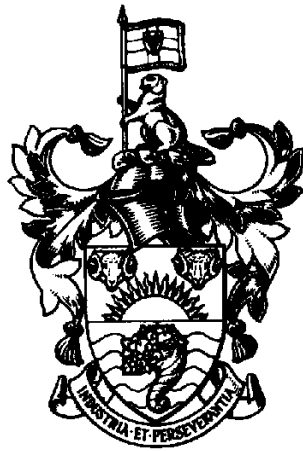


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# MARLBOROUGH REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT



Marlborough District Council

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Resource Management Act 1991

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**Resource Management Act 1991**  
**Marlborough Regional Policy Statement**

It is hereby certified that this is a correct copy of the Marlborough Regional Policy Statement  
as approved by resolution of the Marlborough District Council on 20 July 1995.

The Council further resolved that the Statement shall become operative on 28 August 1995.

R C PENINGTON  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

The Common Seal of the Marlborough District Council was hereunto affixed this 27th day of  
July 1995 in the presence of:

L F McKENDRY  
**MAYOR**

R C PENINGTON  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

**Date Operative**  
**28 August 1995.**

Marlborough District Council, Seymour Square,  
P.O. Box 443, Blenheim, New Zealand. © 1995

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# THE CROSS REFERENCING MATRIX

## HOW TO USE THE MATRIX

This cross referencing matrix is provided as an aid to users of this Regional Policy Statement. The matrix identifies relationships between the various sections of this document. Objectives and policies have been cross referenced to the other objectives and policies to which they relate.

To use the matrix:

1. Identify on the vertical axis the particular section you are interested in;
2. Look across the page<sup>1</sup> and locate identified cross references (marked with a tick);
3. Look up the page to identify the cross referenced section on the horizontal axis at the top of the matrix.

*Note: The matrix will only cross reference in the way described above. It will not produce the same result if used the opposite way.*

See example below:

### How to use the Cross Referencing Matrix

	Part 3: General Principles	Part 4: Regionally Significant Issues	Part 5: Protection of Water Ecosystems	5.1.2 Objective - Freshwater Quality	5.1.3 Policy - Runoff from Land	5.1.5 Policies - 'Point Source' Discharges	5.1.7 Objective - Freshwater Quantity	5.1.8 Policy - Freshwater Quantity, Level, and Flow	5.1.10 Objective - Freshwater Habitat	5.1.11 Policy Habitat Disruption	5.1.13 Objective - Natural Character and Amenity Values	5.1.4 Policies - Natural Character and Amenity Values	5.2.2 Objective - Groundwater Quality
Part 3: General Principles		✓	✓										
Part 4: Regionally Significant Issues			✓				<b>Step 3</b>		↑				↑
Part 5: Protection of Water Ecosystems													
5.1.2 Objective - Freshwater Quality		<b>Step 1</b>							✓				✓
5.1.3 Policy - Runoff from Land								↗	✓				✓
5.1.5 Policies - 'Point Source' Discharges								↘	✓				
							<b>Step 2</b>						

<sup>1</sup> For the online version the matrix is held in a separate file.

# introduction

The Marlborough District Council has prepared this Regional Policy Statement to provide a community based vision and direction for the management of the natural and physical resources of Marlborough. Natural and physical resources include land, water, air, soil, minerals, energy, all forms of plants and animals, and all structures.

This Regional Policy Statement has been prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991.

By preparing this Statement the Council is better able to integrate the management of different resources and provide fair and equitable treatment of different activities which may be competing for or affecting resources.

While the Council is responsible for the preparation of this Regional Policy Statement it has done so on behalf of the Marlborough community. This Statement will guide many of Council's activities in the future, but most importantly it will require the combined effort of the whole community to achieve its full effect. The actions of all resource users will be covered by the content of this Regional Policy Statement.

For this Regional Policy Statement to be fully effective it needs to be accepted and understood by the whole community. Only then will everyone attempt to ensure that as a result of their activities all residents and visitors to Marlborough, now and in the future, are also able to enjoy access to a clean and healthy environment. Part of the Council's responsibility in managing resources is also to enable people and communities to provide for their wellbeing.

Community understanding of the reasoning behind this Statement is essential as it is this understanding which influences the actions of individuals and the actions of the Council. Successful implementation of the agreed concepts within this Statement will form the basis of Council actions and rules to enhance the condition of the environment for this and future generations.

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## 1.1 STRUCTURE OF DOCUMENT

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**Part 2** of this document outlines the key principles of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the purpose and importance of regional policy statements. The relationship of this Regional Policy Statement for Marlborough to other policies and plans are described. This part also discusses cross boundary issues and links to other legislation.

**Part 3** discusses a number of matters that are essentially the Marlborough District Council's philosophy towards resource management in Marlborough. This includes the Council's relationship with iwi, property rights, Agenda 21, and how the Council will treat itself as a resource user.

**Part 4** of this Regional Policy Statement introduces the regionally significant issues for Marlborough and explains how those issues were determined. This Part also defines a number of terms used in Parts 5 to 9.

**Parts 5 to 9** discuss the regionally significant resource management issues for Marlborough. Objectives, policies and methods to address these issues are listed with explanations and reasons why they have been developed. For each issue the anticipated environmental results of adopting the chosen objectives, policies and methods are also stated.

**Part 10** establishes the monitoring and review procedures which will indicate whether this Regional Policy Statement is achieving its desired outcome. This Part also discusses Council's other statutory functions regarding monitoring.

**Part 11** is a glossary which contains definitions of words, terms and phrases used in this Statement. The glossary is important for obtaining a correct understanding of the effect and intentions of this document. The words or phrases which are in italics are definitions taken from the Resource Management Act 1991.

# background

## 2.1 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

The Resource Management Act sets up the framework for managing New Zealand's natural and physical resources. In looking after these resources we must do so in such a way that future generations will be able to benefit from the environment as much as we do now. This is the concept of "sustainability" which the Act promotes as its overriding purpose.

### *Purpose –*

- (1) *The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. In this Act, “sustainable management” means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while-*
- (a) *Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
  - (b) *Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
  - (c) *Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.*

*Section 5 – Resource Management Act 1991*

In achieving the purpose of the Act, the Marlborough District Council must have regard to a number of principles set out in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the Act.

Section 6 requires the Council to recognise and provide for matters of national importance. These include the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, the protection of outstanding natural features, indigenous flora and fauna, public access to waterways and the relationship of Maori with their ancestral land and sites.

Section 7 contains matters which the Council must have particular regard to. These include amenity and heritage values, kaitiakitanga, quality of the environment, and ecosystem values.

Section 8 requires the Council to take into account the Treaty of Waitangi. The full text of sections 6,7 and 8 are contained in Appendix I to this document.

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## 2.2 REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

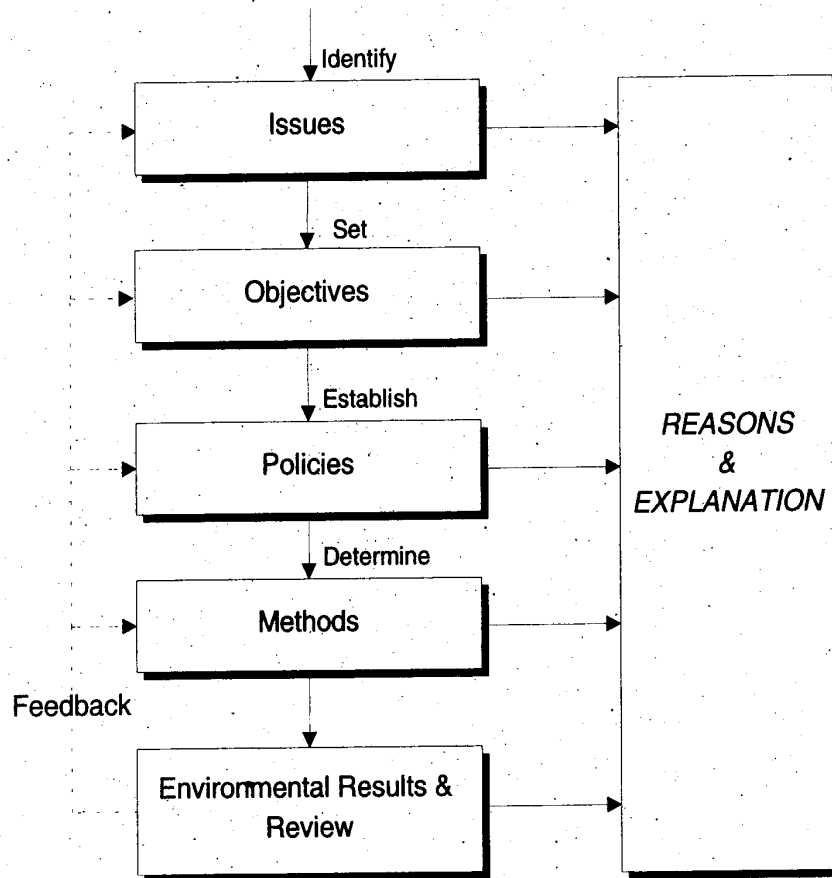
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To achieve the purpose of sustainable management, the Act sets out a range of policies and plans that are in some instances mandatory to prepare and in others, optional. It is mandatory for the Marlborough District Council to prepare a Regional Policy Statement. Its main purpose is to integrate the management of natural and physical resources and provide for fair and equitable treatment of different activities which may be competing for or affecting resources.

***Purpose of regional policy statements** – The purpose of a regional policy statement is to achieve the purpose of the Act by providing an overview of the resource management issues of the region and policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the natural and physical resources of the whole region. Section 59 – Resource Management Act 1991*

In Marlborough our quality of life and our economic wellbeing is very much dependent on natural and physical resources such as the coast, soils, rivers, groundwater, air, landscape, vegetation and animals. How we manage those resources and our environment now and for the future is a major challenge. The Marlborough Regional Policy Statement is a very important document that sets out how we as a community want those assets to be managed and will guide the Council in its decision making.

The overall aim of this Statement is to identify the main resource management issues in Marlborough and to set out how those issues might best be resolved. Figure 1 shows the elements that make up a regional policy statement.



**Figure 1: What makes up a Regional Policy Statement**

## 2.3 INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

Integrated management of natural and physical resources means taking a holistic approach to resource management. This approach recognises the links between resources and that decisions on the use, development and protection of any particular resource, may have effects on other resources.

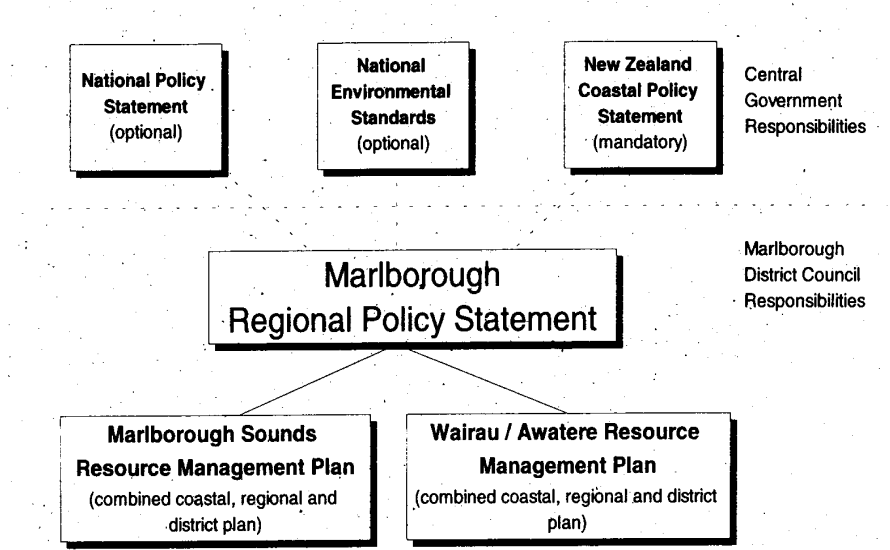
As a unitary authority, that is being both a regional and district council, the Marlborough District Council is ideally suited to ensure that the resources of Marlborough are managed in an integrated way. The potential conflicts that may exist or arise in other areas between regional councils and territorial authorities will not occur in Marlborough. Therefore being a unitary authority allows for close connections and consistency between objectives, policies, and methods within this Regional Policy Statement and the other plans prepared by the Council.

To assist the preparation of plans to promote sustainable management, the Council has identified two major sub-areas: the Marlborough Sounds and Wairau/Awatere areas. Resource management plans will be prepared for each of these areas. The boundary between the two sub areas is defined by

the Richmond Range - see Map 1. The seaward boundary extends out to the 12 mile limit. However there is one overall community of interest and one overall vision which will be recognised in this Regional Policy Statement.

## 2.4 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES AND PLANS

Figure 2 shows the relationship of the Marlborough Regional Policy Statement to the other policies and plans that are to be prepared under the Resource Management Act. It is important to note that each level of policy or plan must not be inconsistent with the level above.



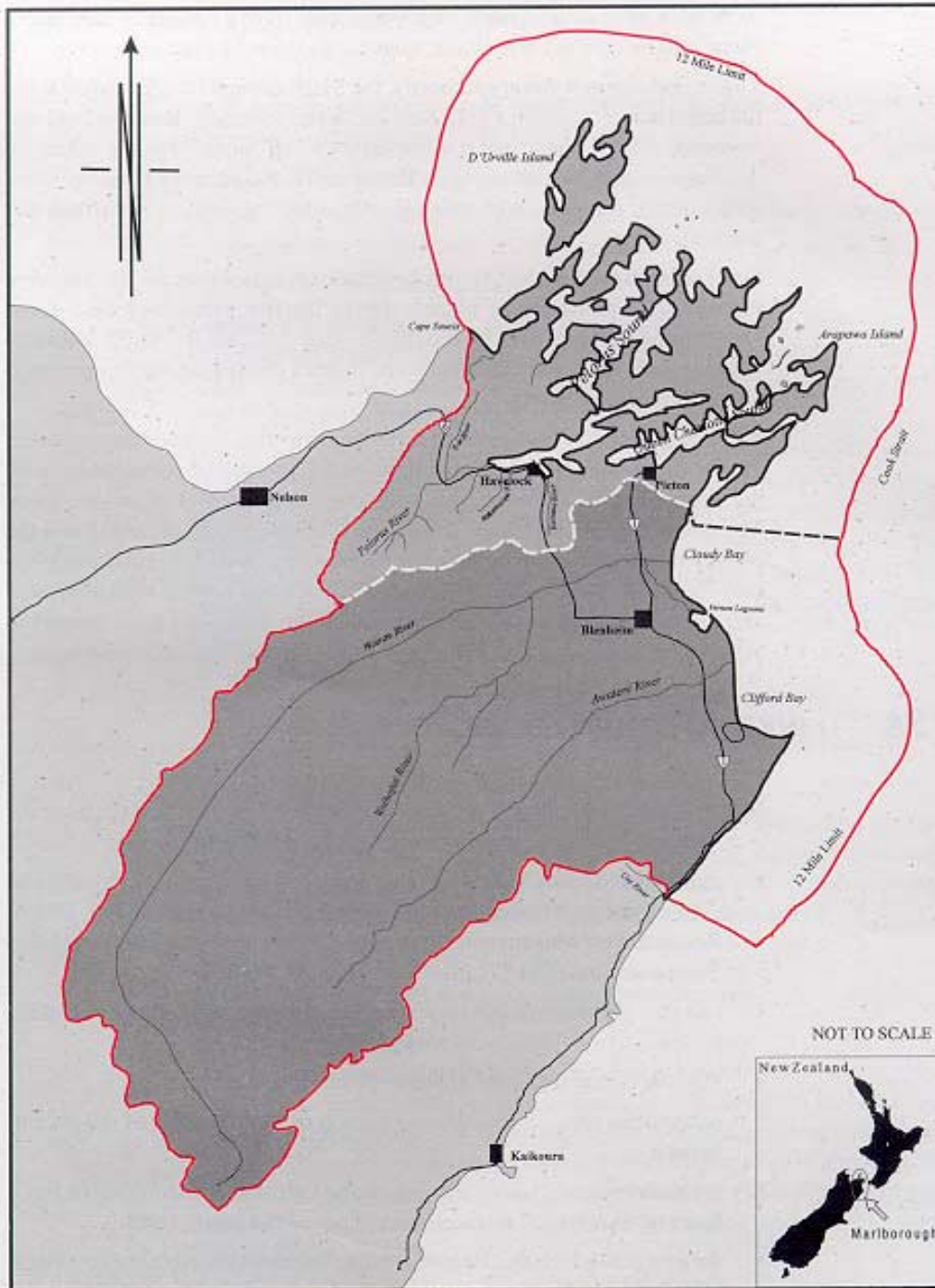
**Figure 2: Relationship between the Marlborough Regional Policy Statement and other Policy Statements and Plans**

At the central government level, the Minister for the Environment is responsible for preparing both National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards. Both are optional and as yet none have been prepared. National Policy Statements will guide local government decision making while National Environmental Standards (which would be set by regulation) may cover noise, contamination, water, soil, and air quality for example.

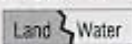
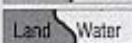
The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement is mandatory and is prepared by the Minister of Conservation. This document sets up a framework for managing New Zealand's coastline within which local government prepares regional coastal plans. The Marlborough Regional Policy Statement reflects the principles and policies contained within the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Figure 2 shows that the Marlborough District Council will prepare two resource management plans. These plans will be the main methods for achieving the objectives and policies of this Regional Policy Statement.

FOR HIGH RESOLUTION MAP SEE SEPARATE FILE FOR DOWNLOADING.



**PART 2**  
**background**

	Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan area
	Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan area

Both the Marlborough Sounds and Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plans will be combined regional, coastal, and district plans.

This is because as a unitary authority, the Marlborough District Council has the opportunity to plan for both land and water together. Because land and water are closely connected it is important when considering the effects of activities on one, to also consider the other. The combined plans will deal with coastal, regional, and district issues affecting land, water (fresh and marine), and air.

Several interim plans will control a range of activities until the resource management plans are in place. These interim plans include a Land Disturbance Plan for Marlborough, the Wairau River Floodways Management Plan, and the transitional district and regional plans prepared under former legislation.

Public participation is essential in achieving effective resource management. The Marlborough District Council views the process of consultation with the people of Marlborough as a very important element of its activities. The development of policies and plans, the undertaking of works and the consideration of resource consents all require a well informed public to have their say. The Council will continue to actively consult with interested and affected parties in the development of the plans and rules needed to achieve the objectives and policies of this Regional Policy Statement.

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## **2.5 LINKS TO OTHER LEGISLATION**

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In preparing or changing a regional policy statement, section 61(2) of the Act requires that the Council must have regard to the following:

- management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts, in particular Conservation Management Strategies (Conservation Act 1987), Regional Pest Management Strategies (Biosecurity Act 1993) and Land Transport Strategies (Transit New Zealand Act 1989);
- relevant planning documents recognised by an iwi authority affected by this Regional Policy statement;
- any relevant entry in the Historic Places Register;
- regulations relating to the conservation or management of taiapure or fisheries;
- regulations made under the Act to the extent that their content has a bearing on resource management issues of the region; and
- the extent to which this Regional Policy statement needs to be consistent with policy statements and plans of adjacent regional councils.

