

SD – Strategic Direction

Overview

The objectives in the Strategic Direction Chapter outline the key strategic matters for the districts and guide decision making at a strategic level. The objectives in the Strategic Direction Chapter are designed to be considered together, with no hierarchy among them. All other objectives and policies in the District Plan should be interpreted and implemented consistently in alignment with the Strategic Direction Chapter's objectives in the Strategic Direction Chapter.

For plan development, including plan changes, the objectives in the Strategic Direction Chapter offer guidance on key strategic or significant matters relevant to the creation of District Plan provisions.

For plan implementation, including the evaluation of resource consent applications and notices of requirement, the objectives in the Strategic Direction Chapter offer guidance on the intended outcomes of the related objectives and policies in other chapters of the Plan, particularly concerning key strategic or significant matters for the district.

This section provides strategic direction that:

- is strategically important for achieving integrated management and ensuring the Resource Management Act's purpose is achieved;
- gives effect to higher order documents such as National Policy Statements and the Manawatu-Whanganui Regional Policy Statement; and
- provides a basis for how decisions relating to resource use will be made over the life of the Plan.

This chapter leaves the articulation of activity specific and location specific objectives and policies to the subsequent chapters of this Plan.

Objectives

Partnership

SD-01 Uphold the partnership principles inherent within Te Tiriti o Waitangi by ensuring mana whenua are enabled to maintain and enhance the well-being (mauri) and health (hauora) of both people and the environment, and empowered in the expression and application of kaitiakitanga.

District Wide

SD-02 Mana whenua are able to exercise customary activities, protect, develop and use Māori land in a way that is consistent with their culture and traditions and provides for their social and economic aspirations.

SD-03 Marae and papakāinga are recognised as an essential cultural and spiritual component of Māori traditions, society and economy and are enabled to provide a range of activities that meet the needs of mana whenua.

SD-04 Compatible activities with similar effects and functions are located together and new development is directed towards the appropriate zones to ensure that land use and subdivision:

1. Are consistent with the anticipated character and amenity values of the areas where they are located; and
2. Efficiently use natural and physical resources in order to meet the community's and the environment's needs both now and in the future; and
3. Recognise existing lawful activities and protect their ongoing operation from incompatible activities.

SD-05 Promote development within the commercial, industrial and rural production zones that increases the type and range of employment opportunities within the district.

- SD-06** Provide for flexible and innovative approaches to development and infrastructure provision in the district's more remote settlements.
- SD-07** The district's communities have access to a diverse and connected network of open spaces which offer a range of recreational experiences while protecting the values of scheduled sites, features and overlays.

RLR – Rural Land Resource

Introduction

The Resource Management Act requires Council to manage the use, development and protection of natural resources, including the rural land resource, while sustaining the potential of such resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations and while safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems.

The National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL) requires Council to ensure the productive capacity of versatile soils is not lost. Primary production activities (including intensive primary production), underpin the economic, social, and cultural well-being of the Tararua District, and the District's rural land resource is important for sustaining this production. Of particular note are the extensive areas of highly productive land across the District which comprises a large proportion of the of the District's total land area. The District's highly productive land is centred in and around the flat-to- rolling land surrounding the urban areas.

Highly productive soils provide a high level of flexibility in terms of the types of crops that can be grown, and these qualities enable rapid response to changing technologies or crop types required in the future. Highly productive land in New Zealand is rare, and therefore of very high value for food and crop production. The key pressures facing highly productive land are urban expansion and the accompanying loss of New Zealand's most versatile and productive land, and an increase in rural lifestyle developments, particularly on the fringes of urban areas.

The District's highly productive land is therefore a significant resource base for the District and is experiencing increasing pressure from rural lifestyle developments and for urban expansion to cater for projected household growth. If this continues to be left unchecked, fragmentation of this resource will have a cumulative impact, including direct loss of highly productive land for primary production and reverse sensitivity implications, which could collectively compromise its productive potential.

