy Statement resource management issues for the region, and objectives, policies and methods to address these issues. It will measure success (or not) of the policies through monitoring and review, in order to determine whether any changes are needed to the policy framework.

This part of the Regional Policy Statement fulfils the requirements of Section 62(1)(j) of the Resource Management Act by identifying how Waikato Regional Council will determine if this Regional Policy Statement is working or not. It identifies the procedures to be used to establish the efficiency and effectiveness of policies and methods to achieve the stated objectives. Successful policy in this respect is defined as achieving the desired end results (objectives) by doing the things we said we would (policies and methods) and to compare those policies and methods for relative effectiveness.

This will require analysis and evaluation of the actions of not only Waikato Regional Council, but also those of the territorial authorities within the region as these relate to the development and implementation of district plans. It will also require an understanding of the changing condition of the natural and physical resources within the region that are identified in IM — Integrated management and Part 3 of this policy statement. The policy monitoring and evaluation process is summarised in Figure 3 below.

In most situations, the desired condition for the region's natural and physical resources is expressed as enduring objectives or as a trend, as this reflects the reality that changes in condition will – in most cases – take many generations to achieve. The review period for this policy statement is a maximum of ten years from the time it becomes operative. Objectives will extend beyond the reviews of each successive policy statement. For this reason, the year 2000, when the first policy statement became operative, has been established as the baseline for trend-related condition measurements.

