

Environment Division Activities that Contribute to Regional Plan Implementation

Regional co-ordination of cleanup events for Clean Up New Zealand Week

Policies 4.2.32, 4.2.34, 7.2.10, 10.2.12 and Method 15.3.9 of the Regional Coastal Plan commit the Council to help voluntary groups undertake community cleanups of streams and beaches.

In September 1999 the Resource Policy Department undertook the regional co-ordination of Clean Up New Zealand Week. This involved organising meetings with local co-ordinators and helping a number of them with advice, administration, publicity and support leading up to and during the cleanups. It also involved administering the 0800 hotline during Clean Up New Zealand Week.

In addition to Clean Up New Zealand Week, Resource Policy Department staff have also helped with the cleanup of the Waiwhetu Stream.

Harbours Department staff have provided boats and drivers for two community cleanups during this financial year.

Facilitation of the Waitohu Care Group

Throughout this financial year, Resource Policy Department staff have continued to facilitate the Waitohu Care Group. We have provided plants, potting mix and potting bags, reviewed the group's landscape plan, provided stream water quality monitoring training, assisted with dune planting programmes, helped set up the Care Group as an incorporated society, and set out the Care Group's vision, objectives and plans.

These activities implement Policies 4.2.4, 4.2.25, 4.2.27, 7.2.14 and Methods 8.4.13, 8.4.14, 8.6.4 of the Regional Freshwater Plan, Policy 4.2.14 and Method 6.1.5 of the Regional Soil Plan and Policies 4.2.32, 4.2.34, 10.2.12 of the Regional Coastal Plan.

Establishment and facilitation of community advisory groups for the Pauatahanui Inlet and Waiwhetu Stream

During this financial year, Resource Policy Department staff have established and facilitated two community advisory groups with the aim of involving the community more closely in resource management activities and decision-making.

The Pauatahanui Inlet Advisory Group has produced a draft action plan and sought public comment on it.

The Waiwhetu Stream Working Group was formed in March 2000 as the result of a public workshop held at the Waiwhetu Marae. This group will meet for the first time in June 2000.

Council involvement in these community advisory groups contributes to the implementation of six policies and three methods of the Regional Coastal Plan and ten policies and six methods of the Regional Freshwater Plan.

Adopt A Stream activities with Naenae Primary School

Resource Policy Department staff have piloted a number of Adopt a Stream activities with Naenae Primary School including a field trip to native bush, a totara seedling repotting exercise, a water monitoring exercise, and an Arbor Day stream bank planting exercise. These activities will help form the basis of an Adopt a Stream Programme to be developed during the next financial year.

Adopt a Stream contributes to the implementation of Policies 4.2.4, 4.2.25, 4.2.27, 5.2.9, 7.2.14 and Methods 8.4.5, 8.4.13, 8.4.14, 8.6.4 of the Regional Freshwater Plan, and Policy 4.2.14 of the Regional Soil Plan.

Trees for Survival Programme

During this financial year, Resource Policy Department staff have continued to work with the Trees for Survival Programme. This has involved the co-ordination of seedling supplies, planting sites, plant maintenance, materials supplies, displays, presentations, school visits, new units, and a newsletter outlining regional activities.

The Trees for Survival Programme contributes to the implementation of Policies 4.2.25, 4.2.27, 7.2.14 and Methods 8.4.13, 8.4.14, 8.6.4 of the Regional Freshwater Plan and Policy 4.2.14 of the Regional Soil Plan.

Coastal Structures Inventory

Resource Investigations Department staff are compiling an inventory of coastal structures for the western Wellington Region. This has involved a field inspection of existing structures along the entire coastline of the western Wellington Region. A survey of the Wairarapa coastline was undertaken in 1997.

These surveys are being undertaken to identify existing lawful structures that are provided for by the rules in the Regional Coastal Plan, and redundant and illegal structures for which staff will investigate options for removal. The Coastal Structures Inventory is required by Methods 15.1.1, 15.1.2, 15.1.3, 15.1.4 and Policies 6.2.8, 6.2.14, 6.2.15 of the Regional Coastal Plan.

Regional programme for the collection and disposal of unwanted agricultural chemicals

Resource Investigations Department staff have submitted information on this project for the Long Term Financial Strategy. If approved, this activity would be funded as part of the proposed rates increase. This activity is required by Method 6.3.6 of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land.

Agrichemical Users Project

This financial year, Resource Policy Department staff have considered the value of holding seminars on, or subsidising GROWSAFE courses. We concluded that we needed to assess localised needs on a catchment by catchment basis. This would initially be undertaken in the catchments identified within the Sustainable Land Management Action Plan.

The Agrichemical Users Project contributes towards the implementation of Policies 4.2.20, 4.2.21 and Methods 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.4.4, 6.4.5, 6.4.6 of the Air Quality Management Plan and Policies 4.2.38, 4.2.39 of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land.

