

SECTION 2.3 GENERAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

2.3.1 INTRODUCTION

The District Plan addresses the integrated management of the District's natural and physical resources. The District Plan must be consistent with other relevant legislation and plans, and internally between its different sections. This is important because the goals and objectives of the District Plan are often met through a multitude of policies, rules and other methods.

Sections 2.4 to 2.8 of the District Plan cover the resource management issues which are addressed through a number of different Zones, District Wide Activities, Resource Management Units and other Policies. These strategy Sections outline the overall directions established by the District Plan and identify how the different parts of it will contribute towards the wider Objectives and Policies set.

This Section of the Plan identifies 6 general Resource Management Issues which the strategies in Sections 2.4 to 2.8 address in an integrated manner.

2.3.2 ENSURING THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE DISTRICT

The Hastings District Plan reflects the significance of the soil and water resources of the Hastings District. The growing diversity of activities using these resources throughout the rural areas makes a significant contribution to the well being of the community both in direct terms and in terms of its flow on effects to the District and Region.

Managing the soil and water resource is critical to ensure the future well being of the environment, and the community. The policies, rules, and other methods incorporated in the District Plan are aimed at enabling the resources of the Hastings District's land to be effectively utilised in the present, while preserving the opportunity for their use and development by future generations.

It therefore recognises that sustaining the potential of the land in the future for use is important, and the long term opportunity for the use and enjoyment of the Hastings District's soil and water resources should not be irreversibly affected by short term demands. The District Plan accordingly will need to manage the effects of activities in a manner which protects the long term health and well being of the resources of the Hastings District.

Monitoring the impact of activities, and active liaison with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council as the authority responsible for water resources in the District, is therefore an important part of the Hastings District's strategy for managing of the District soil and water resources.

2.3.3 ESTABLISHING LONG TERM PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR THE DISTRICT'S DEVELOPMENT

The District Plan recognises that the District Council's Resource Management responsibilities cannot be achieved through the District Plan alone. The District Plan is a key document in achieving the integrated management of these resources, but is not the only mechanism to address these resource issues in detail, and to establish long, medium and short term responses to them. In addition the District Plan is not the appropriate vehicle for Council to promote its long term strategic vision for the development of the Hastings District.

The Council has undertaken a number of studies, which are referred to in Section 2.0 of the District Plan, the relevant Zones, District Wide Activities and Resource Management Units. These include both strategic development objectives which are to be implemented outside of the Plan, and methods for managing effects other than District Plan regulation, which are intended to address the Resource Management Issues and Objectives and Policies identified in the Plan. Since the commencement of the District Plan preparation process the Council has undertaken the following resource reviews.

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| • Hastings Urban Development Strategy (HUDS) | 1993 |
| • Hastings Parking Strategy | 1993 |
| • Review of Industrial Policies | 1995 |
| • Hawke's Bay Regional Transportation Review | 1995 |
| • Outstanding Landscapes: A review of Landscapes, Natural Areas and the Coastal Environment of the Hastings District | 1996 |
| • Low Density Residential Review | 1996 |
| • Noise Review | 1996 |
| • Residential Review | 1996 |
| • Hastings Coastal Environment Strategy | 2000 |

Over the life of the District Plan the Council will continue to add to, and review these studies and where appropriate incorporate their findings and directions into the District Plan, as policies, rules, other methods, standards, and outcomes. The Council will also ensure that the other methods identified in strategic reviews for integrated management of effects and the sustainable management of resources are included in the Council's Strategic Plan, Annual Plan, and Asset Management Plan.

As part of its monitoring process in the District Plan, progress against these strategic objectives will be measured.

2.3.4 ESTABLISHING A SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

The District Plan recognises the need for urban development to continue. However the potential effects of utilising additional land on the Heretaunga Plains, for housing, raises issues about the sustainable management of the finite resource and the management of effects on it by further urban development. Council's response to this is addressed by its Urban Development and Strategic Urban Directions Strategy outlined in Section 2.4 of the District Plan.

Enabling people to achieve their economic, social and cultural well being means that the urban areas need to continue to develop as an attractive place to reside, work, and undertake business and recreation. Ensuring effective transportation networks, and setting appropriate levels of urban amenity and design are important elements in achieving this. The scale and density of the urban form and its physical layout will also be important factors in managing the effects of further urban development both within existing urban boundaries and beyond them.

