

SECTION 17.0 MONITORING

17.1 INTRODUCTION

The ongoing monitoring and review of the District Plan is an integral component of the Council's responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991, and is an important element of the public accountability Council has in exchange for the power to regulate.

The purpose of monitoring is to evaluate the effectiveness of the District Plan as a means of achieving the objectives and policies which have been set out in it. The information obtained from monitoring will also assist with the review and development of policies, provide information on environmental issues in the District and identify new issues that may not be currently addressed in the District Plan. This will contribute to the improved management of the District's resources. The benefits of monitoring include improved policies and rules, better informed decision making, increased awareness and public confidence, and improved information on adverse effects of activities.

Monitoring is not just data collection, it is also a systematic process involving planned and repeated data collection, analysis, interpretation, reporting and recommendations for action.

The District Plan identifies issues, objectives, policies, methods and the anticipated outcomes. Monitoring the achievement of these outcomes completes the loop, and enables Council to evaluate the effectiveness of its District Plan and processes. Monitoring also places an obligation on Council to act upon information relating to particular issues, or to carry out enforcement where required to ensure compliance, and to achieve the environmental objectives sought by the District Plan, and the Resource Management Act.

Monitoring the effectiveness of the District Plan is only one part of the monitoring requirements of the Resource Management Act. Other components of the overall monitoring strategy include the monitoring of Resource Consents to ensure compliance with consent conditions, the monitoring of permitted activities to ensure compliance with the performance standards, the recording of complaints, and broad State of the Environment monitoring.

17.2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- ***The Resource Management Act requires the Hastings District Plan to be monitored.***

The Resource Management Act requires that the District Plan include measures to monitor the suitability and effectiveness of the District Plan as a means of achieving its objectives, policies, and procedures to review the anticipated outcomes stated in the District Plan.

- ***Industry are keen to be allowed to self monitor.***

Many industries, conscious of their environmental responsibilities, are becoming more interested in self evaluation and monitoring. Co-operative monitoring may enable industries and the community to adopt common standards and programmes, in order to achieve effective monitoring, at a minimum cost.

- ***If resource consents are not monitored, it will not be known if they are effective or not.***

The Resource Management Act provides for Council to impose conditions on consents, including a requirement to undertake monitoring. Effective and timely enforcement of this monitoring, and ensuring compliance with conditions of consent are important elements in ensuring that the District Plan achieves its outcomes.

- ***It is possible to undertake integrated monitoring.***

There are a number of agencies in the Hawke's Bay Region, in which Hastings District is located, responsible for monitoring aspects of the environment. The integration and streamlining of monitoring programmes will reduce costs, enable better data sharing, and permit a wide range of information to be collected.

- ***The effectiveness of the Hastings District Plan is dependant on developing an effective monitoring programme.***

In order for the District Plan to be effective the Council must undertake a structured monitoring programme. This involves establishing priorities, monitoring baselines, and establishing a regime to evaluate identified changes. The programme must also accept that many changes are only incremental, so ongoing and regular programmes are essential. In addition a wider State of the Environment programme should also be undertaken to capture any trends in the environment which may require future management through the District Plan.

- ***Monitoring of Outputs must be followed by analysis and action.***

If monitoring is to be effective, the performance of the District Plan, Resource Consents, as well as general changes to the wider environment must be made publicly available, and must be utilised in the review and updating of the District Plan.

- ***Some issues and effects are addressed in the Hastings District Plan through non-statutory methods.***

There are environmental effects arising from activities which are not practicable to control by performance standards and, in a number of instances, in the District Plan, the Council has decided that it is better to use non-regulatory methods to control these effects. It is necessary to consider how effective these methods are of controlling effects, as part of a monitoring programme.

17.3 OBJECTIVES

- MNO1 *To monitor changes to the environment as a review of the effectiveness of the District Plan in achieving the desired environmental outcomes of its Resource Management Objectives.*
- MNO2 *To monitor and identify changes in the key environmental issues in the District as they become apparent through the monitoring programme.*

17.4 POLICIES

- MNP1 **Regular monitoring of identified issues will be undertaken to assess the performance of the District Plan against its identified resource management issues, objectives and significant anticipated outcomes.**

Explanation

The District Plan policies and rules are driven by identified resource management issues and objectives set during the life of the District Plan, and anticipated outcomes. A full monitoring programme will be developed to monitor the District Plan, and subsequently each section in Part B of the District Plan will include individual monitoring elements identified in the monitoring programme.

- **MNP2 Establish a State of the Environment monitoring programme to identify and measure changes in the environmental quality of the District's resources.**

Explanation

The Council is required to monitor the environment in order to identify changes in key environmental indicators. These will guide the introduction of policies, methods and including rules to protect established environmental "bottom lines".

