

Council: **Manukau City**
Res Population: **283,200 (Census 2001)**
Urban/Rural Mix: **Land Area: Urban 21%/Rural 79%**
Population: Urban 95%/Rural 5% (approx)



Status of RMA Policy/Plans

Manukau Proposed District Plan Notified 1 August 1995 (mostly effective, operative April/May 2002).

RMA Monitoring Approach

Monitoring strategy/framework (date, diagram, etc)

In development (July 2002), will encompass all statutory and non-statutory environmental information needs.

Links between policy/plan, SoE, resource consent and complaints monitoring

Proposed approach is to integrate for reporting purposes. Strategy will encompass key things from plan, SOE, resource consents and complaints that require monitoring into a comprehensive monitoring strategy. The current challenge is refining the key issues, AERs etc and aligning the key things to monitor, systems and processes under the Monitoring Strategy.

RMA Policy/Plan Monitoring approach

Policy/plan monitoring capacity (dedicated staff, budget, etc)

Strategy aims to implement systematic monitoring and provide the basis for resource allocation to Council-wide teams to conduct monitoring on the environmental resources that each team manages. Data collection and analysis would be carried out in each team (both Policy and Service Delivery). Environmental Policy & Monitoring section will be able to access data to compile reports and feed information into policy review cycles.

Number of staff involved approx 1FTE, 5 core Team & others bought in as required. Consultant provides specialist advice on process and peer review. Proposed budget approx \$75,000 including print/ publish/ launch.

Approach to policy and plan implementation/suitability/effectiveness monitoring

No systematic monitoring carried out at present. Variations have required own monitoring mainly in the form of surveys and reports.

Key Issues/Provisions Monitored

Monitoring priorities

Currently being determined from AER's, issues and consultative processes. Draft prioritisation at a broad level has identified the following ranked order: Land (soil, minerals), Waste, Built environment (incl. amenity, structures & transport), Coast, Water, Heritage, Public Health, Acoustic Environment, Biodiversity, Public open space, Rural, Air & Energy and Matters of significance to Iwi. Further refinement of priority placement being carried out.

How key issues/provisions prioritised

Use of priority statements to determine status regarding Statutory functions; Council strategic directions; alignment to major areas of Council policy, processes or investment; community and political impact; national and regional implications; significance to Iwi; and risk of not monitoring.

Prioritisation of indicators occurs through the use of selection criteria similar to those used by MFE. Further prioritisation of specific monitoring programs based around these indicators are then subject to timing (emerging issues & those increasing in importance, relationship to Council review processes) and the levels of resources required.

Information management/capture systems

Yet to be fully articulated through the Strategy. A current IT project called the 'Data Warehouse' is looking at providing a process by which reports can be prepared from a multiplicity of different databases across Council. A key issue to be resolved by the Strategy is the identification of what data needs to be captured. Standardisation of data capture processes, quality, record keeping and reporting will then follow.

Costs and Benefits of Policy/Plan Monitoring

Costs

At present cost appears to be loss of resources for plan development. The cost of not monitoring includes failure to establish a baseline against which changes can be measured. Delays in monitoring result in deferral of information (quality), processes (time) and perhaps increased costs (e.g. more expensive options may be required to meet deadlines) for assisting in policy development and review.

Benefits

Benefits relate to good business practise – provides a reference point from which progress towards outcomes can be measured, forms part of continuous improvement policy review cycle, enables integration with other information systems.

Council's current information can not be used effectively and outcomes can not be effectively measured so therefore is not cost effective.

Hot Tips for Policy/Plan Monitoring Success

- clear objectives
- organisational buy-in from top-down
- clear and active mandate for cross-organisational input into monitoring
- focussed strategy for why, what, when, how, who of monitoring
- strong working relationship between monitoring and policy review cycles
- resources to enable implementation over long-term

Key Lessons Learnt and Pitfalls to Avoid

- plan development must build-in monitoring from outset
- keep it simple – reducing the many to a few is the most difficult task
- need to have a realistic number of measurable targets to monitor
- consult early and obtain Peer Review/external review to get buy-in
- look at what others have done; adapt to your needs
- retain flexibility to achieve an acceptable result – processes serve us not visa-versa
- focus on what your information needs are then see what you can use from current monitoring

Future Needs

- updated website 'register' of who has done what (simple - Council, contact, status of Strategy / SER/ District plan/ RC/ Transfer & date) plus links or references to documents of use.
- Update 'case study' of what Council's are doing / techniques to monitor, record database, integration & other issues.
- Assistance for Councils to develop monitoring (manuals help but need peer assistance and some on-ground coaching and training (ie workshops)

- TLAs could do with more clear direction from MFE on what expected (Act is very loose – s35 is imperative but non-specific; what about TLA role in air quality; EPI focus on RC level; co-ordination between RC's & TLA's could be championed by MFE)

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