Section 32 of the Act also requires the Council to have regard to other methods either in addition to or in place of objectives, policies, and rules, in achieving sustainable management. These methods may include the provision of information, services, or incentives, and the levying of charges (including rates).

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## 2.6 CROSS BOUNDARY MATTERS

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Cross boundary matters can be issues between adjoining local authorities. They can arise in several ways, for example:

- from differences in policies or methods;
- from adverse effects of activities in one jurisdiction transferring/ occurring in another; or
- from aspirations and goals being different.

The Council must consider whether this Regional Policy Statement for Marlborough needs to be consistent with the policy statements and plans of adjoining regional councils. This Statement must state the process to be used to deal with cross boundary issues.

Those Councils which adjoin Marlborough's land boundaries are Kaikoura, Tasman, and Hurunui District Councils, Canterbury Regional Council and Nelson City Council. Councils which adjoin Marlborough's coastal marine area boundaries are Wellington and Canterbury Regional Councils and Nelson City Council. The Marlborough District Council will use consultation and ongoing liaison with these adjoining local authorities to ensure:

- cross boundary issues are identified;
- a process for dealing with cross boundary issues including investigating standard methods for resolving these issues is agreed on; and
- the effects of cross boundary issues are minimised.

Marlborough has clearly defined whole catchment boundaries and a strong community of interest. The boundaries with neighbouring authorities tend to be high rugged, sparsely populated mountain ranges. The cross boundary issues with adjoining local authorities identified to date are:

- noxious plant and pest control;
- waste management and hazardous substances; and
- transport linkages.

There are also cross boundary issues which are not related to geographical boundaries. These issues are of an administrative nature and relate to the Council's responsibility in managing resources and other organisation's responsibilities in managing resources. Particular agencies with which the Council has frequent dealings are the Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (fisheries and marine farm management).

Some cross-boundary matters will be resolved through the adoption in plans, of objectives, policies and rules which are common to adjoining territorial and regional councils. In particular this will be possible for the likes of network utility operators.

At times there is considerable public confusion over the role and responsibility of the Council and how its functions link with other agencies and interest groups. Clear definition of the Council's role and the responsibilities of other agencies to support, control, and monitor the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources is essential to avoid confusion, duplication, and conflict between parties.

The Council will continue to advise the community about its role and responsibilities for the management of the natural and physical resources of Marlborough and the links this has with other agencies and interest groups. The Council will also continue to liaise with other agencies and interest groups having responsibility for either managing or using the natural and physical resources of Marlborough.

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## **2.7 CONSISTENCY BETWEEN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

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There will be two resource management plans within Marlborough. Each plan deals with a separate geographic part of Marlborough - the Sounds, and the Wairau/Awatere. Each plan will be an integrated coastal, regional (air, water) and district plan.

The main reason for deciding to deal with plan preparation by geographic sections is to keep the projects at an achievable size. It also means the plan for the Sounds area can be developed as soon as possible. It has always been assumed that at some stage in the future the two plans will be combined to form one plan.

It is recognised that there are substantial differences between the two areas and that different Plan provisions may be necessary for each section. But unless there are significant differences, every attempt will be made to ensure that provisions are consistent across the whole of Marlborough. It is also acknowledged that there is one community of interest in Marlborough as reflected by this Regional Policy Statement.

This will ensure that the end users of the plan can expect a consistency of approach across the whole Region unless there are significant reasons for the provisions to be different.

Unless significant resource management differences can be identified between plan sections, a consistent and uniform approach to resource management be provided in each Resource Management Plan.

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## **2.8 SECTION 32 ANALYSIS**

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Section 32 of the Act requires the Council to consider alternatives, and assess benefits and costs before adopting any objective, policy, or method in this Regional Policy Statement.

In preparing this document a series of discussion papers were prepared and submissions were called for and considered. Consultation was carried out widely with the public, interest groups, and other agencies and a series of workshops held. Throughout this process the Council considered the alternatives and assessed benefits and costs of deciding on particular courses of action. Appendix II is a record of the process followed in preparing this Regional Policy Statement.



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## GENERAL

# principles

The principles in this part should not be confused with the principles of the Resource Management Act.

---

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

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This part of this Regional Policy Statement discusses matters that have been developed into a number of general principles which are the philosophy and values which underlie the content of this Statement. They differ from objectives in that they are an attitude of the Council rather than an achievable target with supporting policies and methods. This section of the Regional Policy Statement has been included pursuant to Section 62(1)(j) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

These principles relate to the following:

- relationship with iwi;
- commitment to Agenda 21;
- the Council as a resource user;
- property rights of land owners;
- uncertainty caused by the inadequacy and unavailability of information;
- and
- enforcement of controls imposed.

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### 3.2 IWI

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The special relationship between iwi and the Council is recognised by the Resource Management Act. This relationship will mean that resource management is distinctly New Zealand in character and sensitive to local iwi values.

In Marlborough the following eight iwi have Tangata Whenua status.

Ngai Tahu	Ngati Apa
Ngati Koata	Ngati Kuia
Ngati Rarua	Ngati Toa
Rangitane	Te Ati Awa

The dominant issues raised by the iwi of Marlborough are:

- the Maori holistic system of values;
  - ⇒ Te Taha o Te Ao (environment)
  - ⇒ Te Taha Hinengaro (way of life)
  - ⇒ Te Taha Wairua (spiritual and customary values)
  - ⇒ Te Taha Tinana (healthy body)
- the need for the Council to recognise tino rangatiratanga and power-sharing;
- the need to allow sufficient time for input and consultation;
- lack of iwi management resources;
- lack of iwi commercial development;
- water quality;
- pollution and waste management;
- waahi tapu;
- claims to the Waitangi Tribunal;
- specific locations such as the Wairau Lagoons and Port Underwood; and
- introduced species.

Several of these issues, including claims to the Waitangi Tribunal and lack of iwi commercial development, are beyond the control or jurisdiction of the Council to resolve in this Statement.

### **3.2.1 PRINCIPLES**

- (a) Recognise the concept of kaitiakitanga and the Treaty of Waitangi.
- (b) Incorporate where appropriate, the aspirations, heritage and values of the iwi of Marlborough into resource management decision making.
- (c) Provide for an iwi representative on the Council committee responsible for resource management.
- (d) Establish systems so that consultation with iwi occurs on resource consent applications, plan and policy preparation and changes.
- (e) Provide information to iwi on the Council's role in resource management planning and the Resource Management Act.
- (f) The Council will recognise the tangata whenua as having the role of kaitiakitanga of Marlborough's coastal environment.

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## **3.3 AGENDA 21**

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Agenda 21 was adopted by the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 as an agenda to take the world into the 21st century. It is a framework for action to achieve environmental sustainability. Agenda 21 consists of four interlinked sections which look at the main environmental and developmental concerns facing the earth. These four sections are:

- management and conservation of natural resources;
- social and economic dimensions;
- means of implementation; and
- strengthening the role of minority groups.

The challenge is to translate this global framework into actions at the local level. Under the Resource Management Act the Council has responsibility for a wide range of functions which are relevant to the intentions of Agenda 21. This includes allowing communities to determine specific environmental outcomes and processes to achieve them, within national policies and standards.

### 3.3.1 PRINCIPLE

Incorporate into resource management policy and plans the concepts within Agenda 21 relevant to the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

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## 3.4 THE COUNCIL AS A RESOURCE USER

---

The reform of local government in 1989 and environmental and planning law in 1991 have radically altered the roles and responsibilities of local government. The combining of local government roles into a single unitary authority in Marlborough has the potential to create conflict between the various functions of policy, regulation, advocacy, service delivery, and asset management. The potential for conflict exists in all councils whether unitary or not.

Because of the possibility of conflict the Local Government Amendment No 2 Act 1989 makes it clear that councils must:

- resolve conflict in a clear and proper manner;
- separate regulatory functions from others, where practical; and
- have management and political structures that clearly separate regulatory from other functions.

In order to fulfil this requirement the Marlborough District Council has developed staff and committee structures with responsibilities for:

- community services and development;
- corporate services;
- works and services; and
- resource management and regulation.

No Councillor on the committee responsible for resource management is a member of any other committee. Thus there is a clear separation between regulatory and service delivery functions in the Council.

Of special interest is how the Council will deal with applications for the Council activities and projects. It is important that the Council acts and is seen to act in a fair, impartial and accountable way when it processes resource

consent applications from itself and others in which it has an interest. These are:

- Port Marlborough (New Zealand) Ltd;
- Marlborough Airport Ltd; and
- Marlborough Forestry Corporation.

The Council has adopted a Code of Practice for treating applications for resource consents by the Council or its interests. This Code details notifications, delegations, and hearing arrangements. The Code ensures that the Council subjects resource consent applications from itself to closer public scrutiny than other applications. Independent commissioners will hear and make a decision on all the Council's resource consent applications where any submission in opposition is received. The Council will make financial allocation for monitoring the consents it holds in the annual plan, and maintain a public register of all the resource consents it operates.

### **3.4.1 PRINCIPLES**

- (a) Resolve conflict in a clear and proper manner.
- (b) Separate regulatory functions from others, where practical.
- (c) Establish and maintain management and political structures that clearly separate regulatory from other functions.
- (d) Establish and maintain a Code of Practice for treating applications for resource consents by the Council or those organisations in which it has a financial interest.
- (e) Monitor and enforce the conditions of resource consents held by the Council or those organisations in which it has a financial interest.

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## **3.5 PROPERTY RIGHTS**

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In general land is a privately owned resource. With ownership comes an expectation of the ability to reasonably develop and use the land. In a property owning democracy such as New Zealand, it is fundamental that the reasonable rights and expectations of private property owners are respected.

However, what many land owners do not always recognise is that the Crown has certain pre-emptive land ownership rights. For instance the Crown has the power to compulsorily acquire land and to pass legislation restricting land owners rights in certain ways for the public good. The Resource Management Act is an example of such legislation - there are numerous others.

Achieving the objective of sustainable management of resources means that the wider values of the community, future generations, ecosystems, and the natural environment must take precedence. A fundamental presumption of resource management legislation and the planning legislation that preceded it, is that the wider public interest considerations prevail over

individual expectations. However, it is a fine line as there will be situations where individual hardship will outweigh public benefit.

Section 85 of the Resource Management Act provides that a landowner may challenge any provision of a plan on the grounds that the landowner considers the provision would render their land incapable of reasonable use.

Section 86 of the Resource Management Act empowers Council to acquire land with the agreement of the landowner and pay compensation for it.

### **3.5.1 PRINCIPLES**

- (a) Within the constraints of the Act, recognise the rights of land resource users in order to achieve a fair and consistent balance between the need to promote sustainable resource management and property rights.
- (b) Where land use controls render the land incapable of reasonable use, consider providing various means to redress private costs.

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## **3.6 LIMITATIONS**

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Marlborough is a diverse region with many significant and unusual features. It is a huge and ongoing task to fully evaluate the effects of activities on these features. It is an even bigger job to fully study, let alone come to understand, the complex natural systems and their interrelationships with other systems.

We have to accept and recognise that we may never fully understand many natural systems and processes. Even if there were unlimited resources available for study or research there would always be uncertainty for decision makers when dealing with activities in this complex environment. The more study that is done, often the more questions that are raised.

It has to be recognised that there are limited resources available to gather and assess environmental information. Inadequate information creates uncertainty. This needs to be understood by both resource users and regulatory organisations. However, the absence of complete information should not necessarily be an excuse for avoiding resource management decisions.

The approach of this Statement is to proceed cautiously along a path which enables use and development of resources while protecting against adverse effects on the environment. This path must also include constant monitoring.

### **3.6.1 PRINCIPLE**

Where insufficient information about actual or potential adverse effects is available resource management policies and plans will take a precautionary approach to the use and development of resources to ensure there are no adverse effects on the environment.

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## **3.7 ENFORCEMENT**

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The Resource Management Act 1991 provides adequate authority for appropriate enforcement and abatement procedures to be implemented.

To be effective this Statement and resource management plans must be implemented seriously and understood by the whole community. To this end it is vital that a positive approach is taken to the enforcement of any controls imposed.

### **3.7.1 PRINCIPLES**

- (a) Inform and educate the community on why control is needed.
- (b) Monitor activities to ensure compliance with the Act, controls and resource consent conditions.
- (c) Undertake appropriate enforcement action including requiring correction of activities which do not comply with controls.

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# REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT issues

A regionally significant issue is a matter of interest or concern to the community that affects some aspect of the natural and physical resources of Marlborough. The extent to which an issue is significant depends on the values held by the community in relation to resources, activities, and the environment.

Section 62 of the Act requires this Regional Policy Statement to include objectives, policies, methods of implementation, and anticipated environmental results as a means of resolving the regionally significant issues. However, the terms objectives, policies, methods of implementation, and anticipated environmental results are not defined in the Act. These terms are used in this Statement in the following way:

- An **objective** is the desired result or situation that is aimed for.
- A **policy** is the course of action to achieve the desired result. It is what needs to be done to achieve an objective.
- A **method** is the practical action by which a policy is to be implemented. It can include specific actions, procedures, programmes, or techniques.
- An **anticipated environmental result** is the likely or intended result for the environment as a consequence of implementing policies or methods.

This Regional Policy Statement has identified five regionally significant issues for Marlborough. These are:

- protection of water ecosystems;
- protection of land ecosystems;
- enabling community wellbeing;
- protection of visual features; and
- control of waste.

These issues have become apparent from submissions on discussion documents, issues and options papers, widespread consultation with the public, iwi, interest groups, and other agencies. The Council's own knowledge of Marlborough's resources and existing or potential problem areas was also used to identify these issues.

The objectives, policies, and methods developed to deal with these issues have been prepared with the fundamental principles discussed in Part 3 and the purpose and principles of the Act in mind.

Every attempt has been made in the preparation of this Regional Policy Statement to avoid repeating large extracts from the Act. This means that the objectives, policies, and methods must be read in conjunction with the purpose and principles of the Act. Consequently where objectives and policies promote or provide for certain actions or activities, they are doing so within the legal constraints of the Act.

There are links between the regionally significant issues which should not be overlooked. Consequently, objectives and policies should not be considered separately from one another.

The italics which follow the issues, objectives, policies, and methods provide the explanation and reasons for their inclusion in this Statement. They are to be read as an integral part, of this Statement, and should not be considered in isolation.

There is potential for other matters to become regionally significant issues during the life of this Statement. These matters may be identified during:

- review and monitoring of this Statement, resource management plans and resource consents;
- annual State of the Environment reporting by the Council;
- submissions to annual plans of the Council; and
- submissions to the Council from the public at any time.

# PROTECTION OF Water ECOSYSTEMS

*Water ecosystems are composed of water bodies and the life systems contained within them and the riparian habitat of these margins. Ecosystems include the volumes, flows and quality of water and the plant and animal organisms which live within the water.*

*Water ecosystems have been classified as:*

- *wetlands, lakes, and rivers;*
- *groundwater; and*
- *coastal marine.*

*This separation groups similar water ecosystems but does not diminish the connections between them. For example rivers recharge groundwater and flow into the coastal marine area.*

*Water ecosystems are potentially under threat from the adverse effects of: sewage and septic tank discharges; land disturbance; agricultural and forestry runoff; stormwater from urban areas; discharges from ships and disposal of waste from boats; marine farming activities; gravel abstraction; and disturbance of the riparian margins of wetlands, lakes and rivers.*

*Overall, this part seeks to sustain the life supporting capacity of Marlborough's water ecosystems.*

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## 5.1 WETLANDS, LAKES, AND RIVERS

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### 5.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

There is major modification of freshwater ecosystems in the lower Wairau and Pelorus Rivers and reduction of the area of wetlands on the Wairau Plain.

Modification of river systems has had a major effect on the functioning of freshwater ecosystems. Activities such as flood protection, hydro electric dams, land use and cover (such as indigenous forest, production forest and pasture), land drainage, and abstraction of water can affect the amount of water remaining in rivers. Reductions in the amount of water in wetlands, lakes, rivers and groundwater systems, and contaminants in water from land drainage and discharges all have the potential to adversely affect wetland, lake and river ecosystems.

It is also important to recognise and provide for water management issues which affect amenity and recreational values, and the preservation of natural character of water bodies and their margins.

There are three main river systems within Marlborough. These are the Wairau, Awatere, and Pelorus Rivers and their related tributaries and wetlands. The headwaters of the Clarence River are also within Marlborough. All of these systems have been affected by changes in the amount or quality of water within them.

A diversity of smaller lakes and tarns and wetlands occur, especially at higher altitudes, including those on the St Arnaud Range, and the Lake Sedgemere, Fish Lake and Bowscale Tarn complex in the Wairau and Acheron catchments. Lake Chalice as an enclosed lake with a subterranean outlet is particularly important for its unmodified ecosystems with a landlocked population of koaro. There were extensive lowland freshwater swamps and wetlands which formerly graded into estuarine wetlands in the Marlborough lowlands and at the head of the Sounds. There has been a major reduction in wetland area over the last century. Consequently, the remaining areas now have major significance for habitat and water management purposes. The Para Swamp and Lake Elterwater are the sole remaining major areas of freshwater wetland.

The numerous small streams and rivers draining direct to the Marlborough Sounds are also an important water resource within the district.

It is important to recognise the linkage that freshwater ecosystems have with land and marine ecosystems. Land clearance and forestry, gravel extraction, river works and mining can lead to increased sedimentation rates which may adversely affect freshwater quality and threaten the coastal environment.

It is also important to recognise the link between surface water and groundwater systems in Marlborough, particularly in the Wairau catchment. The surface water in the Wairau River is the water supply for recharging the main Wairau groundwater system. Conversely, there are some situations where the Wairau groundwater recharges surface water systems and maintains freshwater ecosystems, for example Spring Creek.

## **5.1.2 OBJECTIVE - FRESHWATER QUALITY**

The water quality in Marlborough freshwater bodies be at a level which provides for the sustainable management of fish and plant life.

*The freshwater ecosystem is sustained in part by the quality of the water within it. In most areas plants and fish can be safely taken from the water and eaten. It is important that the quality of water within these major ecosystems is not allowed to decline to a level which prevents the gathering and consumption of plants and fish. The standard sought is Class F as set out in the Third Schedule to the Act.*

*In the lower reaches of the Wairau River in particular, poor water quality has destroyed indigenous plants and fish and made some plants and fish unsafe to take and eat. In these areas water quality should be enhanced to a standard which allows the regeneration of plants and fish and the safe taking and eating of them.*

*It is recognised that this will require a long term strategy to stop discharges containing contaminants and to remove contaminants from runoff water. This objective may not be achievable over the whole region during the life of this Regional Policy Statement.*

*There is community concern about the effects of land and water use on water quality and the cumulative effects of many separate activities on water quality.*

### 5.1.3 POLICY - RUNOFF FROM LAND

Avoid, remedy or mitigate the reduction of water quality in wetlands, lakes, and rivers caused by contaminated runoff water entering from land and non-point source discharges.

*Runoff water contaminants include sediments, nutrients, and faecal matter which comes from land uses. During heavy rain these contaminants have a major effect on water quality. Incorrect operation of landfill sites can also contribute to contamination of runoff water.*

*Contaminated runoff water is the major source of pollution in rivers. Reducing contaminants carried by runoff water will improve water quality in wetlands, lakes, and rivers and assist the natural functioning of freshwater ecosystems.*

### 5.1.4 METHODS

- (a) Incorporate control methods into resource management plans to avoid, remedy or mitigate sediment and other contaminants entering freshwater from land.

