

# **PART VIII: DEFINITIONS**

*This Part provides definitions of the key terms used throughout this Plan.*



## 41. DEFINITIONS

These definitions are included to provide clarification of some terms used in this Plan. The use of *italics* indicates that meanings have been taken directly from the *Resource Management Act 1991*.

**Absorption** – The taking in of substances into a plant or other body through the cell membranes.

**Act** – *Resource Management Act 1991* and its amendments.

**Adsorption** – The taking up of one substance onto the surface of another.

**Aerobic** – A condition in which molecular oxygen is available and utilised in the free form.

**Agrichemical** – Any substance, whether inorganic or organic, man-made or naturally occurring, modified or in its original state, that is to eradicate, modify or control flora and fauna. (Including animal remedies but excluding fertilisers.)

**Agricultural Waste** – Any organic waste other than animal effluent and includes, but is not limited to, dead animals, vegetables, silage and fruit.

**Alteration (alter)** – Means to extend or change intensity or scale.

**Amenity Values** – *Those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people’s appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.*

**Anaerobic** – A condition in which no oxygen is present in a free dissolved form.

**Animal effluent** – Dung and urine from animals (other than humans) kept in captivity. This does not include dung and urine deposited by individual animals put out to graze.

**Annual Plan** – Under the *Local Government Act 1974*, every local authority must produce each year a draft Annual Plan for public comment. This sets out the objectives of the Council, the activities that it proposes carrying out and their cost. Performance measures by which the Council can be judged are also included. The Annual Plan must be finalised by 30 September each year.

**Approach** – A road or track, leading up to a ford, culvert or bridge crossing, which is raised above the surrounding land.

**Appurtenant Structure** – in relation to a dam structure, means a structure that is integral to the proper functioning of the dam structure, such as a weir or pump intake structure.

**Aquifer** – A geological formation or layer of rock or soil that is capable of yielding water in sufficient quantities for abstraction.

**Artificial Watercourse** – A man made channel constructed over land for carrying water and includes an irrigation canal, water supply race, canal for the supply of water for electricity power generation, and farm drainage canal.

**Assimilate** – Absorb or take-up.

**Bank Full Edge** – In relation to a river is the highest point at which the river can rise without overtopping the bank and in the case of a lake or wetland the point at which the waters cover at the highest level without exceeding its margin.

**Barrier Ditch** – A purpose built ditch with barriers, such as wooden planks, which receives farm dairy effluent. The purpose of the barriers is to retain solids.

**Bed** – *Means* –

- (a) *In relation to any river –*
  - (i) *for the purposes of esplanade reserves, esplanade strips, and subdivision, the space of land which the waters of the river cover at its annual fullest flow without overtopping its banks;*
  - (ii) *in all other cases, the space of land which the waters of the river cover at its fullest flow without overtopping its banks; and*
- (b) *In relation to any lake, except a lake controlled by artificial means, -*
  - (i) *for the purposes of esplanade reserves, esplanade strips, and subdivision, the space of land which the waters of the lake cover at its annual highest level without exceeding its margin;*
  - (ii) *in all other cases, the space of land which the waters of the lake cover at its highest level without exceeding its margin; and*
- (c) *In relation to any lake controlled by artificial means, the space of land which the waters of the lake cover at its maximum permitted operating level; and*
- (d) *In relation to the sea, the submarine areas covered by the internal waters and the territorial sea.*

**Best Management Practices** – Land use practices or combination of practices which are practical and effective in preventing or reducing pollution from non point sources.

**Best Practicable Option** – *In relation to a discharge of a contaminant or an emission of noise, means the best method for preventing or minimising the adverse effects on the environment having regard, among other things, to:*

- (a) *The nature of the discharge or emission and the sensitivity of the receiving environment to adverse effects; and*
- (b) *The financial implications, and the effects on the environment, of that option when compared with other options; and*
- (c) *The current state of technical knowledge and the likelihood that the option can be successfully applied.*

**Biochemical Oxygen Demand** – A measure of the oxygen consumed by the degradation of organic matter by organisms, and therefore a measure of organic pollution. Often measured as BOD<sub>5</sub> – the amount of oxygen consumed in five days.

**Biodiversity** – The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

**Bore** – Any hole, regardless of the method of formation, that is constructed to provide access to the ground for the purpose of taking groundwater, or which results in groundwater being taken, or for the investigation or monitoring of groundwater. For the purposes of this Plan, this definition does not include holes drilled for explosives blasting.

**Catchment** – The area of land which contributes water, via surface runoff or subsurface flow, to a particular water body. The term sub-catchment has also been used in this Plan to identify the drainage area for a tributary of a larger river system.

