

# **PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND INTERPRETATION**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 About This Document**

This document is the Tasman Regional Policy Statement, prepared by the Tasman District Council in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act). The Tasman Regional Policy Statement has been prepared as a strategic resource management plan to promote sustainable resource management in the Tasman District.

#### **Effect of the Tasman Regional Policy Statement**

The Council:

- (i) must observe and enforce the observance of the Tasman Regional Policy Statement;
- (ii) must ensure that the content of the Council's other resource management plans is not inconsistent with the Tasman Regional Policy Statement;
- (iii) must have regard to its provisions when considering any application for any resource consent;
- (iv) may implement the Tasman Regional Policy Statement; and
- (v) may propose any amendment to the Tasman Regional Policy Statement.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Tasman Regional Policy Statement

The purpose of the Tasman Regional Policy Statement as set out in the Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources by providing:

- (i) an overview of the resource management issues of the region; and
- (ii) policies and methods to achieve integrated resource management.

The statement of purpose provides several important ideas. **Sustainable management** is required to be the basis for all resource management actions by the Council and by the community at large in its use of resources. Sustainable management is defined by the Act to mean managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while:

- (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
- (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and
- (c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

The purpose of the Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The Act's purpose and the principles for sustainable resource management are set out in Part II of the Act, and are reproduced in Table 1.1.

**Resource management issues** of the region are matters of public concern or interest involving the use, **development or protection** of **natural or physical resources**. Issues may be **conflicts** between people in the **community** arising from any **adverse effects** of **activities** on the **environment**. Activities may have adverse or positive effects on resources as part of the environment that may be valued by people in different ways. Issues may also be **opportunities** for resource use or development, or constraints or limits on the use of resources.

The Act requires the Tasman Regional Policy Statement to focus on **significant** resource management issues. Significant issues are important, continuing or urgent matters to be dealt with. Issues of the **region** are the significant resource management issues arising in **Tasman District**. Since the Tasman District Council is both a regional council and a district council, the Tasman Region and Tasman District are the same area. Tasman District is shown in Figure 1.1.

**Integrated** resource management is a key aim of the Act that the Tasman Regional Policy Statement is to achieve. Our natural and physical environment, together with our local community, function as a single system. Individual resources or elements of the environment may affect the functioning of other elements, just as sections of the community depend on each other and interact in a range of ways. Natural processes may be affected by development activities with implications for other resources or processes. Integrated management seeks to:

- (i) manage the different effects of resource use activities together, and not separately or in a fragmented fashion; and
- (ii) bring the resource management work of different organisations together in a co-ordinated and co-operative way, rather than allowing different approaches to issues to be taken in isolation from each other.

Examples of integrated management include taking account of effects of land use on water quality; considering the servicing needs of settlements, including water availability and effects on groundwater or river sources, when allowing subdivision and expansion in new locations. A further example would be to ensure that relevant government departments, statutory bodies and interest groups are all involved in decisions on the use of particular resources.

**Table 1.1**  
**Purposes And Principles, Part II, Resource Management Act 1991**

**SECTION 5      PURPOSE**

- (1) The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.
- (2) In this Act, "sustainable management" means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while:
- (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
  - (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and
  - (c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

**SECTION 6      MATTERS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE**

In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for the following matters of national importance:

- (a) the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development;
- (b) the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development;
- (c) the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;
- (d) the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers;
- (e) the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu, and other taonga.