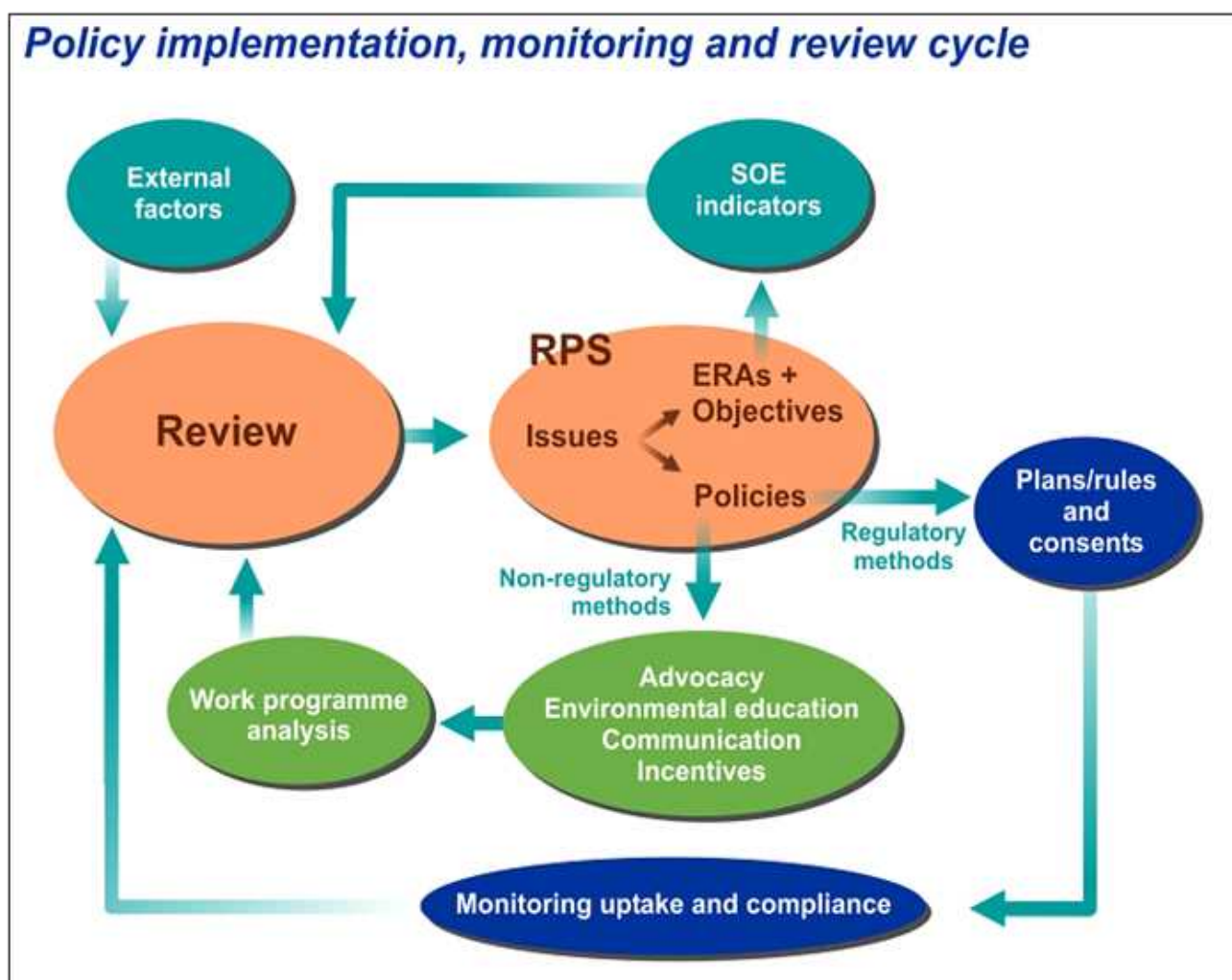


Figure 3 – Policy implementation, monitoring and review cycle

4.1.2 Review existing procedures for monitoring

The Waikato region already has a comprehensive integrated monitoring programme in place (Information Gathering Action Plan) that has been designed to collect information to address a number of statutory requirements for monitoring, primarily the:

- Resource Management Act 1991;
- Local Government Act 2002;
- Biosecurity Act 1993;
- Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000; and
- Land Transport Management Act 2003.

The regional monitoring programme will be reviewed to ensure that monitoring activities (for example, state-of-environment reporting and monitoring and reporting of Community Outcomes) are collecting relevant information that will:

- a. allow an understanding of progress towards the stated objectives in IM — Integrated management and the four domain and seven topic chapters (long-term focus); and
- b. anticipated environmental results (short- to medium-term focus) included at the end of IM —

Integrated management and each domain and topic chapter.

The monitoring programme review will have particular regard to the benefits gained through alignment of monitoring and data collection effort and ensuring that as much of the existing baseline information can be used and built upon. It will recognise the value of long-term monitoring to the recognition and understanding of trends. Results of the monitoring programme will be publicly available.

4.1.3 Tangata whenua involvement

The state of the region's natural resources and effects of their use are of vital interest to tangata whenua of the region. Some indicators of natural resource and ecosystem health are either more efficiently measured at the community level or relate to concepts that there are, as yet, no scientific equivalent measurements, for instance matters involving mātauranga Māori and the mauri of natural resources. In the future, methods will need to be developed for cultural health indicators and it is anticipated that the design and implementation of monitoring programmes will involve tangata whenua.

4.1.4 Anticipated environmental results

The changes we expect to see as a result of implementing policies and methods, known as anticipated environmental results, are outlined in IM — Integrated management, and the four domain and seven topic chapters. These statements allow the effectiveness and efficiency of this policy statement to be determined.

The anticipated environmental results will help shape Waikato Regional Council's monitoring framework, and are designed to provide a vision of what policy success will look like.

4.1.5 Giving effect to the Regional Policy Statement

The objectives, policies and methods of this Regional Policy Statement need to be incorporated into regional and district plans. They should also inform:

- relevant plans and strategies prepared under other statutes (e.g. Biosecurity Act and land transport legislation); and
- other (non-regulatory) activities.

Local authorities need to provide sufficient resources through long-term and annual planning for preparation, review, monitoring, implementation and enforcement of regional and district plans. Education and advocacy and other non-regulatory methods are important components of this Regional Policy Statement and will also require resourcing.

Waikato Regional Council will have a role in assisting territorial authorities with the interpretation of the objectives, policies and methods into district plans and other plans and strategies. Evaluation of the effectiveness of this Regional Policy Statement will include establishing whether the objectives, policies and methods have been interpreted consistently and as intended.

It will take time for the effects of implementing the policies and methods in this Regional Policy Statement to be seen. To allow for this, the provisions in IM — Integrated management and Part 3 will be comprehensively reviewed in a staggered way every five years (interim reviews).