PART L

MONITORING
This page is deliberately blank
The District Plan must be reviewed ten years after it becomes operative. Within that time period it can also be changed through the Plan Change process set out in the second schedule to the Act. Plan changes can be initiated by the Council, or the public.

The Council will monitor the environment of Porirua City and the effect of the Porirua City District Plan in order to identify where changes to the District Plan are necessary.

The monitoring programme has been divided into sections which deal with compliance, effectiveness, and the wider environment. The function of each of these sections and their monitoring programmes are set out below.

**L1 COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

The first section deals with compliance with the Plan e.g. the degree to which new developments and buildings comply with the rules and standards in the Plan.

The emphasis of the District Plan on permitting activities subject to standards being met will entail a greater emphasis on monitoring and enforcement functions. Resource consent records, and records of permitted activities (the results of discussions with the public on performance standards) will provide the base data for the first test set out above. The first test outlined above is intended principally to determine whether performance standards have been set at the appropriate level. This part of the programme monitors the practicality of the rules and standards and ensures that they are working in the intended manner. Because this is a new Plan, under new legislation, it is anticipated that minor amendments will be required throughout the life of the Plan and this aspect of the monitoring programme will provide the main trigger for these. Self-monitoring by individual property owners, and operators of various activities, is recognised as an important part of the monitoring process for the City, and such initiatives will be encouraged.

Monitoring compliance with the Plan essentially requires a regular review of compliance with conditions of resource consents, and also whether those activities which are being undertaken without the need for resource consents are operating within the limits of the permitted activity standards for the Zone within which they are operating.

This aspect of the monitoring programme will be undertaken throughout the year and will be based on selective checking of compliance, regular follow up action on resource consents, and action taken on information from outside sources: complaints, public enquiries etc.

Compliance monitoring will also make use of the information from inspections undertaken for health licensing, in response to health related complaints etc.

The Council will adopt a precautionary approach to compliance monitoring. One means of adopting a precautionary approach will be to require some consent holders to monitor effects arising from the use of their resource consents. This approach may be adopted where there is a lack of information about potentially adverse effects. Consent holders may be required to take
L. Monitoring
corrective actions to rehabilitate or protect damaged resources where the results of monitoring show that this is necessary.

L1.1 COMPLIANCE MONITORING PROGRAMME
An annual review will be undertaken of the following matters, and a report prepared outlining any areas of the Plan which may require amendment.

(i) Monitoring whether resource consents issued are in compliance with the rules in the Plan.
(ii) Monitoring whether conditions of resource consents are complied with.
(iii) Monitoring whether activities are in compliance with the Plan.
(iv) Monitoring the effects of the exercise of resource consents and of permitted activities on natural and physical resources.

L2 EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING
It is important to remember that the City has around 14000 houses, and that much of the City Centre and Industrial Zone are already developed. For the majority of existing activities the new Plan will have little or no effect. The effect of the new district plan will be on new activities and buildings over the next ten years. With a current rate of development of around 100 houses per annum it is apparent that the rate at which the general form of the City might change as a result of the new Plan is quite slow. The extent of change in any direction in response to the vast majority of policies in the District Plan will not be able to be measured in the short term. For this reason the second part of the monitoring programme, that dealing with the effectiveness of the Plan, has been prepared as a general statement of intent, and the programme to be undertaken in any given year will vary according to the circumstances. For example, where a particular development has the potential to have a significant effect on a matter which is referred to in policy, the monitoring programme for the following year may focus particularly on whether the predictions made at the time the development was undertaken were correct.

One of the main methods of monitoring the effectiveness of the policies within the Plan will be to review the extent to which they have guided decision making on individual resource consent applications and the degree to which these have been accepted by the community, and where relevant by the Environment Court. It is anticipated that some review of the policies will occur through the life of the Plan as case law and experience under the Resource Management Act develops.

The environmental outcomes anticipated which are stated at the end of each of the Plan's policy sections are in the form of performance indicators, representing the quality, quantity, timeliness, location and cost factors commonly used to measure performance against policy. Not all factors are represented for all sections. These environmental outcome statements are the basis on which the monitoring programme for the effectiveness of the Plan will be developed.

