

ASW – Activities on the Surface of Water

The Wairarapa has numerous *rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands*, which are valued for a range of conservation, recreation, cultural, amenity, and intrinsic reasons. These values are both physical and spiritual and waterways have a particular significance to Māori who respect waterways as living entities with their own life force (Mauri).

The surface of *waterbodies* in the Wairarapa is used for a range of activities, mainly recreational, and some food gathering. This chapter manages the effects arising from activities on the surface of these *waterbodies*. The water itself, as well as the beds of lakes and rivers, are managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council. Activities on, under, or over freshwater may require resource consent from the Greater Wellington Regional Council. Certain activities, including structures such as culverts and weirs, and activities relating to natural *wetlands*, are subject to the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater.

Water within the coastal marine area is managed by the Greater Wellington Regional Council. The Wellington Regional Navigation Safety Bylaws 2021 also applies to waters within the districts for the purpose of ensuring maritime safety.

Sites identified as *Significant Natural Areas, Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, and Significant Waterbodies* are subject to additional provisions in the Natural Environment Values chapter. Sites identified as containing *Outstanding Natural Character* and *Very High and High Natural Character* are subject to additional provisions in the Coastal Environment chapter.

Some sites are also subject to Statutory Acknowledgements under the Joint Redress Te Rohe o Rongokako between Rangitāne Tu Mai Ra o Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa for Wairarapa Moana and Deeds of Settlement for Rangitāne o Wairarapa Act 2017 and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Act 2022

Objectives

ASW-01	Values of rivers, lakes, and wetlands
To maintain or enhance the natural character, ecological, cultural, amenity, and recreational values of the Wairarapa's <i>rivers, lakes, and wetlands</i> by managing the adverse effects of development and activities on the surface of water.	

Policies

ASW-P1	Existing activities
Recognise and provide for existing <i>recreation activities</i> in <i>lakes</i> , <i>rivers</i> , and <i>wetlands</i> that do not cause detrimental effects on freshwater environments.	
ASW-P2	Appropriate activities
Enable activities on the surface of water, including customary activities by tangata whenua, while avoiding or mitigating the effects of large <i>structures</i> and motorised commercial recreation activities that could have an adverse effect on the natural character, ecological, cultural, amenity, and recreational values of <i>rivers</i> , <i>lakes</i> , and <i>wetlands</i> .	
ASW-P3	Appropriate structures
Prevent <i>structures</i> on or over the surface of water in <i>rivers</i> , <i>lakes</i> , and <i>wetlands</i> unless they are an accepted part of the waterbody environment or they have a <i>functional or operational need</i> to locate in this environment (for example, culverts, bridges or stock crossings, other linear infrastructure, maimais, small recreational structures, and flood defence systems).	
ASW-P4	Cumulative effects
Ensure that adverse cumulative effects of activities and <i>structures</i> on the surface of water in <i>rivers</i> , <i>lakes</i> , and <i>wetlands</i> are avoided where possible, or otherwise remedied or mitigated.	
ASW-P5	Conflicting uses
Minimise the potential for conflicts between the effects of motorised commercial recreation and other activities using the surfaces of <i>rivers</i> , <i>lakes</i> , and <i>wetlands</i> and on adjacent land.	

Rules

ASW-R1	Activities on or above the surface of water in <i>rivers</i>, <i>lakes</i>, and <i>wetlands</i> (excluding motorised commercial recreation and <i>structures</i>)
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted .

ASW-R2	Structures on or above the surface of water in <i>rivers, lakes, and wetlands</i>
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where any structure is: a. Less than 10m² in <i>gross floor area</i>. Exception: temporary structures associated with temporary military training activities.
	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. The <i>structure</i> is a bridge that does not comply with standard ASW-R2(1)(a). Matters of discretion: 1. The scale, character, and nature of the activity. 2. The <i>operational</i> or <i>functional need</i> for the structure. 3. Potential for conflict between the activity and other users of the same <i>surface waterbody</i>. 4. Effects of activities on land associated with the proposed activity including the impact on public access. 5. Extent to which the activity will reduce opportunities for <i>recreational activities</i>. 6. Effects of the activity on the natural character, ecological, cultural, amenity, and recreational values of the <i>surface waterbody</i>.
All zones	3. Activity status: Discretionary Where: a. Rule ASW-R2(1)(a) is not complied with and Rule ASW-R2(2)(a) does not apply.

ASW-R3	Any motorised commercial recreation on the surface of freshwater.
All zones	1. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Matters of discretion: 1. The scale, character, and nature of the activity, including the frequency and size of watercraft associated with the activity. 2. Potential for conflict between the activity and other users of the same <i>surface waterbody</i>.

	3. Effects of activities on land associated with the proposed activity including the impact on public access. 4. Extent to which the activity will reduce opportunities for <i>recreational activities</i>. 5. Effects of the activity on the natural character, ecological, cultural, amenity, and recreational values of the <i>surface waterbody</i>.
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