

# PART ONE - INTRODUCTION TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## **NOTE:- LAKES A ZONE**

*Part One has relevance within the Lakes A Zone. Refer to Part One that is part of Rule 1.1 of the Lakes A Zone.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This Part sets out the statutory framework provided by the *Resource Management Act 1991* and discusses some key concepts central to the development of Rotorua District Council's District Plan.

Rotorua District Council must operate within its functions, powers and duties as contained in the *Resource Management Act 1991*. One of these requirements is the preparation of a District Plan to assist Council to carry out its functions.

## **2. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**

### **2.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The *Resource Management Act 1991* came into effect on 1 October 1991. Its enactment was the result of a comprehensive process of resource management law reform which occurred in the few years previous. The process of resource management law reform was related to the concurrent reform of local government. The *Resource Management Act 1991* was designed to integrate many pieces of legislation relating to resource management, including the *Town and Country Planning Act 1977*, the *Water and Soil Conservation Act 1967*, some provisions of the *Local Government Act 1974*, the *Clean Air Act 1972* and the *Noise Control Act 1982*.

### **2.2 PREVIOUS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Prior to the local government and resource management law reform processes, a system of environmental administration had developed in an incremental fashion over time. It included various government departments, local authorities (such as city and county councils), united councils, regional water boards and catchment authorities. A number of related statutes and their amendments had also developed. Development of the legislation had been a piecemeal process and the environmental outcomes were often confused.

The explanatory notes attached to the Resource Management Bill (forerunner of the *Resource Management Act 1991*) identified the following problems in the previous resource management system which the *Resource Management Act 1991* is designed to overcome:

- “(a) *there was no consistent set of resource management objectives;*
- (b) *there were arbitrary differences in management of land, air and water;*
- (c) *there were too many agencies involved in resource management with overlapping responsibilities and insufficient accountability;*
- (d) *consent procedures were unnecessarily complicated and costly, and there were undue delays;*
- (e) *pollution laws were ad hoc and did not recognise the physical connections between land, air and water;*
- (f) *in some aspects of resource management there was insufficient flexibility and too much prescription, with a focus on activities rather than end results;*
- (g) *Maori interests and the Treaty of Waitangi were frequently overlooked;*
- (h) *monitoring of the law was uneven; and*
- (i) *enforcement was difficult.”*

## 2.3 PURPOSE

The purpose and principles of the *Resource Management Act 1991* are shown in **Figure 1** of this Part. The purpose of the Act (Section 5 (1)) is “*to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources*”. Sustainable management is defined in Section 5(2).

The *Resource Management Act 1991* also places a duty on Council to recognise and provide for a range of matters of national importance which are set out in Section 6 of the Act (see **Figure 1**).

Other important matters including maintaining and enhancing amenity values and the quality of the environment and also the recognition and protection of heritage values are set out in Section 7 of the *Resource Management Act 1991* (see **Figure 1**). Section 8 of the Act requires Council to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (see **Appendix X**).

The *Resource Management Act 1991* provides a new framework for resource management in New Zealand. It places emphasis on effects and outcomes rather than on the control of specific activities. There has been a movement away from planning controls which, in the past, sought to direct development. The principle now is that regulations must be focused on ensuring that any adverse effects  
on

the environment are avoided, remedied or mitigated where appropriate. The Act places an obligation on councils to anticipate, assess and monitor the impacts of their policies, and on resource users to assess the impacts of their activities.

### 3. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The *Resource Management Act 1991* specifies the roles, rights and responsibilities of individuals, territorial and regional councils and central government. It sets up a system of policy and plan preparation and administration which is designed to allow for the balancing of a wide range of interests and values.

Under the *Resource Management Act 1991*, “central government” includes the Ministry for the Environment and the Department of Conservation.

The Department of Conservation is responsible for administering and managing the predominantly natural lands of the Crown, protecting indigenous wildlife and managing indigenous freshwater fish and in general advocating the protection of natural and historic resources is another Department function.

