

14.1 ISSUE

- **Avoid or minimise the adverse effects of activities on the quality of the environment on the surface of rivers and lakes.**

Section 31 (e) of the Resource Management Act 1991 sets out as a function of territorial authorities:

"The control of any actual or potential effects of activities in relation to the surface of rivers and lakes."

Activities which occur on the surface of rivers and lakes include: boating (recreational and commercial) and a number of associated activities, for example, water-skiing and paragliding. A number of these activities are undertaken for recreational reasons and have only minor effects. It is important to ensure that recreational activities can continue to occur. However, activities of a larger scale are likely to have greater effects on the environment, for example, there can be issues related to safety if structures are built out over water (for example, pontoons and jetties) in order to provide access for users.

Rivers and lakes are important for a number of reasons including conservation and recreation values. Activities on the surface of rivers and lakes can affect water quality and quantity. The Wellington Regional Council controls water quality and quantity and deals with activities in, on, or under the bed of a river or lake. Liaison with the Wellington Regional Council will be undertaken to share information that may assist in dealing with water quality and quantity issues.

14.2 OBJECTIVE

- 14.2.1 Preserve the character of rivers and lakes through minimising the effects of activities on the surface of rivers and lakes.**

14.3 POLICIES

- 14.3.1 Reduce the potential conflict of various activities on the surface of rivers and lakes.**

Explanation:

Caution needs to be taken in the establishment of commercial type activities on the surface of rivers and lakes as an increase in the amount of traffic on waterways can lead to long term effects. Effects include: a reduction in the amenity values in terms of noise and visual traffic; hazards through the location of structures; biological effects and effects on the cultural importance of the rivers and lakes to tangata whenua.

14.3.2 Recognise the value to the community of the quality and quantity of water in rivers and lakes.*Explanation:*

The responsibility for dealing with the quality and quantity of water lies with the Regional Council. However, to achieve integrated management of natural and physical resources liaison with the Regional Council will be undertaken in relation to the effects activities undertaken on the surface of rivers and lakes may have on water quality and quantity.

14.3.3 Preserve the important values of rivers and lakes particularly in terms of conservation, cultural and recreational aspects.*Explanation:*

Rivers and lakes are important for a number of reasons; for cultural and traditional values for tangata whenua; for visual and amenity aspects; for reasons of ecological importance; and as a local recreational resource. Rivers and lakes can be sensitive to changes and consideration needs to be given to the effects of larger scale operations. It may be that appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place to minimise effects.

14.4 METHODS**14.4.1 District Plan**

- (a) Activities which do not have significant effects will generally be permitted subject to compliance with performance standards.
- (b) Any activity which does not comply with the performance standards will be assessed as a discretionary activity.

Reasons

The effects of an activity will be assessed as part of any application. Rules are necessary to manage the potential adverse effects of activities. A common set of rules applies to the surface of all lakes and rivers using performance conditions and standards to manage environmental effects and to minimise nuisance and hazards.

Note: Boating activities must also comply with the Water Recreation Guidelines 1979 which are administered by the Maritime Safety Authority of New Zealand on behalf of the Minister of Transport.

14.4.2 Other Mechanisms

- (a) Liaison with the Regional Council concerning the effects of activities on the surface of rivers and lakes on the quality and quantity of water.
- (b) Consider the need to have specific activity areas within rivers and lakes implemented through management plans.

Reasons

To ensure the best approach is taken to dealing with the effects activities have on water quality and quantity it is necessary to work in co-operation with the Regional Council.

14.5 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

The implementation of the policies and methods is expected to result in the following outcomes:

- (a) Minimise the adverse effects of activities on the surface of rivers and lakes.

14.6 DISTRICT RULES

The following requirements will apply for the surface of rivers and lakes -

14.6.1 PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

- All activities are permitted.

14.6.2 Conditions for Permitted Activities

14.6.2.1 Noise standards for any activity associated with any structure (excludes craft) shall be those of the adjoining zone.

14.6.2.2 Any structure shall not exceed 10m and not exceed 1 metre in height above the surface of water (this condition shall not apply to navigational aids and beacons).

14.6.2.3 Glare, odour and signs are subject to the standards for the adjoining zone.

Explanation:

Minimal effects on the environment are encouraged through controlling amenity related matters. The size of structures is limited in order to control potential hazard effects.

Note: The Wellington Regional Council controls water quality and quantity and will need to be contacted if any activity is in, on, or under the bed of a river or lake.

14.6.3 DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES

- Activities which do not comply with the conditions for permitted activities are Discretionary Activities.

14.6.4 Council may have regard to the following matters:

- (a) The effect on other activities on the surface of rivers and lakes including hazards to boating because of the location in a navigation channel;
- (b) effects on the scenic qualities of the rivers and lakes;
- (c) the effects on adjacent land in terms of parking requirements and access;
- (d) effects on flora and fauna and erosion through the use and speed of craft;
- (e) effects of increased noise levels;

Explanation:

The activities which can not meet the performance standards for permitted activities will be considered as discretionary activities. Council will exercise some control over these activities in order to minimise effects created for example, by parking and access particularly on visual, amenity, cultural and recreational values.