

**Title:** Overview of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

**Purpose:** To inform the Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee on the requirements of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement for their work identifying values and setting objectives for fresh and coastal water

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**Date:** 09 April 2015



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# Overview of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

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## 1. Introduction

All the rainwater that falls in Te Awarua o Porirua catchment ends up at the coast along with any sediment and contaminants that are carried along with it. The coast is where the environmental impacts of activities upstream (like urban development) are most heavily felt. The coast is also where people go to enjoy many recreational activities like swimming and fishing, as well as being a place of great spiritual connection to tangata whenua and the site of cultural activities. This collision course of environmental impacts and people who highly value the coastal environment is the reason why it is so important that the whole catchment is effectively managed.

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) guides local authorities in their day to day management of the coastal environment. This report sets out the key parts of the NZCPS to inform Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee as they undertake their work within Te Awarua o Porirua catchment. The whaitua process will need to respond to this national policy direction.

## 2. Background

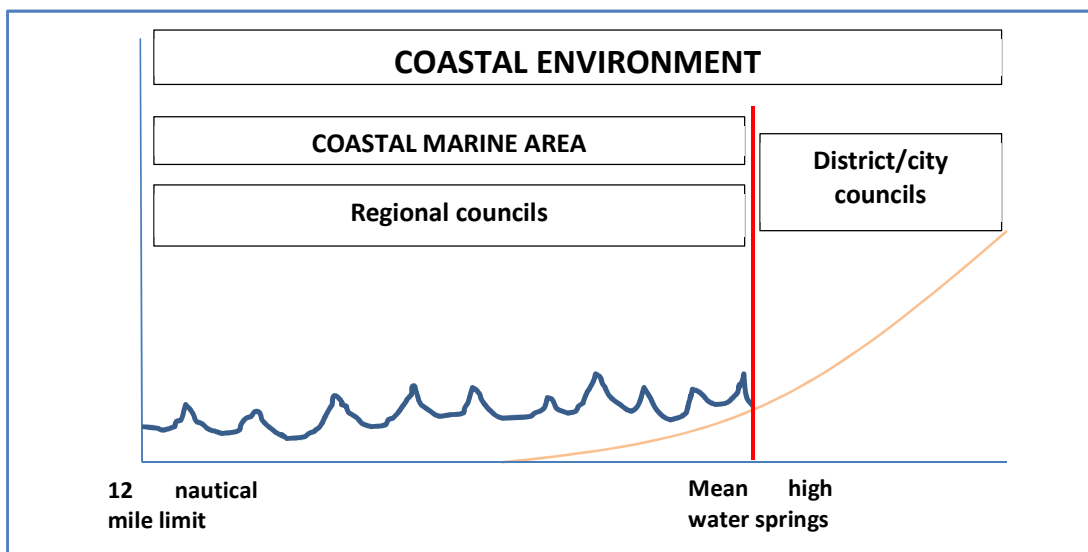
The NZCPS sets out national policy direction for the sustainable management of the coastal environment in order to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act (the Act). The Minister of Conservation is responsible for preparing the NZCPS, which is to promote the sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of the coastal environment, including coastal land, the foreshore and seabed, and coastal waters from mean high water springs (generally the high tide mark) to the 12 nautical mile limit. Both local and regional councils have responsibility to give effect to the NZCPS by changing their regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans.

The 2010 NZCPS supersedes an earlier 1994 version and highlights a number of issues for the coastal environment of New Zealand. These issues include the effect of activities on coastal processes, poor and declining coastal water quality, contamination from stormwater and wastewater discharges and their effects on aquatic life, mahinga kai and recreational use.

The coastal environment is not just the coastal marine area (wet part). It includes islands, areas where coastal processes, influences or qualities are significant, areas at risk from coastal hazards, areas of coastal vegetation, the intertidal zone and physical resources (built facilities including infrastructure) that have modified the coastal environment.

## 3. Jurisdiction

The diagram below is a simple illustration of the jurisdictional responsibilities of regional and city/district councils for the coastal environment.



## 4. How does Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee give effect to the NZCPS?

It is the task of the whaitua committee to work with the catchment community to identify the values and objectives the community hold for the water including coastal water. This work will lead to the development of a Whaitua Implementation Plan (WIP) which will describe how to manage land and water in Te Awarua o Porirua catchment so that the aspirations of the community are achieved. The NZCPS objectives and policies must be given effect to in regional plans and the WIP will form a chapter of the Natural Resources Plan (which is a regional plan). There are key objectives and policies described in section 4.1 below that Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will need to understand and reflect in their work for the catchment.

### 4.1. Key parts of the NZCPS

This section explains some of the key objectives and policies contained within the NZCPS that are of relevance to the work of the Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee.

There are objectives about:

1. Safeguarding the integrity, functioning and resilience of ecosystems in the marine and coastal environment (e.g. intertidal areas, estuaries);
2. Preserving natural character, natural features and landscape values;
3. Taking account of the principles in the Treaty of Waitangi;
4. Maintaining and enhancing public open space and recreational opportunities;

5. Ensuring coastal hazard risks take into account climate change;
6. Enabling people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing;
7. Ensuring that New Zealand meets its international obligations regarding the coastal environment.

While there are 29 policies in the NZCPS, there are six key ones for the Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee to consider:

- a) Policy 2 promotes the involvement of tangata whenua in decision making and recognising the relationship of tangata whenua with the coastal environment;
- b) Policy 4 promotes the integrated management of resources in the coastal environment and for activities that affect the coastal environment;
- c) Policy 11 seeks the protection of indigenous biodiversity in the coastal environment;
- d) Policy 21 seeks that priority is given to improving the quality of coastal water that has deteriorated so that it is having a significant adverse effect on ecosystems, habitats or recreational activities, shellfish gathering and cultural activities;
- e) Policy 22 seeks the control of the impacts of activities on sedimentation in the coastal environment, the reduction of sediment in runoff and stormwater systems through land use controls and the assessment and monitoring of sedimentation levels and impacts in the coastal environment;
- f) Policy 23 seeks the good management of discharges to coastal water such as stormwater discharges and treated and untreated sewage discharges.

No absolute deadline has been specified for any of the policies that would require immediate amendments to existing documents; instead local authorities are directed to do so 'as soon as practicable'. However, it applies immediately to all resource consent decision making. There is also some national guidance on implementing these objectives and policies which will be able to assist Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee in achieving good environmental outcomes for the coastal environment of the Porirua catchment.

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***30 March 2015***

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