

3.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

3.1 BACKGROUND

The Resource Management Act 1991 establishes a statutory obligation for the Hauraki District Council to undertake a range of specific monitoring functions. The requirement is not just to gather information about compliance with the provisions of the Act and relevant plans and policy documents but also to **monitor** the "State of the Environment" in the District. The obligation includes a requirement to take appropriate remedial actions and to provide information to the general public. These requirements are detailed in Section 35 of the Act.

The Hauraki District Council has developed a monitoring strategy which deals not only with issues in a Resource Management context, but also other contexts relating to Council's responsibilities under other legislative provisions. The Health Act 1956 and the Building Act 1992 are two other (closely related) statutes which place upon the Council specific obligations to monitor "the state of the environment". The District Council response has been to establish a Division of Council which has the role of undertaking these monitoring and evaluation activities.

The strategy for the monitoring activity is related to the effects of activities. The effect of a land use or other activity can be gauged by a range of techniques each with its own aspects. The evaluation of the data gathered is an ongoing undertaking which leads to both formal and informal review of policies, plans and the like. This review leads to changes in policies, plans or methods of controls adopted for specific environmental effects.

The costs associated with monitoring can be obtained from a number of sources, including:

- ✍ holders of resource consents, where the conditions relating to monitoring are contained in the consent
- ✍ Council funding through the Annual Plan
- ✍ funding from government agencies (eg Ministry for the Environment)
- ✍ "indirect funding" by obtaining information from industry organisations, community groups, environmental organisations, government agencies and other sources.

The monitoring strategy is shown in the accompanying diagram.

There are essentially three action elements to the monitoring activity. These are:

3.1.1 COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

The investigation of complaints relating to the effects of a specific activity. The action elements include response, investigation and remedial action including, if required, enforcement actions.

The Council will investigate and act upon (where justified) all complaints relating to environmental effects which are within its responsibility pursuant to Section 31 of the Act. A register and summaries as required pursuant to Section 35 will be kept.

3.1.2 COMPLIANCE SURVEILLANCE (CONDITIONS)

This includes investigation during and post development and remedial action including (if required), enforcement actions relating to specific applications (building consents, resource consents and subdivision consents).

The Council will monitor compliance with all conditions of consent both during development and operation. Remedial action, where necessary, will be required. The Council will undertake enforcement actions if voluntary compliance with conditions of consent or compliance with rules is not forthcoming.

3.1.3 GENERAL SURVEILLANCE (STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT)

The element has two aspects each with a similar range of activities:

1. Routine surveillance is carried out during the course of each working day. This amounts to an inspection of the District and identifies matters that require attention.
2. Specific research activities include land use surveys, statistical analysis of data gained from enforcement activities and from records of building, subdivision and other consents. The results of the analysis will be used by Council in considering the appropriateness of the provisions of this Plan and the nature and type of conditions being imposed on consents.

In particular, the Council will use information obtained to review all objectives and policies and provisions relating to subdivision and rural housing provisions, subdivision standards, development controls and the status of various activities. The maintenance of appropriate records and registers is a prerequisite to this process.