- **MNP3 Impose conditions, where appropriate, for holders of resource consents to monitor the impact of their activities on the environment and to report the findings of such monitoring to the Council.**

Explanation

Where resource consents are granted for activities which have the potential to affect the local environment, over either the short or long term, it is appropriate that consent holders be required to monitor the impact of their activities and keep Council informed.

- **MNP4 Report regularly on the District Plan's Performance against Environmental Indicators, and on the State of the Environment.**

Explanation

Trends in the environment shall be reported to Council and the public on a regular basis, to assist Council in the formulation of policy on the environment, and to enable the Council to modify its District Plan and regulatory services in response to changes.

- **MNP5 Liaise with other monitoring agencies to create integrated monitoring regimes.**

Explanation

Other agencies such as Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Department of Conservation carry out significant monitoring programmes and can provide useful information on resource management issues. Liaison is necessary to ensure that duplication of effort is avoided and that information of benefit to all is shared.

17.5 METHODS

These Objectives and Policies will be implemented through the following Methods.

- **Hastings District Plan**

Monitoring:

Each section in Part B of the District Plan will include elements to be monitored for the purpose of evaluating the District Plan's performance against the significant issues and objectives established.

Indicators:

The choice of indicators is important to ensure that data collection and analysis produces information that is relevant to the issues being considered. In selecting appropriate indicators, Council shall as far as possible have regard to the following attributes:

- Simple and robust
- Policy relevance
- Be responsive to change
- Analytically valid

- Relate cause and effect
- Easily understood
- Cost effective
- Use existing data where possible

It is also important that the indicators chosen have public relevance and significance to encourage 'ownership' and participation. Further indicators may be added throughout the life of the District Plan in response to changing issues, priorities and availability of information.

The following table illustrates the model that will be used in the Monitoring Programme to measure the effectiveness of the District Plan:

Objectives/ Policies and Rules	Baseline Data	Anticipated Outcomes	Indicators	Data Sources	Frequency of Monitoring and Reporting
Variables to be monitored identified from the Objectives, Policies and Methods of each section of the District Plan	Determine the current situation and state of each variable to enable the assessment of change	Identify the anticipated outcomes to be achieved by the Objectives, Policies and Methods of the particular section	Identify indicators that will be used to assess whether the Objectives, Policies and Methods are achieving the anticipated outcomes	Identify the anticipated data collection procedures required to monitor the variables and research that will be necessary	Identify the frequency of monitoring required for each variable: as one-off studies, on a regular basis or when specified thresholds are reached

- **Hastings District Council Monitoring Strategy**

This will establish an integrated programme for monitoring the District Plan Indicators, Resource Consent Compliance, and State of the Environment Monitoring. The data collected will be reported to Council annually, and to the public through the Annual Plan.

- **Annual Plan**

The Annual Plan shall include summary data of the Monitoring activities of the Council, and identify key trends in the environment.

- **Liaison with other Authorities and Groups**

Council will work with other statutory agencies, tangata whenua, and community groups to identify effective monitoring indices, and programmes to collect and disseminate data. Council will also work to achieve an integrated monitoring programme with such groups and avoid duplication in monitoring regimes. In particular agencies which have a monitoring role and with whom liaison will be undertaken include the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Statistics New Zealand, NZ Historic Places Trust, Valuation New Zealand and Crown Research Institutes.

- **Industry Monitoring of Environmental Quality**

Many industries, particularly those involved in export activities, have well developed environmental policies. Council will work with these industries to develop integrated monitoring based on agreed standards and procedures.

The District Plan also recognises industry led Codes of Practices. The District Plan will monitor the use of these, and changes to them to ensure they remain consistent with the District Plan's environmental objectives.

- **Best Practicable Options**

The District Plan provides in a number of instances for activities to adopt Best Practicable Options (BPO) in the management of the effects of their activities. Council will monitor these activities to ensure that industry does choose the best mitigation techniques possible, where these are available. The effectiveness of these provisions will also be tested, to ensure that they remain an appropriate method to control the effect of any activity.

- **Community Input**

The Council will carry out surveys of the community on a regular basis to identify areas of environmental concern to the public to assist in the establishment of the monitoring and State of the Environment report. The Council shall also operate a complaints register to enable the community to express concerns about any environmental matter.

17.6 ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

It is anticipated that the following outcomes will be achieved:

- The provision of information to enable Council to monitor the performance of its District Plan.
- An increased understanding of the State of the Environment.
- The development of Objectives, Policies, and Methods which are increasingly focused on environmental criteria.