Providing for a range and flexibility of land use activities is important for the future in adding diversity and resilience to the rural economy, thereby providing additional employment and economic opportunities to the community. However, this needs to be consciously balanced against the need to protect and retain the rural land resource, in particular the concentration of highly productive land in the District, alongside the health and availability of water.

Objectives

- RLR-O1** The productive capacity of the District's rural land resource, particularly the District's highly productive land, is maintained.
- RLR-O2** Primary production and rural industry activities are able to operate efficiently and effectively and the contribution they make to the economic, social wellbeing and prosperity of the District is recognised.

- RLR-O3** The primary production role and associated amenity of the District's rural land resource is retained, and is protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development and further fragmentation.
- RLR-O4** Productive, versatile land and natural, physical and cultural resources located within rural areas that are of significance to the District are protected and maintained.
- RLR-O5** Rural lifestyle areas are provided for adjacent to Dannevirke, Pahiatua, Woodville and Settlement Zones.

Policies

- RLR-P1** To avoid unplanned urban expansion onto the District's highly productive land in the Rural Production Zone.
- RLR-P2** To minimise fragmentation of the District's rural land resource through directing lifestyle subdivision to the Rural Lifestyle Zone and limiting lifestyle subdivision in the General Rural Zone and, particularly, in the Rural Production Zone.
- RLR-P3** To provide for non-primary production activities that complement the resources of the rural area, provided they do not compromise primary production, particularly in the Rural Production Zone and associated rural character and amenity in all rural zones, recognising that some non-primary production activities have an operational or functional need to locate in a rural area.
- RLR-P4** To enable primary production and related activities to operate in rural areas in accordance with accepted practices without being compromised by other activities demanding higher levels of amenity.

SRC – Sustainability, Resilience, and Climate Change

Introduction

The District is subject to a range of natural hazards including earthquakes, liquefaction, and flooding. The impacts of climate change and sea level rise are also beginning to be felt in some parts of the District. It is important that new development does not exacerbate these risks. The District Plan provides a framework within which these various risks can be managed.

New developments must be designed to incorporate sustainable design principles such as water sensitive design and low-impact stormwater management to improve the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff that will ultimately improve water quality within receiving bodies. There are multiple benefits associated with the protection and enhancement of the District's natural systems and features for climate change adaptation and managing natural hazard risks.

Sustainable subdivisions and buildings are characterised by:

- significantly reduced energy consumption;
- improved resource efficiency;
- reduced environmental impacts;
- improved indoor environment;
- lower impact on local infrastructure and easier to manage.

In achieving the purpose of the RMA (being, to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources), innovative and environmentally sensitive approaches to subdivision and building are to be promoted where the incorporation of water and energy-use efficiency, on-site management of stormwater and sustainable building design features are a significant part of avoiding or mitigating adverse effects on the environment and contributing towards managing the effects of climate change.

Objectives

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| SRC-01 | Promote sustainable subdivisions and buildings in the District. |
| SRC-02 | Risk and vulnerability of people and property from natural hazards is minimised. |
| SRC-03 | There is no significant increase in the risk from natural hazards, including the effects of climate change, to people, property, and infrastructure as a result of subdivision, use, and development. |
| SRC-04 | The functions of natural systems are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. |
| SRC-05 | Significant indigenous vegetation, significant habitats of indigenous fauna, |

biodiversity, and waterways are maintained and enhanced.

SRC-O6 The coastal environment is protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

SRC-O7 Land use, subdivision, and development design supports climate change adaptation.

Policies

SRC-P1 To promote subdivision design and building development that optimises efficient resource and energy use and water conservation measures through improved subdivision and building design, including by orientation to the sun, domestic on-site water storage and utilising principles of low impact urban design.

SSB-P2 To promote use of on-site stormwater attenuation measures where appropriate, including but not limited to rainwater harvesting devices, green roofs, site landscaping, rain gardens, wetland treatment systems and low impact stormwater attenuation systems.

SSB-P3 To ensure natural systems are enhanced through development.

SSB-P4 To ensure development is responsive to the effects of climate change.

SSB-P5 To avoid or mitigate the effects of natural hazards and the location of development in areas prone to natural hazard risk.

