

Appendix 8 - Full Wording of PNRP Relevant Objectives and Policies

PNRP – Relevant Objectives and Policies
Ki uta ki tai: mountains to the sea
Objective O1 Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area are managed as integrated and connected resources; ki uta ki tai – mountains to the sea. Policy P1: Ki uta ki tai and integrated catchment management Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area will be managed recognising ki uta ki tai by using the principles of integrated catchment management. These principles include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) decision-making using the catchment as the spatial unit, and(b) applying an adaptive management approach to take into account the dynamic nature and processes of catchments, and(c) coordinated management, with decisions based on best available information and improvements in technology and science, and(d) taking into account the connected nature of resources and natural processes within a catchment, and(e) recognising links between environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability of the catchment.
Objective O2 The importance and contribution of air, land, water and ecosystems to the social, economic and cultural well-being and health of people and the community are recognised in the management of those resources.
Objective O3 Mauri particularly the mauri of fresh and coastal waters is sustained and, where it has been depleted, natural resources and processes are enhanced to replenish mauri.
Objective O4 The intrinsic values of fresh water and marine ecosystems are recognised and the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems is safeguarded.
Beneficial use and development
Objective O9 The recreational values of the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes and their margins and natural wetlands are maintained and where appropriate for recreational purposes, is enhanced. Policy P10: Contact recreation and Māori customary use Use and development avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on contact recreation and Māori customary use in fresh and coastal water, including by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) providing water quality and, in rivers, flows suitable for the community's objectives for contact recreation and Māori customary use, and

- (b) managing activities to maintain or enhance contact recreation values in the beds of lakes and rivers, including by retaining existing swimming holes and maintaining access to existing contact recreation locations, and
- (c) encouraging improved access to suitable swimming and surfing locations, and
- (d) providing for the passive recreation and amenity values of fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area.

Objective O10

Public access to and along the coastal marine area and rivers and lakes is maintained and enhanced, other than in exceptional circumstances, in which case alternative access is provided where practicable.

Policy P9: Public access to and along the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers

Maintain and enhance the extent or quality of public access to and along the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers except where it is necessary to:

- (a) protect the values of estuaries, sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), sites with significant historic heritage value identified in Schedule E (historic heritage) and sites with significant indigenous biodiversity value identified in Schedule F (indigenous biodiversity), or
- (b) protect public health and safety, or protect Wellington International Airport and Commercial Port Area security, or
- (d) provide for a temporary activity such as construction, a recreation or cultural event or stock movement, and where the temporary restrictions shall be for no longer than reasonably necessary before access is fully reinstated, and

with respect to (a) and (b), where it is necessary to permanently restrict or remove existing public access, the loss of public access shall be mitigated or offset by providing enhanced public access at a similar or nearby location to the extent reasonably practicable.

Māori relationships

Objective O14

The relationships of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga are recognised and provided for, including:

- (a) maintaining and improving opportunities for Māori customary use of the coastal marine area, rivers, lakes and their margins and natural wetlands, and
- (b) maintaining and improving the availability of mahinga kai species, in terms of quantity, quality and diversity, to support Māori customary harvest, and
- (c) providing for the relationship of mana whenua with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, including by maintaining or improving Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa so that the huanga identified in Schedule B are provided for, and
- (d) protecting sites with significant mana whenua values from use and development that will adversely affect their values and restoring those sites to a state where their characteristics and qualities sustain the identified values.

Policy P17: Mauri

The mauri of fresh and coastal waters shall be recognised as being important to Māori and is sustained and enhanced, including by:

- (a) managing the individual and cumulative adverse effects of activities that may impact on mauri in the manner set out in the rest of the Plan, and
- (b) providing for those activities that sustain and enhance mauri, and
- (c) recognising and providing for the role of kaitiaki in sustaining mauri.

Policy P18: Mana whenua relationships with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa

The relationships between mana whenua and Ngā Huanga o Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa identified in Schedule B (Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa) will be recognised and provided for by:

- (a) having particular regard to the values and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa huanga identified in Schedule B (Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa) when applying for, and making decisions on resource consent applications, and developing Whaitua Implementation Programmes, and
- (b) informing iwi authorities of relevant resource consents relating to Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, and
- (c) recognising the relevant iwi authority/ies as an affected party under RMA s95E where activities risk having a minor or more than minor adverse effect on Ngā Huanga o Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa or on the significant values of a Schedule C site which is located downstream, and
- (d) working with mana whenua, landowners, and other interested parties as appropriate, to develop and implement restoration initiatives within Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, and
- (e) the Wellington Regional Council and iwi authorities implementing kaupapa Māori monitoring of Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa.

