

## 2 STATUTORY PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

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## STATUTORY PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

(This Section does not form a statutory part of the District Plan.)

# 2.1 introduction

Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the District Plan contain the statutory statements and consideration of the significant resource management issues of the Ashburton District. Following each Issue the Ashburton District Council's Objectives, Policies and Implementation Methods relating to the Issue are set out. Section 2 of the Plan sets out the statutory purpose and principles for the Plan, but cannot form a statutory part of the District Plan.

For the purposes of this District Plan an **Objective** is something which is a desirable end state. **Policies** are means of reaching or moving towards objectives. In most situations the Plan contains a number of policies to achieve a single objective. Some policies are supportive of more than one objective. The **Implementation Methods** referred to in this District Plan are the mechanisms by which policies are achieved. Some of these mechanisms are contained within the District Plan, for example rules specifying what activities are permitted and what environmental standards must be met. Other methods are outside the Plan and include the use of other legislation, education programmes and the expenditure of funds allocated through the Annual Plan process of the Council.

The **Environmental Results Anticipated** from the implementation of the various methods to achieve the objectives and policies, are listed after the relevant objectives and policies where the implementation method chosen is outside the scope of the District Plan. Where the chosen methods are rules in the District Plan, either zone rules or district rules, the environmental results anticipated are listed in the relevant rules section.

# 2.2 statutory purpose and principles

The Ashburton District Council is required by the Resource Management Act 1991 to have a District Plan for its District. This Act sets out the Council's resource management functions and the matters, which this Plan must and can address. The purpose of this District Plan is to assist the District Council to carry out its functions under the Resource Management Act, in order that it may achieve the purpose of the Act. The Act has a single purpose, which is to "promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources". Section 5 of the Resource Management Act (set out below) sets out this purpose of the Act. It is this purpose, which provides the **overall goal or guide** for this District Plan.

*Section 5*

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;*
  - c) *Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.*

In achieving this purpose the District Plan and its administration must also **recognise and provide for** the following matters of national importance listed in Section 6 of the Act.

*Section 6*

- (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, use, 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.*

**Particular regard** shall be had in the District Plan to the following matters set out in Section 7 of the Act.

*Section 7*

- (a) *Kaitiakitanga ((aa) the ethic of stewardship):*
- (b) *The efficient use and development of natural and physical resources:*
- (c) *The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values:*

## 2.2 Statutory Purpose and Principles

- (d) Intrinsic values of ecosystems:*
- (e) Recognition and protection of the heritage value 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.*

In addition, the District Plan and its administration shall **take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi)** (Section 8 of the Act).

It is against this background of the Resource Management Act's purpose and principles that the resources of the District and the wellbeing of its people have been assessed to determine the significant resource management issues of the District.