**SECTION 7      OTHER MATTERS**

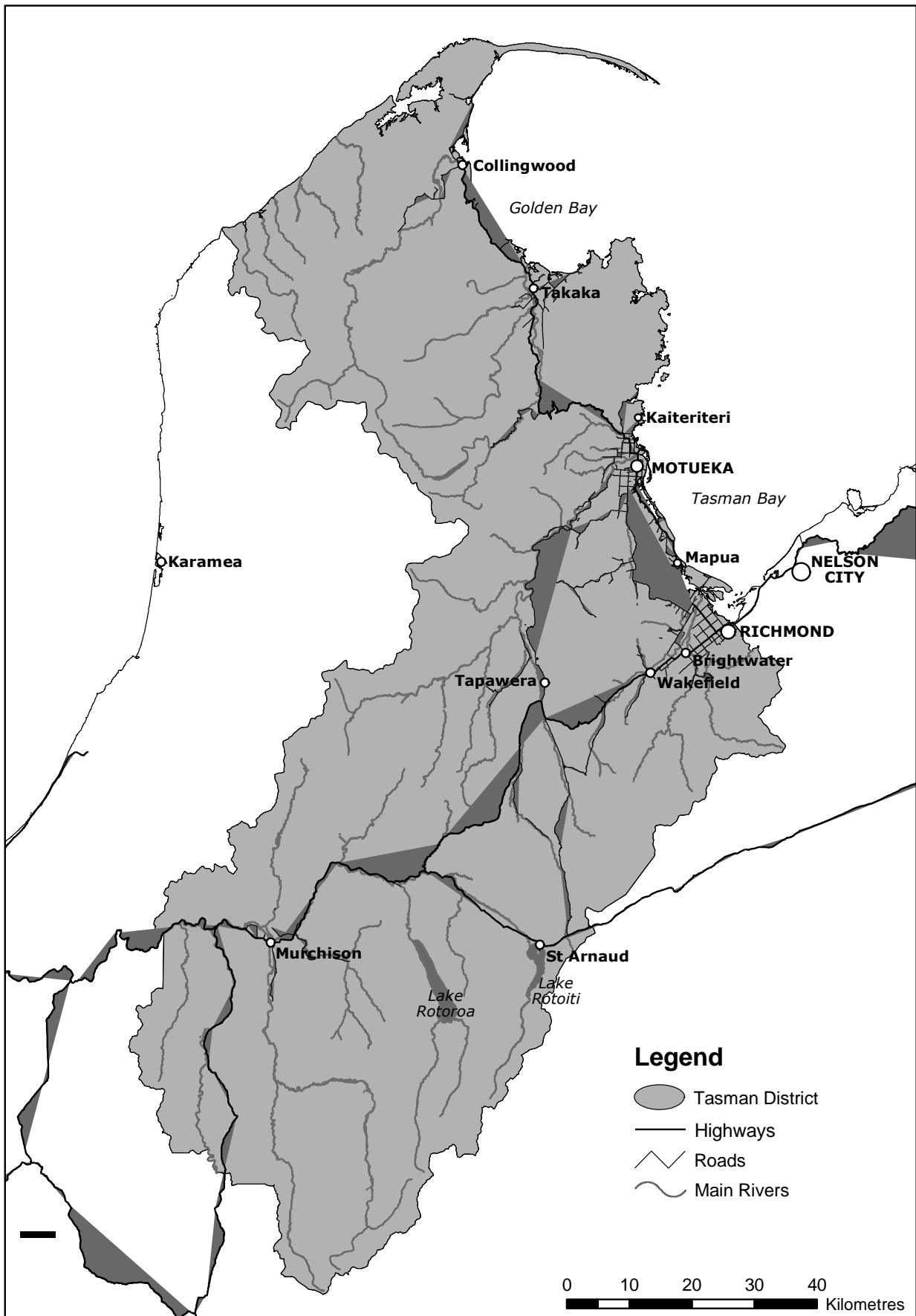
In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to:

- (a) kaitiakitanga;
- (b) the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources;
- (c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values;
- (d) intrinsic values of ecosystems;
- (e) recognition and protection of the heritage values of sites, buildings, places, or areas;
- (f) maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment;
- (g) any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources;
- (h) the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon.

**SECTION 8      TREATY OF WAITANGI**

In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).

Figure 1.1 – Map of Tasman District



## **1.3 Scope of the Tasman Regional Policy Statement**

### **Resource Management Responsibilities**

The Tasman Regional Policy Statement is one of a number of resource management documents required or provided for by the Resource Management Act 1991 (see Page 10 for others). The Tasman Regional Policy Statement covers significant concerns or issues dealing with most aspects of the natural and physical environment, and community interactions with the environment. It includes issues that have social or economic significance through the use, development or protection of resources, but it does not cover social and economic issues that are not directly related to resource management. The Tasman Regional Policy Statement is neither a community development strategy nor a resource development plan. It sits alongside Council's Long Term Financial Strategy, which states the range of activities and services which constitute Council's business, and Council Asset Management Plans, which state Council's programmes for the maintenance and development of public works, utilities and other physical services. The broad scope of the Tasman Regional Policy Statement arises because the Tasman District Council is a unitary authority. This means that the Council has the responsibilities of both a regional council and a district council (territorial authority). This gives the Council an extremely important and comprehensive set of functions to manage resources in the interests of the Tasman District community. The Council's resource management functions under the Act are:

- (i) integrated resource management;
- (ii) land management and control of the effects of land use;
- (iii) control of land subdivision;
- (iv) water management;
- (v) management of environmental contamination (air, land and water);
- (vi) coastal management;
- (vii) river and lake management;
- (viii) natural hazards management;
- (ix) hazardous substances management.