*These plans will: specify water clarity in rivers; control the scale of activities to limit the amount of sediment; and define the size and location of settling ponds to filter sediment from runoff water all to reduce the effect of sediment from disturbed land. These controls will apply to activities such as excavation, soil disturbance and vegetation removal which produce sediment. They will require that the amount of sediment leaving the land is minimised by the best practicable means possible.*

- (b) Undertake a targeted education programme to provide information on land use practices which avoid, remedy or mitigate sediment generation and reduce contamination of runoff water before entering wetlands, lakes, and rivers.

*This programme will be targeted at contractors and land holders undertaking land management activities likely to produce sediment and other contaminants in runoff water. It will detail accepted methods of land disturbance and ways to minimise the amounts of sediment, nutrients, and organic matter from their activities entering wetlands, lakes, and rivers.*

- (c) Define within resource management plans, criteria where esplanade or riparian areas will be necessary to ensure freshwater quality.

*Esplanade areas along wetland, lake and river margins can improve water quality by acting as a filter between land based activities and the water. After defining the major sources of runoff contamination the Council will determine where esplanade areas are appropriate for the enhancement of water quality. Esplanade strips and reserves, and access strips also have values for public access, recreation and wildlife habitat.*

### 5.1.5 POLICIES - 'POINT SOURCE' DISCHARGES

- (a) Improve water quality in wetlands, lakes, and rivers where present 'point source' discharges from land and water prevent the safe consumption of plants and fish.

*Point source discharges are generally piped and include sewage, stormwater (urban runoff), trade waste and dairy' shed effluent. Contaminants within discharges include nutrients, heavy metals, toxins, and organic matter.*

*Contaminated discharges from land and water can have a major effect on water quality. Reducing contaminants in discharges will improve water quality in wetlands, lakes, and rivers and assist the natural function of freshwater ecosystems.*

- (b) Existing discharge permits will only be replaced if the discharge does not cause, after reasonable mixing, significant adverse effects in the receiving waters, unless:

- the amount and concentration of contaminants in the discharge is reduced; and
- the resource user has demonstrated a staged approach, which includes a time frame (not exceeding 15 years from the date the Regional Policy Statement becomes operative) to meet the receiving water standard.

*Before an expired discharge permit is replaced the permit holder will be required to demonstrate that they have a programme in place to reduce the discharge of contaminants to freshwater ecosystems and reduce the effects of their discharge on that ecosystem.*

*This policy is seen as an essential element in reducing the effect of existing point source discharges on wetland, lake, and river water quality. The ultimate aim of this policy is that no discharge will significantly alter the condition of the receiving water. It is accepted that a staged approach will have to be taken to achieve this aim.*

*Council recognises that due to their quality some existing discharges may have no adverse environmental effects.*

- (c) New or additional point source discharges should not cause, after reasonable mixing, significant adverse effects in the receiving water.

*This policy is aimed at preventing new discharges from having a damaging effect on freshwater ecosystems, similar to the problems created by some existing discharges.*

### 5.1.6 METHOD

Incorporate discharge controls within resource management plans to reduce the discharge of contaminants into wetlands, lakes, and rivers to allow the safe consumption of plants and fish.

*Resource management plans will require that all dischargers make a continuing effort to minimise the contaminants they discharge into freshwater ecosystems.*

*Iwi have strongly indicated that financial constraints should not be the overriding consideration in making decisions about improving water quality.*

**5.1.7 OBJECTIVE - FRESHWATER QUANTITY**

To sustainably manage the flows and levels in wetlands, lakes and rivers to safeguard their life-supporting capacity, and avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment and to ensure the adequate recharge of groundwater systems.

*Marlborough's groundwater systems are made up of a number of aquifer systems which are linked to particular rivers. The integrity of these groundwater systems is dependant upon recharge from surface water.*

*The major source of recharge water in the Wairau aquifer is the Wairau River itself. Most of the water in the aquifer is from this source and the majority of this enters from the bed of the river between Condors Forest and Wratt's Road.*

*Abstraction and alteration of surface water flows can affect the recharge of the aquifer and at the same time affect the life-supporting capacity and ecosystems within wetlands, lakes and rivers, their natural character, recreational use, intrinsic and other values.*

**5.1.8 POLICY - FRESHWATER QUANTITY, LEVEL, AND FLOW**

Manage the quantity, level, and flow of surface waters to sustain their life-supporting capacity, ensure the adequate recharge of groundwater systems, preserve natural character, and protect recreational and other amenity values.

*This policy recognises the different instream values and consumptive demands for water in parts of the district. The policy seeks to avoid, remedy or mitigate the potential adverse environmental effects of the taking or use of water.*

*On the Wairau Plain in particular historic flood protection works have altered the location and flow of surface water. This alteration has reduced aquifer recharge in some areas. Consequential works have sought to redress this effect. For example the watering of Gibson's Creek is now seen as an essential part of the recharge of the Wairau aquifer in the Renwick area.*

*The aquifer has intrinsic values and is important for the social and economic wellbeing of the community.*

**5.1.9 METHOD**

Incorporate controls and monitoring mechanisms into resource management plans to manage the quantity, level, and flow of surface water systems.

*This method applies to both natural water bodies and artificial systems such as Gibson's Creek. Controls are needed to ensure that abstraction from these systems and other alterations to the quantity, level, and flow are managed to ensure aquifer recharge is maintained.*

### **5.1.10 OBJECTIVE – FRESHWATER HABITAT**

The integrity of freshwater habitats and natural species diversity be maintained or enhanced.

*Freshwater ecosystems are composed of a wide diversity of plant and animal species. The integrity of habitats is a measure of their modification and alteration from their natural state. The Act requires the protection of significant habitats.*

*The natural function of freshwater habitats relies on a high standard of water quality and quantity. Reduction of water quality and quantity can alter the habitat which in turn changes the range of species and the numbers of plants and animals present.*

### **5.1.11 POLICY- HABITAT DISRUPTION**

Avoid, remedy or mitigate habitat disruption arising from activities occurring within wetland, lake or river systems.

*Structures and activities such as gravel abstraction and dumping can disrupt the physical integrity of freshwater habitats, including the passage of fish. This disruption can be by way of displacement, smothering, or destruction.*

*Abstraction from surface water systems can disrupt habitats by altering the quantity, level, and flow of water. This can alter the concentration of contaminants (including the temperature) in the water.*

*This policy is seen as an essential element in recognising and providing for the intrinsic values of ecosystems by preventing their physical disruption by activities undertaken on the beds and banks of wetlands and rivers.*

### **5.1.12 METHODS**

- (a) Identify in resource management plans areas of significant freshwater habitat and include rules to protect the conservation values of those habitats.

*The Act requires that as a matter of national importance areas of significant freshwater habitat be identified and protected. Regard shall also be given to the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon.*

*Significant areas of indigenous freshwater habitat have been identified within Marlborough by the Department of Conservation and the Nelson-Marlborough Fish and Game Council. This information will act as the basis of public consultation in the preparation of resource management plans.*

*The identification of significant habitats will allow proposed activities to be considered on the basis of their effects on those habitats.*

- (b) Advocate to the Minister of Conservation the reservation of significant or representative freshwater communities and habitats.

*Protection of freshwater habitats is possible under the Reserves Act, Conservation Act, QE II National Trust Act and water conservation orders under the Act. The Minister of Conservation is responsible for the Reserves, Conservation, and QE II National Trust Acts and the Council administers water conservation orders.*

- (c) Define within resource management plans criteria where esplanade or riparian areas will be necessary to ensure freshwater habitat.

*Esplanade areas along wetland and river margins can improve freshwater habitats by acting as a buffer between land based activities and the water. After defining the major sources of damage and contamination the Council will determine where esplanade areas are appropriate for the enhancement of freshwater habitat. Esplanade strips and reserves, and access strips also have values for public access, recreation, and water quality.*

### **5.1.13 OBJECTIVE – NATURAL CHARACTER AND AMENITY VALUES**

The preservation of the natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins and the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values.

*Marlborough's freshwater bodies exhibit natural character to some degree. Many are also important in terms of the amenity they provide for the community particularly in terms of recreational value. This objective seeks to ensure that natural character and amenity values are recognised and not diminished by activities undertaken in accordance with the purpose and principles of the Act.*

### **5.1.14 POLICIES - NATURAL CHARACTER AND AMENITY VALUES**

- (a) Preserve the natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins.

*The natural character of Marlborough's wetlands, lakes and rivers needs to be retained by protecting freshwater bodies from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.*

*In determining natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers, the following matters shall be considered:*

- the existing degree of human modification;*
- the presence of areas of significant flora and habitats of indigenous fauna;*
- the diversity of species, communities or habitats;*
- the amenity values including cultural and recreational values; and*
- the degree to which the area provides for the continued functioning of ecological and physical processes.*

- (b) Maintain and enhance public access and recreational use of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins.

*The wetlands, lakes and rivers within Marlborough provide a range of valuable recreational opportunities. These need to be maintained and enhanced for the benefit of the community, including future generations.*

### **5.1.15 METHOD**

In resource management plans, define those criteria which describe the natural character of freshwater bodies and identify such management strategies and controls as are necessary to enable the preservation of natural character and the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values.

*Resource management plans will require a continued effort by users of freshwater ecosystems to preserve the natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers, and maintain and enhance their recreational and other amenities. Refer to policy 7.2.5 and method 7.2.6.*

**5.1.16 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS**

- (a) Enhanced conditions within the freshwater ecosystems including the maintenance of flows and levels, reduction of sedimentation and contamination of water within wetlands, lakes, and rivers, and reduction of the levels of contaminants contained within runoff water and point source discharges.

*The health of freshwater ecosystems is dependent on water quality and quantity which is in turn dependent on the level of contaminants within runoff water, point source discharges, levels and flows. Threats to freshwater ecosystems include the sedimentation and contamination of wetlands, lakes, and rivers from land disturbance, land activities, 'point source' discharges and excessive abstraction.*

*Iwi have strongly indicated support for setting standards and implementation of firm enforcement mechanisms to improve the condition of freshwater ecosystems.*

- (b) Integrity and health of all freshwater habitats maintained and enhanced, as shown by their long-term sustainability and natural species diversity.

*The health of freshwater ecosystems are indicated by the diversity of species present. Healthy ecosystems usually have a more diverse range of species than disturbed systems. Disturbance to ecosystems from altered flows and levels sedimentation or contamination enhances conditions for some species, which thrive, and degrades the conditions for other species, which may decline. Understanding the effects of habitat disruption on particular species will provide information about the scale and effect of disturbance occurring within the freshwater habitats.*

- (c) The preservation of natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of their amenity values.

*The importance of the natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of their amenity values is recognised in the preceding objectives and will be achieved by the method identified.*

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## 5.2 GROUNDWATER

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### 5.2.1 DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Excessive rates of abstraction or contamination of groundwater could make the Wairau and southern aquifers unavailable or unsuitable as a water supply.

Groundwater is the principle source of water for the Wairau Plains, due mainly to the poor quality and seasonal unavailability of surface flows in the lower Wairau River. The variations which occur in the underlying gravels mean groundwater availability also varies spatially and seasonally. During the peak of summer 90% of abstractions are used for irrigation, the remaining 10% is used for municipal, industrial, and domestic supply. Although municipal and domestic supplies are likely to be readily available throughout the plains, irrigation demands from the groundwater supply may be limited in some areas.

The Wairau River is the major surface waterway in the region and is an important source of recharge for most of the groundwater aquifers underlying the plains. There are smaller, but locally important aquifers adjacent to most of the other major rivers and many of the tributaries of the Wairau River.

Contamination of the groundwater is possible from contamination in the Wairau River above the major recharge area or from land contamination above the aquifer where it is open to surface infiltration.

Currently over abstraction or contamination of groundwater are not apparent as problems. Experience from elsewhere suggests this may not always be so.

### 5.2.2 OBJECTIVE – GROUNDWATER QUALITY

The quality of groundwater be maintained at a standard which is safe for use and consumption by communities and ecosystems.

*At present there is no indication of any significant problems with groundwater quality. It is important that the quality of groundwater is not allowed to decrease beneath its present standard to a level where it is unsafe for use and consumption by the community or damaging to the surface water ecosystems relying upon it as a source of supply. This standard will be the World Health Organisation drinking water standards.*

### 5.2.3 POLICY - CONTAMINANTS

Avoid, remedy or mitigate the reduction of groundwater quality from contaminants entering the groundwater systems from contaminated river water or infiltration through contaminated land.

*The major source of groundwater is from the Wairau River. If this source is contaminated then the groundwater will also become contaminated. Infiltration of nutrient and chemical contaminants from land based activities could also contaminate and reduce groundwater quality.*

*The groundwater in the lower Wairau is an important ecological and economic resource. Maintenance of water quality will ensure a healthy and viable freshwater ecosystem on the lower Wairau Plain and minimum costs associated with the provision of irrigation, municipal, industrial, and domestic water supplies.*

#### 5.2.4 METHODS

- (a) Identify in resource management plans areas where there is direct infiltration to aquifers and control land activity effects which could contaminate groundwater.

*There are some areas where the aquifer is recharged directly from surface water infiltration. In these areas it may be necessary to impose controls on those activities which have the potential to contaminate groundwater. If necessary some activities may need to be prohibited.*

- (b) Support research into the cumulative effects of land based activities on groundwater quality and promote sound land management practices emanating from that research.

*Particular reference needs to be made to the cumulative or long term effects of land based activities on groundwater quality, such as storm water disposal and chemical application.*

*State of the environment reporting by the Council will monitor the effects of land-based activities and provide direction for this research.*

- (c) Investigate potentially contaminated sites and ensure remedial works are undertaken where problems are identified.

*It is known that some past activities, such as timber treatment, refuse disposal, and industrial and service processes have contaminated certain sites. The contaminants may prohibit some future activities from being carried out on that site. Infiltration from contaminated sites can carry contaminants which may affect groundwater quality. The Council will investigate those sites suspected of being contaminated and enforce remedial action where it is appropriate. A register of identified contaminated sites will be developed and maintained by the Council.*

- (d) Investigate the operation of septic tanks in known problem areas and require remedial works to be carried out.

*It is apparent that the use of septic tanks in some areas is affecting water quality. The Council will investigate those areas known to have problems or identified by state of the environment monitoring and enforce remedial action under the Health Act and Building Act. In areas where individual householder action is not practical, it may be necessary to develop community solutions.*

- (e) Undertake a targeted education programme in the use and maintenance of sewage disposal systems to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of sewage effluent on land and water ecosystems.

*This programme will provide owners of sewage disposal systems with a greater understanding of the operation and maintenance requirements of their sewage treatment systems to minimise the effects of sewage effluent on land and water ecosystems.*

## **5.2.5 OBJECTIVE – GROUNDWATER RECHARGE OF SURFACE WATER SYSTEMS**

Groundwater should be maintained at levels sufficient to ensure natural recharge of surface water systems, to safeguard the life-supporting capacity of all water bodies and to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment.

*Spring Creek, Dowlings Creek, Murphys Creek, Fultons Creek, Yelverton Stream, and Doctors Creek are all spring fed surface waterways which are driven by groundwater flow. Flows in these rivers fluctuate depending on aquifer levels which vary naturally and in response to pumping by wells.*

## **5.2.6 POLICY - ABSTRACTION**

Ensure that the abstraction of groundwater in the Wairau and southern aquifer systems do not significantly affect flows in spring fed rivers in a manner which adversely affects the life-supporting capacity of their water and ecosystems.

*It is known that over abstraction from the Wairau and other groundwater systems can reduce the amount of water available to recharge the surface water system.*

*It is important to maintain groundwater recharge to the surface system. These spring flows are an important feature of both the rural and urban areas and have value as habitat for plant, fish and birdlife.*

## **5.2.7 METHOD**

Control groundwater abstraction in the Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects on surface systems by providing an allocation system and controls on the abstraction of water from the Wairau groundwater system.

*This Plan will define sustainable limits to abstraction of water from the Wairau groundwater system in order to ensure maintenance of dependant surface water flows. The allocation system needs to recognise the intrinsic, aesthetic, wildlife and recreational values of these surface rivers to the wider community.*

## **5.2.8 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS**

- (a) Continuation of the water within aquifers in a condition and at a level which makes them suitable and available for continued use as indicated by the level of the water table and the quality of the water.

*Groundwater is an economic resource in the Lower Wairau Plain and is the major source of water for irrigation and community water supply. The quantity and quality of the groundwater is sufficient to allow immediate use without interruption to supply. The continuation of this situation will depend on the control of activities which have the potential to contaminate the groundwater. This includes the major source at the Wairau River and the areas of the plain where the aquifer is unconfined. Groundwater around other rivers is also important for use by individual landowners for domestic and irrigation supply.*

- (b) Assured minimum flows within surface freshwater bodies having groundwater as their major source.

*The Lower Wairau Plain is crossed by a complex of channels which derive the majority of their flow from springs fed by the Wairau Aquifer. These streams have important values for freshwater habitat maintenance and serve as part of the character of Blenheim. Over abstraction of the aquifer could reduce the flows in these streams and damage the fisheries, wildlife, native flora, natural character and recreational amenity values attached to them.*

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## 5.3 COASTAL MARINE

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### 5.3.1 DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

The function of the marine ecosystem is disrupted by effects from land and water based activities. Some of the possible effects are sedimentation, contamination, and habitat disturbance. These effects are generally temporary but in extreme situations permanent effects may result. Small local effects of contamination and disruption can aggregate to make significant effects on the function of the ecosystem.

Discharges, such as the sewage discharge from Picton, and waste from activities in the sea (such as shipping and marine farming) can all cause disturbance to the natural marine ecosystem. Marine farming competes with indigenous stock for nutrients and could therefore disrupt the marine ecosystem.

Storm water and flood flows in the Wairau and Pelorus Rivers, and other small rivers, carry high levels of contaminants into coastal water. Contamination of river water results from the effects of land activities on surface water quality. These contaminants can act as a nutrient source to indigenous plants and animals in the marine ecosystem, and therefore sustain the marine ecosystem. These contaminants can act as a pollutant, and damage indigenous species and promote pests and diseases. There is a close relationship between land and water activities and the health of the marine ecosystem. This balance can be easily upset.

The two most significant remaining coastal wetlands are the Wairau Lagoons and the Pelorus Estuary. The remaining small wetlands are generally found in heads of bays and the mouths of rivers.

The community relies on the quality of the marine ecosystem for cultural, social, and economic wellbeing. Many activities take place in the coastal marine area. Only a few areas are presently degraded. As pressures for community use and development increase these known areas must be restored and further degradation prevented.

Little is known about the cumulative or long term effects of some activities. For example, there is little known about the long term effects of farming filter feeding shellfish on the habitat of indigenous species.

### 5.3.2 OBJECTIVE - COASTAL MARINE WATER QUALITY

That water quality in the coastal marine area be maintained at a level which provides for the sustainable management of the marine ecosystem.

