

How the Plan Works

Statutory context

The Councils must have a district plan at all times (Section 73 of the RMA). The key provisions of the RMA are contained in Part 2 (sections 5, 6, 7 and 8) and sections 31, 72, 73, 74 and 75. Section 5 sets out the overriding purpose of the RMA, which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Section 6 identifies the matters of national importance, Section 7 lists other matters for consideration, and Section 8 requires all persons exercising functions and powers under the RMA to take into account the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi.

Sections 74 and 75 list matters the District Council must consider in preparing a district plan, including what it must give effect to.

Relationship with relevant RMA planning and other documents

The District Plan sits within a hierarchy under the RMA, which gives national, regional, and district level direction through policy and planning documents. National planning documents are outlined in the National Direction Instruments chapter. Key regional, local, and other documents and Councils' obligations in respect of them are set out below.

Document(s)	Purpose	Relationship with District Plan as directed by the RMA
RMA planning documents		
Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region	Sets out the framework and priorities for resource management in the Wellington region as required by the RMA.	District Plans must give effect to any regional policy statement (section 75(3)(c) of the Act), and have regard to any proposed regional policy statement (section 74(2)(a) of the Act).
Wellington Natural Resources Plan	The purpose of a regional plan is to assist a regional council to carry out its functions in order to achieve the sustainable management purpose of the RMA.	District Plans must not be inconsistent with a regional plan for any matter specified in section 30(1) of the Act (section 75(4)(b) of the Act), and shall have regard to any proposed regional plan in regard to any matter of regional significance or for which the regional council has primary responsibility for

Proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan (Appeals Version)
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RMA planning documents		
		under Part 4 of the Act (section 74(2)(a)(ii) of the Act).
Other documents		
Conservation Management Strategy and Conservation Management Plans	These documents are prepared under the Conservation Act 1987 and apply to natural and historic resources managed by the Department of Conservation.	District Plans must be prepared having regard to these plans, to the extent that their content has a bearing on resource management issues of the district (section 74(2)(b)(i) of the Act).
Reserve Management Plans	Within the district there are a number of reserves administered under the Reserves Act 1977. Under this Act, the councils prepare reserve management plans which manage use of the reserves.	District Plans must be prepared having regard to these plans, to the extent that their content has a bearing on resource management issues of the district (section 74(2)(b)(i) of the Act).
New Zealand Heritage List Rārangī Kōrero	The New Zealand Heritage List Rārangī Kōrero is required by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. It lists buildings, places, and sites that are of social or outstanding historical or cultural significance or value and is administered by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.	The District Plan must be prepared having regard to this list, to the extent that its content has a bearing on resource management issues of the District (section 74(2)(b)(iia) of the RMA).
Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan	Prepared under the Local Government Act 2002 to establish community outcomes in terms of social, cultural, economic, and environmental matters, and identify budget priorities and programmes.	District Plans must be prepared having regard to these plans, to the extent that their content has a bearing on resource management issues of the District (section 74(2)(b)(i) of the Act).

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RMA planning documents		
<p>Carterton Urban Growth Strategy</p> <p>South Wairarapa Spatial Plan</p>	<p>Prepared to help inform a planned approach for directing how and where to accommodate expected future growth.</p>	<p>District Plans must be prepared having regard to these plans, to the extent that their content has a bearing on resource management issues of the District (section 74(2)(b)(i) of the Act).</p>
<p>Iwi Management Plans</p>	<p>These plans are developed and approved by Iwi to address matters of resource management activity of significance within their respective rohe. The plans can contain information relating to specific cultural values, historical accounts, descriptions of areas of interest, and consultation and engagement protocols for resource consents and plan changes.</p>	<p>District Plans must take into account any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority and lodged with the territorial authority, to the extent that its content has a bearing on the resource management issues of the District (section 74(2A) of the Act).</p>
<p>Statutory Acknowledgements</p>	<p>A treaty settlement is an agreement between the Crown and a Māori claimant group to settle all of that claimant group's historical claims against the Crown. The deed of settlement includes statutory acknowledgements, which are a formal acknowledgement by the Crown that recognise the particular cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association of iwi or hapū with a site of significance or resource identified as a statutory acknowledgement area.</p>	<p>Procedural requirements of treaty settlements impact upon resource management processes concerning identified statutory acknowledgement areas. The requirements for the Council, in summary, are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have regard to a statutory acknowledgement when determining affected parties in relation to resource consent applications; and • record all relevant Statutory

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		<p>Acknowledgements in the District Plan.</p> <p>The governance entity and any member of the Iwi can also cite the statutory acknowledgements as evidence of the association of the Iwi with the relevant statutory area.</p>
<p>Te Rohe o Rongokako Joint Redress Act 2022</p>	<p>This Act provides for the development of a Wairarapa Moana Framework document which has three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an overarching vision, and statement of desired outcomes, for Wairarapa Moana (overarching vision); b) a reserves management plan for the Wairarapa Moana reserves (reserves plan); c) a natural resources document for the Ruamāhanga River catchment (natural resources document). <p>The purpose of the natural resources document is to identify the Statutory Board's issues, values, vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for sustainable management of natural resources in the Ruamahanga River catchment, to the extent that they relate to the health and well-being of Wairarapa Moana or the</p>	<p>Once the natural resource document is prepared, under Section 98 of the Joint Redress Act the District Councils must recognise and provide for the content of the natural resources document in the District Plan to the extent that it is relevant to matters covered by the District Plan.</p>

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	Ruamahanga River catchment. Under the Joint Redress Act, it states the natural resources document must not contain rules or regulatory methods.	
Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP)	The WMMP sets out a means of moving towards a circular economy, where we keep resources in use for as long as possible. Where possible, recover products and materials and regenerate natural systems at the end of a product's lifecycle.	Under this Plan, the role of Councils includes as a regulator. District Plans can influence and support waste reduction.

The Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) and the Resource Management Act

There are two iwi in the Wairarapa, Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa. Section 6 of the Resource Management Act 1991 requires that the relationship of Maori, their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga be recognised and provided for as a matter of national importance. In addition, Section 7 requires that particular regard be given to kaitiakitanga when managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources. The Councils have a duty under Section 8 of the RMA to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi). The principles are not explicitly defined in the RMA and will vary depending upon the special needs of the iwi within each district. Recognising and accepting that there are different conceptions of resource allocation between Tangata Whenua and the Councils is an important resource management issue. Consultation/Wananga between parties will provide the basis for achieving a greater ~~empathy~~ understanding between Tangata Whenua and the Councils.

The Tangata Whenua chapter outlines the relationship between Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and the District Plan, outlines the Treaty Settlements and APP1 and APP2 identify Statutory Acknowledgements.