The Act empowers the Council to undertake resource management through several key processes. These are:

- (i) investigating and monitoring resources and the effects of resource use on the environment;
- (ii) preparing and implementing resource management plans to address and resolve issues and achieve resource management results;
- (iii) deciding on resource consents for activities involving resource use;
- (iv) ensuring that resource uses and their environmental effects are managed in an acceptable way and in accordance with the law, plans and consents.

Section 13 of the Tasman Regional Policy Statement sets objectives and policies for the management and conduct of these key processes.

The Act enables the Council to undertake resource management through a range of methods using the processes specified above; these methods are described in Table 1.2 (Page 8).

## The Issues in the Tasman Regional Policy Statement

Section 1.2 outlines what is meant by resource management issues. The Tasman Regional Policy Statement deals with resource management issues that are considered to be in some way significant. Issues that are significant are:

- (i) issues that are relevant or critical to the sustainable and integrated management of key resources in the District - land, water, air, the coast, plants and animals and man-made structures - and to the current and future wellbeing, health and safety of people and the community;
- (ii) issues that are relevant to the District as a whole, and not just one part of the District;
- (iii) issues that arise in one part of the District but that in some way have importance for the whole community or the District's environment;
- (iv) issues that identify future problems or interests as well as describe current or existing concerns.

Both the concept of sustainable management and the various matters in Part II of the Act (see Page 4 of the Tasman Regional Policy Statement) may influence the content of the significant issues in the Tasman Regional Policy Statement, and they help in establishing the scope of significant issues to be addressed.

The following is a summary list of significant resource management issues dealt with by the Tasman Regional Policy Statement:

- (i) Developing good communication processes with Maori and accounting for tangata whenua interests in resource management, including:
  - (a) consultation with iwi;
  - (b) protection of taonga Maori;
  - (c) provision for access to resources by iwi.
- (ii) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating the environmental effects of urban development, including:
  - (a) the use of high quality lands;
  - (b) exposure to natural hazards;
  - (c) need for urban water supplies;
  - (d) conflicts between activities across urban and rural boundaries;
  - (e) urban settlements in the coast;
  - (f) conflicts between land transport activities and urban development or redevelopment;
  - (g) maintaining urban amenities and environmental quality.
- (iii) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating the environmental effects of using land resources, including:
  - (a) sustaining productive qualities of land;
  - (b) the effects of land fragmentation;
  - (c) protecting natural and heritage features of land from damage or loss;
  - (d) conflicts between rural activities across property boundaries;
  - (e) contamination from land use activities;
  - (f) damage or loss of soil and water resources from land use activities;
  - (g) effects of pests of land and water resources.
- (iv) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating the environmental effects of using fresh water resources in the District, including:

