

# **PART III: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS POLICY**



## 12. INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### 12.1 Introduction

A principal purpose of the Regional Policy Statement is to provide for policies and methods which achieve integrated management of the Region's natural and physical resources.

Integrated resource management means consideration of the environment as a whole and recognition that changes, or the effects of human activities, in one area or on one resource, can affect other parts of a complex and interconnected system. In order to achieve this, it is essential that the policies, plans and actions of all the authorities involved in resource management (government agencies, regional and district councils and iwi) and those of the community are co-ordinated. This is a key objective of the Regional Policy Statement.

The need for integration between resource management authorities is also required under the Act in terms of dealing with cross boundary issues. Section 62 requires that the Regional Policy Statement identify the processes which are then used to deal with issues which cross local authority boundaries and issues between territorial authorities or between regions. Such issues arise in a number of situations but generally fall into two categories: those related to preparation and review of plans; and those related to administration of plans and associated resource consents.

Cross boundary issues are likely to arise during the preparation of both regional plans and district plans, especially where such plans cover only part of a natural feature e.g. a river catchment or section of coastline. A sharing of information and ideas is required between the respective authorities to avoid the possibility of considerably different approaches being taken to related management issues. At the plan administration level, cross boundary issues are expected to arise mainly where consent is sought to utilise a resource which is situated over or adjacent to a local authority boundary. In these situations the Act provides local authorities with considerable scope to involve all interested parties in the subsequent decision making process. It includes provision for pre-application consultation with affected parties, wide circulation of applications, pre-hearing meetings, and joint hearings. The region's local authorities will use these provisions fully in order to facilitate the resolution of consent-related cross boundary issues. The same procedures are expected to be used for dealing with activity that involves the use of more than one resource, e.g. air, land and water, or has associated cross media effects.

### 12.2 Issues

The following is a summary of the significant issues of the region related to integrated resource management:

1. The limited recognition given to the interlocking nature of natural systems.
2. The lack of knowledge of the operations of natural systems and how human activity affects them.
3. The avoidance of inefficient overlaps or gaps in the work of resource management authorities.

4. The integration of provisions in the Regional Policy Statement, Regional Plans and District Plans, particularly involving the management of:
  - The Coastal Marine Area of the Northland or Auckland regions, the boundary between which runs through the Kaipara Harbour and Pakiri-Mangawhai section of the east coast;
  - Major natural features like the Brynderwyn Hills, Russell State Forest, and Waipoua Forest which cross local authority boundaries;
  - Effects of land use on water, air, soil and important ecosystems;
  - Effects which cross the coastal marine area administrative boundaries;
  - The integration of resource consent decision making processes;
  - Effects which cross traditional tribal boundaries.
5. The conflict between people and communities providing for their social, economic and cultural well-being by using the region's natural and physical resources, while protecting the natural, intrinsic or amenity values of those resources.

### 12.3 Objective

1. **The integrated and co-ordinated management of natural and physical resources, and associated decision making processes, that enable their protection, use and development at both the regional and district level.**

**Explanation** It is a legislative purpose of the Regional Policy Statement to provide policies and methods to achieve integrated management of natural and physical resources. A major aspect of achieving integration is the need for co-ordination in decision making by management agencies.

### 12.4 Policies and Methods of Implementation

#### (a) EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ON EFFECTS OF RESOURCE USE AND THEIR INTER-RELATIONSHIPS

##### Policies

1. To promote increased understanding of the inter-relationships of natural and physical resources and the effects of their use and development so that those resources can be sustainably managed.
2. To promote research into the effects of resource use and inter-relationships.

##### Methods of Implementation

1. *Encourage participation by resource management agencies, interest groups and user groups in environmental education programmes.*

2. *Prepare, in conjunction with the Council's Annual Plan, an annual report on research needs and priorities. (Regional Council)*
3. *Where appropriate, advocate or apply for "public good" funding in conjunction with relevant research agencies, provide financial or logistic support, or co-ordinate and encourage user group funding. (Regional Council)*
4. *Include provisions in the Regional Water and Soil Plan relating to the preparation of catchment specific regional plans where there is an identified need for additional or alternative methods to achieve sustainable management. (Regional Council)*

**Explanation** There are many aspects of the interaction of natural systems and the effects of human activities that are not well understood. People need to be made aware of the impacts of their activities and research is needed so that impacts which cross resource boundaries can be better managed.

