

Part B. Examining the appropriateness of objectives

The evaluation in the following sections shows the extent to which the objectives are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act.

Section 32 of the Act requires the appropriateness of each objective in achieving the purpose of the Act to be examined. This section of the report outlines a summary of that evaluation.

Many of the proposed objectives build on existing objectives of the Operative District Plan with some subtle changes, while other objectives are completely new. The appropriateness of existing provisions was considered at the time of being included in the ‘first generation’ District Plan (in 1994). The evaluation below shows that the existing provisions continue to remain relevant and appropriate.

An evaluation of objectives under section 32 must examine:

(3) (a) the extent to which each objective is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of this Act,

The purpose of the Act:

5 (1) The purpose of the 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; and

(c) Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

The evaluation below considers each objective in terms of different elements that make up the purpose of the Act. That is, enabling people to provide for their *social wellbeing, economic wellbeing, cultural wellbeing* (5(1)), and in terms of sections 5(2)a, 5(2)b, and 5(2)c). The evaluation also considers other questions, such as:

- What would happen without it?
- Does it relate directly to the issue, and address a significant aspect of the issue?
- Would achieving the objective make a substantial difference, in terms of resolving the issue?

Policies, guidelines and other material on how to achieve that purpose are also referred to where relevant.

In assessing the extent to which the objective is the **most appropriate** way to achieve the purpose of the Act, it is necessary to look at the proposed policies and methods that will implement the objective. The analysis of those provisions should ideally reveal that the cost of pursuing the objective do not outweigh the benefits.

2.1 Examining the appropriateness of proposed objectives

4.2.1 To enhance the City’s natural containment, accessibility and residential amenity by promoting the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources in Residential Areas.

Wellington City’s coastal location and hilly topography provides little scope for significant residential expansion into ‘green field’ areas. At the same time Council considers that these physical constraints have resulted in a compact and accessible urban form that is an asset to the City and its residents.

The above objective seeks to enhance the Residential Area’s natural containment, accessibility and residential amenity and in this way helps to maintain and enhance residential development and indirectly promote sustainable development. The Residential Area is where most people live and recreate. In this environment, Council responsibilities for managing ‘natural and physical resources’ relates to the buildings, structures, roads, open spaces and land, amongst other things. This objective also responds to the issue identified in the plan of ‘managing urban development on the edge of the city.’

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act’s purpose |
|---|---|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | Enables people to use and develop natural and physical resources within the Residential Area so they can provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing. For example through the construction and use of residential dwellings. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | Promoting <i>efficiency</i> in the use and development of natural and physical resources is a way of sustaining the potential of resources, (for example, focusing urban development in a contained area on a node of public transport). Containment of the residential area and co-location of activities aids efficient resource use (for example of the extent of land developed) and accessibility (for example pedestrian access and public transport use). |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

The objective is consistent with section 7(b) of the Act, which requires regard to be had to “the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources”. It gives effect to objectives 1-3 outlined in Chapter 14 of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) relating to the built environment and transportation. Regard was given also to

Objective 21 of the Proposed RPS which seeks ‘a compact, well designed and sustainable regional form’. This includes reference to the provisions of a range of housing needs and seeks that urban development occur in existing urban areas.

An aim of the Long Term Council Community Plan (2006/07-2015/16) is for Wellington to be ‘more sustainable’ through reducing its ‘environmental impact by making efficient use of energy, water, land and other resources; shifting towards renewable energy resources; conserving resources; and minimising waste (4.5, Environment). A ‘more compact’ and ‘contained urban form’ is also sought ‘with intensification in appropriate areas and mixed land-use, structured around a vibrant central city’ (1.3, Urban Development).

Without this objective, the Council would not be able to encourage (through policy and rules) certain residential activities to stay within a defined area or to justify residential intensification within the existing urban limit, possibly resulting in suburban sprawl and the loss of the rural environment. This may result in the inefficient use of infrastructure and energy and degrade the environment.

The Residential Areas provide for residential growth and development at a range of scales. The Residential Areas work in tandem with the Central Area and Suburban Centre zones which also provide for and encourage residential intensification. Combined these zones provide for the development of a wide variety of different residential household options.

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.2 To recognise and enhance those characteristics, features and areas of the Residential Area that contribute positively to the City’s distinctive physical character and sense of place.

