



Introduction

1.1 TITLE

This Regional Policy Statement is known as the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Gisborne District.

1.2 COMMENCEMENT

The Regional Policy Statement will become operative on the day on which it is approved by the Gisborne District Council or on a later date specified in the Regional Policy Statement, in accordance with the First Schedule to the Resource Management Act 1991.

1.3 WHAT IS THE REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT?

The Resource Management Act 1991 requires the Gisborne District Council to prepare a Regional Policy Statement for the Gisborne District. The Statement is to promote the sustainable management [see section 2.1.1 for definition] of the region's natural and physical resources and is expected to achieve this by:

- *providing an overview of the resource management issues of the region; and*
- *setting out policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the regions natural and physical resources.*

Natural and physical resources include land, water, air, soil, minerals and energy, all forms of plants and animals and all structures.

1.4 WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT?

In addition to its primary function of promoting the sustainable management of the District's natural and physical resource base, the Regional Policy Statement is important because it:

- *represents a critical link between international/national environmental management initiatives and local action.*
- *identifies the most important resource management issues facing the district, so that effort is directed at the areas of greatest need.*
- *guides the preparation of more detailed regional and district plans under the Resource Management Act 1991.*
- *provides guidance for those making decisions on consents, until more detailed plans and rules are in place.*
- *provides greater certainty and consistency of decision making for those wishing to use or protect resources.*

These points are elaborated on in the following sections.

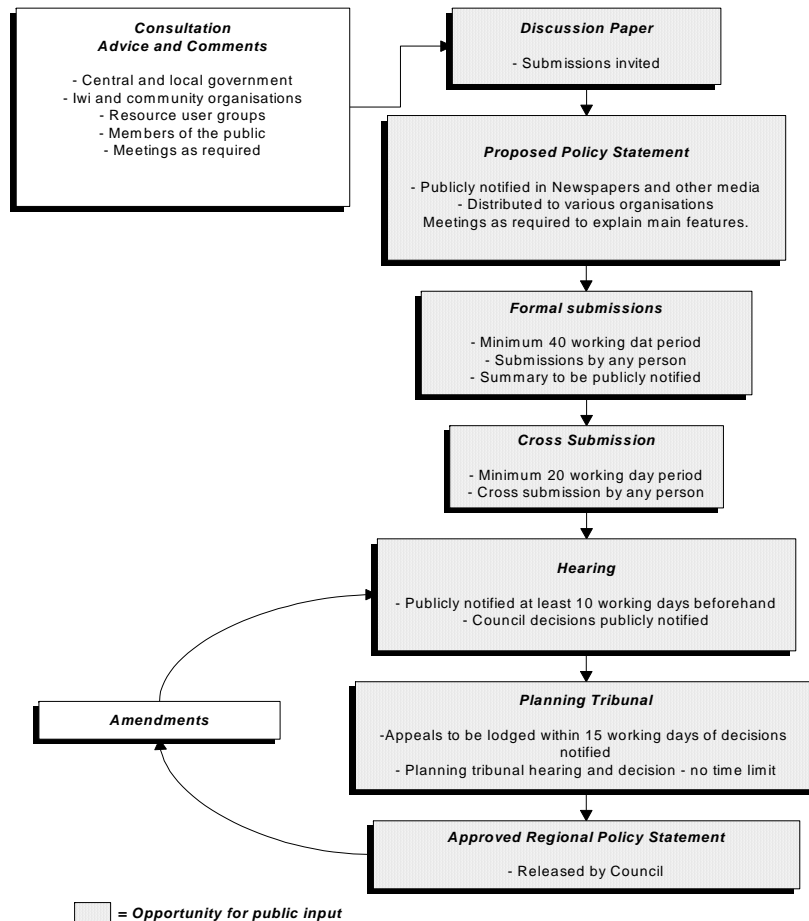
1.5 HOW IS THE REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT BEING PREPARED?

The Act provides a statutory process for the preparation of a Regional Policy Statement. This is contained in the First Schedule of the Act and is summarised in figure 1.

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FIGURE 1

PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF A REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT



This proposed Regional Policy Statement is open to formal public submission and, in turn, to cross submissions. Hearings relating to all the submissions will be held and any party not satisfied with the Council's decision on their submission has the right to refer the matter to the Planning Tribunal.

1.6 STRUCTURE OF THE STATEMENT

This policy statement has two major parts. Part One provides background information on the proposed Regional Policy Statement. It outlines:

- *the global, national and local context of the Policy Statement;*
- *the statutory framework for resource management;*
- *the statutory basis for the Regional Policy Statement;*
- *Maori involvement in resource management;*
- *the Gisborne District Council's approach to the exercise of its resource management responsibilities;*
- *the resources of the Gisborne District.*

Part Two contains all the material required by the Act to be in a regional policy statement. That is, the statutory objectives, policies and methods of implementation to address the significant resource management issues of the region. It is divided into chapters on :

- *land management;*
- *water management;*



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- *air quality management;*
- *energy management;*
- *coastal management;*
- *process issues; and*
- *transport*
- *waste management and hazardous substances*
- *monitoring and review of the Statement.*