**Note:** Catchment drainage plans are now referred to as stormwater management plans.

**Clean Fill** – Material such as clay, soil and rock, and such other materials as concrete, brick or demolition products that are free of combustible or organic materials and are therefore not subject to biological or chemical breakdown. Cleanfill shall not contain hazardous substances or materials (such as municipal solid waste or metals) likely to create leachate by means of biological or chemical breakdown.

**Clean Fill Landfill** – A landfill used solely for the disposal of clean fill.

**Closed Landfill** – Any landfill which no longer accepts waste for disposal.

**Co-disposal** – The disposal of certain hazardous and/or special wastes in combination with community wastes for the purpose of using the interactive processes between different types of wastes to minimise the hazard.

**Colour** – Colour of water refers to the quality of the light back-scattered from a water body. There are three aspects:

**Hue:** The attribute of colour which varies with the dominant wave length in the spectrum of light energy and is described, for example, as “blue” or “green”.

**Brightness:** The attribute of colour which varies with the amount of light energy received by the eye.

**Saturation:** The attribute of colour which varies with the spread of the spectrum of light energy and is described as colour purity or (in the inverse sense) the “grayness”.

**Composting** – The biological reduction of organic waste to a relatively stable product.

**Concentrated Development** – Settlements which have a high density of dwellings, e.g. large residential subdivisions with small section sizes.

**Consultation** – Consulting involves putting forward a proposal which is not yet finally decided upon, listening to what others have to say about it, considering their responses, and then deciding what will be done.

...consultation should include:

- **Providing sufficient information** to the consulted parties so that they can make intelligent and informed decisions;
- **Allowing sufficient time** for both the participation of the consulted party and the consideration of the advice given; and,
- **Genuine consideration** of that advice, including an open mind and a willingness to change.

**Contaminant** – *Includes any substance (including gases, odourous compounds, liquids, solids, and micro-organisms) or energy (excluding noise) or heat, that either by itself or in combination with the same, similar, or other substances, energy, or heat:*

- (a) *When discharged into water, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical or biological condition of water; or*
- (b) *When discharged onto or into land or into air, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of the land or air onto or into which it is discharged.*

**Contaminated Site** – A site at which hazardous substances occur at concentrations above “background” levels and poses or is likely to pose an immediate or long-term hazard to human health or the environment. It includes landfills and sewage soakage.

**Council** – The Northland Regional Council.

**Cubic Metre** – The equivalent of 1,000 litres or approximately 220 gallons.

**Culvert Crossing** – A piped structure that is placed on the bed of a watercourse for the purposes of providing continuous flow of water within, and permitting vehicular and other access over that water course.

**Dam Structure** – means an artificial barrier, and its appurtenant structures, constructed on the bed of a river or lake that:

- (a) is constructed to hold back water under constant pressure so as to form a reservoir on the bed of a river or lake; and
- (b) is used for the storage, control, or diversion of water

it includes –

- (i) a flood control dam; and
- (ii) a weir whether as part of the dam structure or separate from it

but it excludes –

- (i) a stopbank designed to control floodwaters.

**Note:** This definition of dam structure relates only to structures on the beds of rivers and lakes, so it does not include an off-stream reservoir as defined.

**Deep Soakage Systems** – A hole excavated to utilise permeable subsoil layers or weathered rock at depth under poorly draining upper soils for the purpose of disposing of effluent. These holes may be backfilled with material such as scoria. Deep bores and soak holes are common types of deep soakage systems.

**Design Minimum Flow (DMF)** – The flow required to be maintained in a river at a specified point. It is determined by applying Policies 9.05.02 to 9.05.05.

**Dewatering** – The removal of groundwater from an excavation that has perforated below the groundwater table in an aquifer.

**Direct Discharge** – Any discharge to water either via a pipe or similar conduit, or via a discrete flow path over land, such as channels, tracks or natural stormwater flow paths.

**Discharge** – *Includes emit, deposit, and allow to escape.*

**Disposal Area** – The total area required to dispose of a certain volume of effluent or wastewater. The disposal includes the basal area of the trench or bed, as well as the natural soil space between adjacent trenches, beds or irrigation lines plus a perimeter buffer area around the disposal site.

**District** – *In relation to a territorial authority –*

- (a) *Means the district of the territorial authority as defined in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 but, except as provided in paragraph (b), does not include any area in the coastal marine area:*
- (b) *includes, for the purposes of section 89, any area in the coastal marine area.*

**District Plan** – *An operative plan approved by a territorial authority under the First Schedule; and includes all operative changes to such a plan (whether arising from a review or otherwise).*

**Dominant Slope** – The dominant slope is the slope which occurs over 50% of the site of a land disturbance activity.

**Dune Lake** – Those lakes listed in Schedule E of this Plan.

**Drainage Water** – Water resulting from land drainage. Drainage water may include sediment and other contaminants derived from land and watercourses through which drainage flows.