- (a) allocation of available water for abstractive uses and life-support or instream values;
  - (b) effects of contaminant discharges on water quality.
- (v) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating the environmental effects of using river resources, including:
  - (a) maintaining river channels and floodways for flood hazard mitigation;
  - (b) protecting riverine ecosystems and instream values from damage or loss;
  - (c) conflicts between river surface activities;
  - (d) effects of gravel extraction and other disturbances in river beds;
  - (e) managing the uses and values of riparian lands.
- (vi) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating the environmental effects of using the coastal environment, including:
  - (a) dealing with inadequate knowledge of coastal ecosystems and values;
  - (b) navigational safety and other effects of boating activities;
  - (c) allocation of coastal space for structures or occupations, particularly for aquaculture;
  - (d) integrating coastal and fisheries management actions;
  - (e) maintaining the natural character of the coast;
  - (f) effects of coastal land uses, particularly settlements, on the coastal environment;
  - (g) effects of contaminant discharges on coastal water quality.
- (vii) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating the environmental effects of contaminant discharges to land, water and air, including:
  - (a) effects of direct and diffuse source contamination from urban and rural sources;
  - (b) the legacy of contaminated sites;
  - (c) effects of generating and disposing of contaminant wastes.
- (viii) Avoiding or mitigating the environmental effects of natural hazards and hazardous substances, including:
  - (a) flooding;
  - (b) coastal erosion;
  - (c) land instability and earthquakes;
  - (d) storage, use, transport and disposal of hazardous substances.
- (ix) Avoiding, remedying or mitigating the environmental effects of generating, transmitting or using forms of energy.
- (x) Managing conflicts between land transport activities and rural and urban land use activities.
- (xi) Providing good resource management processes to resolve the above issues, including:
  - (a) development of integrated resource management plans;
  - (b) addressing cross-boundary issues with adjacent local authorities;
  - (c) public consultation in plan development;
  - (d) justifying the content of plans;
  - (e) implementing plans effectively;
  - (f) environmental monitoring and enforcement;
  - (g) managing the conflicting interests of the Council in relation to resource management.

## The Objectives, Policies and Methods in the Tasman Regional Policy Statement

Section 3 of the Tasman Regional Policy Statement sets out the long term aims or **general objectives** of the Tasman Regional Policy Statement for sustainable and integrated management. The sections that follow Section 3 deal with particular issues. Each of these sections sets out more **specific objectives** or desired results relevant to those particular matters. Each section also contains statements of policies and methods to achieve objectives and address issues. **Policies** are the intentions or general courses of action that are considered to be necessary and appropriate to achieve the desired results. **Methods** are the specific tasks to be carried out to implement policies. **Anticipated environmental results** are the specific outcomes that are expected to follow from implementing policies. **Performance monitoring indicators** show how the degree of implementation of policies and methods will be indicated from monitoring actions. Information on each indicator will help to assess how effective the Tasman Regional Policy Statement has been at future intervals of time, as required by the Act.

Statements of objectives and policies are the specific means of promoting integrated and sustainable resource management in Tasman District. They apply and give effect to the concept of sustainable management and the directives given in Part II of the Act. The wording of the objectives and policies in the Tasman Regional Policy Statement is appropriately consistent with that in Part II of the Act, where those directives are directly relevant to the objectives and policies.

Conflicts are always possible between specific objectives or policies, in giving effect to the various matters in Part II of the Act. Such conflicts must be resolved in implementing the Tasman Regional Policy Statement by applying the concept of sustainable management, and the matters in Part II that may be relevant, to the facts surrounding each decision to be made. The wording of individual objectives or policies cannot necessarily avoid such conflicts.

The Council is required to assess options for objectives, policies and methods in the preparation of the Tasman Regional Policy Statement. It must evaluate the likely benefits and costs of options, and it must be satisfied that the proposed resource management objective, policy or method is necessary and the most appropriate, having regard to its efficiency and effectiveness.

Table 1.2 shows the kinds of resource management methods available to Council to address resource management issues.

The Council is not able to specify rules in its regional policy statement as regulatory methods. But the Council has considered the methods available to address issues, and the Tasman Regional Policy Statement indicates where a mix of methods, including the development of rules under other resource management plans, is desirable.

<b>Table 1.2</b> <b>Resource Management Methods</b>
<b>Investigating</b> and monitoring to generate information about resource uses and their environmental effects and making that information publicly available.
<b>Advocating</b> or promoting <b>courses of action</b> concerning resource use by individuals, groups or the community in general.
Providing or requiring the provision of <b>physical services</b> such as works or facilities to support development of communities to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects.
Providing <b>incentives</b> including <b>financial measures</b> such as charges or other compensatory contributions to encourage or discourage resource use behaviour.
<b>Regulating</b> resource use activities for their adverse effects through the use of rules, consents, enforcement action and self-regulatory actions by resource users themselves.
<b>Taking no action</b> where results or resolution may be achieved without Council intervention.



In preparing the Tasman Regional Policy Statement, the Council must have regard to:

- (i) management plans and strategies prepared by other authorities under other Acts (e.g. conservation plans);
- (ii) planning documents recognised by an iwi authority;
- (iii) fisheries, mahinga mataitai and taiapure regulations;
- (iv) the need to be consistent with regional policy statements of adjacent regional councils.

