

Council: **Waikato District**
Res Population: **40,000**
Urban/Rural Mix: **41% Urban 59% Rural (Population)**



Status of RMA Policy/Plans

District Plan; 6 Dec 1997; operative.

RMA Monitoring Approach

Monitoring strategy/framework(date, diagram, etc)

No, but section in DP relates to Monitoring, and development of a Strategy.

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

SoE links strategic, annual and District Plans together. Complaints form part of DP auditing of both Plan workability and environmental outcomes.

RMA Policy/Plan Monitoring approach

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

Dedicated staff member who is involved in compliance/enforcement activities and plan monitoring, both administration and outcomes.

Approach to policy and plan implementation/suitability/effectiveness monitoring

Review of appropriateness and relevance of defined Outcomes.

Review of consent triggers in Plan ie which rules create need for consents

Specific projects to address defined matters eg describe what activities neighbours gave consent to; and relationship between rural lot size and curtilage.

Key Issues/Provisions Monitored

Monitoring priorities

Rural subdivision

Conservation covenants

Noise

Plan administration

Traffic generation

How key issues/provisions prioritised

Level of activity, political profile, and complaints

Information management/capture systems

GIS for spatial information (eg. conservation covenants)

Focused reports for defined topics eg forestry impacts on roading

Electronic tables for data

Costs and Benefits of Policy/Plan Monitoring

Costs

\$\$\$\$ associated with collecting, holding and analysing data

Benefits

information to support development of focused, relevant provisions

Council understanding of implications of plan provisions

Community demonstration of plan achievement
Resource users public assurance of actions to address adverse effects

Hot Tips for Policy/Plan Monitoring Success

- Focus on plan provisions and not greater environment
- Drive monitoring from policy/community/cultural end
- Remember monitoring is showing changes not proving cause and effect – that comes later as understanding is investigated
- Avoid science as the driver for monitoring, use science to deliver monitoring
- Focus monitoring on key components and avoid huge omnibus monitoring programs – use monitoring to answer questions - not justify collecting data

Key Lessons Learnt and Pitfalls to Avoid

- Scientists should not set the monitoring program
- Politicians want to see quick results
- Make reporting regular, interesting and topical
- Involve applicants, staff, community in monitoring (including Maori)
- Include scientific and colloquial data in monitoring reports

Future Needs

- Methods to integrate colloquial/cultural (including Maori) information and scientific data to produce meaningful information
- Techniques for analysis of colloquial information

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