

Higher Order Direction relevant to evidence of Pamela Guest, GWRC – Supplementary Evidence 1, 21 March 2023

Resource Management Act 1991

s5 Purpose

s7 Other matters

s31 Functions of territorial authorities under this Act

Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019

3(1) The purpose of this Act is to—

(aa) provide a framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies that—

- (i) contribute to the global effort under the Paris Agreement to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels; and
- (ii) allow New Zealand to prepare for, and adapt to, the effects of climate change:

National Policy Statement for Urban Development 2020

Objective 1: New Zealand has well-functioning urban environments that enable all people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing, and for their health and safety, now and into the future.

A well-functioning urban environment is defined in Policy 1

Objective 8: New Zealand’s urban environments: support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and are resilient to the current and future effects of climate change.

Policy 1: Planning decisions contribute to well-functioning urban environments, which are urban environments that, as a minimum: ...

(e) support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and

(f) are resilient to the likely current and future effects of climate change.

Policy 6: When making planning decisions that affect urban environments, decision-makers have particular regard to the following matters: ...

(e) the likely current and future effects of climate change

Te Mana o te Taiao - Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020

Objective 13: Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects.

Outcome 5 includes: Thriving biodiversity plays a central role in our approach to mitigating climate change.

21/03/2023

2025 Goals include: 13.2.1 The potential for indigenous nature-based solutions is understood and being incorporated into planning

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2022

Policy 4: Freshwater is managed as part of New Zealand's integrated response to climate change

3.5 Integrated Management

(1) Adopting an integrated approach, ki uta ki tai, as required by Te Mana o te Wai, requires that local authorities must:

(a) recognise the interconnectedness of the whole environment, from the mountains and lakes, down the rivers to hāpua (lagoons), wāhapū (estuaries) and to the sea; and

(b) recognise interactions between freshwater, land, water bodies, ecosystems, and receiving environments; and

(c) manage freshwater, and land use and development, in catchments in an integrated and sustainable way to avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on the health and well-being of water bodies, freshwater ecosystems, and receiving environments; and

(d) encourage the co-ordination and sequencing of regional or urban growth....

(3) In order to give effect to this National Policy Statement, local authorities that share jurisdiction over a catchment must co-operate in the integrated management of the effects of land use and development on freshwater.

(4) Every territorial authority must include objectives, policies, and methods in its district plan to promote positive effects, and avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects (including cumulative effects), of urban development on the health and well-being of water bodies, freshwater ecosystems, and receiving environments.

Aotearoa New Zealand's first emissions reduction plan 2022

Chapter 4: Working with Nature

Action 4.1: Prioritise nature-based solutions

To address the climate and biodiversity crises together, the Government will:

- prioritise the use of nature-based solutions within our planning and regulatory systems, where possible, for both carbon removals and climate change adaptation
- investigate how to best ensure that a biodiversity lens is applied to climate change policy development and planning in order to prioritise nature-based solutions.

The planning system and infrastructure investment can also support the use of nature-based solutions or blue/green infrastructure – such as water-sensitive urban design, rain gardens and urban trees – which may support carbon removals and improve climate resilience.

Examples of nature-based solutions that remove carbon and support biodiversity include:

▶ restoring wetlands and coastal ecosystems (eg, peatlands, saltmarshes and mangrove swamps) to sequester carbon and provide natural defences against flooding, drought and sea-level rise, while supporting abundant biodiversity

▶ restoring and planting native forests in upper catchments to sequester carbon, reduce flooding and sediment flow into downstream rivers and estuaries and improve habitats.

Some nature-based solutions can also reduce emissions indirectly, for example:

▶ using water-sensitive urban design, which mimics natural processes and uses soil and vegetation to manage stormwater and reduce the need for carbon intensive concrete pipes

▶ integrating green spaces and natural features into urban areas to help with temperature and flood control, improve air quality and create wildlife corridors. This can also make active transport more appealing, provide recreational opportunities and improve health and wellbeing.

