# National Planning Standards Regional Policy Statement ‘rehousing’ template for *[region name]*

**Colour key:**

* Text in **orange** indicates relevant content extracted from the [region name] Regional Policy Statement.
* Text in **black** represents chapters and sections that must be included in the Regional Policy Statement (RPS).
* Chapters in **grey** must be included if relevant to the RPS (unless otherwise specified), in the order shown below.
* Text in blue and in blue boxes represents comments and guidance./ GIDANCE

## Introduction

The introduction provides a location for information including a foreword/mihi, contents, purpose of the policy statement or plan and a description of the region. None of these chapters are mandatory. They need only be included if the councils consider them plan components.

**Foreword/mihi**

**[Content from the Regional Policy Statement (RPS)]**

**Contents**

**[Content from the RPS]**

**1.1 Purpose**

**[Content from the RPS]**

**1.2 Description of the region**

A description of the region can include ‘key information (including issues) about the region that is relevant from a resource management perspective’ (referred to in direction 4). This may include information on the region’s:

* history
* geography
* geographic area
* demography
* population
* services
* transport routes
* tangata whenua/mana whenua
* natural hazards
* urban, rural and natural environment
* major industries and resources.

Although all of the above examples could be included in this part of the policy statement or plan, it is important to include only information that helps the policy and rule framework that follows. The requirements of section 18A of the RMA apply to all policy statements and plans and state they “include only those matters relevant to the purpose” of the Act and need to be “worded in a way that is clear and concise”.

For more information, see our [*Guidance for regional policy statement and regional plan structure standards*](https://www.mfe.govt.nz/Node/24908).

**[Content from the RPS]**

## How the policy statement works

The *How the policy statement/plan works* heading provides a location for statutory information relevant to policy statements and plans, including pending and existing Treaty of Waitangi settlement legislation. Pending Treaty of Waitangi settlement legislation, or related statutory documents (referred to in direction 5c), includes legislation and documents that have not been through a full settlement process. These documents don’t have to be included in policy statements and plans if a council chooses to refer to them stating that information must be placed under the *How the policy statement/plan works* heading.

**1.3 Statutory context**

**[Content from the RPS]**

**1.4 General approach**

**[Content from the RPS]**

### 1.5 Cross-boundary matters

**[Content from the RPS]**

## Interpretation

The interpretation heading must be included in policy statements and plans as the definitions and abbreviations chapters are compulsory. The *10 Format Standard* and *14 Definitions Standard* provide the structure, form and some content of the definitions chapter. Guidance for the definitions chapter is included within [*Guidance for 10 Format*](https://www.mfe.govt.nz/Node/24903) and [*Guidance for 14 Definitions*](https://www.mfe.govt.nz/Node/24905).

### 1.6 Definitions

**[Content from the RPS]**

### 1.7 Abbreviations

An abbreviations chapter must be included and must contain at least the abbreviations included in table 7: abbreviations. This is because these abbreviations are used in the tables required to be included in the national direction instruments chapter. If a council use abbreviations in its policy statement or plan (in accordance with directions 5 and 8 and the unique identifiers in table 16 of 10 Format standard), it should also include them in the abbreviations table.

**[Content from the RPS]**

**1.8 Glossary**

**[Content from the RPS]**

## National direction instruments

The national direction instruments heading is compulsory and requires councils to include the content of tables 9–12 under prescribed chapters.

In table 9, councils must insert their choice from the options in directions 17 and 23 for national policy statements and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and, when relevant to the local setting, table 12 for water conservation orders. The options provide policy statement and plan users with an indication of whether a council has reviewed the policy statement or plan for each individual piece of national direction (the council may or may not have actually initiated an associated policy statement or plan change). Including this information provides a better picture of whether or not the policy statement or plan has been updated to reflect the particular national direction tool.

Councils can format the tables to suit their individual policy statement or plan’s ‘look and feel’. The formatting of the tables is not directed by the planning standards.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 is included in table 9 because sections 7 and 8 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 are treated as a national policy statement and New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 will only be a relevant consideration for a few councils.

We will update the relevant tables in the planning standards when new national direction is promulgated. Councils will be required to update policy statements and plans to reflect this change.

A Schedule 1 process is not necessary to include any new national direction instruments with associated links as the updated standard will be a part of the mandatory planning standards and including links is considered to be a minor change.

