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Introduction

Citation

This regional plan may be cited as the Regional Natural Resources Plan, and is referred to as “this regional plan” or “the regional plan” throughout this document. It has been prepared by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council to assist it to carry out its functions in order to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (‘the Act’).

Any reference in this regional plan to Environment Bay of Plenty is to be read as a reference to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (Regional Council).

Scope of Plan

Spatial Coverage

The regional plan covers all the area within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council boundary, as seen in Map 1, excluding the Coastal Marine Area. The Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Environment Plan has defined the boundary between the Coastal Marine Area and the land/freshwater zone. This boundary often extends upstream into the mouths of rivers.\(^3\)

Resource Coverage

The regional plan covers the following natural and physical resources in the Bay of Plenty:

(a) Land (including soil);
(b) Water (including rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, modified watercourses and groundwater);
(c) Geothermal resources in the Bay of Plenty, excluding geothermal resources covered by the Rotorua Geothermal Regional Plan;\(^4\) and
(d) Physical resources associated with the use of water resources (e.g. structures in, on, under or over the bed of a river, stream or lake).

Some areas of brackish water may be included in the resource coverage of this regional plan due to the extent of the spatial coverage.

Issue Coverage

This regional plan addresses issues relating to management of the environmental effects of the use and development of land, water and geothermal resources that are within the scope of the Regional Council’s functions and responsibilities under the Act (refer to Table 1 for an explanation). This regional plan does not include issues that are addressed by the Regional River Gravel Management Plan, or the Rotorua Geothermal Regional Plan. Where the discharge from an on-site effluent treatment system requires a resource consent under the On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan (‘OSET Plan’), the activity will be assessed in accordance with the OSET Plan and the relevant provisions of this regional plan.

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3 The Regional Council has detailed maps and descriptions of the agreed river mouths and consequent landward edge of the Coastal Marine Area within the rivers of the Bay of Plenty. These maps and descriptions can be viewed at offices of the Regional Council or in Volume 2: Maps of the Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Environmental Plan.

There are overlaps in resource management requirements between the regional plan and the Regional Plan for the Tarawera River Catchment. Some similar issues are managed in both plans in a complementary way. The Regional Council envisages that eventually the Regional Plan for the Tarawera River Catchment will be merged with the regional plan. In the meantime the requirements of both plans must be met by resource users. Refer to the TW Tarawera section for clarification of which rules take precedence in the Tarawera River Catchment.

The Regional Plan for the Tarawera River Catchment has its own set of water classification standards and criteria but does not classify all water in the Tarawera River Catchment, notably water in drains.

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Map 1 – Bay of Plenty Region
Purpose of Plan

The purpose of this regional plan is to achieve the following aims (refer to Figure 1 for illustration):

(a) Promote the sustainable management of land, water and geothermal resources.
(b) Achieve the integrated management of land, water and geothermal resources.
(c) Maintain or improve environmental quality in the Bay of Plenty region.
(d) Protect existing high quality environments and resources.
(e) Protect sensitive receiving environments.
(f) Sustain the life-supporting capacity of soil, water and ecosystems.
(g) Maintain or enhance the ecological, Maori cultural, recreational, natural character and landscape values of land, water and geothermal resources.
(h) Establish appropriate environmental standards to achieve (c) to (f). This includes ensuring instream minimum flow requirements are maintained in rivers and streams.
(i) Address the adverse environmental effects of the use and development of land, water and geothermal resources.
(j) Allow for the use and development of land, water and geothermal resources where it is consistent with (a) to (g).
(k) Enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, while achieving (a) to (i).
(l) Work with communities to promote community participation and interest in the management of natural and physical resources in the Bay of Plenty region.

Sections 13, 14 and 15 of the Act require a resource consent for certain activities, unless enabled by a permitted activity rule in a plan (refer to section 1.4 for further information). Many of these activities are unlikely to have adverse environmental effects that are more than minor. Requiring resource consents for such activities is not efficient. The purpose of this regional plan is to provide guidance on how sustainable management of resources is to be achieved in the Bay of Plenty, subject to the requirements of the Act and associated case law, and the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement. A key purpose of this regional plan is to achieve integrated management of the Region’s natural and physical resources, provide consistency and certainty in decision-making, and to ensure that there is no unnecessary regulation of activities. No part of this regional plan negates the need to consult with the community in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Figure 1  Link between Identified Values and Environmental Standards
Role of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council under the Act

