

Natural Resources Plan

Information sheet 1: General

What is the NRP?

The Council is undertaking a full review of its Regional Policy Statement, Regional Freshwater Plan, Regional Air Plan and Regional Soil Plan under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

Due to the timing of these reviews, the introduction of new national direction, and the advantages of adopting a ki uta ki tai (source to sea) approach, these plans will be combined into one regional plan; the Natural Resources Plan (NRP) for Taranaki.

The NRP aims to do three main things:

- Set out the strategic decision making for resource management, including for integrated management.
- Provide the rules by which air, land and freshwater activities are either permitted without a resource consent, allowed through the approval of a resource consent, or prohibited.
- Set out the matters which need to be considered, given effect to, or managed in relation to permitted or consented activities.



What is a Regional Policy Statement?

The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) is a long-term planning tool. It provides an overview of the resource management issues of the region and sets the direction for the integrated management and protection of natural and physical resources through objectives, policies and methods. It connects people across diverse communities and sets out an agreed framework for addressing our resource management issues.

The RPS includes objectives, policies and methods for:

- identifying significant resource management issues for the region
- cultural and historic heritage
- healthy and clean waterways
- protecting ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity
- reducing impacts from natural hazards and climate change
- urban form and development
- sustainable use
- good air quality
- ensuring clean and productive land.

What are Regional Plans?

Regional Plans give effect to Council's responsibilities under the RMA and are the 'rule books' for carrying out activities that impact on the environment including; air, freshwater and land. Regional plans contain rules allowing, restricting or prohibiting people from undertaking activities that have an environmental effect.

Regional Plans include:

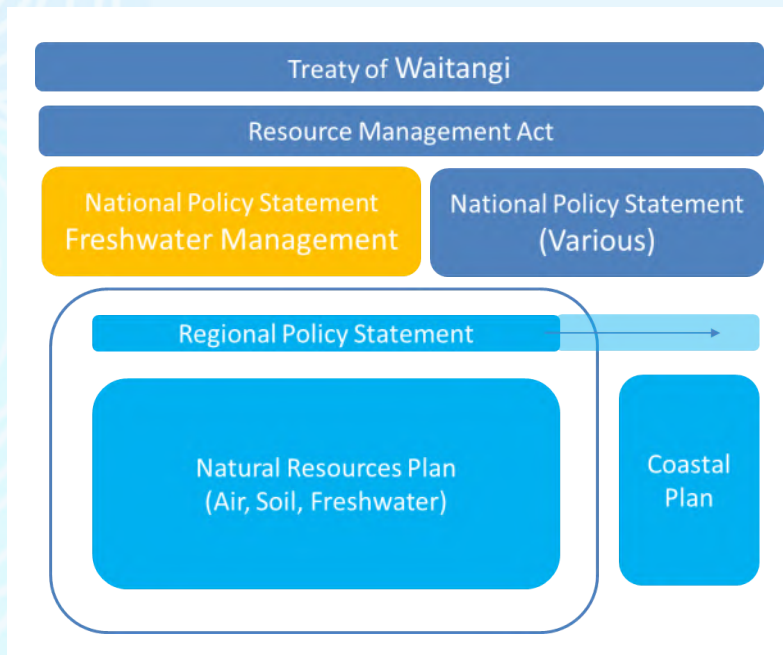
- Objectives for regional natural resource management.
- Policies and rules for air, freshwater, coastal marine area, soils, landscapes, storm and wastewater, heritage sites and natural hazard management.
- Schedules and maps.

How does the Natural Resources Plan relate to other policy documents and plans?

Under the RMA, regional and district plans are required to give effect to the regional policy statement, national policy statements, national environmental standards and national planning standards.

The Regional Policy Statement in turn, must give effect to national policy statements prepared under the RMA and also take into account matters identified in iwi management plans as well as district plans.

The figure below summarises this hierarchy of planning documents.



New directions for resource management?

There is considerable work occurring at a national level regarding the way the country manages natural resources. This includes:

- Resource management reforms - the development of a *Strategic Planning Act* and the *Natural and Built Environments Act*.
- Development of various national policy statements and national environmental standards.
- Approach to climate change and 'Just Transition'
- The Three Waters reform.

While the Council has little influence over these directions, the outcome of these decisions will have a bearing on how the Council manages things in the future. Notwithstanding that, the Council is taking into account likely future directions being set by the Government.

For the time being, the Council will progress the development of the NRP with the information and direction that is currently available.

How to be involved?

Community engagement is a core part of the development of the NRP. Engagement will consist of both targeted and general public engagement.

Targeted engagement will focus on tangata whenua, territorial authorities, government agencies with overlapping roles and responsibilities, as well as industry, community groups and non-government organisations. Public engagement opportunities may involve surveys, workshops and other feedback mechanisms. These engagement streams will be ongoing across 2022 and 2023.

Following this, the statutory Schedule 1 submission process allows everyone who has an interest to be able to make a submission to be heard at a hearing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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REGISTER INTEREST

To register your interest in the development of the NRP follow:
www.trc.govt.nz/have-your-say/