

Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki

Provision	Assessment
OBJ - 3.1.2 - To maintain and enhance the natural, ecological and amenity values of rivers and streams of value in the region, and regionally significant wetlands.	The actual and potential adverse effects on rivers and streams on the application site will be managed such that the natural, ecological and amenity values of the rivers and streams will be maintained and enhanced. The project will achieve this objective.
OBJ - 3.1.3 - To protect the natural character of all of Taranaki's rivers, lakes and wetlands from inappropriate use and development and the adverse effects of appropriate use and development.	As per the above the natural character of the streams on the application site will be protected through adherence to an ESCP, planting mitigation, underboring of streams when installing the power cable and best practice culvert design and installation. The project will achieve this objective.
OBJ - 3.1.4 - To safeguard the life-supporting capacity of water and aquatic ecosystems from the adverse effects of the use and development of fresh water.	The measures above will be implemented to safeguard the life supporting capacity of water and aquatic ecosystems. The project will achieve this objective.
OBJ - 3.1.5 - To maintain and enhance amenity values and the quality of the environment of Taranaki's rivers, lakes and wetlands and their margins.	The measures above will be implemented to ensure amenity values and the quality of the stream environments on the application site are maintained and enhanced. The project will achieve this objective.
OBJ - 3.1.6 - To manage the freshwater resources of the Taranaki region in a way that promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, by recognising and providing for the differences in and between rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands in the region.	Measures are proposed to ensure all project activities are well managed in respect to potential effects on freshwater resources in a way that will promote sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The project will achieve this objective.
POL - 3.1.2 - The adverse effects of activities on the natural character, ecological and amenity values of all rivers, lakes and wetlands and their margins in the Taranaki region will be avoided, remedied or mitigated, having regard to: (a) the topography and form of the river, lake or wetland; (b) the natural flow characteristics, hydrological functions and natural water levels and their fluctuations in rivers, lakes and wetlands; (c) ecosystems, habitats and species; (d) existing water quality and the need to maintain or enhance that quality; (e) recreational, fishery, aesthetic and scenic values.	The proposal includes an ESCP with mitigation measures to control and treat stormwater and sediment runoff from the construction areas. An ecological assessment has been undertaken - the streams on the application site have low to moderate ecological values and the proposal will maintain these values. Effects on water quality will be appropriately avoided and mitigated during construction and will thereafter be negligible. The project will be consistent with this policy.
POL - 3.1.3 - The life-supporting capacity of fresh water will be safeguarded and the adverse effects of activities on aquatic habitats and fresh water ecosystems will be avoided, remedied or mitigated having regard to: (a) the maintenance of biological and physical processes; (b) the existing and potential productivity, diversity, importance and variability of aquatic ecosystems; (c) habitat characteristics, including habitats for aquatic species at different stages of their life cycle, habitats of threatened, vulnerable or rare species, and habitats for terrestrial life that use the water body; (d) the significance of indigenous flora and fauna, including the habitat of indigenous fish; (e) the habitat of trout.	All matters are considered to have been appropriately assessed and addressed in the ecological assessment provided in Appendix J.3, and the methods of the ESCP with adverse effects on the specified values appropriately avoided, remedied and mitigated. The life-supporting capacity of fresh water will be safeguarded. The project will be consistent with this policy.