3.1.4 SELF MONITORING

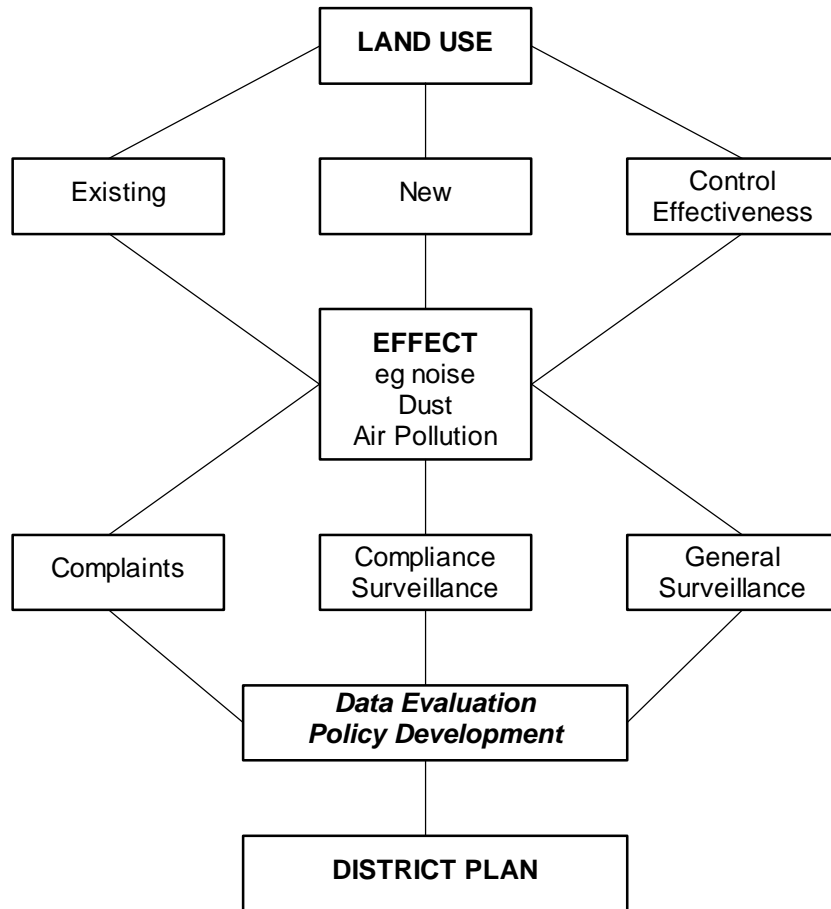
The achievement of the three "action elements" discussed above can be assisted by self monitoring by resource users. There are a range of methods available and used by resource users to carry out self monitoring, and these include:

- ✍ compliance with ISO standards (particularly those relating to environmental auditing).
- ✍ industry standards (eg service station installation of fuel tanks).
- ✍ education (eg Responsible Care by the New Zealand Chemical Industry Council).
- ✍ collection and dissemination of data.

The advantage of self monitoring is that as the responsibility rests with the individual resource user, they have a vested interest in ensuring compliance at all times. The review of self monitoring by peers within the industry or group, adds a further incentive to ensure that the monitoring is carried out.

The demand from overseas markets that New Zealand products are "clean and green" also adds an incentive for environmental monitoring to be carried out.

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL MONITORING STRATEGY



3.2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

1. Are the provisions in the District Plan meeting the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991.
2. What components of the environment need to be monitored to assess whether any changes are occurring in the environment.
3. What are the most effective and efficient methods of carrying out monitoring and evaluation.

3.3 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

The general state of the environment to be enhanced.

3.4 OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Objective 1

To monitor the state of the environment throughout the whole of the District to an extent that is appropriate to enable Council to carry out the functions set out in Sections 31 and 32 of the Act.

Policies

Objective 1 will be achieved by implementation of the following policies:

1. To monitor key resource management indicators as identified within the District Plan.
2. To monitor the operation of all activities, whether established as of right or under a resource consent or mining privilege, within the District to an extent that is appropriate to enable Council to carry out the functions set out in Sections 31 and 32 of the Act.
3. Liaising with the adjoining local authorities and the Waikato Regional Council to ensure that the monitoring information and data collection is compatible with the monitoring that those authorities are undertaking. Swapping of information will ensure that "double monitoring" is not occurring.

Objective 2

To monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the District Plan to an extent that is appropriate to enable Council to evaluate the achievement of the anticipated environmental results desired.

Policies

Objective 2 will be achieved by implementation of the following policies:

1. To undertake consultation and education activities as are necessary in enabling Council to carry out the functions set out in Sections 31 and 32 of the Act.

- Not later than the 1999 financial year publicly report on the status of the achievement of the objectives contained in the District Plan.

Objective 3

To monitor the operation of all activities, whether established as of right or under a resource consent or mining privilege, within the District to an extent that is appropriate to enable Council to carry out the functions set out in Sections 31 and 32 of the Act.