**(b) CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTS WHICH CROSS RESOURCE BOUNDARIES**

**Policy**

1. To consider the effects of the use, development and protection of one resource on others, when preparing and administering plans, other management strategies and considering resource consent applications.

**Methods of Implementation**

1. *Assess the implications of the objectives, policies and methods within National, Regional, and District plans, and other resource management strategies, for the Resource Management responsibilities under the jurisdiction of the Regional Council, and manage the adverse effects of any conflicts.*
2. *Use the consultation, submission, plan change, and other mechanisms available under the Resource Management Act and other relevant legislation, to address the adverse effects of any overlaps in Resource Management jurisdiction between Regional and District Councils.*
3. *Include provisions in regional and district plans requiring assessments of environmental effects, including consideration of the effects of the use, development and protection of one resource on others. (Regional and District Councils)*
4. *Include provisions in the Regional Water and Soil Plan relating to the preparation of catchment specific regional plans where there is an identified need for additional or alternative methods to achieve sustainable management. (Regional Council)*
5. *Liaise and consult with community agencies and groups including territorial authorities, ratepayer associations, industry and*

*environmental groups and iwi when preparing catchment specific regional plans. (Regional Council)*

**Explanation** Integrated management requires consideration of effects across resource boundaries (e.g. between air, land and water) and a consideration of the whole environment including natural, physical and cultural aspects, and the social and economic well-being of people and communities.

**(c) DEALING WITH CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES**

**Policies**

1. To ensure that District plans are consistent with the Regional Policy Statement, Regional Plans and other Regional Council resource management mechanisms, and that consistency with National Policy Statements is maintained by all Regional Council policy statements, plans and other resource management mechanisms.
2. To ensure consistency in provisions of National and Regional Policy Statements and regional and district plans.

**Methods of Implementation**

1. *Establish joint consent authority working parties to deal with key cross boundary management issues. (Regional Council and District Councils)*
2. *Circulate draft plans and relevant changes thereto, to constituent or adjoining consent authorities, and make submissions on proposed plans as necessary. (Regional Council and District Councils)*
3. *Provide for informal contact and formal notification to constituent, or adjoining consent authorities for relevant resource consent applications. (Regional Council and District Councils)*
4. *Use pre-hearing meetings and joint hearings for relevant resource consent applications which cross geographical and/or jurisdictional boundaries. (Regional Council and District Councils)*

**Explanation** A variety of formal and informal processes can be adopted to deal with cross boundary issues. In this regard, a degree of flexibility needs to be built into the framework established in this Policy Statement.

**(d) TRANSFER AND DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES**

**Policies**

1. When considering methods of implementation in policy and plans, or any function, or duty or power under the Resource Management Act 1991, to assess which public authority represents the most appropriate community of interest and could most efficiently and effectively carry out that function and to promote the transfer and/or delegation of suitable functions, powers or duties where appropriate.

### **Method of Implementation**

1. *Utilise the provisions in Sections 33 and 34 of the Act relating to the transfer and delegation of functions as appropriate. (Regional Council and District Councils)*

**Explanation** Many agencies including the Regional Council, District Councils, Government Departments and agencies, and iwi authorities either are or could be actively involved in resource management. The work of all these agencies needs to be co-ordinated to provide for efficient and effective resource management, and in some areas possible delegation and transfer of functions may assist in this regard.

## **(e) DUPLICATION OF CONSENT REQUIREMENTS**

### **Policy**

1. To avoid duplications or inconsistencies in the consent requirements of the Regional Council, District Councils and other resource management agencies for any activity or aspect of any activity.

### **Method of Implementation**

1. *Regional Council to consult and where appropriate, make submissions on Regional Policy Statements and Plans of adjoining regions, and District Plans and other resource management mechanisms under its jurisdiction.*
2. *To promote consultation (formal and informal) between district councils and between the District and Regional Councils to integrate the resource consent requirements of affected parties.*

**Explanation** Any requirement for consents provided for in regional and district plans should not overlap or be contradictory. Applicants should not be required to submit consents to different local authorities for the same aspect of the proposed activity.