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POL - 3.1.4 - The high natural, ecological and amenity values of those rivers and streams listed in Appendix IA will be maintained and enhanced as far as practicable. Adverse effects of activities on these values will be avoided as far as practicable or remedied or mitigated.	The application site does not include any rivers or streams listed in Appendix IA but does include tributaries of the Kapuni Stream which is listed in Appendix IA. There are considered to be appropriate measures in place (e.g. through the ESCP and planting mitigation) to avoid, remedy and mitigate adverse effects on the tributaries and thereafter the Kapuni Stream, such that the values of the latter are maintained. The project will be consistent with this policy.
POL - 3.1.5 - The natural, ecological and amenity values and life-supporting capacity of those rivers and streams listed in Appendix IB will be enhanced as far as practicable.	As per the above assessment. The project will be consistent with this policy.
OBJ - 4.1.1 - To recognise and provide for the cultural relationship and values of iwi and hapu of Taranaki with water, and with ancestral land and sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga associated with fresh water, and the beds of rivers and lakes, in a manner reflective of their status as Tangata Whenua and in accordance with Tikanga Maori.	The applicant has had regard to matters raised through this consultation and has genuinely sought to address adverse effects of concern to iwi where possible. Both mana whenua hapū are satisfied that the applicant has recognised and provided for the relationship of Tāngata Whenua and their culture and traditions (including mauri) with land, water, sites and areas of cultural and spiritual significance, wāhi tapu and other taonga. Te Korowai have provided their conditional support for the Project and the applicant is agreeable to the conditions where they are within their control to implement.
POL - 4.1.1 - Wāhi tapu and other sites or features of historical or cultural significance to iwi and hapū of Taranaki, and the cultural and spiritual values associated with fresh water, will be protected from the adverse effects of activities, as far as practicable.	The proposal avoids sites and areas of cultural and spiritual significance to Tāngata Whenua with hapū monitoring of earthworks and a discovery protocol in place if previously unknown features are discovered.
POL - 4.1.2 - Adverse effects of activities on mahinga kai and the habitats of species harvested by Tangata Whenua, will be avoided or mitigated to the fullest extent practicable.	The majority of effects on the waterbodies will be temporary being in association with construction activities and thereafter mahinga kai and habitat values will be maintained. The project will be consistent with this policy.
POL - 4.1.3 - Access to mahinga kai and identified areas of historical or cultural significance to iwi and hapu of Taranaki associated with fresh water, will be maintained or enhanced, except where restrictions are appropriate to achieve the purpose of the Act, the Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki and this Plan.	The Wind Turbine Site will continue to be maintained in the ownership of PKW so existing opportunities for iwi and hapū to access mahinga kai will be unaffected by the project. The applicant is agreeable to working with PKW to facilitate access for mana whenua to monitor the waterbodies on the Wind Turbine Site. The project will be consistent with this policy.
OBJ - 5.1.1 - To enable people and communities to use and develop freshwater resources and the beds of rivers and lakes to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety, in accordance with the sustainable management of those resources.	The use of the bed of one of the streams for a replacement culvert will facilitate safe construction and ongoing access to the Wind Turbine Site which is an essential part of the project that will enable the social, economic and cultural benefits of the project to accrue. The project will achieve this objective.
POL - 5.1.1 - When managing the use and development of fresh water and the beds of rivers and lakes, the Taranaki Regional Council will recognise: (a) the need for all activities to avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse environmental effects in accordance with the objectives and policies of this Plan; (b) the positive benefits to people and communities arising from the use or development; (c) existing uses of physical resources including any human-made resources that have a specific-use purpose; (d) the effects on existing lawfully established activities; (e) the need to allow existing users to progressively upgrade their environmental performance, where improvements are necessary to meet the provisions of this Plan.	The proposal includes methods to avoid, remedy and mitigate adverse effects of the proposed activities and the project will result in positive benefits to people and communities as outlined in this report. The project will be consistent with this policy.

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<p>OBJ - 6.2.1 - To maintain and enhance the quality of the surface water resources of Taranaki by avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects of contaminants discharged to land and water from point-sources.</p>	<p>As explained, the project includes ESC measures to avoid, remedy and mitigate adverse effects on surface water quality of the proposed temporary discharge to land and water from disturbed soils. The project will achieve this objective.</p>
<p>POL - 6.2.1 - In managing point-source discharges to land and water, the Taranaki Regional Council will recognise and provide for the different values and uses of surface water including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) natural, ecological and amenity values; (b) the relationship of Tangata Whenua with water; (c) the maintenance and enhancement of aquatic ecosystems, and water quality for fisheries and fish spawning; (d) use of water for water supply purposes; (e) use of water for contact recreation. 	<p>The proposed activities and mitigation methods will appropriately recognise and provide for the values of this policy. The project will be consistent with this policy.</p>
<p>POL – 6.2.2 – Discharges of contaminants or water to land or water from point sources should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be carried out in a way that avoids, remedies or mitigates significant adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems; (b) maintain or enhance, after reasonable mixing, water quality of a standard that allows existing community use of that water for contact recreation, and water supply purposes, and maintains or enhances aquatic ecosystems; (c) be of a quality that ensures that the size or location of the zone required for reasonable mixing does not have a significant adverse effect on community use of fresh water or the life supporting capacity of water and aquatic ecosystems. 	<p>As explained the project will be carried out in a way that minimises adverse effects, maintains water quality appropriate for treatment and use later as drinking water, and maintains life-supporting capacity of the water and its ecosystems. The project will be consistent with this policy.</p>
<p>POL - 6.2.3 - Waste reduction and treatment practices which avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse environmental effects of the point-source discharge of contaminants into water or onto or into land will be required. In assessing applications for resource consents to discharge contaminants or water to land or water, the Taranaki Regional Council will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the natural, ecological and amenity values of the water body; (b) the relationship of Tangata Whenua with the water body; (c) the allowance for reasonable mixing zones and sufficient flows (determined in accordance with (a) to (k) of this policy); (d) the potential for cumulative effects; (e) the actual or potential risks to human and animal health from the discharge; (f) the degree to which the needs of other resource users may be compromised; (g) the effect of the discharge on the natural state of the receiving environment; (h) measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of contaminants to be discharged; (i) measures to reduce the volume and toxicity of the contaminant; (j) the use of the best practicable option for the treatment and disposal of contaminants; (k) the availability and effectiveness of alternative means of disposing of the contaminant (including discharge of wastewater into a municipal sewerage system). 	<p>The proposed ESCP measures will treat or otherwise manage the discharge of stormwater and sediment from earthworks such that all of the considerations outlined in the policy will be taken account of. The project will be consistent with this policy.</p>

