

TOPIC - Strategic Infrastructure and Network Utilities	TRMP Chapter 15
ISSUE 1	
<p>Strategic infrastructure is infrastructure that serves a regional or national function. Currently, the operative sections of the TRMP only relate to the Waimea Community Dam, and very recently, Network Utilities.¹ While the provisions of the TRMP are ‘on track’ to deliver the expected outcomes in relation to these two aspects, there is considerable scope to expand the activities covered under this topic – for example, to cover ports, regional airports, regional landfill/s, energy generation, etc.</p> <p>The lack of provision and protection for some strategic infrastructure means that decision-makers have not been able to prioritise outcomes with regional or national benefits as efficiently as they could have. In addition, some existing strategic infrastructure has very little support in the Plan for its continual operation or protection from adjacent activities or reverse sensitivity effects.</p> <p>Tensions between the provision and operation of strategic infrastructure and the protection of environmental and amenity qualities valued by our communities are likely to continue to arise.</p>	
MANDATORY STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS	
<p>Significant legislative changes have occurred since Chapter 15 was first introduced. Key legislation now has a particular emphasis on aligning planning outcomes with a broad range of infrastructure. These changes include direct changes to Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), changes to the functions of Council, and additional requirements under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) to produce 30 year infrastructure strategies. In addition, three relevant National Policy Statements (NPS) have been introduced that have direct implications for infrastructure – being NPSs on Urban Development Capacity², Renewable Energy and Electricity Transmission. The TEP will need to be updated to incorporate these new requirements.</p>	
DIRECTION SETTING: RECOMMENDATIONS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain objectives and policies relating to the Waimea Community Dam and Network Infrastructure as they remain relevant. 2. Strengthen the provisions around Reverse Sensitivity. 3. Extend the scope to clearly include objectives and policies for other strategic infrastructure policies, e.g., for airports, ports, regional landfills, etc. 4. Align and update RPS objectives for Urban Water Network. 5. Implement the relevant objectives to the National Policy Statements on Electricity Transmission, Infrastructure, Renewable Energy and Water. 6. Avoid duplication with Infrastructure –related NESs. 7. Provide greater recognition of the importance of Strategic Infrastructure in relation to planning for climate change and natural hazard resilience. 8. Ensure policies provide protections for existing strategic infrastructure, not just new infrastructure. 	

¹ Networks for the distribution of electricity, water, communications, wastewater, lighting, meteorological information etc. Includes roads and airports.

² The NPS on Urban Development Capacity was proposed for change in August 2019. The proposed NPS on Urban Development contains many of the same objectives, but the final version will need to be considered further during the TRMP Plan Review process.