The functions of regional councils are specified in section 30 of the Act. This gives the Regional Council primary responsibility to control use and development activities for the purposes of soil conservation, maintaining or enhancing water quality, maintaining and enhancing aquatic ecosystems, maintaining water quantity, and avoiding or mitigating natural hazards. Section 13(2)(b) of the Act gives regional councils the ability to control the disturbance, removal, damage or destruction of aquatic plants and the habitats of aquatic plants and animals in the bed of a river or lake. The Regional Council also has obligations to uphold matters specified in Part 2 (section 5 to 8) of the Act. The Act also gives regional councils other environmental management functions, such as monitoring (section 35), development of regional plans (Part 5), resource consents (Part 6), and enforcement (Part 12).

The Act gives priority to the matters in Part 2, and this provides a framework within which all the functions, powers and duties under the Act are enacted. Applying section 5 of the Act involves assessing whether a proposal would promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The social, economic and cultural benefits of a proposed activity are considered relative to sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations, safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of water, soil and ecosystems, and avoiding, remediing or mitigating adverse effects. Each of these sub-sections of section 5 are afforded full significance and applied according to the circumstances of the particular case. These paragraphs provide cumulative safeguards or constraints on use and development activities. Any adverse effects of an activity must be avoided, remedied or mitigated. Some adverse effects (such as minor or temporary) may be considered as acceptable, but need to be considered relative to the individual circumstances of the proposal.

The matters of national importance in section 6 of the Act are sub-ordinate to promoting sustainable management. However, the Regional Council must recognise and provide for such matters where they are relevant to a proposed activity. The Regional Council also has particular regard to the matters in section 7 of the Act. Sections 6 and 7 must be read in the context of Part 2 as a whole. The provisions are applied to achieve the purpose of the Act, but not to take priority over promoting sustainable management as defined in section 5.

Part 3 of the Act describes the duties and restrictions under the Act, which includes section 9 (use of land), section 13 (use of the beds of lakes and rivers), section 14 (restrictions on the use of water), and section 15 (discharges to the environment) that are relevant to this regional plan. Regional Councils can only make rules to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the environment related to their core functions (as specified in section 30 of the Act), unless specific powers have been transferred to them by a city or district council under section 33 of the Act. Where a resource consent is required for an activity regulated by a regional rule, the Regional Council considers matters listed in Part 2 of the Act in the following circumstances:

(a) Discretionary activities – all Part 2 matters are considered.
(b) Restricted discretionary – Part 2 matters are only considered where the Regional Council has specially retained discretion over the matter.
(c) Controlled - Part 2 matters are only considered where the Regional Council has specially retained control over the matter.

When considering a resource consent application in relation to (a) to (c) above, and Part 2 matters are considered, the Regional Council can impose conditions relating to those matters where the conditions relate to the proposed activity. Noise can be controlled by conditions in a regional consent in accordance with section 16(2) of the Act.
The authority for modification of archaeological sites and registered waahi tapu is the responsibility of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga under the Historic Places Act. The Regional Council has responsibility, under Part 2 of the Act, to recognise and provide for these values when assessing discretionary resource consent applications. The Regional Council’s functions under the Act are summarised in Table 1.

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<td>Section 30(1)(b) - Actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land which is of regional significance</td>
<td>Objectives, policies and methods in regional plans, but only if the effects of regional significance are identified in the Regional Policy Statement.</td>
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| Section 30(1)(c) – Control of the use of land | Objectives, policies, methods and rules in regional plans. Regional Council’s control of the use of land is limited to the following, except where a consent is required:  
- Soil conservation.  
- Maintenance and enhancement of water quality.  
- Maintenance of water quantity.  
- Maintenance and enhancement of aquatic ecosystems.  
- Avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards.  
Prevention or mitigation of adverse effects from the storage, use, disposal or transportations of hazardous substances. | City and District Councils (refer to section 31 of the Act) |
| | Regional Councils do not have responsibility to authorise the damage, destruction or modification of archaeological sites and registered waahi tapu. | Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga |
| Section 30(1)(ca) – The investigation of land for the purposes of identifying and monitoring contaminated land | Objectives, policies, methods and rules in regional plans. | |
| Section 30(1)(e) – control of water quantity | Objectives, policies, methods and rules in regional plans. This relates to activities specified in section 14 of the Act – take, use, damming, diversion and those in section 30(1)(e) – setting of maximum and minimum water levels or flows, and controlling the range or rate of change of water levels or flows. Regional council permits the use of water relative to the risk on:  
- Soil conservation.  
- Maintenance and enhancement of water quality.  
- Maintenance of water quantity.  
- Maintenance and enhancement of aquatic ecosystems.  
- Avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards. Part 2 matters are considered when a resource consent is required. | |
## Management of Land and Water Resources under the Act

