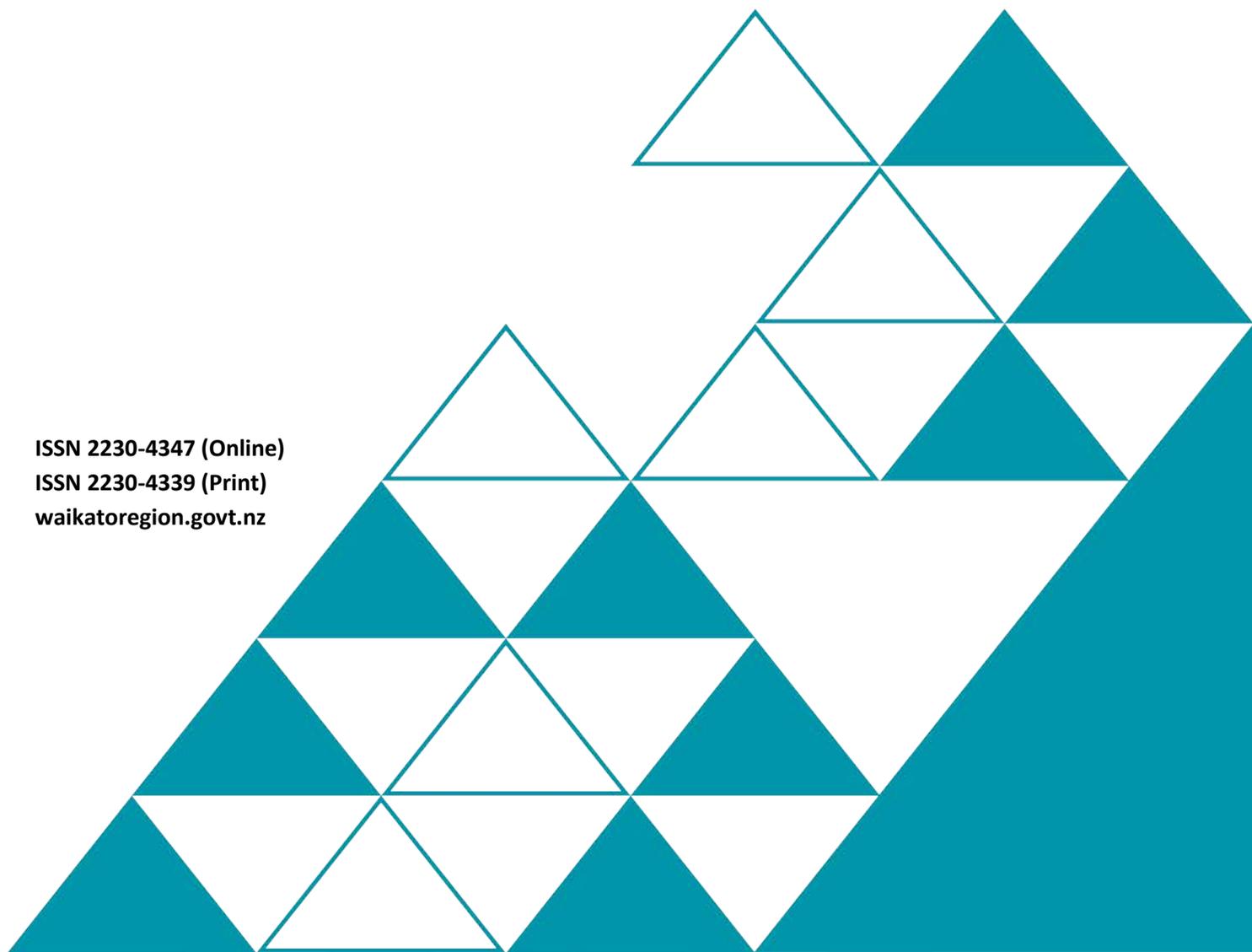


Integrated Catchment Management Council Owned and Managed Dam Safety Policy Statement

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1 Purpose

The Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022 came into effect on 13 May 2024. Their purpose was to increase the resilience and safety of New Zealand's dams, protecting people, property, and the environment from the potential impacts of dam failures. The Regulations set out that owners of dams are responsible for ensuring that their dams are being managed appropriately, proportionate to the potential impacts they pose. This policy statement lists out Council owned or managed dams, and what processes are in place to ensure the council is meeting their obligations as a dam owner.

This document replaces the 2017 Dam Safety Policy Statement (Waikato Regional Council, 2017b).