**(f) CONSIDERATION OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

**Policy**

1. To consider the cumulative and future effects of use, development and protection of natural and physical resources when preparing and administering plans, other management strategies and considering resource consent applications.

**Methods of Implementation**

1. *Include provisions in regional and district plans requiring assessments of environmental effects to include consideration of future and cumulative effects. (Regional and District Councils)*
2. *Educate about the importance of considering future and cumulative effects. (Regional Council in conjunction with other agencies and community groups)*

**Explanation** Integrated management requires consideration of effects over time. The relevant legislative definition of effects under the Resource Management Act 1991 includes cumulative effects and future effects.

## **13. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

### **13.1 Introduction**

This section sets out policy for the involvement of the community in the management of the natural and physical resources of Northland.

Increasing the active involvement of the whole community in resource management is important. Involving the community in setting directions for the future of the region's resources ensures that resource management objectives take into account both the community's need to use resources, and the need to maintain and enhance environmental quality.

While regulatory means will enable a certain amount of control over actions that may cause adverse environmental effects, changes in attitudes to resource use and in the behaviour of large sections of the community are needed if the quality of Northland's environment is to be maintained or enhanced. In order to achieve this, it will be necessary to foster individual and community responsibility for environmental care. Community awareness and involvement in the care of natural and physical resources should lead to significant reductions in pollution and other avoidable adverse effects on the environment.

If the community is to be increasingly involved in resource management activities, people must have greater access to user friendly information. On the other hand, there is also a considerable amount of knowledge, experience and energy within the community which could be used in achieving resource management objectives.

The Resource Management Act provides considerable scope for individual and community involvement in resource management. Councils should consult widely when preparing policies and plans, and are required to consider methods other than regulation to address resource management issues. Councils must also notify those likely to be directly affected by proposed policies, plans, or resource consent applications. There are also provisions in the Act which enable Councils to appoint people from the community onto committees hearing resource consent applications.

Community involvement also extends to monitoring and enforcement. People have an important role to play in reporting pollution related incidents and the monitoring of consent conditions.

## 13.2 Issues

The following is a summary of the significant resource management issues relating to involvement of the community in resource management:

1. The lack of community awareness of resource management problems and issues, the role of resource management agencies in addressing them and of resource consent procedures.
2. The limited amount of environmental studies and resource management material in school curricula.
3. The lack of readily available information on natural resources and management issues.
4. The wish of many individuals, resource users and community groups to be involved in resource management.
5. The limited community understanding of the cultural and spiritual affinity that the Tangata Whenua have with natural resources and the environment.

## 13.3 Objectives

1. **The informed participation of the community in the management of the natural and physical resources of the region.**
2. **Individual and community stewardship of the natural and physical resources of the region.**
3. **Greater public awareness and understanding of Maori cultural and spiritual values associated with natural and physical resources.**

**Explanation** Community awareness and involvement and the better appreciation of Maori values in the care of natural and physical resources should lead to significant reductions in pollution and other avoidable adverse effects on the environment. The success of promoting sustainable management in the region will depend heavily on community ownership of resource management problems and community acceptance and involvement in solutions.

## 13.4 Policies and Methods of Implementation

### (a) EDUCATION

#### Policy

1. To inform resource users of the environmental effects of their activities, the methods to be used to avoid, remedy and mitigate any adverse effects and any monitoring and reporting responsibilities.
2. To inform people of the significance of Maori cultural and spiritual values and associated environmental perspectives.

#### Methods of Implementation

1. *Undertake environmental education programmes. (Regional Council in conjunction with other agencies and appropriate community groups)*
2. *Advocate the promotion of sustainable management of natural and physical resources in school curricula. (Regional Council)*
3. *Prepare and circulate annual monitoring reports to interested parties. (Regional Council)*

**(b) CONSULTATION**

**Policy**

1. To consult widely with and encourage the input of community, public interest and resource user groups when preparing resource management policies, plans, related work programmes and codes of practice.
2. To ensure that appropriate consultation is undertaken with interested parties as part of the resource consent application process and sufficient information is provided to such parties to allow for informed comment.