The role of the Ministry for the Environment is to monitor the effect and implementation of the *Resource Management Act 1991*. There are some methods which the Ministry may use to influence resource management, including the ability to issue national policy statements to guide local (regional and territorial) government decisions, and to set national environmental standards through regulations for noise, contaminants, water, soil and air quality.

The Regional Councils, Environment Waikato and Environment BOP have been given the primary responsibility for the management of water, soil, geothermal resources, air quality and pollution control (excluding noise) in their regions. They also have responsibility for regional aspects of natural hazard avoidance or mitigation, and the prevention or mitigation of adverse effects associated with hazardous substances.

Each regional council must prepare a regional policy statement which provides an overview of the resource management issues of the region, and policies and methods to achieve integrated management of resources. Regional plans may also be prepared, where specific resources or issues require more detailed management than can be achieved through regional policy statements.

Territorial authorities such as Rotorua District Council have primary responsibility for land use management. They should also complement the role of regional councils for some issues, such as natural hazard avoidance or mitigation and the prevention or mitigation of adverse effects associated with hazardous substances. Each territorial authority is required to prepare and implement a district plan.

## PART II PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

- 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.
- 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, uses 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, waahi tapu, and other taonga.
- 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.
- 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: Purpose and Principles of the Resource Management Act 1991**

## 4. TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES

As outlined in 3 of this Part the *Resource Management Act 1991* specifies the roles, rights and responsibilities of individuals and different levels of government. The nature of territorial authorities, their basis in legislation and their means of functioning are discussed further in 3 of this Part.

### 4.1 MAIN FUNCTIONS

In the *Resource Management Act 1991* the main functions for territorial authorities such as the Rotorua District Council are contained in Section 31:

- “(a) The establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources of the district:*
- (b) The control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land, including for the purpose of the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards and the prevention or mitigation of any adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous substances:*
- (c) The control of subdivision of land:*
- (d) The control of the emission of noise and the mitigation of the effects of noise:*
- (e) The control of any actual or potential effects of activities in relation to the surface of water in rivers and lakes:*
- (f) Any other functions specified in this Act”*

### 4.2 PLANNING PRACTICE

As well as clearly outlining the functions of territorial authorities, the *Resource Management Act 1991* also includes other provisions which require changes in territorial authority planning practice.

Territorial authorities must now select an approach most suitable to their communities' needs and aspirations from a range of implementation methods. It is those councils' obligation to have regard to alternative methods of resource management and their costs and benefits (Section 32).

Section 35 states that territorial authorities have responsibilities for monitoring the state of the environment, as well as the suitability and effectiveness of various planning mechanisms that are in place (such as district plans and resource

consents). They must also gather and keep available relevant information so that the public may be informed and able to participate under the *Resource Management Act 1991*.

Under the *Resource Management Act 1991*, there are stronger enforcement provisions than under the previous legislation. This includes stronger penalties against persons convicted of offences against the Act (Part XII).

District plans are potentially more flexible than previous district schemes were, as members of the public are able to seek changes to district plan provisions (Section 73 (2)).

The territorial authority must include specific criteria in the district plan relating to the imposition of conditions and standards (Sections 108, 220). This was previously covered by discretionary powers under the *Town and Country Planning Act 1977*, *Reserves Act 1977* and *Local Government Act 1974*.

Specified criteria for development levies, reserve contributions, subdivision standards and the consideration of resource consents are to be included within district plans. Councils have the obligation to formulate such standards specifically for their districts and to rely less on general legislative guidance than was the case before.

## 5. DISTRICT PLANS

### 5.1 STATUTORY BASIS

Under the *Resource Management Act 1991*, district plans are mandatory. They are to be prepared by territorial authorities in the manner set out in the First Schedule to the Act.

Section 72 defines the purpose of district plans, which is "*to assist territorial authorities to carry out their functions in order to achieve the purpose of this Act*".