**Earthworks** – The disturbance of land surfaces by:

- Placing or replacing soil or earth;
- Excavation;
- Cutting and filling operations; or

- Quarrying (as defined) and mining.

But does not include:

- Hand cutting;
- The maintenance of walking or other recreational tracks;
- Digging post holes, planting trees; or
- The importation and placement of roading aggregates during road works.

**Ecosystem** – A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

**Edge** (of a river, lake, stream or open drain) – As it relates to conditions on rules relating to separation distances, the edge of the river, etc., is the point on land which the water of the water body reaches at annual fullest flow without over topping its banks.

**Edge** (of a wetland) – As it relates to conditions on rules relating to separation distances, the edge of the wetland is the outer edge of the land/water margins which still supports plants and animals adapted to wet conditions.

**Effect** – *Unless the context otherwise requires, the term “effect” includes –*

- (a) *Any positive or adverse effect; and*
- (b) *Any temporary or permanent effect; and*
- (c) *Any past, present, or future effect; and*
- (d) *Any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects –*  
*regardless of the scale, intensity, duration, or frequency of the effect, and also includes –*
- (e) *Any potential effect of high probability; and*
- (f) *Any potential effect of low probability which has a high potential impact.*

**Effluent** – Applies to any waste or wastewater to be treated and/or disposed of. It does not include solid waste as defined in this Plan.

**El Nino** – Refers to global weather patterns which are influenced by negative values of the Southern Oscillation Index. El Nino episodes are usually characterised by a reduction in rainfall over eastern and northern New Zealand. The most recent El Nino was in 1994 and 1995. (Sourced from MetService). In Northland there are increased probabilities of dominant south-westerly wind conditions, reduced rainfalls, and lower probabilities of tropical depressions.

**Environment – Includes –**

- (a) *Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and*
- (b) *All natural and physical resources; and*
- (c) *Amenity values; and*
- (d) *The social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions which affect the matters stated in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this definition or which are affected by those matters.*

**Environmental Results Expected** – These outline the intended outcomes or results on the environment, which the community can expect to see or experience as a consequence of the implementation of policies and methods. These are closely related to the objectives set out in respective sections of the Regional Plan.

**Erosion** – Any particulate or mass movement of soil, rocks or sand, under the influence of wind, water or gravity.

**Erosion Prone Land** – For the purposes of this Plan, erosion prone land is defined as Class VIIe, VIIle and VIIIs1 land use capability units generally depicted on the 1:50,000 New Zealand Resource Inventory, Northland Region, Second Edition. Each Unit is described in the following table:

LUC Unit	Area in Northland Region Ha (%)**	Description	Key Erosion Hazards ***
VIIe1	46904ha (3.7%)	Steep to very steep slopes forming steep hilly and mountainous rocks (Tangihua volcanics)	Severe soil slip and debris avalanche
VIIe2	1049ha (0.1%)	Gently rolling, rolling to moderately steep slopes forming low hilly terrain on fractured and sheared mixed lithologies, in a matrix or multi-coloured clayey materials, with characteristically unstable hummocky and broken profiles	Severe to very severe earthflow, gully and slump
VIIe3	9.33ha (0.1%)	Steep to very steep slopes forming hilly terrain on limestone rock. Numerous rock outcrops and shallow soils.	Severe soil slip and sheet
VIIe4	2581ha (0.2%)	Steep to very steep slopes forming hilly and mountainous terrain, mainly on sandstone, interbedded with mudstone.	Severe soil slop and earthslip
VIIe5	2811ha (0.2%)	Steep to very steep slopes forming hilly and mountainous terrain on 'hard' greywacke. Includes escarpments and bluff terrain.	Severe to very severe soil slop and debris avalanche
VIIe6	27994ha (2.2%)	Steep to very steep slopes forming hilly and mountainous terrain on greywacke. Includes escarpments and bluff terrain.	Severe to very severe soil slip and debris avalanche
VIIe7	3537ha (0.3ha)	Moderately steep to very steep slopes forming hilly and mountainous terrain on 'acid' to 'intermediate' volcanic (e.g. granodiorite) rocks. Typically on the flanks on ancient volcanoes.	Very severe sheet and rill; severe gully, soil and slip
VIIe8	10213ha (0.8%)	Moderately steep to steep slopes, often with a regular patten on incision, forming hilly and mountainous terrain on fractured and sheared argillites (commonly referred to as siliceous shale or claystone). Usually severely eroded.	Very severe gully; severe sheet and soil slip