**Methods of Implementation**

1. *Provide opportunities for community input and consultation when preparing:*
  - *Policies and plans under the Resource Management Act, prior to notification. (Regional and District Councils)*
2. *Promote opportunities, where appropriate, for community input and consultation when preparing:*
  - *Codes of practice.*
  - *Policies and plans for management of natural and physical resources prepared under other legislation.*
  - *Annual Plans and associated work programmes. (Regional Council and District Councils)*

**(c) INVOLVEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION**

**Policy**

1. To investigate, and promote where effective and efficient, opportunities for community involvement in decision making, monitoring and policy implementation.

**Methods of Implementation**

1. *Provide and publicise a pollution and resource management complaint reporting and response system. (Regional Council)*

2. *Investigate and promote opportunities for active involvement of the community when formulating monitoring programmes. (Regional Council)*

**Explanation** To achieve resource management objectives, it is essential to educate and inform the community about those objectives and how they might be achieved.

Increased community involvement in informed resource management decision making and implementation should lead to increased acceptance and active compliance with policy.

Education is needed in relation to all resource management issues and the Regional Council, in consultation with other agencies and the community, has to set priorities and develop and implement an education and community awareness programme.

**(d) CONSENT PROCESSES**

**Policies**

1. To encourage all applicants to consult with relevant community groups and other interested parties prior to submitting their resource consent applications.
2. To ensure that notified resource consent applications are available for public inspection at suitable locations.

**Methods of Implementation**

1. *Advice to consult to be included on all application forms and associated information brochures.*
2. *Consent authority guidelines to be prepared on notification procedures.*

## 14. INVOLVEMENT OF TANGATA WHENUA

*Ko te whakapapa tenei  
Mo nga taonga tuku iho a Io Matua Kore  
Ka moe a Papatuanuku ia Ranginui  
Ka puta  
Ko Tanemahuta, ko Tangaroa  
Ko Tawhirimatea, ko Tumatauenga, ko  
Haumie-tiketike  
Me Rongomatane  
Ko enei nga taonga tuku iho o Ratou Ma  
Ko matou nga kaitiaki mo enei taonga*

Genealogy recites for us our divine Inheritance  
Through the union of Earth Mother and the Sky Father  
Who gave birth to our resources  
And entrusted their care  
Into our hands  
The land and sea, the forests  
And birds, the animals and plants.  
All these treasures, bestowed upon us as nurturers...  
To sustain people

This statement highlights the cultural perspective of the Tangata Whenua on the importance of the natural resources of Northland.

### 14.1 Introduction

The Resource Management Act requires Regional and District Councils to recognise and provide for the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga, as a matter of national importance. Councils must also have regard to kaitiakitanga, and take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) when making decisions.

Court of Appeal and Waitangi Tribunal decisions give legal guidance as to what the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are. Councils and Tangata Whenua must decide how that guidance is to be implemented in resource management in Northland.

This section sets out how Tangata Whenua are to be involved in the sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of Northland. The inclusion of tikanga maori relating to specific resource management issues, such as discharges to water bodies, is addressed in the appropriate resource policy sections in Part IV of this Policy Statement.

## 14.2 Issues

The following is a summary of the significant issues relating to tangata whenua involvement in resource management:

1. Recognition of:
  - Tangata Whenua
  - Ahi kaa
  - Tikanga Maori
  - Tino rangatiratanga
  - Kaitiakitanga.
2. The historical lack of involvement of Tangata Whenua and Ahi Kaa in resource management decision making, resource consent applications, policy formulation, monitoring and implementation, particularly as they affect their taonga.
3. The lack of recognition of tikanga maori in current plans and policy, i.e. management in accordance with tribal cultural and spiritual preferences.
4. Inappropriate or lack of consultation with Tangata Whenua and Ahi Kaa.
5. Tangata Whenua and Ahi kKaa wish to determine what is appropriate management of their taonga.

## 14.3 Objective

1. **Involvement of Tangata Whenua in the management of the natural and physical resources of the region in a manner that recognises and respects Tangata Whenua and Ahi Kaa as kaitiaki o nga taonga tuku iho (guardians of the treasures of their ancestors, as handed down).**

**Explanation** Tangata Whenua are the kaitiaki of their traditional taonga and the Regional and District Councils have delegated authority from the Crown to manage the natural and physical resources of the region. In keeping with the partnership principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the Resource Management Act 1991 (Section 6(e), 7(a) and 8), councils must provide for Tangata Whenua involvement in resource management, particularly where it affects their taonga. Councils have a duty to protect and provide for the sustainable management of their taonga.