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<p>POL - 6.2.4 - The Taranaki Regional Council may, where appropriate, require the adoption of the best practicable option to prevent or minimise adverse effects on the environment from the discharge of contaminants to land or water. When considering what is the best practicable option, the Taranaki Regional Council will give consideration to the following factors, in addition to those contained in the definition in the Act of best practicable option:</p> <p>(a) the capital, operating and maintenance costs of relative technical options, the effectiveness and reliability of each option in reducing the discharge, and the relative benefits to the environment offered by each option;</p> <p>(b) the weighing of costs in proportion to any benefits to the receiving environment to be gained by adopting the method or methods;</p> <p>(c) maintaining and enhancing the existing water quality in the area as far as practicable.</p>	<p>The management of the proposed discharge of stormwater and sediment via an approved ESCP, prepared in accordance with the Waikato Erosion and Sediment Control – Guidelines for Soil Disturbing Activities, is considered to be the best practicable option to prevent or minimise adverse effects on the environment from the proposed discharge. The project will be consistent with this policy.</p>
<p>POL - 6.2.7 - Contingency plans and other measures to reduce the risk and effect of any spill event will be required at all sites which are subject to the risk of a spill that may have significant actual or potential effects.</p>	<p>The Risk Management Process Report outlines the measures that have and will be undertaken to ensure risks of any unplanned events are appropriately avoided or mitigated.</p>
<p>OBJ - 6.3.2 - To maintain and enhance the riparian margins of surface waterbodies in order to avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects of activities on water quality, and aquatic and instream habitat.</p>	<p>Any stream crossings for the cable route will either be routed over existing culverts or underbored such that no riparian margins will be disturbed. Mitigation planting is proposed to compensate for the riparian vegetation that will be impacted by the installation of the culvert. The project will achieve this objective.</p>
<p>POL - 6.3.2 - Existing riparian vegetation along the margins of Taranaki's rivers, streams and lakes will be protected and enhanced, as far as is practicable, for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing water quality and the effective functioning of riparian zones.</p>	<p>As per the above assessment. The project will be consistent with this policy.</p>
<p>OBJ - 6.6.1 - To promote the sustainable management of the beds of rivers and lakes by avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of the use of the beds of rivers or lakes.</p>	<p>The proposed replacement culvert has been designed to maintain natural function and minimise adverse effects on the bed of the streams. The project will achieve this objective.</p>
<p>OBJ - 6.6.2 - To avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of flooding and erosion on land uses in floodplains.</p>	<p>The proposed replacement culvert has been designed to avoid exacerbating flooding or erosion on downstream properties. The project will achieve this objective.</p>
<p>POL - 6.6.1 - The placement or maintenance of structures within river and lake beds will be managed so as to avoid, remedy or mitigate:</p> <p>(a) adverse effects on the habitat of aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna, including the passage of fish;</p> <p>(b) erosion or accretion of river and lake beds or banks;</p> <p>(c) the exposure or destabilisation of existing structures within the bed;</p> <p>(d) the effects of flooding and erosion;</p> <p>(e) adverse effects on water quality and aquatic life.</p>	<p>The proposed replacement culvert and the planting mitigation proposed have been designed to provide appropriate habitat and passage for aquatic flora and fauna, natural river processes, and avoid adverse effects on water quality and aquatic life. The project will be consistent with this policy.</p>
<p>POL - 6.6.2 - Structures in or on river and lake beds will be required to provide for the unrestricted passage of fish or will be required to contain suitable facilities to enable fish passage through or past the structure.</p>	<p>As per the above assessment. The project will be consistent with this policy.</p>

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<p>POL - 6.6.3 - The Taranaki Regional Council will require that structures in river and lake beds be designed, placed and maintained to avoid reducing the capacity of river channels to convey flood flows, the unintentional impoundment of water and adverse effects of flooding on adjacent properties and other structures within river beds.</p>	<p>The proposed culvert has been designed in accordance with this policy. The project will be consistent with this policy.</p>
<p>POL - 6.6.6 - Disturbances to river and lake beds shall be timed, and/or carried out in a manner and location, that will avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on seasonal fish migration or spawning, including the disturbance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) gravel bedded rivers on the ring plain between May and October; (b) lower river and estuarine areas between March and June. (c) lower river and estuarine areas between mid-August and end-November. 	<p>The timing for the installation of the culvert will be spring/summer 2021/2022 and will avoid the May to October period for gravel bedded rivers on the ring plain. The project will be consistent with this policy.</p>
<p>Summary: The proposal is considered to be consistent with objectives and policies of the Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki.</p>	