VIIe9	8077ha (0.6%)	Strongly rolling to very steep slopes forming gully sidewalls, narrow valleys, low but steep hills and terrace escarpments, on compact sands and gravels, near the coast.	Very severe sheet, wind and gully
VIIe10	41591ha (3.3%)	Sand dunes and sand plains immediately inland from the foredune complex (VIIIe1), generally more than 400 metres inland from the mean high water-mark.	Very severe wind, sheet and gully.
VIIIe1	19025ha (1.5%)	Coastal foredune complex, beaches and sand plains, along a narrow belt of recent wind-blown sand. Typically, up to 400 metres inland from the mean high water-mark. Highly erodible, with patches of coastal vegetation (marram, pingao and spinifex) and much bare sand.	Extreme wind
VIIIe2	4563ha (0.4%)	Very steep and precipitous cliffs, bluffs, gorge walls, etc., in mountainous areas on various 'hard' rock types (such as greywacke and old volcanic rock). Much bare rock.	Extreme soil slip and debris avalanche; very severe sheet and scree
VIIIe3	3217ha (0.3%)	Very steep to precipitous slopes adjacent to the coast, including cliffs, bluffs and high escarpments, on various rock types.	Extreme sheet and scree, severe debris avalanche and soil slip
VIIIs1	4623ha (0.4%)	Precipitous cliffs, bluffs, escarpments, or gorge walls, on various rock types with much bare rock, with lower potential for soil slip and debris avalanche than VIIIe2 as much soil has already been removed, but with potential for very severe surficial forms of erosion such as sheet.	Very severe sheet, severe scree.

Erosion Prone Land is shown on maps at 1:100,000 scale which are included in the *Regional Water and Soil Plan for Northland Maps* and detailed in Appendix 6 of this Plan.

\*\* Areas from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition NZLRI of the Northland database, covering the administrative area of the Northland Region.

\*\*\* Erosion types that are characteristic of the behaviour of the LUC unit are given, along with potential severity ratings assessed under a permanent vegetation cover.

**Eutrophication** – Enrichment of waters with nutrients, primarily phosphorus, causing abundant aquatic plant growth.

**Facultative Ponds** – With respect to waste treatment, ponds which contain bacteria which are able to live in either aerobic or anaerobic conditions.

**Farm Dairy** – Commonly referred to as dairy shed, cowshed or milking shed.

**Farm Wastewater** – All waste water and solid matter leaving a farm dairy, dairy yard, feed pad, standoff area, stock yard, sale yard, holding yard, wintering barn, loafing pad, calf rearing barn, piggery, poultry farm, adjacent entrance and exit races, farm transit races when used for standoff, stock underpass or similar, including animal effluent, washdown water, pit washings, sediment, milk, milk residue, supplementary feed, molasses, detergents, soil, sterilising agents and other residues associated with routine farming practices.

**Fresh Water** – All water within the region except coastal water and geothermal water.

**Grazing** – The activity of eating growing grass or other types of growing vegetation by animals.

**Green Dump** – A collection point for the temporary storage of vegetation located at a transfer station, and excluding compost heaps.

**Groundwater** – Water which occurs beneath the groundwater table, including geothermal water, in soils and geologic formations which are fully saturated.

**Groundwater Table** – The plane which forms the upper surface of groundwater saturation.

**Gully** – A channel resulting from water erosion which is deep enough to interfere with, and not to be obliterated by, normal cultivation operations.

**Habitat** – The place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.

**Hapu** – Sub-tribes, usually a number of whanau with a common ancestor.

**Hazardous Substance** – Means, unless expressly provided otherwise by regulations, any substance –

- (a) With one or more of the following intrinsic properties:
  - (i) explosiveness;
  - (ii) flammability;
  - (iii) a capacity to oxidise;
  - (iv) corrosiveness;
  - (v) toxicity (including chronic toxicity)
  - (vi) ecotoxicity, with or without bioaccumulation; or
- (b) Which on contact with air or water (other than air or water where the temperature or pressure has been artificially increased or decreased) generates a substance with any one or more of the properties specified in paragraph (a) of this definition.

(From *Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996*).

**Hazardous Waste** – Hazardous substances which have no further safe and/or economic use.

**Heritage Feature** – An area, place or site, including any building or natural object thereon, which is of historic, cultural or spiritual value and demonstrates or provides evidence of a significant linkage with the past.

**Indigenous Flora and Fauna** – Plants and animals which belong naturally to New Zealand (as opposed to being introduced).

**Indigenous Wetland** – An indigenous wetland is any naturally occurring wetland of 50 m<sup>2</sup> or more (with a minimum width of 5 metres) which is permanently or seasonally wet (in that the water table is at or near the ground surface during

high water table conditions), and which is dominated by indigenous wetland plant species including all or some of the following:

- (a) Raupo
- (b) Flax
- (c) Sedge associations
- (d) Kahikatea
- (e) Cabbage tree
- (f) Manuka/kanuka on peatlands
- (g) Mangrove and saltmarsh
- (h) Kuta

For the purposes of this Plan indigenous wetlands that have been created for conservation purposes, as a requirement of a resource consent, are included within the definition of “indigenous wetlands”. The definition excludes wetlands created and subsequently maintained principally for or in connection with:

- (a) Effluent treatment and disposal systems; or
- (b) Stormwater management; or
- (c) Water storage; or
- (d) Other artificial wetlands, water courses or open drains.