Education programme for home owners on on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems

In consultation with territorial authorities in the Region, Resource Policy Department staff have developed a series of leaflets for homeowners about the management of on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems. Staff have also developed a technical guide for use by our Consents Management Department staff and territorial authorities to help them administer rules in the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land that allow on-site discharges as a permitted activity. The guide has not yet been distributed to territorial authorities because the NZ Standards have not yet released their standard. The production of the leaflets and the technical guide implement Methods 4.5.1 and 4.5.8 and Policy 4.7 of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land.

Council staff used the leaflet and Guide preparation process to discuss the possibilities and practicalities of transferring regional council functions for discharges to land from on-site sewage systems to territorial authorities. This is required by Method 6.2.4 of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land.

Landfill leachate monitoring

During this financial year, Resource Investigations Department staff have continued the leachate monitoring programme with five landfills identified as high priority. This implements Method 6.1.11 of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land.

Review of the Wellington Regional Council Contaminated Sites Management Programme

Resource Investigations staff continue to maintain and update the Regional ANZECC site use database. They are also part of the Regional Waste Officers Forum who are collectively reviewing the classification of sites on databases throughout the country. The maintenance and review of this database implements Policies 4.2.43, 4.2.46, 4.2.47, 4.2.50 and Methods 6.5.2, 6.5.2 of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land.

Munitions and military equipment dump identification and assessment

Resource Investigations Department staff have commissioned a desktop study to identify and carry out a preliminary risk assessment for all munitions sites in the Region. This will be completed and reported to the Environment Committee during this financial year. This investigation was required by Policy 4.2.44 of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land.

Register of organic farmers

Method 6.4.11 of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land commits the Council to developing and maintaining a register of organic farmers so that Council staff can “involve those farmers in solutions to managing animal pests on their properties having regard to their needs as organic farmers”. All three providers of organic certification in this country have agreed to provide the Council with their lists of organic farmers. These have been combined to form a regional database that will be used by Biosecurity Department Staff in particular. The register will be updated every three months.

Emissions Inventory

During this financial year, Resource Investigations Department staff have produced the “Wellington Emissions Inventory Phase 2 - Area Based Domestic and Commercial Sources”. Staff are also in the process of completing the “Wellington Emissions Inventory Phase 3 – Area Based Biogenic Emissions”, which should be finished by the end of June 2000. This latest Phase 3 document is likely to be presented at the next Environment Committee meeting in July.

These documents are required by Policy 4.2.3 and Method 6.1.3 of the Regional Air Quality Management Plan.

Sustainable Land Management Action Plan

Resource Policy Department staff are preparing a Sustainable Land Management Action Plan for the Wellington Region. Staff intend to initially co-ordinate sustainable land management initiatives for two catchments.

This project contributes towards the implementation of thirteen policies and six methods of the Regional Soil Plan, six policies and nine methods of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land, and sixteen policies and five methods of the Regional Freshwater Plan.

Environmental Management System for the Resource Policy Department

Resource Policy Department staff have developed and completed an Environmental Management System (EMS) for the Resource Policy Department. Other Council Departments have already completed an EMS or are planning to do so. These implement Method 6.1.1 of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land.

Integrated User Guide

Resource Policy Department staff have prepared a Regional Plan User Guide for the regional plans. A web version with hyper links that allow easy searches has been loaded on the Council's Intranet. This version will be released on the Council's Internet site as soon as all of the regional plans are operative. The intranet and a hard copy version are already being used by staff.

The Regional Plan User Guide implements Policy 4.2.20 and Methods 6.1.9, 6.3.3, 6.4.1, 6.4.5 of the Regional Air Quality Management Plan, Method 6.5.3 and Policies 6.4, 6.6 of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land and Policies 4.2.30, 4.2.34 of the Regional Coastal Plan.

Pollution prevention pamphlet development and production

During this financial year Resource Investigations Department staff produced a suite of three "Pollution Prevention" pamphlets. These are entitled "Odour Management", "Stormwater Management" and "Reducing the Risk of Agricultural Spraydrift". These pamphlets are distributed to offenders during pollution response call-outs. Staff also produced a separate stormwater pamphlet for householders. This is required under Policies 5.2.14, 5.2.16 and Methods 8.4.5, 8.4.7, 8.4.9 of the Regional Freshwater Plan, Method 6.1.9 and Policies 4.2.14, 4.2.20 of the Regional Air Quality Management Plan and Methods 15.3.4, 15.5.4 of the Regional Coastal Plan.

Information and education about the regional plans

Regional plan policies and methods require staff to educate resource users about the regional plan contents, how and when to get a resource consent, and what to

do to comply with a permitted activity. This is being achieved through pamphlets and booklets, demonstrations and displays at relevant venues and events, and seminars and courses targeting specific issues. These activities contribute to the implementation of policies and methods in all five regional plans.