### 1.9 National policy statements and New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

**[Content from the RPS]**

**1.10 National environmental standards**

**[Content from the RPS]**

### 1.11 Regulations

**[Content from the RPS]**

**1.12 Water conservation orders**

**[Content from the RPS]**

## [Tangata whenua/mana whenua]

### 1.13 [Tangata whenua/mana whenua]

The tangata whenua/mana whenua heading and chapter provides a location for context and process-related tangata whenua/mana whenua provisions. The term tangata whenua/mana whenua is used in the planning standards as a title for this heading.

Councils are not required to use this term. They can determine an appropriate term locally. If they cannot decide on an appropriate term, then they can use either the term tangata whenua or mana whenua.

The ‘matters to consider for provisions under the tangata whenua/mana whenua heading in direction 28’ are included as a starting point for councils to consider when deciding what to include in the associated chapters. The content is not required but if used can be placed under the heading in any location. This flexibility is intended to give councils the ability to determine with local tangata whenua/mana whenua the way tangata whenua/mana whenua provisions are incorporated into policy statements or plans.

Recommended headings under this chapter include:

* recognition of hapū and iwi
* tangata whenua/mana whenua – local authority relationships
* hapū and iwi planning documents
* involvement and participation with tangata whenua/mana whenua.

The location of content under the tangata whenua/mana whenua heading has also been kept flexible to enable information relating to tangata whenua/mana whenua resource management to be located outside the policy statement or plan (such as on a council website) and hyperlinked within the policy. statement or plan.

The tangata whenua/mana whenua heading must only include context and process-related provisions. It is intended other tangata whenua/mana whenua provisions are incorporated throughout the policy statement or plan, to encourage integration.

We expect that councils will engage with tangata whenua/mana whenua to form provisions under the tangata whenua/mana whenua heading and other parts of the policy statement or plan that relate to their interests as part of the policy statement or plan-making process, even when a Schedule 1 process is not required.

All provisions relating to sites of significance to Māori should be located in the Sites of significance to Māori chapter. Details of such sites should only be included following agreement by Māori.

Information on good practice for engagement with tangata whenua is available from:

* the quality planning website, [*consultation with tangata whenua*](https://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/node/660)
* the [*Te Aranga*](http://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/design-subjects/maori-design/te_aranga_principles#/design-subjects/maori-design/te_aranga_principles/guidance/about) principles
* the [*‘An Everyday Guide to the RMA’*](https://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/processes-and-how-get-involved/everyday-guide-rma) booklet.

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Significant resource management issues for the region**

This is the ‘engine room’ of the RPS where significant issues are discussed, priorities weighed and decisions made to resolve conflicts. It is important for an RPS to enable integrated treatment of significant resource management issues, so the structure allows for one set of significant issues, and issues significant to iwi, to be expressed broadly in Part 2. The structure does not predetermine what these issues might be. It’s up to each group of councils and iwi to decide what is significant in the regional context.

Practice varies on how ‘significance’ is determined. Policy statements range from prioritising the top three or four issues (which are generally broadly expressed and covering multiple resources) to considering all issues ‘significant’. We encourage the former approach in Part 2.

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities in the region**

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Integrated management**

The integrated management chapter is where cross-cutting issues can be discussed and any necessary trade-offs made. We expect the objectives in this chapter to be broad and multi-faceted, with policies and methods that reach into multiple domains and topics. This chapter could also be a location for any process matters which are not ‘cross-boundary issues’ to ensure that integrated management is achieved across the councils within a region.

**[Content from the RPS]**

### Domains

**Air**

Domain and topic chapters may be divided into sections and subsections, where appropriate, to organise related provisions. For example, the land and freshwater chapter could contain a section on land, with a subsection on minerals and quarrying. Large chapters like land and freshwater are likely to need extensive subdivision; this is at the discretion of each council.

Domains and topics chapters must not be merged together to maintain national consistency and transparency of approach. We know this means some chapters will be much longer than others but this will become less obvious as councils move to e-plans.

Sections and subsections can be added within chapters as required. There is a section for the coastal marine area but this is only mandatory in the regional plan.

Councils will find that many of their existing provisions have a natural ‘home’ in the structure but there will always be some provisions that require a judgment call. Often this will be guided by what the significant issue is which drives the provision’s inclusion in the RPS. We acknowledge this could vary between regions. For example: Hazards from landfill could sit in the hazards and risks chapter, whereas providing a new landfill might be considered infrastructure. If the significant issue is more holistic (eg, reduction in waste in all its forms), it may merit a new chapter.