The definition also excludes:

- (a) Trees with a pasture understorey; or
- (b) Exotic rush/pasture communities; or
- (c) Land which was been modified prior to 27 October 2001 to the extent that it is no longer ecologically viable.

**Note:** Photos of indigenous wetlands are provided as a guide in Appendix 13A. If you are unsure if an area is an indigenous wetland and is subject to rules in this Plan contact the Council for advice.

**Industrial or Trade Premises – Means-**

- (a) *Any premises used for any industrial or trade purposes; or*
- (b) *Any premises used for the storage, transfer, treatment, or disposal of waste materials or for other waste-management purposes, or used for composting organic materials; or*
- (c) *Any other premises from which a contaminant is discharged in connection with any industrial or trade process- but does not include any production land.*

**Industrial or Trade Process – Includes every part of a process from the receipt of raw material to the dispatch or use in another process or disposal of any product or waste material, and any intervening storage of the raw material, partly processed matter or product.**

**Interceptor System** – With regards to a stormwater collection system means a system that is specifically designed and capable of:

- (a) Containing deliberate or accidental releases (spills) of hazardous substances or other contaminants used on the site from stormwater discharges; and
- (b) In the event of stormwater contamination by a hazardous substance or other contaminant, reducing all such substances in the stormwater prior to discharge, to concentrations that will not result in contamination of either water or sediments to such a degree that is likely to result in adverse effects on aquatic life or on the suitability of the waters for specific defined purposes if appropriate.

**Intermittently Flowing River** – A river that is dry at certain times and has one or more of the following characteristics:

- (a) Appears on the NZMS260 1:50 000 map: or
- (b) Has stable pools in late summer; or
- (c) Supports species of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions, for example:
  - Native fish (bullies, kokopu, inanga)
  - Crayfish
  - Aquatic snails or shrimp
  - Mayflies, stoneflies or caddisflies

**Intrinsic Values** – *In relation to ecosystems, means those aspects of ecosystems and their constituent parts which have value in their own right, including*

- (a) *Their biological and genetic diversity; and*
- (b) *The essential characteristics that determine an ecosystem's integrity, form, functioning, and resilience.*

**Issue** – A matter of concern over existing or potential effects of the protection, use or development of natural and physical resources within the Northland region.

**Iwi** - Tribe, people.

**Iwi Authority** – *The authority which represents an iwi and which is recognised by that iwi as having authority to do so.*

**Kaitiaki** – Guardian, steward: the meaning of kaitiaki in practical application may vary between different hapu and iwi.

**Kaitiakitanga** – *means the exercise of guardianship by the tangata whenua of an area in accordance with tikanga Maori in relation to the natural and physical resources; and includes the ethic of stewardship.*

**La Nina** – Refers to global weather patterns which are influenced by positive values of the Southern Oscillation Index. La Nina episodes usually result in a higher probability of higher rainfalls in northern and eastern New Zealand. Waters in

the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean become cooler. The most recent strong La Nina episode was in 1988/89. (Sourced from Metservice). In Northland there are increased probabilities of easterly conditions and tropical depressions.

**Lake** – *A body of fresh water which is entirely or nearly surrounded by land.*

**Land** – *Includes land covered by water and the air space above land.*

**Land Disturbance** – The disturbance of land by earthworks, land preparation, quarrying and vegetation clearance.

**Land Drainage** – the activity of lowering the water level in the soil to achieve productive land use, to facilitate the stability of land or structures, or to achieve some other resource management purpose.

**Land Preparation** – The disturbance of the soil by machinery in preparation for planting or replanting crops or pasture grasses or trees, and includes blading, contour ploughing and ripping, but does not include sod sowing, ripping with mounding or direct drilling.

**Land Use Capability Classification** – A measure of the limitation of land to productive use (as further explained in Appendix 6).

**Landfill** – A waste disposal site used for the controlled deposit of solid wastes onto or into the land.

**Leachate** – The liquid resulting from the percolation of matter through soil or the liquid resulting from the decomposition of material, e.g. refuse (tip/landfill leachate).

**Local Authority** – *A Regional Council or Territorial Authority.*

**Long Drop** – See definition for pit privy.

**Mean Annual Low Flow (MALF)** - The lowest average daily flow of each year of record, arithmetically meaned over the length of record.

**Marae** –The spiritual, social, political and economic gathering place of iwi, hapu or whanau.

**Mauri** – Life force, life essence.

**Method of Implementation** – A practical action by which a policy is to be put into effect.

**National Policy Statement** – A statement of national policies on matters of national significance relating to achieving the purposes of the Resource Management Act.

