

## 2 Introduction to Procedures

The purpose of the Introduction to Procedures chapter is to facilitate the ongoing development and use of the District Plan. This section contains information required to direct the use and implementation of the District Plan. Methods used in the District Plan will be located within the Procedure section.

Please note: All provisions highlighted in grey are subject to changes contained the 'Decision Version' of the District Plan. In instances where provisions are inconsistent between the Operative and Decision Versions of the District Plan they must both be considered until such a time as the Decision Version becomes operative.

### 2.1 District Plan Rolling Review

#### 2.1.1 Introduction

Whangarei District Council intends to manage this Plan as a living document and to ensure its content is responsive to the performance of policies and methods in achieving anticipated environmental outcomes. Changes to the Plan will be sought when:

- (a) plan effectiveness monitoring identifies the need to enhance progress toward achieving anticipated environmental results
- (b) major resource management developments arise such as significant amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991 or the adoption of national policy statements or national environmental standards by Government that have major implications for the contents of this Plan
- (c) the results of new scientific work enhance this Plan and make plan provisions more certain for resource users.

The process used to review and change this Plan is set out in the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991. Given the rapid pace of change in society today it is unrealistic to expect a document conceived and written today to accurately reflect the concerns of the future. The Council therefore proposes to continually review this document, particularly in light of its monitoring responsibilities. Limited resources and the Resource Management Act's approach mean that some issues need further work and refinement to match the community's expectations identified with the Long Term Council Community Plan. Council intends the Plan to be flexible enough to deal with issues that are raised in relation to new information that comes to light. To address these issues, Council is monitoring the performance of the District Plan.

The Council has identified a number of opportunities for further growth within the District through strategic planning documents such as the Urban Growth Strategy and Structure Plans. In particular the Structure Plans identify opportunities and constraints to growth of the District. These strategic planning documents will be used to guide the Council's evaluation of plan changes to re-zone land for future development.

The Council must also have regard to strategies prepared under other Acts which have relevance to the review of the District Plan.

#### 2.1.2 Expectations

During the term of this rolling review Council will improve both the quantity and quality of information on resources and effects of activities. This will aid consultation and information sharing, and enable policies and rules to be more focused. This in turn will

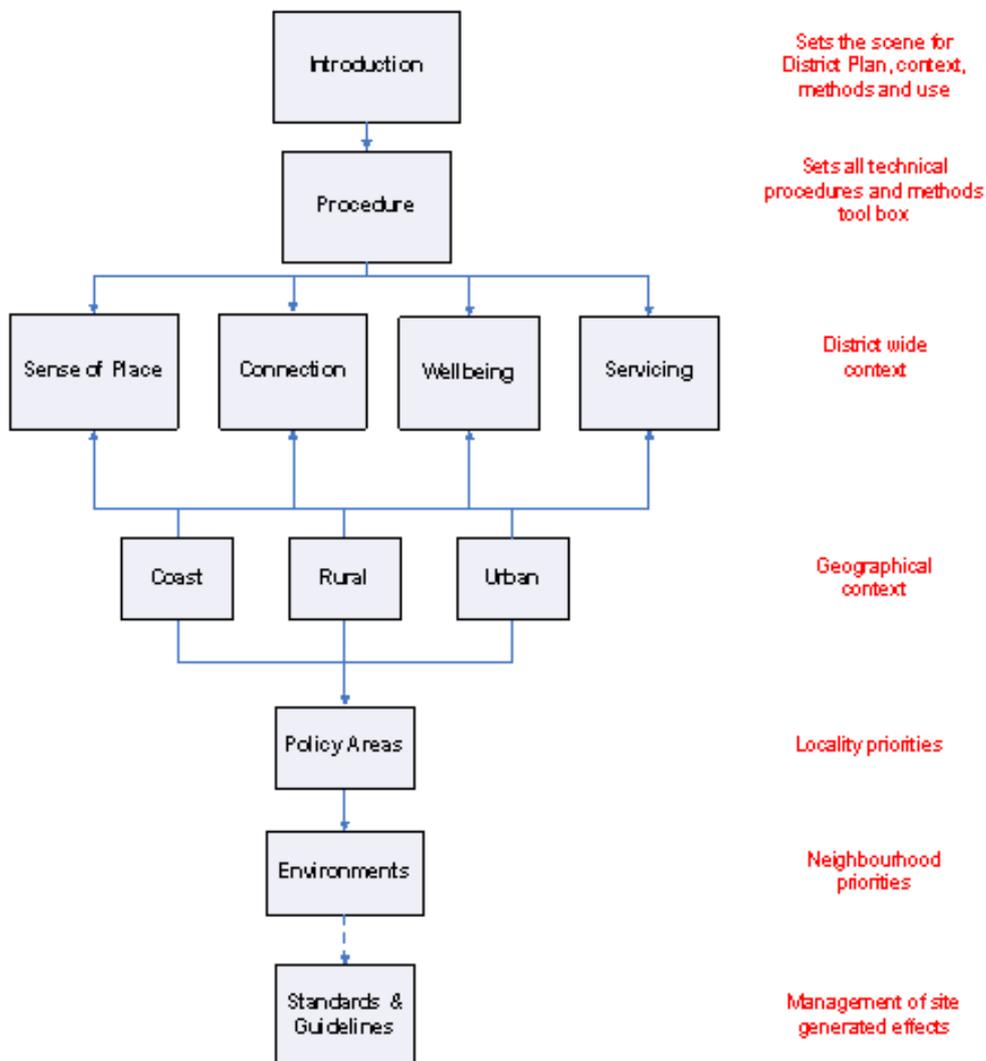
bring greater certainty and the potential for greater flexibility. The Plan can be changed to reflect these various needs for more effective and efficient resource management.