The requirement for the preparation and change of district plans is given by Section 73, which states:

*"(1) There shall at all times be one district plan for each district prepared by the territorial authority in the manner set out in the First Schedule.*

*(1A) A district plan may be changed by a territorial authority in a manner set out in the First Schedule.*

*(2) Any person may request a territorial authority to change a district plan, and the plan may be changed in the manner set out in the First Schedule.*

- (3) *A district plan may be prepared in territorial sections”*

## 5.2 CONTENTS

Section 75 (1) states that a plan shall:

*"make provision for such of the matters set out in Part II of the Second Schedule as are appropriate to the circumstances of the district, and shall state -*

- (a) The significant resource management issues of the district; and*
- (b) The objectives sought to be achieved by the plan; and*
- (c) The policies in regard to the issues and objectives, and an explanation of those policies; and*
- (d) The methods being or to be used to implement the policies, including any rules; and*
- (e) The principal reasons for adopting the objectives, policies, and methods of implementation set out in the plan; and*
- (f) The information to be submitted with an application for a resource consent, including the circumstances in which the powers under Section 92 may be used; and*
- (g) The environmental results anticipated from the implementation of these policies and methods; and*
- (h) The processes to be used to deal with issues which cross territorial boundaries; and*
- (i) The procedures to be used to review the matters set out in paragraphs (a) to (h) and to monitor the effectiveness of the plan as a means of achieving its objectives and policies; and*
- (j) Any other information that the territorial authority considers appropriate; and*
- (k) Such additional matters as may be appropriate for the purpose of fulfilling the territorial authority's functions, powers, and duties under this Act."*

District plans may include district rules (Section 76). Councils may use rules in order to carry out their functions under the *Resource Management Act 1991* and to achieve the Objectives and Policies of their Plans. Rules may prohibit, regulate or allow activities. Certain activities may be identified as permitted, controlled, discretionary, non-complying or prohibited activities so that councils have a measure of control over the actual or potential effects of these activities on the environment. Rules may apply throughout a whole district or part of a district,

they may apply all the time or only for stated periods or seasons, and they may be specific or general in their application.

It is clear from the *Resource Management Act 1991* that when developing sustainable resource management Objectives and Policies, councils must now focus on environmental effects and outcomes rather than on specific activities. This approach to resource management means that Council must first determine several important points and issues. These include: resource management issues that are significant in the District; anticipated environmental results; and the types of adverse environmental effects which should be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

In this Plan, Council has developed Objectives, Policies and Rules which set minimum environmental standards for achieving the anticipated environmental results that the community has identified. In some cases, existing procedures and methods will be suitable for achieving such results. In other cases, the community will have a certain degree of flexibility to develop their own methods of achieving the anticipated environmental results.

### **5.3 LINKS WITH REGULATIONS AND OTHER POLICIES AND PLANS**

District plans are not meant to be developed in isolation with only the *Resource Management Act 1991* as a guide. District plans should not be inconsistent with national policy statements, water conservation orders and regional policy statements or regional plans (where a matter has regional significance) (see Section 75(2)).

Methods that will ensure links are maintained are consultation, liaison and advocacy.

In addition Section 74(2) states that:

*"In addition to the requirements of Section 75(2), when preparing or changing a district plan, a territorial authority shall have regard to -*

- (a) Any proposed regional policy statement or regional plan on a matter of regional significance in respect of its district; and*
- (b) Any -*
  - (i) Management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts; and*
  - (ii) Relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority affected by the district plan; and*
  - (ii) (a) Relevant entry in the Historic Places Register; and*

- (iii) *Regulations relating to the conservation or management of taiapure or fisheries, - to the extent that their content has a bearing on resource management issues of the district; and*
- (c) *The extent to which the district plan needs to be consistent with the plans or proposed plans of adjacent territorial authorities."*

## **5.4 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

As noted in 5.3 of this Part, Sections 74 and 75 of the *Resource Management Act 1991* state that when preparing or changing a district plan, regard should be given to a number of other documents. These include national and regional policy statements, management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts, and relevant planning documents recognised by iwi authorities.