## 14.4 Policies and Methods of Implementation

### (a) CONSULTATION - GENERAL

#### Policy

1. To ensure that consultation with Tangata Whenua is undertaken over any matters specified within the Act that may affect their taonga or their use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.

### **Methods of Implementation**

1. *Prepare and implement a guide to consultation for Council and consent applicants. (Regional Council)*
2. *Consult with Tangata Whenua over Resource Management Act policy and plan preparation, consent applications and monitoring, annual plans and any other procedures or Council strategy that may affect their taonga or their use and development of resources. (Regional Council)*
3. *The consultation will be in a form agreed to between the Northland Regional Council and the Tangata Whenua including:*
  - *Being as early as practicable so as to allow for sufficient time to consider issues and respond in a culturally appropriate manner.*
  - *Providing sufficient information, and advice where requested, to allow for informed consultation.*
  - *The level of resources to be provided for effective consultation.*

### **(b) CONSULTATION - CONSENTS**

#### **Policies**

1. For the purposes of notifying and processing resource consents, define the circumstances under which tangata whenua will be considered an affected party.
2. To encourage applicants for consents to consult the appropriate Tangata Whenua groups prior to submitting their application for a resource consent.
3. To encourage applicants for notified consents for activities that may have an adverse effect on the taonga of Tangata Whenua, to consult with Tangata Whenua; with the council to ensure that consultation has occurred prior to a decision being made on their application.
4. Encourage the development by the Tangata Whenua of a transparent and accountable procedure for the identification of taonga.

#### **Methods of Implementation**

1. *In the development of Regional Plans under the Resource Management Act, Council will, in consultation with the Tangata Whenua, develop criteria under which resource consent applications will be notified and circulated to the relevant iwi authority or authorities and Marae Committees. (Regional Council)*
2. *Advice to consult included on application forms. (Regional Council)*
3. *Consultation guideline available for applicants. (Regional Council)*

4. *Include provisions in regional plans in regard to consultation with Tangata Whenua. (Regional Council)*
5. *In conjunction with the Tangata Whenua undertake research to develop transparent and accountable procedures for the identification and protection of taonga. (Regional Council).*

**Explanation** Effective consultation is the only way to determine the relationship between Maori and their taonga and how kaitiakitanga is to be exercised. For consultation to be effective, sufficient time and information must be provided.

Notification and requirements for early consultation by applicants should ensure Tangata Whenua are kept informed of resource use in their area and provide for their early involvement, should they so wish. All activities which require a notified resource consent application are likely to have the potential to affect taonga or Maori use, development and protection of resources, and Tangata Whenua should therefore be notified of all such applications.

### (c) **CONSENT DECISIONS AND HEARINGS**

#### **Policy**

1. To include in all Regional Council reports on resource consent applications, an assessment of the effects of the proposal on Tangata Whenua, their taonga and a record of any consultation with Tangata Whenua.
2. To, where agreed, hold hearings, or offer to hold hearings, in rohe, or on the turangawaewae of Tangata Whenua involved.
3. To recognise and provide for tikanga Maori and use of the Maori language at hearings.

#### **Methods of Implementation**

1. *Include relevant policies in Council hearing procedures. (Regional Council)*
2. *Provide translation services that to the greatest extent practicable are agreeable to the iwi involved. (Regional Council)*
3. *To ensure that, where relevant, iwi planning documents are consulted in the assessment of resource consents.*

**Explanation** These policies require the active consideration of the impacts of proposed developments on the taonga of Tangata Whenua, and provide for Tangata Whenua involvement in hearings.

**(d) IWI RESOURCE PLANNING DOCUMENTS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**Policy**

1. To encourage and support the preparation of iwi resource management policies and plans which set out how Tangata Whenua wish to exercise kaitiakitanga and protect their taonga, and where appropriate, provide information on the taonga.