Policies

Objective 3 will be achieved by implementation of the following policies:

- Undertaking activities as are necessary to monitor and ensure compliance with conditions of resource consents, conditions of mining privileges, performance standards of the Plan or other statutory instruments.
- Establish monitoring programmes appropriate to each resource consent at the time of granting consent.
- Taking such actions as necessary (including enforcement actions) to ensure compliance with conditions of resource consents, conditions of mining privileges and the provisions of the plan and other statutory instruments.

Objective 4

To undertake consultation and education activities as are necessary in enabling Council to carry out the functions set out in Sections 31 and 32 of the Act.

Policies

Objective 4 will be achieved by implementation of the following policies:

- Consulting with the community to gauge acceptance and understanding of the Plan and as a result, undertake appropriate educational programmes and/or review those parts of the Plan which give rise to concern.
- Encouraging the use of consultative processes by applicants and consent holders as a means of addressing resource management concerns.

Reasons for All Objectives and Policies

- Sound decision making is based upon having the information necessary to have a clear understanding of the environment and the way that elements within it interrelate and react with each other.
- While the methods presently proposed in the District Plan may be achieving the end results, evaluation of other alternatives needs to be undertaken to consider new methods.
- Exhaustive monitoring of every factor is not required. Rather, gathering and analysing information on "key elements or factors" will indicate if further information, monitoring, evaluation and change is required.
- Consultation is an effective way of obtaining and disseminating information between Council, the general public, other statutory organisations and non-statutory bodies, and of assessing if the District Plan is working or not.
- Monitoring effort and resources needs to be well targeted. A strategy setting out how the monitoring is to be undertaken allows specific monitoring programmes to be developed in a coordinated way.

Financing of the monitoring programme can be planned for and allocated through the Annual Plan.

3.5 METHODS

- Undertaking land use surveys, statistical analysis of development records, research and other information gathering activities to ensure Council has information on:
 - ≪ The state of the environment in the District.
 - ≪ The use, development and state of the physical resources of the District Plan.
 - ≪ The effectiveness of the policies and methods contained in the District Plan.
 - ≪ The social, economic and cultural wellbeing and the health and safety of the community with regard to the use, development and protection of resources.
 - ≪ The effectiveness and efficiency of the Council's administration of the District Plan and the Act.
- Reviewing data and information gathered to determine appropriate courses of action needed to remedy ineffectiveness or inefficiencies identified as a result of the information gathering undertaken under method 1.
- Changing the District Plan as required to achieve the anticipated environmental results desired.
- Developing specific monitoring programmes and identifying them through the annual plan/departmental operation plan cycles.
- Not later than the 1999 financial year publicly report on the status of the achievement of the objectives contained in the District Plan.
- Undertaking activities as are necessary to monitor and ensure compliance with conditions of resource consents, conditions of mining privileges, performance standards of the Plan or other statutory instruments.
- Establish monitoring programmes appropriate to each resource consent at the time of granting consent.
- Taking such actions as necessary (including enforcement actions) to ensure compliance with conditions of resource consents, conditions of mining privileges and the provisions of the plan and other statutory instruments.
- Consulting with the community to gauge acceptance and understanding of the Plan and as a result, undertake appropriate educational programmes and/or review those parts of the Plan which give rise to concern.
- Encouraging the use of consultative processes by applicants and consent holders as a means of addressing resource management concerns.

3.6 REASONS FOR ALL OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND METHODS

1. Sound decision making is based upon having the information necessary to have a clear understanding of the environment and the way that elements within it interrelate and react with each other.
2. While the methods presently proposed in the District Plan may be achieving the end results, evaluation of other alternatives needs to be undertaken to consider new methods.
3. Exhaustive monitoring of every factor is not required. Rather, gathering and analysing information on "key elements or factors" will indicate if further information, monitoring, evaluation and change is required.
4. Consultation is an effective way of obtaining and disseminating information between Council, the general public, other statutory organisations and non-statutory bodies, and of assessing if the District Plan is working or not.
5. Monitoring effort and resources needs to be well targeted. A strategy setting out how the monitoring is to be undertaken allows specific monitoring programmes to be developed in a coordinated way.

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