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NOVEMBER 2010

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## MAI NGA MAUNGA KI TE MOANA

This special edition of Envirocare outlines a new framework for managing the region's environment, infrastructure and buildings. The framework, called the Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS), is a far-reaching planning tool that enables the use of natural resources, such as air, water and land, and allows for the development of roads, other infrastructure and buildings in ways that don't harm our environment.

The proposed RPS was publicly notified on 3 November 2010. This Envirocare gives you some of the background to the RPS, the issues it addresses, and highlights some of its new features. The RPS affects all of us in Waikato, here now and into the future. See the back page for how to get a copy and have your say.

This publication aims to provide background and contextual information for the proposed RPS 2010 and it does not seek to summarise it. Please note that you cannot make a submission on this publication. To make a submission on the proposed RPS 2010, please read that document.



ew.govt.nz  
0800 800 401

# Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement (November 2010)

In accordance with clause 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the Waikato Regional Council hereby publicly notifies the Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement (November 2010).

The RMA requires every regional council to prepare a regional policy statement (RPS), which must be reviewed every 10 years. The purpose of an RPS is to achieve the purpose of the RMA by "providing an overview of the resource management issues of the region, and policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the natural and physical resources of the whole region" (s59 RMA).

The proposed RPS is a far-reaching planning tool that enables the use of natural resources, such as water and land, and allows for the development of roads, infrastructure and buildings in ways that maintain a healthy environment. It identifies the significant resource management issues for the Waikato region and sets out through objectives, policies and methods how air, biodiversity, coastal environments, freshwater, geothermal resources, landscapes, land and soils will be managed in ways that provide for the present without compromising the ability of future generations to provide for their needs.

The proposed RPS can be inspected at Environment Waikato's offices in:

- Hamilton (401 Grey Street)
- Paeroa (13 Opatito Road)
- Taupo (cnr Titiraupenga and Paora Hapi streets)
- Whitianga (33-35 Albert Street).

It can also be inspected at your local city or district council or major libraries within the Waikato region. Copies are available free on our website [www.ew.govt.nz](http://www.ew.govt.nz) or can be requested by calling Environment Waikato's freephone 0800 800 401.

Any person may make a submission on the proposed RPS. The council will prepare a summary of all decisions requested by persons making submissions and will give public notice inviting further submissions. The council will then hold a hearing into submissions and further submissions. The council will give at least 10 working days notice of the dates, times, and place of the hearings to every person who made a submission or further submission and who requested to be heard.

Submissions must be received by 4.00pm on Monday 28 February 2011.

Submissions must be in accordance with Form 5 of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees and Procedure) Regulations 1993 and indicate whether you wish to be heard in support of your submission. Submissions must be in writing and forwarded to the Chief Executive, Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street (PO Box 4010), Hamilton East 3247, faxed to 07 859 0998 or emailed to [rps@ew.govt.nz](mailto:rps@ew.govt.nz). Submissions can also be made using the online form at [www.ew.govt.nz](http://www.ew.govt.nz).

R.F.Laing  
Chief Executive

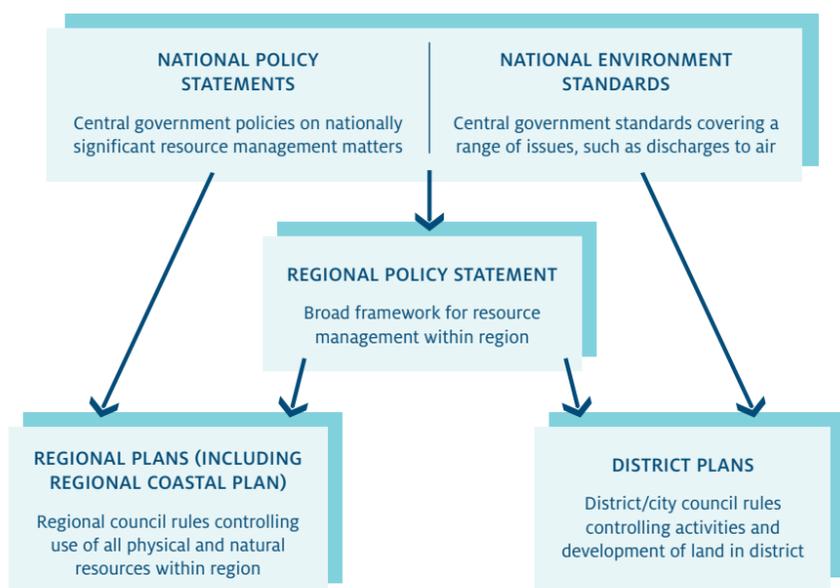
[www.ew.govt.nz](http://www.ew.govt.nz)



The Resource Management Act requires that every person likely to be directly affected by the proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement (proposed RPS 2010) should receive a copy of this public notice.

## The RPS affects us all

Have you ever wondered why councils have particular policies or rules? In some cases, it's because of a planning tool called the Regional Policy Statement. Councils are directly influenced by the RPS, so it ultimately has a bearing on what they do to enhance the environment, and what you or your business can do when you use the region's resources.



