



One Plan: an introduction

The One Plan is the Horizons Region's plan for resource management.

It sets out the way we balance the use of natural resources for economic, cultural and social wellbeing, all while keeping the environment in good health. All districts and regions in New Zealand have plans to do this.

The One Plan may affect the way you manage your property or carry out your business, especially if you use water, have a septic tank, discharge substances that may affect the environment (such as dairy effluent, nutrients or smoke) to land, water or air, take gravel, or have a stream, wetland or native bush on your land.

What does the One Plan cover?

The One Plan focuses on the 'Big Four' resource management issues for the Region – water quality, increasing water demand, hill country erosion, and declining biodiversity. It includes chapters on other topics too: infrastructure, energy and transport; air quality; hazards and risks; historical and cultural values; coastal environment; integrated objectives and integrated policies; and financial contributions.

How might the One Plan affect me?

The rules in the plan are designed to manage the effects on the environment of activities like using water, forestry, running a factory, building bridges and treating human sewage.

The One Plan has been in use since it was notified in May 2007. Horizons has focused on implementing the One Plan in a practical and sensible way, with staff assisting resource users to find the best way to work within its provisions.

The Plan became fully operative in December 2014 but has undergone changes and amendments since. More information on changes to the One Plan can be found at: <https://www.horizons.govt.nz/publications-feedback/one-plan-reviews-changes>.

The guiding legislation for the One Plan is the [Resource Management Act 1991](#), along with other national policies and regulations such as [the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020](#).

The One Plan also influences the way district councils in the Region make rules and policies for the things they manage, such as subdividing land. Your district or city council must operate within the framework set out in the One Plan.

Many activities are 'permitted' – that is, you don't need a resource consent provided you meet the standards and conditions that are set out in the Plan. An example of this is taking water from a bore. Under the One Plan, you can



take up to 50 cubic meters (50,000 litres) a day as a permitted activity as long as you are going to use it on your property and the rate of flow is controlled. The bore mustn't be close to a wetland, stream or river, or an area that is a rare, threatened or at-risk habitat.

When you can't meet the permitted activity conditions, or the rule is 'controlled', 'restricted discretionary', 'discretionary' or 'non-complying', you will need a resource consent.

How long will the One Plan last?

A review of the One Plan will have to be started by the end of 2024 for any provisions that haven't been updated in the meantime. If central government changes relevant legislation or regulations, further reviews might also be needed. Horizons might review the Plan if a new issue were to arise that could not be properly managed by the existing provisions, or

If the rule says the activity is 'prohibited' then you won't be able to apply for a consent as the activity cannot occur. This is only the case for activities that have very serious effects on the environment, such as discharging untreated human sewage directly to water.

You can get more information about how to apply for a consent and how much it will cost on Horizons' website www.horizons.govt.nz or free phone 0508 800 800.

if a new, more efficient approach to achieving environmental objectives were to appear.

Horizons will monitor and report regularly on the Plan's effectiveness in achieving its objectives for the environment, including any impact on the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the Region and its communities.

Where can I get the One Plan?

The One Plan is available on Horizons' website. You can request a free copy on a USB flash drive. Copies are also available to view at Horizons' offices and your local public library.

Further information is available on Horizons' website www.horizons.govt.nz or contact us on free phone 0508 800 800.