1.1 Scope

The Council own twelve dams which are operated to assist in the provision of catchment management and flood protection activities. The dams include:

Dam Name	Zone	Dam Wall Height	Reservoir Capacity
Kapukapu Detention Dam	Waihou	12 m	124,000 m ³
Waipaturawa Detention Dam	Waihou	2 m	76,000 m ³
Te Poi Detention Dam	Waihou	1.2 m	53,000 m ³
Te Miro Detention Dam	Piako	5 m	930,000 m ³
Orakei Detention Dam	Lower Waikato	5 m	53,000 m ³
Upper Waiti Detention Dam	Lower Waikato	Unknown	Unknown
Lower Waiti Detention Dam	Lower Waikato	Unknown	Unknown
Cawley Detention Dam	Lower Waikato	4 m	29,000 m ³
Trubshaw Detention Dam	Lower Waikato	4 m	22,000 m ³
Jordans Detention Dam	Lower Waikato	5 m	76,000 m ³
Maori Affairs Detention Dam	Lower Waikato	8 m	80,000 m ³
Kite Rd (Retention Drain) Detention Dam	Central Waikato	4 m	43,000 m ³
Fullerton Green Outlet Detention Dam	Central Waikato	2 m	66,000 m ³

8 of these dams meet the Building Act 2004 definition of large dams and Dam Safety regulations of classifiable dams, that they *"have a height of 4 or more metres and holds 20,000 or more cubic metres volume of water or other fluid"*.

Until recently the Upper and Lower Waiti Deams were considered one asset, with a crest height of 4m and a reservoir capacity of 1,275,000 m³. The decision was made to split them this year, however it is not clear what the new reservoir capacities are, or which dam has a 4m crest height.

1.2 Provisions

Council will operate and maintain our dams in accordance with current NZSOLD Guidelines and best industry practices.

As a Dam owner the council will:

- ensure that their dams are being managed appropriately, proportionate to the potential impacts they pose.
- submit dam potential impact classification (PIC) certificates to the regulator, provided by a recognised engineer, for those dams that meet the classification of being a large dam.
- for dams with a low PIC, reviews of the classification will occur every 5 years.

- for dams with a medium or high PIC a dam safety assurance programme (DSAP) is in place, that is certified by a recognised engineer.
- submit an annual dam compliance certificate, certified by a Recognised Engineer

1.3 Definitions

Dam	The Building Act 2004 define a dam - <i>(a) Means an artificial barrier, and its appurtenant structures, that (i) is constructed to hold back water or other fluid under constant pressure so as to form a reservoir; and (ii) is used for the storage, control, or diversion of water or other fluid (b) includes a flood control dam, a natural feature that has been significantly modified to function as a dam and a canal but does not include a stopbank designed to control floodwaters.</i>
PIC	potential impact classification, is determined based on the consequences of dam failure, not the likelihood of failure. The main factors used to determine a dam’s PIC level are: The population at risk, potential loss of life, damage to property, damage to infrastructure, environmental consequences, cultural and historical significance, economic and social disruption
DSAP	Dam Safety Assurance Plans are required for all dams with a medium or high PIC score. These are to include a Dam safety management system is developed, and emergency action plans are in place with the local authorities for the dam does suffer a breach.

1.4 Responsibilities

Director ICM	Approval of the “council owned or managed dam safety policy”.
Manager Infrastructure Delivery	Approval of the DSAP and EAP. Ensuring auditing of adherence is undertaken, and improvements made where recommended to asset condition, modelling, procedures, and communication protocol.
Chief Engineer	Ensuring the DSAP contains effective procedures for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operating the dam • ensuring that anyone who operated the dam has adequate training and experience • ensuring accurate records of reservoir water levels when in operation • maintaining the functionality of the dam • ensuring emergency action plan is in place and reviewed
Scheme Manager	Ensuring the dams in their area are maintained to the correct standard, and resources are available to complete any corrective works as identified by the recognised external dam engineer.
Asset Manager	Ensuring the surveillance and certification procedures are undertaken and reporting any surveillance and dam performance issues to the Manager. Providing method and procedures for the accurate recording, prioritising, and tracking dam safety issues.
Operations Team Lead	Ensuring the DSAP procedures are followed, and emergency action plan is kept up to date.

1.5 References

Documents used in the review and redevelopment of the policy statement:

Building Act 2004.

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2004/0072/latest/dlm306036.html>

Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022.

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0133/latest/whole.html>

Carsell S. 2025. [Dam Safety and Emergency Preparedness Presentation for Manawatu-Whanganui CDEM CEG Meeting 20250506](#). Palmerston North, Horizons Regional Council. Doc # 32043479.

Waikato Regional Council. 2017a. [2017 Final Dam Safety Management Documents](#) – assorted documentation. Folder # 13135489.

Waikato Regional Council. 2017b. [Integrated Catchment Management – Dam Safety Policy Statement](#). Doc # 9770589.

Waikato Regional Council. 2025a. in press. [Council Owned and Managed Dams - Dam Safety Management Manual](#). Waikato Regional Council Internal Series Report 2025/03. Hamilton, Waikato Regional Council. Doc # 31479167.

Waikato Regional Council. 2025b. [Emergency Action Plan - Kapukapu Dam](#). Doc # 32947539.