Chapter 7: Planning and infrastructure

How we plan and provide infrastructure can reduce emissions and increase resilience

How we provide infrastructure also affects our emissions. Higher-density, mixed-use developments can have lower operational emissions per dwelling and allow infrastructure to be used more efficiently, avoiding or delaying the need for more infrastructure and associated emissions. Non-built solutions to our infrastructure needs – including nature-based solutions – can also reduce the need for built infrastructure made of materials that carry embodied emissions. They can also help to sequester carbon, improve indigenous biodiversity and create more liveable environments that encourage people to walk or cycle, reducing emissions from transport.

Decisions about investment in infrastructure need to take account of the whole-of-life costs and benefits of that investment, including the cost of emissions associated with that infrastructure. The planning and infrastructure systems can also help to prevent development in areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as flooding. Avoiding development in these areas will help us reduce the need for additional infrastructure to protect vulnerable land and assets – saving on emissions from building new infrastructure – and avoid the need to replace or relocate existing infrastructure and buildings.

Aotearoa New Zealand's first national adaptation plan 2022

Objective NE3: Support working with nature to build resilience

Action 5.9

- Prioritise nature-based solutions in our planning and regulatory systems to address the climate and biodiversity crises together.

Action 5.16

- Identify options to increase the integration of nature-based solutions into urban form, which will increase biodiversity and natural areas in urban spaces.

Action 8.7

- Embed nature-based solutions as part of the response to reducing transport emissions and improving climate adaptation and biodiversity outcomes.

21/03/2023

MFE Guidance to local government to give effect to the National Adaptation Plan and the National Emissions Reduction Plan¹

How local government can support the five principles in RMA plan development - includes:

- When developing RMA-related plans, local government should consider climate change issues and the role that RMA plans have in reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.
- Prioritise and encourage nature-based solutions that reduce emissions and have multiple co-benefits. Examples include where a coastal environment affected by rising sea levels and severe weather events, restoring coastal wetlands or dunes rather than using a hard engineering solution, such as a seawall; and in an urban environment blue green infrastructure such as urban trees or water sensitive design.
- RMA-related plans should complement other initiatives in the emissions reduction plan, such as emissions pricing; funding and financing; planning and investment; research, science, innovation and technology; and circular economy and bio economy.

¹ <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/national-adaptation-plan-and-emissions-reduction-plan-guidance-note.pdf>

RPS Change 1 – Provisions relevant to evidence of Pamela Guest, GWRC. Supplementary Evidence 2, 21 March 2023