Policy P19: Māori values

The cultural relationship of Māori with air, land and water shall be recognised and the adverse effects on this relationship and their values shall be minimised.

Objective O15

Kaitiakitanga is recognised and mana whenua actively participate in planning and decision-making in relation to the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.

Policy P20: Exercise of kaitiakitanga

Kaitiakitanga shall be recognised and provided for by involving mana whenua in the assessment and decision-making processes associated with use and development of natural and physical resources including;

- (a) managing activities in sites with significant mana whenua values listed in Schedule C (mana whenua) in accordance with tikanga and kaupapa Māori as exercised by mana whenua, and
- (b) the identification and inclusion of mana whenua attributes and values in the kaitiaki information and monitoring strategy in accordance with Method M2, and
- (c) identification of mana whenua values and attributes and their application through tikanga and kaupapa Māori in the maintenance and enhancement of mana whenua relationships with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa.

Natural character, form and function

Objective O17

The natural character of the coastal marine area, natural wetlands, and rivers, lakes and their margins is preserved and protected from inappropriate use and development.

Policy P25: Preserving and protecting natural character from inappropriate use and development

To preserve natural character and protect it from inappropriate use and development by:

- (a) avoiding adverse effects of activities on the natural character of areas within the coastal environment that have outstanding natural character, and
- (b) avoiding significant adverse effects and avoid remedy and mitigate other adverse effects of activities on the natural character of areas within the coastal environment that do not have outstanding natural character, and
- (c) outside the coastal environment, avoiding and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating adverse effects of activities on the natural character of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that have outstanding natural character, provided that the outstanding natural character of the area taken as a whole is retained, and
- (d) outside the coastal environment, avoiding and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating significant adverse effects of activities on the natural character of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that have high natural character, provided that the high natural character of the area taken as a whole is retained, and
- (e) outside the coastal environment, avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects of activities on the natural character of wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins that are not addressed under (c) or (d) of Policy P25.

Natural Hazards

Objective O20

The hazard risk and residual hazard risk, from natural hazards and adverse effects of climate change, on people, the community, the environment and infrastructure are acceptable.

Policy P28: Hazard mitigation measures

Hard hazard engineering mitigation and protection methods shall be discouraged except where it is necessary to protect:

- (a) existing, or upgrades to, infrastructure including regionally significant infrastructure, or
- (b) new regionally significant infrastructure, or
- (c) significant existing development, and

in respect of (a), (b) and (c):

- (d) there is no reasonable or practicable alternatives to mitigate hazard risk and residual hazard risk, and
- (e) the mitigation and protection methods are suitably located and designed, and where appropriate certified by a qualified, professional engineer, and
- (f) the use of soft engineering options are incorporated and used, where appropriate,

and either:

- (g) any adverse effects are no more than minor, or
- (h) where the environmental effects are more than minor the works form part of a hazard risk management strategy.

Policy P29: Effects of climate change

Particular regard shall be given to the potential for climate change

- (a) to threaten biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, or

- (b) to cause or exacerbate natural hazard events over at least the next 100 years that could adversely affect use and development

including as a result of:

- (c) coastal erosion and inundation (storm surge), and
- (d) river and lake flooding and erosion, aggradation, decreased minimum flows, and
- (e) stormwater ponding and impeded drainage, and
- (f) relative sea level rise, reliable scientific data for the Wellington region.

Objective O21

Inappropriate use and development in high hazard areas is avoided.

Policy P27: High hazard areas

Use and development, including hazard mitigation methods, in on or over high hazard areas shall be managed to ensure that:

- (a) they have a functional need or operational requirement or there is no practicable alternative to be so located, and
- (b) an overall increase in risk of social, environmental and economic harm is avoided, and
- (c) the hazard risk and/or residual hazard risk to the development, assessed using a risk-based approach, is acceptable or as low as reasonably practicable, recognising that in some instances an increase in risk to the development may be appropriate, and
- (d) the development does not cause or exacerbate hazard risk in other areas, and unless effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated in accordance with a hazard risk management strategy, and
- (e) adverse effects on natural processes (coastal, riverine and lake processes) are avoided, remedied, or mitigated, and
- (f) natural cycles of erosion and accretion and the potential for natural features to fluctuate in position over time, including movements due to climate change and sea level rise over at least the next 100 years, are taken into account.