### 2.1.3 Outcomes Sought

- District Plan shall be streamlined and simplified
- policy and rules shall direct consenting process to provide certainty
- comprehensive policy and objectives shall reflect the sustainable management outcomes sought for the respective District Plan Environments and Policy Areas
- District Plan shall address resource management matters only and will cross reference to external legislation as required
- some methods shall only be utilised where expressly stated in the relevant Environment Rules Chapter.

## 2.2 New District Plan Structure

To improve the District Plan effects-based approach, a new District Plan structure will provide the ability to top load objectives and policy, setting clear direction for the District:



### 2.2.1 The Parts of the District Plan

To accommodate the new District Plan structure, three separate documents that in total constitute the District Plan for Whangarei will be created throughout the rolling review.

The documents are:

- Volume 1: Objectives, Policies and Rules
- Volume 2: Maps
- Volume 3: Standards and Design Guides

Other documents, such as New Zealand standards, are incorporated by reference in the Plan.

Note: These documents do not form part of the District Plan and any consequential changes to a standard that have been through a public consultation process will be adopted.

### 2.2.2 National Environmental Standards

All plantation forestry activities regulated under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017 must comply with those regulations. However, some District Plan rules managing plantation forestry activities are more stringent than the regulations as provided for in Section 6 of the regulations.

## 2.3 Presumptions and Interpretation

At any point in time the Council's information bases and justification for its policies may be incomplete. Chapter structure and format may vary from section to section as and when a review takes place. For interpretation purposes (resource consent processing) no one procedure shall take precedence.

## 2.4 Introduction to Methods Tool Box

District Plan objectives and policies will be implemented through the exercising of Whangarei District Council's functions as a consent authority. A range of methods, both regulatory and non-regulatory, are available to implement the objectives and policies of the Plan. Acknowledging that the District Plan will be managed as a living and responsive document the methods tool box will contain interchangeable methods. This tool box will be added to as new methods are brought into the plan.

### 2.4.1 Methods of District Plan Implementation

Council is required to consider all methods of District Plan implementation when making changes to the District Plan. Examples of these are:

- regulatory methods, such as rules
- economic instruments, such as financial contributions, annual plan funds, and provision of rates relief
- consideration of other plans and such as status, by-laws, and management plans
- completion of Council implemented physical works and services
- information, education and advocacy such as guidelines, information brochures
- Monitoring, Council is required to monitor the effectiveness of the District Plan
- the Urban Growth Strategy

- structure plans
- current strategic planning documents including the Northland Regional Transport Strategy and the Whangarei Transportation Network Strategy.

Revision and Sign-off Sheet

Date Approved	Editor	Paragraph	Change Reference	Decision Date	Approved By
2 June 2010	FP	2.11 third paragraph	'These strategic... will be used to direct the Council's evaluation... <u>now reads</u> ... to guide the council's...	Clause 16 (2)	NW
9 June 2010	FP	Replacement of the whole chapter with some additions in 2.1 and 2.4.1	Plan Change 106 Introduction Section 'Sophisticated Yet Simple' 10/24764 and Clause 16(2) 10/37288	9 June 2010 10/40950 Operative 22 June 2010	NW
26 September 2011	FP		Various reformatting	23 September 2011	NW
6 June 2018	AM	Added paragraph 2.2.2	Decision of the Planning and Development Committee under Delegation from Council to approve amendments in accordance with s44A (4), (5) and (6) of the RMA to give effect to the NESPF	17 May 2018	MM

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