

Work Contributing to Regional Plan Implementation Undertaken by the Environment Division

Involving the Community in River and Beach Cleanup Events

Resource Policy staff prepared a report (“Involving the Community in River and Beach Cleanup Events”) describing ways of involving people in the community in stream and beach litter cleanups. This was required to implement Policies 3.3.3.3, 3.3.3.5, 6.3.2.2 and 9.3.1.12 and Method 9.5.9 of the Proposed Regional Coastal Plan.

To give effect to the recommendations outlined in that report, the Department helped organise two beach cleanups for Seaweed in March. One was at Porirua with Keep Porirua Beautiful, a community group run by the national Keep New Zealand Beautiful network. The other was between Houghton Bay and Island Bay.

In May, staff from the Harbours Department helped Keep Porirua Beautiful to undertake a second cleanup targeting a different stretch of the Porirua Harbour. Wellington Regional Council staff, together with Hutt City Council staff, also co-ordinated a litter cleanup of the Waiwhetu Stream with children from Naenae School.

Coastal Structures Inventory

Resource Investigations and Resource Policy staff are compiling an inventory of coastal structures for the western Wellington region. This has involved a field inspection of existing structures along the entire coastline of the western Wellington Region. A survey of the Wairarapa coast was undertaken in 1997.

These surveys are being undertaken to identify redundant and illegal structures. Staff will then investigate options for removal. The Coastal Structures Inventory is required by Methods 5.5.1, 5.5.2, 5.5.3 and 5.5.4 and Policies 5.3.1.8, 5.3.2.2 and 5.3.2.3 in the Proposed Regional Coastal Plan.

Community Participation in Resource Management

Resource Policy staff have met with a group of residents in Otaki who are keen to establish a local Streamcare group and Beachcare group. Residents discussed their concerns about the stream and beach at two separate meetings. To resolve these problems, residents are keen to establish a partnership with other community groups in the area, the Regional Council, and the Kapiti District Council. Staff will work with residents to set up Care groups. In the short term, Massey University has offered technical expertise to help in resolving some of the problems. The residents are also going to start growing plants to use in planting adjacent to the stream and on the sand dunes. The Care groups should be up and running in 4-6 months. These activities implement a number of

policies and methods in the Proposed Regional Freshwater Plan (which is not included in the 1998-99 Regional Plan Implementation Programme) as well as Policies 3.3.3.3, 3.3.3.5 and 9.3.1.12 of the Proposed Regional Coastal Plan.

Literature Review about Discharges from Vessels and Boat Maintenance Sites

Resource Policy staff will undertake a literature review within this financial year on the adverse effects on water quality caused by contaminants discharged from vessels at sea and from boat maintenance sites, in response to Method 9.5.8 of the Proposed Regional Coastal Plan.

Education Programme for Home Owners on On-site Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems

In consultation with territorial authorities in the Region, Resource Policy staff are developing a series of leaflets about the management of on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems. The first set in the series is for home-owners, the second set is for people designing and installing on-site systems. The leaflets will form part of a package for our Consents staff and for territorial authorities to help them administer rules in the Proposed Regional Plan for Discharges to Land that allow on-site discharges as a permitted activity. Council staff are using the leaflet preparation process as an opportunity to discuss the possibilities and practicalities of transferring regional council function for discharges to land from on-site sewage systems to territorial authorities. These activities implement Methods 4.5.1 and 4.5.8 and Policy 4.7 of the Proposed Regional Plan for Discharges to Land.

Energy Audit of Wakefield St Premises

Wellington Regional Council staff are involved with an energy audit of the Regional Council Centre. This audit is described in the report to Council about Regional Policy Statement implementation. However, it is also required to implement Method 3.5.1 of the Proposed Regional Plan for Discharges to Land.

Emissions Inventory

Resource Policy staff have assembled appropriate information and resources and completed background work on an air emissions inventory. This is required by Policy 3 and Method 3 of the Proposed Regional Air Quality Management Plan.

Integrated User Guide

Resource Policy staff prepared a Regional Plan User Guide for the regional plans. A user-friendly version that allows easy searches has been loaded on the Council's Intranet. This version will be able to be put on the Council's Internet site after decisions on submissions on the Regional Freshwater Plan and the Variation to the Discharges to Land Plan have been released. The Regional Plan User Guide implements Policy 17 and Methods 9, 17, 18 and 21 of the Proposed Regional Air Quality Management Plan, Method 6.5.3 and Policies 6.4 and 6.6 of the Proposed Regional Plan for Discharges to Land and Policies 3.3.3.5 and 3.3.3.1 of the Proposed Regional Coastal Plan.

Environmental Education including Information about the Regional Plans

Part of regional plan implementation is to educate resource users about the contents of regional plans, how and when to get a resource consent, and what to do to comply with a permitted activity. There are also issues identified in the plans that can be addressed through community and/or resource user environmental education. For example, an ongoing activity for consents staff (both Consents Management and Consents and Compliance staff) is encouraging farmers to discharge agricultural effluent to land instead of water. Other methods being used include pamphlets and booklets, demonstrations and displays at relevant venues and events, and seminars and courses targeting specific issues. These activities cover the implementation of a large number of policies and methods in all four of the five plans included in the Regional Plan Implementation Strategy.