Water quality

Objective O24

Rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and coastal water are suitable for contact recreation and Māori customary use, including by:

- (a) maintaining water quality, or
- (b) improving water quality in:
 - (i) significant contact recreation fresh water bodies and sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa identified in Schedule B to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.1, and
 - (ii) coastal water and sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa identified in Schedule B to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.3, and
 - (iii) all other rivers and lakes and natural wetlands to meet, as a minimum and within reasonable timeframes, the secondary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.2.

Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Objective O25

Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai in fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area are safeguarded such that:

- (a) water quality, flows, water levels and aquatic and coastal habitats are managed to maintain biodiversity aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, and
- (b) where an objective in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 or 3.8 is not met, a fresh water body or coastal marine area is meaningfully improved so that the objective is met within a reasonable timeframe, and
- (c) restoration of aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai is encouraged.

Objective O27

Vegetated riparian margins are established, maintained or restored to enhance water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai and indigenous biodiversity of rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and the coastal marine area.

Policy P31: Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Manage the adverse effects of use and development on biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai to:

Hydrology

- (a) maintain or where practicable restore natural flow characteristics and hydrodynamic processes and the natural pattern and range of water level fluctuations in rivers, lakes and natural wetlands, and

Water quality

- (b) maintain or improve water quality including to assist with achieving meet the objectives in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 of Objective O25, and

Aquatic habitat diversity and quality

- (c) maintain or where practicable restore aquatic habitat diversity and quality, including:
 - (i) the form, frequency and pattern of pools, runs, and riffles in rivers, and
 - (ii) the natural form of rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and the coastal marine area, and
- (d) where practicable restore the connections between fragmented aquatic habitats, and

Critical habitat for indigenous aquatic species and indigenous birds

- (e) maintain or where practicable restore habitats that are important to the life cycle and survival of indigenous aquatic species and the habitats of indigenous birds in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and the beds of lakes and rivers and their margins that are used for breeding, roosting, feeding, and migration, and

Critical life cycle periods

- (f) minimise avoid, minimise or remedy adverse effects on aquatic species at times which will most affect the breeding, spawning, and dispersal or migration of those species, including timing the activity, or the adverse effects of the activity, to avoid times of the year when adverse effects may be more significant, and

Riparian habitats

- (g) maintain or where practicable restore riparian habitats, and

Pests

- (h) avoid the introduction, and restrict the spread, of aquatic pest plants and animals¹.

Policy P32: Adverse effects on biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health, and mahinga kai

Adverse effects on biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai shall be managed by:

- (a) in the first instance, activities that risk causing adverse effects on the values of a Schedule F ecosystem or habitat, other than activities carried out in accordance with a wetland restoration management plan, shall avoid these ecosystems and habitats. If the ecosystem or habitat cannot be avoided, the adverse effects of activities shall be managed by (b) to (g) below.
- (b) avoiding adverse effects where practicable, and
- (c) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimising them where practicable, and
- (d) where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied, except as provided for in (a) to (g), and
- (e) where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, biodiversity offsetting is provided where possible, and
- (f) if biodiversity offsetting of more than minor residual adverse effects is not possible, biodiversity compensation is provided, and
- (g) the activity itself is avoided if biodiversity compensation cannot be undertaken in a way that is appropriate as set out in Schedule G3, including Clause 2 of that Schedule.

In relation to activities within the beds of lakes, rivers and natural wetlands, (e) to (g) only apply to activities which meet the exceptions in Policy P102.

A precautionary approach shall be used when assessing the potential for adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Schedule F.

Objective O28

The extent of natural wetlands is maintained or increased, their values are protected, and their condition is restored. Where the values relate to biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, restoration is to a healthy functioning state as defined by Table 3.7.

Policy P37: Values of wetlands

Activities in and adjacent to natural wetlands shall be managed to maintain and, where appropriate, restore their condition and their values including:

- (a) as habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, and
- (b) for their significance to mana whenua, and
- (c) for their role in the hydrological cycle including flood protection, and
- (d) for nutrient attenuation and sediment trapping, and
- (e) as a fisheries resource, and
- (f) for recreation, and
- (g) for education and scientific research.

Policy P38: Restoration of wetlands

The restoration of natural wetlands and the construction of artificial wetlands to meet the water quality, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives set out in Tables 3.7 and 3.8, to provide habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, and to carry out the physical and ecological functions of natural wetlands, and

to provide for amenity values where this aligns with restoration appropriate to the area and wetland type shall be encouraged and supported.