Under section 9 of the Act, the use of land is allowed, unless the use is restricted by rules in a regional plan or district plan. This regional plan contains rules to permit land use subject to standard conditions to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on soil and water resources, and to restrict land use where there is a high risk of adverse effects.
The opposite approach applies to the use of water. Sections 13, 14 and 15 of the Act, restrict the use of water and the beds of rivers, streams and lakes, unless the use is permitted by a rule in a regional plan. This regional plan contains rules to permit the use of water resources where the adverse effects are minor or acceptable, and the risk of adverse effects is low. Other rules are intended to allow the Regional Council to assess the adverse effects of activities on a case by case basis through the resource consent process.

It is recognised that the people and community of the Bay of Plenty region rely on the use and development of water and land resources to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing. The appropriate development and use of natural and physical resources is unlikely to have significant adverse environmental effects nor lessen the capacity of soil and water to sustain life. Appropriate development achieves the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, can increase the capacity of the land to sustain life, promotes the ethic of stewardship, and can maintain or enhance cultural, ecological, natural character and landscape values.

Statutory Acknowledgements

Purpose of Statutory Acknowledgements

A number of Treaty of Waitangi claims within the Bay of Plenty Region have been settled and formalised with special legislation. Such legislation usually includes “statutory acknowledgements”.

A statutory acknowledgement is an acceptance by the Crown incorporated into an Act of Parliament of the statements made by a specified iwi of the particular cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association of that iwi with the statutory areas.

Statutory Acknowledgements within the Bay of Plenty Region

There are a number of statutory acknowledgements in the Bay of Plenty Region. From the effective date, relevant consent authorities must attach information recording a statutory acknowledgement to the regional policy statement and to regional and district plans that wholly or partly cover the statutory area. This may be by reference to the relevant statute or by setting out the statutory acknowledgements in full.

As required by the relevant statute of each statutory acknowledgement, information recording each statutory acknowledgement within the Bay of Plenty Region is attached to this regional plan by listing, in Schedule 13, reference to each relevant statute.

Impact of Statutory Acknowledgements

According to the various Acts, the only purposes of the statutory acknowledgements are:

- to require consent authorities, the Environment Court and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga to have regard to the statutory acknowledgements,
• to require relevant consent authorities to forward summaries of resource consent applications for activities within, adjacent to, or impacting directly on relevant statutory areas to the governance entity,

• to enable the governance entity and any member of the relevant iwi to cite a statutory acknowledgement as evidence of the association of the iwi with the area to which the statutory acknowledgement relates,

• to provide a statement by the relevant iwi, for inclusion in a deed of recognition, of the association of that iwi with the relevant statutory area.

From the effective date, relevant consent authorities must have regard to a statutory acknowledgement relating to a statutory area in forming an opinion in accordance with sections 93 to 94C of the Act as to whether the specified iwi governance entity is a person who may be adversely affected by the granting of a resource consent for activities within, adjacent to, or impacting directly on the statutory area. This is in addition to the obligation arising from the second bullet above.

From the effective date, the Environment Court must have regard to a statutory acknowledgement in determining under section 274 of the Act as to whether the specified iwi governance entity is a person having an interest in the proceedings greater than the public generally in respect of an application for a resource consent for activities within, adjacent to, or indirectly on the statutory area.

**Use of Guidelines and Standards**

This regional plan refers to the use of guidelines and standards as a means of complying with the requirements of the regional plan, in relation to permitted activity rule conditions and when assessing resource consent applications. Guidelines and standards can be used to ensure that adverse effects on the environment are avoided, remedied or mitigated. Relevant national guidelines and standards are applied in this regional plan for consistency with the rest of New Zealand. It is a requirement of this regional plan to apply guidelines or standards where the provision is specifically referenced. For example, Schedule 9 Water Quality Classifications details the use of the ANZECC Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality, 2000, as it applies to discharges of contaminants to water.

