Contents

IM Integrated Management of Land and Water

The objectives, policies and methods in this section only apply to water and land resources in the region and exclude geothermal resources, which are addressed by provisions in the geothermal chapter of this regional plan, and the Operative Rotorua Geothermal Regional Plan.

The explanation/principal reasons for the provisions in this section have been moved to Appendix 1.

Integrated Management of Land and Water

Issues

IM I1 (Issue 11) **The concept and implementation of stewardship is not universally shared by all resource users, which can result in inappropriate land use practices.**

It is recognised that stewardship is an important concept to all New Zealanders who possess a sense of belonging, and a close relationship or association with land and other natural resources. Stewardship is akin to the Maori concept of kaitiakitanga. Many resources users and landowners have adopted good environmental management practices, and are pro-active about avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects of their activities. Some resource users may lack the stewardship ethic, and do not understand or recognise the consequences of their activities, especially adverse effects on downstream neighbours and the environment. Examples include activities that degrade downstream water quality to below useable standards, or activities that cause erosion or flooding on another person's property. However, many resource users have already adopted best management practices that avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the environment. In sensitive receiving environments, such as the Rotorua Lakes, the adoption of a stewardship ethic by all parties is now an expectation of landowners, resource users, and the community.

There is a growing recognition that achieving required environmental standards requires a partnership between landowners, councils and other resource management agencies and organisations. Non-regulatory measures are appropriate and efficient in many situations. Regulatory measures may be necessary to achieve environmental standards particularly where activities are restricted by provisions in the Act, or there are resource users who are not avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects of their activities. Also refer to the introductory section *Role of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council under the Act* for explanation on the difference between land and water management under the Act.

Objective *IM O2*
Policy *IM P7*
Method *IM M1, IM M3, IM M4, IM M7, IM M8, IM M14, LM M2, LM M11*

IM I2 (Issue 12) **Water quality in some streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, harbours and coastal margins in the Bay of Plenty can be adversely affected as a result of use and development activities.**

Adverse effects on water quality may include the following:

1 Lowered dissolved oxygen.
2 Reduced colour and clarity.
3 Increased water temperatures.
4 Increased levels of bacteria, sediment, nutrients, heavy metals or other contaminants.
5 Changes to in-stream biota composition and abundance to more pollutant tolerant species.

Degraded water quality can:

(a) Limit the use of the water in downstream areas, including water takes for domestic supply, municipal supply, stock water, irrigation or industrial uses. The opportunity to use water in downstream areas is lost where the assimilative capacity of a water body is overloaded by discharges of contaminants to water. This can adversely affect the ability of the community to gain access to potable water supply.
(b) Adversely affect aquatic ecosystems.
(c) Adversely affect natural character, landscape, Maori cultural, and recreational values.
(d) Adversely affect the mauri of the water body.
(e) Adversely affect the water quality in estuaries, coastal margins and the open coast.
(f) Have potential adverse effects on human health (e.g. toxic algal blooms).

The major causes of this issue in the Bay of Plenty are:

(a) Discharges of contaminants or water to water, or discharges to land where the contaminant may enter water, including spills of hazardous substances, where the discharge does not meet required environmental standards.
(b) Diffuse discharges resulting from land management practices where the adverse effects are not avoided, remedied or mitigated.
(c) Increased sedimentation as a result of accelerated erosion on land, and activities in the beds of rivers that discharge contaminants or result in sedimentation (including gravel extraction, and stock access to river and lake beds).
(d) Reduced water flows due to over-abstraction of water.
(e) A lack of suitable riparian vegetation to stabilise the margins of surface water bodies and filter surface runoff.
(f) Natural influences and biological responses, including geothermal metals, algal blooms and foams. Natural variances in water quality are evident throughout the region as a result of underlying geology, soil types and weathering patterns. Rivers flowing through peat lands can be discoloured by organic materials leaching into surface water. Water quality can also naturally vary as a result of climate, the quality of inflows, and water levels. Wildlife, particularly aquatic birds, can affect water quality.