**Natural and Physical Resources** – *Includes land, water, air, soil, minerals, and energy, all forms of plants and animals (whether native to New Zealand or introduced), and all structures.*

**Natural Hazard** – *Any atmospheric or earth or water related occurrence (including earthquake, tsunami, erosion, volcanic and geothermal activity, landslide,*

*subsidence, sedimentation, wind, drought, fire or flooding) the action of which adversely affects or may adversely affect human life, property or other aspects of the environment.*

**Non-point Source Discharge** – Involves diffuse discharges such as runoff or leachate from land, onto or into land, air, a water body or the sea (as opposed to an effluent outfall).

**Notification** – Public notification of any Policy Statement or Plan, and changes thereto, or resource consent applications.

**Objective** – A measurable aim or end result to which efforts are directed.

**Off-stream Reservoir** – an artificial body of water that is not the bed of a river, lake or indigenous wetland created to collect and store rainfall runoff and water lawfully harvested from a water body.

**One in Five Year Low Flow** – The lowest mean daily flow averaged over any 7 day period which occurs, on average, once every five years. It is estimated by determining the lowest “mean daily flow averaged over any 7 day period” for each year of record, and using that data in a frequency analysis to establish the 1 in 5 year return period for that site.

**Open Drain** – Any man-made water course which has an outlet to water, or natural water course which is/has been channelised and is regularly maintained.

**Pesticide** – Any agrichemical that is specifically designed to:

- (a) Control or eradicate unwanted plants;
- (b) Control, eradicate or interrupt the growth processes of insects, fungal organisms;
- (c) Stop or prevent the growth and development of bacteria;
- (d) Control or eradicate unwanted animals.

**Pipe Network** – gravity and pressure sewer system that discharges to and from a pump station and ultimately discharges to a treatment plant.

**Pit Privy** – “A private room containing a receptacle (other than a wc) or an excavation for excreted liquid or solid human waste and with a means of disposal or containment of the waste” (BIA 1992).

**Placement** – For the purposes of Section 29 of this Plan, placement means: erect, place.

**Plan** – *A regional plan or a district plan.*

**Plantation Forestry** – An area of trees managed for commercial activities and includes all planting, tending and harvesting and associated land disturbance activities.

**Point Source Discharge** – A discharge from a specific and identifiable outlet, onto or into land, air, a water body or the sea.

**Policy** – A specific statement that guides or directs decision making. A policy indicates a commitment to a general course of action in working towards an objective.

**Practicable Measures** – Actions that can be taken to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects, and that are feasible. (For example, with respect to environmental standards for land disturbance activities, where soil and debris have been left in a position where it may enter water, it may be physically possible to move it away from the area with a bulldozer. That would be a practicable measure despite a bulldozer not being readily available on the site.)

**Primary Treatment** – The first stage of effluent treatment usually involving the removal of a proportion of floatable and settleable solids.

**Public Costs** – The significant or likely restriction of the opportunities of people and communities to use public resources, e.g. water, soil and air.

**Quarrying** – The open surface extraction of weathered or unweathered rock material from the ground, including the removal of overlying earth or soil. The stacking, crushing, conveying, storing, depositing and treatment of the excavated material and the removal of unwanted materials.

**Rapid Infiltration System** – Effluent disposal systems such as pits or trenches which can be used in rapid to free draining soils. (Refer Technical Publication No.58. “*On-site Waste-water Disposal from Household and Institutions*” (Auckland Regional Council, 1994)).

**Receiving Water** – Any water, as defined by the Act, which receives contaminants or water from point source or non-point source discharges.

**Region** – *In relation to a regional council, the region of the Regional Council as determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.*

**Region** – In relation to this Plan, the region is the coverage area as described in Section 2.03 and excludes the coastal marine area.

**Regional Coastal Plan** – An Environmental Management Plan or Plans for the Coastal Marine Area of a region, prepared by the Regional Council and approved by the Minister of Conservation.

**Regional Council** – *means a regional council within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002.*

**Regional Plan** – A Plan or Plans prepared by the Regional Council for managing the use and/or protection of resources (e.g. within the region – coastal, water, air).

**Regional Policy Statement** – An operative regional policy statement prepared by the Regional Council under the First Schedule to the Act.

**Removal** – For the purposes of Section 29 of this Plan, removal means: remove, demolish.

**Repair** – For the purposes of this Plan, repair means: reconstruct part of a structure to its former dimensions, maintain.

**Replacement** – Take the place of, put back in previous place or position.

**Reserve Area** – An area set aside for future use as a disposal area to replace or extend the original disposal system.

**Resource Consent** – A consent to do something that is not otherwise permitted by a Plan or the Act.

**Rill** - A small channel, caused by erosive runoff, which is a few centimetres deep and is no obstacle to cultivation operations.