*The marine ecosystem is sustained in part by the quality of the water within it. In most areas seafood can be safely cultivated, taken, and eaten. It is important that water quality within these ecosystems is not allowed to decline to a level which prevents the safe cultivation, gathering, and consumption of seafood from the coastal water.*

*Presently water quality in the Wairau Lagoons, Pelorus Estuary, and adjacent to the Picton port facilities and sewage discharge has made seafood unsafe to take and eat. The cumulative effects of concentrated septic tank discharges in several popular residential locations has also made local seafood unsafe to eat. In these areas water quality should be enhanced to a standard which allows the safe cultivation, taking, and eating of seafood. This will require a long term strategy.*

*Water quality standards may be adopted in certain areas to satisfy seafood export criteria. Generally the standard sought as a minimum shall be SG as set out in the Third Schedule to the Act.*

### 5.3.3 POLICY - RUNOFF FROM LAND

Avoid, remedy or mitigate the reduction of water quality in the coastal marine area caused by sediment and contaminated runoff water from land entering the marine ecosystem.

*Contaminated runoff water from land contains sediments, nutrients, and faecal matter. During heavy rain this runoff has a major impact on water quality. Incorrectly operating septic tank systems can also contribute to contamination of runoff water, particularly during times of heavy rain.*

*The marine ecosystem has intrinsic, cultural, social, and economic value to the community. Maintenance of marine water quality is important to the health of the marine ecosystem.*

### 5.3.4 METHODS

- (a) Define within resource management plans criteria where esplanade or riparian areas will be necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate damage and contamination of marine ecosystems.

*Esplanade areas along coastal margins can improve marine habitats by acting as a buffer between land based activities and the water. Following identification of the major sources of damage and contamination the Council will determine where esplanade areas are appropriate for the enhancement of marine habitat. Esplanade strips and reserves, and access strips also have values for public access, recreation, and wildlife habitat.*

- (b) Incorporate within resource management plans control methods to avoid, remedy or mitigate sediment or other contaminants entering coastal water from disturbed land.

*When assessing resource consent applications Council will consider water clarity ; control the scale of activities to limit the amount of sediment; and define the size and location of settling ponds to filter sediment from runoff water all to reduce the effect of sediment from disturbed land. These controls will apply to activities such as excavation, soil disturbance and vegetation removal which produce sediment or other contaminants. They will require that the amount of sediment leaving the land is minimised by the best practicable means possible.*

- (c) Undertake a targeted education programme to provide information on appropriate land disturbance techniques which avoid, remedy or mitigate sediment generation and reduce contamination of runoff water before entering coastal water.

*This programme will be targeted at contractors and land holders undertaking land management activities likely to produce sediment and other contaminants in runoff water. It will detail accepted methods of land disturbance and ways to minimise the amounts of sediment, nutrients, and organic matter from their activities entering coastal water.*

- (d) Advocate to the Minister of Conservation the retention and enhancement of the existing Sounds Foreshore Reserve and the management of new esplanade reserves along coastal margins.

*Riparian strips along coastal margins (such as the sounds foreshore reserve) act as a significant buffer between land based activities and the coastal marine area. Most coastal riparian strips are administered by the Department of Conservation. To maintain consistency all future esplanade areas should also be administered by the Department of Conservation.*

- (e) Investigate the operation of septic tanks on land adjacent to contaminated coastal water and require remedial works to be carried out where problems are apparent.

*It is apparent that the use of septic tanks in some areas is affecting coastal water quality. The Council will investigate those areas known to have problems and enforce remedial action under the Health Act and Building Act. In areas where individual householder action is not practical, it may be necessary to develop community solutions.*

- (f) Undertake a targeted education programme in the use and maintenance of sewage disposal systems to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of sewage effluent on the marine ecosystem.

*This programme will provide owners of sewage disposal systems with a greater understanding of the operation and maintenance requirements of their sewage treatment systems to minimise the effects of sewage effluent on the marine ecosystem.*

### **5.3.5 POLICY - CONTAMINATION FROM WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES**

Avoid, remedy or mitigate the reduction of coastal water quality by contaminants arising from activities occurring within the coastal marine area.

*Discharge of waste from recreation activities, shipping, marine farming operations, foreshore structures, and other marine based activities, has the potential to affect the quality of coastal water. Disposal of untreated waste from water based activities cannot be allowed directly to coastal water and needs to be treated similarly to waste from land based activities.*

*The marine ecosystem has intrinsic, cultural, social, and economic value to the community. Maintenance of marine water quality is important to the health of the marine ecosystem.*

### 5.3.6 METHODS

- (a) Incorporate within resource management plans controls to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of waste from water based activities on marine ecosystems.

*These controls will apply to activities such as marine farming, discharges from shipping, port and foreshore developments, and recreation. The impacts of these activities include dumping of boat sewage, littering, oil, and other wastes, the potential for spillages and the problems associated with some anti-fouling paints. National guidelines and controls will be required to deal with many of the above issues, such as boat sewage and holding tanks. Resource management plans will continue to require pumpout facilities for all new marina and port developments.*

*Some of these impacts will also be controlled through other legislation.*

- (b) Undertake a targeted education programme to provide information on ways to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of disposal of waste from water based activities on water quality.

*This programme will be targeted at commercial and recreational users of coastal water and promote the best practical option to minimise the effects of waste disposal on coastal water quality.*

- (c) Support research into the cumulative effects of water based activities on water quality.

*Particular reference needs to be made to the cumulative or long term effects of water based activities on water quality, especially marine farming. Little is known about the cumulative or long term effects of marine farming on existing natural stocks and ecosystems.*

- (d) Advocate to Government the development of national standards to control the adverse effects of discharges from shipping on the coastal marine area.

*The main area of concern is in relation to the discharge of contaminated ballast water from ships. The concern is that harmful micro-organisms may be taken on board with ballast water in other parts of the world and be released in the Marlborough Sounds. These micro-organisms can kill fish and shellfish, and result in illness or death in humans. Given that most of New Zealand's marine farming industry is located in the Marlborough Sounds the risk of unwanted introductions could be significant and the consequences severe.*

*The Resource Management Act currently precludes the Council from being able to enforce rules which prohibit foreign ships from de-ballasting contaminated water within the Marlborough coastal marine area. Presently de-ballasting occurs under a voluntary agreement between the Government and shipping interests. Changes to marine pollution legislation may make it possible in the future to control de-ballasting. However until such legislation is in place, it is considered that as the Marlborough Sounds have national importance for aquaculture, a higher safeguard is required than the present voluntary agreement.*

### 5.3.7 POLICIES - 'POINT SOURCE' DISCHARGES

- (a) Improve coastal water quality where present 'point source' discharges from land limits the safe consumption of plants and fish from the water.

*Contaminants contained within point source discharges from land can have a major impact on water quality. Coastal water cannot be expected to continue to absorb wastes from land based point source discharges. This policy seeks to prevent or minimise the effects of such discharges.*

*The marine ecosystem has intrinsic, cultural, social, and economic value to the community. Maintenance of marine water quality is important to the health of the marine ecosystem.*

- (b) Existing discharge permits will not be replaced unless the amount and concentration of contaminants in the discharge will be reduced, where necessary.

*Before an expired discharge permit is replaced the permit holder will be required to demonstrate that they have a programme in place to reduce the discharge of contaminants to coastal ecosystems and reduce the effects of their discharge on that ecosystem.*

*This policy is seen as an essential element in reducing the effect of existing point source discharges on coastal water quality. The ultimate aim of this policy is that no discharge will significantly alter the condition of the receiving water. It is accepted that a staged approach must be taken to achieve this aim.*

*Council recognises that due to their quality some existing discharges may have no adverse environmental effects.*

- (c) New or additional point source discharges should not cause, after reasonable mixing, significant adverse effects in the receiving water.

*This policy is aimed at preventing new discharges from having a damaging effect on the coastal marine ecosystem.*

### 5.3.8 METHOD

Incorporate within resource management plans discharge controls to reduce the discharge of contaminants into coastal water and allow for the safe consumption of plants and fish from the water.

*Resource management plans will require continued effort by all dischargers to minimise the contaminants they discharge into coastal ecosystems.*

*Iwi have strongly indicated that financial constraints should not be the overriding consideration in making decisions about improving water quality.*

**5.3.9 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULT**

Overall enhanced condition within the marine ecosystem shown by reduction of sedimentation and contamination of water within the coastal marine area, and reduction of the levels of contaminants within runoff water, from water based activities, and point source discharges.

*The health of the marine ecosystem is dependent on the water quality which is in turn dependent on the level of contaminants within runoff water from the land, discharged from coastal water based activities and point source discharges. Threats to marine ecosystems include sedimentation and contamination from land disturbance, land activities, 'point source' discharges, and from activities carried out in the coastal marine area.*

### **5.3.10 OBJECTIVE – COASTAL MARINE HABITAT**

The natural species diversity and integrity of marine habitats be maintained or enhanced.

*The marine ecosystem is composed of a wide diversity of plant and animal species. The integrity of habitats is a measure of their modification and alteration from their natural state. The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement gives direction to the protection of significant coastal and marine habitats.*

*The natural function of marine habitats relies on a high level of water quality. Changes in water quality can alter the habitat which in turn changes the numbers and species of plants and animals present.*

### **5.3.11 POLICY - HABITAT DISRUPTION**

Avoid, remedy or mitigate habitat disruption arising from activities occurring within the coastal marine area.

*Activities such as foreshore structures, reclamations, dredging, dumping, and boat wash can damage the physical integrity of marine habitats. This damage can be by way of displacement, smothering or destruction. Also, fishing techniques such as dredging, trawling, and netting, both commercial and recreational damage the marine habitat.*

### **5.3.12 METHODS**

- (a) Identify in resource management plans areas of significant marine habitat and include controls to protect those habitats.

*There are a number of significant areas of marine habitat along the Marlborough coast. The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement requires as a matter of national importance that these areas be identified and protected. Any activity proposed within these areas will be considered on the basis of its effects on the marine habitat.*

- (b) Advocate to the Minister of Fisheries that further research be undertaken to assist understanding of marine ecosystems.

*There is only limited knowledge of the life cycles and linkages between the different marine species which naturally inhabit the Marlborough Sounds, and species which are managed and harvested in the Sounds. Research needs to involve both natural and introduced species, and include enhancement of natural fish stocks. Good management decisions relating to the sustainability of marine ecosystems and fisheries management are important. These decisions will be based on an understanding of the importance of marine habitat characteristics and fishing activities. Research will assist understanding and management of the marine ecosystem, and could stimulate new marine ventures.*

- (c) Advocate to the Minister of Fisheries that both commercial and recreational fishing be further regulated within the enclosed waters of the Marlborough Sounds to enhance the size and number of natural species.

*Community concern over the depletion of fish stocks in the Sounds indicates that there is a need for urgent action on this matter.*

*The combination of commercial and recreational fishing is a major cause of fish mortality. Commercial and recreational fishing are regulated under the Fisheries Act. There are already limits on boat and equipment specifications, and catch effort. Commercial fishers have rights created under the Quota Management System which defines Total Allowable Commercial Catches of defined fish species. The Resource Management Act precludes the Council from controlling matters related to fisheries management.*

*At this stage the Council has chosen to advocate to the Minister of Fisheries the need to further regulate fishing methods within the Marlborough Sounds. Mass fishing techniques such as set netting, dredging and trawling have the potential to cause large scale damage to the marine ecosystem. Regulating fishing techniques could include controls on boat and equipment size, limit on catch effort, restriction from specific areas, limits on recreational fish takes, licensing fishing charter operators and bag limits for specific species.*

*The enclosed waters of the Marlborough Sounds are defined as the coastal marine area inside a line between: West Entry Point and East Entry Point at the entrance to Pelorus Sound; Cape Jackson and Cape Koamaru at the entrance to Queen Charlotte Sound; West Head and East Head at the entrance to Tory Channel; and within Croisilles Harbour and Port Underwood.*

- (d) Advocate to the Minister of Fisheries that the enclosed waters of the Marlborough Sounds be treated as a separate area for fisheries management.

*The Marlborough Sounds are presently contained within a large fishing management area which contains open coastal water and the enclosed waters of the Sounds. The management implications caused by the different nature of the Marlborough Sounds, being an important area for fish breeding, is not able to be easily accommodated by its combination into a larger area.*

- (e) Advocate to the Ministers of Fisheries and Conservation the reservation of significant or representative communities and habitats.

*Protection of marine habitats is possible under the Marine Reserves Act, Fisheries Act, Reserves Act, Conservation Act, Marine Mammals Protection Act, and Wildlife Act.*

### **5.3.13 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULT**

Enhanced diversity and integrity of marine habitats shown by the variety of species present within the coastal marine area.

*The health of marine ecosystems is often indicated by the diversity of species present. Healthy ecosystems usually have a more diverse range of species than disturbed systems. Disturbance to ecosystems from sedimentation and contamination enhances conditions for some species, which thrive, and degrades the conditions for other species, which may decline. Understanding the effects of habitat disruption on particular species will provide information about the scale and effect of disturbance occurring within marine habitats.*

## PROTECTION OF

# land

## ECOSYSTEMS

*The land ecosystems of Marlborough are composed of mountains, hills, valleys, and plains and the life systems contained within them. They include the soil and the plant and animal organisms that live within those ecosystems.*

### 6.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

There has been major modification of land ecosystems throughout Marlborough. Tall tussock grasslands and beech forests are relatively original in their composition and function, oversown hill and high country and scrub areas are modified, while the pastures, pine forests, and horticultural crops are entirely introduced plants. Grazing animals are part of pastoral ecosystems whereas pests disturb all land ecosystems.

Land ecosystems rely on interactions between species to create a system which is able to resist and respond to disruption. The effects of land based activities can reduce the viability of natural ecosystems by disturbing the balance of species present. Generally a narrow range of species denotes a more fragile and less robust ecosystem. There are a wide range of species within wild ecosystems compared with few species in systems managed for production. Some managed systems require a considerable level of support to maintain productivity.

Land use and development has had a major effect on the composition and function of land ecosystems. Indigenous vegetation has been replaced or modified in those areas which have been perceived as having productive value. Planting new species, applying fertiliser, herbicide, and insecticide disturb natural ecosystems, and grazing and harvesting crops affect soil and plants.

Changes in land ecosystems in turn may cause changes in adjacent water ecosystems. Alterations in the quality and quantity of freshwater in rivers may be caused by contamination and land based consumption of water and streams.

It is important to recognise that the community relies on the use and development of many land ecosystems for cultural, social, and economic wellbeing.

## **6.1.2 OBJECTIVE – INDIGENOUS LAND ECOSYSTEMS**

The integrity and diversity of indigenous land ecosystems (including soils) is to be maintained and where reasonably necessary enhanced while so far as possible also enabling the community to provide for its wellbeing.

*The indigenous land ecosystems of Marlborough are extremely diverse - both in terms of habitats and the species that occupy them. The indigenous alpine herb fields, grasslands, and podocarp forests, all have special characteristics worthy of recognition.*

*Maintenance of diversity is important to the continued health of the indigenous land ecosystems. There is a need to recognise the importance of the land for community, social, economic, and cultural wellbeing, and the protection of intrinsic values of the indigenous land ecosystems.*

*The Act requires that the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna be recognised and provided for as a matter of national importance.*

## **6.1.3 POLICY- INDIGENOUS ECOSYSTEM DISRUPTION**

Avoid, remedy or mitigate indigenous land and water ecosystem disruption arising from physical disturbance, reduction in river flows, contamination, overgrazing, burning, and animal and plant pests.

*Activities such as excavation, soil disturbance and vegetation removal (by burning or otherwise) can damage the physical integrity of indigenous land ecosystems. This damage can be either displacement or destruction of ecosystems.*

*Contamination from runoff water and reduced flows due to land based consumption of water affects adjoining water ecosystems.*

*Animal and plant pests can damage the integrity of the indigenous land ecosystem by destroying or competing with resident species. Animal pests graze or browse plants, such as rabbits on grasslands, possums in the bush and wasps everywhere. Plant pests, such as gorse and old mans beard smother and invade preferred plants.*

*Disruption of the land habitat by activities and pests can reduce the potential of the land and our appreciation of it.*

*This policy is seen as an essential element in recognising and providing for the intrinsic values of ecosystems by preventing their disruption by activities on the land.*

## **6.1.4 METHODS**

- (a) Identify in resource management plans areas of significant indigenous land and water ecosystems and include controls to protect their conservation values.

*The Act requires as a matter of national importance that areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna be protected. Numerous areas of significant indigenous land and water habitat occur within Marlborough. Many of those areas are in the conservation estate managed by the Department of Conservation. Other areas remain privately owned.*

*Any activity proposed, which would affect the values within these areas, will be considered on the basis of its effects on the indigenous land and water habitat.*

- (b) Advocate to the Minister of Conservation and promote to landowners the preservation of significant or representative indigenous terrestrial communities and habitats.

*Protection of land habitats is possible under the Reserves Act, Conservation Act, and QE II National Trust Act.*

- (c) Incorporate land disturbance controls and guidelines within resource management plans to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of activities which disturb soil ecosystems, cause erosion, or degrade soils.

*These controls and guidelines will apply to land disturbance activities such as excavation, earth disturbance, and vegetation removal.*

*The plans will require that the best practicable means of undertaking activities are used to ensure that disturbance to soil ecosystems are maintained, and , erosion and soil degradation are minimised.*

- (d) Undertake a targeted education programme to provide information about the effects of land use activities on indigenous land ecosystems.

*This programme will publicise the effects of land use activities on indigenous land ecosystems. It will emphasis cumulative, long term, and off site effects and be targeted at those most likely to carry out land disturbance activities.*

- (e) Support research into the development of controls including biological controls for pests and diseases which affect indigenous land ecosystems.

*There is a need to support initiatives for the use of biological pest control techniques which reduce the reliance on chemical based controls and which will have benefits locally.*

- (f) Administer programmes for the effective management or eradication of pests which affect indigenous land ecosystems.

#### **6.1.5 OBJECTIVE – SOIL PRODUCTIVITY AND AVOIDANCE OF SOIL EROSION AND DEGRADATION**

- Practices which exacerbate soil erosion and degradation be avoided; and
- The potential and life supporting capacity of all soils be ensured by retaining the productive capability of those soils.

*The life supporting capacity of soil is related to soil fertility. Soil fertility is a combination of the physical and chemical structure, nutrient status, and organic matter contained in the soil. Maintaining soil fertility depends on limiting changes in the compaction, infiltration, and nutrient status of the soil.*

*Protection of highly productive land is essential for the continued safe and efficient production of food.*

*Some rural activities do not depend on the soil resource and can locate on less productive soil. However, strategic location on productive soil may increase the productivity of the surrounding land. For example, a horticultural processing facility, such as a vegetable processing plant, encourages use of the surrounding land for horticultural production.*

#### **6.1.6 POLICY - SOIL FERTILITY AND AVOIDANCE OF EROSION**

- Avoid soil loss and degradation;
- Maintain soil fertility at levels which will ensure future productive capacity; and
- Take steps to reduce soil degradation and erosion where reasonably practicable.

*Activities such as cultivation, grazing, burning, chemical application, and movement of vehicles and livestock over soil can contribute to degradation and erosion, or affect soil fertility. Erosion of soil by wind and water can alter the soil texture.*

#### **6.1.7 METHODS**

- (a) Incorporate within resource management plans, land disturbance controls and guidelines to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of activities which cause soil erosion, degradation of soil structures, or loss of organic matter.

