

DISTRICT PLAN PREPARATION

The purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 is defined as being to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources (Section 5 of the Act). In accordance with this purpose, the Banks Peninsula District Plan recognises and addresses these matters through its provisions.

Sustainable management is defined in the Act as:

... 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.

The achievement of these purposes is to be undertaken within the scope of certain matters of national importance which are set out in Section 6 of the Act.

The principles of the Resource Management Act 1991 (Sections 6, 7, and 8) are intended to give guidance as to how the purpose of the Act is to be achieved. They also express the public and intergenerational interests in natural and physical resources.

Section 6 places a duty on the Council to recognise and provide for a range of matters of national importance. These relate to the coastal environment, lakes, rivers, wetlands (and public access to them), natural features, habitats, indigenous vegetation, outstanding landscapes and the relationship of Maori to ancestral land, sites and features.

Section 7 of the Resource Management Act directs that the Plan be prepared with regard to certain specified matters. These include kaitiakitanga; the efficient use of resources; amenity values; the intrinsic values of ecosystems; heritage values as represented by sites, buildings, places or areas; environmental quality; and any finite characteristics of resources.

The Resource Management Act also requires that the Council take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. There is no definitive list of Treaty Principles and they are evolving over time as the Treaty provisions are interpreted by the courts and the Waitangi Tribunal.

As a territorial authority, the Council has a primary responsibility to give effect to the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act and to use resource management techniques to achieve integrated management of the effects of use, development or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources

of the district. In particular, the Council has a clear duty to formulate, implement, and review objectives and policies and other measures to give effect to the Act. The Council has also undertaken to work with tangata whenua to set objectives, policies, methods and other measures to give effect to the Act.

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Banks Peninsula has a distinctive and special character because of its inherent natural resources and the quality of the natural landscape. The area also provides a place to live for a significant number of residents. Existing settlements and the nature of development on the Peninsula contribute to the character of the area.

In meeting its responsibilities, the Council clearly sets out in the Plan the reasons for the adopted objectives, policies and rules.

The Plan also takes into account a number of documents which have shaped its provisions. These include:

- National Environmental Standards in terms of natural elements.
- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statements.
- Regional Policy Statements and Regional Plans including the Regional Coastal Plan.
- Operative regional planning scheme considerations (prepared under the Town and Country Planning Act 1977).
- The Treaty of Waitangi.
- District Plans for adjacent areas.
- Management plans and strategies prepared under other legislation.

The District Plan should be read in conjunction with other documents such as the Council's Strategic Plan which provides strategic direction for the district and the Council's Annual Plan which outlines the Council's activities for the current financial year. Other relevant documents may include management plans, funding policies and long term financial plans.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PLAN PREPARATION

Since the resource management process involves public participation and recognition of the concerns and aspirations of the community, preparation of the Plan was preceded by a programme of consultation. This has included the presentation of the resource management issues and possible strategies to the public and interest groups and the active canvassing of input into the preparation of the document from those groups. In addition, the Council has consulted intensively with government and other statutory agencies to ensure that the plan is consistent with the resource management responsibilities of regional and central government and other statutory bodies.

This process has resulted in a Plan which the Council considers embraces a wide range of concerns and aspirations which seeks to balance a wide range of concerns and aspirations to achieve the best compromise amongst the range of different community views.

The Plan also contains provisions for modification and change where the need may arise. Specific mechanisms for the on-going evaluation and monitoring of the Plan are incorporated and opportunity is provided for individuals or organisations to initiate changes to the provisions.

In order to enable the public to be better informed of their duties and to enable them to participate effectively under the Act, the Council will keep information at each of its offices which is relevant to the administration of this Plan, the monitoring of resource consents and current issues relating to the environment of the District. Copies of National Policy Statements, New Zealand Coastal Policy Statements, Regional Policy Statements and Regional Plans will also be available.