The right of the public to seek plan changes, and the obligation of applicants to provide assessments of effect, and research information also provide valuable tools for assessing the content of the Plan and the extent to which it is likely to achieve the stated environmental results.
L2.1 EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING PROGRAMME

The programme for monitoring the effectiveness of the Plan will be determined on a year to year basis. It is envisaged that a review be undertaken of all the environmental outcomes anticipated by the Plan and that from this and knowledge of any significant changes in activity or the environment which have occurred in the preceding year, the review programme will be determined.

Evaluating whether the effectiveness of policies, and the progress on objectives is meeting the environmental outcomes envisaged in the Plan. The source data for this assessment and evaluation will be a consideration of the application of policies to applications for resource consents, and the extent to which the policies influenced the outcome of the consent process.

L3 STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

In addition to monitoring the effectiveness of the Plan in terms of the things which it sets out to achieve, Council is also required to monitor the state of the environment and determine whether there is a need for action on further, or alternative matters which are having an effect on the sustainable management of the environment. One of the major triggers for this work will be the ongoing development of Regional Plans and the obligation to consider whether there is anything in the district plan which is contrary to a regional plan or whether additional provisions should be included in the district plan to take adequate account of an effect which has been identified through a regional plan. The main method for this monitoring will be through the preparation of submissions on proposed regional plans and it is envisaged that these submissions will include a statement of the compatibility of the district plan with the proposed regional plan.

Attention will also be given to the wide-ranging sources of environmental information which are available from time to time through publications, research etc. This part of the monitoring programme will vary from year to year and is likely to be reactive, depending on the information which becomes available for the initiation of research into whether any amendment of the district plan is required in order to effectively promote the sustainable management of the City's resources.

L3.1 STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT MONITORING PROGRAMME

While the effectiveness monitoring will be extensive, this programme recognises that there may be additional issues which arise. These could be in response to regional plans, as a result of analysis of available research, in relation to privately initiated District Plan changes or because of scanning of environmental factors identifies a relevant need.

L4 MONITORING REPORTING

A district plan monitoring report will be prepared each year after the plan becomes operative. The report will be set out in accordance with the three categories of monitoring set out above, namely compliance, effectiveness, the wider environment.

The compliance section of the report will set out details of consents granted in the course of the year, the results of relevant inspections and surveys of compliance, and the outcome of any actions taken to achieve compliance with the Plan.
The effectiveness section of the report will include notes on the use made of policy in decisions on resource consents, and will record any research results where specific work has been undertaken on any issue related to the effectiveness of the plan.

The wider environment section of the report will record any regional plans notified in the course of the year and comments on the compatibility of these with the district plan. This section will also record any other relevant research undertaken in the course of the year.

The fourth section of the report will summarise the monitoring results for the year and include recommendations for the next year, including any amendments which might be required to the Plan. This section will also include a brief summary of Environment Court decisions which may affect the Plan, and any changes to the Plan which may be desirable as a consequence of Planning Tribunal decisions.

Where the report recommends consideration of plan changes, the process of undertaking these changes, together with the consultation and analysis required by the Act, will follow where Council determines to pursue the recommendation further.

It is envisaged that the report will be a summary document. Research undertaken specifically in order to monitor the plan, or which has been used as part of the monitoring programme will either be referenced in the report or attached to the report.

L5 CONCLUSIONS

The Act contains an obligation to monitor. The programme outlined above is intended to ensure that this responsibility is met in a manner which is open, wide ranging, and effective. The level of monitoring will vary from year to year as the pace of development varies and depending on other influences e.g. the notification of regional plans. This section of the Plan provides the framework for the monitoring programme and for monitoring reporting. Provision for the actual programme in any given year will be made through the annual planning process. This process provides the opportunity for individuals to make submissions on any part of the Council's programme for the forthcoming year and is a means by which the community can have an input to the level of monitoring and the actual monitoring programme for any given year.