### OUR WELLBEING, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Our wellbeing depends on our natural and physical resources, but at the same time our lifestyles place a heavy demand on these resources. To keep the environmental conditions we currently enjoy and to ensure that future generations have similar opportunities, the proposed RPS 2010 directly influences what councils across the region will need to do to protect and enhance the environment. It also guides the processing of resource consents.

WILL YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN ENJOY A SIMILAR QUALITY OF LIFE TO YOU?

### RULES FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

Policies in the proposed RPS 2010 may affect what you can do on your property. Some of the policies require clearer district planning for where future urban and rural residential development should occur, and better planning for infrastructure to service development. District and regional plans will need to support these policies through their development rules.

For example, the proposed RPS 2010 indicates where future urban and industrial development should occur across Hamilton city and Waipa and Waikato districts

over the next 50 years. This is to support the settlement pattern established in the Future Proof Growth Strategy.

### WHAT IT DOES FOR OUR REGION

The proposed RPS 2010 identifies the region's significant resource management issues and sets out how the regional community will deal with them.

It sets the direction for how we will promote sustainable management of our natural and physical (constructed) resources over a 10 year period – and decisions made on matters like infrastructure for many years beyond.

Sustainable management of resources is when we use, develop and protect our natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, that provides for our needs, maintains a healthy environment and will allow future generations to provide for their needs.

### WHY IT'S BEING REVIEWED

The Waikato region's current RPS became operative in 2000, and the Resource Management Act requires us to review our RPS every 10 years. The current RPS will remain operative until the proposed RPS is approved.

See the back page for how to get a copy of the proposed RPS 2010 and have your say.

Vehicles on beaches?

Houses on our best soils?

New houses in hazardous areas?

Prioritise water for household use?

Protect what sort of historic and cultural heritage?

Rules for smoky home fires?

Industrial areas anywhere?

Limit development to protect more untouched areas?

Public access to the coast, lakes and rivers?

Enhancing the relationship of tāngata whenua with the land?

**FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA**

- AIR
- INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY
- BUILT ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE
- COASTAL MARINE AREA
- FRESH WATER
- GEOTHERMAL
- NATURAL HAZARD MANAGEMENT
- HERITAGE
- LANDSCAPES, NATURAL CHARACTER AND AMENITY
- SOILS

For more background and contextual information on the proposed RPS 2010, see *From the Mountains to the Sea*, available at [www.ew.govt.nz](http://www.ew.govt.nz).

# CHANGES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

Between the RPS 2000 and the proposed RPS 2010, five main drivers of change have affected sustainable resource management in the Waikato.

## 1 INTENSIFYING AGRICULTURE

Agriculture in the Waikato has intensified, affecting communities, local economies and the environment.

The number of dairy cattle in region increased by almost 19 per cent between 1999 and 2009, making the region home to 1.8 million dairy cattle in 2009, one third of the national dairy herd. Although there has been a net increase in the land used for dairying, stocking rates have also increased, and some land converted to dairying is on poorer quality soils that require a lot of fertiliser.



While there are major economic benefits, these changes come at a cost to the environment, particularly soil and water quality. More intensive farming's reliance on fertilisers to support higher levels of pasture growth and more cows may contribute to higher nutrient levels in waterways. Between the 1990s and 2007 nitrogen use on dairy farms increased seven-fold. Nitrogen leaching on dairy and sheep and beef farms increased 25 per cent between 1997 and 2002. A larger regional herd size also contributes to more nitrogen leaching to waterways due to extra stock urine. Intensively farmed areas can also suffer from excessive soil fertility and compaction.

## 2 A GROWING REGION

The Waikato region is growing. The population grew by 7.7 per cent between 1996 and 2006 and we have some of the fastest growing areas in New Zealand.

Hamilton, now the fourth fastest growing urban area in New Zealand, grew almost 20 per cent in the 10 years to 2006. In 2005-2006, Hamilton's growth rate outstripped Auckland's.

Urban growth fuelled by increasing population puts pressure on infrastructure and natural resources. Between 1991 and 2006 almost 3000 hectares of rural land was subdivided for mainly residential and rural residential use. More than two-thirds of the land affected by subdivision is classified as being the region's highest quality, productive land.

Auckland and Tauranga are also rapidly developing and many of their resource needs, including energy, water, waste disposal and aggregate supplies, are sourced from the Waikato region, which puts pressure on transport and other infrastructure.



## 3 WAIKATO ENERGY

Waikato is both energy hungry and a major supplier of energy, particularly electricity, which it produces more of than any other region.

The region has the capacity to power up to half the country, and over three-quarters of the electricity generated in the Waikato is exported to other regions.



A rising Waikato population and economic growth are reflected in increased regional demand for electricity. Between 2000 and 2006, Waikato's electricity use grew more than 10 per cent and a 30 per cent increase in peak demand is forecast between 2007 and 2020.

Against this background, Environment Waikato has a key role to play in helping manage both energy resources and related policy issues, such as water allocation, which puts a high priority on allocating water for hydro-electricity generation.

