Waikato Regional Council Policy Series 2025/10

Asset Management Policy

Flood protection, river management, and land drainage infrastructural assets

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	Name	Date
Approving Manager	G. Ryan	

Prepared by	L. Drysdale
For	Waikato Regional Council Private Bag 3038 Waikato Mail Centre HAMILTON 3240
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Policy owner and approval

The owner of this policy is the Director Integrated Catchment Management.

Version	Approved date
Version 1	26/02/2015
Version 2	30/04/2019
Version 3	09/12/2025

1 Introduction

Waikato Regional Council (WRC / Council) manages the integrated flood, drainage, and river catchment activities and associated assets on behalf of the ratepayers of the Waikato Region. The assets provide services to the region and are essential in ensuring community protection, economic productivity and general community wellbeing. These assets ensure the provision of services to meet the community's needs and support the delivery of services set out in the Council's Long-Term Plan (LTP).

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Set out the obligations Waikato Regional Council (WRC / Council) must manage its infrastructure assets effectively.
- Provide the policy statements which are necessary to facilitate and support the achievement of the above requirements.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities for implementing the policy.
- Provide direction for the development of the infrastructure strategy and regional asset management plan.

The infrastructure strategy identified the important issues and challenges affecting the region, and addresses the pathways being used to address these over a 50-year timeframe.

The regional asset management plan and regional operational management plan address how the council will meet its statutory obligations and mission.

1.2 Scope

1.2.1 Inclusions

This policy applies to all infrastructure asset categories and types managed by and under the care and control of Waikato Regional Council.

Asset Classes included under this policy are:

- Flood Infrastructure
- Drainage Infrastructure
- River and lakes infrastructure
- Council owned land that the infrastructure assets are built upon

Activities covered by this policy:

- Any activity involved with the strategic planning, decision making, lifecycle management, risk and condition monitoring and information management of the asset classes listed above.

1.2.2 Exclusions:

This policy does not apply to the following assets:

- WRC owned or leased office buildings or depots.
- Fleet Vehicles, EV charging stations, or Effluent Transfer Stations
- Office equipment, furniture and IT hardware
- Environmental Monitoring sites (for scientific purposes only)
- Land that Council owns for purposed other than those set out above (e.g. depots).
- In addition, it does not include those soil conservation assets that are subject to Land Improvement Agreement or similar memorandum/covenant where they under the ownership of other parties.

2 Policy statement

Waikato Regional Council will operate in accordance with the following policy statements:

- Dam Safety Policy
- Infrastructure Financial Policy

The key regulatory requirements for the asset management policy and infrastructure related decision will align with are:

- Building Act 2004
- Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022
- Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
- Land Drainage Act 1908
- Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 10
- Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012
- Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Resource Management (Energy and Climate Change) Amendment Act 2004
- Resource Management (National Environment Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020
- Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941
- Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010

2.1 Council mission

The key strategic requirements for the asset management policy to align with are:

- WRC Financial Strategy (2024-34 LTP)
- WRC 50-year Infrastructure Strategy (2024/34 LTP)
- WRC Infrastructure Assets Accounting Policy (2025)
- WRC Climate Action Roadmap

2.2 Methodology

Waikato Regional Council will manage its assets in accordance with the ISO55000:2024 standard terminologies and principles.

Council uses the International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM) as the basis for asset management, for assessing asset maturity and for continual improvement. Council strives to have all categories identified in the Manual as being within the ‘Intermediate’ range (categories are Core, Intermediate, Advanced). The Council will receive regular updates on the progress on asset management improvement

2.3 Principles

Council will adhere to the following core principles in the planning and decision making related to the creation, acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal of infrastructure assets:

- Achievement of Council’s strategic outcomes
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Financial, social and environmental sustainability, including minimising emissions
- Continuous improvement
- Customer and stakeholder focus
- Optimisation of life cycle costs
- Risk based decision making

- Improved asset resilience

2.4 Strategy and planning

Council is committed to ensuring that it provides reliable and cost-effective river and catchment management, flood protection and drainage services for the benefit of the Waikato Region.

