



8.0 AIR QUALITY

8.1 Introduction

Generally, the air quality in the South Waikato District is thought to be high, although there are few records to substantiate this. The lack of significant air pollution is attributed to the prevailing westerly air flow and the low intensity of land uses in the District.

However, problems are experienced in some areas due generally to point source emissions, eg odour. Some towns can also experience a build up of pollutants from widespread sources such as domestic fires, vehicles, burning of garden waste and agricultural activities such as spray drift.

Clean air enhances the amenity values of the District and is an important aspect of the South Waikato. Clean air also enhances the visual amenity of the District.

Responsibility for management of discharges of contaminants to air within the District lies primarily with Environment Waikato (Waikato Regional Council). The District Plan can assist in the objective of clean air by controlling the location of activities that have the potential to adversely affect air quality.

As the District Plan cannot be inconsistent with any Regional Policy Statement or Regional Plan, it is important that there is adequate consultation to resolve regional and district concerns during policy making and implementation. The District Plan can assist in the objective of clean air by controlling activities that have the potential to adversely affect air quality.

It is recognised that air quality management issues are of local, national and global importance. Council will support regional and national targets to reduce discharges of contaminants to air and, where appropriate, develop and implement measures to achieve air quality gains.

8.2 Objectives

8.2.1 Safeguard the life supporting capacity of air.

8.2.2 Controlling land use so that the adverse effects of emissions to air are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

8.3 Policies

8.3.1 To promote a co-ordinated and integrated approach to air quality management to avoid duplication of activities at a regional and district level.



- 8.3.2 To encourage regional and national agencies to adopt appropriate performance standards for the discharge of contaminants to air.
- 8.3.3 To ensure that the community's interests are represented in dealing with resource consent applications for activities which have the potential to adversely affect air quality in the District.
- 8.3.4 To ensure that the District Plan provides for appropriate separation of activities which are likely to cause discharges to air which are odorous or have a potential risk to public health.
- 8.3.5 To accept delegated functions in relation to air quality management in the District from Environment Waikato only when accompanied by the necessary resources to adequately meet requirements.

8.4 **Methods to Achieve Objectives and Policies**

The following identifies the methods that are to be used to achieve the objectives and policies contained in this section of the District Plan:

8.4.1 **General**

- (i) Work with Environment Waikato to ensure that an appropriate set of objectives, policies and methods are developed at a regional level to manage any adverse effects relating to air quality.

Refer to Policies 8.3.1 and 8.3.2

- (ii) Work with Environment Waikato to provide and disseminate information on Air Quality issues. The present lack of air quality information limits Environment Waikato and Central Government's ability to set appropriate performance standards.

Refer to Policy 8.3.1

- (iii) Controls on the location and nature of industries and other activities which have the potential to create emissions to the air (including odour) by using zoning and performance standards or guidelines where appropriate.

Refer to Policies 8.3.3 and 8.3.4.



- (iv) Accept delegated functions from Environment Waikato in relation to air quality management within the District only when accompanied by sufficient resources to adequately carry out the delegated functions.

Refer to Policy 8.3.5

- (v) Take abatement and enforcement action where appropriate concerning the nuisance effects of emissions to air.

Refer to Policy 8.3.6

8.5 Principal Reasons

The principal reason for the adoption of objectives policies and methods for air quality is to promote integrated management of air and other resources in order to provide for the health and wellbeing of communities, individuals and natural systems within the District.

8.6 Anticipated Environmental Results

It is anticipated that the objectives, policies and methods outlined in this section will achieve the following environmental results:

- (i) Clean air.
- (ii) Improved environmental policy making and decision making.
- (iii) Consistency in resource management between the District and Environment Waikato.