**Methods of Implementation**

1. *Provision of funding, advice, information, support services or secondment of staff as negotiated between Council and iwi. (Regional Council)*
2. *Provide a publicly available library of iwi resource management policies. (Regional Council)*

**Explanation** Iwi resource management plans may describe resources important to the particular iwi and how they wish them to be protected, or developed. Such plans would be a valuable guide to potential developers and Councils, and may reduce the burden of consultation. Where Councils will benefit from such plans, there are various ways they could encourage and support their preparation.

**(e) IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

**Policy**

1. *To investigate, and where efficient, and effective, provide opportunities for involvement of Tangata Whenua in resource management and monitoring, particularly in relation to their taonga.*

**Method of Implementation**

1. *To identify and provide, where appropriate, opportunities for active iwi involvement when formulating monitoring programmes. (Regional Council)*

**Explanation** There may be situations where Tangata Whenua could provide a cost effective monitoring service, particularly in coastal and remote rural areas. These and other opportunities should be investigated and considered by Councils.

**(f) CULTURAL AWARENESS**

**Policy**

1. To promote the awareness and understanding of Council decision makers and staff of tikanga Maori, Maori kaupapa, and Council's obligations under the Act relating to the Treaty of Waitangi.
2. To promote the awareness and understanding of Tangata Whenua of resource management issues and Council's related functions and obligations.

**Methods of Implementation**

1. *Implement appropriate training programmes. (Regional Council)*
2. *Provide appropriate information on resource management issues to iwi authorities. (Regional Council)*
3. *Provide in conjunction with the Tangata Whenua publications regarding Tangata Whenua and or Iwi Authority Resource Management issues.*

**Explanation** A mutual understanding of resource management issues, from both the perspective of Tangata Whenua and Council, is important in avoiding conflict and resolving problems.

## 15. MONITORING AND REVIEW

### 15.1 Introduction

Monitoring is an important part of all systems which involve planning and organised decision making processes. It enables the parties concerned to check on the progress being made towards the attainment of particular goals or objectives and the effectiveness of related policies and procedures. The Resource Management Act recognises the value of monitoring and gives local authorities major responsibilities in this area.

Section 35 of the Act requires each Regional Council and District Council to monitor:

- (i) The state of the environment of its region or district;
- (ii) The suitability and effectiveness of its policies and plans;
- (iii) The exercise of any functions, etc., delegated by it; and
- (iv) The compliance with resource consents.

While the Resource Management Act's definition of "environment" is very broad, councils are only required to monitor the "state of the environment to the extent that it is appropriate to enable them to effectively carry out their functions". Sections 62, 67 and 75 reinforce the need for monitoring of policy statements and plans promulgated by local authorities under the Act. They are required to specifically outline the procedures to be used in monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of policies and methods in such documents.

### 15.2 Issues

The following is a summary of significant resource management issues relating to monitoring:

1. The inability to define and prioritise resource management issues due to insufficient monitoring and reporting on the state of Northland's environment.
2. The lack of an adequate database on the state of the environment and the difficulty determining associated parameters to be monitored.
3. The wish of Tangata Whenua, other community groups, resource users, consent holders and affected individuals to be involved in, and consulted with, over environmental monitoring and, in particular, consent monitoring.
4. Regular reporting needed of monitoring activities in an easily understood format and to be readily available to interested parties.
5. The cost effectiveness of monitoring and the question of who should pay.

### 15.3 Objectives

1. **The integrated and cost effective monitoring of resource management activities in Northland.**
2. **The provision of an adequate information base on which sound resource management policies and associated decisions can be made.**

**Explanation** Even if local authorities were not obliged to monitor those things set out in the Act, they would need to do so in any case to determine their effectiveness and performance as resource managers.

The scope of environmental monitoring and reporting in Northland needs to be increased so that environmental and resource management problems can be more accurately defined. This in turn would allow for more effective policy development and implementation.

There are a number of resource management agencies and groups in the community which have environmental monitoring functions or needs. The resources, skills and monitoring activities of these organisations should be integrated to increase cost effectiveness. There will be many situations where information collected for a particular purpose can be shared with others who can use it for their own purposes.

Cost effectiveness includes the requirement to effectively report on the results of monitoring, i.e. reporting at appropriate times, to interested parties in a usable format. Monitoring of activities is worthless if it is not usefully reported, and greater emphasis is expected on this aspect in the future.