The New Zealand Energy Strategy has signalled a target of having 90 per cent of New Zealand's electricity needs being met by renewable forms of energy by 2025. Given the Waikato's hydro and geothermal resources, related infrastructure and networks, and the fact it produces up to one-third of the nation's renewable electricity, the region is likely to play an important role in the development of future renewable electricity generation nationally.

## 4 TOURISM AND LIFESTYLE

The tourism industry and opportunities for leisure and recreation depend on sustainable management of the environment.

The number of visitor nights spent in the Waikato increased 9 per cent between 2004 and 2007. High tourist numbers and their demands on infrastructure put pressure on high profile attractions based around natural resources such as Waitomo Caves, the Coromandel Peninsula, Lake Taupō and the Tongariro National Park.

More people are flocking to coastal areas, resulting in development pressure on rural coastal land. More than 70 per cent of Coromandel beaches and dunes now have houses on them. There is also greater pressure for commercial developments and development of new or upgraded infrastructure in these areas.



Development in areas prone to natural hazards, such as river flooding and coastal erosion, is an ongoing issue. Along with a changing climate, the frequency and intensity of natural hazards are expected to change.

## 5 POLITICAL CHANGES

Since the RPS came into effect in 2000, there have been a number of changes to the political environment in which it operates.

These changes have given new functions to regional councils, enhanced the role of the RPS, strengthened the planning hierarchy from national down to local levels, and heralded a new era of co-governance with iwi. They include amendments to the Resource Management Act, central government funding of the Waikato Expressway becoming conditional on strong integration of land use and transport planning, the Emissions Trading Scheme and the deed of settlement for the Waikato River.

A number of national directives are emerging including the Land and Water Forum's recommendations to the government on the reform of New Zealand's freshwater management. Infrastructure and urban management are also expected to be addressed in future reforms.

# WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

The proposed RPS 2010 identifies and addresses six key challenges facing the Waikato region in our use of natural and physical resources. By meeting these challenges, we can secure a better future for our region.



## 1. Our natural resources are under pressure.

Maintaining the Waikato region's natural capital is critical to our prosperity, but our fresh water, soils, biodiversity and air are under pressure.

Greater intensification of rural land and urban sprawl fuelled by population growth have had consequences on water quality and soil health.

Water quality decline in terms of increased sediment, nutrients and bacteria, is mainly due to agricultural non-point source pollution such as run-off and stock effluent leaching through groundwater. In urban environments, roads and paving also result in high levels of contaminants such as heavy metals in stormwater, which accumulate in streams and eventually on the coast. Increased demand for water for irrigation and municipal uses also puts pressure on our water.

Intensification of land use has clear links with declining soil quality. Its effects can include soil compaction and excessive fertility. Subdivision of rural land can also take over valuable, productive soil. Soil, especially in hill country, is also under threat from erosion. Contaminants can also build up in agricultural soils from pesticides, animal remedies and fertilisers.

Our biodiversity is under threat due to introduced animal and plant pests, intensifying agriculture, modification and development of land, which can diminish and fragment habitat for native species, and overall development of the region.

Our air can suffer from elevated levels of very fine particles, mainly in winter from older, less efficient forms of solid fuel home heating such as woodburners, vehicle emissions from increased volume of traffic on roads, and incompatible land uses, which can result in people experiencing odour, smoke and dust.

New Zealand's '100% pure' image internationally relies on a healthy environment, and our overseas trading partners expect sustainable production.



## 2. Our climate is changing, so we must too.

Even if all greenhouse gas emissions were stopped now, we will still be affected by greenhouse gas emissions already in the atmosphere, and will need to adapt to changes for generations to come.



Adaptation to changing climate involves minimising the risks and maximising the opportunities by preparing for and adapting to the impact of changes on our economy, environment, infrastructure and way of life.

Climatic changes present significant implications for the Waikato region's environment, economy and the safety of our communities. Agriculture and forestry, our major commercial land uses, could be directly affected by climate change. They could also be affected strongly by any new climate change policy, as could our transport sector. Over the next century our region can expect rising sea levels, more extreme weather, more droughts in the east, more intense rain and increased wind in the west, warmer, drier summers, milder winters and shifting seasons. Increased risk to communities from natural hazards such as

river and coastal flooding, coastal erosion and severe weather are predicted.

Environment Waikato will continue to focus on responding to these effects in activities such as flood management, the use and development of natural resources, planning, building regulations and the design and location of infrastructure.

Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is assisted by the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), the principal tool to help New Zealand meet its international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or take responsibility for emissions above agreed levels. Carbon farming under the ETS provides opportunities for landowners to earn carbon credits from exotic forestry and allows marginal land to revert to native bush and trees.



## 3. We depend on affordable energy, but current sources are dwindling.

Freely available, affordable energy from non-renewable sources is unlikely to continue into the future. We will need to use energy more efficiently and get more of it from renewable sources.

Energy issues have become top of mind for people in recent years, with rising petrol and electricity costs hitting households hard. At the same time, our use of electricity has been rising and is predicted to continue to do so. Demand for energy is increasing in order to service our growing population and economy, expanding urban areas and more technologically dependent lifestyles. We are travelling more and freighting more product. The need to cut carbon emissions to address climate change issues has become increasingly urgent.