*These controls and guidelines will apply to land disturbance for activities such as excavation, soil disturbance, and vegetation removal. They will require that the best practicable means are undertaken to ensure that effects are minimised.*

- (b) Resource management plans will identify areas of highly productive soils and contain controls to ensure that the productive capability and potential of highly productive soils is maintained.

*These controls will apply to activities that have the potential to reduce the productivity of land and to those activities which do not depend directly on the soil resource.*

*Highly productive soils are defined by the New Zealand Land Resource Inventory, which considers various factors influencing the productive capability of the soil resource. The productivity of the soil resource is a dynamic measure and investment, in drainage for example, can raise the productivity of a particular soil.*

- (c) Undertake a targeted education programme to provide information on the effects of land use activities on soil fertility.

*This programme will publicise the effects of land use activities on soil fertility with an emphasis on cumulative, long term, and off site effects. Information about the soil fertility effects of land use activities will assist farmers and other land users to make good decisions about their use of the land.*

- (d) Support research into the development of controls including biological controls for pests and diseases which affect the productive capacity of all soils.

*There is a need to support initiatives for the use of biological pest controls and which reduce the reliance on chemical-based controls and which will have benefits locally.*

- (e) Administer programmes for the effective management or eradication of pests which affect the productive capacity of all soils.

#### **6.1.8 POLICY - ECOSYSTEM SECURITY**

Avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of threats to land ecosystems.

*Threats to land ecosystems include pests, natural hazards, and effects of land use activities, including land disturbance and application of chemicals.*

*The nature of threats to land ecosystems means that the risk of events can be reduced but never eliminated. Constant vigilance is needed to ensure that hazards are recognised, planned for, and avoided wherever possible.*

#### **6.1.9 METHODS**

- (a) Investigate potentially contaminated sites and ensure remedial works are undertaken where problems are identified.

*Some past activities may have contaminated certain sites. This may limit the type of activities that can now take place on those sites and contaminate water draining into wetlands, lakes, rivers, and groundwater. The Council will investigate those sites suspected of being contaminated and enforce remedial action where it is appropriate. A register of identified contaminated sites will be developed and maintained by the Council.*

- (b) Develop management strategies for efficient and economic pest control, under the Biosecurity Act and other relevant legislation.

*Plans for pest control will define the levels of pest [plant and animal] control required on different land ecosystems. It will include the allocation of responsibility for the provision of services and allocation of costs associated with that control. This method is aimed at controlling rather than eliminating most pests.*

- (c) Record and maintain a register of known hazard areas, identifying sites at risk to flooding and land instability.

*The Council will establish and maintain a register of known hazard prone areas and use this register as a basis to assess applications for resource consents under the Resource Management Act or building consents under the Building Act.*

- (d) Undertake a targeted education programme to provide information about threats to land ecosystems and means to reduce the risk of those threats.

*This programme will publicise the nature of threats to land and water ecosystems, with an emphasis on cumulative, long term, and off site effects. It will include advice on techniques to prepare for those threats and ways to reduce the risk of damage occurring to property, land, and water ecosystems.*

#### **6.1.10 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS**

- (a) Enhanced integrity and diversity within land ecosystems shown by the composition and viability of land habitats, available area of highly productive soils, and reduction of threats to land ecosystems.

*The diversity of species present often indicates the health of land ecosystems.*

*Mature or stable systems usually have a wider variety of species than disturbed or immature systems. The diversity of species may reflect the level of threats to land ecosystems.*

- (b) Improved life supporting capacity of soils shown by soil fertility.

*Soil fertility is the prime indicator of soil productivity. Changes in soil compaction, drainage, or microbial activity indicate changes in the productive potential and life supporting capacity of the soil.*

#### **6.1.11 MONITORING EFFECTIVENESS**

For soils and land-use the following indicators will be monitored to assess the suitability and effectiveness. of this part of the policy statement, and any need for it to be reviewed:

- (a) Trends in key soil quality indicators (including vegetation) at sample sites.
- (b) The degree of adoption of land management practices that minimise soil erosion.
- (c) Incidents of soil erosion and/or degradation.
- (d) Incidents of land contamination.
- (e) Incidents of burn-off.
- (f) Incidents of unauthorised vegetation clearance on non-arable land.
- (g) Trends in plant and animal pest population, and their effects on land resource.

# community

## WELLBEING

*The purpose of the Resource Management Act (Section 5) is to promote sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The Act states that “sustainable management” means managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while -*

- *Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- *Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
- *Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.*

*The Regional Policy Statement so far has concentrated on establishing the environmental limits within which people and communities can operate. This does not mean that resources cannot be used. This Regional Policy Statement also seeks to enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing provided those limits are achieved.*

*It is accepted that the Regional Policy Statement must ensure that the environmental limits are met while otherwise managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.*

*This part of the Regional Policy Statement is to be applied within this overall environmental framework.*

*The wellbeing of people and communities is indicated by the quality of life available to them. This includes:*

- *the provision of food, shelter, and clothing;*
- *economic prosperity;*
- *health and safety;*
- *spiritual and cultural freedom; and*
- *the qualities and characteristics of the community they live in (the Act calls these attributes “amenity values”).*

*Quality of life comes from interactions between individuals and the community, and their surroundings. Community interaction provides personal support, spiritual and cultural awareness, and social development. Interaction with the surroundings provides employment, recreation, and cultural and education opportunities for people. These opportunities are consistent with the principles of Agenda 21.*

*The condition of natural and physical resources plays a large part in establishing the quality of life for the residents and visitors to Marlborough. The pleasantness and safety of our surroundings includes access to services, facilities, and resources. The clear air, clean water, fertile land, and provision of facilities provide a sound basis for a supportive, understanding, and tolerant society.*

*Within this Regional Policy Statement provision for community wellbeing is separated into five elements which are:*

- *community;*
- *activities involving public resources;*
- *culture and heritage;*
- *natural hazards; and*
- *energy.*

*There are connections between each of these elements and between these elements and the natural and physical resources of Marlborough. The objectives and policies contained in this Part cannot be read in isolation from the objectives and policies contained in all other Parts of this Regional Policy Statement.*

*Other Local Government functions of the Council also deal with a number of the areas concerned with community wellbeing. The annual plan preparation process and the community service and delivery functions of the Council may closely relate to some of the aspects addressed in this Part.*

*This Part of the Regional Policy Statement provides a framework upon which provisions to enable community wellbeing can be made within resource management plans. It also provides a long term resource management based framework for the Council's annual plans.*

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## **7.1 COMMUNITY**

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### **7.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE**

The community is made up of groups and individuals with different aspirations and desires for their present and future fulfilment and wellbeing. People achieve their aspirations and desires by undertaking activities which use, develop, and protect resources. These activities may affect the resources themselves or generate effects on the wider environment.

Essentially, certain types or the location of activities can lead to serious reductions in the quality of life for the people of Marlborough. This in itself is an important resource management issue.

**7.1.2 OBJECTIVE – QUALITY OF LIFE**

To maintain and enhance the quality of life of the people of Marlborough while ensuring that activities do not adversely affect the environment.

*One reason for intervening in peoples activities is to ensure that the actions of individuals collectively build a better quality of life for people in Marlborough. It is possible that certain types of resource use could lead to serious reductions in the quality of life for the people of Marlborough.*

*To achieve this objective it will be necessary to define those things that make up quality of life and include provisions in resource management plans to take account of those things.*

**7.1.3 POLICY - AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

Maintain and enhance the quality of the air resource in Marlborough.

*Clean air is probably our most underrated resource. Generally, people only become aware of an air quality issue when good air quality is degraded.*

*Degradation of air quality arises from a range of sources, both natural and human induced. Air is degraded by smoke, dust and chemicals which can alter the clarity, condition and composition of the air. Degraded air affects human health, the amenity value of a place and the functioning of ecosystems.*

*Odour nuisance is a component of air quality. Odour nuisance is a common source of complaint, yet, the effects of odour can be the most difficult to control and assess. Odour, by its very nature is highly subjective, as a result of this, community tolerances to different odours vary considerably.*

*The quality of the air resource in Marlborough will be maintained and enhanced by developing a system for the sustainable management of air. Under the Resource Management Act, Council has control over the discharge of contaminants to air*

*The maintenance and enhancement of air quality involves the following three key concepts:*

- *Promoting the sustainable management of the air resource in Marlborough;*
- *Avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects of activities on the air resource.*
- *Avoiding, remedying or mitigating the district's contribution to national and international air quality degradation by supporting central government policies addressing ozone layer depletion, climate change and the effect of greenhouse gases.*

**7.1.4 METHODS**

- (a) Encourage research to define the ambient air quality of Marlborough as a base to set air discharge standards.

*One problem Marlborough faces at present is that very little measurement of air quality has been done. This lack of measurement makes developing standards very difficult. It would be easy to simply adopt standards developed elsewhere but these may not reflect the situation in Marlborough and may even provide a "licence*

*to pollute". On the other hand, it is not helpful to adopt standards so stringent that they place unnecessary restrictions on normal everyday activities.*

*Therefore, research will be facilitated by Council as a part of State of the Environment Monitoring. Council has a responsibility, in the development of an information data base, to include monitoring of air quality in Marlborough.*

- (b) Resource management plans may develop air quality guidelines that ensure the maintenance or enhancement of the air resource.

*These guidelines would reflect the condition of Marlborough's air resource and the information emanating from research about Marlborough's air resource.*

- (c) Resource management plans may include criteria to assess activities and their potential effect on air quality and may impose controls on activities in order to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of those activities on the air resource.

*Such controls will address those activities which threaten the air resource. These may include activities such as: land clearance by open burning; rubbish fires; domestic heating/fires; dust from activities; odour and odour assessment; pesticide spray drift; and industrial emissions.*

- (d) Council will encourage the development of central government policy addressing matters such as ozone layer depletion and global warming from greenhouse gas emissions.

*Central government has primary responsibility for the control and minimisation of discharges of ozone depleting substances, and for co-ordinating the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in New Zealand. Council will support and promote, as appropriate, any central government initiatives addressing these issues.*

## **7.1.5 POLICY - COMMUNITY HEALTH**

To avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on the health of people and communities.

*Many resource management related environmental factors contribute to the health of people within the community. Through management of the use, development, and protection of resources the Council has the ability to ensure that these environmental factors are maintained.*

*Basic environmental hygiene is generally taken for granted until there is a measurable effect on people's health. Rather than addressing problems when they get to danger level, this approach will be to ensure the health supporting ability of the environment is always maintained by resource use.*

## **7.1.6 METHODS**

- (a) Set standards where appropriate in resource management plans that ensure the maintenance or enhancement of air and water quality, that control environmental noise and soil contamination and any other factors essential to the health supporting ability of the environment.

*To ensure the enhancement of the above factors it is first necessary that appropriate standards are established. These standards will be included within the resource management plans. They will provide both a definable bottom line with which to assess activities and a clear indication to prospective*

*developers as to what is expected of them. Generally such standards will be based on national guidelines.*

*Matters such as the quality of domestic water supplies are dealt with under the Health Act but there is close connections with the Resource Management Act.*

*Other factors essential to the health of the community and the environment include odour control and managing sunlight emission.*

- (b) Provide information on the effects of activities on air quality, water quality, and noise, and provide advice on mitigation methods.

*Many activities have the potential to lower the health supporting capacity of the environment. This method will result in a targeted information and education programme aimed at reducing the environmental health effects of existing and proposed activities and raising public awareness about environmental health issues. An example of this would be a programme targeted at householders to provide information and education on the environmental effects of burning treated timber in solid fuel heating appliances.*

*These methods relate closely to sections on air and water quality contained within other parts of this document.*

### 7.1.7 POLICY - AMENITY VALUES

Promote the enhancement of the amenity values provided by the unique character of Marlborough settlements and locations.

*The Resource Management Act includes "amenity values" within the definition of "environment". They are the natural and physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to peoples appreciation of the areas:*

- *pleasantness;*
- *aesthetic coherence; and*
- *cultural and recreational attributes.*

*To ensure these values are enhanced first involves attempting to define the attributes that make them up. Once this is achieved the management of the use, development, and protection of resources must avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on amenity values.*

### 7.1.8 METHODS

- (a) Define the criteria which describe the function, nature, and character of Marlborough settlements and sites.

*The resource management plans will define and describe the attributes which make up amenity values. It is unlikely that these values could be quantified but if we have a clearer understanding of them it will be much easier to ensure that they are enhanced.*

*The plans will define the function and character of major settlements and locations, from towns to rural and recreation localities. Following are examples of attributes which make up the amenity values of some settlements and localities. These descriptions will be developed within resource management plans.*

*Blenheim is the main urban, business, and service settlement in Marlborough. Defining Blenheim's role within Marlborough will enable provincial development with a strong coordinating town. It also provides a place for activities consistent with Blenheim's functions to continue to develop within*

*the town. This will promote better use of the existing built infrastructure rather than creating or expanding other settlements.*

*It is important that the Marlborough Sounds has a clear focal point. Picton has developed into the major service town for Queen Charlotte Sound. It is also an export port and the southern terminus for crossing Cook Strait. It has important visitor and transportation functions. Policies in the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan will aim to strengthen and develop Picton's existing character while preserving that of the rest of the Sounds settlements.*

*Havelock is the service centre for the marine farming and fishing industries in the Pelorus Sound, and for forestry and farming in the Pelorus and Kaituna catchments.*

*The upper Awatere Valley is an open grassland landscape dominated by high country farming activities, indigenous plant species with spectacular alpine landscapes.*

*Once the attributes which make up amenity values have been defined it is important to increase understanding within communities about what makes each locality unique and contributes to its amenity values.*

- (b) Resource management plans will contain controls and guidelines which provide for the maintenance or enhancement of the amenity values provided by the character of Marlborough settlements and sites.

*The resource management plans are able to incorporate assessment of defined characteristics and values into the consideration for various resource uses. This is the primary means of protection for amenity values.*

- (c) The repopulation of rural communities will be promoted, consistent with environmental objectives, to ensure retention of their character and amenity values and that will allow people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing.

*It is important to support the maintenance of small rural settlements and localities to ensure they retain their character and amenity values which are reflected in the quality of life of residents.*

*Support for smaller rural settlements is important for their continued viability. Small communities are able to provide social opportunities and support for individual values and expectations different to larger settlements. The provision of choice in the range of settlements and the consequent social and community wellbeing is important to people. Resource management plans need to recognise and provide for this range of choice in settlements.*

*Small rural communities rely on their surrounding land for provision of work and recreation opportunities. The products of nearby land and sea should be able to be processed wherever processors choose to do so within the principles of the Resource Management Act 1991. Plans should not prevent this processing of locally derived production from occurring within small communities.*

*As rural production changes the industrial infrastructure in small settlements can be rendered obsolete. It is important that the existing infrastructure in small settlements is able to be reoccupied and converted to new uses to suit the changed circumstances within those communities and to reflect changes in the products from local resource use.*

*Small rural settlements also often have under-utilised buildings and community facilities. The repopulation of rural communities can improve the efficiency of the use of those resources.*

**7.1.9 OBJECTIVE – PROVISION FOR ACTIVITIES**

To enable present and future generations to provide for their wellbeing by allowing use, development and protection of resources provided any adverse effects of activities are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

*Fundamental to the existence of the community is the ability to produce, process, manufacture, harvest, distribute and retail to extract economic benefit from natural and physical resources. For the community to remain viable the use and development of resources must be allowed to continue in a way which is managed sustainably. The basic principles of sustainability must guide all activities which are undertaken.*

*This objective has many consequences in social and economic areas. The resource management plans will manage resource use so that those activities which continue are sustainable and do not have significant adverse environmental effects. This will in turn strengthen the community and provide employment, social, recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities.*

*The management of the use and development of natural and physical resources must involve a level of external direction and control. Communities may not naturally develop in ways which will always improve their wellbeing. The approach taken here is to guide resource use and development rather than control it by close regulation.*

**7.1.10 POLICY - TYPE, SCALE & LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES**

To enable appropriate type, scale and location of activities by:

- clustering activities with similar effects;
- ensuring activities reflect the character and facilities available in the communities in which they are located;
- promoting the creation and maintenance of buffer zones (such as stream banks or 'greenbelts');
- locating activities with noxious elements in areas where adverse environmental effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

*The location of some activities (eg: heavy industry, mining) can have adverse impacts on the environment but management of their location may avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects.*

**7.1.11 METHODS**

- (a) Resource management plans will contain rules to control the type, scale, and location of resource related effects from activities.

*The resource management plans are a significant tool for controlling the effects of activities undertaken in pursuit of economic wellbeing. The type of controls needed in the plans will vary for the different activities, given that the effects which they create on the environment vary. Controls will also differ for particular settlements or localities, and for particular areas within a locality.*

- (b) The provision of community supported utilities and facilities.

*Community facilities enable the concentration of potentially adverse effects created by activities, once concentrated such effects can be managed in a manner which minimises impact. Such management might involve the use of technology which would be economically unviable for one operator to use on their own. An example of such a facility is a trade waste system.*

- (c) The close monitoring and control of developments with potential for significant environmental effects.

*Monitoring is important to safeguard the environment from adverse effects created by large scale activities. An example of where this could be important is a discharge requiring a high standard of waste treatment.*

### **7.1.12 POLICY - DIVERSIFICATION**

To ensure that no undue barriers are placed on the establishment of new activities (including new primary production species) provided the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems is safeguarded and any adverse environmental effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

*By not placing undue restrictions on the use of alternative species for production systems or on the establishment of new activities, the risk of widespread failure is reduced and the community is better able to provide for their economic and social wellbeing.*

*Reliance on a narrow range of species can greatly increase the risk of failure within primary production species. This failure can be through adverse seasonal and climatic effects, attack from diseases and pests, and failures in markets. Diversity in primary production reduces the risk to community wellbeing. Increased use of alternative species for production systems will limit the chances of failure and consequent economic and social effects that would accompany it.*

### **7.1.13 METHOD**

Support research and information transfer into the use of alternative (including indigenous) species for primary production.

*There is an international trend in the use of a wider range of species for primary production as a means of reducing the risks of failure. There are demonstrated ecological improvements with the use of indigenous species which are adapted to the specific environment present. Alternative products often have health advantages with a reduced requirement for artificial fertilisers and pest controls. There is a continuing need to assess international information within the context of Marlborough.*

*Information will allow individual producers to assess the risks associated with current activities and the opportunities to use a wider range of species. This may mean diversification of activity into alternative species or completely new activities using new species.*

**7.1.14 OBJECTIVE - COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

Provide for the safe and efficient operation of community infrastructure in a sustainable way.

*Infrastructure is made up of those components which enable a community to function. It includes land, air, and marine transport systems, water and power supply, telecommunications, waste disposal, and central and local government functions.*

**7.1.15 POLICIES - LAND TRANSPORT**

- (a) Enable the safe and efficient operation of the land transport system consistent with the duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects.

*The land transport system is an essential element of the community infrastructure. It is also a resource in terms of the Act's definition of natural and physical resources. Its continued operation (and expansion where this contributes to the safety and efficiency of the network) should be provided for. In promoting this policy the adverse effects of roads on the environment must also be considered.*

- (b) Recognise a roading hierarchy as the guiding framework for the function of roads in Marlborough.