Within the Residential Area there are a range of characteristics, features and areas that contribute to Wellington’s amenity values and sense of place. Recognising these areas and putting in place measures to protect their specific characteristics contributes to improved amenity values, and in this way the objective responds appropriately to the Act.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act’s purpose |
|--|--|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | Recognising and enhancing different areas and features that positively contribute to the physical character of the city and resident’s appreciation of these surroundings helps to ensure a quality environment in which people can provide for their social, cultural and economic wellbeing. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |

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| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | <p>The suburban and built environment of the Residential Area is its defining character. Within this general urban form there are distinctive qualities in different localities that also contribute positively to the city’s sense of place. Ensuring the city’s distinctive characteristics are recognised and enhanced is an important part of minimising adverse effects, including effects on amenity values and in some cases the City’s built heritage.</p> <p>The quality of the residential environment at both the human scale and city scale helps to ensure a sustainable urban form.</p> |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

This objective enables the distinctive nature of different areas within the Residential Area to be recognised and enhanced. In doing so, the objective is consistent with sections 7(c) and 7(f) of the Act in the way it seeks to maintain and enhance amenity values and the associated quality of the environment. Again this objective gives effect to objectives 1-3 outlined in Chapter 14 of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) relating to the built environment and transportation, and regard to Objective 21 of the Proposed RPS which seeks a well designed regional form.

The Council seeks to strengthen Wellington’s sense of place so that ‘Wellington is a memorable, beautiful city, celebrating and building on its sense of place, capital city status, distinctive landforms and landmarks, defining features, heritage, and high quality buildings and spaces’ (Long Term Council Community Plan 2006/07-2015/16, Urban Development 1.5). An enhanced public amenity is one aspect of that sense of place. This concept also reflects Council’s commitment to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol and making Wellington a ‘more liveable’ city.

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.3 Ensure that new development within Residential Areas is of a character and scale that is appropriate for the area and neighbourhood in which it is located.

Wellington City contains a variety of residential environments. Amongst other things, these different residential environments reflect variations in age, topography, location, proximity to the central city (and other centres), socio-economic factors, and planning controls. The variety of residential environments contributes to the City’s sense of place and unique character.

As Council maintains a policy of general urban containment, it is inevitable that future growth (and changes in demographics and household composition) will result in residential intensification within existing neighbourhoods. This objective seeks to ensure that when new development does take place it recognises and respects the predominant patterns and character of the surrounding neighbourhood.

This objective relates to ‘maintaining and enhancing the quality of the built environment’ issue identified in section 1.6.2 of the District Plan.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act's purpose |
|---|---|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | Many residents appreciate the character of the area in which they live. However some degree of change is inevitable due to both the Council's policy of residential intensification and individual property owners desires to make efficient use of their land and to alter their properties to meet changing needs. This objective enables Council to provide for change while ensuring that the new development is compatible with the scale and character of the surrounding area and neighbourhood. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | The suburban and built environment of the Residential Area is its defining character. Within this general urban form there are distinctive qualities in different localities that also contribute positively to the city's sense of place. Ensuring the each neighbourhoods distinctive characteristics are recognised and enhanced is an important part of minimising adverse effects, including effects on amenity values. |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

This objective is consistent with section 7(f) of the Act, as it gives particular regard to the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment. This objective gives effect to objectives 1-3 outlined in Chapter 14 of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and regard was given to Objective 21 of the Proposed RPS.

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.4 Ensure that all residential properties have access to reasonable levels of residential amenity.

Properties in Residential Areas provide occupants a certain level of amenity usually resulting from access to sunlight, outlook, privacy, views etc. Many residents have expectations that their existing amenities while be retained to a greater or lesser degree. The planning standards seek to provide a degree of protection to existing property's amenity, but some change is inevitable in Residential Areas. The Council's focus is therefore on ensuring that new development provides reasonable levels of amenity, both for the occupants of new units and for surrounding properties.

This objective relates to 'maintaining and enhancing the quality of the built environment' issue identified in section 1.6.2 of the District Plan.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act's purpose |
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| Enabling – social wellbeing | Peoples well-being, health and safety (both real and perceived) is influenced by the levels of amenity received in their homes and local neighbourhoods. Ensuring that all residential |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |

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| Enabling – health and safety | properties have access to reasonable levels of amenity will help to provide for these matters. At the same time allowing for a degree of on-going development in Residential Areas will also allow people to provide for their economic and social well-being. |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | Existing residential areas within the city are an important physical resource. Retaining appropriate levels of amenity are important to ensuring the continued use of this resource. Maintaining amenity levels will also involve avoiding, remedying and mitigating adverse effects on the environment. |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

This objective is consistent with section 7(c) of the Act in that it seeks to maintain and enhance amenity values. The objective gives effect to objectives 1-3 outlined in Chapter 14 of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and regard to Objective 21 of the Proposed RPS which seeks a well designed regional form.