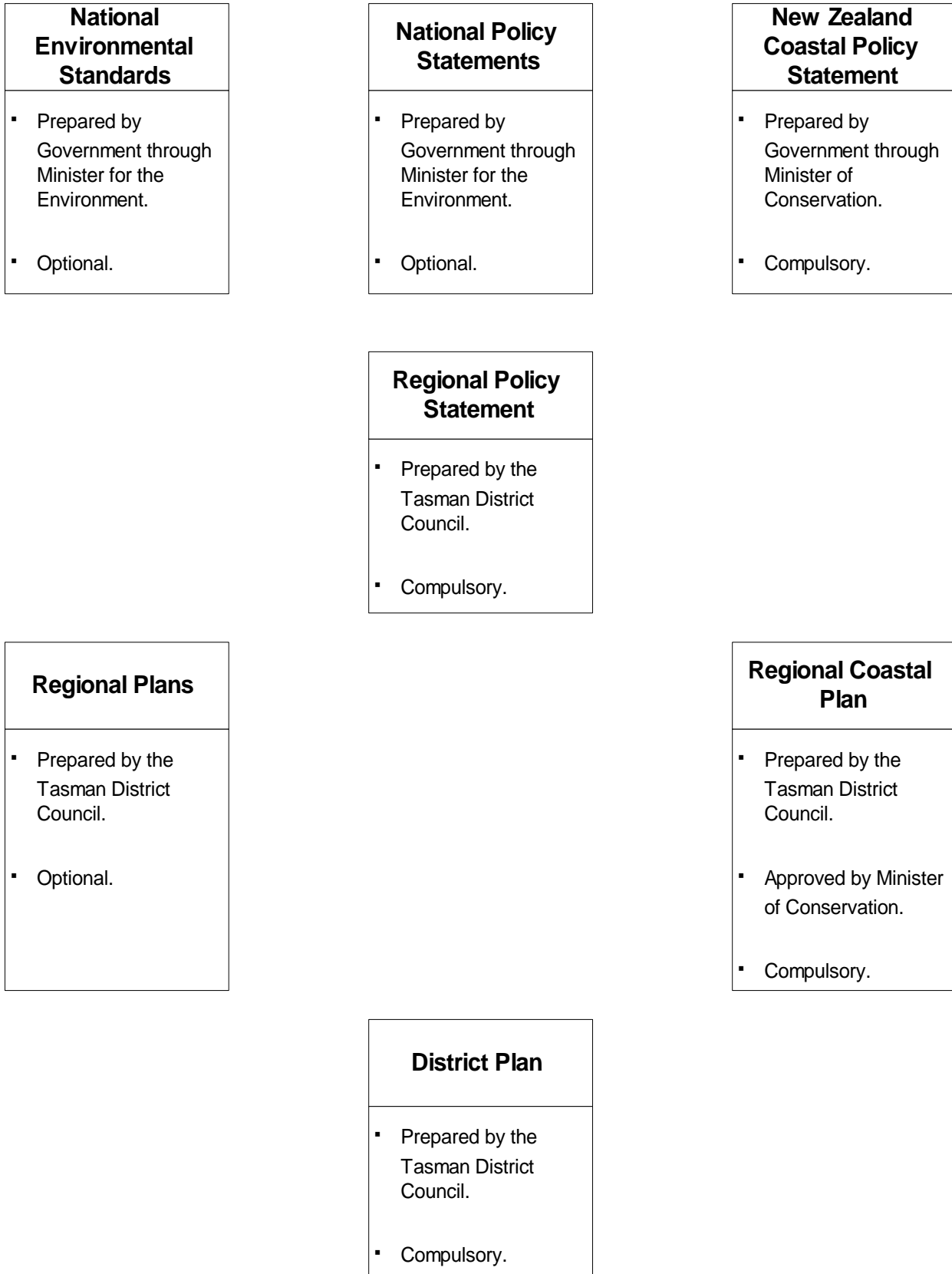
### **Relationships Between Resource Management Planning Instruments**

The Tasman Regional Policy Statement is a key element of resource management under the Resource Management Act. It affects the contents of all other resource management plans within the District. These plans are the Regional Coastal Plan, other regional plans, and the District Plan. National policy statements, including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, national environmental standards and water conservation orders may also influence all of the District's resource management plans.

