

6. Conclusion

The current RPS has stood the test of time well. It has not been changed or challenged in the ten years since it was made operative. Its issues and policy directions, which are very clearly stated, are well understood and widely accepted throughout the community.

With community agreement on the issues and the policy and management approach to address these issues, the Council has been able to focus on the implementation of the programmes, strategies and actions identified in the RPS. A review of progress in implementing the methods confirms that all methods in the RPS have been implemented or are being implemented.

The RPS has also been of value in guiding the Council's policy development and supporting its programmes. It has been of particular value in assisting district councils and the regional council in the identification of issues and for policy development when preparing their district and regional plans. We know that our policy approaches set out in the RPS are generally working. The Council has put in place comprehensive, robust and scientifically-based state of the environment monitoring programmes. The Council's report on the state of the Taranaki environment shows excellent results on most measures.

It is inevitable over time that issues change, new issues emerge, legislation changes or experiences highlight areas where provisions could be improved or practices sharpened. Ten years on we now have the benefit of taking into account our experiences in the implementation of the RPS. We can also take into account 'change' factors such as the emergence of new issues or priorities, subsequent amendments to the Resource Management Act, developments in case law and advances in good practice.

Given the above, the Council wants to take this opportunity to move forward with a sound policy framework for the next 10 years. That is, continue to do what appears to be working but also take the opportunity to fine-tune those provisions of the RPS where we believe we have to take into account change factors or where we can make some significant gains to improve the quality of the place we live in.

Changes to the RPS are proposed in areas dealing with soil health, biodiversity, waste management and climate change. For the most part, the changes proposed in these areas will make them consistent with more recent policy developments. Other changes are proposed to reflect developments in good practice, to improve the readability of the document or to update and clarify provisions. No significant change in content or policy direction is proposed. However, we are seeking your feedback on the issues of regional significance and your thoughts on what should be done to address those issues.

In making your response you may wish to consider the following questions:

1. Have all the change factors been correctly identified?
2. If not, what other change factors should the Taranaki Regional Council take into account when reviewing the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki*?
3. Do you believe all the regionally significant resource management issues for Taranaki are identified and adequately addressed in the current *Regional*

Policy Statement for Taranaki?

4. Do you support or oppose current methods to implement policies for particular issues or are there alternative approaches or solutions required? Why?
5. Are there any new resource management issues that need to be included in the next *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki?*
6. If so, what general approach would you like the Taranaki Regional Council (or other parties) to adopt to address those issues?

Please forward your comments to:

The Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford

Comments are invited by **Friday, 15 October 2004**.

Appendix I

Regionally significance issues in the Regional Policy Statement

Issues		Description of the issue
Resource management issues	Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land degradation & loss of productive capabilities of land through accelerated erosion • Soil degradation through contamination • Actual or potential loss of areas of significant indigenous & other vegetation, & habitats of indigenous fauna • Adverse effects of the use of river & lake beds • Adverse effects from natural hazards • Quantities of solid waste requiring disposal • Adverse effects of disposal of solid wastes • Adverse effects of existing contaminated sites • Adverse effects of hazardous substances use, storage, transportation & disposal • Adverse effects of land use on outstanding & regionally significant natural features & landscapes • Effects of resource use & development on rural & urban amenities, & on heritage values • Adverse effects of land use on the provision & safe & efficient operation of the region's network utilities & other infrastructure of regional significance • The restoration, maintenance & enhancement of the cultural relationship & links of Iwi o Taranaki with their ancestral lands
	Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection & restoration of instream values & surface water availability • Sustainable groundwater yields • Conservation & efficient use of water • Protection of wetlands • Public access to and along rivers and lakes • Water quality degradation resulting from diffuse water contamination • Water quality degradation resulting from the discharge of contaminants from point sources • The restoration, maintenance & enhancement of the cultural relationship & links of Iwi o Taranaki with the water resources of the Taranaki region
	Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of air quality resulting from the discharge of contaminants • The enhanced greenhouse gas effect • Recognition of the air resource as a taonga & protection of waahi tapu from the intrusion of odour or visual pollutants
	Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects on the natural character of the coastal environment • Adverse effects on areas of significant conservation value in the coastal marine area • Public access to and along the coastal marine area • Recognition of tribal rangatiratanga protection of mahinga maataitai & other resources & sites of significance to Iwi within the coastal environment
	Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficiency in the use & production of energy
Management systems & processes	Information & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate information for promoting the sustainable management of natural & physical resources • Appropriate methods to monitor natural & physical resources, & the environment
	Consents, enforcement, cost recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving efficient, certain & effective participation in resource consent processing • Non compliance with the the Resource Management Act, policies, plans or consent conditions • Achieving efficiency & fairness in the costs & benefits of resource management processes
	Treaty of Waitangi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi • Recognition of kaitiakitanga • Recognition of the cultural & spiritual values of Tangata Whenua • The protection of waahi tapu
	Cross boundary processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing effective processes for resolving cross boundary issues
	Integrated management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving integrated management of the natural & physical resources of the Taranaki region

Appendix II Criteria for review

Criteria	Summary of matters to be considered
1. Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a new resource management issue of regional significance that has emerged since adoption of the RPS that is not addressed in other policies, strategies or plans &, after considering criteria (2) to (7) below, it is necessary & appropriate for that issue to be included in the RPS. • An issue already identified in the RPS is no longer appropriate or necessary and after considering criteria (2) to (7) below, that issue should be removed from the RPS.
2. Lawfulness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RPS is clearly leading directly to outcomes that are contrary to the purpose and principles of the Act; or • The RPS is clearly failing in its purpose of achieving integrated management and this failure is a consequence of the RPS itself; or • The provisions of the RPS are ultra vires and require immediate change in the interests of clarity and certainty and the efficient, effective and legally correct administration of the Act.
3. Clarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provisions of the RPS are so unclear or uncertain that those provisions are causing confusion & problems in administration and implementation of the RPS to the extent that the RPS requires amendment.
4. Practicality & affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provisions of the RPS have emerged as being not practical or affordable & cannot realistically be undertaken and these provisions are causing problems in administration of the RPS that require its amendment.
5. Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provisions of the RPS do not promote the efficient management of resources, result in excessive compliance costs or are not cost-effective for the community (ie, costs are too high relative to the benefits expected) to the extent that the RPS requires amendment.
6. Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provisions of the RPS impose unacceptable costs or benefits on one sector & not others to the extent that the RPS requires amendment
7. Section 32 duties	<p>Any change to the RPS is subject to the duties imposed under section 32 of the Act & these must be considered in the review process. In proposing any changes to objectives, policies, or methods the Council will carry out an evaluation and examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which each objective is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act; • Whether, having regard to their efficiency and effectiveness, the policies and methods are the most appropriate for achieving the objectives; • The benefits and costs of policies and methods; & • The risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the policies and methods. <p>Part of this assessment will need to include consideration of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines of any change (particularly in view of any proposed changes in legislation, & roles or responsibilities); & • Costs to the Council in processing a change to the RPS and compliance costs imposed on resource users.

