

4 Policies

~~Policy P4: Minimising adverse effects~~



~~Where minimisation of adverse effects is required by policies in the Plan, minimisation means reducing adverse effects of the activity to the smallest amount practicable and shall include:~~

- ~~(a) consideration of alternative locations and methods for undertaking the activity that would have less adverse effects, and~~
- ~~(b) locating the activity away from areas identified in Schedule A (outstanding water bodies), Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E (historic heritage), Schedule F (indigenous biodiversity), and~~
- ~~(c) timing the activity, or the adverse effects of the activity, to avoid times of the year when adverse effects may be more severe, or times when receiving environments are more sensitive to adverse effects, and~~
- ~~(d) using **good management practices** for reducing the adverse effects of the activity, and~~
- ~~(e) designing the activity so that the scale or footprint of the activity is as small as practicable.~~

Policy P5: Review of existing consents



The conditions of **existing resource consents** to discharge contaminants to fresh water or coastal water, and to take and use water, may be reviewed pursuant to section 128 of the Resource Management Act 1991. The Regional Council will generally initiate reviews of consent conditions when monitoring results or other evidence demonstrate a review is required, or in respect of future changes to the Plan.

Policy P6: Synchronised expiry and review dates



Resource consents durations for applications required under ss13, 14 and 15 of the RMA may be granted with a common expiry or review date within a **whaitua** or **sub-catchment**, if to ensure:

- ~~(a) the affected resource is fully allocated or over-allocation of resources is avoided and existing over-allocation is phased out;ed, or~~
- (b) the exercise of the resource consent may does not impede the ability to implement an integrated solution approach to manage water quality, quantity or habitat within that **whaitua** or **sub-catchment**.

4.2 Beneficial use and development

~~Policy P7: Uses of land and water~~



~~The cultural, social and economic benefits of using land and water for:~~

- ~~(a) aquaculture, and~~

- ~~(b) treatment, dilution and disposal of wastewater and stormwater, and~~
 - ~~(c) industrial processes and commercial uses associated with the potable water supply network, and~~
 - ~~(d) community and domestic water supply, and~~
 - ~~(e) electricity generation, and~~
 - ~~(f) food production and harvesting, and~~
 - ~~(g) gravel extraction from rivers for flood protection and control purposes, and~~
 - ~~(h) irrigation and stock water, and~~
 - ~~(i) firefighting, and~~
 - ~~(j) contact recreation and Māori customary use, and~~
 - ~~(k) transport along, and access to, water bodies~~
- ~~shall be recognised.~~


Policy P8: Beneficial activities



The following activities are recognised as beneficial and generally appropriate:

- (a) activities for the purpose of restoring natural character, **aquatic ecosystem health**, **mahinga kai**, outstanding water bodies ([Schedule A](#)), sites with significant **mana whenua** values ([Schedule C](#)), ~~and~~ sites with [ecosystems and habitats with](#) significant indigenous biodiversity values ([Schedule F](#)), ~~and trout spawning and juvenile rearing habitats ([Schedule I](#))~~ and
- (b) activities that restore natural features such as beaches, dunes or wetlands that can buffer development from natural hazards, and
- ~~(bb) activities that remove structures that impede fish migration and passage, and~~
- (c) day-lighting of piped streams, and
- (d) removal of aquatic weeds and pest plants, and
- (e) the establishment of river crossings (culverts and bridges) or fences and fence structures that will result in the exclusion of regular **livestock** access from a water body, and
- (f) the retirement, fencing and planting of riparian margins, and
- (g) the retirement of **erosion prone land** from **livestock** access, and

- (h) maintenance and use of existing structures in the coastal marine area, **natural wetlands** and the beds of rivers and lakes that have a beneficial role in enhancing and protecting habitat and its ecological values, and
- (i) removal of dangerous or derelict structures in the coastal marine area, **natural wetlands** and beds of lakes and rivers, and
- (j) structures necessary to provide for monitoring resource use or the state of the environment in the coastal marine area, **natural wetlands** and beds of lakes and rivers, and
- (k) activities necessary to maintain safe navigation, and
- (l) artworks that support and enhance public open space.

Policy P9: Public access to and along the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers 

~~Reduction in~~ Maintain and enhance the extent or quality of public access to and along the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers ~~shall be avoided except where it is necessary~~ to:

- (a) protect the values of estuaries, sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), sites with significant historic heritage value identified in Schedule E (historic heritage) and sites with significant indigenous biodiversity value identified in Schedule F (indigenous biodiversity), ~~or~~
- (b) protect public health and safety, ~~or~~
- (c) provide for a temporary activity such as construction, a recreation or cultural event or stock movement, and where the temporary restrictions shall be for no longer than reasonably necessary before access is fully reinstated, ~~and~~

~~With~~ respect to (a), (b) and (c), where it is necessary to permanently restrict or remove existing public access, the loss of public access shall be mitigated or **offset** by providing enhanced public access at a similar or nearby location.

~~Policy P11: In-stream water storage~~

~~The benefits associated with the damming and storing of water within the bed of a river are recognised when:~~

- ~~(a) there are significant social and economic benefits for the region, and~~
- ~~(b) water remains available for multiple in-stream and out of stream uses concurrently, and~~
- ~~(c) the reliability of water supply improves as a result, and~~
- ~~(d) the damming and storage of water contributes to the efficient allocation and use of water.~~

Policy P15: Flood protection activities



~~The establishment of new **catchment based flood and erosion risk management activities**, and ~~The use, maintenance and ongoing operation of existing **catchment based flood and erosion risk management activities** which manage the risk of flooding to people, **property**, infrastructure and communities are beneficial and generally appropriate: provided the activities are undertaken in a manner that:~~~~

- (a) Protects the life supporting capacity and ecological health and processes of freshwater; and
- (b) Protects cultural values and mahinga kai; and
- (c) Recognises and provides for the habitat of trout and indigenous fish species in Schedule I; and
- (d) Recognises and provides for recreational values; and
- (e) Protects the natural character of the freshwater environment and ensures that the natural character index in table 3.4 is achieved;¹ and
- (f) Provides for the natural flow characteristics and hydrodynamic processes, and the natural pattern and range of water level fluctuations in rivers, lakes and natural wetlands, and avoids adverse effects on these parameters; and
- (g) Recognises and provides for aquatic habitat diversity and quality, including the form, frequency and pattern of pools, runs, and riffles in rivers, and the natural form of rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and coastal habitats, and avoids adverse effects on these parameters; and
- (h) Recognises and provides for habitats that are important to the life cycle and survival of aquatic species, and avoids adverse effects on these parameters; and
- (i) Avoids effects at times which will most affect the breeding, spawning, and dispersal or migration of aquatic species; and
- (j) Avoids creating barriers to the migration or movement of indigenous aquatic species, and restores the connections between fragmented aquatic habitats where appropriate.

~~Policy P16: New flood protection and erosion control~~



~~The social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of new **catchment based flood and erosion risk management activities** are recognised.~~

¹ It is Fish and Game's intention to present evidence in support of the inclusion of a Natural Character Index in Table 3.4 of the pNRP in Hearing Stream 3.