

9.0 CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES

9.1 Introduction

The Act requires Regional Plans to include the processes to be used to deal with issues that cross local authority boundaries and issues between territorial authorities and between regions under section 67(h). As Gisborne District Council is a unitary authority (that is both a district and regional authority), issues between district and regional functions are usually easily resolved.

Cross boundary issues may occur when environmental effects related to the use of a resource have “downstream” effects in another part of the environment. The air resource, by its very nature is not constrained within political or administrative boundaries.

There is a need for a consistent and co-operative approach between regions and between central government and regional councils to the management of the air resource to minimise the effects of cross boundary issues.

9.2 Management Roles and Responsibilities

Integrated management will assist the Gisborne District Council to co-ordinate the management of air quality and the effects of the discharge of contaminant to air with:

- a) Ministry for the Environment over air quality issues that are best dealt with or co-ordinated at a national level;
- b) Adjoining regional councils concerning issues that transcend regional boundaries or require a multi-levelled approach; and
- c) The district functions of the Gisborne District Council concerning responsibilities under the Act for the control of the effects of the use of land and the functions and responsibilities of territorial authorities and public health authorities under other legislation.

9.3 Procedures for Addressing Cross Boundary Issues

The following procedures may be carried out, where appropriate, to address cross boundary issues:

- a) Having regard (under section 66 of the Act) to the policy statements and plans, including resource management plans, strategic plans and annual plans of neighbouring regional and territorial authorities and the extent to which this Plan needs to be consistent with those documents.
- b) Liaising with the Ministry for the Environment over air quality issues that are best dealt with or co-ordinated at the national level or require a multi-levelled approach;
- c) Participating in central government initiatives in the formulation of a strategic approach to managing the enhanced greenhouse effect, in the development of guidelines for local government and in advocating and pursuing efficient and effective mechanisms for greenhouse gas discharge reduction at the national level, including consideration of a national policy statement on the enhanced greenhouse effect.

- d) Liaising with the Hawkes Bay Regional Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council on matters of air management that are relevant to more than one region;
- e) Continuing to participate in the Regional Air Quality Working Group – a group of staff from regional councils throughout the country that provides an opportunity to exchange information, develop a co-ordinated approach and use the Council’s combined resources most effectively;
- f) Liaising with neighbouring regional councils over the possibility of joint ambient air quality monitoring programmes;
- g) Liaising with district officers within the Gisborne District Council on issues affecting air quality management that both regional and district authorities are responsible for;
- h) Encouraging the district function within the Gisborne District Council to continue to apply the provisions of the Health Act 1956 to control minor nuisance effects, particularly the nuisance effects associated with the discharge to air from domestic fires and home heating appliances;
- i) Liaising with the district functions of the Gisborne District Council regarding their functions and responsibilities under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977;
- j) Liaising with other public health authorities regarding public health issues that arise in carrying out the Gisborne District Council functions under the Act;
- k) Advocating to the Gisborne District Council that, where appropriate, provisions be included in District Plans to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects on the environment of the discharge of contaminants to air;
- l) Considering the transfer of functions that would be more efficiently, effectively and appropriately carried out by other agencies. Transfers of functions will be considered on the basis of the requirements of Section 33 of the Act, including where both authorities agree that the authority to which the transfer is made represents the appropriate community of interest and where the transfer is desirable on the grounds of efficiency and technical or special capability or expertise; and
- m) Making submissions in respect of documents prepared by other authorities.