

Council: **Waitakere City**
Res Population: **194,700 (2006 estimate)**
Urban/Rural Mix: **85/15 % (approximate)**



Status of RMA Policy/Plans

Waitakere City Council Proposed District Plan (partially operative).

RMA Monitoring Approach

Monitoring strategy/framework(date, diagram, etc)

Yes, originally prepared in February 1999, shortly to be reviewed, now that the Plan has been partially operative for almost 5 years and the City needs to report on this as per section 35(2A) of the RMA.

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

SoE report is recently completed, drew on experience of DPlan preparation and implementation. Complaints monitoring and consents are linked, as are s357 objection and consents. Consent monitoring integral part of DPlan monitoring.

RMA Policy/Plan Monitoring Approach

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

Funding allocated via Annual Plan process, Council Committee approval of Monitoring strategy and monitoring topics. Monitoring results reported back to Committees, and results feed into section 32 analysis for Plan Changes.

Approach to policy and plan implementation/suitability/effectiveness monitoring

List of future plan changes compiled and prioritised, based upon experience gained via plan implementation.

Key Issues/Provisions Monitored

Monitoring priorities

Currently coastal living, residential environment review.

How key issues/provisions prioritised

Are based upon a prioritisation exercise, and balanced against staff resources and views of elected members.

Information management/capture systems

Several integrated systems: Pathways – GIS, paper property files, shared electronic document files, inter/intranet information and institutional memory.

Costs and Benefits of Policy/Plan Monitoring

Costs

Costs a lot of staff time to do monitoring well, and occasionally it is more cost effective to contract out parts of the monitoring process.

Benefits

Important to maximise benefit by ensuring that DPlan monitoring is used not only for section 32 analysis, but information is also shared via training and in Council documents.

Hot Tips for Policy/Plan Monitoring Success

- Have a strategic approach to monitoring, not just having monitoring driven by controversial issues.
- Prioritise all possible monitoring projects
- Sort out budgets as part of prioritisation
- Make sure staff resources are available
- Obtain elected member support for projects, and report back to them on findings
- Don't do too many projects at one time
- Can combine monitoring with research required for resolving DPlan references.

Key Lessons Learnt and Pitfalls to Avoid

- Distinguish between known district plan "flaws" that need fixing and the outcomes arising from implementing the plan – often the flaws need a plan change with a section 32 rather than a full blown monitoring project
- Beware of not giving monitoring projects priority once they are committed to – pressure of other work may mean the projects don't get done
- Do not mix up plan changes with monitoring – plan changes may well result from the monitoring, but they are usually different processes.
- Its okay to discover that the District Plan is working well!!! (i.e. don't try to fix a Plan that isn't broken)

Future Needs

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