

OBJECTIVE 3.3: WATER QUALITY

TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THE REGION'S WATER RESOURCE.

Policies

3.3.1 To monitor the quality of ground and surface water in order to identify and address any changes.

Implementation

- a) develop a base of water quality data for all rivers and groundwater aquifers.
- b) establish water quality standards and management practices which reflect the use and value of the water resource.
- c) monitor water quality parameters, including heavy metals currently monitored, at regular intervals, establishing the most appropriate monitoring programme for each water resource.

3.3.2 To ensure that agricultural and industrial waste, sewage and stormwater is disposed of in a manner which does not adversely affect the existing or future uses of groundwater or surface water in the Wairarapa.

Implementation

- a) require water rights for all discharges to water or land, except for individual septic tanks and stormwater discharges which comply with general authorisation conditions.
- b) develop guidelines for septic tanks if considered necessary.
- c) impose conditions on water rights to ensure that the total discharges to a water body are within the capacity of the water body to assimilate the waste without detriment to water quality.
- d) encourage land disposal of effluent where groundwater quality is not at risk and soil characteristics are suitable.

3.3.3 To investigate contamination of water and to implement measures to restore the water to its original quality.

Implementation

- a) require polluter, where identified, to pay costs of monitoring contamination, restoration of water quality and provision of alternative water supplies where appropriate.
- b) if polluter does not undertake correction measures specified by the Board, take legal action.

3.3.4 Where a potential exists for accidental or emergency spills, to ensure that conditions are applied either on water rights or planning consents, which require preventative or contingency measures.

3.3.5 To promote the correct management of land fill sites and rubbish tips.

Implementation

- a) liaise with local authorities to ensure that rubbish disposal is suitably sited and that sites are operated in a manner which minimises contamination of groundwater or surface water.
- b) advocate the inclusion of performance standards for refuse disposal site operation in district schemes.

- c) monitor water quality downstream of waste disposal sites.

3.3.6 To prevent the discharge of hazardous substances into water or on to land where it can be taken up by water. To encourage the removal of hazardous substances from all types of discharges.

Implementation

- a) promote a survey of hazardous substance usage in the region.
- b) promote development of a plan for hazardous waste disposal.
- c) in conjunction with local authorities and if considered necessary assist in the location of a regional hazardous waste disposal site.

3.3.7 To recognise Maori values when making decisions likely to affect the water quality of streams, rivers or coastal waters.

Implementation

- a) consult with appropriate iwi authorities when considering water right applications to discharge waste to surface waters.