Soils which are contaminated belong in the hazards and risks chapter, while productive soils could be protected where the predominant risks are, for example the urban form and development chapter.

Rivers, lakes and wetlands are likely to be placed in the land and freshwater chapter but may also have ecological or landscape values which are addressed under those chapters.

Where provisions still seem to deal ‘equally’ with more than one topic, directions require they must be located under the relevant domain.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

Regional plans generally include objectives for managing ambient air quality as well as localised air quality effects eg, dust, odour, smoke and agrichemical spray drift. Objectives in this chapter should set the overall goals for air quality, with policies on how the council proposes to manage air quality, including air quality management areas and local issues. Policies could focus on achieving the emissions reductions required to meet values for air standards, targets or guidelines as well as minimising health effects. The RPS chapter should provide direction to territorial authorities on what matters are to be managed through their district plans.

**Coastal environment**

The coastal environment domain includes both the coastal marine area and a landward component. Provisions that apply to the landward part of the coastal environment may be regional or district, depending upon whether they relate to a regional or district council function under the RMA. For further direction on this landward component, see Policy 1 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Regional coastal plans relate to the coastal marine area only (as defined by s2 of the RMA) and are mandatory under s64. The Minister of Conservation’s approval role only applies to the provisions in regional plans that relate to the coastal marine area, which will be placed in the Coastal Marine Area section of the structure.

In preparing all regional, district and regional coastal plans, councils must give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

The Coastal environment chapter should set out the council’s approach to managing the coastal environment and to giving effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. It can also be used to describe any high-level provisions applying to the coastal environment, for example where required to support integrated management.

Councils are encouraged to address Part 2 matters at the appropriate scale and management unit. For example natural character, landscape and ecological management units will often span across Mean High Water Springs. This may require integration of regional and district planning provisions. Integrated management is a regional council function and, where this is required, it should be addressed in regional policy statements.

Objectives, policies and rules required to support integrated management (for example, regarding landscape or freshwater) should also be placed under coastal environment. However, more specialised technical provisions can be placed within the relevant topic chapter if required for context. Where this occurs, cross-reference must be made back to the coastal environment chapter. This enables the full range of coastal provisions to be easily identified in one place.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

**CMA – Coastal marine area**

The Coastal marine area section is mandatory for regional plans and must include all provisions that apply to the coastal marine area. This section forms the regional coastal plan approved by the Minister for Conservation and provides clarity for councils and plan users about where coastal marine area provisions are located.

As notified, the draft planning standards allowed coastal provisions to be located throughout plans to reflect an emerging practice for greater integration of plans, and provide for specialist coastal provisions (eg, landscape, hazards) to be placed within their wider context. However, this means the Minister of Conservation’s statutory approval role is more difficult to carry out. It can also make it more difficult to track the way in which plans give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Regional coastal plans may remain separate documents but as these are still regional plans the Regional Plan Structure standard applies.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Geothermal**

This chapter will only be used by those regions with geothermal activity. The broad range of natural and physical values associated with geothermal resources (ranging from extractive use through to specialised indigenous flora and fauna) benefits from a planning response at the ‘domain’ level.

Geothermal water is a distinct resource from freshwater and coastal water and is subject to different resource management issues and pressures. For example, protection of rare and highly vulnerable geothermal features and ecosystems may require land management practices to be specified.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Land and freshwater**

Segregation of land-use decisions from water management decisions has contributed to less integrated planning in the past. Therefore, land and freshwater provisions are considered in one chapter to facilitate their management at a holistic level, before addressing the implications of the different regional council functions and duties. This is likely to be the largest chapter and most councils will want to create separate land and water sections, then subsections within the chapter structure.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

## Topics

**Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity**

This chapter covers section 6 matters and significant natural areas but is also where councils will have particular regard to the intrinsic values of ecosystems and their responsibilities to maintain indigenous biological diversity (biodiversity).

