

Report 99.532

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Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee and the Environment Committee
from Nicki Kinghorn, Policy Advisor, Resource Policy

Promoting Sustainable Land Management

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the intention to complete a report this financial year which will direct a series of sustainable land management initiatives, and to outline the process of consultation that will be used.

2. Background

The suite of Regional Plans for the Wellington Region will soon be operative, and the Resource Policy Department is now looking towards their implementation. Last year, the Regional Plan Implementation Strategy was prepared to direct the implementation of policies and non-regulatory methods in the Regional Plans.

The promotion of sustainable land management is the primary focus of the Proposed Regional Soil Plan (“the Plan”). This will be achieved through the rules of the Plan and, most importantly, through implementing its policies through non-regulatory methods (see Attachment 1). In addition, the promotion of sustainable land management can contribute to the implementation of other regional plans. Relevant provisions from other plans are identified in Attachment 2.

3. A Strategic Approach

Several initiatives relating to sustainable land management are already being implemented by the Council, other government agencies, non-governmental organisations and community groups. The Resource Policy Department intends to take a strategic approach to promoting sustainable land management, that will link with, and build on to these existing initiatives, rather than repeating them, i.e., to avoid “reinventing the wheel”.

During this financial year, a project will be undertaken, with the following objectives:

1. To develop an inventory of sustainable land management initiatives being undertaken in the Region by the Regional Council, territorial authorities, central government, iwi, non-governmental organisations, and community groups;
2. To determine where further sustainable land management initiatives are needed, and how they could link/align with initiatives identified in the inventory;
3. To establish links with other organisations and groups with sustainable land management functions, and obtain agreement and/or commitment on their contribution to future sustainable land management initiatives (e.g., joint initiatives with the Regional Council).

The project will involve:

- reviewing current sustainable land management initiatives being undertaken by the Council;
- establishing appropriate contacts within each territorial local authority in the Region, and with appropriate central government agencies (e.g., Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Department of Conservation), to encourage a two way flow of information relating to sustainable land management initiatives being undertaken by those organisations and the Regional Council;
- consulting with Iwi, non-governmental organisations (e.g., Federated Farmers and the Royal Forest and Bird Society), and community groups, to identify initiatives they are involved in, and to brief them on the objectives of the project and information gathered to date;
- working with the above participants to determine whether, and how, they would like to be involved in future sustainable land management initiatives; and
- preparing a report of recommendations for action, to be reviewed by participants before it is presented to the committees.

The main outcome of the project will be that the Council will be able to promote sustainable land management with the support of the wider community through the implementation of the non-statutory provisions of the Plan.

4. **Timeframes**

The Resource Policy Department will complete the report of recommended actions by the end of the financial year. This will be presented to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee and the Environment Committee.

To date, meetings have been held with staff from all appropriate sections and departments within the Council. Contacts have also been established with each territorial local authority within the Region. Initial telephone discussions have been held with these contacts over how the project will proceed.

Meetings will be held with appropriate central government agencies during October 1999. Following that, a report will be prepared, summarising findings to date, and identifying possible directions for future sustainable land management initiatives. This will be circulated to people who have participated in the project to date and who wish to be updated or further involved in the project. Consultation with iwi, NGOs, and community groups will be planned and initiated in December 1999. These people will be encouraged to identify sustainable land management initiatives that they would like to be involved in, and to make some commitment on their involvement.

5. **Communications**

At this stage of the project, communication will be limited to those parties identified in this report.

6. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and its contents noted

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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Attachments: 2

Regional Soil Plan Policies relating to sustainable land management
<p>Policy 6.1 To promote land management practices that recognise the inherent susceptibility of some landforms to erosion.</p>
<p>Policy 6.2 When considering land use activities which have the potential for irreversible effects on soils, to have regard to locating those activities, where practicable, on soils of low versatility.</p>
<p>Policy 6.3 To encourage the implementation of planned soil conservation initiatives on a whole catchment, sub-catchment or single property basis.</p>
<p>Policy 6.4 To encourage users of soil resources to adopt an ethic of stewardship for future generations.</p>
<p>Policy 6.5 To promote and facilitate the adoption of sustainable land management practices</p>
<p>Policy 6.6 To provide for research and monitoring which will assist the Council to further its sustainable land management objectives</p>
<p>Policy 6.7 To have particular regard to the National Sustainable Land Management Strategy and further develop this for the Wellington Region</p>
<p>Policy 6.8 To work with other relevant agencies and groups in order to determine roles and responsibilities for promoting and achieving a co-ordinated approach to sustainable land management</p>
<p>Policy 6.9 To recognise that land managers and owners have the prime responsibility for achieving sustainable land management in the Wellington Region</p>
<p>Policy 6.10 To recognise that voluntary action by land users is the preferred approach to achieving a change in unsustainable land management practices</p>
<p>Policy 6.11 To recognise that information and support services will be required to achieve voluntary change in unsustainable land management practices</p>

Regional Soil Plan policies relating to sustainable land management cont.
<p>Policy 6.13 To avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of vegetation disturbance by promoting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the maintenance and enhancement of vegetation in erosion prone areas; and/or • the conversion of erosion prone areas to forestry or soil conservation woodlots, or regeneration or active restoration to native bush; and/or • riparian management, including where this will help safeguard the life-supporting capacity of aquatic ecosystems; and/or • compliance with industry recognised standards and procedures such as the Logging Industry Research Organisation’s (LIRO) “Forest Code of Practice” (second Edition, 1993); and/or <p>the maintenance and retention of erosion control plantings</p>
<p>Policy 6.15 To ensure that recognised erosion control and land rehabilitation techniques are adopted to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects resulting from soil disturbance activities.</p>

Regional Soil Plan methods relating to sustainable land management
Regional Soil Plan method
<p>Method 8.1: Co-ordinate and initiate the development of sustainable land management guidelines for the Wellington Region ...</p>
<p>Method 8.j: Initiate discussions with relevant agencies and interest groups to determine roles and responsibilities for promoting and achieving a co-ordinated approach to sustainable land management ...</p>
<p>Method 8.c: Investigate, with Tangata Whenua, methods of identifying, recording, and protecting sites of significance to Tangata Whenua.</p>
<p>Method 8.d: Develop and promote the use of a decision support framework for versatile soils to assist territorial authorities in land use planning and in the consideration of resource consents ...</p>
<p>Method 8.2: Implement a publicity and education programme to increase community understanding and commitment to the ethic of sustainable land management ...</p>
<p>Method 8.6: Promote sustainable land management programmes to raise community awareness, such as the Decision Support Package.</p>

Attachment 2

Policies and Methods in the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land that may be advanced through sustainable land management initiatives

Policies 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.x, 6.6, 8.8,
Methods 3.5.10, 4.5.2, 4.5.5, 5.5.1, 5.5.2, 5.5.3, 5.5.4, 5.5.8, 5.5.9

Policies and Methods in the Regional Freshwater Plan that may be advanced through sustainable land management initiatives

Policies 3.3.7, 3.3.8, 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.4, 4.3.7, 5.3.1, 5.3.4, 6.3.1, 6.3.8, 7.3.13, 7.3.15, 8.3.5, 8.3.16, 9.3.11, 9.3.13
Methods 4.4.5, 7.6.5, 7.6.10, 7.6.11, 7.6.12

Regional Policy Statement methods relating to sustainable land management

Chapter 5. Freshwater
Methods 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 41, 45,

Chapter 6. Soil and Minerals
Methods 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34

Chapter 9. Ecosystems
Methods 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 20