

7.1 OVERVIEW OF WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENTS, FLOOD MANAGEMENT & RIVER CONTROL & COASTAL INUNDATION CONTROL

7.1.1 BACKGROUND

- (1) As described in Section 3: “Significant Resource Management Issues & Role of the District Plan”, the management of water within and through the Hauraki District is a critical matter to be addressed in the District Plan, particularly having regard to the effects of climate change. The provisions to address this matter are located throughout this District Plan; the purpose of Section 7.1.1 is to set out a summary of each provision and the linkages between them. It needs to be noted that each of the provisions may be applicable to more than one of the aspects of water management.

WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENTS

- (2) 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 addition, it is recognised that water has a specific cultural and spiritual importance for tangata whenua.
- (3) A major part 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 Waitawheta Rivers). With respect to the Waihou, Waitakaruru and Waitawheta Rivers those water catchments also extend outside the District boundaries.
- (4) 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 has been bottled in the past (eg to make Lemon & Paeroa).
- (5) 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 for water quality and quantity rests with Waikato Regional Council.
- (6) The following provisions assist in the maintenance and enhancement of water quality in general and water supply catchments in particular:
- Conservation (Indigenous Forest) Zone (Section 5.2);
 - Karangahake Gorge Zone (Section 5.5);
 - Indigenous Biodiversity and Significant Natural Areas (Section 6.2);
 - Outstanding Natural Landscape Areas;

- Earthworks rules (refer to Section 7.8).

FLOOD MANAGEMENT & RIVER CONTROL

- (7) The Ohinemuri, Waihou, Piako and Waitakaruru river systems and the Maukoro Canal traverse the Hauraki District and historically had a complex interrelationship between them. The river systems have largely been separated by the construction of the river control scheme stopbanks, including the foreshore system. The Ohinemuri River feeds into the Waihou River downstream of Paeroa and, in combination with flood water from the catchment east of Paeroa, can generate flooding risks to Paeroa town and the downstream surrounding rural area. Further upstream in the District, the Waihou and Piako river systems are separated by the Kopuatai Peat Dome and it is the presence of this dome that assists in the management of floodwaters from the Piako River.
- (8) On the lower lying areas of the Hauraki Plains, an integrated system of stopbanks, drains, floodgates and pumps is designed and managed by the Waikato Regional Council and the Hauraki District Council. This is for the purpose of controlling the flow of water from the Ohinemuri, Waihou, Piako and Waitakaruru Rivers through to the Firth of Thames in a manner that minimises flooding, but does not accelerate the process of peat oxidation. The latter is to avoid the acceleration of the lowering of ground levels. The control of flooding assists in enabling farming to be carried out and protects residents living in the District. In addition, the setting of minimum floor levels and setbacks from river control structures protects residential buildings from the adverse effects of flooding in those areas where flooding is part of the flood management system, especially in the Piako Flood Ponding area.
- (9) The following provisions assist both the Waikato Regional and Hauraki District Councils in carrying out flood management and river control activities:
- Paeroa Flood Ponding Zone (Section 5.13);
 - Land “Subject to Inundation” (Rural Zone Rule 5.1.4.3 RD2, Residential Zone Rule 5.7.4.3 RD2 and Industrial Zone Rule 5.12.4.3 RD2);
 - Conservation (Wetland) Zone (Section 5.3);
 - Reserve (Passive) Zone (Section 5.16);
 - Piako Flood Ponding Area (Rural Zone Rules 5.1.4.3(RD5) & 5.1.4.5(NC1 & NC2));
 - Riparian Areas & Esplanades (Section 7.3);
 - Designations for River Control and Drainage Works (Section 7.5);
 - Excavation and Placement of Fill (Section 7.8);
 - Setback From Public Drains, Lakes, Rivers, Streams, Floodways, Spillways, and Flood Protection Works (Rule 8.2.1);
 - Floor Levels (Rule 8.2.2).

COASTAL INUNDATION CONTROL

- (10) There are two distinct coastal environments bordering the District that require two different approaches to the management of coastal inundation.
- (11) Along the Eastern Coastline, the coastal settlement of Whiritoa is the area where the potential adverse effects of coastal inundation require consideration. Whiritoa was one of the first coastal settlements in New Zealand to implement a “Beach Care” project designed to protect and manage the coastal sand dunes in order that through their functioning, the landward urban area would be protected.
- (12) The following provisions assist in coastal protection along the Eastern Coastline:
- Coastal Zone (Section 5.4);
 - Reserve (Passive) Zone (Section 5.16);
 - Erosion Protection Setback Lines (Whiritoa Beach) (Rule 8.2.3).
- (13) Along the Firth of Thames (Tikapa Moana) coastal inundation and protection works are interrelated with, and are effectively an extension to, the flood management and river control works along the Waihou, Piako and Waitakaruru Rivers as they near the Firth. The foreshore stopbanks have the function of providing a barrier to the inundation of the low lying Plains. The foreshore stopbank design levels extend upstream from the river mouth until the river flood profile becomes the dominant factor in determining stopbank levels.
- (14) The following provisions assist in coastal protection along the Firth of Thames:
- Coastal Zone (Section 5.4);
 - Designations for River Control and Drainage Works (Section 7.5).