

DISTRICT-WIDE MATTERS

ASW – Activities on the Surface of Water

Issues

GEN-I4

Objectives

ASW-O1	To protect aquatic habitats and ecosystems, residents and other users from the adverse effects of activities on the surface of the District’s rivers and lakes.
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Refer also to GEN-O1, GEN-O2, and ER-O3.

Policies

ASW-P1	To mitigate the effects of surface water use by motorised craft, including noise, traffic, and conflict between users, at sites where such use is having an impact on amenity values or the environment.
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ASW-P2	To assist in avoiding, remedying or mitigating the effects of surface water use upon aquatic habitats and ecosystems, particularly any adverse effects from motorised craft.
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Rules

Permitted Activities (PER)

ASW-R1	All recreational and boating activities other than those listed as <i>discretionary activities</i> shall be <i>permitted activities</i> on the District’s lakes and rivers, provided that they meet the standard below.
ASW-R2	No person shall cause excessive noise by accelerating or racing the engine of a motorised craft while the craft is stationary.

Standards for Permitted Activities

ASW-ST1	No motorised craft on the surface of a lake or river shall cause excessive noise due to the lack of a silencing device, the disrepair of the engine, or the construction or condition of any part of the craft or its machinery.
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Discretionary Activities (DIS)

The following shall be *discretionary activities*:

ASW-R3	<i>Sites</i> for competitions involving motorised craft and held more than twice per year.
	<p>Assessment Criteria:</p> <p>The matters set out in GEN-AC1 to GEN-AC25 will be taken into account in assessing <i>discretionary activities</i>.</p>

Non-Complying Activities (NC)

ASW-R4

Any activity which is not categorised by this chapter as being a *permitted* or *discretionary activity* shall be a *non-complying activity*.

Explanation

District Councils are responsible for controlling the effects of boating and other activities on the surface of lakes (over 8ha in area) and rivers. The main effects are noise and conflict between users, e.g. swimmers vs power boaters. The *Regional Council* has authority for navigational safety on the Manawatū River and its tributaries under the Harbours Act 1950. It has passed a bylaw under that Act to control noise emissions and boat speeds and to coordinate activities on the surface of those rivers. This bylaw is a result of the *Regional Council's* long association with river user groups on the Manawatū River. *Council* fully supports it, but recognises that the primary responsibility for surface water activities under the Resource Management Act remains with the *District Council*.

Activities on the District's water bodies do not cause a significant nuisance at present. The Plan will need to intervene however, in places where intensive use by power boats is having an impact on neighbours and the local environment. The Plan also contains controls over the source of power boat noise. These are similar to those contained in the *Regional Council's* bylaws, and are necessary to make sure that noise on the Rangitikei River is addressed as well.

Methods

District Plan Methods

- ASW – Activities on the Surface of Water Chapter.

Other Methods

- Manawatū River Users Advisory Group.
- *Regional Council* Bylaws under the Harbours Act 1950.
- Water Recreation Regulations 1979.