

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Part 8

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8.1 Introduction

Section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991 establishes a statutory obligation for the Tararua District Council to undertake a range of specific monitoring functions. The requirement is not just to gather information about compliance with the provisions of the Act and relevant plans and policy documents but also to monitor the "State of the Environment" in the District. The obligation includes a requirement to take appropriate remedial actions and to provide information to the general public.

8.2 Monitoring Strategy

8.2.1 OBJECTIVE

To monitor the state of the environment in the Tararua District (to the extent necessary to fulfil the Council's obligations under Sections 31 and 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991) and the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the District Plan's policies.

8.2.2 POLICIES

- a. **To develop a monitoring strategy for the District consisting of the following three main elements:**
 - **complaint investigations;**
 - **compliance surveillance (conditions of consent)**
 - **general surveillance (state of the environment)**
- b. **To analyse the information collected to identify any resource management trends or issues of concern in the District and to determine appropriate courses of action to remedy any District Plan ineffectiveness or inefficiencies identified.**

8.2.3 METHODS:

The Council shall implement Policies 8.2.2 (a) and (b) by the following methods:

- (i) *Council service delivery* - The Council shall implement Policy 8.2.2(a) through the establishment of specific research, monitoring, enforcement and review programmes as follows:
 - The Council shall respond to, and investigate, all complaints received from members of the public or other organisations relating to the effects of specific activities, and shall take remedial action, including enforcement actions, where appropriate.
 - The Council shall monitor compliance with all conditions that have been imposed in relation to specific consents (building consents, land use consents and subdivision consents) and shall take remedial action, including enforcement actions, where appropriate.

Monitoring and Review

- During the course of their normal duties, Council staff routinely monitor the state of the environment in the District and identify any matters in need of attention.
- The Council shall conduct specific research activities including land use surveys and statistical analysis of data obtained through surveillance and enforcement activities, and from records of complaints received, building, subdivision and other resource consents.
- The Council shall use the data and information gathered to review the appropriateness and effectiveness of the provisions of this District Plan, and the nature and type of conditions of consents being imposed by the Council. In particular, the Council will use information to review all objectives, policies and rules relating to subdivision, rural housing provisions, performance standards and the status of various activities. The maintenance of appropriate records and registers is a prerequisite to the process. To this end a GIS is being developed which will not only provide information as required to be supplied for PIMs and LIMs but also to meet the obligations of Section 35 of the Act.

(ii) *Public consultation and education* - The Council shall consult with the community to gauge acceptance and understanding of the District Plan and, as a result, undertake appropriate educational programmes and/or review those parts of the Plan which give rise to concern. The Council shall encourage the use of consultative processes by applicants and consent holders as a means of addressing resource management concerns.

8.2.4 EXPLANATION:

Sound decision making is based upon having the information necessary to have a clear understanding of the environment and the ways in which elements within it interrelate and react with each other. In preparing this District Plan, the Council has considered the following questions:

- (a) What are the resource management issues that need to be addressed?
- (b) In addressing these issues, what are the desired environmental results sought?
- (c) Are the objectives, policies and rules selected the best ones for achieving the environmental results sought?
- (d) Are there better (i.e., more efficient and effective) ways of doing things, both through the District Plan and through other methods?

These questions will continue to form the basis of the Council's ongoing monitoring and review programmes and to answer them adequately a system of information gathering and assessment needs to be developed and maintained. The monitoring policies and methods in this Plan will ensure that the Council has information on:

- the state of the environment in the District;
- the use, development and state of the physical resources of the District;
- the effectiveness of the policies and methods contained in the District Plan;

- the social, economic and cultural wellbeing, and the health and safety, of the community with regard to the use, development and protection of resources;
- the effectiveness and efficiency of the Council's administration of the District Plan and the Resource Management Act 1991.

Monitoring resources and effort must be well targeted. The development of a monitoring strategy allows specific monitoring programmes to be planned, budgeted for through the Annual Plan process, and implemented in a co-ordinated way. Consultation is an effective way of obtaining and disseminating information between the Council, the general public, other statutory and non-statutory organisations, and assessing if the District Plan is working or not.

8.2.5 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS:

- (i) An effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation (review) strategy that enables Council to assess whether it is achieving the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (i.e.. the sustainable management of the District's natural and physical resources).