Wellington’s residential urban areas are an important physical resource. Council aims to ensure that new development in these areas respects existing developments, and that residential properties have ongoing access to reasonable levels of amenity.

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.5 To encourage the energy efficiency and sustainability of buildings and subdivisions in Residential Areas

Interest in energy efficiency and environmentally sustainable building design has grown in recent years. This proposed objective is new and reflects the Act’s 2004 amendments that introduced new matters to have regard to in section 7: ‘the efficiency of the end use of energy’ and ‘the benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable resources’ (s 7(ba) and (j)). These matters are related to two issues identified in the Plan, specifically ‘managing urban development’ and the ‘quality of the built environment.’

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act’s purpose |
|---|--|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | Studies show that new residential buildings and subdivisions provide the greatest potential gains relating to green buildings. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |

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| Enabling – health and safety | <p>Encouraging energy efficiency and environmental sustainable design (ESD) in buildings means that people can design and use buildings and structures in a way that reduces their demand on energy consumption and other resources.</p> <p>Energy efficiency can contribute to people’s economic wellbeing where the financial cost of energy use is reduced.</p> <p>People can still provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, and their health and safety because energy efficiency and ESD can be achieved alongside building functionality.</p> |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | <p>Promoting energy efficiency and ESD places less demand on natural and physical resources including those used to generate and transmit electricity. To this end, the objective helps to sustain the potential of natural and physical resources, such as transmission lines, and where relevant safeguard the life-supporting capacity of resources and reduces adverse environmental effects, such as greenhouse gases.</p> |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

Promoting sustainable development and sustainable buildings is consistent with the purpose of the Act, particularly sections 7(b) – the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources, and 7(ba) the efficiency of the end use of energy.

Similarly, the objective gives effect to objectives 1-3, Chapter 12 of the RPS which relates to energy. Regard was also given to objective 9 of the Proposed RPS which seeks that the region’s energy needs are met. Improving energy efficiency and conservation are key features of that objective.

Likewise, an aim of the Long Term Council Community Plan (2006/07-2015/16) is for Wellington to be ‘more sustainable’ through reducing its ‘environmental impact by making efficient use of energy, water, land and other resources; shifting towards renewable energy resources; conserving resources; and minimising waste (4.5, Environment).

The Ministry for the Environment has been promoting the potential benefits of environmentally sustainable building design through publications such as *Value Case for Sustainable Building in New Zealand*, December 2005. This includes the benefit to building users of having an appropriate level of building amenity.

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.6 To ensure that the adverse effects of new subdivisions are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Subdivision provides the structure and long term layout for future development; whether in the form of lots of land or the unit titling of a building. This objective is carried over from the existing Plan with no changes in recognition that managing subdivision in the Residential Area continues to be a necessary method of ‘maintaining and enhancing the quality of the built environment’.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act’s purpose |
|---|---|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | Ensuring that people have the necessary services and infrastructure to provide for their social and cultural wellbeing, and health and safety is an important part of achieving appropriate subdivision design. Enabling subdivision also helps people to provide for their economic wellbeing, for example, in adapting to a dynamic city environment where changes in land ownership and land uses occur frequently. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | The land use effects associated with subdivision need to be managed to ensure the natural and physical resources (i.e. land and infrastructure) are sustained and to ensuring the life-supporting capacity of specified resources are safeguarded (such as soil, vegetation and water). Avoiding, remedying and mitigating adverse effects of subdivision on the environment also enables people to provide for their health and safety (e.g. adequate stormwater and sewage connection, and water supply). The layout of new ‘green field’ subdivisions can also determine the efficiency of the local and wider transport network, and the compatibility with existing public transport networks. |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

This objective is consistent with the purpose of the Act, which specifically seeks to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on the environment (s5(c)). Territorial authorities are responsible for the prevention or mitigation of any adverse effects of the subdivision of land (s31(1)(b)(iia)).

Objectives 1-3 of Chapter 14 in the RPS relate to the built environment and transportation, and subdivision patterns can be seen as a key aspect of that objective. Regards was also given to Objective 21 of the Proposed RPS which states that where development is proposed to be located beyond urban areas then the development should reinforce the region’s existing urban form. Again, the way subdivision is managed will help to ensure that the existing urban form can be maintained.