Figure 1.2 sets out the key resource management planning instruments that are provided for under the Act. The following gives a brief description of these instruments, and their relationships:

- (i) **National environmental standards.** May be prepared and approved by the government on the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment, and can cover standards for the quality of resources or the limits of contamination.
- (ii) **National policy statements.** May be prepared and approved by the government on the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment, and can cover any nationally significant matter concerning sustainable resource management.
- (iii) **New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.** Must be prepared and approved by the government on the recommendation of the Minister for the Conservation, and covers policies to promote the sustainable management of the coastal environment.
- (iv) **Regional Policy Statement.** Must be prepared and approved by Council to promote sustainable and integrated resource management, through an overview of significant issues and providing policies and methods. Must not be inconsistent with any national policy statement, New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement or water conservation order.
- (v) **Regional Coastal Plan.** Must be prepared by Council to help promote the sustainable management of the coast. Approved by the Minister of Conservation. Must not be inconsistent with any national policy statement, New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement or water conservation order, or regional policy statement or other regional plan of the District.
- (vi) **Regional Plans.** May be prepared and approved by Council to help promote sustainable and integrated management of water, land, contamination and hazards. Must not be inconsistent with any national policy statement, New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement or water conservation order, or regional policy statement or other regional plan of the District.
- (vii) **District Plan.** Must be prepared and approved by Council to help promote sustainable and integrated resource management of the effects of land use, including subdivision. Must not be inconsistent with any national policy statement, New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement or water conservation order, or regional policy statement or regional plan of the District.

## FIGURE 1.2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING INSTRUMENTS



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## 1.4 The Process of Preparing the Tasman Regional Policy Statement

Following the commencement of the Resource Management Act in October 1991, the former Nelson-Marlborough Regional Council began investigations and analyses of issues likely to be addressed in the Tasman Regional Policy Statement for the Nelson-Marlborough Region. Since 1 July 1992 when the Tasman District Council took on the functions of a regional council for the Tasman District, investigation and analysis of significant issues in Tasman District was continued. Two issues and options discussion papers covering land and water resources and the coastal environment were circulated for public submissions for a period of three months and eleven public workshops were held in centres around the District to further public consideration of issues. A meeting with representatives of the tangata whenua of the District was held in early 1993 to discuss issues of interest to iwi. Iwi representatives advised on issues of relevance to the tangata whenua in the discussion papers. Over 200 public submissions were received on the discussion papers. Policy papers were prepared covering key issue areas, to assist Council in considering alternative methods of resource management.

The Tasman Regional Policy Statement was notified as a proposed regional policy statement on 31 July 1994. Submissions on the Proposed Tasman Regional Policy Statement were heard on 21, 22, 24 and 30 August 1995. Decisions on submissions were made and the Proposed Tasman Regional Policy Statement was amended by those decisions on 22 September 1995.

Twelve appeals or references were received on the Proposed Tasman Regional Policy Statement in early 1996; three appeals were withdrawn, three were determined by the Environment Court, and six were resolved by consent.

The following is a record of documentation prepared by the Council in the discharge of its duties under Section 32 of the Act to have considered alternatives and assessed benefits and costs, both in preparing the Proposed Tasman Regional Policy Statement and in making decisions on submissions. This record is prepared pursuant to Section 32(4) of the Act.

June 1993	Economic Investments in Resource Management, with particular regard to Transferable Water Permits. Regional Policy Paper No. 1.
June 1993	Urban Development Objectives and Issues. Regional Policy Paper No. 2.
July 1993	Rural Land Use Management Objectives and Issues. Regional Policy Paper No. 3.
July 1993	Protection of Natural and Historic Resources. Regional Policy Paper No. 4.
September 1993	Strategic Water Management Objectives and Issues. Regional Policy Paper No. 5.
October 1993	River Management Objectives and Issues. Regional Policy Paper No. 6.
April 1993	Port Developments, Smallcraft. Regional Coastal Plan Policy Paper No. 1.
June 1993	Aquaculture. Regional Coastal Plan Policy Paper No. 2.
September 1993	Coastal Margins: settlement patterns, uses and interactions with the coastal marine area. Regional Coastal Plan Policy Paper No. 5.
April 1994	Coastal Conservation. Regional Coastal Plan Policy Paper No. 4.
August 1995	Officers' Report on Submissions to the Proposed Tasman Regional Policy Statement. Report EP 95/08/10.