### 15.4 Policies and Methods of Implementation

#### (a) STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT MONITORING

##### Policies

1. To monitor and report on key indicators of environmental health and well being related to the Council's functions.
2. To promote integration of the Council's state of the environment monitoring activities with those of others undertaken in the region.
3. To consult parties with an interest in state of the environment monitoring activities, including those which are proposed to contribute directly to meeting their cost.

##### Methods of Implementation

1. *Review baseline monitoring activities undertaken in the region.*
2. *Establish an ongoing state of the environment monitoring programme in consultation with other interested parties as part of a Regional Monitoring Strategy. (Regional Council)*
3. *Maintain appropriate databases and provide information on the State of the Environment in Northland. (Regional Council)*

4. *Provide and publicise a pollution and resource management complaint reporting system. (Regional Council)*

**Explanation** The Regional Council is one of several authorities which monitor various aspects of Northland's environment. Its responsibilities in this area have been extended with the introduction of the Resource Management Act. There is a need to review the work currently being undertaken by all agencies and use it as a basis for establishing a broad regional monitoring programme which covers the Council's core functions of air, soil, water and coastal management. This is being done as part of a regional monitoring strategy established in consultation with other interested parties and to be used as a catalyst for cost effective and transparent monitoring across a range of related environmental management activities. Complaints and reports of pollution incidents are a valuable monitoring tool.

**(b) MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT AND REGIONAL PLANS**

**Policy**

1. To monitor the effectiveness of the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans and undertake appropriate changes and reviews.

**Methods of Implementation**

1. *Prepare each year in consultation with interested parties a report for iwi and public comment on the effectiveness of policy statements and plans administered by the Council focusing on:*
  - *Their consistency with other policy statements and plans administered by other agencies; and*
  - *The extent to which their objectives are being met and associated policies being carried out; and*
  - *The nature of any resource consents sought and any difficulties with interpretation and application of policies and rules. (Regional Council)*
2. *Initiate changes to policy statements and plans in accordance with the provisions in the Resource Management Act where necessary to improve their effectiveness. (Regional Council)*
3. *Undertake a complete review of each policy statement and plan no later than ten years after it has been made operative. (Regional Council)*
4. *To monitor the extent to which proposed district plans and proposed changes to district plans are consistent with the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans and make submissions as appropriate. (Regional Council)*

**Explanation** Monitoring and review of the Regional Council's policy statements and plans is expected to be carried out on a regular basis. This is

to ensure that they are kept up to date with changes in environmental conditions, technology, community aspirations and legislation, along with policy statements plans and management strategies produced by other authorities. There is also a need to look periodically at the progress being made in key policy areas and assess community support for the methods which have been adopted.

### (c) **CONSENTS MONITORING**

#### **Policies**

1. To monitor and report on the effectiveness of consent conditions and associated compliance by consent holders.
2. To maximise consent holder involvement in monitoring, where necessary, of their use of resources and associated effects, while retaining a Council audit role.
3. To recover from consent holders the actual and reasonable costs of monitoring compliance with and effectiveness of consent conditions and the effects on the environment of the exercise of consents.
4. To recover from consent holders the actual and reasonable cost of monitoring the effects of their activities on the environment, where such monitoring is undertaken by the Regional Council.
5. To institute appropriate enforcement actions where breaches of consent conditions occur.

#### **Methods of Implementation**

1. *Maintain and where appropriate extend existing consent monitoring. (Regional Council and District Councils)*
2. *Provisions in regional plans enabling consent holder monitoring and reporting. (Regional Council)*
3. *Use the provisions in Section 36 of the Act to set monitoring charges for the recovery of monitoring costs from the holders of resource consents. (Regional Council)*
4. *Prepare each year for iwi and public comment, reports on resource consents and associated monitoring activities undertaken. (Regional Council)*
5. *Utilise the provisions in section 128 of the Resource Management Act to review consent conditions where the specified conditions are not met.*

**Explanation** Councils are required to monitor the exercise of consents in their region or district. However, in some circumstances, it may be more cost effective to have consent holders monitor their own use of resources, while Councils audit any self monitoring. It is often an advantage for consent holders to measure their use of resources or waste generated, as awareness often leads to more efficient use and less waste.