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.7 To facilitate a range of activities within Residential Areas provided that adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated, and amenity values are maintained or enhanced.

The District Plan acknowledges that Residential Areas are primarily for residential purposes. However there can be real benefits in terms of convenience and efficiency if local services are able to locate within residential areas close to the communities that they serve. Similarly allowing work from home activities can enable people to make efficient use of their properties. This objective seeks to provide for non-residential activities in Residential Areas provided they do not compromise the amenity values of the surrounding neighbourhood.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act's purpose |
|---|---|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | Allowing more mixed activity in Residential Areas enables people to carry out a range of activities that contribute to their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, by providing needed services, facilities or work opportunities. Avoiding, remedying and mitigating adverse effects on the environment helps to provide for people's social well being, and health and safety. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | Ensuring that adverse environmental effects of any activity (such as noise, glare or traffic congestion) are avoided, remedied or mitigated is a cornerstone of the Act. By virtue of minimising adverse environmental effects this objective contributes to sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources and safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of specific resources (such as air). |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

The Residential Areas of the city are where the majority of people spend most of their time. The public expectation is that these areas are primarily for residential purposes and that existing amenity values will be maintained. A greater mixture of compatible non-residential uses will nevertheless be supported, which is consistent with the requirement to promote the sustainable management of the City.

Regard was given to Objective 21 of the Proposed RPS which seeks an increased range and diversity of activities in and around the regionally significant centres (i.e. Kilbirnie and Johnsonville).

This objective is consistent with the purpose of the Act, which specifically seeks to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on the environment (s5(c)). The Residential zone anticipates a wide range of activities, provided that adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.8 To maintain and enhance natural features (including landscapes and ecosystems) that contribute to Wellington's natural environment.

Steep hills, ridgelines, the harbour and rugged coastline combine to give Wellington City a dramatic natural setting. This setting contributes to Wellington's sense of place and the amenity that many residents derive from living in the City.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act's purpose |
|---|--|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | Maintaining Wellington City's natural features and landscapes will help to provide for the communities social and cultural wellbeing. Wellington's dramatic natural setting also contributes to the city's economic wellbeing by making the city a desirable place to live, and providing for tourism. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | This objective will allow Council to manage natural features (including ecosystems) in a manner that helps to safeguard the life supporting capacity of water, soil and ecosystem. The management approach involves ensuring Council can effectively avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on the environment. |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

Open space, particularly the Town Belt lands and other undeveloped hill-sides within the urban area, constitute an essential element of the character of Wellington City and provides important recreational opportunities.

The maintenance of the life-supporting capacity of the environment is essential and requires safeguards for land, air and water from pollution and contamination. Also important is the protection and conservation of remaining natural habitats and ecosystems as part of the city's natural heritage.

This objective is consistent with Council requirement under section 7 to have particular regard to the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values 7(c), the intrinsic values of ecosystems 7(d) and the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment 7(f).

Objectives 1-4 of Chapter 9 (Ecosystems) and Chapter 10 (Landscape and Heritage) of the RPS are given effect to with this objective. Similarly, objectives 16 and 17 of the Proposed RPS are noted in relation to ecosystems and landscape respectively.

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.9 To maintain and enhance the quality of the coastal environment within and adjoining Residential Areas.

Wellington’s coastal edge helps to define the city character and sense of place. It also provides an important venue for active and passive recreation, as well as being a desirable location for residential and other activities.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act’s purpose |
|---|--|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | Access to, and the quality of the coastal environment are considered to be factors that are important to people’s social and cultural wellbeing. People are able to provide for their economic wellbeing through use of the coastal environment – for example fishing. Health and safety is improved through providing pedestrian links with the rest of the coastal edge and other parts of the city. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | Managing adverse effects of activities alongside the coastal environment helps to protect its quality ensuring the natural resources are sustained and its associated life-supporting capacity is safeguard. |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

Land use and activities will be controlled to the extent necessary to maintain the “natural” environment the coastal environment and waterbodies, and to protect the rugged landscape which gives these areas their character. Public access to and along the coastal marine area and waterbodies will be maintained, and enhanced where appropriate and practicable.

Both the RPS (Chapter 7, Objectives 1-2) and the Proposed RPS (Obj 4 and 8) contain objectives in relation to the protection of the natural character of the coastline and public access to and along the coast. Those objectives are given effect to with this objective.

