

Greater Wellington Regional Council: Submission

To: Greater Wellington Regional Council

Submission on: Proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region 2009

1. Introduction

On further review of the proposed Regional Policy Statement, Greater Wellington Regional Council has identified errors and omissions. The errors and omissions are highlighted in this submission, and the corrections required stated, so that any person can further submit, should they wish to do so, on these matters.

The submission is organised in the order in which these matters appear in the document.

2. Policy 28: Avoiding subdivision and development in areas at high risk from natural hazards – district plans

2.1 Correction

Include reference to regional plans in policy 28 alongside district plans.

2.1.1 Reason

Greater Wellington has responsibility (in accordance with proposed policy 62) for objectives, policies and methods, for the control of the use of land, to avoid or mitigate natural hazards in the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers. Policy 28 therefore applies to regional plans. District plan have responsibility for other land in accordance with proposed policy 62.

3. Section 5.2 Anticipated environmental results

3.1 Correction

Add “or other purposes identified in the regional plan” to the end of anticipate environmental results:

- four alongside objective 6; and
- One, 2 and 3 alongside objective 12.

3.1.1 Reason

The anticipated environmental results are results that can be expected to be achieved from implementing the policies and methods in the policy statement.

Anticipated environmental results 4 alongside objective 6 and 1, 2 and 3 alongside objective 12 are outcomes from the implementation of proposed policies 5, 11 and 39. These policies require that the regional plan not only manage water bodies for aquatic ecosystem health and water quality in the coastal marine area to sustain health aquatic ecosystems, but that the plan manage for other purposes identified in the regional plan. The later purposes for management are not recognised in these anticipated environmental results.

4. Appendix 1: Rivers and lakes with values requiring protection, Table 16

The corrections to Appendix 1 are the result of reviewing application of the methodology outlined in the supporting document *Selection of Rivers and Lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems 2009*.

Application of the methodology for identifying catchments with a high proportion of vegetation cover is described as follows:

Indigenous forest and scrub cover was calculated for each fourth order catchment. For rivers and streams draining straight to sea or to lakes these criteria were applied down to the first order catchment scale.

A review of the methodology found errors had occurred in identifying catchment orders. Some fifth order catchments had been broken down into their fourth order components and this has now been corrected. The review across the entire region has identified an additional nine areas for inclusion in Appendix 1. One area has been deleted.

Application of the methodology for identifying catchments with threatened native fish species was also reviewed. It involved checking each record from the New Zealand freshwater fish database “manually”. Previously records had been examined by searching species names on the New Zealand freshwater fish database “automatically”. Ten locations are deleted and five are added as a result.

Application of the methodology for identifying catchments with six or more indigenous migratory fish species previously used any site where three species occurred and doubled it to extend the classification over a catchment. In the revised application of this methodology, all freshwater fish records in the region have been reviewed “manually”. The changes sought in this submission identify where six records of migratory fish species occur in a catchment. For the Hutt River and Ruamahanga River, the criterion of six or more records applied to sub catchments of these rivers. Six or more records already occur in the main stems of the Hutt River and the Ruamahanga River. As a result of the review, 25 locations are deleted from Appendix 1 and two are added.

4.1 Correction 1

Add the following catchments to the column “catchments with a high percentage of indigenous vegetation cover” in Table 16:

- Whakatikei River above the confluence with the Wainui Stream;
- unnamed streams draining to the coast between Point Howard at easting 2670123, northing 5992774 and Eastbourne at easting 2668476, northing 5988040;
- Battery Stream;
- unnamed tributaries of Lake Wairarapa between easting 2692884, northing 5996151 and easting 2694063, northing 5996975;
- Prince Stream;
- Cross Creek;
- unnamed tributaries on true left bank of Awhea River between easting 2720541, northing 5974877, and easting 2720409, northing 5967840;
- unnamed tributary draining to the coast at easting 2736771, northing 5974877;
- unnamed tributaries draining to the coast between easting 2784666, northing 6038022 and easting 2784952, northing 6039543.

4.1.1 Reason

The catchments referred to meet the criteria for “catchments with a high percentage of indigenous vegetation cover”.

4.2 Correction 2

In the first column amend “Wainuiomata River” to read “Wainuiomata River excluding Black Stream”.

4.2.1 Reason

The Black Stream catchment does not meet the criteria for “catchments with a high percentage of indigenous vegetation cover”.

4.3 Correction 3

Delete the following from the column “habitat for threatened indigenous fish species in the catchment”:

- All rivers on Kapiti Island;
- Kakaho Stream;
- Manganui Stream;
- Tauherenikau;

- Oruapouanui Stream;
- Putangirua Stream;
- Mangatoetoe Stream;
- Awhea River;
- Kaiwhata River; and
- Motuwaireka Stream.

4.3.1 Reason

The rivers referred to do not meet the criterion for "habitat for threatened indigenous fish species in the catchment".

4.4 Correction 4

Delete the following from the column "habitat for six or more indigenous fish species in the catchment":

- All rivers on Kapiti Island;
- Te Ikaamaru Stream;
- Whakatikei River;
- Pakarutahi River;
- Mangaroa River;
- Mukamukaiti Stream;
- Wharepapa Stream;
- Abbots Creek;
- Waiohine River above the Mangatarere Stream confluence;
- Waingawa River above, and including, the Atiwhakatu Stream;
- Waingawa River below the Atiwhakatu Stream to the Ruamahanga River;
- Waipoua River;
- Tauweru River;
- Ruakokopatuna River;
- Makatukutuku Stream;

- Pararaki Stream;
- Otakaha Stream;
- Mangatoetoe Stream;
- Waitetuna; Opouawe River;
- Pahoia River;
- Huatokitoki Stream;
- Kaiwhata River;
- Whareama River;
- Ngakaukau Stream; and
- Okau Stream.

4.4.1 Reason

The rivers referred to do not meet the criterion of "six or more migratory indigenous fish species in the catchment".

4.5 Correction 5

Add the following to the column "habitat for threatened indigenous fish species in the catchment":

- Speedy's stream;
- Moonshine Stream;
- Stokes Valley Stream;
- Whangaehu Stream; and
- unnamed tributary on the true left bank of the Ruamahanga River at easting 2704500 and northing 5988700.

4.5.1 Reason

The rivers referred to meet the criterion for "habitat for threatened indigenous fish species in the catchment".

4.6 Correction 6

Add the following to the column "habitat for six or more indigenous fish species in the catchment":

- Speedy's stream; and

- Days Bay Stream.

4.6.1 Reason

The river referred to meet the criteria of "six or more migratory indigenous fish species in the catchment."

4.7 Correction 7

Insert the following text in the key to symbols used in Table 16:

“” means the rivers specified held the value identified.*

And

Insert rows for the Hutt River and Ruamahanga River with the symbol “*” in the columns “Habitat for indigenous fish” and Habitat for six or more native fish species”.

4.7.1 Reason

The new symbol “*” will apply to the Hutt River and the Ruamahanga River. The change is needed because the large size and heterogeneity of habitat in these rivers make it appropriate to apply the criteria for threatened species and

4.8 Correction 8

Make any consequential changes to Table 16 that arise as a result of this submission.

4.8.1 Reason

Its appropriate to make any consequential amendments that may be needed when adjustments are made to the table.

5. Involvement in the Hearing

Greater Wellington Regional Council does not wish to be heard in support of their submission.

.....
Dave Benham
Chief Executive
Greater Wellington

(Date)