

**Chapter 67****MONITORING****67.1 Introduction**

In order to meet the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 the Council is required to gather information relating to the implementation of the District Plan and the state of the environment of the City. As the Act focuses on results it is important to ascertain that the Council's Plans are delivering the desired results. The Act requires all local authorities to monitor how the natural and physical resources are being managed within their boundaries. The following sections indicate how the Napier City Council is meeting its monitoring obligations under the Act.

**67.2 Statutory Responsibilities**

Section 75(1) of the Act indicates the matters which need to be stated in the Plan. Section 75(1)(i) indicates that one of these matters is the procedures to be used to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan as a means of achieving its objectives and policies.

Section 35 of the Act sets out duties that local authorities have to gather information, monitor and keep records. Section 35(2) indicates that the Council shall monitor:

- (a) The state of the City's environment.
- (b) The suitability and effectiveness of the District Plan.
- (c) The exercise of any functions, powers or duties delegated or transferred by the Council.
- (d) The compliance with the resource consents granted by the Council.

In addition to its duty to monitor under section 35 of the Act, the Council also has a duty under section 79 of the Act to commence a full review of its district plan not later than 10 years after the plan became operative. This section also allows the Council to change or replace its plan in the manner set out in the First Schedule.

The Napier City Council is not the only agency carrying out environmental monitoring. Other agencies, public and private are involved in monitoring. The co-operation of these agencies is vital.

The extent of the total monitoring function is dependent upon the allocation of funds in the Annual Plan and upon the co-operation from other agencies with environmental responsibilities, particularly the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

**Objective 67.3**

To monitor the environment of Napier City in order to enable the effectiveness of the objectives, policies and methods of implementation within this Plan to be assessed and reviewed.

**Objective 67.4**

To monitor and identify changes in environmental issues and anticipated environmental results effecting the City.

**67.5 Monitoring the State of the Environment**

The Act has a wide interpretation of environment. The Act defines environment as including:

- “(a) Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and
- (b) All natural and physical resources; and
- (c) Amenity values; and
- (d) The social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions that affect the matters stated in paragraphs (a) to (c) above, or which are affected by those matters.”

The scope for monitoring is therefore very wide and a vast amount of resources could be applied to carry out this responsibility. A significant amount of monitoring data is available within the Council. This information is spread across the various sections of the Council. It includes:

- **Demographic and economic monitoring information**  
(This information is currently produced by the Napier City Council).
- **Drinking water quality**  
(Also currently monitored by the NCC. Source water is monitored by HBRC).
- **Water quality in City drains**  
(A monitoring programme has recently been commenced by NCC. Similar monitoring is conducted by the Regional Council).
- **Water quality in the immediate coastal environment**  
(This monitoring is currently being undertaken by Napier City & Hastings District Council; Community Health and the HBRC up and down the coast).
- **Traffic Safety**  
(Accident information is available through the Land Transport Safety Authority publication “Future Directions”. Further information is held at Napier City Council).
- **Wastewater influent and effluent quality**  
(Information is routinely collected at the City’s Awatoto wastewater treatment plant).
- **Crime Statistics**  
(Available from the NZ Police).
- **Waste management**  
(Including information on the amounts of recycling activity in the City, as undertaken by Allbrites; Agrow Products; NCC composting plant; etc).

- **Recreational opportunity**  
(Amounts of open informal park space / coastal and riverside space / playing field / indoor recreation space / formal municipal garden space per capita / number of registered sporting and recreational interest clubs in the City).
- **Diversity of natural environments and species**  
(Information may be obtained through DOC; the Ornithological Society; and possibly other similar interest groups on the diversity of habitats and species in the area).
- **Noise**  
Ambient noise measurement and excessive noise control monitoring.
- **Regulatory Monitoring**  
Compliance monitoring for premises registered as food operations, hairdressers, camping grounds, funeral parlours, and offensive trades as well as properties storing dangerous goods or with swimming pools in regard to their fencing.
- **Water Quality in Swimming Pools**  
School and motel pools are tested.
- **Pest Control**  
Wild insect and vermin pests are controlled.

The Council may investigate the opportunities for undertaking State of the Environment Monitoring jointly with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council where appropriate.

## 67.6 Monitoring the District Plan

The district plan establishes the significant resource management issues for the City. From these issues, objectives, policies, and performance standards have been formulated to achieve desired outcomes. The monitoring of the Plan will ascertain the progress that is being made towards the desired outcomes and whether the formulated objectives, policies and performance standards are successful.

Monitoring of the district plan will also be based on the findings of the monitoring for the other elements of the environmental monitoring programme such as any state of the environment monitoring, resource consent monitoring, monitoring of the exercise of delegations and transfers of functions, powers and duties.

Specific monitoring will be carried out in three ways:

- (a) An analysis of Plan Change requests over the monitoring period.
- (b) An analysis of resource consent applications over the monitoring period.
- (c) An analysis when relevant policy documents are publicly notified, of the content of those policy documents with which the District Plan must not be inconsistent.

It is envisaged that monitoring of the District Plan will also be achieved through other means such as:

- (a) The Annual Performance Survey – an independent telephone survey conducted on behalf of the Napier City Council where randomly chosen residents are asked a series of questions on the Council's performance.

- (b) Analysis of the Register of Complaints.
- (c) Analysis of the response to the Code of Practice for Subdivision and Land Development 1999.
- (d) Analysis of submissions to the Annual Plan.

Changes to the Plan may be appropriate if the information obtained from any of the sources outlined indicate such action.

These methods will meet the requirements of both section 35(2)(b) and section 75(1)(i) of the Act.

## **67.7 Monitoring the Exercise of any Functions Powers or Duties Delegated or Transferred**

The exercise of delegated or transferred powers, functions or duties, will be reviewed annually in order to assess both the effectiveness of this policy implementation method and the compliance of the relevant receiving agency. More frequent reviews may be necessary if issues arising from the exercise of delegated or transferred functions, powers or duties warrant such action.

## **67.8 Monitoring of Conditions**

It is considered that the monitoring of conditions imposed on resource consents is essential to ensure that the conditions are being complied with in order that they achieve their intended effects. Council under Section 108 of the RMA may impose conditions on resource consents requiring consent holders to supply information to Council, for example recorded measurements, samples, surveys and investigations. A condition may also be imposed under Section 108(4)(g) of the RMA which requires the consent holder to supply this information at their own expense.

Monitoring of resource consents also contributes information to Council for the review of the district plan as the resource consent requirements are set within the district plan framework. To determine the effectiveness of the Plan's objectives and policies, monitoring of resource consent conditions will be carried out by a bring-up system entered into a computer file on consents. This bring-up procedure will generally be undertaken on a six-monthly basis and site inspections carried out.

## **67.9 OUTCOMES OF MONITORING**

- (1) The provision of information to enable the Council to monitor the performance of the District Plan to ensure that it is consistent with the purpose of district plans under the Resource Management Act.
- (2) The continuous review of issues, objectives, policies and methods within the District Plan.

## **67.10 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS**

- (1) An increased awareness of the state of Napier City's environment.

- (2) An improved environment as a result of information gathered and subsequent actions and management steps taken to improve the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources of the City.

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