

Greater Wellington Regional Council - Proposed Natural Resources Plan - 2015

Case Study – Wellington International Airport – The Effect of the “Minimise” Policy Framework

Hypothetical Project: Proposed Structure and Reclamation to Enable Launch of a Rescue Boat.

- Necessitates extension south into Lyall Bay.
- Structures, plus a reclamation.
- Rule R214 of Proposed Plan provides for the reclamation and drainage for regionally significant infrastructure including associated occupation, destruction, disturbance, deposition, discharge and diversions of water as discretionary activity.

Contextual Matters:

- Schedule K (Significant Surf Breaks)
 - Airport Rights – Lyall Bay
 - Lyall Bay – Club Rooms
 - Lyall Bay – The Corner
- Schedule F2c Habitats for Indigenous Birds in the Coastal Marine Area (Map 18)
- Wellington South Coast (Sinclair Head/Te Rimurapa to Owhiro Bay)
- Five threatened or at-risk species are known to be resident or regular visitors to this site; black shag, variable oyster catcher, red billed gull, white fronted tern, and New Zealand pipit.

Objectives: (supporting*)

3.2 Beneficial Use and Development

Objective 012

The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities are recognised.

Objective 013

The use and ongoing operation of regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities in the coastal marine area are protected from new incompatible use and development occurring under, over, or adjacent to the infrastructure or activity.

Policies: (supporting*)

4.2 Beneficial Use and Development

Policy P12: Benefits of regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation facilities.

Policy P13: Existing regionally significant infrastructure and renewable electricity generation facilities.

* selected

The impact of 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 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 - Bird Habitat:**4.6.2 Sites with significant indigenous biodiversity value**

Policy P40: Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values

Protect and restore....

Policy P41: Managing adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values.

- General “avoidance first” approach, followed by a cascade – remedy, mitigate, offset.

Policy P42: Protecting and restoring ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values.

Policy P43: Restoration and Management Plans.

PLUS

Policy P36: Effects on indigenous bird habitat.

The adverse effects of use and development on the habitats of indigenous birds in the coastal marine area..... for breeding, roosting, feeding and migration shall be minimised.

Policy – Surf Breaks:**4.6.5 Natural features and landscapes and special amenity landscapes.**

Policy P48: Protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes.

Similar structure to NZCPS.

Policy P49: Use and development adjacent to outstanding natural features and landscapes and special amenity areas.

Landscapes and features.

Policy P51: Significant surf breaks.

Use and development in and adjacent to the significant surf breaks identified in Schedule K (surf breaks) shall be managed by minimising the adverse effects on:

- (a) Natural processes, currents, seabed morphology and swell corridors that contribute to significant surf breaks, and
- (b) Access to significant surf breaks within the coastal marine area, on a permanent or ongoing basis.