Where new guidelines and standards become available and are relevant to this regional plan, the applicability of the provisions to the Bay of Plenty and compliance with the requirements of this regional plan are assessed according to the following:

(a) As part of a plan development and review process. A plan change or variation may be initiated where it is necessary to include reference to a guideline or standard, or update the version referred to in a plan.

(b) During the processing of a resource consent application where the guideline or standard is used by an applicant.

(c) Guidelines and standards produced by relevant Central Government agencies (i.e. Ministry for the Environment) are applied from the date of publication.

**National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry**

Notwithstanding any other rules in this plan, all plantation forestry activities regulated under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017 must comply with those regulations. Where there is conflict or duplication between a rule in this plan and those regulations, the regulations prevail.
Sections moved to Appendices

As a part of the amendment for reformatting, some sections of this regional plan have been removed from the body of the plan into appendices as follows:

- Explanation/Principal reasons for provisions  Appendix 1
- Financial Contributions  Appendix 2
- Information to be submitted with resource consent applications  Appendix 3
- Anticipated Environmental Results  Appendix 4
- Cross Boundary Issues  Appendix 5
- Plan Review Process  Appendix 6

He Whakamohiotanga mo te Mahere a-Rohe e pana ki nga Wai me nga Whenua

The following is an overview in Maori of the Introduction section of this regional plan.

He Whakamohiotanga

Nga Kupu Hautoa

Ko nga kupu hautoa mo tenei mahere a-rohe ko te Mahere A-Rohe mo nga Paanga Wai me nga Paanga Whenua, oti te whakahua mo tenei mahere a-rohe ko te “mahere a-rohe ranei, ki tenei pukapuka. Na te Kaunihera A-Rohe ki Te Moana a Toi te Huatahi (Te Taiio ki Te Moana a Toi) i hanga, hei arataki i ana tikanga, e eke ai ki nga whakarite a te ture e kia nei ko Te Ture Whakahaere Rawa o te tau 1991.

Koia ra, ki tenei mahere a-rohe, nga whakahua mo Te Taiio ki Te Moana a Toi e orite tonu ana ki te whakahua mo Te Kaunihera A-Rohe ki Te Moana a Toi te Huatahi.

Te Hokai a tenei Mahere

(a) Te Uhitanga a-Takiwa

E uhia ana e tenei Mahere A-Rohe mo nga paanga Wai me nga paanga Whenua, te rohe katoa ki Te Moana a Toi te Huatahi, kua whakahuatia ake ra ki te Mapi Nama 1, engari kihai e uhia atu ana nga takiwa kei te tukutui moana, nga rohe marohitia ana kei raro ke i te Mahere A-Rohe mo nga Waiariki ki Rotorua tirohia te mapi 2, me nga takiwa kei raro ke i te Mahere A-Rohe mo te Awa o Tarawera. Mahere A-Rohe mo te Taiio ki te Takutai Moana, nga whakarite a rohe mo nga rawa ki tera mahere, ara ki te takutui moana, e wehe atu ai mai i era atu o nga rawa, he paanga wai he paanga whenua ranei. Kei etehi o nga awa kua whakakuhutia atu te rohe takutui moana ki runga noa atu mai i te ngutuawa. He maha nga mapi kei a te kaunihera e whakamarama ana i era ahuatanga mo nga awa, e watea mai ana hei matakitaki kei nga tari a te kaunihera, kua kuhuna atu hoki aua mapi ki te pukapuka tuhinga tuarua o Te Mahere A-Rohe mo Te Takutai Moana ki Te Moana a Toi te Huatahi.

(b) Te Uhitanga a-Rawa

Kei tenei Mahere A-Rohe mo nga paanga Wai me nga paanga Whenua nga

(a) Whakarite mo te whenua (otira, ahu atu hoki ki te oneone)
(b) Nga paanga Wai (otira ki nga awa, nga manga, nga moana nga whenua repo, nga rengare wai kua keria ke, tae noa ki nga wai maori a Papatuanuku).

(c) Nga wai Ariki ki Te Moana a Toi te Huatahi nei (kihoi era ki Rotorua, he mahere ki atu ma era).

(d) Ka uru mai hoki etehi waahi wai kotaitai kua hangaia atu ki nga awa, ki nga manga, ki nga moana ranei.