*Roads can be classified according to the main function they carry out. A roading hierarchy is concerned with reducing as much as possible, conflicts arising between traffic service requirements and the environment of the surrounding areas.*

**7.1.16 METHODS**

- (a) Maintain close links between the Regional Land Transport Strategy, Council's Annual Plan and resource management plans.
- (b) Adopt the roading hierarchy identified in the Regional Land Transport Strategy.
- (c) Include controls in resource management plans regulating activities which generate adverse effects on the safe and efficient use of roads.

*The Land Transport Strategy, which provides a five year focus to transport planning in Marlborough, is concerned with the safety, cost effectiveness, and environmental effects of the transport system. Resource management plans will be used to implement some policies from the Strategy, but will not be able to achieve all of the Strategy's broader aims. The Strategy has identified a roading hierarchy for Marlborough which it is considered appropriate to include in resource management plans.*

### **7.1.17 POLICY - AIR TRANSPORT**

Enable the safe and efficient operation of the air transport system consistent with the duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects.

### **7.1.18 METHODS**

- (a) Recognise and provide for Marlborough (Woodbourne) Airport as Marlborough's main air transport facility for both military and civilian purposes.

*Marlborough Airport is an important link for air transport (for passengers and freight) between Marlborough and the rest of New Zealand and potentially overseas. Operation of the airport for civilian and military purposes is an important activity in Marlborough and it is appropriate that Council has a policy which reflects this.*

- (b) Commercial and industrial activities which support or service the air transport industry and defence will be provided for.

*Facilities at Marlborough Airport and the associated RNZAF Base Woodbourne are well developed to serve air transport and military aviation needs. This policy recognises this and seeks to promote commercial and industrial development and military activities associated with air transport.*

- (c) Regulate within the resource management plans, land use activities which have a possible impact on the safe and efficient operation of air transport systems.

*Urban development in the vicinity of Woodbourne Airport should be discouraged where the use of land for such purposes would adversely affect the safe and efficient operation of aircraft and airport facilities. Some controls may be necessary to ensure that activities do not conflict with the safe and efficient operation of aircraft operating into and out of Marlborough. The resource management plans will also provide for navigation aids within Marlborough which service aircraft using the airport and for any aircraft generally in the area.*

### **7.1.19 POLICY - WATER TRANSPORT**

Enable the safe and efficient operation of water transport systems within Marlborough consistent with the duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects.

### **7.1.20 METHODS**

- (a) Enable the continuation and appropriate expansion of passenger and freight links between the North and South Islands to operate through Marlborough.

*Picton is presently the Terminus for the Inter Island Ferry Link. There is considerable public and private infrastructure already developed which meets the current needs of this Link. Unnecessary duplication could have adverse economic, cultural, and social effects on the wellbeing of the community of Marlborough as well as significant ecological consequences. However it is*

*recognised that in the future the capacity and appropriateness or otherwise of the present infrastructure to meet the needs of the Inter Island Ferry Link may warrant a consideration of other options for other Port facilities and locations.*

- (b) Enable the operation and appropriate expansion of the Port of Picton as the export/import port for Marlborough.

*Growth in port facilities is required to meet forecast increases in wood flow from Marlborough. There is also potential for the export of coal and ilmenite sands as well as general cargo. The development of these trades is constrained by the draught and length of Waitohi Wharf and the lack of suitable flat, open ground on which these products could be stored prior to export.*

*This method recognises Port expansion into Shakespeare Bay and seeks to concentrate future port developments in the vicinity of the existing Port facilities. This will allow for better management of the effects of the Port operation. It also provides for the long term development of Picton Harbour and the township of Picton as an export port in conjunction with its role as a South Island passenger terminus and a tourist resort in its own right.*

- (c) Enable the safe and efficient use of marinas and wharves (community, commercial and private) as integral parts of the water transport network for the Marlborough Sounds.

*The Marlborough Sounds are used for a wide variety of purposes to meet the commercial, social, economic, and recreational needs of the people who use the area either on a permanent or casual basis. Large areas of the Sounds are only accessible by sea and consequently water borne transport and its associated facilities are critical to provide a safe and functional link between boats and the land.*

- (d) Enable the operation of barges to transport freight, livestock and produce from those areas where no suitable land transport is available.

*Large areas of producing land in the Sounds are only accessible by sea, having no, or unsatisfactory roading connections. The operation of barges, will provide for the continued use of this land, including the harvesting of primary produce. Barging requires coastal access, and appropriate loading sites.*

#### **7.1.21 POLICY - NETWORK UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS**

Enable the maintenance, enhancement and operation of utility networks needed by the community to ensure their health, safety and wellbeing.

*Modern society requires access to utilities such as water supply, sewage disposal, energy and communication. Individuals could provide these services themselves and in rural areas this is the case. In settlements it is more efficient to provide community based services which allows for greater consideration of effects rather than relying on the aggregate actions of all individuals within the community. The provision of community wide utility services and public works places a responsibility on network operators to minimise the effects of their activities.*

## 7.1.22 METHOD

Resource management plans will allow for utility networks and public works provided adverse environmental effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

*It is accepted that the community can expect to be given access to those utilities which it requires for health, safety and wellbeing. There may be a requirement to place some control on the location and construction of utilities to ensure that disruption of the water and land ecosystems are minimised and that the visual character of areas is retained. For example in certain locations it may be necessary to control the visual effects of overhead lines.*

## 7.1.23 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

- (a) Enhanced conditions with a healthy community which can function without undue constraint as indicated by the infrastructure, arrangement of settlements, and economic benefits produced for the community,

*The community has a right to expect that the form and structure of the environment will support the safe and efficient operation of their activities. There is no support for unnecessary intervention by government. Government needs to intervene only to ensure that activities do not create further issues for the community.*

- (b) Operation of safe and efficient land, air, and marine transport systems, and provision of utility services to the community.

*Community based provision of services is necessary in some areas and this needs to be recognised and provided for. The normal activities of peoples daily lives depends on their ability to travel and communicate within and beyond Marlborough.*

- (c) Growth of small settlements by the provision of local product related employment and development of Blenheim, Picton, and Havelock in keeping with their functions as servicing, processing, and residential centres.

*Small settlements are able to provide social advantages to the community. The development of them and the larger settlements are necessary to accommodate projected population growth. The adverse environmental effects of developing existing settlements is usually less than allowing rural subdivision.*

- (d) Enhanced local economic benefits from tourist, commercial, and industrial activities, and increased diversity of species utilised for primary production.

*The community relies on the natural and physical resources of Marlborough as a basis for most activities. Most employment is related to the use and development of resources and this will continue in the future. Most of these activities rely on the condition of the environment to remain relatively unchanged but may themselves unwittingly change the environment. Recognition of the effects of activities and the need to maintain specific environmental conditions is essential if community wellbeing is to be sustained.*

## 7.2 ACTIVITIES INVOLVING PUBLIC RESOURCES

### 7.2.1 DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Some property rights which allow the private use of public resources, may restrict community access to or use of those resources. This issue deals with the allocation of private rights to provide certainty to use and develop public resources.

The two main areas where allocation of public resources is considered to be an issue are the rights to take and use freshwater and the rights to occupy space in the coastal marine area.

Taking water removes water from source and reduces intrinsic and instream values and prevents other potential resource users from also taking the same water. Sustainable management of water means managing its use while sustaining the potential and safe guarding the life supporting capacity of water.

The occupation of coastal marine space may effectively prevent other activities from occurring. Importantly from the users perspective they require certainty in the terms of occupancy for commercial and financial reasons.

### 7.2.2 OBJECTIVE – SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER

Enable the sustainable management of surface water and groundwater.

*Water or the lack of it to some extent influences all land based activities. The availability of water in sufficient quantity and of acceptable quality is of paramount importance for community wellbeing. Without careful management these resources are vulnerable to detrimental effects.*

*This section, which generally deals with use of water is read together with Part 5 - Protection of Water Ecosystems.*

### 7.2.3 POLICIES - ALLOCATION OF WATER

- (a) Establish mechanisms for the allocation of surface water and groundwater from the Wairau, Awatere, Clarence and Pelorus/Kaituna catchments.

*These mechanisms will define sustainable limits to the abstraction of water from surface and groundwater systems in the Wairau, Awatere, Clarence and Pelorus/Kaituna catchments. The sustainable limits for water use and abstraction will be based on the objectives, policies and methods contained within Part 5 of this document. In some areas in the short to medium term there is possibility for over abstraction. Mechanisms are necessary to ensure that water resources are used in an efficient and equitable manner.*

- (b) Include the following principles into water allocation mechanisms:
- sustainable management;
  - equitable allocation;
  - avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects;

- minimise conflicts between users; and
- ensure efficient and beneficial use.

*The above principles will be incorporated and further developed in resource management plans.*

#### **7.2.4 METHODS**

- (a) Resource management plans will incorporate allocation regimes for the abstraction of water from surface water and groundwater systems.

*Water allocation regimes are seen as the most effective means of ensuring water resources are used in an efficient and equitable manner with acceptable environmental effects. These regimes may include tradeable rights.*

- (b) Undertake education and information programmes on the abstraction of water from surface and groundwater systems.

*These programmes would provide those users of surface and groundwater systems with a greater understanding of how those systems operate. Inherent in this approach is a greater responsibility on users of the resource to measure the effects of their activities and in performance monitoring.*

- (c) Promote research into the natural processes associated with surface water and groundwater systems.

*A necessary pre-requisite to a long term water resources allocation policy is knowledge of how the natural system operates and the likely effects resulting from different levels of use. At present the level of knowledge is reasonable in some areas but is generally insufficient for long term water allocation planning. This method ensures future commitment to improving knowledge of these natural systems.*

#### **7.2.5 POLICIES - ACCESS TO THE MARGINS OF FRESHWATER BODIES**

- (a) Public access and recreational use will be considered when assessing all proposals for development of the margins of wetlands, lakes and rivers.

*Private use of the margins of wetlands, lakes and rivers will only be possible after consideration of the effects on public access. The continued public use of these margins is essential to the social and cultural wellbeing of the community.*

- (b) Access to and along the margins of wetlands, lakes and rivers will only be restricted for reasons of public safety, defence purposes, security, or matters of national importance including the protection of natural values and Maori cultural values.

*Although the Act gives a clear direction in Section 6 to provide for access to and along the margins of lakes and rivers, there are some locations and occasions where it is not practical to do so.*

#### **7.2.6 METHOD**

Define within resource management plans criteria where esplanade areas will be necessary to maintain and enhance public access to or along the margins of wetlands, lakes and rivers.

*Esplanade areas along fresh water margins enable public access to wetlands, lakes and rivers. Council will determine where esplanade areas are appropriate for the enhancement of public access. Esplanade strips and reserves also have values for water quality and wildlife habitat.*

## 7.2.7 OBJECTIVE – SUBDIVISION, USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

The subdivision use and development, of the coastal environment, in a sustainable way.

*The coastal environment is comprised of resources in private ownership or under public management. The area is used for a wide variety of purposes to meet the commercial, economic, social, and recreational needs of the people who use the area either on a permanent or casual basis. These purposes include marine farming, boating, fishing, tourism, diving, port and marina developments, foreshore structures, and moorings.*

*Some activities using publicly managed resources, such as diving or boating, do not require specific rights to use resources. However most activities do require some right to use the resources of the coastal marine area. This objective seeks to provide for the continued use and development of these resources but sustainably manage those resources to minimise adverse effects, conflicts between users and ensure efficient and beneficial use.*

## 7.2.8 POLICY - COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

Ensure the appropriate subdivision, use and development of the coastal environment.

*Subdivision, use and development will be encouraged in areas where the natural character of the coastal environment has already been compromised. Inappropriate subdivision, use and development will be avoided. The cumulative adverse effects of subdivision, use or development will also be avoided, remedied or mitigated.*

*Appropriate subdivision, use and development of the coastal environment enables the community to provide for its social, economic and cultural wellbeing.*

## 7.2.9 METHODS

- (a) Resource management plans will identify criteria to indicate where subdivision, use and development will be appropriate.

*The Act requires as a matter of national importance that the coastal environment be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Criteria to indicate where subdivision, use or development is inappropriate may include water quality; landscape features; special habitat; natural character; and risk of natural hazards, including areas threatened by erosion, inundation or sea level rise.*

- (b) Resource management plans will contain controls to manage subdivision, use and development of the coastal environment to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse environmental effects.

*Controls which allow the subdivision, use and development of the coastal environment enable the community to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing. These controls may include financial contributions to assist remediation or mitigation of adverse environmental effects.*

*Such development may be allowed where there will be no adverse effects on the natural character of the coastal environment, and in areas where the natural*

*character has already been compromised. Cumulative effects of subdivision, use and development will also be avoided, remedied or mitigated.*

## **7.2.10 POLICIES - ALLOCATION OF COASTAL SPACE**

- (a) Public access and recreational use will be considered when assessing all proposals for development of the coastal marine area.

*In allocating public resources for private benefit, the question of public access becomes an issue. The allocation of rights to exclusively occupy an area or erect a structure, limits to some degree the public's access to and enjoyment of the area.*

*Private use of the coastal marine area will only be possible after consideration of the effects on public access.*

*The continued public use of marine resources is essential to the social and cultural wellbeing of the community.*

*This policy sees the future wellbeing of Marlborough linked to an increase in the public use of marine resources.*

- (b) Access to or along the coastal marine area will only be restricted for reasons of public safety, defence purposes, security, or matters of national importance including the protection of natural values and Maori cultural values.

*Although the Act gives a clear direction in Section 6 to provide for access to and along the coastal marine area, there are some locations and occasions where it is not practical to do so. For example restrictions on public access to temporary log loading areas on Sounds Foreshore Reserve land could be required for public safety.*

- (c) Developments proposed in the coastal marine area may be allowed where they provide for public use/benefit.

*Allowing developments in the coastal marine area creates a private use right which did not previously exist. On some occasions the "right" can be of wide public benefit such as a marina. There are commercial gains to the marina operator but there are also benefits in the form of safety, convenience, and enjoyment to the boat owners using the facility. On other occasions the private use right may only benefit one or two people such as in the case of a jetty serving a single property. This policy will assist in restricting the proliferation of foreshore structures around the shoreline of Marlborough.*

- (d) Allocation of space for aquaculture in the coastal marine area will be based on marine habitat sustainability, habitat protection, landscape protection, navigation and safety, and compatibility with other adjoining activities.

*There may be a need to protect representative and significant areas of marine habitats from the effects of aquaculture developments. There are also some areas of the Sounds where aquaculture could create a hazard to the safe navigation of vessels. For these reasons it will be necessary to prohibit aquaculture in some areas.*

*There is a limit to the nutrients available from marine water for aquaculture. Naturally occurring stocks compete with farmed stocks for nutrients. There*

*may be a need to balance the removal of nutrients by farmed stocks with the nutrients remaining for natural stocks.*

*Structures required for aquaculture can introduce new elements into the landscape, such as rafts, jetties, and sheds, or break the lines between major landscape elements. These changes can alter the character of the landscape by conflicting with the harmony between elements in the landscape.*

*It is acknowledged that there is little information to assess the effects of aquaculture on the sustainability of the marine habitat. The allocation of space for aquaculture requires research into the effects of aquaculture on the nutrient availability for marine habitats. It could be many years before meaningful research is completed. In the interim the allocation of marine space will be undertaken in a precautionary manner. This will place an onus on applicants to provide a detailed assessment of the effects of their proposal.*

## 7.2.11 METHODS

- (a) Define within Resource Management Plans criteria where esplanade areas will be necessary to maintain and enhance public access to or along the coast.

*Esplanade areas along coastal margins enable public access to the coast. Council will determine where esplanade areas are appropriate for the enhancement of public access. Esplanade strips and reserves also have values for water quality and wildlife habitat.*

*The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement requires provision for the creation of esplanade reserves, esplanade strips or access strips where they do not already exist, except where there is a specific reason making public access undesirable.*

- (b) Show within resource management plans where public access in the coastal marine area will be permanently restricted for reasons of public safety, defence, security, or matters of national importance.

*It is important for reasons of certainty that the plans identify those areas and circumstances where public access may be restricted.*

- (c) Incorporate within resource management plans objectives, policies and controls that:

- ensure proponents of all developments in the coastal marine area consider public access and recreational use;
- consider the degree to which such developments provide for public use/benefit; and
- restrict aquaculture from Queen Charlotte Sound, significant habitat areas, and important navigational routes.

*This Regional Policy statement has given a strong lead as to the future direction of Marlborough in terms of recreation. The resource management plans will provide for recreational use as well as ensuring that public access in the coastal marine area is carefully considered by proponents of all developments.*

- (d) Support research into defining the effects of aquaculture on the sustainability of the marine habitat.

*Aquaculture is a significant industry which relies on the use and development of public resources. Research into the effects of aquaculture on the sustainability of the marine habitat should be a co-operative venture between the industry and the community.*

#### **7.2.12 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS**

- (a) The community will have access to publicly owned resources shown by the allocation of rights to abstract freshwater and to use and develop the coastal environment.

*The abstraction of water is important to the health and wellbeing of the community, as well as the economic benefits from the use of water.*

- (b) Enhanced public access to and along the coastal marine area, wetlands, lakes and rivers.

*Public access is important for the enjoyment of these public resources.*

## 7.3 CULTURE AND HERITAGE

### 7.3.1 DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

The planning process can have difficulty accommodating cultural and heritage values in decision making and plan preparation.

Different cultures have different expectations, values and decision making procedures. The plan preparation process under the Resource Management Act does not necessarily accommodate these differences easily. This concern is common to many cultures.

Despite this the Act requires recognition of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and a resource management partnership between government and Maori. The challenge is to integrate these differing expectations, values, and decision making processes into the management of the resources of Marlborough.

### 7.3.2 OBJECTIVE – CULTURAL AND HERITAGE VALUES

Buildings, sites, trees and locations identified as having significant cultural or heritage value are retained for the continued benefit of the community.

*Occupation of land and coastal areas in Marlborough has left a rich legacy of important links to our past. Maintenance of these links allows future generations to understand the past.*

### 7.3.3 POLICY - CULTURAL AND HERITAGE FEATURES

Protect identified significant cultural and heritage features.

*In the past many historic and archaeological or culturally significant features both recorded and unrecorded have been inadvertently damaged or violated by activities such as land development and shoreline works.*

### 7.3.4 METHODS

- (a) Resource management plans will identify and where appropriate provide protection for significant features. These features may include:
- features defined by the Historic Places Act and recorded by the Historic Places Trust including buildings and structures, historic areas, archaeological sites, traditional sites, buildings of significance to Tangata Whenua (including Marae);
  - sites of significance to iwi; and
  - notable and historic trees.

*The Historic Places Act enables the identification and protection of culturally significant features and the plans will contain mechanisms to assist the*

*protection of them. The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture have been involved in the identification of trees of significance.*

- (b) A register of protected sites, buildings and trees will be maintained by Council.

*The protected sites, buildings and trees information will be drawn from the Historic Places Trust Register and the work of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Record files.*

- (c) To develop with iwi, a means of consultation recognising and providing for sites of significance to iwi.

