

Appendix 5 – Cross Boundary Issues

The contents of this appendix were previously included in previous versions of the regional plan as Chapter 13.

Section 67(1)(h) of the Act requires regional plans to state the processes that will be used to address cross-boundary issues. Such issues may:

- (a) Affect areas or resources across district council boundaries, or
- (b) Affect an area of land, water body or geothermal resource across regional council boundaries, and may relate to a general issue or a specific activity.

The methods specified below will be used to address cross-boundary issues relating to:

- (a) Soil conservation,
- (b) The adverse effects of land use and land management practices on soil and water resources,
- (c) The management of water quality and quantity,
- (d) The management of geothermal resources, especially interconnected fields such as Waimangu,
- (e) Flood hazard mitigation,
- (f) Part 2 of the Act,
- (g) The management of areas of overlapping functions with city and district councils, and the avoidance of conflicting resource management requirements where possible.
- (h) Administrative matters, and
- (i) Any other matters which may be relevant.

The processes identified in this regional plan are consistent with those defined in the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement, Gisborne Regional Policy Statement, Waikato Regional Plan, and the Hawkes Bay Regional Resource Management Plan.

Processes to Address Cross-Boundary Issues

- 1 Identify existing and potential cross-boundary issues through ongoing liaison with neighbouring regional or unitary councils, constituent city or district councils and other resource management agencies. This will be carried out at either a Councillor, Council executive management or specialist staff level. Mechanisms include joint working groups or committees, research projects, investigation programmes, monitoring programmes or other joint activities or approaches as required.

- 2 Consult with all affected parties to resolve cross-boundary issues.

- 3 Develop solutions to cross-boundary issues with neighbouring regional councils and other relevant parties.

The solutions are to be consistent between the regions, but recognise and allow for different methods of implementation, regulatory and policy provisions that may be used.

- 4 Promote a joint approach to the management of resource consent applications with the potential for cross-boundary effects. This may involve consultation with adjacent city or district councils, joint resource consent processing, or joint hearings.

- 5 Use existing regional plans from other regional councils as a base for developing regional plans for Bay of Plenty to seek consistency and avoid duplication of effort whenever possible, while ensuring measures are appropriate and justified in the Bay of Plenty Region.

- 6 Work with neighbouring regional councils, and constituent city or district councils to develop mechanisms to facilitate information sharing between councils.

This includes ensuring environment monitoring data and other information collected by the Regional Council, is provided to relevant parties.

- 7 Advocate and promote a consistent approach between the city council, district councils and regional councils controlling activities that may affect land, water and geothermal resources.

This includes:

- (a) Making submissions on district plans and other regional plans.
- (b) Commenting on relevant district resource consent applications.

An example is management of the Waiotapu/Waimangu geothermal field if the status of the field within the Waikato Region is changed from a protection status.

- 8 Work in conjunction with constituent city or district councils to establish procedures for ensuring efficient resource management processes in areas where there are overlaps in the functions of regional councils and district or city councils under the Act.

This may involve undertaking transfers of functions, powers and duties under section 33 of the Act, where this would result in more efficient or effective resource management processes or outcomes.

- 9 Consider preparing joint resource management plans or strategies with neighbouring regional councils, constituent city or district councils, and other resource management agencies to address specific areas or issues.