In the preparation of this District Plan, the contents of many other existing and planned documents and strategies have been taken into account.

Given that some relevant planning documents have not been prepared at the time of developing this plan, and in order to ensure compatibility and acceptability, it has been necessary to liaise closely with national and regional authorities. This Plan has therefore been prepared so as not to be at variance with future national and regional policy statements.

Of particular interest are the planning documents and strategies pursued by the two regional councils that have jurisdiction in the Rotorua District. By liaising closely with both these councils, the Rotorua District Council will endeavour to ensure there is consistency of approach in relation to relevant regional council policy statements and plans for comparable regional council resource management functions.

Because of the relatively low level of development and activity in the areas near Council's boundaries there are unlikely to be major cross boundary issues between Rotorua District and neighbouring authorities. However, when issues arise, consultation with the relevant authorities will take place.

## **5.5 RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

The District Plan is designed to be a resource management policy contract between the District Council, other levels of government, private agencies and the public.

In order to achieve a Plan of high quality and general acceptability by the community, participation in the planning process has been encouraged. Council has taken steps, in the process of preparing this District Plan, to liaise with other agencies and levels of government. The *Resource Management Act 1991* also sets out detailed requirements for public participation and Council has ensured

that these requirements have been met. The Rotorua District Council's consultation requirements and procedures for this District Plan are outlined in 7 of this Part.

Council is committed to ongoing consultation and liaison with resource management agencies and interested parties to ensure full participation in resource management policy development and implementation.

## **6. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT**

### **6.1 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT - GLOBAL AND NATIONAL RESPONSES**

Central to the *Resource Management Act 1991* is the promotion of the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The concept of sustainability is not new. It has been traced back to early Greek times. The term has been in political use internationally for approximately 20 years since the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972. This forum drew global attention to the need for ecologically sustainable development. It questioned the continued exploitation of natural and physical resources without regard for their sustainability.

The World Conservation Strategy (1980) was a further step in linking environmental sustainability with development. In 1983 the United Nations established the World Commission on Environment and Development with a global agenda for change and recommended various key principles which included:

- a revival and change in the quality of growth;
- conservation and enhancement of the resource base;
- integration of the environment and economics in decision making; and
- reform of international economic relations and strengthening of international co-operation.

In New Zealand, the Nature Conservation Council published a discussion document *Integrating Conservation and Development*; a proposal for a New Zealand Conservation Strategy (1981), which emphasised the sustainability of natural resources as a central concept.

New Zealand has continued to take an active interest in the development of means for achieving sustainable management of the environment in recent years. In 1992, New Zealand was represented at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A national report, the New Zealand National Report to the United

Nations Conference on Environment and Development: Forging the Links, was developed to be presented at the Summit.

The outcomes of the Earth Summit have been produced and are known as "Agenda 21". This document includes a number of general principles, Objectives and Methods of Implementation which should be followed by individual countries and their local authorities.

The concept of sustainable management of natural and physical resources forms the basis of both Agenda 21 and the *Resource Management Act 1991*. This being the case, it is anticipated that the management of New Zealand's natural and physical resources at all levels will increasingly be carried out in a sustainable manner which ensures that those resources will be able to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.

## 6.2 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

The concept of sustainable management can have a range of meanings, according to the characteristics of the resources being referred to, time scale and changing human needs and wants.

The *Resource Management Act 1991* recognises that sustainable management (as defined in Section 5) is a long-term goal; and is seen more in terms of a **process** than an **end state**. The primary purpose of the Act is to **promote** sustainable management of natural and physical resources; not necessarily to require that it is achieved immediately or in the short term.

The requirement for sustainable management will have a major effect on our patterns of resource use. Such use will have to now take account of whether or not present patterns can be sustained into the future. As an example, in the Rotorua District we must address how much land can continue to be used for urban development before:

- utility services (eg. road networks, sewage reticulation) are unable to cope;
- unacceptable levels of pollution occur;
- fertile farming land is irreversibly lost; and
- the attractive natural and physical characteristics of the District disappear.

