



REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW NEWSLETTER

No 1: February 2007

Many organisations and individuals made comments on last year's discussion document "*Our region – their future*" and this newsletter is to keep interested people informed.

The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) review is an important document for the region. It sets out the policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the natural and physical resources of the region. This newsletter contains information about what's happened as part of the review so far, provides a summary of the responses received to "*Our region – their future*", information about what we are doing now and what's ahead.

We will continue to send you updates as the review progresses. But, feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

What's happened so far?

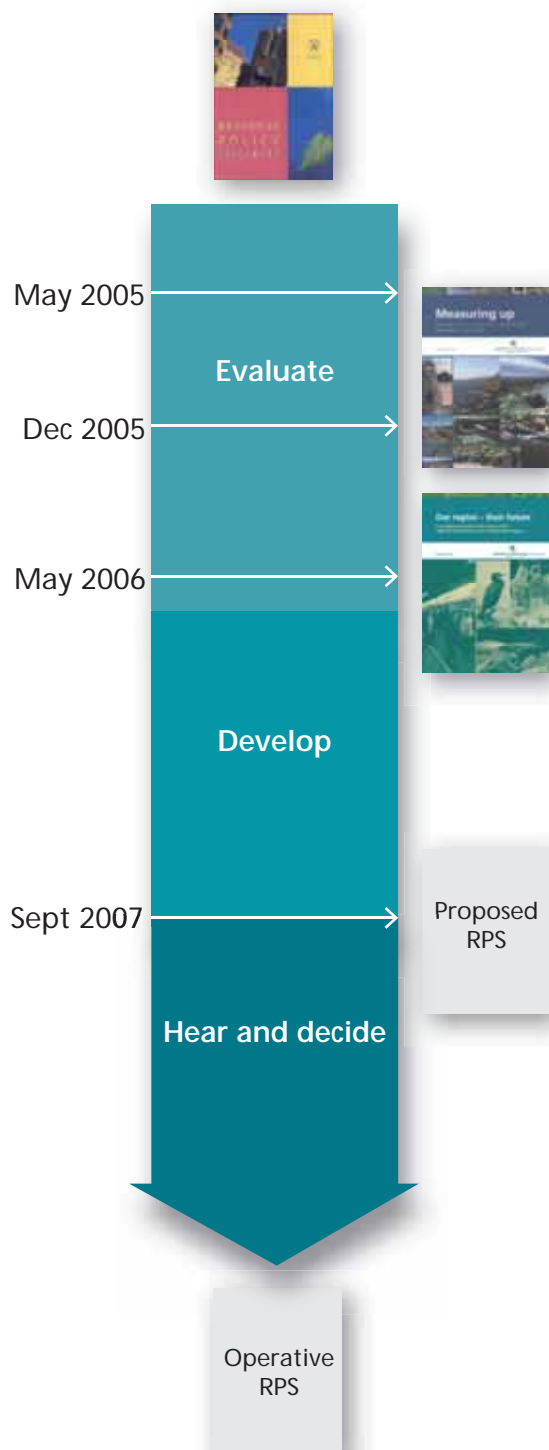
In May 2005 the RPS had been in place for ten years. At this time Greater Wellington was required (in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991) to commence a review. The review began with an evaluation of the progress made towards meeting the objectives in the RPS. This was reported in the region's second state of the environment report, "*Measuring up, 2005*". In May 2006 "*Our region – their future*", reported on how successful the RPS had been, what had changed, and asked how things should be managed differently in the next RPS.

What are the environmental issues?

In summary the environmental issues identified in response to "*Our region – their future*" were:

- Waste management – need for more recycling and reduction in packaging
- Transport - dependence on private vehicles, improving public and active transport, encouraging wiser car use
- Air quality – effects of emissions from vehicles, open fires and industry
- Energy use – need for alternative energy sources, conservation and efficiency improvements, and energy wise building design
- Soil quality – contaminated sites, soil loss and erosion
- Water use/conservation – increasing demand for water, the need for water conservation
- Native vegetation – clearance for development, management of reserves, protection of open space
- Pollution of water – discharges, stormwater, runoff and the health of wetlands and freshwater ecosystems

- Climate change and hazards – contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, response to sea level rise, increasing storm events, coastal erosion and flooding
- Subdivision development – impacts on infrastructure, green spaces and where growth is occurring
- Integration of land use with infrastructure – planning for future growth and providing for regionally significant infrastructure
- Quality of the coast – development and impacts on natural character, rubbish on beaches, stormwater, water quality and the health of ecosystems
- Access - to the coast, rivers, lakes, recreational sites, cultural resources and mahinga kai
- Heritage – loss of heritage building, damage to cultural sites
- Landscape – impacts from earthworks and development



Developing the content for the next RPS

Deciding on the regionally significant resource management issues was the first important step in preparing the next RPS. The draft issues have been identified using our assessment of the state of the environment (after ten years of management under the existing RPS) and by listening to public feedback on the discussion document “*Our region – their future*”. If you would like to view the draft regionally significant issues, visit our website, email or phone us. Our web address and contacts details are below.

As well as identifying the regionally significant resource management issues, we must include and address resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities in the region. These issues are currently being prepared with the region’s iwi authorities.

Greater Wellington is now developing the objectives, policies and methods for the next RPS. We are doing this with the region’s iwi authorities, and city and district councils.

A summary of the draft objectives, policies and methods will be included in the May newsletter.

Greater Wellington will then release the next Regional Policy Statement for formal comments in September 2007.

Find out more:

www.gw.govt.nz/rps

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