To maintain the high standard of living we currently enjoy and to support industry, we need to continue to have access to reliable energy supplies at affordable prices.

Environment Waikato plays a significant role in encouraging regional industry and communities transition to a lower energy regime. The region has a wide range of renewable energy resources including geothermal, hydro and wind, with potential for energy generation from sources such as biofuels, biomass and marine (particularly waves). Policies in the proposed RPS 2010 aim to promote generation of electricity from renewable resources and innovative energy technologies. Environment Waikato is also committed to working together with other local authorities to promote energy efficiency conservation, including reduced transport energy consumption.

Using less energy and more energy efficient sources will also mitigate the effects of climate change, and the effects on our natural resources and landscapes.

## 4. We expect the land to provide for us, both now and in the future.

The challenge is to manage trade-offs between our immediate competing needs and maintaining the land's capacity to provide for us in the long term.



Increasing demand for urban development and intensified pastoral agriculture is putting pressure on land, water and soils. The Waikato region's major commercial land users, pastoral farming (58 per cent) and plantation forestry (12 per cent) rely on appropriate land use and healthy soils.

Subdivision of rural land is increasing, and occurs mostly on land with high productive capabilities. Our coastal areas and rivers and lakes are experiencing increasing pressure for lifestyle developments, while the effects of changing climate are increasing the potential for erosion and flooding in these areas.

Development that occurs without considering future servicing requirements creates problems. It can compromise the efficiency of infrastructure such as roading. Expanding or retrofitting existing infrastructure can be difficult and expensive, and installing new infrastructure can also be problematic.

Adverse effects of development can include:

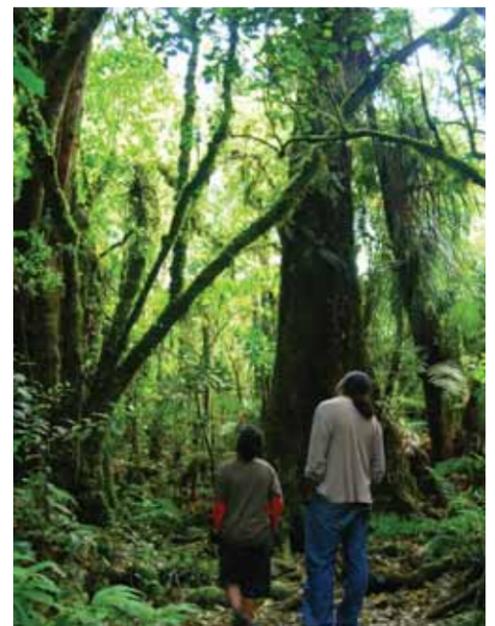
- unplanned impacts on infrastructure, such as road congestion, and ad hoc demands for new infrastructure
- degradation of our air, water and soil quality
- limiting access to, and availability of, the required quality of water, soil and minerals for a particular use
- loss and fragmentation of habitats and species
- loss of and change to important landscapes and features, historic heritage and natural character
- loss of amenity, sense of place and wellbeing (for example loss of green spaces, access to water bodies, excessive noise)
- increased exposure to hazards through unsuitable development in hazardous locations, and increased demand for hazard protection works with attendant effects on the environment
- conflicts between incompatible land uses
- increased carbon footprint due to inefficient use of resources such as energy and dependence on private vehicles.

## 5. The relationship of tāngata whenua with the environment (te taiao) is being damaged.

The relationship tāngata whenua have with the domains of Ranginui (sky father) and Papatūānuku (earth mother) is of paramount importance to iwi, who say this relationship is being damaged.

The relationship of tāngata whenua with te taiao suffers when activities degrade the mauri (life force) of the environment. A lack of understanding and recognition of cultural heritage and its importance to tāngata whenua has led to destruction or degradation of resources and places that are important to tāngata whenua. This has resulted in loss of access, use and enjoyment of these resources and places.

A reduced ability to be involved in or influence resource management decisions has been a long-standing and common concern of tāngata whenua. While this has improved in recent years, partly through Treaty of Waitangi settlements, it remains an issue for tāngata whenua. It impacts the ability of tāngata whenua to exercise their kaitiaki obligations (practices to safeguard, protect and care for resources).



## 6. The Waikato River continues to be degraded.

The health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchments has been and continues to be degraded.

Degradation of the Waikato River affects its mauri (life force) and reduces its ability to provide food and cultural, economic and recreation opportunities. This affects the relationship Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Arawa River Iwi, Maniapoto, Raukawa and indeed all of us have with the river.

The relationship the Waikato River iwi have with the river lies at the heart of their spiritual, cultural, historic and physical wellbeing and their identity.

- To Waikato-Tainui the Waikato River is a tupuna (ancestor) which has mana (importance) and in turn represents the mana and mauri of the tribe.
- Ngāti Tūwharetoa have a direct interest in, and special relationship with, the Waikato River. This includes the rights and responsibilities associated with kaitiakitanga (practices to safeguard, protect and care for resources).
- Te Arawa River Iwi exercise mana whakahaere (authority) in accordance with their long-established tikanga (practices) to ensure the wellbeing of the Waikato River.