## 7. CONSULTATION

### 7.1 CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Section 73(1) of the *Resource Management Act 1991* requires that district plans be prepared in the manner set out in the First Schedule to the Act.

Clause 3(1) of Part I of the First Schedule states that during the preparation of a proposed policy statement or plan, the local authority shall consult -

- "(a) *The Minister for the Environment; and*
- (b) *Those other Ministers of the Crown who may be affected by the policy statement or plan; and*
- (c) *Local authorities who may be so affected; and*
- (d) *The tangata whenua of the area who may be so affected, through iwi authorities and tribal runanga."*

Clause 3(2) of Part I of the First Schedule states that a local authority may also consult anyone else during the preparation of a proposed policy statement or plan.

### 7.2 CONSULTATION PROCEDURE - ROTORUA DISTRICT PLAN

#### 7.2.1 ROTORUA TOMORROW

The first consultation stage that the Rotorua District Council followed in the development of this District Plan was the public notification of a document entitled *Rotorua Tomorrow - Rotorua Te Ao Hou* in August 1990.

In addition to the bodies and persons that Council was obliged to provide with a copy of *Rotorua Tomorrow*, the document was also distributed to community and interest groups, schools, marae, business organisations, political parties and individuals.

A Council display at the Rotary Expo was set up in October 1990 to attract the public's attention to *Rotorua Tomorrow*, and to stimulate people to make submissions. Newspaper features on the report were also published.

Eighteen public meetings were held in various venues including the Civic Centre, in rural communities and eight meetings on marae.

Some 130 submissions were considered by Council and taken into account in the development of the District Plan. Although Rotorua Tomorrow was prepared during the time that the *Town and Country Planning Act 1977* was still operative, account was taken of the contents of the discussion documents on resource management law reform and, later, the *Resource Management Bill*.

The *Resource Management Act 1991* does not specifically require the public notification of a pre-review statement such as Rotorua Tomorrow and the Draft Rotorua District Plan. However, the consultation process certainly assisted Council in determining the major resource management issues of the District, and the problems experienced with the old District Scheme.

### 7.2.2 DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN

The Draft Rotorua District Plan was a further step in Council's consultation procedure. Under the *Resource Management Act 1991* Council is not strictly required to publish such a draft. In order to fulfil the requirements of Section 73(1) of the Act, Council believed that it was useful to prepare a detailed draft before publicly notifying a proposed district plan.

The Draft Rotorua District Plan invited submissions which were dealt with in an informal and more flexible manner than is possible with this District Plan. The Draft Rotorua District Plan was adopted by Council in October 1992 and publicly notified shortly after. Again, Council embarked on a public information and consultation phase, distributing copies of the plan to various groups and individuals. A series of public meetings throughout November 1992 were held in various venues, including the Civic Centre, marae and rural communities.

In all 96 submissions were received to the Draft Rotorua District Plan. An extensive process of assessing these submissions and making appropriate changes was then followed, including changes brought about by amendments to the *Resource Management Act 1991*.

## 7.3 FUTURE MONITORING AND CONSULTATION

Once the Rotorua District Plan becomes fully operative, the District Council will, in consultation with interested parties, continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan. This may lead to changes to the District Plan being promulgated from time to time.

Consultation with adjacent districts, regional councils and other agencies in respect of cross boundary issues will be required as part of an ongoing process necessary to achieve integrated and sustainable resource management, thus avoiding inconsistencies.

In addition, any person or body may request a territorial authority to change a district plan, subject to the provisions of Section 73(2) of the *Resource Management Act 1991*.

