

Preface

This is the first regional coastal plan prepared by the Taranaki Regional Council under the Resource Management Act 1991. The passage of that Act brought about a major reform of the way in which the coastline and coastal waters of New Zealand are managed. The Taranaki Regional Council's responsibilities have been extended from its water quality management role to include such functions as control of structure placement, reclamation and foreshore works, noise emission control and air quality management. The Taranaki Regional Council is required by law to carry out coastal management through this Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki.

The Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki has one overriding purpose: to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in relation to the coastal marine area. This means enabling people to use the coast to provide for their social, cultural and economic needs, and for their health and safety, while at the same time ensuring that the natural coastal environment remains capable of supporting marine life, retains its natural character and is able to meet the needs of future generations.

Many activities take place in the coastal marine area of Taranaki. These range from major ventures such as petroleum exploration, and the continuing development of Port Taranaki, to simple activities such as swimming, walking along the foreshore or children building sand castles against the incoming tide. The Taranaki coastline ranges from the spectacular White cliffs and river estuaries of north Taranaki, to the harsh, seawall clad foreshore of central New Plymouth, to the wide, unspoilt beaches at Waiinu in the far south of the region. The coast and seas of our region fulfil many of our recreational, cultural and economic needs.

The Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki develops policy for the management of our coast in order to meet our needs, while continuing to be able to enjoy its natural character and unspoilt nature.

On behalf of the Taranaki Regional Council I would like to thank all those who have participated in the preparation of the Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki. I look forward to working with you to promote the sustainable management of the coastal marine area of Taranaki.

Ross Allen
CHAIRPERSON