**Riparian Management Zone** – The Riparian Management Zone is a zone of varying widths adjacent to the bed of a river, lake, indigenous wetland, or the Coastal Marine Area which needs to be managed carefully to protect the water body from the adverse effects of land use. Criteria for identifying the Riparian Management Zone are contained within Figure 7.

**Ripping** – A land preparation technique involving deep cutting of the ground to penetrate impermeable layers such as iron pans or areas of impeded drainage.

**River** – *Means a continually or intermittently flowing body of fresh water and includes a stream and modified water course; but does not include any artificial watercourse (including an irrigation canal, water supply race, canal for the supply of water for electricity power generation, and farm drainage canal).*

**Rohe** – Territory, boundary: defines areas within which a tangata whenua group claims traditional association and mana whenua.

**Rule** – *A district rule or a regional rule (contained in a District or Regional Plan).*

**Runoff Control Measures** – Methods which may be implemented to control runoff around a land disturbance activity such as roading and tracking, quarrying and subdivision development and may include runoff diversion channels, contour drains, earth bunds, sediment retention ponds, silt fences, hay bales, water tables, culverting.

**Run of River Hydro-Electric Scheme** – A hydro-electric scheme on the bed of a river or lake that extracts water from that river or lake and has limited or no storage of water and relies on the flow of water and/or the height of the drop to push water through turbines and generate electricity.

**Sacrifice Area** – An area of land onto which farm dairy wastes are discharged generally without treatment or further management of the disposal site.

**Secondary Treatment** – The further treatment of primary treated effluent which involves either anaerobic or aerobic biological or chemical or physical treatment which removes the bulk of the organic contaminants.

**Sediment** – Particulate soil or organic matter.

**Septage** – The scum, sludge and full liquid contents of a septic tank or primary compartment of an aeration tank/plant.

**Sewage** – The liquid wastes of a community, including toilet wastes, sullage, trade wastes.

**Sewage Pump Station** – A chamber(s) in a reticulated sewerage system which collects and pumps sewage along the sewerage lines to the treatment plant.

**Sheet Erosion** – Erosion where thin layers of surface material are gradually removed more or less evenly from an extensive area of sloping land.

**Significant Indigenous Wetlands** – An indigenous wetland which meets one or more of the criteria given in Appendix 13B.

**Slope** – The angle of a hillslope from the horizontal, measured at right angles to the contour. Slope is measured in degrees and to an accuracy no less than that achieved by a hand-held clinometer or abney level.

**Sludge** – The solid material settled out from effluent during the treatment process.

**Soil Conservation** – The management of land to maintain New Zealand's soil and water resources to provide the widest range of sustainable benefits for the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. (*National Water and Soil Conservation Authority; Ministry of Works and Development 1987*)

**Solid Waste** – The combination of domestic, industrial and commercial waste including non-hazardous special wastes also known as community waste.

**Southern Oscillation Index** – Calculated from monthly or seasonal fluctuations in the air pressure difference between Tahiti and Darwin. A negative value indicates El Nino episodes. A positive value indicates La Nina episodes. (Sourced from Metservice).

**Stopbank** – A constructed embankment bordering one or both sides of a river or channel to contain flows or divert flows.

**Stormwater** – Water than flows off pervious or impervious surfaces as a result of precipitation.

**Stormwater Management Plan** – A Plan providing for the management of stormwater quantity and quality which enables appropriate controls during and after the development of a catchment [or subcatchment], and which incorporates safeguards against and minimisation of flooding, soil erosion, and stormwater water pollution during and after the development phase.

**Stream** – Refer to definition of River.

**Structure** – *Any building, equipment, device, or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land; and includes any raft.*

**Submission** – *A written submission and, in relation to the preparation or change of a policy statement or plan, includes any submission made under clause 8 of the First Schedule in support of or in opposition to an original submission.*

**Subsurface Drainage** – The collection of excess soilwater in pipes, such as tile drains, and its discharge to surface water.

**Sullage** – Wastewaters from kitchen, bathroom, laundry, other than toilet wastes. Also termed “greywater”.

**Surface Water** – All water, flowing or not, above the ground. It includes water in continually or intermittently flowing rivers, artificial watercourses, lakes and wetlands, and water impounded by structures such as dams or weirs but does not include water while in pipes, tanks, cisterns, nor water within the Coastal Marine Area.

**Sustainable Management** – *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 well-being 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.*

**Tangata Whenua** - In relation to a particular area, means the iwi, or hapu, that holds mana whenua over that area.

**Taonga** - Treasure, property: taonga are prized and protected as sacred possessions of the tribe, not merely as temporal property in the Western sense. The term carries a deep spiritual meaning, and taonga may be things that cannot be seen or touched. Included, for example, are: te reo (the Maori language), waahi tapu, waterways, fishing grounds, and mountains.