| Objectives | Policy | Method |
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| <p>Objective CC.1: By 2050, the Wellington Region is a low-emission and climate-resilient region, where climate change mitigation and adaptation are an integral part of:</p> <p>(a) sustainable air, land, freshwater, and coastal management, (b) well-functioning urban environments and rural areas, and (c) well-planned infrastructure.</p> <p>Objective CC.4: <i>Nature-based solutions</i> are an integral part of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation, improving the health and resilience of people, biodiversity, and the natural environment</p> <p>Definition – Nature-based solutions Actions to protect, enhance, or restore natural ecosystems, and the incorporation of natural elements into built environments, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or strengthen the resilience of humans, indigenous biodiversity and the natural environment to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Examples include: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions (climate change mitigation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> planting forests to sequester carbon protecting peatland to retain carbon stores <p>Increasing resilience (climate change adaptation):</p> <p>(a) providing resilience for people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> planting street trees to provide relief from high temperatures restoring coastal dunelands to provide increased resilience to the damaging effects of storms linked to sea level rise leaving space for rivers to undertake their natural movement and accommodate increased floodwaters, the use of water sensitive urban design, such as rain gardens to reduce stormwater runoff in urban areas <p>(b) providing resilience for ecosystems and species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restoring indigenous forest to a healthy state to increase its resilience to increased climate extremes leaving space for estuarine ecosystems, such as salt marshes, to retreat inland in response to sea level rise <p>Objective CC.6 Resource management and adaptation planning increase the resilience of communities and the natural environment to the short, medium, and long-term effects of climate change.</p> <p>Objective 22: Urban development, including housing and infrastructure, is enabled where it demonstrates the characteristics and qualities of well-functioning urban environments, which:</p> <p>(a) Are compact and well designed; and (b) Provide for sufficient development capacity to meet the needs of current and future generations; and</p> | <p>Policy CC.4: Climate resilient urban areas – district and regional plans District and regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods to provide for climate-resilient urban areas by providing for actions and initiatives described in Policy CC.14 which support delivering the characteristics and qualities of well-functioning urban environments.</p> <p><u>Explanation</u> Policy CC.4 directs regional and district plans include relevant provisions to provide for climate resilient urban areas. For the purposes of this policy, climate-resilient urban areas mean urban environments that have the ability to withstand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased temperatures and urban heat island Increased intensity of rainfall and urban flooding Droughts and urban water scarcity and security Increased intensity of wind, cold spells, landslides, fire, and air pollution <p>The policy is directly associated with Policy CC.14 which provides further direction on actions and initiatives to provide for climate resilient urban areas. It is noted that other policies of this RPS also provide for actions and initiatives to deliver climate resilient urban areas, including Policy FW.3.</p> <p>Policy CC.7: Protecting, restoring, and enhancing ecosystems and habitats that provide nature-based solutions to climate change – district and regional plan District and regional plans shall include objectives, policies, rules and/or methods that provide for nature-based solutions to climate change to be part of development and infrastructure planning and design.</p> <p><u>Explanation</u> Development and infrastructure planning and design should include nature-based solutions as standard practice, including green infrastructure, green spaces, and environmentally friendly design elements, to manage issues such as improving water quality and natural hazard protection. Nature-based solutions can perform the roles of traditional infrastructure, while also building resilience to the impacts of climate change and providing benefits for indigenous biodiversity and community well-being.</p> <p>Policy CC.12: Protect, enhance and restore ecosystems that provide nature-based solutions to climate change – consideration When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, a determination shall be made as to whether an activity may adversely affect a <i>nature-based solution</i> to climate change and, in determining whether the proposed activity is appropriate, particular regard shall be given to the impact on those climate change characteristics and functions.</p> <p><u>Explanation</u> Nature-based solutions are critical components of the region’s climate change response. This policy seeks to protect the functions that they provide to support climate change mitigation and/or mitigation.</p> <p>Policy CC.14: Climate-resilient urban areas – consideration When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, provide for actions and initiatives, particularly the use of <i>nature-based solutions</i>, that contribute to climate-resilient urban areas, including:</p> <p>(a) maintaining, enhancing, restoring, and/or creating urban greening at a range of spatial scales to provide urban cooling, including working towards a target of 10 percent tree canopy cover at a suburb-scale by 2030, and 30 percent cover by 2050, (b) the application of water sensitive urban design principles to integrate natural water systems into built form and landscapes, to reduce flooding, improve water quality and overall environmental quality,</p> | <p>Method UD.1: Development manuals and design guides</p> <p>Prepare the following development manuals and design guidance:</p> <p>(a) Urban design guidance to provide for best practice urban design and amenity outcomes in accordance with Policy 67(a); (b) Papakāinga design guidance that are underpinned by Kaupapa which is Māori in partnership with Mana Whenua in accordance with Policy 67(f); and (c) Urban design guidance and development manuals to assist developers in meeting Policy CC.14 and Policy FW.3.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils (via the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee)</i></p> <p>Method CC.6: Identifying nature-based solutions for climate change</p> <p>By 30 June 2024, the Wellington Regional Council will, in partnership with mana whenua/tangata whenua, identify ecosystems in the Wellington Region that should be prioritised for protection, enhancement, and restoration for their contribution as a <i>nature-based solution</i> to climate change, including those that:</p> <p>(a) sequester and/or store carbon (e.g., forest, peatland), (b) provide resilience to people from the impacts of climate change (e.g., coastal dunelands, street trees, and wetlands), (c) provide resilience for indigenous biodiversity from the impacts of climate change, enabling ecosystems and species to persist or adapt (e.g., improving the health of a forest to allow it to better tolerate climate extremes).</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council</i></p> <p>Method CC.9: Support and funding for protecting, enhancing, and restoring indigenous ecosystems and nature-based solutions</p> <p>Provide support, and seek new sources of funding, for programmes that protect, enhance or restore the priority ecosystems identified by Methods IE.2 and CC.7 for their biodiversity values and/or their contribution as nature-based solutions to climate change.</p> <p><i>Implementation: Wellington Regional Council</i></p> |

