

Council: **Canterbury Region**

Res Population: **468,040**

Urban/Rural Mix:



Status of RMA Policy/Plans

RPS operative 1998

Opihi River Regional Plan operative 2000

Land and Vegetation Regional Plan Parts 1&2 operative 1997

Proposed Land and Vegetation Regional Plan, Part 3 to be incorporated into NRRP

Proposed Land and Vegetation Regional Plan, Part 4 Burning-consent order negotiations

Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan – consent order negotiations and Env Court hearings ongoing re appeals on variations

Proposed Waimakariri River Regional Plan, consent order negotiations

Draft Natural Resources Regional Plan

-Air chapter close to being proposed

-Draft Soil Conservation, Water Quantity/Quality, Afforestation and Wetlands chapters out for public consultation

-Beds of Rivers/Lakes chapter in preparation

RMA Monitoring Approach

Monitoring strategy/framework(date, diagram, etc)

In the first instance we are focussing on monitoring plan implementation. Then will come monitoring of plan effectiveness. There is no point monitoring effectiveness unless you know what implementation is occurring. We need to give a lot of thought to identifying meaningful indicators of effectiveness.

A computer database in Access has been developed to track implementation. To date we have done one report on the RPS, for 2000/2001. The RPS specified methods for every policy in the RPS. The project leader for any project that helps implement a method has to provide a very brief end of year report on what was done/achieved. This gets entered into the database.

The Access programme allows an annual report to be generated for the whole RPS, and also allows a report to be generated for any one policy /method combination across all the years of reporting.

This approach will be applied to all plans when they become operative

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

All work in the Council is done on a project basis, whether it be environmental monitoring for SOE reporting, compliance monitoring, consents, resource investigations or responding to complaints. Every leader of a project that helps to implement the RPS or operative plan will have to prepare a brief statement for every policy/method combination that their project is helping to implement.

RMA Policy/Plan Monitoring approach

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

At this stage we are just dealing with monitoring implementation. There are dozens of staff across the Council, with their own budgets, doing work that helps implement the

RPS. There is about 0.2 FTE resource available within planning for working with these staff to ensure they do their annual reporting, and to generate the actual report that will go to Council. This task in due course is programmed to increase to about 0.5 FTE when more plans become operative. When we move to monitoring effectiveness and implementation, I anticipate it will be a full time position. The next step is to create databases using the RPS Access template for all operative plans.

Approach to policy and plan implementation/suitability/effectiveness monitoring

See above.

Key Issues/Provisions Monitored

Monitoring priorities

In terms of plan implementation, for each operative plan, we will be monitoring the methods specified for every policy, irrespective of the topic area.

At this stage we have not given a lot of thought to effectiveness monitoring. We start developing that next financial year.

How key issues/provisions prioritised

In terms of monitoring implementation, Council is charged with giving effect to its plans, in totality. Therefore we are tracking implementation of all policies and associated methods.

Prioritisation will be needed at the effectiveness monitoring stage because there is unlikely to be sufficient funding initially for policy specific monitoring for all policy areas.

Information management/capture systems

See above.

Costs and Benefits of Policy/Plan Monitoring

Costs

The cost of tracking/monitoring implementation is relatively low. Irrespective of whether we are actively monitoring progress with plan implementation, project leaders have to do an annual report on what was achieved within their project. All we are doing is tapping in to this report. It has meant project leaders have to do some tweaking of their reports so that they are made relevant to reporting on the specific policy/method combinations being implemented. There is still a lot of room for improvement to the way the annual project reports are written.

Benefits

The benefit already just from one year of RPS reporting is that we have identified methods for which nothing has been done and can now address that. Another spin-off is that the project leaders from across all parts of the Council are now much more aware of the RPS policies/methods, and how what they do helps achieve the Council's environmental outcomes. Most importantly, when we move to effectiveness monitoring, we will know what actions are specifically being taken to implement a plan and will be better placed to link cause and effect.

Hot Tips for Policy/Plan Monitoring Success

- make sure it's being implemented first, and you know what actions are being taken

- identify robust indicators of effectiveness that as far as possible will be directly linked only to plan provisions ie they will not respond to things that lie outside of the plan
- indicators need to be relatively easily monitored ie cost effective
- organisational commitment
- if need be, sell monitoring to Councillors/management if monitoring is not high on their list of annual plan priorities

Future Needs

- Periodic “regional “ meetings of district/regional councils to discuss what we are learning about the process of monitoring, so we can learn from each other

Main Contact Person/Position:	John Glennie, Regional Policy Manager
Phone:	03 3653 828
Email:	john.glennie@ecan.govt.nz