

Mount Maunganui Air Quality Working Party

Terms of Reference

1. Background

Regional councils have the legislated responsibility for local air quality. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council currently maintains a network of 12 air quality monitors in the Mount Maunganui Industrial area (in addition to a number of other locations across the region). Due to a number of PM₁₀ breaches of the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NESAQ) detected by the network, the Mount Maunganui Industrial Area was gazetted as the Mount Maunganui Airshed (Appendix 1) in November 2019.

The airshed was declared polluted from the time of gazetting. Under the current NESAQ standard the air shed will remain polluted until such a time as there are five years without further breaches of the current PM₁₀ limit.

Breaches of the NESAQ identified at the Regional Council's 12 monitoring sites in the Mount Maunganui Airshed greatly reduced in 2020 (compared to the previous two years); however, the level of community and resident concern regarding health impacts from industrial emissions has significantly increased.

As we have gathered more information about the air quality around Mount Maunganui, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council has brought together functions across the organisation as well as other agencies to address the issues which cause air pollution in the area. This Working Party is an important way to share this work with tangata whenua, the community and industry operating in the area.

2. Vision & Mission

The vision is for local authorities to adhere to and act responsibly as designated authorities to the partnership between Māori and the Crown in Te Tiriti o Waitangi to ensure mana whenua and the wider Mount Maunganui community can live safely without concerns to detrimental health, social and environmental costs which are currently present through the polluted air shed.

The mission is to ensure the basic human right for mana whenua, residents and workers to clean air and healthy environment is prioritised as the key driver in any future and ongoing commercial entity.

3. Purpose

To achieve this the Working Party will collectively inform an overarching goal, being zero examples of cumulative harm on mana whenua and resident communities of Mount Maunganui from air pollution raised within the polluted air shed.

4. Core Values

- Collaboration, co-operation, cohesion and understanding.
- Bridging the gap but understanding there is a regulatory aspect to some agencies.
- Respect and mana for all members.

5. Membership

Representatives from the following will form the Working Party membership:

1. Councillors from Bay of Plenty Regional Council;
2. Councillors or other representatives from Tauranga City Council;
3. Appointed representative from Bay of Plenty District Health Board;
4. Appointed representatives from Western Bay of Plenty Primary Health Organisation;
5. Appointed representative from Ngāi Te Rangi iwi;
6. Appointed representative from Ngāti Kuku;
7. Appointed representative from Ngāi Tukairangi;
8. Appointed representatives from the community groups Clear the Air and TMFAG;
9. Appointed representative from the Ministry for the Environment;
10. Appointed representatives from five significant industries operating in the Mount Maunganui industrial area – Port of Tauranga, Ballance, Waste Management, Lawters, and J. Swap.

Partner agency staff will support the Working Party.

By collective agreement with members, additional meeting attendees from other agencies or groups may attend Working Party meetings.

Members may appoint alternatives.

Members will be responsible for reporting to their respective organisations.

6. Functions and Targets

The Mount Maunganui Air Quality Working Party has the following functions and targets to achieve the purpose:

- a) *Whakatohatoa - share*: provide regular updates and share information, progress and research on air quality matters in the airshed;
- b) Identify significant existing and emerging issues affecting the air quality in the Mount Maunganui Airshed;
- c) *Whakataurite - coordinate*: contribute to the work being done in the Mount Maunganui Airshed;
- d) *Whakawhanaungatanga - involve*: promote and support tangata whenua and wider community participation in air quality work;
- e) Promote options, initiatives, and best practices that will achieve the desired outcomes of improving air quality to achieve compliance with the NESAQ.
- f) *Whakarongo - listen*: ensure the views of tangata whenua and the wider community are represented in the work being done;

- g) Take opportunities to promote the reduction of contaminant discharges in the Mount Maunganui Airshed;

7. Actions

The Mount Maunganui Air Quality Working Party is not a decision making body, but will promote and pursue the reduction of all air emissions within the Mount Maunganui Airshed that may cause adverse health effects by considering:

- a) The review of the new Air Quality Rules for the Industrial Airshed in the Regional Natural Resources Plan to ensure they are fit for purpose;
- b) The outcomes of the Tauranga Moana Advisory Group recommendation to:
Commission an independent, comprehensive report to investigate the potential for instigating a managed retreat of pollutant industries from the Totara St site south of Hewletts Road.
- c) Submissions on local and central government legislative reviews including district and city planning documents;
- d) Other associated mechanisms jointly agreed to; and
- e) Communicating consistent messaging.

8. Administration

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council will administer the Working Party. This includes coordinating the agenda, minute taking and distribution of meeting minutes to the respective organisations.

9. Meeting frequency, location and times

Meetings will be bi-monthly (six per annum), run for a duration of two hours, preferably during a morning time-slot between 9am and 12 noon. Hosting meetings will be shared amongst representatives on the Working Party. The host of each subsequent meeting will be agreed at the end of each current meeting.

10. Duration of Mount Maunganui Air Quality Working Party

The Working Party will review annually their impact on air quality within the Mount Maunganui Airshed and their need to continue. Collectively members can, at any time, make a decision as to the effectiveness of the working group, its value and longevity.

Attachment 1: Mount Maunganui Industrial Airshed boundary.

