

7.6 MANAGEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENTS

7.6.1 BACKGROUND

An adequate and quality water supply is one of the fundamental resource requirements for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing and health and safety of the people and communities of the District. In particular, it is recognised that water has a specific cultural and spiritual importance for tangata whenua.

In effect the whole of the Hauraki District is a water catchment, as the water supplies for some of the urban areas come from water sources that have large parts of the District as their water catchment (eg Waihou, Waitakaruru and Piako Rivers). With respect to the Waihou, Waitakaruru and Piako Rivers those water catchment also extend outside the District boundaries.

The quality of the separate water supplies is directly related to the contaminants that are introduced into the catchment and the inherent characteristics/ability of the catchment to purify the water. There are parts of the District that contain vegetation and mineralised rocks which give unique qualities to the water filtering through them. This water quality is reflected in the use and development of some of the waters of the District (eg Lemon & Paeroa, Kiwi Blue).

The control and management of water quality is not specifically a responsibility of the District Council, however there are a number of matters under the District Council's control and management of land use activities that can influence the effect that activities have on water quality. The specific responsibility with water quality and quantity rests with Environment Waikato. The methods available to protect and enhance the water quality of the District are discussed in Section 7.6.5.

7.6.2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Maintenance and protection of existing and future water supply sources from adverse effects of land use and other activities.

The need to actively manage water catchment (eg planting, fencing, removal of weeds), and the cost and resources necessary to carry out that management.

In many instances the water catchment is in private ownership and is actively used by the landowner (especially for farming purposes).

The ecology of some water catchments are particularly vulnerable to the effects of disturbance.

There is more than one use for the water catchments, and the uses can be competing and/or conflicting. There needs to be some process available to resolve those conflicts.

The needs of future generations for water is not known.

Some of the water catchments cross territorial boundaries and the management of the catchments needs to be coordinated between them.

7.6.3 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

Water quality and water quantity maintained or improved.

7.6.4 OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Objective 1

To sustainably manage the water catchments to maintain or enhance water quality and water quantity.

Policies

Objective 1 will be achieved by the implementation of the objectives and policies contained in other sections of the Plan, including Esplanade Reserves, Coastal Environment Policy Area, Conservation (Indigenous Forest) and (Wetland) Zones, and Reserve (Passive) Zone.

7.6.5 METHODS TO IMPLEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The District Plan contains a range of methods designed to manage water catchments, including the following:

- Ø Rules (eg Setback from Public Drains, Lakes, Rivers and Streams; Clearance/Disturbance of Vegetation; Excavation and Fill; and Surface of Water in Lakes, Rivers and Streams)
- Ø Objectives and policies of the Conservation (Indigenous Forest) and (Wetland) Zones, and Reserve (Passive) Zone
- Ø Objectives, policies and rules for Esplanade Reserves and Esplanade Strips
- Ø Designation of the District Council water catchments
- Ø Recognising that the issue of water catchments is a cross boundary issue

Outside the District Plan Council has adopted the use of other methods to manage water catchments, including:

- Ø Landcare Groups in the farming community
- Ø Financial assistance through rates relief for retirement of riparian margins containing significant indigenous flora and/or fauna
- Ø Support for initiatives by other organisations (eg Environment Waikato, Acclimatisation Society), which seek to enhance riparian margins and the revegetation of catchment areas
- Ø Liaison with the adjoining local authorities and Environment Waikato to implement methods across territorial boundaries with respect to water catchments

The range of methods used to enhance the water catchment function will depend on such factors as the ownership of the land, the state of the vegetation (ie is the catchment complete, modified slightly or modified significantly), and the pressures on the catchment for water supply.

7.6.6 ACTIVITIES

There are no activities or rules associated with this section of the Plan. Rather, rules and activity status of activities in other parts of the Plan give effect to the objectives, policies and other provisions of water catchments.