The objectives for asset management planning and practices are to:

- Ensure that Council infrastructure assets are providing the agreed-on levels of service in a sustainable manner.
- Ensure that Council infrastructure assets are managed in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements.
- Ensure a lifecycle approach is taken for all decisions on infrastructure assets.
- Ensure that an integrated catchment management approach is taken to the planning, delivery, operation, renewal and disposal of infrastructure assets.
- Ensure that Council gives regard to the needs of iwi, community and relevant stakeholders associated with the delivery of services and the management of infrastructure assets

Council demonstrates that commitment by:

- Development and maintenance of zone and asset management plans across the eight zones that comprise the region.
- Engaging with community, stakeholders and iwi in the development of appropriate levels of service for inclusion in Council asset management plans
- Complying with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

2.5 Decision Making

- Planning for a sustainable, reliable and effective flood protection and drainage network to meet the region’s present and future needs. This includes
  - looking for carbon and energy reduction options
  - procurement strategies to consider local suppliers and contractors
  - developing solutions that consider a reduction in occupational harm
  - looking for opportunities to use green engineering solutions
  - considering local flora and fauna needs when remediating / redeveloping a site
- Using a risk-based assessment to optimise ‘whole of life’ costs and maximising the benefits of infrastructure assets.
- Considering any impacts on the environment and seeking to enhance the environment where possible whilst undertaking asset management.
- Striving for continuous improvement and innovation in the management of assets.

2.6 Lifecycle Management

An effective asset management programme needs to:

- Highlight the significant river and flood protection infrastructure investment requirements into the future.
- Provides security to substantial community investment including property, urban centres and lifeline networks including energy transmission and transportation networks.
- Supports the ongoing economic productivity of land which in turn protects land values and agricultural investment.
- Te Tangata – protects the people of Waikato region.
- Demonstrate we have competent staff to maintain asset management capability and expertise.

- Using National Codes of Practice for determining the management of flood protection assets and dams

2.7 Asset Information

An effective asset management programme must be data-driven. To facilitate this council must:

- Understand what is critical data to hold for the asset's life
- Properly resource efforts to collect data
- Invest in new technologies to improve data collection
- Support efforts to cleanse existing data errors

2.8 Risk and condition monitoring

Council will undertake regular auditing of its asset base to ensure it understands the current functionality and potential risks posed to the community if it fails, to enable changes in strategy and risk mitigation planning as needed, through:

- Providing adequate resources to undertake regular agreed levels of inspections to identify hazards, risks and asset condition.
- Provide resources to routinely review asset criticality, utilising all available information.
- Invest in appropriate technology or processes to detect equipment failure early to extend asset life.

3 Policy review

This policy will be reviewed in alignment with the Long Term Plan (LTP) cycle. When considering any changes to the policy, consultation will include the following, as a minimum: Executive Leadership Team.

Any substantive changes will also be reported to the Catchment Committees.

4 Roles and responsibilities

To achieve this policy, the following key roles and responsibilities apply

Role	Responsibility
ICM Director	Overall responsibility for ensuring the development of asset management policies and procedures.
Infrastructure Manager	Responsibility for overseeing the implementation of asset management policy, review of asset management outcomes and ensuring alignment with Councils strategic direction across all zones.
Scheme Manager	Responsibility for ensuring asset and zone plans align, and appropriate budget provisions are made for effective asset management. Responsibility for external stakeholder engagement, and delivery of flood related work programmes and reporting.
Drainage Manager	Responsibility for ensuring asset and drainage management plans align, and appropriate budget provisions are made for effective asset management. Responsibility for external stakeholder engagement, and delivery of drainage related work programmes and reporting.
Chief Engineer	Responsible for ensuring standards and quality of work performed across work programmes meets the outputs required.
Asset Manager	Responsible for maintaining asset data and providing relevant information to Managers. This includes identification of maintenance, renewal and disposal requirements for all assets across all zones.

Responsible for the management and review of the Infrastructure Management Strategy.

5 Glossary of terms

Asset management	The combination of management, financial, economic, engineering and other practices applied to physical assets with the objective of providing the required level of service in the most cost-effective manner.
Asset management plan	Documented information that specifies the activities, resources and timescales required for an individual asset, or a grouping of assets, to achieve Council's management objectives.
Infrastructure Assets	Infrastructure assets display one or more of the following characteristics: • They are specialised in nature and do not usually have alternative uses • They are immovable • They are part of a system or network • Are specialised assets Stationary systems (or networks) that serve defined communities where the system is intended to be maintained indefinitely to a specified level of service by the continuing replacement and refurbishment of its components.
Infrastructure Strategy	The Local Government Act 2002 Amendment 2014 requires councils to prepare an infrastructure management strategy. The strategy must identify the issues that may impact on infrastructure management over the coming 30-year period and the strategies that are to be put in place to address those issues.
Integrated catchment management	Incorporates the range of issues which need to be considered and connected to carry out effective and sustainable management of a catchment
Property, Plant, and Equipment	Are tangible items used for producing goods/services or administrative purposes and that are expected to be used over more than one reporting period. All costs from these items are directly attributable to bringing or keeping assets in working condition.