## 2.0 INTERPRETATION OF TERMS

**Note:** Definitions appearing in italics are as stated in the Resource Management Act as at 1 July 2001.

In this Tasman Regional Policy Statement unless otherwise specified, the following applies:

**Abstractive** - in relation to water use, means taken or drawn from a water body for some purpose. Abstraction has a corresponding meaning.

**Act** - means the Resource Management Act 1991.

**Amenity Values** - means those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.

**Aquifer** - means a water-bearing formation yielding usable quantities of water.

**Best Practicable Option** - in relation to a discharge of a contaminant or an emission of noise, means the best method for preventing or minimising the adverse effects on the environment having regard, among other things, to:

- (a) *the nature of the discharge or emission and the sensitivity of the receiving environment to adverse effects; and*
- (b) *the financial implications, and the effects on the environment, of that option when compared with other options; and*
- (c) *the current state of technical knowledge and the likelihood that the option can be successfully applied.*

**Biological Diversity** - means the range of types of animals and plants in populations, communities, or ecosystems, in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments.

**Coastal Environment** - includes the coastal marine area, land above the coastal margin that is affected by coastal processes, resources and issues, and all associated plants, animals, and physical resources.

**Coastal Marine Area** - means the foreshore, seabed, and coastal water, and the air space above the water:

- (a) *of which the seaward boundary is the outer limits of the territorial sea;*
- (b) *of which the landward boundary is the line of mean high water springs, except that where that line crosses a river, the landward boundary at that point shall be whichever is the lesser of:*
  - (i) *one kilometre upstream from the mouth of the river; or*
  - (ii) *the point upstream that is calculated by multiplying the width of the river mouth by 5.*

**Contaminant** - includes any substance (including gases, liquids, solids, and micro-organisms) or energy (excluding noise) or heat, that either by itself or in combination with the same, similar, or other substances, energy, or heat:

- (a) *when discharged into water, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of water; or*
- (b) *when discharged onto or into land or into air, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of the land or air onto or into which it is discharged.*

**Contaminated Site** - means a site in which hazardous substances occur at concentrations above background levels and where assessment indicates the site poses or is likely to pose an immediate or long term risk to human health or the environment.

**Council** - means the Tasman District Council.

**Damage** - in relation to soil, means any physical, biological, or chemical change that may adversely affect the productive value or physical stability of soil.

**Diffuse Source Contamination** - means contamination of water or air from an area rather than a single source.

**Discharge** - *includes emit, deposit, and allow to escape.*

**Ecosystem** - means a community of living organisms together with its physical and chemical environment.

**Effect** - *includes:*

- (a) *any positive or adverse effect; and*
- (b) *any temporary or permanent effect; and*
- (c) *any past, present, or future effect; and*
- (d) *any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects: regardless of the scale, intensity, duration, or frequency of the effect, and also includes:*
- (e) *any potential effect of high probability; and*
- (f) *any potential effect of low probability which has a high potential impact.*

**Environment** - *includes:*

- (a) *ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and*
- (b) *all natural and physical resources; and*
- (c) *amenity values; and*
- (d) *the social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions which affect the matters stated in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this definition or which are affected by those matters.*

**Hapu** - means an ancestrally-related group within an iwi.

**High Productive Value** - in relation to land, means land which has the following features:

- (a) flat to gently rolling topography; and
- (b) free draining moderately deep to deep soils; and
- (c) moderate to good inherent soil fertility and structure; and
- (d) a climate with sufficient ground temperature, sunshine, available moisture, and calmness to make the land favourable for producing a wide range of types of plants.

**Indigenous** - means found naturally in an area, and not introduced by people.

**Instream Values** - means the values of any water body supported by or derived from the retention of water in the water body rather than from its abstraction or removal, and includes fisheries, wildlife habitat, recreational, aesthetic, and intrinsic values.

Instream Uses has a corresponding meaning.