Areas in the Bay of Plenty where degraded water quality is of particular concern are:

1 The Rotorua Lakes and their catchments. Excessive nutrients from diffuse discharges in lake catchments can lead to the eutrophication of lakes and undesirable biological responses. Aquatic weed, algae proliferation and ‘foams’ have been noted in the Rotorua lakes during periods of warm weather. Algal blooms, water-weed and lake ‘foams’ can also restrict recreational use and lower aesthetic values.

2 Streams and rivers where:

(a) There are significant heritage values.
(b) There is a high leaching of nutrients from land use activities in the catchment, which enter surface water bodies and have adverse effects on water quality and aquatic ecosystems.
(c) The stream or river is in the catchment of Tauranga or Ohiwa Harbour, or Waihi Estuary.
(d) Algal growths have been noted during periods of dry weather.
(e) The stream or river is a source of municipal water supply. It is recognised that treatment technology is available to ensure the urban community is provided with potable water, while allowing for horticultural and agricultural production. However, there are economic benefits to maintaining potable water quality where required, and it may be cost-effective to manage the effects of activities in these catchments.

3 Tauranga and Ohiwa Harbours, and Waihi Estuary. Low energy systems such as estuary and harbour environments accumulate sediment-bound contaminants.

Also refer to IM I1 for the effects of land use on water quality, and the importance of stewardship.

Objective	*IM O1, RL O1, RL O2, IM O3, IM O7*
Policy	*IM P1, LM P1, LM P2, IM P3, IM P4, LM P3, IM P5, LM P4, IM P6, IM P8, RL P1, LR Policies LR P1 to LR P19*
Method	*IM M1, IM M2, IM M3, LM M1, LM M2, LM M3, LM M9, LM M12, LM M13, DW M19, RL M2, LM M14, IM M6, IM M8, LM M15, RL M4, LM M17, LM M18, LM M19, IM M10, LM M22, RL M5, RL M6, RL M7, LM M23, IM M13, IM M14, IM M15, IM M16, IM M17, IM M18, IM M21, IM M22, IM M23, IM M25, IM M26, RL M8, IM M28, Water Quality Classification Map, LR Methods LR M1 to LR M5*
Rule	*Rules in the RL Rotorua Lakes and LR Lake Rotorua Nutrient Management section and Discharges to Water and Land section*
Schedule	*9, Schedules LR One to LR Seven*

IM I3 (Issue 15) **There are some lakes, and bathing sites on rivers and streams in the Bay of Plenty that do not meet bathing quality guidelines.**

Bathing quality surveys undertaken by the Regional Council over the summer of 2000/2001 have indicated that about 20% of river bathing sites that were sampled in the Bay of Plenty do not meet the 1999 Ministry of Health/Ministry for the Environment guideline for bathing[12]. Schedule 10 lists the freshwater bathing sites monitored by the Regional Council.

Objective	*IM O1, IM O4, IM O7*
Policy	*IM P1, IM P5, LM P4, IM P8*
Method	*IM M2, LM M18, IM M15, IM M18, IM M21, IM M22*
Schedule	*9, 10*

IM I4 (Issue 16) **The coastal environment can be adversely affected by degraded water quality from the out-flows of rivers and streams.**

Objective	*IM O1*
Policy	*IM P1*
Method	*LM M1, IM M1, IM M12, IM M15*

[12] Ministry of Health/Ministry for the Environment, November 1999. Recreational Water Quality Guidelines, New Zealand.

IM I5 (Issue 17)

Changing land use can affect rainfall infiltration, surface water runoff and catchment water yields, which in turn may affect surface and groundwater hydrology.

The main factors of concern in the Bay of Plenty are the effects of changing water flows on:

(a) The health of aquatic ecosystems.
(b) The assimilative capacity of rivers and streams.
(c) Minimum and average water flows, and peak flood flow levels.