Sites with significant values

Objective O35

Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values are protected from the adverse effects of use and development, and where appropriate restored to a healthy functioning state including as defined by Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.

Policy P40: Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values

Protect in accordance with Policy P32 and Policies P39A-D and where appropriate restore the following ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values:

- (a) the rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems identified in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), and
- (b) the habitats for indigenous birds identified in Schedule F2 (bird habitats), and
- (c) natural wetlands, including the natural wetlands identified in Schedule F3 (identified significant natural wetlands), and
- (d) the ecosystems and habitat-types with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal marine area identified in Schedule F4 (coastal sites) and Schedule F5 (coastal habitats).

Policy P42: Managing effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values from activities outside these ecosystems and habitats

In order to protect the ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in accordance with Policy P40, particular regard shall be given to managing the adverse effects of use and development in areas outside of these ecosystems and habitats on physical, chemical and biological processes to:

- (a) maintain ecological connections within and between these habitats, or
- (b) provide for the enhancement of ecological connectivity between fragmented habitats through biodiversity offsets, and
- (c) provide adequate buffers around ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and
- (d) avoid cumulative adverse effects on, and the incremental loss of significant indigenous biodiversity values.

Land use

Objective O44

The adverse effects on soil and water from land use activities are minimised, including to assist with achieving the outcomes and indicators of desired environmental states for water in Tables 3.1 to 3.8.

Discharges to land and water

Objective O46

The runoff or leaching of contaminants to water from discharges to land is minimised, including to assist with achieving the outcomes and indicators of desired environmental states for water in Tables 3.1 to 3.8.

Policy P67: Minimising discharges to water or land

Discharges of contaminants to water or land will be minimised through the following hierarchy:

- (a) avoiding the production of the contaminant,
- (b) reducing the amount of contaminants, including by reusing, recovering or recycling the contaminants,
- (c) minimising the volume or amount of the discharge,
- (d) discharging to land is promoted over discharging direct to water, including using land-based treatment, constructed wetlands or other systems to treat contaminants prior to discharge.

Policy P95: Discharges to land

The discharge of contaminants to land shall be managed to:

- (a) minimise adverse effects on the life-supporting capacity of soil,
- (b) avoid creating contaminated land,
- (c) not exceed the capacity of the soil to treat, use or remove the contaminant,
- (d) not exceed the available capacity of the soil to absorb the discharge,
- (e) avoid significant adverse effects on public health and amenity,
- (f) not result in a discharge to water that causes more than a minor adverse effects, and
- (g) avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on mana whenua values when considering applications for discharges to land which may adversely affect statutory acknowledgement areas, sites of significance, or Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga sites, identified in this Plan, any relevant district plan, or in a planning document recognised by an iwi authority and lodged with a local authority.

Objective O47

The amount of sediment-laden runoff entering water is minimised, including to assist with achieving the outcomes and indicators of desired environmental states for water in Tables 3.1 to 3.8.

Objective O48

The adverse quality and quantity effects of stormwater discharges from stormwater networks and urban land uses are improved reduced over time.

Policy P63: Improving water quality for contact recreation and Māori customary use

The quality of fresh water bodies and coastal water shall be improved to meet, over time and as a minimum, the objectives in Table 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3, including by:

- (a) improving water quality in all first priority for improvement water bodies for secondary contact with water listed in Schedule H2 (priority water bodies) in accordance with Method M27, and
- (b) having particular regard to improving water quality in fresh water bodies and coastal water where contact recreation and/or Māori customary use are adversely affected by discharges from stormwater networks, stormwater from a port, or airport, wastewater networks and wastewater treatment plants.

Policy P73: Minimising adverse effects of stormwater discharges

The adverse effects of stormwater discharges shall be minimised, including by:

- (a) using good management practice, and
- (b) taking a source control and treatment train approach to new activities and land uses, and
- (c) implementing water sensitive urban design in new subdivision and development, and
- (d) progressively improving existing stormwater, wastewater, road and other public infrastructure, including during routine maintenance and upgrade, and

- (e) managing localised adverse effects, including by addressing particular attributes appropriate to the receiving environment.

Policy P79: Managing land use impacts on stormwater

Land use, subdivision and development, including stormwater discharges, shall be managed so that runoff volumes and peak flows:

- (a) avoid or minimise scour and erosion of stream beds, banks and coastal margins, and
- (b) do not increase risk to human health or safety, or increase the risk of inundation, erosion or damage to property or infrastructure,

including by retaining, as far as practicable, pre-development hydrological conditions in new subdivision and development.

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