- The Waipa River forms part of the catchment of the Waikato River and flows within the rohe (area) of Ngāti Maniapoto. It is integral to their spiritual, cultural, historic and physical wellbeing and their identity.
- The people of Raukawa have their own unique and ancient relationship with the Waikato River. Prominent in their beliefs is the hereditary right and responsibility to protect the river.

Deeds and settlements between the Crown and the respective Waikato River iwi acknowledge that the deterioration of the health of the Waikato River while the Crown had authority over the river has been a source of distress and set in place a framework for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River.



# WHAT'S NEW IN THE PROPOSED RPS 2010

Some of the new features of the proposed RPS 2010 are outlined here, as well as where to look in the proposed RPS 2010 for more information.

## Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

The proposed RPS 2010 recognises that the Waikato River is degraded and contains provisions aimed at restoring the river's health as a regional priority. It also signals a move towards co-governance of resource management between Environment Waikato and iwi. Of particular note is the inclusion of Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River, the key direction-setting document for the protection of the Waikato River, established as part of Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

The focus of the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River is on restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the river for future generations. It applies to the river itself, and also to the activities in the catchments affecting the river.

The Vision and Strategy has unique legislative status as the primary direction-setting document for the river. It has been inserted directly into the proposed RPS 2010 and requires all other parts of the document to be consistent with it. It must also be 'given effect to' by plans developed and administered by regional and territorial authorities along the river.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE WAIKATO RIVER?

In the recently released Waikato River Independent Scoping Study, NIWA envisages the future for the river.

Water quality will be safe for swimming in the main stem and people will be able to gather food over the length of the river. Kai, such as tuna and whitebait, will be more abundant and the needs of traditional harvest by river iwi will be met.

Over time, the waters of the Waipa and lower Waikato will become clearer, returning to their condition pre-1920s (before the hydro dams and recent intensification of agriculture). Their colour will shift from a yellow-green to a blue-green. Some tributaries will be a natural, peat-stained brown.

The ecological integrity and recreation potential of the Waikato's currently degraded lakes will greatly improve. The restored lakes will once more be high quality habitat suitable for supporting good stocks of whitebait, tuna and other taonga species, with flourishing native plants in and around the lakes.

All waahi tapu will be identified and protected. Footpaths, cycleways, boat ramps and reserves along the river will be created. Finally, as people become more engaged in restoration and use of the river, they will see the Waikato River as the jewel in the region's crown.

## Fresh water

Water is consistently the number one concern for people in the Waikato region and is essential to our social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

### MORE DETAIL AND DIRECTION

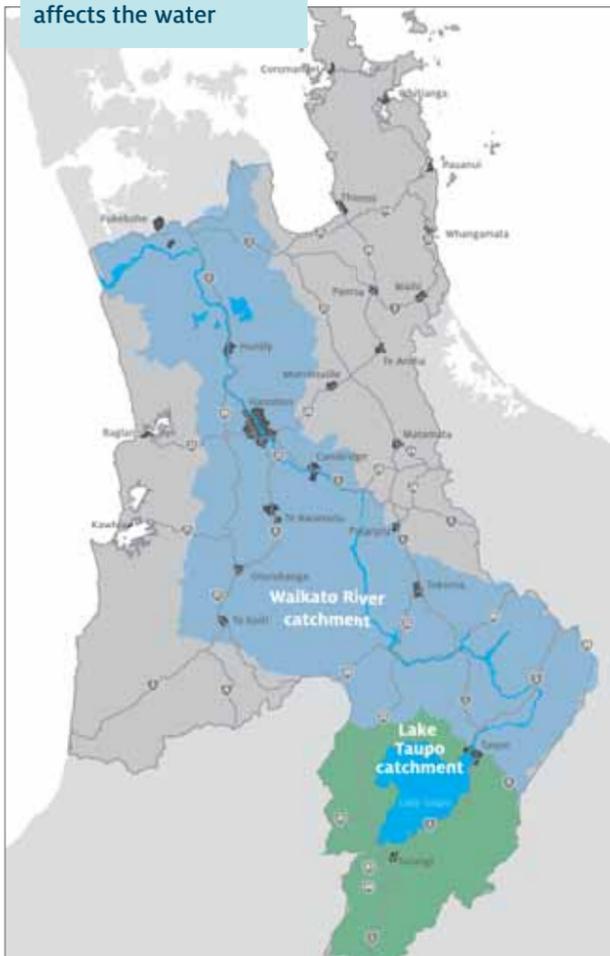
The proposed RPS 2010 provides more detail and direction to Environment Waikato and the region's territorial authorities for managing fresh water than the RPS 2000.

### PRIORITY CATCHMENTS

The proposed RPS 2010 specifies a catchment-based management approach. This approach takes into account the area of land that provides water to a water body and is the most effective and efficient way to improve water bodies. This approach was not specified in the RPS 2000. Lake Taupo and the Waikato River catchments, as shown on the map below, are identified as priorities to address the adverse effects of activities and land use changes.