Objective *IM O1*
Policy *IM P1, IM P5*
Method *IM M15, LM M23, IM M18*

Objectives

IM O1 (Objective 8) Integrated management of land and water resources.

IM O2 (Objective 10) Stewardship of natural resources which:

(a) Sustains the life-supporting capacity of soil, water and ecosystems.
(b) Maintains, and where appropriate, protects cultural, ecological, amenity, natural character and landscape values through management practices that avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects.

IM O3 (Objective 13) The water quality in rivers and streams is maintained or improved to meet the Water Quality Classifications set in the Water Quality Classification Map, and the following environmental outcomes:

(a) Natural State (Lake) Water Quality Classification - the natural quality of the water shall not change.
(b) Natural State (River) Water Quality Classification - the natural quality of the water shall not change.
(c) Managed State (Lake) Water Quality Classification - the water quality in the lake shall not deteriorate.
(d) Aquatic Ecosystem (Bay of Plenty) Water Quality Classification - water quality shall be sufficient to support diverse and healthy aquatic ecosystems.
(e) Contact Recreation Water Quality Classification - water quality shall be sufficient to allow contact recreational uses.
(f) Water Supply Water Quality Classification - water quality shall be sufficient to allow for municipal water supply purposes, while recognising water treatment may still be required.
(g) Drains with Ecological Values Water Quality Classification - water quality shall be sufficient to support aquatic ecosystems, while recognising that aquatic ecosystems in such areas are limited.
(h) Regional Baseline Water Quality Classification - water quality shall not deteriorate.

IM O4 (Objective 14) The water quality of lakes and bathing sites on rivers and streams listed in Schedule 10 is maintained at a level suitable for swimming.

IM O5 (Objective 15) Maintenance of high quality groundwater.

IM O6 (Objective 16) Degraded groundwater quality is improved where appropriate.

IM O7 (Objective 22) Recognition of the beneficial effects of the use and development of water, land and geothermal resources on the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of people and communities.

Policies

IM P1 (Policy 21) To manage land and water resources in the Bay of Plenty within an integrated catchment management framework to:

(a) Maintain or enhance water quality in individual lakes to meet their Trophic Level Index ('TLI') and Water Quality Classification.
(b) Require the management of nitrogen or phosphorus in individual Rotorua Lake catchments.
(c) Reduce cyanobacterial algal blooms on the Rotorua Lakes by managing nutrient inputs in the lake catchment.
(d) Maintain or improve water quality in streams and rivers to meet their Water Quality Classification.
(e) Have full regard to the water quality classifications for coastal waters (including harbours and estuaries), and policies relevant to the coastal environment in the Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Environment Plan.
(f) Recognise and provide for heritage values in resource management decisions.
(g) Maintain existing high quality groundwater, where the following have been identified:
    (i) Potable water, including aquifers used for municipal water supply.
    (ii) Natural water quality that has not been adversely affected by land use or point source discharges.
    (iii) Recharge areas of aquifers related to areas specified in (i) and (ii). and
    (iv) In the groundwater catchments of the Rotorua lakes, Ohiwa and Tauranga harbours.
(h) Avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on groundwater quality in other areas not otherwise addressed by (g).
(i) Ensure the levels of bacteria in those rivers and streams that have been identified as important swimming sites and in lakes in Schedule 10 meet the Ministry of Health/Ministry for the Environment Recreational Water Quality Guidelines (1999) as a minimum.
(j) Understand the effects of changing land cover and land use practices on water flows and levels in rivers, streams, lakes.
(k) Promote and encourage the adoption of sustainable land management practices that are appropriate to the environmental characteristics and limitations of the site to:
    (i) Protect the soil and avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of erosion.
    (ii) Maintain the health of the region's soil resources for future generations.
    (iii) Achieve the appropriate management of riparian areas, including the retirement and planting of riparian areas of streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and estuaries.
    (iv) Avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on water quality in the receiving environment.
    (v) Take into account the assimilative capacity of the soil.
    (vi) Recognise and provide for heritage values of the site.
    (vii) Maintain or improve the protective function of coastal sand dunes.
    (viii) Control sediment entering estuaries and harbours from use and development activities.
(l) Manage land and water resources according to realistic management goals that are appropriate to the existing environmental quality and heritage values (including ecosystem values) of the location.