**Technical Publication No. 58** - A publication containing criteria for the design and construction of on-site effluent treatment and disposal systems (*Technical Publication 58 On-Site Waste-Water Disposal from Household and Institutions. Auckland Regional Council, November 1994*).

**Territorial Authority** - *means a territorial authority within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002.*

**Tertiary Treatment** - Further treatment of biological or chemically treated secondary treated effluent to further remove contaminants such as nutrients, organic matter and micro-organisms. It involves physical processes such as adsorption, absorption and filtering.

**Tikanga Maori** - *Maori customary values and practices.*

**Trade Wastes** - The wastes from an industrial or trade premise which are discharged into a reticulated sewerage system.

**Treated Effluent** - Effluent which has undergone some physico-chemical and/or biological change.

**Untreated Effluent** - Effluent which has not undergone any chemical or biological changes prior to disposal in the receiving environment. Untreated effluent

may undergo some solids separation in a storage facility such as a pond or sump.

**Urban** - In relation to stormwater, an area with a high proportion of impervious surfaces (roads and footpaths, carparks and roofs) as can be found in an urban catchment or in a catchment in the process of becoming urbanised.

**Vegetation Clearance** - The cutting, burning, crushing or destruction of trees, shrubs and plants but excludes:

- (a) Grasses, scattered trees, shrubs, or regenerating bush amongst pasture,
- (b) Forest thinnings, agricultural or horticultural crops,
- (c) Clearance around public utility networks,
- (d) Any vegetation clearance required under a Regional Pest Management Strategy under the Biosecurity Act,
- (f) Land preparation such as oversowing, ploughing, ripping and so on, (see definition for land preparation),
- (f) Vegetation clearance using the line cutting method,
- (g) Vegetation clearance for visibility and road safety.

**Visual Clarity** - Clarity of water refers to the transmission of light through water. There are two aspects of measurement:

- (a) The distance a perfect black body can be seen horizontally under water.
- (b) The depth to which diffused light can penetrate vertically into water.

**Waahi Tapu** - Sacred site: these are defined locally by the hapu and iwi which are kaitiaki for the waahi tapu. Typically includes burial grounds and sites of historical importance to the tribe. In order to protect particular sites from interference and desecration, some tribes will refuse to disclose the exact location to outsiders.

**Wairua** - Spirit.

**Waste Management** - Waste management refers to the transportation, resource recovery, storage, treatment and/or disposal of wastes including management systems to ensure that the environmental effects of these procedures are minimised. Waste management also encompasses measures to avoid waste generation.

**Waste Minimisation** - The modification of existing processes or behaviours to reduce waste production to a minimum.

**Wastewater** - Water-borne wastes, the liquid component of effluent.

**Water** –

- (a) *Means water in all its physical forms whether flowing or not and whether over or under the ground:*

- (b) *Includes fresh water, coastal water, and geothermal water:*
- (c) *Does not include water in any form while in any pipe, tank, or cistern.*

**Water Body** - *Means freshwater or geothermal water in a river, lake, stream, pond, wetland or aquifer, or any part thereof, that is not located within the Coastal Marine Area.*

**Water Course** - See water body.

**Water Quality Guideline** - A numerical concentration limit or narrative statement recommended to support and maintain a designated water use.

**Water Quality Standard** - An objective which is recognised in enforceable environmental control laws, such as water classification or regional rules.

**Water Shortage Direction** -

- (a) *Where a Regional Council considers that at any time there is a serious temporary shortage of water in its region or any part of its region, the Regional Council may issue a direction for either or both of the following –*
  - (i) *that the taking, use, damming, or diversion of water:*
  - (ii) *that the discharge of any contaminant into water, -*  
*is to be apportioned, restricted or suspended to the extent and in the manner set out in the direction.*
- (b) *A direction may relate to any specified water, to water in any specified area, or to water in any specified water body.*
- (c) *A direction may not last for more than 14 days but may be amended, revoked, or renewed by the Regional Council by a subsequent direction.*
- (d) *A direction comes into force on its issue and continues in force until it expires or is revoked.*
- (e) *A direction may be issued by any means the Regional Council thinks appropriate, but notice of the particulars of the direction shall be given to all persons required to apportion, restrict or suspend -*
  - (i) *the taking, use, damming, or diversion of water; or*
  - (ii) *the discharge of any contaminant into water, - as far as they can be ascertained, as soon as practicable after its issue.*

*For the purpose of this section, notice may be given to a person by serving it on the person or by publishing the notice in one or more daily newspapers circulation in the area where the person takes, uses, dams, or diverts the water, or discharges a contaminant into water.*

**Wetland** - *Includes permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water, and land water margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions.*