While the District Plan begins to address these issues Council may need to become more active in creating a healthy, safe and attractive environment for its urban communities that can be sustained in the long term, through methods other than District Plan rules.

2.3.5 PROTECTING THE DISTRICT'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Hastings District is a heavily modified environment, and the identification and protection of those remnants of its natural past are considered to be important both locally and nationally. The District Plan provides for a range of opportunities, and incentives to achieve this. The community should be encouraged, through the District Plan, and in conjunction with other statutory and voluntary agencies, to work to ensure the success of these and other initiatives.

The District Plan incorporates the results of extensive work undertaken by the Council in the examination and identification of the Hastings District's landscape and natural environment. The Hastings District incorporates many bold and significant landscapes, which are enjoyed locally, regionally, and nationally. The long term protection of these, while allowing the inevitable dynamics of change to occur, is a matter which the Plan attempts to address in Sections 12.2 Landscape Areas RMU, 13.9 Riparian Land Management and Public Access DWA and 13.10 Indigenous Vegetation and Habitats of Indigenous Fauna DWA. These Sections endeavour to minimise regulation while maximising the opportunities for the community to recognise, and integrate their developments with the landscape.

The Coastal Environment of the Hastings District is also subject to a range of conflicting development pressures. The Council has completed a Coastal Environment Strategy which ensures an integrated response to the competing demands between protecting a sometimes fragile coastal resource, and the community's desire for access to and the use, development and enjoyment of its resources. (See Section 2.7 of the District Plan).

The District Plan recognises the need to remedy adverse effects on District biodiversity values, with a view to enhancing biodiversity as well as maintaining existing values. Provisions are however, initially directed towards avoiding the further loss or degradation of the natural environment. Future initiatives directed at the positive enhancement of our natural environment will require greater understanding of the pressures and threats to the environment and the commitment by the community to a pro-active approach to its enhancement through the District Plan and other methods.

2.3.6 RECOGNISING AND ENHANCING THE AMENITY, HERITAGE AND CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT

The District Plan can play an active part in defining, enhancing and protecting the amenity values of its environment in tandem with its own public amenity programmes. The District Plan deals with issues such as yards, sunlight, parking and other matters directly contributing to the health and amenity of the community but the community must also be allowed to develop and create the environment that reflects its community, history and future. The District Plan identifies the use of design guides for development and the active recognition and protection of its heritage items in Section 12.5 of the Plan to assist in that process.

The District's Tangata Whenua have a special relationship to the land and the environment. The District Plan addresses their desire to re-establish communities on their traditional lands, and in traditional environments through Section 12.4 Waahi Tapu Resource Management Unit and 13.1 Papakainga. The District Plan endeavours to provide the opportunity to address the continued loss of character in rural communities, through population loss, by enabling further diversity of activity in those areas, and in particular rural residential development.

2.3.7 THE AVOIDANCE OF HAZARD

The District Plan establishes objectives, policies and methods, to protect both the community, and the environment from hazards in Section 13.8 Hazardous Substances and Section 12.3 Natural Hazards Resource Management Unit. These include provisions relating to technological hazards associated with activities and processes carried out in the District, and hazards associated with natural processes in the environment. In addition to establishing appropriate levels of protection, the District Plan needs to ensure that activities, processes and development decisions do not increase the level of threat, or create the potential for further hazards to occur.

The community will however need to move towards the active reduction of hazards, and to the exposure of the community to new or increased hazards. This may require additional resources to be directed towards identifying and protecting communities from natural hazards, as well as establishing long term goals for hazard reduction, especially from technological pollutants, such as noise, sprays, odour, and vibration. In various sections, the Plan requires the adoption of the Best Practicable Option to achieve this over time. It is acknowledged however, that the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 is the primary statutory instrument to achieve this.

2.3.8 FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Council will continue to monitor its performance in achieving the objectives contained within the strategies in Sections 2.4 to 2.8 and other provisions of the Plan. New initiatives will need to be developed in response to these over the life of this and subsequent District Plans. New Resource Management issues will be raised as the community's vision for its future changes, and the District Council through its District Plan, and other statutory and policy mechanisms will need to respond to these.