The term ‘biodiversity’ (biological diversity) is used in several national instruments under the RMA, including the draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

This chapter doesn’t require identification of wetlands but we note this is one of the Biodiversity Collaborative Group’s recommendations on the draft NPS-IB. When finalised, that NPS is likely to further guide the contents of this chapter.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Energy infrastructure and transport**

This is another broad chapter that is likely to require separate sections and subsections. Councils can decide what the relevant sections should be under this chapter. One example would be having one section for each topic ie, an energy section, an infrastructure section and a transport section (for RPSs). Or, these issues could be integrated throughout the whole chapter. The close relationship between infrastructure and energy is recognised in Policy C1 of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Generation.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Hazards and risks**

The hazards and risks chapter covers issues of harm from the environment to people and resources eg, natural hazards, contaminated soil and genetically modified organisms.

Regional councils and territorial authorities have joint functions for the management of risks from natural hazards, with individual responsibilities required to be set out in the relevant regional policy statement. Within the beds of lakes and rivers and the coastal marine area, regional councils have sole responsibility for the avoidance or mitigation of the risks from natural hazards and, therefore, a chapter dedicated to natural hazards is also appropriate for regional plans.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Historical and cultural values**

Preservation of historic heritage is most commonly achieved through land-use controls applied through district plans. However, historical and cultural values may need to be protected through other means, or may occur in the coastal marine area. While the RPS might have more comprehensive provisions to manage historic heritage, heritage and relationship with taonga are matters of national importance and should also have a home in regional plans.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Natural character**

Natural character is a concept distinct from natural features and landscapes or amenity values. Councils have a duty to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, land and margins. This duty is expressed through various powers including restrictions on discharges and the take and use of water, and controls on land use within the beds of lakes and rivers.

Natural character doesn’t have a qualifier in section 6 of the RMA, that is, it doesn’t have to be ‘outstanding’. Note that provisions relating to the natural character of the coastal marine area must be placed in the coastal marine area section.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Natural features and landscapes**

The natural features and landscapes chapter will normally be used in the RPS and, in more limited circumstances, in the regional plan. Provisions include the full range of management, extending beyond ‘outstanding’ to other valued features and landscapes. Methods to protect values associated with natural features and landscapes most commonly take the form of land-use controls in district plans but other management techniques may be required, especially in the coastal marine area.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Urban form and development**

In the RPS, decisions need to be made at a strategic level about how competing land uses will be managed and/or prioritised and also how councils will work to resolve the challenges associated with responding to multiple forms of national direction.

Under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (NPS-UDC), both regional and territorial authorities have functions with respect to ensuring sufficient development capacity for housing and business land. The NPS-UDC requires regional councils to consider whether sufficient development capacity has been provided for within existing and proposed RPSs, and to include minimum targets for housing in high-growth urban areas (Policy C5). These targets are then given effect to through district plans by including new target objectives, policies and methods to facilitate urban growth.

It should be noted that low-growth councils may use this chapter to manage issues around declining communities. For example, the West Coast Proposed RPS currently does this by including a chapter and provisions on ‘resilient and sustainable communities’. Therefore, the focus of this chapter should be on built form so the contents will apply to all regions and not only those managing growth.

***Objectives***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Policies***

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Rules*

**[Content from the RPS]**

*Methods*

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Principal reasons***

**[Content from the RPS]**

***Anticipated environmental results***

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy statement**

Councils are obliged to monitor the state of the environment within their region, along with the efficiency and effectiveness of policies, rules and methods. Monitoring helps improve plan provisions and identify new issues.

We encourage robust and transparent resource monitoring and suggest links to monitoring strategies and other documents be provided in Part 4. This helps establish an agile framework, one where the frequency or type of indicators can be amended. Procedures needed for monitoring may not be known at the time the plan is developed, and monitoring regimes need to be able to respond to emerging issues, changes in the local environment or societal expectations.

An RPS must contain provisions on how the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy statement is monitored, so this is an explicit part of the structure.

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Appendices**

Part 5 in the RPS structure must be included and be titled “appendices and maps”, “appendices” or “maps” depending on the contents. Appendices may be included in this part or within the relevant chapter. This is for councils to decide but the length of the appendix may be a deciding factor.

Appendices may include schedules that are not included within the relevant chapter. The 10 Format Standard sets out the minimum requirements for all schedules in regional plans and policy statements. For further detail, refer to the [Guidance for National Planning Standards: 10 Format](https://www.mfe.govt.nz/Node/24903).

Councils may add more detail to schedules if it is considered appropriate.

**[Content from the RPS]**

**Maps**

**[Content from the RPS]**