UFD – Urban Form and Development

Introduction

The National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (NPS-UD) came into force in August 2020. It applies to all local authorities that have all or part of an urban environment within their district or region and to all planning decisions by a local authority that affect an urban environment.

A 'urban environment' is defined in the NPS-UD as:

“means any area of land (regardless of size, and irrespective of local authority or statistical boundaries) that:

- (a) is, or is intended to be, predominantly urban in character' and*
- (b) is, or is intended to be, part of a housing and labour market of at least 10,000 people.”*

The current populations of the three urban areas of Tararua District are well below 10,000 people and therefore do not fall within the definition of 'urban environment'. As such, the NPS-UD does not apply to the District. However, if the population of any of the urban areas was to increase to at least 10,000 people in the future, the Council would become a 'Tier 3' local authority and the NPS-UD would apply.

Regardless of there being no requirement for the Council to apply the NPS-UD, the NPS-UD includes some objectives and policies that the Council can have regard to, particularly with regard to taking a long-term approach to planning for urban development in the District.

The Horizons Regional Council's 'Regional Policy Statement' incorporates objectives and policies in relation to urban development and the strategic integration of infrastructure within the Horizons Region. The Tararua District Plan must give effect to the Regional Policy Statement. The Regional Policy Statement places emphasis on:

1. Establishing compact, and strongly connected urban form throughout the Region, that achieves quality built environments that:
 - a. provide for a range of housing choices and affordability;
 - b. have a sense of character and identity;
 - c. retain heritage values and values important to tangata whenua;
 - d. are healthy, environmentally sustainable, functionally efficient, and economically and socially resilient; and
 - e. demonstrate consideration of the principles of urban design .
2. Ensuring that the rate and location of development is integrated with the provision of strategic and other infrastructure, the provision of services, and associated funding mechanisms.
3. Ensuring that the planning and provision of transport infrastructure is integrated with development and settlement patterns.

Council's Growth Strategy 2024-2054 is a non-statutory document that sets out a 30-year blueprint of growth and development opportunities for the District. The strategy sets out the areas where growth is signalled and considered appropriate moving forward.

The District Plan seeks to ensure that the District is liveable and functions in a way that enhances people's well-being. A quality built environment is one that is connected, with well-designed buildings and open spaces (both public and private), supported by good transport options, and ecologically sensitive development. It extends beyond aesthetic considerations to include a broader range of features that make a liveable, quality-built urban and rural environment.

Increasing the number of people living in and around the District will support businesses, support the sustainability of retail areas, and improve the vibrancy of the town centres for all of the District's communities. It will also add a greater variety to housing choices and contribute to meeting housing demand.

The District Plan enables higher density residential development within and around the town centres

and an increase in housing supply. The urban form and development objectives set the direction for the District Plan and help to implement the Council's Growth Strategy.

Objectives

- UFD-01** Ensure that Tararua offers an urban environment that functions well and enables its community to provide for their current and future social, economic, and cultural wellbeing, and for their health and safety.
- UFD-02** Support and sustain the vitality and viability of the District's town centres, as the primary commercial centres for the district, to provide a range of business, retail and entertainment activities, community facilities, educational facilities and visitor accommodation.
- UFD-03** Require subdivision and development within townships and within residential zones to occur in a planned, integrated and co-ordinated manner which ensures that infrastructure has sufficient capacity to accommodate the form and type of development anticipated.
- UFD-04** Where the area is appropriately serviced by existing or planned infrastructure, encourage development and intensification that enables more people to live in, and more businesses and community services to be located in the district's existing townships.
- UFD-05** Encourage high quality urban design and place making to enhance the amenity values of townships and to appropriately respond to the diverse and changing needs of the district's communities and future generations.
- UFD-06** Promote liveable, sustainable, well-functioning urban environments by incorporating low impact design solutions and matauranga Māori principles in the planning and construction of developments.
- UFD-07** Enable a variety of residential housing types for a diverse range of households across the district to meet the community's diverse social and economic housing needs and to support affordability.
- UFD-08** Ensure that development in settlement areas is appropriate in relation to its level of natural character, avoids ribbon development and ensures planned, cohesive, compact growth.
- UFD-09** Encourage urban development that supports reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimises waste production, transport and energy demand, and is resilient to the current and future effects of climate change.
- UFD-10** Minimise urban expansion onto highly productive land unless there is a demonstrated shortage of development capacity to meet demand and alternative locations and options to provide for the required demand, including intensification of existing urban areas, are unfeasible.
- UFD-11** Ensure sufficient industrial land supply is available along key transport routes and in areas located away from sensitive activities to enable industrial activities to develop and operate efficiently and effectively.
- UFD-12** Ensure the future urban areas transition to accommodate planned growth in a coordinated and efficient manner by requiring at the time of a plan change the development of a comprehensive, integrated structure plan for each individual future urban zone in its entirety.
- UFD-13** The Tararua Growth Strategy objectives and recommendations are implemented.

