

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The District Plan is prepared by the Manawatū District *Council* (“*Council*”) in response to its obligations under the Resource Management Act (1991) (“*the Act*”). The District Plan includes objectives, policies and methods to achieve the integrated management of *natural and physical resources* of the Manawatū District.

The Manawatū District Plan became operative in 2002, following local government amalgamation in 1989 and the enactment of the Resource Management Act in 1991. This version of the plan is a reformatted version of the operative plan to reflect the National Planning Standards (2019) layout and coding requirements as much as possible, without making substantive changes to the contents.

Resource Management Act (1991)

The purpose, function and contents of District Plans are directed towards achieving the purpose of *the Act*, which is “to promote the sustainable management of *natural and physical resources*”. *The Act* defines *natural and physical resources* to include “land, water, air, soil, minerals and energy, all forms of plants, animals and all structures”.

Section 5 of *the Act* defines sustainable management as:

“Managing the use, development and protection of *natural and physical resources* in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while:

- a. Sustaining the potential of *natural and physical resources* (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
- b. Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and
- c. Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse *effects* of activities on the *environment*”.

Section 6 of *the Act* identifies matters of national importance, which need to be recognised and provided for in achieving the purpose of *the Act*.

Section 7 of *the Act* deals with 'other matters' which need to be given particular regard to in achieving the purpose of *the Act*.

Section 8 of *the Act* requires the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) to be taken into account in achieving the purpose of the RMA.

The concept of sustainable management is complex and involves a range of considerations, including the following elements:

- managing the adverse *effects* of human activities on the *environment*
- considering the natural *environment*
- enabling people to meet their needs
- considering future generations

To achieve sustainable management, and to maintain it, means managing all these diverse aspects in an integrated manner. Integrated management is the foundation on which sustainability can be built. The District Plan is one component of *Council's* integrated management of the Manawatū District.

The District Plan will encourage, and in some cases require, particular methods to be used as part of development, to promote sustainable management.

Examples of these methods include:

- Controlling the type, scale and location of activities and development in order to manage any adverse *effects* on the *environment*.
- Protecting *sites* and items with significant heritage values including archaeological *sites*, historic Buildings, conservation areas, *sites* of ecological significance, geological items, and notable trees.
- Protecting areas of landscape significance.

While the District Plan regulates land use and related matters specified in Section 31 of *the Act*, action can also be taken through other *Council* processes.