

1. Introduction

Industrial development of Marsden Point has the potential to significantly affect the air quality in the area. There is particular concern for the residential or 'Living' areas of Whangarei Heads, Ruakaka and One Tree Point and those areas having significant ecological values.

This strategy provides a framework for the future management of the Marsden Point area to ensure consistent and equitable decisions on future air discharge consent applications. The strategy recognises the benefits of the existing development while ensuring air quality remains within acceptable levels and that areas of significant ecological value are protected.

The contaminants identified as being critical in the Marsden Point area are particulate matter smaller than ten micron (PM_{10}), sulphur dioxide (SO_2), and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). The strategy focuses on managing these critical contaminants but also provides guidance for other potential discharges of contaminants to air.

There are a number of developments that have had a major bearing on the strategy and these have been resolved just recently. Notable issues include the specifications of 'air sheds' or 'local air management areas' by notice in the New Zealand Gazette, and the outcomes of the Resource Management Amendment Act 2005.

As far as possible, this report aims to present the strategy in a form that can be incorporated into the Regional Air Quality Plan for Northland with little change in format. The intention is to keep the report concise providing the outcomes of background work rather than a deliberation of issues and technical aspects.