Policies

- UFD-P1** To enable and provide for a range of urban development opportunities within the District.
- UFD-P2** Enable a variety of homes that meet the diverse social, cultural, and economic housing needs of communities.
- UFD-P3** Promote urban growth and intensification within the urban areas enabling higher residential densities on land that is accessible to centres, employment opportunities, and existing or planned transport corridors.
- UFD-P4** To avoid urban development onto valuable highly productive land in the District, particularly in the Rural Production Zone, by directing it to identified General Residential, Settlement, Town Centre, and General Industrial Zones.
- UFD-P5** To prioritise the efficient utilisation and operation of existing infrastructure.
- UFD-P6** To prepare comprehensive policy guidance to facilitate urban development and ensure good design outcomes are achieved.

MW – Mana Whenua

TW — Mana Whenua

Mana Whenua

< Mihi to be provided by Mana Whenua >

Objectives

- TW-01** Mana whenua are actively involved as kaitiaki in the protection and management of natural and physical resources of an area.
- TW-02** Mana whenua are actively involved in all aspects of the implementation of the Tararua District Plan that affects their relationship with their culture and traditions, ancestral lands, water, cultural sites of significance, wāhi tapu and other taonga.
- TW-03** Wāhi taonga and sites of significance to mana whenua are actively protected and managed in partnership with mana whenua.
- TW-04** Mana whenua are able to protect, develop and use whenua Māori in a way that is consistent with their culture and traditions and their social and economic aspirations.

Policies

- TW-P1** To actively engage mana whenua by providing for timely, effective and meaningful engagement in resource management decision-making and implementation where mana whenua are affected.
- TW-P2** To recognise that only mana whenua can identify their relationship with their culture, traditions, ancestral lands, waterbodies, wāhi tapu and other taonga.
- TW-P3** To acknowledge and recognise iwi/hapū management plans as an expression of rangatiratanga to help Mana whenua exercise kaitiaki roles and responsibilities in the district, and as mutually appropriate means of achieving sustainable environmental outcomes.
- TW-P4** To encourage and support the recognition and use of traditional Māori place names including the use of interpretive material and the use of dual Māori signage for all official place names.
- TW-P5** To recognise and provide for development of, and a range of activities on, Māori Land and Whenua Maori to meet the needs and aspirations of mana whenua, such as papakāinga housing, kaumātua flats and marae-based development while ensuring that actual or potentially adverse effects of activities are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- TW-P6** To identify those areas where there was traditional and customary Māori use of lands and waterways within the District and implement procedures for Mana whenua involvement regarding proposals to disturb ground in and around the identified areas where such activities may have significant adverse effects.
- TW-P7** To encourage discussion between mana whenua and resource user with respect to appropriate protocols (tikanga) when any burial sites or Māori artefacts are unearthed

or disturbed, in addition to statutory requirements.

- TW-P8** To work with mana whenua to identify, maintain and enhance public access to the District's public forests and significant waterways, wetlands and coastal areas, having regard to the importance of protecting mahinga kai, wāhi tāonga and mana whenua sites of significance.
- TW-P9** To control land development, subdivision, earthworks or other disturbance activities so as to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on wāhi tapu and other taonga.

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