



REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW NEWSLETTER

No 3: October 2007

This newsletter is to let you know that we have a new timetable for our Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

In June of this year Greater Wellington released the draft objectives, policies and methods for the next RPS. Thanks to everyone who made comments on the June draft. We are now using those comments to refine these RPS provisions.

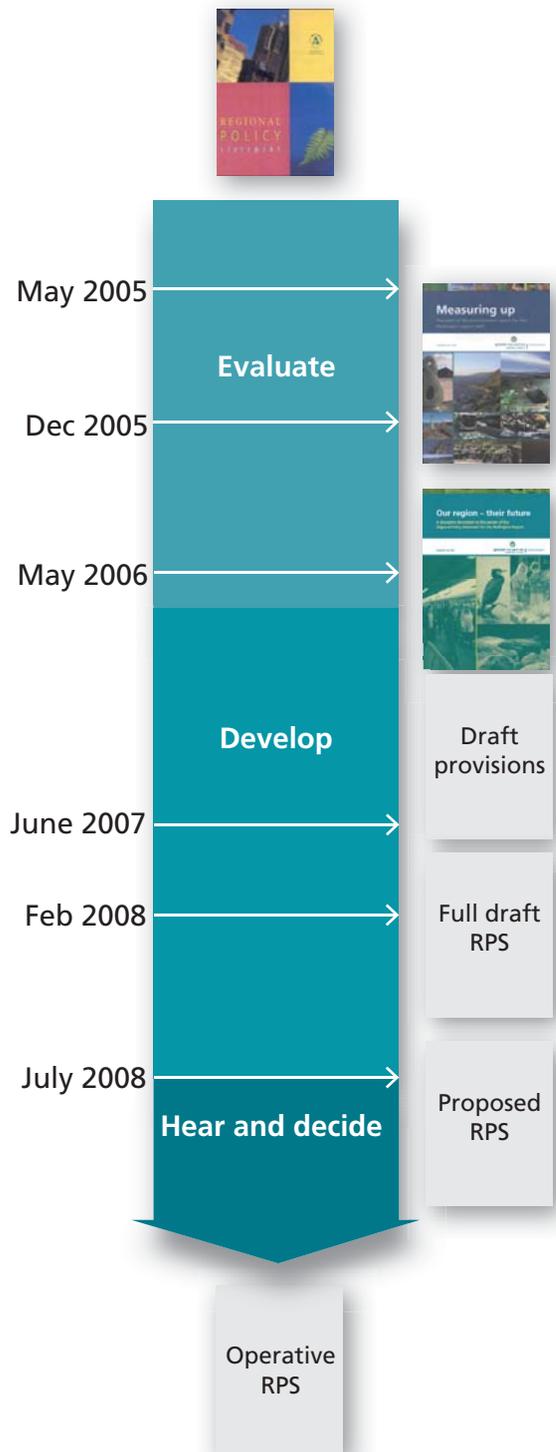
This newsletter also takes this opportunity to explain what the RPS does and how Greater Wellington intends to make the next RPS more effective.

New timetable

We have changed the timetable for consultation and notification of the RPS. A complete draft RPS will now be released for comments in February 2008. Feedback on the draft will then be used to prepare a proposed RPS ready for notification in July 2008. We had initially intended to notify a proposed RPS in September/October this year.

These timetable changes give people more opportunity to understand and comment on the draft document before it is formally notified. The completed draft will show how each of the topics being addressed by the RPS fit together in a complete RPS document. Between now and February we will also be looking at further discussing the impact of the RPS with city and district councils.

This extended period of consultation will result in more robust policies and methods to address sustainability issues across the region.



What does an RPS do?

The Regional Policy Statement is prepared under the Resource Management Act, 1991 (RMA) and in particular the RMA's purpose to promote sustainable management. The purpose of the RPS is to achieve integrated management of natural and physical resources in the region. It identifies the significant resource management issues, including those of significance for iwi authorities, and spells out how to address those issues.

It is not the job of the RPS to have rules. They can, however (and this one will), direct what sort of rules must be included in district plans and regional plans. For example, the draft RPS directs district plans to have rules controlling earthworks so that sediment does not pollute streams.

Other legal documents are also influenced by the RPS. For instance the Wellington Regional Land Transport Strategy is not allowed to be inconsistent with the RPS; and city and district councils, and Greater Wellington must have regard to the RPS when they make decisions on applications for resource consents and designations. The RPS also outlines other resource management actions or programmes that may need to be put in place to promote sustainable management.

Reviewing the RPS

The current RPS – our first – was assessed in 2005 (*Measuring up*) and again in 2006 (*Our region – their future*). In response to these two documents people and organisations told us that they thought the first RPS had a good approach and many good programmes to address the identified problems. They wanted us to build on that by specifying how the issues were to be dealt with in district and regional plans and how those issues were to be considered when processing resource consents or designations.

The first RPS had an ambitious number and range of actions, some of which resulted in successful programmes such as our now well accepted Take Care environmental enhancement programme. However, there were some programmes that were never started, and others that could not be influenced by Greater Wellington under the framework of the RPS.

Greater Wellington's commitment is to make the next RPS more effective. It will be shorter, clearer and more directive.

This commitment is reflected in our refinement of the issues from over one hundred to just twenty five. We thought hard about what the RPS can influence and the best way to achieve the goals. The resulting RPS will contain policies and methods that:

1. Describe what needs to be addressed by district and/or regional plans and how; or
2. Outline matters that need to be given *particular regard* when making resource management decisions (i.e. resource consents, designations or changes to RMA plans); or
3. State the non-regulatory actions (e.g. information, strategies, works or services) that need to be undertaken.

As highlighted at the beginning of this newsletter a complete draft RPS will be released for comment in February next year. If you would like to be put on our mailing list to receive this newsletter and a copy of the draft RPS see our contact details below.

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Find out more:

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