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| <p>(c) Improve the overall health, well-being and quality of life of the people of the region; and</p> <p>(d) Prioritise the protection and enhancement of the quality and quantity of freshwater; and</p> <p>(e) Achieve the objectives in this RPS relating to the management of air, land, freshwater, coast, and indigenous biodiversity; and</p> <p>(f) Support the transition to a low-emission and climate-resilient region; and</p> <p>(g) Provide for a variety of homes that meet the needs, in terms of type, price, and location, of different households; and</p> <p>(h) Enable Māori to express their cultural and traditional norms by providing for mana whenua / tangata whenua and their relationship with their culture, land, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga; and</p> <p>(i) Support the competitive operation of land and development markets in ways that improve housing affordability, including enabling intensification; and</p> <p>(j) Provide for commercial and industrial development in appropriate locations, including employment close to where people live; and</p> <p>(k) Are well connected through multi-modal (private vehicles, public transport, walking, micro-mobility and cycling) transport networks that provide for good accessibility for all people between housing, jobs, community services, natural spaces, and open space.</p> | <p>(c) capturing, storing, and recycling water at a community-scale (for example, by requiring rain tanks, and setting targets for urban roof area rainwater collection),</p> <p>(d) protecting, enhancing, or restoring natural ecosystems to strengthen the resilience of communities to the impacts of natural hazards and the effects of climate change,</p> <p>(e) providing for efficient use of water and energy in buildings and infrastructure, and</p> <p>(f) buildings and infrastructure that are able to withstand the predicted future temperatures, intensity and duration of rainfall and wind</p> <p><u>Explanation</u> Climate change, combined with population growth and housing intensification, is increasingly challenging the resilience and well-being of urban communities and natural ecosystems, with increasing exposure to natural hazards, and increasing pressure on water supply, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and the health of natural ecosystems. This policy identifies the key attributes required to develop climate-resilience in urban areas and requires district and regional councils to take all opportunities to provide for actions and initiatives, particularly nature-based solutions, that will prepare our urban communities for the changes to come.</p> <p>Policy FW.3: Urban development effects on freshwater and the coastal marine area – district plans District plans shall include objectives, policies, and methods including rules, that give effect to Te Mana o te Wai and section 3.5(4) of the NPS-FM, and in doing so must:</p> <p>(a) Partner with mana whenua / tangata whenua in the preparation of district plans;</p> <p>(b) Protect and enhance Māori freshwater values, including mahinga kai;</p> <p>(c) Provide for mana whenua / tangata whenua and their relationship with their culture, land, water, wāhi tapu and other taonga;</p> <p>(d) Incorporate the use of mātauranga Māori to ensure the effects of urban development are considered appropriately;</p> <p>(e) Adopt an integrated approach, ki uta ki tai, that recognises the interconnectedness of the whole environment to determine the location and form of urban development;</p> <p>(f) Integrate planning and design of stormwater management to achieve multiple improved outcomes – amenity values, recreational, cultural, ecological, climate, vegetation retention;</p> <p>(g) Consider the effects on freshwater and the coastal marine area of subdivision, use and development of land;</p> <p>(h) Consider the use and development of land in relation to target attribute states and any limits set in a regional plan;</p> <p>(i) Require that Water Sensitive Urban Design principles and methods are applied during consideration of subdivision, the extent of impervious surfaces and in the control of stormwater infrastructure;</p> <p>(j) Require that urban development is located and designed to minimise the extent and volume of earthworks and to follow, to the extent practicable, existing land contours;</p> <p>(k) Require that urban development is located and designed to protect and enhance gully heads, rivers, lakes, wetlands, springs, riparian margins and estuaries;</p> <p>(l) Require riparian buffers for all waterbodies and avoid piping of rivers;</p> <p>(m) Require hydrological controls to avoid adverse effects of runoff quantity (flows and volumes) and maintain, to the extent practicable, natural stream flows;</p> <p>(n) Require efficient use of water;</p> <p>(o) Manage land use and development in a way that will minimise the generation of contaminants, including building materials, and the extent of impervious surfaces; (p) Consider daylighting of streams, where practicable; and</p> <p>(q) Consider the effects of land use and development on drinking water sources.</p> <p><u>Explanation</u> Policy FW.3 requires district plans to manage the effects of urban development on freshwater and the coastal marine area.</p> | |
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