*It is recognised that a number of sites of significance to iwi may not be included within publicly available databases. For this reason a method of consultation will be developed with iwi to ensure that their values are protected.*

- (d) Resource management plans will recognise heritage orders as a means to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of activities on heritage values.

*Provisions will be made in resource management plans to give effect to any requirement made by a heritage protection authority under Section 189 or 189A of the Resource Management Act.*

- (e) Investigate other means (outside resource management plans) to ensure protection of significant features.

*There are a number of techniques other than through resource management plans, which could be used to give protection to significant features. These may include rates relief, advice, information and education.*

**7.3.5 OBJECTIVE – CULTURAL VALUES**

Recognise and accommodate the diversity of cultural values that exist within the community.

*While this objective is unable to change the fundamental opinions of Marlborough residents, plan preparation and content must embody cultural tolerance and accommodate all cultures within its processes.*

**7.3.6 POLICY - IWI CONSULTATION**

Provision will be made for iwi consultation during the plan preparation and the administration process.

*The Resource Management Act requires a full partnership in resource management between government and Maori. This involves the Marlborough District Council and all local iwi.*

**7.3.7 METHODS**

(a) Council will facilitate consultation with iwi at the following stages in the resource management processes:

- issue definition;
- plan preparation;
- plan approval;
- plan change; and
- prior to consideration of resource consents.

*This partnership with iwi recognises the relationship required by the Treaty of Waitangi. As well as this level of participation, iwi can also participate in the usual public processes of submission.*

(b) Provide for iwi representation on the Council Committee responsible for resource management.

**7.3.8 POLICY - CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

Provide for cultural diversity in housing, recreation, and other resource use.

*It is appreciated that different cultural groups may benefit from being allowed to develop and use resources in ways specifically applicable to their culture. This includes the development of marae and papakainga housing.*

**7.3.9 METHOD**

During the process of Plan preparation or change Council will respond to requests from cultural groups to incorporate provisions which allow resource use in a culturally sensitive manner.

*In the absence of detailed knowledge of specific cultural expectations Council can only respond to requests from such groups.*

### **7.3.10 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS**

- (a) Inclusion of cultural and heritage values within the preparation process, content and implementation of the Marlborough Sounds and the Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plans.

*Understanding and incorporating cultural and heritage values into the planning process requires changes in the mechanisms used to accommodate alternative decision making processes and values attached to objects and features. Negotiation, consensus and consultation are important to the accommodation of cultural diversity into planning mechanisms.*

*This accommodation will require a strengthening of the resource management partnership between Council and iwi.*

- (b) Inclusion within resource management plans of provisions for culturally sensitive housing and resource use as a response to requests from specific groups.

*The test of the cultural sensitivity of the plans is the ability for groups with different beliefs and values to be accommodated within the regulatory framework of the plan. Group housing, extended family living and traditional food harvesting all require recognition within plans where they need special or different considerations.*

## 7.4 NATURAL HAZARDS

### 7.4.1 DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Natural hazards may damage and destroy property and threaten the safety of people.

Significant natural hazards occurring in Marlborough include instability and flooding. Earthquakes cause instability and earth movements which can damage property. Rainfall also causes instability as well as flooding. Drought causes damage to primary production systems and increases fire risk. Different topographic units are more prone to separate hazards than others. Instability affects steep lands and flooding affects the lowlands and plains.

Practical measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of natural hazards will only be possible within the capability of the community and Council resources.

### 7.4.2 OBJECTIVE – NATURAL HAZARDS

Avoid or mitigate the actual or potential effects of loss or damage to life or property from natural hazards.

*Marlborough has a relatively high risk of natural hazards. Natural hazards are the result of natural processes and produce financial loss or physical damage to property or threaten life.*

### 7.4.3 POLICIES - HAZARD MITIGATION

- (a) Restrict land use activities in areas of known natural hazard.
- (b) Restrict land use activities which would increase the risk of natural hazards to property and life.

*Land use activities should take into account any known natural hazard which could potentially affect that activity. This may, in certain circumstances, require special design, careful location, or specific construction techniques. It is also possible that the potential risk may be so severe as to preclude a particular activity.*

*Restrictions are sometimes necessary to provide for community safety.*

- (c) Recognise that decisions have been made in the past to highly modify the floodways of the Wairau River system for the purpose of flood protection of the main Wairau flood plain, and Blenheim in particular, and that these historical decisions are now irreversible.

*Originally the Wairau River flowed in a wide braided channel across the entire floor of the Wairau Valley. Extensive modification of the natural functioning of this system has occurred over the last century. The river now flows within a confined channel along the northern margin of the Plain. The urban and rural development on the Plain makes the process irreversible.*

*Council must now manage and maintain the river within the present recognised channel for reasons of public safety and protection of property.*

#### 7.4.4 METHODS

- (a) Provision in resource management plans for controls to regulate activities in areas of known natural hazard.

*These controls will restrict some activities which are likely to increase the risk of natural hazards or require special attention to design. This method recognises that provision for natural processes is the preferred response to a natural hazard.*

- (b) That a management plan be prepared for the Wairau River floodway system with the objective to maintain and upgrade these highly modified floodway systems to the intended and desired uniform standard of flood protection.

*That plan will be prepared and notified as a separate stand alone document. Eventually it will become an integral part of the wider Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan.*

- (c) Incorporate within resource management plans land disturbance controls and guidelines to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of activities which increase the risk of natural hazards.

*These controls and guidelines will apply to land disturbance for activities such as excavation, earth disturbance, vegetation removal, and fire. They will require that the best practicable means is undertaken to ensure that effects are minimised and will be targeted at those most likely to carry out these activities.*

*An interim plan for Land Disturbance Control will be prepared and notified. Eventually that plan will become an integral part of each of the two resource management plans.*

- (d) Record and maintain a register of known hazard areas, identifying sites at risk to flooding, sea level rise and land instability.

*The Council will establish and maintain a register of known hazard prone areas and use this register as a basis to assess applications for resource consents under the Resource Management Act or building consents under the Building Act. The register will be expanded to avoid the effects of sea level rise when national guidelines have been developed.*

- (e) That an education programme be undertaken to provide information on the effects of natural hazards.

*This programme will publicise the effects of natural hazards on land ecosystems.*

#### 7.4.5 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULT

No lives are lost due to natural hazards. Property damage from flood and earth movement is avoided, remedied or mitigated. No inappropriate development occurs within known hazard prone areas.

*It is important that the safety of the community and the integrity of buildings and their sites are maintained. Developers of known hazard sites need to recognise the risks of damage to property and either make suitable design adjustments or relocate to a safer site.*

## 7.5 ENERGY

### 7.5.1 DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Council's main role in relation to energy is to ensure that the adverse environmental effects of its use and production are avoided, remedied or mitigated. In so doing Council recognises that the use of energy is vital to the wellbeing of the community.

Efficient use of energy reduces the demand for energy resources and in turn, any adverse environmental effects associated with its production. To ensure that energy is available to future generations, the use of renewable energy resources is required today. Renewable energy resources include water, solar, wind and biogas.

Energy efficiency is an integral component of the sustainable management of Marlborough's natural and physical resources.

### 7.5.2 OBJECTIVE – ENERGY PRODUCTION AND USE

Promotion of the efficient production and use of renewable energy resources, consistent with the duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment.

*Greater use of renewable energy sources and increased efficiency of energy use is sought for Marlborough. Use of energy is important for social and economic well-being. The sustainable management of energy resources will avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse environmental effects of its production and use.*

### 7.5.3 POLICIES - ENERGY

- (a) Enable people and communities to provide for the efficient use of energy in relation to:
- urban form, subdivision patterns and lot alignment;
  - design, location and operation of buildings and other structures; and
  - use of energy saving technologies in transport, industrial, commercial and residential situations.
- (b) Encourage the production and use of renewable energy resources, consistent with the duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse environmental effects.

*Under the Resource Management Act, the Council has a role in promoting the sustainable management of energy. Energy efficiency promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources by: reducing the demand on resources used to produce energy; conserving energy as a resource; and reducing the need for new production facilities, thereby limiting the adverse effects of such facilities on the environment.*

#### **7.5.4 METHOD**

- encourage energy efficient subdivision patterns and lot alignment;
- encourage the dissemination of information to promote efficient energy use and the adoption of appropriate energy production and use technologies;
- encourage inter-agency co-operation to research the available energy sources and appropriate energy technologies for Marlborough;
- ensure that buildings comply with the insulation requirements of the Building Act 1991;
- advocate to central government the need for a national policy to co-ordinate efficient energy production and use.

*By promoting both energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources, dependence on non-renewable energy sources (fossil fuels) is reduced. Sustainable energy production ensures that energy is available for future generations.*

#### **7.5.5 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULT**

- the sustainable management of energy resources;
- improved energy efficiency;
- reduced adverse effects on the environment resulting from production and use of energy.

*The use of renewable sources and the efficient use of energy are essential to ensure the District's energy future.*

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# PROTECTION OF visual FEATURES

*Marlborough has a wide variety of visual features, ranging in importance from nationally significant, through distinctive, to those of less importance. In many cases the landscape is characterised by change, imposed either by natural processes, or by the use of resources.*

## 8.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

The nature and character of the natural and built features which make up the landscape of Marlborough can be affected by various activities.

The visual character of Marlborough falls into the following types:

- indigenous;
- working; and
- built.

The indigenous landscape is composed of the unmodified alpine and mountain grasslands, native forests in the Sounds and the north and western ranges, and unaltered beaches and bays. Other areas include those dominated by indigenous vegetation, such as oversown tussock grasslands, native trees and shrubland species, and coastal plant associations.

The working landscape is composed of the dynamic rural landscape utilised for primary production, including both land and water based activities. It is predominantly composed of introduced species such as pine forests, pasture grasses, arable, viticultural and horticultural crops, mussels and salmon. The working landscape includes structures and associated activities involved in creating economic benefits from the use of land and water. Fences, tracks, sheds, rafts, and other structures all form part of the character of the working landscape.

The built landscape includes towns and settlements ranging from Blenheim, the major town, to small seaside communities such as Rarangi and Ngakuta Bay. These landscapes are dominated by buildings, roads, and utilities such as telecommunication facilities, power, and street lighting reticulation.

The boundaries between these landscapes are not absolute and consequently there is overlap between them when managing landscape at the regional level. Landscapes are constantly changing and therefore cannot be assumed to be a static measure.

## **8.1.2 OBJECTIVE – VISUAL CHARACTER**

The maintenance and enhancement of the visual character of indigenous, working and built landscapes.

*Each of the different landscape types have a nature and character of their own which create harmony and coherence within each unit. This objective seeks to ensure that the diversity of landscapes are recognised and not diminished by land and water based activities.*

## **8.1.3 POLICY - OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES**

Avoid, remedy or mitigate the damage of identified outstanding landscape features arising from the effects of excavation, disturbance of vegetation, or erection of structures.

*The Resource Management Act requires the protection of outstanding landscape features as a matter of national importance. Further, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement requires this protection for the coastal environment. Features which satisfy the criteria for recognition as having national and international status will be identified in the resource management plans for protection. Any activities or proposals within these areas will be considered on the basis of their effects on the criteria which were used to identify the landscape features.*

*The wellbeing of the Marlborough community is linked to the quality of our landscape. Outstanding landscape features need to be retained without degradation from the effects of land and water based activities, for the enjoyment of the community and visitors.*

## **8.1.4 METHOD**

Identify within resource management plans outstanding landscape features which are recognised as regionally, nationally, and internationally outstanding and using controls and processes to protect the characteristics of those landscapes which are significant.

*The criteria used to define specific landscape features as outstanding will be used to assess the effects of activities proposed in or adjacent to them. Excavation, soil disturbance, vegetation removal, and the erection of structures can affect the nature and character of identified outstanding landscape features.*

*Resource management plans will include the processes to identify outstanding features and if necessary the rules to protect them.*

*Protecting the nature and character of outstanding landscape features will allow their continued use for any purpose which does not degrade the characteristics which make the feature outstanding.*

*National listing of outstanding features can be undertaken by Department of Conservation, the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and the Marlborough District Council. Heritage order are created under the Resource Management Act to protect places of special heritage value and to allow for their enjoyment.*

**8.1.5 POLICY - NATURE & CHARACTER**

Promote enhancement of the nature and character of indigenous, working, and built landscapes by all activities which use land and water.

*Each of the indigenous, working, and built landscapes have their own nature and character. This policy seeks to define and promote the elements which create that character including the harmony and coherence within. This will then allow resource users to address the effects of their activities on the landscape.*

*Within the working landscape it is important to recognise that the dynamic nature of productive systems results in major cyclic changes in the appearance of the landscape. This is evident in systems, such as commercial forestry or arable cropping where harvesting removes all the vegetation for a period.*

**8.1.6 POLICY - NATURAL CHARACTER OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT**

Preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.

*The natural character of Marlborough's coastal environment needs to be retained without degradation from the effects of land and water-based activities. Natural character includes the land and water ecosystems of the coast, and the interactions within and between those ecosystems. Chapter 1 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement contains criteria which describe this.*

*Open space plays an important role in the natural character of Marlborough's coastal environment. Natural character includes the qualities which give the Marlborough coast a recognisable character.*

*Managing natural character enables resource users to address the effects of their activities on the coastal environment.*

**8.1.7 METHODS**

- (a) Define those criteria which describe the nature and character of landscapes and determine the amount of change permissible.
- (b) Establish controls in resource management plans to manage the effects on landscapes of activities which seek to introduce adverse elements.
- (c) Define those criteria which describe the natural character of the coastal environment and determine the amount of change permissible. Also, establish controls in resource management plans to manage the effects of activities which have the potential to alter the natural character of the coastal environment and require rehabilitation where appropriate.

*Major changes in the landscape occur when new elements are first introduced which conflict with the character already there. For example, the first mussel farm into a bay changes the bay from a smooth water surface while additional mussel farms merely add to the change.*

*Major changes also occur when the boundaries between the sea, land and sky are broken. These macro landscape elements define the limits of vistas and their boundaries create major lines in the landscape. Activities which break*

*these lines create major changes in the landscape. For example, towers on hill tops, quarrying on sky lines, tall buildings in town, and jetties on the coast all break the line between major landscape elements.*

*Control of the change to macro landscape elements is necessary to maintain the visual harmony provided in the character of the landscape.*

- (d) Incorporate guidelines within and alongside resource management plans to encourage activities to develop in the context of their surrounding landscape.

*Land and water based activities will be encouraged to develop in harmony with and enhance the nature and character of their surrounding landscape. Marlborough is predominantly rural with small settlements scattered at strategic locations.*

*Education and information are seen as effective means of achieving landscape objectives.*

### **8.1.8 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULT**

There is clear differentiation between landscape types shown by protection of outstanding landscape features, and the maintenance of those criteria which define the nature and character of indigenous, working, and built landscapes.

*The features which make the landscape special need to be recognised and protected to ensure that what we enjoy now is available for future generations to also enjoy. The diversity between and within landscapes is important to the values which we place on those landscapes. Outstanding landscapes need to be protected in a form similar to their present form, while the working and built landscapes need to accommodate and reflect the dynamics of their use and development.*

# CONTROL OF waste

*Waste is composed of solid, liquid, and gaseous material which may be classed as hazardous, toxic, or inert. Waste is generated as a consequence of using and developing resources. Waste should be collected and managed in a way which avoids, remedies or mitigates adverse effects on the environment.*

## 9.1.1 DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Disposal of waste can degrade the environment by producing contaminants which disrupt and disturb the function of ecosystems and infringe the values the community hold for the environment.

Solid waste is separated into inert and organic [compostable] material. Inert material includes most household refuse, rock, soil, treated timber waste, and mussel shell. Organic material includes green material, fish waste, and untreated saw dust, and is 40 - 60% of landfill waste by volume.

Liquid waste is composed of hazardous and toxic material, as is gaseous waste. Liquid waste includes industrial trade waste, sewage, storm water, oil, land fill leachate, and agriculture and timber treatment residues.

Gaseous waste includes landfill gases, industrial fumes, smoke from home fires and burn-offs (land clearance), odours, greenhouse gases, and spray drift.

Waste disposal in the past has generally meant discarding the material into the environment with little appreciation of the effects on the environment. Waste material contaminates, pollutes, interferes with ecological processes, and makes the environment unpleasant for people.

There is an internationally recognised hierarchy of responses to waste management and these themes are incorporated into this Statement. The themes are reduce, reuse, recycle and recover.

## 9.1.2 OBJECTIVE - CONTROL OF WASTE EFFECTS

To avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of waste and contamination on the environment.

*Under Section 30 of the Resource Management Act the Marlborough District Council has responsibility for the control of discharges of contaminants into and onto land, air or water, and discharges of water into water. This relates to both*

*fresh and marine water. Inefficient resource use generates waste and uses resources up more quickly than is necessary. Waste disposal produces contaminants which degrade resources and damage water and land ecosystems.*

*Providing for community wellbeing by allowing use and development of resources places the responsibility for waste management and disposal on those resource users. The council provides domestic waste disposal and sewage collection services and needs to act as a responsible resource user, as do all other users who produce solid, liquid, or gaseous wastes.*

### **9.1.3 POLICIES - HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**

- (a) Address the issue of existing potentially hazardous substances within Marlborough.

*The past and present use of hazardous substances present concerns in the environment and a threat to the function of ecosystems and the wellbeing of future generations.*

*Hazardous substances can disrupt the function and damage the life supporting capacity of ecosystems. There is a need to address hazardous substances to prevent their effects in the future. Containment, deactivation, and safe disposal is needed for those hazardous substances which presently occur in the environment.*

- (b) Develop and promote safe management systems for hazardous substances.

*There is an urgent need to ensure that existing and future use and disposal of hazardous substances does not add to the present legacy of contaminated sites, inadequate storage, and degraded habitats. Use, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous substances all have the potential to contaminate the environment. Hazardous substance management extends beyond the boundaries of Marlborough and is controllable, in parts, under several separate statutes.*

### **9.1.4 METHODS**

- (a) Advocate to the Minister for the Environment for a coordinated national response to the treatment of known contaminated sites, disposal of existing hazardous waste, and management of hazardous substances.

*The problems generated from hazardous substances are not confined to Marlborough. It is considered that a national response is required for the treatment of contaminated sites and for the disposal of hazardous substances no longer required.*

- (b) Investigation of potentially contaminated sites will be carried out and remedial works will be required to remedy or mitigate effects.

*It is known that past activities have left a legacy of contaminated sites, which may affect the water quality in wetlands, lakes, and rivers. The Council will investigate those sites suspected of being contaminated and will enforce remedial action where it is able.*

- (c) Prepare a regional inventory and strategy for the management of existing hazardous substances.

*There is very little information about the type, volume and location of hazardous substances stored in Marlborough. Before any plan to treat and dispose of this material is possible, information about the scale of the problem is essential.*

- (d) Establish a public facility for the collection and storage of some hazardous substances.

*There is a need to provide for the collection and storage of hazardous substances derived from Marlborough based activities.*

### 9.1.5 POLICIES - WASTE MINIMISATION

- (a) Advocate to the Minister for the Environment for development of national systems to address waste minimisation and environmental accounting for the cost of resources which ultimately are disposed of as waste.