Section 6(d) of the Act requires public access to and along the coastal marine area to be recognised and provided for as a matter of national importance. Similarly, section 6(a) seeks to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment to be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development as a matter of national importance. Section 7 requires Council to have regard to the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values 7(c), and the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment 7(f).

Having considered the matters above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.10 To avoid or mitigate the adverse effects of natural and technological hazards on people, property and the environment.

The objective responds to a key issue identified in section 1.6.2 of the Plan which is to ‘reduce risk’ from both natural hazards (flood, earthquake etc) and technological hazards (such as electromagnetic radiation). Wellington experiences earthquake activity and other natural hazards, including flooding and landslips. This requires measures to reduce risks to acceptable levels.

Natural and technological hazards can create havoc on every day life through damaging property, infrastructure (including critical facilities), as well as causing loss of life and limb. Such phenomena can also result in substantial pollution of the physical environment, for example, through contamination of water resources.

One particular natural hazard risk for the Residential Area is the Wellington Hazard (fault line) area which runs through much of Thorndon, along with the fact that parts of the Inner Residential Area have been identified as a ground shaking hazard zone.

Flooding problems also exist in the Porirua Stream catchment. Council is also monitoring the possible risks for the City associated with climate change and sea level rise.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act’s purpose |
|---|---|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | This objective helps to maintain people’s economic, social and cultural wellbeing in times of hazardous events through avoiding undue loss of life, limb and possessions. Avoiding or mitigating adverse effects from natural or technological hazards on people, property and the environment provides for people’s health and safety. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | Natural and technological hazards pose a threat to people, property and the environment. Avoiding and mitigating the adverse effects of these hazards avoids undue environmental degradation during hazardous events, and contributes to sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (including buildings) and safe-guarding the life supporting capacity of specified resources (such as water) during such events. |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

The objective is consistent with the territorial authority’s function to avoid or mitigate natural hazards (s31(1)(b(i))). It is an appropriate way to protect people, property and the natural environment.

The objective gives effect to objective 1 of Chapter 11 of the RPS which relates to natural hazards. Regard was also given to the relevant objectives of the Proposed RPS (objectives 18-20) which relate to natural hazards and climate change effects, hazard mitigation measures and community resilience.

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.11 To prevent or mitigate any adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous substances, including waste disposal.

Hazardous substances pose a significant risk to human health and the natural environment. The objective responds to a key issue identified in section 1.6.2 of the Plan which is to ‘reduce risk’ from technological hazards such as the use, storage or transportation of hazardous substances.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act’s purpose |
|---|---|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | This objective enables people to make use of hazardous substances in providing for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, on the basis that every care is taken to prevent or mitigate any adverse effects. Also, remediating contaminated sites promotes people’s health and safety. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | Hazardous substances pose a threat to people and the environment. Preventing or mitigating the adverse effects of hazardous substances avoids environmental degradation, and contributes to sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources and safe-guarding the life supporting capacity of specified resources (including air, water and soil). Encouraging remediation of contaminated sites will lead to an improved environmental quality. |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

The objective is consistent with territorial authorities’ function to prevent or mitigate any adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal or transportation of hazardous substances (s31(1)(b)(ii)). Objectives 1-4 in Chapter 13 of the RPA deal directly with waste management and hazardous substances. In the Proposed RPS hazardous substances are covered in objectives 12 and 13 (i.e. the quality of fresh water and sustaining the region’s rivers, lakes and wetlands to support functioning ecosystems).

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.12 To enable efficient, convenient and safe access for people and goods within the Residential Area.

Access for moving people and goods is an important part of any functional city. Council seeks to ensure that future development within and around Residential Areas does not compromise the efficiency, convenience and safety of the transport network,

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act’s purpose |
|--|---|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | Ease of movement within and around the Residential Area and other zones enables people to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing –without undue delay. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |

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| Enabling – health and safety | Enabling efficient and safe access also provides for people’s health and safety. |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | Promoting <i>efficient</i> access is a way of sustaining the potential of resources, including the roading network, the life-supporting capacity of specified resources, such as air, while also minimising adverse environmental effects, such as emissions of carbon monoxide. |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

This objective is consistent with section 7 insofar as an efficient, accessible transport network will support the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources 7(b), the efficient end use of energy 7 (ba), and the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values 7 (c).