For more information, see policy 8.4 in the proposed RPS 2010

#### What we do on the land affects the water



### A RANGE OF VALUES TO BE MAINTAINED

Across the region, the proposed RPS 2010 seeks to protect the mauri (life energy) and health of freshwater bodies and identifies a range of values to be maintained. The values include freshwater bodies':

- capacity to provide suitable drinking water
- intrinsic natural qualities and functioning
- ecological values that provide habitat for native species and support ecosystems
- ability to allow harvesting of safe sources of food
- ability to offer recreation such as swimming
- cultural values such as the relationship of tāngata whenua with fresh water

For more information, see objective 3.13 in the proposed RPS 2010

### IDENTIFIES WATER BODIES FOR PROTECTION

Both the proposed RPS 2010 and the RPS 2000 recognise that some water bodies in the region have particularly high value and are relatively unmodified by people. A key difference is that the proposed RPS 2010 identifies some lakes and parts of rivers for protection, as listed below. Additional high value water bodies might be identified in the regional plan.

#### Water bodies identified for protection

##### Rivers

Hikutaia River (at Old Maratoto Rd)  
Hinemaiaia River (at SH1)  
Kauaeranga River (at Smith's cableway)  
Kuratau River (at Lake Taupo)  
Tauranga-Taupo River (at Te Kono Slackline)  
Tongariro River (at Turangi)  
Waihaha River (at SH32)  
Waikato River (between Taupo Gates and Waipapa tailrace)  
Waitahanui River (at Blake Rd)  
Waiwawa River (at SH25 Coroglen)  
Pueto Stream (at Broadlands Rd)  
Waihou River (at Whites Rd)  
Whanganui Stream (at Lake Taupo)

##### Lakes

Lake Rotopounamu  
Upper Tama  
Lower Tama  
Blue Lake  
Lake Koroha  
Emerald Lakes  
Lake Taupo  
Lake Maratoto  
Lake Harihari  
Lake Taharoa  
Lake Rotoaira  
Lake Serpentine  
Lake Otamatearoa  
Lake Ngahewa

### REDUCE SEDIMENTATION AND MICROBIAL CONTAMINATION

The proposed RPS 2010 seeks to maintain or enhance water bodies' values by reducing sedimentation and microbial contamination. To support this, the regional plan review may include new stock exclusion rules to control access to water bodies across the region. Currently discretionary activity consents for stock accessing water bodies are required only in some parts of the region.

For more information, see method 8.3.2 in the proposed RPS 2010

### PRIORITISE WATER ALLOCATION

Increasing demand for water will be managed by prioritising resource consent applications for the take and use of water, with greatest priority given to domestic and municipal supplies.

For more information, see method 8.6.2 in the proposed RPS 2010

# Landscape, natural character and amenity

Landscapes provide us with opportunities for recreation, a sense of place and identity, and remind us of the past.

## PROTECTING OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES

Twelve regionally outstanding natural features and landscapes are identified in the proposed RPS 2010. It is likely that other locally outstanding natural features and landscapes will be identified by territorial authorities.

A range of criteria are used to identify outstanding natural features and landscapes including aesthetic values, physical and scientific attributes and natural qualities. The focus is on protecting the special qualities of a landscape through district and regional plans, rather than the entire landscape itself. This means that development and other activities could still occur in these areas, but only if the landscape's special qualities are not affected.

*For more information, see policy 12.1 in the proposed RPS 2010*

NORTHERN TIP OF THE COROMANDEL PENINSULA AND WESTERN SLOPES OF MOEHAU RANGE OUT TO COAST

TUATEAWA

CATHEDRAL COVE, SHAKESPEARE CLIFF AND COASTLINE SOUTH OF HAHEI

COROMANDEL AND MOEHAU RANGES

KAIMAI RANGE (north of Ngatamahinerua)

MOUNT KARIOI

MOUNT PIRONGIA

NORTHERN HERANGI RANGE

MAUNGATAUTARI

LAKE TAUPŌ

## VEHICLE ACCESS ON BEACHES

Maintaining and enhancing public access to and along coastal areas, lakes and rivers is important and will only be restricted where necessary to protect special areas or values, public health and safety or other specific circumstances as outlined in the proposed RPS 2010. Inappropriate vehicle use on beaches has been an issue for a number of years within the region, especially in summer, and the proposed RPS 2010 signals that vehicle use will be restricted in sensitive coastal areas, to protect people's safety and enjoyment, dune stability, native vegetation, and habitat for threatened and at risk native species.