*There is a need to have a national approach to ensure that the creation and disposal of waste receives consideration during the use and development of resources. Presently the costs associated with waste disposal is not a major consideration to resource users. National coordination is needed to ensure equity between regions and resource users irrespective of location.*

- (b) Encourage producers of waste to:

- Reduce at source the production of all forms of waste.

*Waste minimisation is seen to be the most effective way to reduce the effects of waste in the environment. This places a responsibility on resource users to address the efficiency of their activities.*

- Reuse the constituents of waste wherever possible.

*One persons waste is another persons resource. Waste is an individual perception of the usefulness of material. By shifting material between users and activities the amount of waste generated can be considerably reduces.*

- Recycle waste into useful products.

*Many waste products are able to be recycled to be reused. Composted organic material, and reconstituted paper, plastic, aluminium, oil, and glass reduce the level of waste in the environment.*

- Recover components from waste to produce useful products.

*Many waste products contain reusable components which can be recovered prior to disposal. This recovery generally involves some physical or chemical processing to separate the reusable components from the waste. Due to the economies of such processes they are generally only viable where waste volumes are high.*

- (c) Promote best practicable means of disposing of waste which cannot be reused, recycled or that remain after recovery processes.

*Disposal of waste which cannot be reused, recycled, or recovered must be undertaken in a way which minimises contamination of the environment.*

## 9.1.6 METHODS

- (a) Prepare a regional waste management strategy to promote waste reduction and management.

*The waste management strategy will contain mechanisms to address waste minimisation and the safe management and disposal of waste in Marlborough.*

- (b) Control the effects of waste disposal within resource management plans to avoid, remedy or mitigate contamination, damage to ecosystems, or reduced resource potential.

*Plans will set limits and standards on the state of resources, and also criteria for conditions on consents to minimise the adverse effects of waste disposal.*

- (c) Activities creating significant volumes of waste may require resource consent approval within resource management plans.

*If significant volumes of waste will be produced from a particular activity then it may require consideration as a resource consent.*

- (d) Undertake an education programme to provide information on ways to minimise the effects of waste disposal on the environment.

*This programme will be targeted to resource users and producers of waste, including household, primary production, and industrial sources of waste.*

- (e) Support research into the applicability of alternative methods of waste minimisation and disposal in Marlborough.

*There is considerable international research into alternative waste systems. Research into the applicability of these systems for use locally is required before Council can allow their widespread implementation.*

*Examples of these techniques are waste assimilation technologies which incorporate waste disposal with primary production activities. The content of many wastes could be made available as nutrients for primary production systems.*

*There are also a number of waste disposal techniques which can enhance conservation values, such as the use of artificial wetlands for liquid waste assimilation.*

## 9.1.7 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

- (a) The function of land and water ecosystems are progressively less affected by contamination from waste treatment or disposal.

*There is a need to reduce the volume of material disposed of as waste. To achieve this reduction requires a greater recognition of the use of materials presently disposed of as waste.*

- (b) The cultural values attached to the environment, including specific sites and locations can be enjoyed by the community.

*Cultural and heritage values attached to the environment have been damaged by past activities. Some traditional food gathering areas are contaminated. As waste management improves the damage to culturally sensitive areas will be reversed*

## MONITORING AND

# review

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## 10.1 INTRODUCTION

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Marlborough relies on the availability and quality of its rich natural resources for social and economic wellbeing. Provision for that wellbeing will continue to place demands on the use and development of natural and physical resources. To sustain current and future levels of social and economic activity we need to work in harmony with the environment.

There is an expectation within the community that future good environmental quality will be assured. To ensure environmental quality in the future we need commitment to environmental monitoring on a long term basis. Monitoring will allow the community to gauge the effects of resource use on the quality of the environment.

The Resource Management Act recognises the value of monitoring and gives local authorities major responsibilities in this area. Section 35 of the Act requires the Council to monitor;

- the state of the environment in Marlborough to the extent necessary to carry out its functions;
- the suitability and effectiveness of its policies and plans;
- the exercise of any functions transferred to other agencies; and
- the exercise of resource consents.

Sections 62, 67 and 75 of the Act reinforce the need for monitoring of policy statements and plans prepared by local authorities.

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement refines the Council's monitoring role in respect of the coastal environment.

The Council has not as yet transferred any of its functions as provided for in section 33 of the Act. Consequently it has not been necessary to develop a monitoring procedure to deal with this matter. If functions are transferred at some later stage then a monitoring procedure will be developed.

The process for monitoring the suitability and effectiveness of the resource management plans prepared by the Council, will be set out in the plans themselves. However results from monitoring that is carried out in respect of this Regional Policy statement, general state of the environment monitoring and compliance with resource consent conditions will also be

used to assess the suitability and effectiveness of the objectives, policies and methods in resource management plans.

The following sections will detail the process by which the Council will monitor the effectiveness of this Regional Policy Statement, state of the environment and compliance with resource consent conditions. Community involvement in monitoring and managing the information resulting from monitoring will also be discussed in the following sections.

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## **10.2 INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY**

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Maintaining good environmental quality is essential to satisfying the expectations of: cultural, health, conservation and recreation groups; our primary production industries, including viticulture, horticulture, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture; and our tourism opportunities; and exporters and our overseas markets.

In short, maintaining good environmental quality is a prerequisite to Marlborough sustaining its community wellbeing into the future.

Resource users need to measure the effects of their activities and to set those measurements alongside standards and criteria defining environmental quality. This will enable responsible management of the effects of activities always having regard to the agreed environmental standards. In the resource management context, environmental monitoring is a key to achieving sustainable resource management.

There is a need for the community and all resource users to participate in environmental monitoring. A desirable objective is that of informed resource users monitoring their own activities with Council performing an audit function. Council is then able to act as a focus from which environmental information may be communicated to resource users.

This information can give both positive and negative signals to resource users. Positive to affirm and encourage good practices and negative to dissuade and exert pressure on activities with effects which threaten the quality of the environment or the wellbeing of the community - through poor, misguided or mismanaged practice.

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## **10.3 MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

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The process of monitoring includes the collection of data, and with data collection comes the need for an information management system. The information management function includes storage, analysis and presentation of data collected. The linkage to monitoring is established by making the data collected meaningful and understandable thereby allowing judgements and decisions to be made.

In managing information Council will facilitate joint ventures with other agencies and enter into co-operative agreements to maintain information bases about the condition of the resources of Marlborough. The opportunities for local joint ventures already exist with the local Marlborough Research Centre. Importantly therefore, Council needs to identify ways and means of monitoring and reporting environmental information to the community in an open and understandable way.

The effectiveness of policies and plans will become apparent when the results of environmental and resource consent monitoring programmes are collated and reviewed against the anticipated outcomes of those policy.

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## **10.4 MONITORING THIS REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT**

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A full review of this Regional Policy Statement is required within ten years of it becoming operative. However changes to this Statement may be made at the request of any Minister of the Crown or the Council prior to that time. Any change must be made in consultation with Ministers of the Crown, adjoining local authorities and iwi, but may also include any other persons.

Monitoring of this Regional Policy Statement will be linked to state of the environment monitoring.

The following table contains the broad environmental criteria which will be monitored to determine the effectiveness of this Regional Policy Statement. The list of criteria is derived from the anticipated environmental results identified for each significant resource management issue. Review of the effectiveness of this Statement will involve the comparison of the results obtained by monitoring with the anticipated environmental results for each issue. In this way it will be possible to determine the effectiveness of the policy and methods in achieving the objectives established by this Statement. Part of this procedure will test the appropriateness of the objectives chosen to address the resource management issues. Monitoring will include consultation with iwi to ensure the continued cultural relevance of objectives and policies within this Statement and the achievement of iwi aspirations relating to resource management.

## Environmental Criteria for Monitoring

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA	ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS
water quality	freshwater ground water marine water
contaminant levels	discharges runoff
state of habitat - species present	freshwater marine land
water quantity	ground water surface water
highly productive soils	area current use
soil	fertility erosion capability structure
transportation systems	safety efficiency
utilities	efficiency availability
settlements	population employment commerce industry
environmental health	water supply quality air quality noise
primary production	viability species diversity
reserves	usage ecosystems
natural hazards	sites events
resource consents	mitigation system effectiveness compliance condition effectiveness

Identifying the various key indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy statement and the state of Marlborough's environment in general is the key to environmental monitoring. The table demonstrates the environmental criteria and components for monitoring within which key indicators can be established. These indicators will be used to monitor specific parts of the environment. Monitoring information can then be used to assess both the state of Marlborough's environment and the effectiveness of policies and plans in promoting the sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of Marlborough. This monitoring includes the effectiveness of this Regional Policy Statement.

Environmental indicators and specific monitoring activities will be developed through Council's State of the Environment Monitoring programme. The principles for which are explained under 10.5 below.

The following example in relation to water further explains the relationship between the table above, environmental indicators and monitoring activities. Environmental criteria stemming from the objectives and anticipated environmental results of the Regional Policy Statement direct the monitoring of water quality, contaminant levels in discharges and runoff, the state of habitat indicated by the species present in water ecosystems, and water quantity. An environmental indicator for water quality is the concentration of faecal coliform and enterococci bacteria to determine the suitability of water for shellfish consumption and bathing. Thus, the monitoring activity is the measurement of the level of these bacteria. Contaminant levels can be assessed for their impact on water quality. Habitat can be monitored in a number of ways but usually involves an assessment of the species present and assessment of the health of vulnerable species, as an indicator of habitat wellbeing. Finally, water quantity monitoring could be carried out by using surface water flow as an indicator and measuring this at a number of representative sites in the district. Monitoring water levels in wells would provide information on groundwater levels in aquifers.

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## **10.5 A STRATEGY FOR STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT MONITORING**

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A strategy for state of the environment monitoring in Marlborough is essential to ensure comprehensive monitoring, analysis and reporting is achieved.

The following principles will be foremost in the strategy developed for monitoring the natural and physical resources of Marlborough.

- (a) There will be a long term commitment to monitoring by the Council.
- (b) Ownership of the monitoring programme by the community and other monitoring agencies.
- (c) Monitor the effects of activities by resource users. The Council as a resource user will lead by example.

- (d) The scale and scope of monitoring will change with time as additional information needs become apparent. The approach to implementing the strategy will be flexible.
- (e) The initial stages in the development of monitoring programmes will be incremental. A first step will be to review the extent of activity by others to avoid duplication of monitoring efforts wherever possible.
- (f) Effective information management is essential to effective review following monitoring.
- (g) Council will prepare and approve an annual programme of monitoring activities.
- (h) Council will annually report to the Marlborough community in a State of the Environment Report. This report will:
  - identify environmental trends of importance;
  - recommend changes in activities in order that expectations for environmental quality are met; and
  - be a signpost to more detailed reporting where appropriate.

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## **10.6 MONITORING RESOURCE CONSENTS**

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As a consent authority Council needs to monitor the exercising of resource consents to ensure that:

- the exercise of consents is not having adverse effects on the environment, and
- the consent holder is in fact complying with any conditions attached to the consent granted.

While the results of such monitoring feeds into the overall pool of knowledge there is a strong equity theme within compliance monitoring that all resource users meet the conditions of consents they hold.

While the effects of a single activity may be monitored by the Council, the cumulative and combined effects of all activities within the environment are more difficult to assess, and are often overlooked. Over time, the cumulative effect of all activities may have a significant adverse effect on the environment which may not have been foreseen in the consideration of individual consents. Close consideration will be given to the cumulative effects of resource consents when developing a strategy for monitoring in Marlborough.

# glossary

The words or phrases which are in *italics* are definitions taken from the Resource Management Act 1991. Any word not defined by the Act or this Glossary has the meaning given by the Concise Oxford Dictionary, Eighth Edition 1990.

## **Act**

means the Resource Management Act 1991 including any amendments.

## **Amenity value**

*means those natural and physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.*

## **Coastal marine area**

*means the foreshore, seabed, and coastal water, and the air space above the water -*

- *Of which the seaward boundary is the outer limits of the territorial sea:*
- *Of which the Landward boundary is the line of mean high water springs, except that where that line crosses a river, the landward boundary at that point shall be whichever is the lesser of -*
  - *One kilometre upstream from the mouth of the river; or*
  - *The point upstream that is calculated by multiplying the width of the river mouth by 5.*

## **Coastal water**

*means seawater within the outer limits of the territorial sea and includes -*

- (a) *Seawater with a substantial freshwater component; and*
- (b) *Seawater in estuaries, fiords, inlets, harbours, or embayments.*

## **Commercial fishing**

means the taking of fish, shellfish, or marine vegetation from wild stocks for the purpose of sale or trade, but excludes marine farming.

## **Contaminant**

*includes any substance (including gases, liquids, solids, and micro-organisms) or energy (excluding noise) or heat, that either by itself or in combination with the same, similar or other substances, energy, or heat -*

- (a) *When discharged into water, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of water; or*
- (b) *When discharged onto or into land or into air, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of the land or air onto or into which it is discharged.*

## **Council**

means the Marlborough District Council.

**Discharge**

*includes emit, deposit, and allow to escape.*

**Ecosystem**

means a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment, interacting as a functional unit.

**Effect**

*includes-*

- (a) Any positive or adverse effect; and*
- (b) Any temporary or permanent effect; and*
- (c) Any past, present, or future effect; and*
- (d) Any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects - regardless of the scale, intensity, duration, or frequency of the effect, and also includes-*
- (e) Any potential effect of high probability; and*
- (f) Any potential effect of low probability which has a high potential impact.*

**Environment**

*includes -*

- (a) Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and*
- (b) All natural and physical resources; and*
- (c) Amenity values; and*
- (d) The social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions which affect the matters stated [in the above] or which are affected by those matters.*

**Esplanade area**

includes esplanade reserves, esplanade strips, and access strips as defined by the Act.

**Freshwater**

*means all water except coastal water and geothermal water.*

**Habitat**

means the place or type of site where an organism or population normally occurs.

**Hazardous substance**

*means any substance which may impair human, plant, or animal health or may adversely affect the health or safety of any person or the environment, and whether or not contained in or forming part of any substance or thing; and -*

- (a) Includes substances prescribed by regulations as hazardous substances; but*
- (b) Does not include substances prescribed by regulation as not being hazardous substances.*

**Intrinsic values**

*in relation to ecosystems, means those aspects of ecosystems and their constituent parts which have value in their own right, including -*

- (a) Their biological and genetic diversity; and*
- (b) The essential characteristics that determine an ecosystem's integrity, form, functioning and resilience.*

**Iwi**

*means a unit of Maori social and economic organisation comprised of many sub groupings. A purpose orientated confederation based on genealogical ties;*

**Kaitiakitanga**

*the exercise of guardianship; and, in relation to a resource includes the ethic of stewardship based on the nature of the resource itself*

**Lake**

*means a body of freshwater which is entirely or nearly surrounded by land.*

**Land**

*includes land covered by water and the air space above land.*

**Landscape**

means natural and built scenery seen in a broad view.

**Marine farming**

means the activity of breeding, hatching; cultivating, rearing, or on-growing of fish, aquatic life, or seaweed for harvest; but does not include -

- (a) freshwater fish farming
- (b) any such activity where fish, aquatic life, or seaweed are not within the exclusive and continuous possession of the holder of a marine farming permit issued under the Fisheries Act.
- (c) any such activity where fish, aquatic life, or seaweed being farmed cannot be distinguished or kept separate, from naturally, aquatic life, or seaweed.

**Natural and physical resources**

*includes land, water, air, soil, minerals, energy, all forms of plants and animals (whether native to New Zealand or introduced), and all structures.*

**Papakainga**

is a general term for Maori housing on Maori land and marae.

**Pest**

means any organism defined as a pest under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

**Point source discharge**

means a discharge from a specific and identifiable outlet, onto or into land, air or water.

**Port of Picton**

includes Picton Harbour and Shakespeare Bay.

**Primary products**

the output of horticulture, viticulture, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries.

**River**

*means a continually or intermittently flowing body of freshwater; and includes a stream and modified water course; but does not include any artificial watercourse (including an irrigation canal, water supply race, race for the supply of water for electricity power generation, and farm drainage canal).*

**Settlement**

means a town, township or collection of residences or workplaces.

**Statement**

means this Regional Policy Statement.

**Structure**

*means any building, equipment, or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any raft.*

**Tangata whenua**

*in relation to a particular area, means the iwi, or hapu, that holds mana whenua over that area.*

**Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi)**

*has the same meaning as the word "Treaty" as defined in Section 2 of the treaty of Waitangi Act 1975.*

**Waahi tapu**

a place which is particularly sacred or spiritually meaningful to local iwi. It includes burial grounds and places where significant events have taken place.

**Water**

- (a) *Means water in all its physical forms whether flowing or not and whether over or under the ground:*
- (b) *Includes freshwater, coastal water, and geothermal water:*
- (c) *Does not include water in form while in any pipe, tank, or cistern.*

**Wetland**

*includes permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water, and land water margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions.*

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**APPENDIX I - SECTIONS 6, 7 & 8 OF THE ACT**

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6. **Matters of national importance** - In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for the following matters of national importance:
  - (a) The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:
  - (b) The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:
  - (c) The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna:
  - (d) The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers:
  - (e) The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other tango.
7. **Other matters** - In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to -
  - (a) Kaitiakitanga:
  - (b) The efficient use and development of natural and physical resources:
  - (c) The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values:
  - (d) Intrinsic values of ecosystems:
  - (e) Recognition and protection of the heritage values of sites, buildings, places, or areas:
  - (f) Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment:
  - (g) Any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources:
  - (h) The protection of the habitat of trout and salmon.
8. **Treaty of Waitangi** - In achieving the purpose of this act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).

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## APPENDIX II - RECORD OF PREPARATION PROCESS

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- Discussion documents: **Toward the best Sounds Management**
- - submissions on these discussion documents
- Public meetings at Picton, Waitaria, Rai Valley, Havelock and Blenheim
- Consultation with iwi
- Discussion with agencies such as Department of Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Transit New Zealand.
- Discussions with interest and industry groups such as Marlborough Environment Centre, Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, Marlborough Forest Owners Association.
- Workshops with Resource Management & Regulatory Committee and submissions from the public at those workshops.
- A draft of this statement was circulated for comment from the Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment and Council's legal advisers.
- A draft of this statement was considered at peer review with Ministry for the Environment, Southland Regional Council and Taranaki Regional Council.
- Notification of Proposed Regional Policy Statement.
- Submissions received.
- Notification of Summary of Submissions.
- Further submissions received.
- Hearing of submissions by Resource Management & Regulatory Committee.
- Decisions on submissions made by Resource Management & Regulatory Committee with consequent amendments made to the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.
- Workshop with full Council.
- Notification of the Marlborough Regional Policy Statement.

This document has been prepared by the Resource Management and Regulatory Committee of the Council consisting of Councillors: Michael Briggs (Chair), Lin Randle, Stella Wadsworth, Liz Davidson, Leon Leslie, Roger Winter, and Mr Merv Sadd (for Michael Bradley, Maori Representative).

Staff primarily involved in the preparation of this Policy Statement were Dave Olliver, Rod Witte, Linda Moffatt, John Good, Fraser McRae, Mary O'Callahan and Steve Riley.

## KEYWORD

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