

# *SUMMARY*

## *Draft Issues and Options for Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan Land Management chapter*



The Land Management (LM) chapter of the Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP) concerns the management of a large range of land-use activities for the purposes of soil conservation, to maintain or enhance water quality and to main and enhance ecosystems. Earthworks, quarries, cultivation, forestry, and on-site effluent storage are addressed by this chapter of the RNRP.

The review of the LM chapter of the RNRP revealed that many current issues are still relevant and key parts of the issues in this section should inform the setting of new objectives and policies. Issues and methods are being removed across the whole RNRP.

The review highlighted opportunities to streamline and generally simplify the content of this chapter by removing unnecessary explanatory material and combining rules where effects of the activity were similar, as in the case for earthworks and vegetation clearance.

Other opportunities include improving policies, so they are more useful and better direct effects to be assessed and managed for all plan users, including consenting planners. Recommended new draft policy direction seeks to clearly identify the effects of land disturbance activities to be managed including vegetation clearance, the protection of heritage sites and biodiversity values. Urban and rural land use policies support good management practice to minimise the loss of nutrients, sediment, faecal contaminants and other contaminants/toxicants from land (particularly in catchments with harbours and estuaries) to fresh and coastal water bodies. In addition, the ability to consider the interface between activities across chapters such as earthworks and stormwater discharges is supported.

There is an interface between the LM chapter, the Discharges to Land and Water chapter, and water quality objectives, targets and limits on resource use being explored in the water quality issues and options paper. These will need to be integrated. Some regionwide options for land use and management are still to be developed to meet water quality objectives and targets being set while implementing the National Objectives Framework.

Like reviews done for other chapters, this review highlighted the importance of carefully integrating Te Mana o te Wai throughout the plan.

To give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM), a new objective has been drafted to ensure land use and development activities are managed to progress relevant region wide freshwater objectives, meet FMU freshwater objectives, and reduce cumulative effects of contaminant losses to water from land use activities.

It is early in the plan development process. Several unresolved questions and further work remain, particularly relating to upcoming national regulatory requirements e.g., national Freshwater Farm Plan regulations and amendments to national regulations for Sources of Human Drinking Water. Further changes to the draft provisions will be required in response.

Engagement with tangata whenua, stakeholders and the community will continue to progress through 2023 before the proposed provisions are decided upon in 2024.

Under the NPSFM, Council must actively involve tangata whenua in the freshwater planning process to the extent they wish to be involved, enable the application of Mātauranga Māori to freshwater management, identify Māori freshwater values, and provide for mahinga kai values. Council has made efforts, and continues these efforts, to engage with tangata whenua to deliver on these NPSFM requirements. Notwithstanding this, the scope and quantity of work to implement the NPSFM within the statutory deadline of December 2024 is very large, and issues and options papers on all topics have had to progress while tangata whenua engagement is being sought or progressing. Existing information about tangata whenua values has been relied on. Policy options and assessments will be amended as appropriate in response to engagement in the next year leading up to decision making.