(c) Te Uhitanga a-Take

Kei tenei mahere a-rohe nga korero mo nga whakahaere kei te Taiaro, e pa ana ki nga whanaketanga a nga rawa, paanga whenua, paanga wai me nga paanga wai Ariki, e uru mai ana ki te hokai a te kaunihera i raro i te ture ra, te Ture Whakahaere Rawa o te tau 1991(kei te Whakaaturanga Nama 3 a nga Whakamarama). Kihai tenei mahere mahere e aro atu ana ki nga take he mahere ke atu ano, ara ki te Mahere a-Rohe mo te Whakahaere Kohatu ki nga Awa, ahakoa ano he wahanga kua inakatia e tenei mahere me te mahere a-Rohe ma Nga Kura Paru.

Te Tatai a tenei Mahere

Ko te tatai a tenei mahere a-rohe, he whakaee ke nga whakarite e whai ake nei (tirohia atu te Whakahua Nama 1, mo nga whakaatatanga):

(a) Ko te hapai i nga whakahaere katoa e u ai a tatau paanga whenua, a tatau paanga wai me a tatau paanga wai Ariki hoki.

(b) E haere ngatahi ai nga whakahaere mo nga paanga whenua, nga paanga wai me nga paanga wai Ariki.

(c) E hapaitia ai, e piki ake ai ranei te painga a-taiaro ki te rohe o Te Moana a Toi.

(d) E tiakina ai nga tino painga ake a te taiaro me ona rawa.

(e) E tiakina ai nga waahi whiwhinga tutohutanga ki te taiaro.

(f) E tokona ana te mauri a te oneone, a te wai me nga punaha potapotae.

(g) E hapaitia ai, e piki ake ai ranei nga paanga whenua, nga paanga wai me nga paanga wai Ariki hoki.

(h) Ki te whakau i nga tohu a-taiaro e totika ana, e eke noa ai nga whakarite kua rarangitia ake nei, ara mai i te (c) ki te (f) tae noa atu ki te rere a te wai ki nga awa me nga manga.

(i) Kia arotia atu ai nga mahi tukino ki te taiaro i roto i nga whakamahi, i nga whanaketanga ranei a nga rawa whenua, a nga rawa wai, a nga rawa Waiairiki.

(j) Kia ngawari ake nga ahuatanga ki nga whakamahi, ki nga whanaketanga ranei a nga rawa whenua, a nga rawa wai, a nga rawa waiariki peni e orite ana ki nga whakahua (a) ki te (g) kua rarangitia ake nei.

(k) E ahei ai nga tangata katoa ki te hapai I o ratou tumanako katoa, e eke ai hoki nga whakarite rarangi (a) ki (i).

(l) E mati ngatahi katoa ai Tatau katea, e totika ai te whakahaere I a tatau rawa katoak te moana a Toi.
Nga Whakahaere mo nga paanga Whenua me nga paanga Wai i raro i Te Ture Whakahaere Rawa o te tau 1991

Kei te Tekihana nama 9 o te Ture Whakahaere Rawa o te tau 1991 te ki e whakaaetia noa ana nga whakamahi whenua, pena kihai era momo whakamahi e whakatikitia ana e nga whakataunga kei nga mahere a-rohe, kei nga mahere a-takiwa ranei. Kei tenei mahere a-rohe nga whakataunga e whakaaetia ana nga whakamahi whenua, pena e whai ana nga tikanga takoto, e kore ai e tukinotia nga paanga oneone me nga paanga wai, otira, e whakatikitia hoki era momo whakamahi whenua e tino tupono ana ka tukinotia, me

He kaupapa ke atu ano ta te Ture Whakahaere Rawa o te tau 1991 mo nga whakamahi a nga paanga wai. Kei nga Tekihana nama 13, 14 me 15 e whakatikina ana nga whakamahi, ki nga paanga wai, ki nga kukupango a nga awa, me nga manga, me nga roto, engari e whakaaetia ana ranei tera whakamahinga e te tahi whakataunga kei te tahi mahere a-rohe. He whakataunga kei tenei mahere a-rohe, se whakaaetia ai nga whakamahinga a nga rawa paanga wai pena e iti noa ana nga tukinotanga, e iti noa ana ranei nga tapanotanga tukino. He whakataunga atu ano hoki era, na te mea e ahei ai te kaunihera a-rohe ki te arotake i nga tukinotanga kei ia momo whakahaere, i te wa e whakamanatia ana te whakaaetanga tuku rawa ma tera take.
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