

Significance

Section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002, defines significance as:
significance, in relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter that concerns or is before a local authority, means the degree of importance of the issue, proposal, decision, or matter, as assessed by the local authority, in terms of its likely impact on, and likely consequences for,—

- (a) the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region:
- (b) any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the issue, proposal, decision, or matter:
- (c) the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.

significant, in relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter, means that the issue, proposal, decision, or other matter has a high degree of significance.

**PART 1
General approach to determining which proposals and decisions are significant (s.90(1)(a)).**

When determining the question of the significance of proposals and decisions in relation to issues, assets or other matters the Council will determine the extent to which:

- The consequences or impacts of the issue, assets, or other matters, affect a large number of residents and ratepayers to a moderate extent;
- The consequences or impacts of the issue, assets, or other matters, affect a small number of residents and ratepayers to a large extent; and,
- The issue, asset, or other matters have a history of generating wide public interest within the district, the Waikato Region or New Zealand generally.

PART 2

Thresholds, criteria & processes for determining which proposals and decisions are significant (s.90(1)(b)).

When undertaking a process to determine the extent to which issues, proposals, decisions or other matters are significant, the Council will use the following thresholds, criteria and procedures:

Thresholds:

- Issues, assets, or other matters that incur more than 30% of budgeted expenditure as identified in the Annual Plan and HCP; and/or more than \$1,000,000 of unbudgeted expenditure;
- Any transfer of ownership or control, or the construction, replacement or abandonment, of a strategic asset as defined by the Act or listed in this policy;
- A decision that will, directly or indirectly, significantly affect the capacity of the Council to carry out, or the cost to the Council in carrying out, in relation to any activity identified in the Long-Term Council Community Plan;
- Entry into any partnership with the private sector to carry out a significant activity; and,
- Hauraki District Council owns a number of assets and groups of assets that it considers to be strategic, however not all trading decisions made regarding these assets are regarded as significant nor do they effect the assets strategic nature. For example the roading, land drainage, water supply, waste water, and urban stormwater networks are strategic, but small parcels of land or plant that make these up may not be, and the purchase or sale of such small pieces of land or plant may not amount to significant decisions.

Criteria:

- Whether the asset is a strategic asset within the meaning of the Act or listed in this policy.
- The extent to which there is, or is likely to be, a change in the level of service in carrying out any significant activity.
- The extent to which there is, or is likely to be, a change in the way in which any significant activity is carried out.
- The extent to which there is, or is likely to be, a change in the capacity of the Council to provide any significant service or carry out any significant activity.

Procedures:

- Decisions on 'significance' will be made in accordance with the Council's Governance Statement, standing orders and the Delegation Manual.

PART 3

In accordance with s.90(2) the Council has identified the following strategic assets and groups of strategic assets:

As set out in the Local Government Act 2002 section 5, strategic asset means:

Strategic asset, in relation to the assets held by a local authority, means an asset or group of assets that the local authority needs to retain if the local authority is to maintain the local authority's capacity to achieve or promote any outcome that the local authority determines to be important to the current or future well-being of the community; and includes –

- (a) any asset or group of assets listed in accordance with section 90(2) by the local authority; and
- (b) any land or building owned by the local authority and required to maintain the local authority's capacity to provide affordable housing as part of its social policy; and
- (c) any equity securities held by the local authority in –
 - (i) port company within the meaning of the Port Companies Act 1988;
 - (ii) airport company within the meaning of the Airport Authorities Act 1966.

The assets and groups of assets that Hauraki District Council considers to be strategic are:

- The Hauraki District Council roading network as a whole;
- The Hauraki District Council land drainage network as a whole;
- The Hauraki District Council wastewater network as a whole;
- The Hauraki District Council water network as a whole;
- The Hauraki District Council urban stormwater network as a whole;
- Reserves listed and managed under the Reserves Act;
- Solid waste handling facilities owned and operated by Hauraki District Council;

- Public halls in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi;
- Waihi Events Centre;
- Public library services;

Note 1: Other statutory provisions

The following do not form part of the Council's policy on significance, however they are a range of the sort of other matters which are listed in the Act which require various levels of statutory consultation:

- Establishing a council controlled organisation [s.56];
- Adoption, review or amendment of any bylaw [s.86];
- Any proposal for an alteration in the mode by which a significant activity is undertaken by or on behalf of the Council [s 88(1)];
- Adoption of the Council's Long Term Council Community Plan [s.93(2)];
- Alteration to the Council's Long Term Council Community Plan[s.93(5)];
- Adoption of the Council's Annual Plan [s.95(2)];
- Adoption or amendment of the Council's policy on significance [s.90(4) and s.103-s.108];
- Adoption or amendment of the Council's funding and financial policies [s.102(4)];
- Assessment of the Council's water and other sanitary services [s.125];
- Entry into a partnership or joint venture for the provision of water services [s.137]; and,
- Disposal of a park [s.138].

ASSESSMENT MATRIX:

Is an issue/asset or other matter significant?

		Yes	No	Comment	Consultation
Threshold	>30% above cost in approved Annual Plan and/or HCP				
	> \$1,000,000 unbudgeted expenditure				
	Does it involve a strategic asset?				
	Significant impact on Council ability to deliver HCP?				
	Private Sector partnership?				
Criteria	Does it involve a strategic asset?				
	Will there be a change in the level of service?				
	Will there be a change in the method of service delivery?				
	Will there be a change in the capacity of Council to provide the service?				
Procedure	Priority				
	Other consultation				
	Economic impact				
	Environmental impact				
	Cultural impact				