

**SECTION 2 – SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
ISSUES FACING THE DISTRICT**

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2 SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES FACING THE DISTRICT

2.1 Introduction

Fifteen significant District Plan issues were identified through the public consultation which led to the preparation of this Plan. “Issues” can be thought of as matters of interest or concern to the District’s community regarding the use, development or protection of **natural and physical resources**. Quite often they are environmental problems. The issues tend to overlap and cannot always be resolved at the same time.

2.2 Issues

- 1) The District’s people need to be able to provide for their social and economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety, without having extra barriers created by unnecessary restrictions in the District Plan.
- 2) Appropriate ways to take Maori values into account and to involve the Tangata Whenua in Resource Management decision-making are still being refined.
- 3) There has been a major loss of natural ecosystems in the District, particularly those on the lowland plains which would have supported a high level of biodiversity. Lost ecosystem values need to be restored and the remaining fragments protected to enhance and safeguard the biodiversity of the District.
- 4) [DELETED PC46]
- 5) Past land uses, developments, **signs** and surface water uses have not always fitted into their surroundings without causing problems such as:
 - a) Adverse **effects** on the natural **environment** due to for example pollution, and the removal of the habitat of flora and fauna.
 - b) [DELETED PC 55]
 - c) [DELETED PC 55]
 - d) Smoke, dust, odours or fumes which have an adverse **effect** upon people’s health, neighbourhood amenities and the **environment** as a whole.
 - e) **Effects** on soil productivity, structure and stability through such activities as soil removal, covering with hard surfaces, and inappropriate cultivation. The **effects** are often gradual and cumulative.

- f) **Effects** of development pressures upon other **natural and physical resources**, e.g. on town centres, the quality or availability of water, energy supplies, the safety and efficiency of roading systems, or the supply of minerals).
- g) Overshadowing by **buildings**, shelter belts and trees. This can have **effects** on people’s use and enjoyment of adjoining land.
- h) Pressure from newly established “sensitive” activities, such as residential uses, for established operations which have a level of perceived nuisance to be curtailed or closed down.
- i) Visual Appearance -“eyesores”, such as piles of junk in the open, unfinished building projects or a profusion of **signs** and billboards.
- j) [DELETED PC 55]
- k) Electrical interference to radios and televisions.
- l) A loss of visual privacy, e.g. homes and outdoor living areas being “seen into” by neighbours and passers-by.
- m) Cultural Impacts, e.g. many people are reluctant to have a **funeral parlour** next to their home. These impacts can be difficult to deal with, particularly if more than one culture is involved.
- n) Concerns about people’s personal safety and security, e.g. in using public places which are dimly lit, or from aircraft accidents near airports.
- o) The potentially adverse **effects** on people’s health and safety and upon ecosystems from mishaps in the production, transport, use or disposal of hazardous substances, or,
- p) [DELETED PC 55]

New and existing activities therefore need guidance to prevent similar problems (while recognising any relevant existing use rights).

- 6) Parts of the District have significant soil erosion problems and varied water quality is likewise a problem in some of our rivers and streams. These environmental impacts are related to the removal of the land’s natural vegetation cover.
- 7) The fragmentation of land holdings and new housing and other development which results from subdivision is having a cumulative impact upon the rural **environment**, including upon its rural character and amenities and upon the future options for use of the vulnerable versatile land. While each proposal may have minor **effects** on its own, the cumulative **effects** over time can be very significant.
- 8) The District is prone to natural hazards, especially flooding, and to associated property damage.

- 9) There are various limitations on the future growth of Feilding and the other townships, e.g. natural hazards, effluent disposal, and urban expansion also has a permanent impact on the rural character and natural **environment** of the growth areas concerned.
- 10) A balance needs to be struck between the degree of new services, reserves etc. which developers or new residents pay for, as opposed to those which existing residents and ratepayers pay for.
- 11) ~~Certain parts of the District have been recognised as regionally significant landscapes requiring special management. [DELETED PC65]~~
- 12) Public access to the coast and rivers, as well as recreational opportunities generally, need to be maintained and enhanced.
- 13) Water and energy use is often very wasteful, and more efficient use needs to be encouraged. Disposal of solid waste which cannot be re-used or recycled needs to be managed in a more sustainable way.
- 14) There are competing demands on the limited water supplies in the District, particularly the Oroua River. The river's waters are taken by agricultural, urban and industrial users, and are used to dispose of treated wastes. These competing demands for a limited supply represent a constraint to current and prospective users and a potential threat to the river's habitat values.
- 15) Issues which cross territorial or jurisdictional boundaries (e.g. management of the beach and coastal marine area, or land uses in one District which affect people in another) need to be resolved if integrated management of resources is to be achieved.
- 16) Manfeild Park is a unique, multi-purpose event facility for the District and requires management to enable a wide range of activities while avoiding adverse **effects** on the surrounding **environment**.

NB - The **Regional Council** plays the major role in issues 6, 8, 13 and 14, and also has a part to play along with **Council** in addressing Issues 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 15.