## **8. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT METHODS**

Section 32 of the *Resource Management Act 1991* outlines what territorial authorities should do before adopting any objective, policy, Rule or other method. Council must, amongst other things, have regard for any other means which could be used in addition to, or in place of the proposed method. It must also have regard to the reasons for and against the adoption of the proposed method and the principal alternative means available. Evaluations of the likely benefits, costs and expected effectiveness of the principal alternatives should be carried out. The method chosen to be necessary for the achievement of the purpose of the Act and the most appropriate means, having regard to its efficiency and effectiveness relative to other means. Rotorua District Council has carried out such an assessment.

District councils have a wide range of alternative methods available to them for promoting the purpose of the *Resource Management Act 1991*, for example, consultation, advocacy, information provision, education, monitoring, regulation, economic instruments, service delivery, incentives, liaison, or a combination of these. In the past there has been a tendency to rely on a limited number of means such as land use zoning and regulation.

It is recognised that in the past, planning methods may have had important economic repercussions. Intervention in the market place restricts the use of private property, therefore any intervention must be justified by Council as a regulation authority in terms of the extent to which this is necessary in order to achieve the purpose of the *Resource Management Act 1991*.

Some of the many methods Council has available to assist it to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources of the District are highlighted in Sections 8.1 to 8.3 that follow.

### **8.1 ZONING AND REGULATION**

Zoning is intended to group land use activities with “like” anticipated environmental effects together. Rules within each Zone provide standards to regulate the establishment and operation of activities within these zones according to the anticipated scale and intensity of their effects.

As a method it provides a degree of certainty and security for landowners, residents and developers as to the environment expected within each different Zone.

Zoning has been chosen by Council as the main method to be used to avoid, remedy or mitigate anticipated adverse effects on the environment.

## 8.2 LIAISON, ADVOCACY AND CONSULTATION

In order to achieve a Plan of high quality and general acceptability by the community, participation in the planning process has been encouraged. Council has taken steps, in the process of preparing this District Plan, to liaise and consult with the public, Environment Waikato, Environment BOP, Department of Conservation and with other agencies and levels of government.

Council is committed to ongoing consultation and liaison with resource management agencies and interested parties to ensure full participation in resource management policy development and implementation.

## 8.3 EDUCATION

The *Resource Management Act 1991* interprets the sustainability concept in a number of ways, one of which is that resources are to be used in a manner that does not compromise the needs of future generations. Local Authorities therefore have a role in education, particularly educating resource users about ways of using resources in a sustainable manner. The policies and plan instruments in this plan try to meet this objective. An important group to consult with when developing education policy in the future is resource users.

It is also the aim of this Council to provide a plan that educates the population of the District on how the consent and planning process operates. One way in which Council will achieve this objective is by the publication of a "user-friendly" guide to the plan. By doing this the awareness of the District Plan and the policies contained within it will be enhanced.

## 9. INFORMATION GATHERING AND MONITORING

Local authorities have various responsibilities for gathering information, keeping records and monitoring. These responsibilities are specified in Section 35 of the *Resource Management Act 1991*. Every local authority is required to gather such information and complete such research as is necessary to effectively carry out its functions.

A wide range of resource management related matters should be monitored by councils. These include: the state of the environment; the suitability and effectiveness of any policy statements or plans and compliance with resource consents.

Monitoring should be carried out to ensure that people comply with the regulations and other methods that are chosen by Council. It is also important, however, as a check to see that the anticipated environmental results sought are

actually being realised by the methods chosen. It is important, too, to confirm whether the desired anticipated environmental results are still relevant.

The requirements of Section 35 provide, also, for ongoing research and monitoring of the effectiveness of Council's functions. This should result in the development of policies and practices which are suitable for existing and future situations as they incorporate a facility for change.

As well as monitoring, local authorities are also required to make information available to the public so that they can participate effectively under the *Resource Management Act 1991* and be better informed about Councils' functions and powers.

A programme of information gathering, record keeping and information provision will be implemented for the Rotorua District in order for the requirements of Section 35 of the *Resource Management Act 1991* to be fulfilled.

## 10. CONCLUSION

The Parts that follow build on the ideas and concepts developed here. In **Part Three**, the way in which Council will meet its monitoring obligations, is discussed more fully.