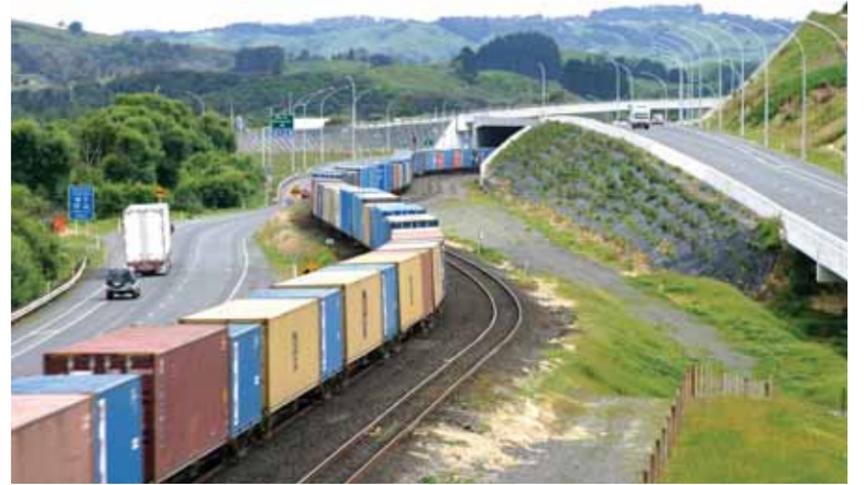
*For more information, see policy 12.5 in the proposed RPS 2010*

TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

KAIMANAWA MOUNTAINS

# Built environment, transport and other infrastructure

Roads, water supply, power grids and other infrastructure support our community and are needed for new urban and rural residential development.



## SMART GROWTH

The RPS 2000 did not significantly influence the development of the built environment. Increasing population and subdivision pressures are increasing infrastructure costs and land use conflicts so that management of the built environment is now one of the six key issues driving the objectives, policies and methods in the proposed RPS 2010.

The proposed RPS 2010 takes a stronger role in ensuring development of the built environment occurs in a planned and coordinated manner. It addresses development pressures to a much greater degree than the RPS 2000, with 18 policies covering the management of the region's physical resources compared to a single policy in the RPS 2000, that prevented subdivision and development affecting infrastructure's functioning.

The policies in the proposed RPS 2010 provide stronger direction for land use planning for rural residential and urban development, and direct development away from high class soils, natural hazards, likely renewable energy generation sites and significant mineral resources.

## COORDINATING GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

There is greater coordination of new development with transport and other infrastructure in the proposed RPS 2010. This ensures that new development is located to make use of existing infrastructure, or does not go ahead until appropriate infrastructure exists. This cost-effective approach makes use of the full potential of existing infrastructure before new infrastructure is built, and protects both existing and planned infrastructure.

The policies also help to ensure new development supports the directions of the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

*For more information, see policies 6.3 and 6.6 in the proposed RPS 2010*

## ENCOURAGING ENERGY EFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT

As demand for energy rises and oil-based energy becomes more expensive, the proposed RPS 2010 encourages energy efficient urban development and the use of on-site and community-based renewable energy technologies. Development's role in reducing transport energy demand is also addressed.

*For more information, see policy 6.5 in the proposed RPS 2010*

## SUPPORT FOR FUTURE PROOF AND OTHER SUB-REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGIES

Policies in the proposed RPS 2010 support sub-regional growth management strategies such as the Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint, Taupo District 2050, the Franklin District Growth Strategy, and Future Proof, the growth strategy for the Hamilton basin.

The Future Proof policies in the proposed RPS 2010 are aimed at achieving more compact and better planned urban environments, allowing people to live, work and play within their local area. This reduces urban sprawl onto high quality farm land, transport energy demand and the need for future development of transport infrastructure. Other policies cover the location of new large scale commercial activities, rural residential and industrial development.

*For more information, see policies 6.9 to 6.18 in the proposed RPS 2010*

# INFLUENCE YOUR FUTURE ENVIRONMENT

...AND THAT OF FOLLOWING GENERATIONS

Environment Waikato encourages you to make a submission on the proposed RPS 2010 before it is finalised. Anyone can make a submission, and it is a major way to influence the future of our region.

Both the print and web versions of the proposed RPS 2010 come with a submission form. You can either complete the submission form and return it, or make a submission online at Environment Waikato's website [www.ew.govt.nz](http://www.ew.govt.nz).

**Submissions close 4pm on Monday 28 February 2011.**

## View the proposed RPS 2010...

At any Environment Waikato office | 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Online at [www.ew.govt.nz](http://www.ew.govt.nz)



Hamilton – 401 Grey Street

Paeroa – 13 Opatito Road

Taupō – Corner of Paora Hapi and Titiraupenga streets

Whitianga – 33-35 Albert Street

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

### Submissions till 28 February 2011

Submissions are received and should include why the various parts are supported or opposed or if there is a neutral stance. Submitters can provide information they think the council should consider in making its decision. Submitters should also indicate if they wish to speak at a hearing.

### Summary of submissions

A summary of submissions will be prepared and publicly notified. The summary contains a description of all decisions requested and the reasons for those requests.

### Further submissions

Further submitters indicate whether or not they support submissions. The summary of submissions will outline the process for further submissions.

### Staff reports prepared

Council staff will prepare reports for the Hearings Committee outlining the requests of submitters and recommendations for them. These will be sent to submitters on a given topic.

### Hearings

The hearing gives submitters the opportunity to formally present their views to a Hearings Committee.