IM P1A The loss of river extent and values is avoided, unless the council is satisfied:
(a) that there is a functional need for the activity in that location; and
(b) the effects of the activity are managed by applying the effects management hierarchy.

For the purposes of this policy, effects management hierarchy and loss of value have the meaning given by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.

IM P2 (Policy 24) To recognise and provide for people and organisations who have adopted proven good environmental management practices.

IM P3 (Policy 25) To encourage and provide for community involvement in the management of water, and land resources.

IM P4 (Policy 26) To continue to raise community awareness about water quality and integrated management issues.

IM P5 (Policy 28) To develop and maintain accurate information on soil and water (including groundwater) resources in the region.

IM P6 (Policy 30) To review and amend the water quality classifications of rivers, streams and lakes where new information is available and indicates a change is necessary, including improved knowledge of aquatic ecosystem values or water quality changes. Changes to the water quality classifications will be publicly notified through a plan change or variation process.

IM P7 (Policy 31) To promote the adoption of the stewardship of soil and water resources, ecosystems, and cultural, amenity, natural character and landscape values.

IM P8 (Policy 32) To allow resource use and development where there are beneficial effects on the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of people and communities; and adverse effects on the environment are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Methods of Implementation

The Regional Council will:

Education, Promotion and Provision of Information

IM M1 (Method 25) Promote and encourage the adoption of site-specific sustainable land and water management practices by using the following:

Table IM 1 Methods of Promoting and Encouraging Sustainable Land and Water Management Practices

	Measure	Explanation
(a)	Information resources	Maintaining information resources on sustainable land management practices and publishing Sustainable Options Land Management Fact Sheets.
(b)	Education programmes	Working with schools and educational organisations to develop and support educational programmes that advance the concept of sustainable land and water management and its practical aspects.
(c)	Practical demonstrations	Trialling soundly-based initiatives that seek to increase the sustainability of land and water management, and holding practical demonstrations of techniques that may be used to bring about sustainable management.
(d)	Providing advice	Providing general advice to landowners on sustainable land and water management, including soil conservation and indigenous

	Measure	Explanation
		and exotic plant species that are suitable for soil conservation plantings.
(e)	Industry initiatives	Encouraging the development and implementation of industry-based best management practices, codes of practice, environmental management systems and self-monitoring programmes that achieve the sustainable development and management of land.
(f)	Recognition	Continuing to publicly recognise initiatives and works (including publications and essays) that promote or achieve the sustainable management of land in the region through awards to landowner organisations, companies or schools.
(g)	Care groups	Promote and encourage the establishment of community based care groups through the provision of technical advice, administrative assistance, approved works assistance and assistance in the development of management plans. Examples include Landcare, Streamcare, Wetlandcare and Coastcare groups.
(h)	Farm nutrient budgets	Encourage the use of farm nutrient budgets where practicable, and provide support material and workshops on the use of farm nutrient budgets, particularly in the catchments of Lakes Rotoehu, Okaro, Rotorua, Okareka, Rotoiti and other lakes that exceed their TLI.
(i)	Environmental Programmes	Refer to IM M8.
(j)	Resource assessments	Promoting land resource investigations and assessments.

IM M2 (Method 28) Provide information to the community on:

(a) The natural influences on water quality, including geothermal inputs, and the subsequent limitations on the use of that water.
(b) The water quality of rivers and lakes where this information is available.

IM M3 (Method 29) Raise community awareness of matters relating to the sustainable management of land and water resources using appropriate education and promotion techniques and mechanisms, for example the Environmental Education Strategy for Environment Bay of Plenty 1999-2005[13].