**Iwi** - means a tribe or group of ancestrally-related people.

**Kaitiakitanga** - means the exercise of guardianship by the tangata whenua of an area in accordance with tikanga Māori in relation to natural and physical resources; and includes the ethic of stewardship.

**Land Fragmentation** - means any increase over time in the number of separately developed properties in any area, through successive land subdivision to form new land parcels and associated land development activities such as buildings and roads.

**Mana Whenua** - means customary authority exercised by an iwi or hapu in an identified area.

**Mineral** – means a naturally occurring inorganic substance beneath or at the surface of the earth, whether or not under water; and includes all metallic minerals, non-metallic minerals, fuel minerals, precious stones, industrial rocks or building stones, and a prescribed substance within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1945.

**Natural and Physical Resources** - includes land, water, air, soil, minerals, and energy, all forms of plants and animals (whether native to New Zealand or introduced), and all structures.

**Natural Hazard** - means any atmospheric or earth or water related occurrence (including earthquake, tsunami, erosion, volcanic and geothermal activity, landslip, subsidence, sedimentation, wind, drought, fire, or flooding) the action of which adversely affects or may adversely affect human life, property, or other aspects of the environment.

**Objective** - means a desired environmental result.

**Plan** - means a regional plan or a district plan.

**Point Source Contamination** - means contamination from a single, definable source.

**Policy** - means a specific intention or course of action, as a means of achieving any objective.

**Productive Value** - in relation to land, means the inherent or existing ability of the land to produce plant or animal biomass, arising from its natural and physical features, and includes measures of productivity and versatility.

**Productivity** - in relation to land, means the inherent or existing ability to produce any type of plant or animal biomass over a given period and area.

**Resource** - means any natural or physical resource.

**Resource Consent** - means a land use consent, a subdivision consent, a coastal permit, a water permit, or a discharge permit, and includes all conditions to which the consent is subject.

**Riparian** - means land immediately adjacent to any river, lake, or wetland.

**Risk** - means any potential adverse effect.

**River** - means a continually or intermittently flowing body of fresh water; and includes a stream and modified watercourse; but does not include any artificial watercourse (including an irrigation canal, water supply race, canal for the supply of water for electricity power generation, and farm drainage canal).

**Rohe** - means a defined area within which a tangata whenua iwi or hapu holds mana whenua.

**Rule** - means a district rule or a regional rule.

**Tangata Whenua** - in relation to a particular area, means the iwi, or hapu, that holds mana whenua over that area.

**Taonga** - means a highly prized possession or treasure.

**Tikanga Maori** - means *Maori customary values and practices*.

**Tino Rangatiratanga** - means full tribal authority, including holding the necessary mana to own and control in accordance with tribal preferences.

**Versatility** - in relation to land, means the range of types of plant or animal biomass that may be produced over a given area.

**Wahi Tapu** - means a sacred area or site.

**Water:-**

- (a) *means water in all in its physical forms whether flowing or not and whether over or under the ground;*
- (b) *includes fresh water, coastal water, and geothermal water;*
- (c) *does not include water in any form while in any pipe, tank, or cistern.*

**Water Body** - means fresh water or geothermal water in a river, lake, stream, pond, wetland, or aquifer, or any part thereof that is not located within the coastal marine area.

**Water Conservation Order** - means *an order made in respect of any water body to recognise and sustain:*

- (a) *outstanding amenity or intrinsic values which are afforded by waters in their natural state;*
- (b) *where waters are no longer in their natural state, the amenity or intrinsic values of those waters which in themselves warrant protection because they are considered outstanding;*

*and that imposes . . . in particular, restrictions or prohibitions relating to:*

- (i) *the quantity, quality, rate of flow, or level of the water body; and*
- (ii) *the maximum and minimum levels or flow or range of levels or flows, or the rate of change of levels or flows to be sought or permitted for the water body; and*
- (iii) *the maximum allocation for abstraction or maximum contaminant loading consistent with the purposes of the order; and*
- (iv) *the ranges of temperature and pressure in a water body.*

**Water Quality** - means the extent to which the physical, chemical and biological features of water are suitable or meet the expectations that people may have in relation to any particular use or value.

**Wetland** - includes *permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water, and land water margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions.*

**Wildlife Habitat** - means the physical setting in which naturally occurring animals and plants live.