### Council releases decisions

Following the hearing and consideration of all submissions, the council will release its decisions along with a 'Decisions Version' of the Regional Policy Statement.

### Appeals

There is an opportunity for submitters to appeal decisions made by the council on the Regional Policy Statement to the Environment Court.

For more information on the review of the RPS, visit [www.ew.govt.nz/rpsreview](http://www.ew.govt.nz/rpsreview).

## COUNCILLORS' CONTACTS

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### AT YOUR LOCAL CITY OR DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICE

#### HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL

Garden Place, Hamilton  
8am - 4.45pm - Mon to Fri

#### HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

William Street, Paeroa  
8am - 4.30pm - Mon to Fri

#### MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT COUNCIL

35 Kenrick Street, Te Aroha  
8am - 5pm - Mon to Fri

#### OTOROHANGA DISTRICT COUNCIL

17 Maniapoto Street Otorohanga  
8am - 5pm - Mon to Fri

#### ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua  
8am - 5pm - Mon to Fri

#### SOUTH WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Torphin Crescent Tokoroa  
8am - 5pm - Mon to Fri

#### TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL

72 Lake Terrace, Taupo  
8am - 5pm - Mon to Fri

#### THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL

515 Mackay Street, Thames  
8am - 5pm - Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri  
8am - 4.30pm - Wed

#### WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL

15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia  
8am - 5pm - Mon to Thu  
9am - 5pm - Fri

#### WAIAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu  
8am - 5pm - Mon, Tue, Fri  
9am - 5pm - Wed, Thu

#### WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Queen Street, Te Kuiti  
8am - 5pm - Mon to Fri

### AT MAJOR LIBRARIES

#### CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

23 Wilson Street, Cambridge  
9am - 5pm - Mon, Thu  
9.30am - 5pm - Tue  
9am - 8pm - Wed, Fri  
9.30am - 1pm - Sat

#### DINSDALE LIBRARY

Whatawhata Road  
9am - 5.30pm - Mon to Thu  
9am - 6pm - Fri  
9am - 12.30pm - Sat

#### GLENVIEW LIBRARY

MacDonald Road  
9am - 5pm - Mon to Wed, Fri  
9am - 6pm - Thu  
9am - 12.30pm - Sat

#### HILLCREST LIBRARY

Masters Ave  
9am - 5pm - Mon to Thu  
9am - 6pm - Fri  
9am - 12.30pm - Sat

#### HUNTLY LIBRARY

142 Main Street, Huntly  
9am - 5pm - Mon to Fri  
9.30am - 12.30pm - Sat

#### MATAMATA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tui Street, Matamata  
9am - 5pm - Mon, Tue, Thu  
10am - 5pm - Wed  
9am - 7pm - Fri  
9am - 1pm - Sat

#### MORRINSVILLE LIBRARY

Canada Street, Morrinsville  
9am - 5pm - Mon, Tue, Thu  
10am - 5pm - Wed  
9am - 7pm - Fri  
9am - 1pm - Sat

#### OTOROHANGA PUBLIC LIBRARY

27 Turongo Street, Otorohanga  
9am - 5pm - Mon to Thu  
9am - 5.30pm - Fri  
10am - 12.30pm - at

#### PAEROA LIBRARY

Hauraki House, Paeroa  
10am - 4.30pm - Mon to Thu  
9.30am - 5.30pm - Fri  
9.30am - 12.30pm - Sat

#### RAGLAN LIBRARY

7 Bow Street, Raglan  
9am - 5pm - Mon to Fri  
9.30am - 12.30pm - Sat

#### TAUMARANUI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hakiaha Street, Taumarunui  
10am - 5pm - Mon to Fri  
10am - 1pm - Sat

#### TAUPO LIBRARY

Story Place, Taupo  
9am - 5.30pm - Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri  
9am - 8pm - Thu  
9am - 4pm - Sat

#### TE AROHA LIBRARY

Rewi Street, Te Aroha  
9am - 5pm - Mon, Tue, Thu  
10am - 5pm - Wed  
9am - 7pm - Fri  
9am - 1pm - Sat

#### TE AWAMUTU PUBLIC LIBRARY

157 Roche Street, Te Awamutu  
9.30am - 5.30pm - Mon, Tue, Thu  
9.30am - 8pm - Wed  
9.30am - 6pm - Fri  
9.30am - 1pm - Sat

#### WAITOMO DISTRICT LIBRARY

30 Taupiri Street, Te Kuiti  
9am - 5pm - Mon to Fri  
9.30am - 12.30pm - Sat

#### THAMES LIBRARY

503 Mackay Street, Thames  
9am - 5pm - Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri  
9.30am - 5pm - Wed  
9am - 12pm - Sat

#### TOKOROA LIBRARY

Mannerling Street, Tokoroa  
9.30am - 5.30pm - Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri  
9.30am - 6pm - Wed  
9.30am - 4pm - Sat

#### TURANGI LIBRARY

Town Centre, Turangi  
9.30am - 5pm - Mon to Fri  
10am - 1pm - Sat



Freephone 0800 800 401  
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