IM M4 (Method 30) Promote and support community projects that aim to improve water quality through localised action. This may be carried out in conjunction with the city council and district councils, other resource management agencies, tangata whenua and other organisations as appropriate.

Working with Other Resource Management Agencies and the Community

IM M5 (Method 44) In conjunction with city or district councils, avoid conflicting management policies, methods and responses, by developing and implementing processes (such as joint consent processing, hearings and protocols) to manage areas of overlapping functions, including but not limited to, issues such as earthworks, heritage values, indigenous vegetation, and geothermal matters.

[13] Environment Bay of Plenty, 1999. Environmental Education Strategy for Environment Bay of Plenty 1999-2005 – Learning for a Sustainable Environment.

IM M6 (Method 46) In conjunction with the city council and district councils, determine if specific management measures are necessary to control activities in the catchments above municipal water supply surface water intakes. Where specific management measures are required, the Regional Council, the city council and/or district councils will consider initiating plan variation or change processes to include such measures in relevant regional or district plans.

IM M7 (Method 47) In partnership with landowners, develop, trial and implement where appropriate, voluntary Stewardship Management Agreements within the framework of this regional plan to give effects to the Act, to:

(a) Promote a co-operative approach with positive, ongoing relationships with people as stewards of their land.
(b) Have particular regard to the ethic of stewardship.
(c) Recognise that stewardship involves both:
  (i) The use and development of land and water resources; and
  (ii) The protection of significant sites and of natural resources.
(d) Enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being.
(e) Address the specific resource management issues of a property.
(f) Promote and encourage the adoption of best management practices that are suitable for the property to achieve sustainable management of resources.
(g) Include a process for monitoring the implementation and also reviewing the appropriateness of agreed Stewardship Management Agreements.

Works and Services Provided by the Regional Council

IM M8 (Method 48) Continue to promote the adoption of Environmental Programmes that:

Table IM 2 Promotion of Environmental Programmes

	Aspect	Method
(a)	Address environmental issues on the property	Address the specific environmental issues of the property, including, but not limited to: (a) Fencing and retirement of the riparian margins of rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. (b) Using alternative means, including bridges and culverts to move stock across rivers, streams and drains. (c) Using appropriate methods to prevent stock access to the beds of lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands including, but not limited to: riparian fencing and planting, land retirement, stock or farm management practices and providing alternative stock water supply other than direct access to surface water bodies. Electric fences may be appropriate in some circumstances in relation to the type of stock, and type of surface water body. (d) The planting of appropriate indigenous wetland species in wetlands and on their margins, where the species is appropriate to the location and type of wetland. Eco-sourced plants are to be used where practicable. (e) Protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. (f) Pest control.

	Aspect	Method
(b)	Subsidise works	Recognise the significant off-site benefits of soil conservation works by providing grant assistance for approved soil conservation works, including fencing, protection planting and retirement of riparian margins of rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands, and where appropriate, the provision of alternative stock water supply and stock crossings. Funding is to be at a rate that is: (i) Equitable to individual landowners and the community, and (ii) Affordable by the region. (iii) At a rate that is agreed with other funding parties, and where the overall percentage split of each operational phase of the programme is applicable to the functions of each party. Funding will be prioritised on the risk of erosion, and potential environmental benefits.
(c)	Encourage a partnership approach	Is in partnership with landowners, and involves other resource management agencies where appropriate.
(d)	Ensure ongoing maintenance	Ensures the terms and conditions of the Environmental Programme are provided for.
(e)	Protect community investment	Use covenants to protect vegetated riparian areas where the works have been subsidised by the Regional Council or any other agency, e.g. QEII Covenants, Nga Whenua Rahui, or Local Purpose Reserve Covenants.
(f)	Integrate works	Integrate soil conservation works with land protection for other purposes by consulting with city or district councils and other organisations that are protecting land for other purposes.

Regulatory Methods

IM M9 (Method 50) Removed to give effect to the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry Regulations 2017.

