

1. Introducing the District Plan



The District Plan is the primary document that manages land use and development within the Whangārei District Council's territorial boundaries. The Whangārei District Council is required to prepare a District plan under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act), specifically having regard to Part 2 of the Act focusing on the sustainable management of land and other natural and physical resources. It includes Objectives, Policies and Methods to achieve the sustainable management of these resources within the Whangārei District. This may involve their use, development or protection.

The District Plan is only a small part of the process that focuses on achieving sustainable management of the Whangārei District. The Plan forms part of a group of interrelated planning and policy initiatives, and is developed with consideration to other statutory requirements. Policy development is influenced by, and must be consistent with the direction given in the National Policy Statements, National Environmental Standards and Regulations, Regional Policy Statements and Regional Plans. Relationships also exist between the Resource Management Act and other legislation such as the Building Act, the Treaty of Waitangi, the Forestry Act and the Historic Places Act.

The Whangārei District Plan has been prepared as a single document which addresses the resource management issues facing the Whangārei District. It is important that the document be viewed as a whole, so that the common themes and inter-relationships between the various sections can be understood. The District Plan is an important document that is designed to enable the Council, and the community to work towards its long term vision for the Whangārei District.

The District Plan is an enabling document, designed to minimise rules and regulations, and encourage innovation and diversity in the use of the Whangārei District's resources. In preparing the District Plan the Council has been careful to ensure that the community has played a significant role in shaping the direction of the document. The Objectives, Policies and Methods reflect the Council's (roles in establishing leadership for its community through the District Plan), response to the interests and concerns of the community, and meets the legislative requirements of the Act, within which the District Plan operates.

The District Plan Team reviews and makes changes to the District Plan on a continual basis. For further information or enquiries regarding the District Plan contact Council on (09) 430 4200.