

11 REVIEW AND MONITORING

11.1 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Section 35(2) of the Resource Management Act (RMA) requires local authorities to monitor:

*“(b) The suitability and effectiveness of any policy statement or **plan for its region or district**”*

Suitability and Effectiveness are defined as follows:

Suitability: whether the plan is addressing issues of highest importance to the Auckland Region (i.e. whether the plan is appropriate to the needs of the region and whether it is fulfilling the statutory requirements of the RMA).

Effectiveness: whether the objectives, policies, and methods are achieving the purpose for which they were designed (i.e. whether the provisions within the plan are being successful in achieving the anticipated environmental results).

11.2.1 SUITABILITY OF THE PLAN

The ARC currently uses a range of mechanisms to carry out its functions. These include:

- A Regional Policy Statement which states integrated broad resource management policy for the Auckland Region;
- The preparation of Annual and Strategic Planning documents which state the priorities of the Auckland Regional Council in the short and medium term;
- The preparation of the Regional Plan: Coastal, the Proposed Regional Plan: Air, Land and Water, the Regional Plan: Sediment Control and the Regional Plan: Farm Dairy Discharges, in order to implement regional rules in relation to specific areas and issues in the Auckland Region;
- The Auckland Regional Growth Strategy (through the Auckland Regional Growth Forum) to develop a strategy to deal with the effects of Growth;
- Education and advocacy programmes (including the development of non-statutory guidelines and strategies) to increase awareness and inform the environmental behaviour of the general public and key stakeholders;
- Resource consent processes, to implement resource management policy on a site specific basis;
- Monitoring, research, and investigations, which have the purpose of gathering information about the environment (including social and economic aspects) to inform resource management decision making.

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It is important for the ARC to know whether or not this plan is complementing these current management approaches. The 'suitability' of a plan, or whether the plan is fulfilling the requirements of the RMA and is addressing issues of importance to the Auckland Region, will primarily be addressed via the ARC's State of the Environment (SoE) Monitoring Programme.

The SoE monitoring programme incorporates a range of monitoring and research initiatives which are designed to evaluate the state (i.e. condition) and trends in the environment (including social, economic and environmental issues). The Proposed Plan: Air, Land and Water has been developed as a way of implementing the ARC's statutory functions in relation to issues of high importance in the Auckland Region.

Aspects of the SoE monitoring programme include:

- Ambient air quality;
- Surface freshwater quality and quantity;
- Freshwater ecology;
- Groundwater quality and quantity;
- Geothermal water quality and quantity;
- Saline water quality;
- Saline ecology;
- Terrestrial ecosystems;
- Geological features;
- Natural hazards;
- Land use patterns;
- Analysis of social and economic trends (population, GDP, etc.);
- Whether tangata whenua issues and concerns are being recognized and provided for.

This evaluation of the suitability of the plan will continue on an ongoing basis.

11.2.2 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PLAN

'Effectiveness' is a measure of how well the plan is achieving the environmental results anticipated from the implementation of the plan's policies and methods.

The ARC has developed a Statutory Policy Effectiveness Monitoring Programme (SPEMP) in order to evaluate the effectiveness of operative statutory RMA policy documents. Thus far, this programme has begun the ongoing evaluation of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement 1999 and will be extended to other statutory policy documents such as this Plan when they become operative.

The SPEMP involves a 5 step process, broadly as follows:

- Setting monitoring objectives;
- Identifying what to monitor;
- Developing indicators;
- Collecting, analysing and presenting data; followed by
- Subsequent review of the statutory document.

The programme is based on data gathered through the SoE monitoring programme outlined above, but involves targeting indicators and processing information to separate the effect of the objectives, policies and methods in achieving environmental outcomes.

The programme will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the policies and methods contained in this plan in achieving the anticipated environmental results. It is expected to show whether there is measurable movement towards or away from achievement of those results, and whether that movement can be attributed to the policies and methods in this plan.

11.3 PROCEDURES TO REVIEW THE MATTERS SET OUT IN (A) TO (H) OF SECTION 67 OF THE RMA

Within 10 years maximum of the Air, Land and Water Regional Plan becoming operative, the ARC must commence a review of the Plan. The matters set out in (a) to (h) of section 67(1) of the RMA will be reviewed as follows:

- The results of the ARC's SoE monitoring process and the SPEMP will be analysed to determine if the issues, objectives, policies, and methods are proving to be suitable and effective in terms of achieving the environmental results anticipated;
- From time to time the ARC reviews aspects of the resource consent process, including the information to be submitted with a consent application. Reviews include updating application forms and supporting information for consent applicants as well as reconsidering the circumstances in which the powers under section 92 may be used.

The results of these reviews will be taken into account.

Environment Waikato and Northland Regional Council and the TAs of the region will be consulted as to how well the processes to deal with cross-boundary issues are working.