Matters Relevant to Resource Consent Applications and Processing

IM M10 (Method 56) When considering resource consent applications, assess the:

(a) Natural character,

(b) Outstanding natural features and landscapes,

(c) Significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna,

(d) Maori cultural values,

Historic heritage, of an activity site on a case by case basis using the requirements in the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement.

IM M11 (Method 57) Require the improvement of groundwater quality where degradation is due to identifiable human activities and improvement measures are economically and environmentally cost effective and practicable. It is recognised that improvements to groundwater may take time to become apparent, and degradation may be the result of cumulative effects of land use activities over an aquifer or in a recharge area.

IM M12 (Method 60) Comply with the provisions of the Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Environmental Plan when assessing resource consents for use and development activities in the coastal environment above mean high water spring, and where there are adverse effects on the coastal environment from use and development activities.

IM M13 (Method 64) Use financial contributions in accordance with Appendix 2, to achieve the objectives, policies and methods of this regional plan.

Monitoring and Investigation of the Environment

IM M14 (Method 65) Support the establishment and maintenance of community-based state of the environment monitoring programmes.

IM M15 (Method 66) Continue to monitor the state of the environment in the Bay of Plenty in accordance with the Regional Council's Natural Environment Regional Monitoring Network ('NERMN'), and existing compliance and impact monitoring programmes.

IM M16 (Method 67) Use existing impact and state of the environment monitoring programmes to assess the combined effects of discharges of contaminants to water and surface water abstractions on water quality.

IM M17 (Method 68) Continue to investigate and clarify the nutrient exports of different land uses, and best nutrient management practices.

IM M18 (Method 72) Undertake research where monitoring indicates an environmental problem that is not currently understood or explained, and research is necessary, appropriate and practicable. Research may be in conjunction with the city council, district councils, other resource management agencies, tangata whenua, industry organisations and other organisations as appropriate.

IM M19 (Method 73) Identify recharge zones for aquifers that are used for municipal water supply, and in conjunction with the city council and district councils, land owners and the community, determine if specific management measures are necessary to control activities in these zones to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on groundwater quality. A plan change or variation will be initiated if it is necessary to include specific management measures.

IM M20 (Method 74) Identify those areas where groundwater quality has been significantly degraded by the effects of human activity and take appropriate action, including, but not limited to:

(a) The development and implementation of groundwater improvement strategies in conjunction with tangata whenua, the city council and district councils, landowner organisations, industry, other organisations and the community; and

(b) Reviewing resource consent conditions for discharges of contaminants onto or into land in accordance with section 128 of the Act. The Regional Council will review a resource consent in accordance with section 128 of the Act, where it is proven that adverse environmental effects will occur or continue due to the exercise of that consent.

IM M21 (Method 75) When bacterial or cyanobacterial levels are above that specified in the Water Quality Classification for an individual lake, river or stream, or other conditions arise that pose a risk to human health:

(a) Liaise with the Medical Officer of Health, City Council, District Councils, and the community.

(b) Investigate the cause of the problem and take action where appropriate.

IM M22 (Method 76) When water quality in a river or stream is below its water quality classification, determine the cause of the degradation and initiate suitable action, including that specified in LM M1, LM M17 and LM M22.

IM M23 (Method 77) Use the ANZECC Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000) to assess and determine site-specific criteria (guideline values) for toxicity limits specific to the environmental conditions of localities or water bodies in the Bay of Plenty region. Site-specific criteria will be included in this regional plan via a plan change process.

IM M24 (Method 79) Determine appropriate water table levels for land drainage schemes to maintain or enhance land productivity in these areas, while taking into account any adverse effects on peat soils, and aquatic values in canals listed in Schedule 3. Such water table levels will be established in consultation with the land drainage scheme administrator and landowners in the scheme, other agencies involved in aquatic ecosystem management (including administrators of wetland areas that may be affected), soil scientists and roading authorities where appropriate, and included in this regional plan via a plan change process, as appropriate.

