

18 May 2016

Upper Hutt City Council
Submission on Proposed Plan Change 43
Upper Hutt City Council
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Upper Hutt

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Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on proposed Plan Change 43: Introductory Chapters

Please find enclosed the Greater Wellington Regional Council's submission on proposed Plan Change 43: Introductory chapters.

Please feel free to contact me on 06 826 1541 or caroline.watson@gw.govt.nz if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Watson
Policy Advisor, Environmental Policy

Encl: Submission



Greater Wellington Regional Council: Submission

To:	Upper Hutt City Council
Submission on:	Proposed Plan Change 43

1. Reason for submission

- 1.1 The Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) wishes to make a submission on proposed Plan Change 43 pursuant to Schedule 1 Section 6 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).
- 1.2 GWRC supports proposed Plan Change 43.
- 1.3 The primary reasons for supporting proposed Plan Change 43 are:
- That it addresses chapters that have not been updated recently and it is intended to simplify the introductory chapters of the District Plan to meet current best practice standards.
 - This proposed Plan Change also seeks to increase the usability, functionality, and relevance of the introduction section of the District Plan.

2. Policy framework

- 2.1 In assessing proposed Plan Change 43 for consistency with the Regional Policy Statement (RPS), GWRC is particularly interested in how the plan change will support and contribute to achieving the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in the Wellington region.

Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region

- 2.2 The RPS gives guidance on the future direction for the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in the Wellington region. The RPS sets out objectives and policies to address regionally significant issues and not only defines management responsibilities between councils but also provides for the integrated management of resources across councils.
- 2.3 The first group of RPS policies are directive to local authorities and require provisions to be included in district or regional plans. The second set of RPS policies need to be given particular regard to when assessing and determining a resource consent, notices of requirements, or when changing, varying or replacing city, district or regional plans. Many of the regulatory policies will cease to have effect once the directive policies are given effect to through district or regional plans.

3. Comments

3.1 On page 4 of the 'Introduction to the Plan' Chapter 1, diagram 1 shows the relationship between RMA and non-RMA documents and the District Plan. At the national level it states:

*NATIONAL National Policy Statement
National Environmental Standards*

3.2 As there is national direction of a number of different resource management issues, it is more accurate to make this plural. There are also RMA regulations that district plans must have regard to when plan changes are prepared.

3.3 GWRC **asks** for the following amendments:

*NATIONAL National Policy Statements
National Environmental Standards and regulations*

3.4 At the regional level, it states:

*REGIONAL Greater Wellington Regional Council
Regional Policy Statement and Plans.*

3.5 This appears to indicate that the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) is a document owned by and belonging to GWRC. The RPS was approved by GWRC under the Schedule 1 process, however, the development of the RPS involved significant consultation and collaboration with other councils in the region, as well as members of the public, to determine the future direction of resource management in the region.

3.6 There is no further explanation provided about the reason for, and the importance of, giving effect to the RPS. The RPS addresses cross boundary effects and integration of the management of natural resources across the councils.

3.7 There is also no reason to mention regional plans in this diagram, as they don't have to be given effect to in district plans, however there are regional rules that will apply to Territorial Authority activities such as stormwater discharges. There is further information provided in the following paragraph explaining that the district plan cannot be inconsistent with regional plans, which is appropriate.

3.8 GWRC **asks** that the text in diagram 1 be amended to more accurately explain the relationship between the district plan and regional planning documents including the RPS.

REGIONAL ~~Greater Wellington Regional Council~~

Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region and Plans’.

Relationships with neighbouring Councils

- 3.9 This section explains the relationships between Upper Hutt City Council and other local authorities which share boundaries and overlapping jurisdictions. This section primarily addresses cross-boundary issues and states that GWRC would be advised of resource consent applications or plan changes that may have potential cross-boundary effects.
- 3.10 Under regulation, district and city councils are required to notify GWRC of notified resource consents, and under the Schedule 1 process consult with local authorities who may be affected during the preparation of plan changes. Reasons for this may be other than just when there may be potential cross-boundary effects. Some of these reasons include, but are not limited to, impacts on our operational activities such as on flood protection schemes and public transport infrastructure. Schedule 1 section 3 of the RMA does not limit when other local authorities should be consulted.
- 3.11 GWRC asks that the following text be added:
- 3.12 3.....and the Department of Conservation.

It is important to also consult with Greater Wellington Regional Council during the preparation of a plan change to identify issues that may affect any roles and responsibilities in relation to the management of natural and physical resources.

4. Relief sought

- 4.1 Should Upper Hutt City Council approve proposed Plan Change 43, GWRC requests that:
- 4.2 The amendments sought in the submission are accepted and included in the final plan change.

5. Further involvement

- 5.1 GWRC recommends that the points as outlined above be considered. We would also welcome the opportunity to clarify and further discuss the matters raised.
- 5.2 GWRC wishes to be heard in support of its submission.



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