This gives effect to objectives 1-3 of Chapter 14 of the RPS as they relate to efficient transport systems. Regard was also given to Objective 21 of the Proposed RPS which, among other things, seeks integrated land use and transportation and efficient use of existing infrastructure (including transport network infrastructure).

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.13 To ensure that land development does not compromise the ongoing operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the National Grid.

The efficient transmission of electricity on the national grid plays a vital role in the well-being of New Zealand, its people and the environment. Transporting electricity efficiently over long distances requires support structures (towers or poles), conductors, wires and cables, and sub-stations and switching stations. The operation, maintenance and future development of the transmission network can be significantly constrained by the adverse environmental impact of third party activities and development near the national grid.

The National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 (NPSET) requires that Council make suitable provision for the ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade of the national grid.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act’s purpose |
|---|---|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | The efficient transmission of electricity on the national grid plays a vital role in the well-being of New Zealand, its people and the economy. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | The national grid is a nationally significant resource. Providing for its ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade is consistent with the purpose of the Act. |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

This objective is consistent with sections 7(b) and 7(j) of the Act, which require regard to be had to the “efficient use and development of natural and physical resources” and the “benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy”. Regard was given to Objective 9 of the Proposed RPS, which outlines ways that the region’s energy needs should be met.

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.14 To achieve signage that is well integrated with and sensitive to the receiving environment and that maintains public safety.

Signs can have a significant visual affect on residential areas. They can come and go in quick succession or have a long standing presence in the environment. How the effects of signage are managed is a key issue for the District Plan in respect of maintaining the ‘quality of the built environment’, and the ‘quality of living environment’.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act’s purpose |
|---|--|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | Signs are a way of conveying information and marketing products. They play an important part of people’s social, economic and cultural activities, and can contribute to people’s health and safety. In some situations signs need to be designed and constructed to ensure they do not cause problems with public safety. |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | Ensuring signage is well integrated with the receiving environment helps to avoid, remedy and mitigate adverse effects, such as effects on the visual amenity of the host environment or the adjacent residential areas. Signs that are well integrated with the host building or site are less likely to compromise the visual quality of the surrounding environment. |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

This objective enables signs to positively contribute to residential neighbourhoods. In doing so, the objective is consistent with sections 7(c) and 7(f) of the Act in the way it seeks to maintain and enhance amenity values and the associated quality of the environment.

On the basis of the above, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.

4.2.15 To facilitate and enable the exercise of tino rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga by Wellington's tangata whenua and other Maori.

Tangata whenua with ancestral relationships with Wellington city have an important resource management role in the district. There are opportunities to foster this role.

| Elements that make up the purpose of the Act | Examination of objective in meeting the Act's purpose |
|---|---|
| Enabling – social wellbeing | <p>Enabling the exercise of tino rangatiratanga – or self determination – helps to ensure that tangata whenua provide for their communities social, cultural and economic wellbeing, for example in the way natural and physical resources are managed.</p> <p>Enabling kaitiakitanga provides for tangata whenua to actively provide guardianship over natural and physical resources.</p> |
| Enabling – economic wellbeing | |
| Enabling – cultural wellbeing | |
| Enabling – health and safety | |
| Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources | <p>Enabling the exercise of kaitiakitanga or guardianship helps to ensure that any adverse effects on the cultural conditions associated with the environment (including amenity values, natural and physical resources and ecosystems) are avoided, remedied or mitigated.</p> <p>Exercising kaitiakitanga contributes to sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources, and where relevant safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of specified resources.</p> |
| Safeguarding life-supporting capacity | |
| Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment | |

In achieving the purpose of the Act, section 6(e) requires the Council to recognise and provide for *the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga*. In turn section 7(a) requires regard to be had to 'kaitiakitanga', and section 8 requires the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi to be taken into account. The principles of the Treaty include, amongst other things, the duty to provide information in a timely manner, and to maintain an open mind in decision making.

An important part of any relationship of tangata whenua with ancestral areas is tino rangatiratanga or self determination. Although tino rangatiratanga naturally links back to the people with manawhenua over the area or rohe, there is also a role for other Maori to maintain their cultural wellbeing, for example, in establishing and operating kohanga reo.

Both the RPS (obj. 1-4, Chapter 4) and the Proposed RPS (obj. 22-27) include a number of objectives relating to iwi involvement in resource management.

In recognising these matters, this objective is **appropriate** for achieving the purpose of the Act.