

SECTION 25: MONITORING

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25. MONITORING

25.1 Statutory Requirement to Monitor

The ongoing monitoring and review of the District Plan is an integral component of the Council's responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991 places a duty on Councils to gather information, monitor and keep records. Councils are required to monitor both the State of the Environment and the effectiveness of the District Plan, and the exercise of resource consents that have effect within the City.

In addition, Section 75(2)(e) states that a District Plan may state the procedures for monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of the policies and methods contained within the Plan. Thus, there is a clear statutory requirement that Council monitors the effectiveness of the Plan as a tool to achieve the intentions of the Act and the state of the environment, which is in turn partly created through activities provided for in this Plan.

The purpose of monitoring is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Plan in achieving the objectives, policies, and rules (methods) included within it. The information obtained from monitoring will assist review and development of Plan provisions, provide information on environmental issues in the City, and identify new issues that may not be currently addressed in the District Plan. This will contribute to the improved management of the City's resources. The benefits of monitoring include improved provisions, informed decision making, increased awareness and public confidence, and improved information on adverse effects of activities.

Monitoring outcomes completes the Plan development and implementation loop, and enables the Council to review the effectiveness of Plan. Monitoring also places an obligation on Council to act upon information relating to particular issues, or to carry out enforcement where required to ensure compliance, and to achieve the environmental objectives sought by the District Plan and the Resource Management Act.

25.2 Objectives, Policies and Methods for Monitoring

OBJECTIVE 1

To enable the Council to discharge its monitoring duties under Section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991, particularly in respect of;

- **The State of the Environment**
- **Policy and Plan Effectiveness**
- **Resource Consents and Compliance**

POLICIES

1.1 To monitor the State of the Environment by;

- (a) Gathering and recording information on the State of the Environment;
- (b) Assessing the current state of the environment, and consider the information collected against historical data.
- (c) Identifying the environmental priorities for monitoring
- (d) Identifying methods for monitoring environmental priorities

1.2 To monitor and report on Policy and Plan effectiveness by;

- (a) Gathering information that is applicable to District Plan provisions.
- (b) Assessing whether the provisions of the District Plan are being complied with, and whether the provisions remain reasonable, necessary, and efficient in achieving the purpose of the

Resource Management Act 1991.

- (c) Reporting on the information in a comprehensive and understandable manner to enable the public to participate effectively in the planning process.

1.3 To monitor and report on Resource Consent, Complaints and Compliance Monitoring, by

- (a) Gathering information as appropriate to enable effective compliance monitoring.
- (b) Assessing consent holder compliance with the conditions of land use and subdivision resource consents.
- (c) Maintaining a record of complaints.
- (d) Reporting on the information in a comprehensive and understandable manner to enable the public to participate effectively in the planning process

METHODS

The Council may use, but is not constrained to using, any of the following methods:

- Liaison with and data sharing with other authorities and agencies (e.g., Horizons Regional Council, Statistics NZ, health agencies, other councils, Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation etc.)
- Community Input and Public Surveys
- Assessment of Council Records (e.g. Building Consents, Resource Consents, etc.)
- Preparation of reports on various issues (e.g. numbers of resource consents process, which parts of the District Plan are most affected by resource consents, etc.).
- The integrated use of information collected and prepared for use in other Council reports i.e., Annual Plan, Section 32 Reporting.
- Random selection and assessment of compliance by current resource consent holders.
- Timely response and investigation into complaints received by the Council.
- Appropriate enforcement or prosecution, where necessary.
- Preparation of an annual resource consent compliance, monitoring, and enforcement report.