IM M25 (Method 80) Assess and review the appropriateness of water quality classifications for streams, rivers and lakes in relation to state of the environment water quality information, knowledge of aquatic ecosystem values, and the water quality classification criteria in IM M26. Ephemeral flowpaths will be deleted from the Water Quality Classification Map. Any changes to the Water Quality Classification Map will be in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Act, and in consultation with stakeholders and the community.

IM M26 (Method 81) Use the following criteria to determine appropriate water quality classifications for streams, rivers and lakes in the region:

Table IM 3 Water Quality Classification Criteria

	Water Quality Classification	Criteria	Explanation
(a)	Natural State (River)	Rivers and streams that are under indigenous forest cover, and in upper catchment areas, and in public tenure (i.e. owned or managed by the Department of Conservation or city and district councils).	Natural State (River) does not apply in areas under indigenous forest cover, but where there is a different land use upstream of the indigenous forest.
(b)	Natural State (Lake)	Lakes with existing high water quality.	Protects existing water quality.
(c)	Managed State (Lake)	Lakes with degraded water quality that do not meet their TLI in RL O1.	Recognises the need to improve degraded water quality.
(d)	Aquatic Ecosystem (Bay of Plenty)	Rivers and streams that are not Natural State (River), and provide habitat for indigenous fish species or trout, except where there is a municipal water supply use (refer to Water Supply classification), or there is degraded water quality and Aquatic Ecosystem (Bay of Plenty) standards and criteria are not realistically achievable.	Protects water quality to sufficiently maintain healthy and diverse aquatic ecosystems. However, it is recognised that some rivers and streams (especially the lower reaches of large rivers) are degraded and it would not be efficient or effective to apply standards and criteria that are not practicable or achievable.
(e)	Contact Recreation	Rivers and streams that are not Natural State (River), Aquatic Ecosystem (Bay of Plenty), or Water Supply, and have been identified as being used for contact recreation, or where the outlet of the stream is near a coastal bathing beach.	Protects water quality sufficient to maintain contact recreation uses.
(f)	Water Supply	Rivers and streams that are not Natural State (River), and are upstream of a municipal water supply intake. The classification is applied for a sufficient distance upstream of the water intake.	On small streams, the classification is applied to area above the intake (except where there is Natural State (River)). On large rivers, the classification is applied to the reach at an appropriate distance relative to the land use in the catchment, and volume of the river.
(g)	Drains with Ecological Values	Modified watercourses that are part of land drainage schemes that provide aquatic habitats or migratory pathways for indigenous fish species.	Links to Schedule 3 – Watercourses in Land Drainage Schemes with Ecological Values.
(h)	Drain Water Quality	Any other canal or drain that is part of a land drainage scheme identified in Schedule 5. Excludes privately owned drains.	Provides baseline standards and criteria for discharges to open water in drains.
(i)	Regional Baseline (Bay of Plenty)	Rivers and streams that have not otherwise been classified according to (a) to (h).	Recognises the need to maintain an acceptable water quality in rivers and streams where other values or uses have not otherwise been identified.

Note:

In relation to (h), the water quality classification is only to set a baseline for discharges, and is not intended to imply that the Regional Council will control water quality in artificial watercourses.

IM 27 (Method 82) Identify and map aquifers and their recharge areas:

(a) Where there is potable water, including aquifers used for municipal water supply.

(b) Where natural water quality has not been adversely affected by land use or point source discharges.

In the catchments of the Rotorua lakes, Ohiwa and Tauranga harbours.

IM 28 (Method 84) Use the:

(a) Water quality classification criteria in IM M26;

(b) The definition of ephemeral flowpath; and

The definition of artificial watercourse;

when applying the Water Quality Classification Map and an assessment (ground-truthing) is required to determine the appropriate water quality classification. In such situations, the assessment by an appropriately qualified person takes precedence over the Water Quality Classification Map.