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3.0 OBJECTIVES FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

3.1 Introduction

This section of the Plan contains objectives to assist the Gisborne District Council in its responsibilities for maintaining and enhancing the Region's ambient and localised air quality and controlling the discharges of contaminants to air.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 The maintenance or, where appropriate, enhancement of ambient air quality in the Gisborne Region

Principal reason: This objective provides for the maintenance and enhancement of the ambient air quality in the Gisborne Region and is consistent with objective 4.1.1 of the RPS. At present, the ambient air quality in the Gisborne Region is high and, in most cases, falls well within the Ambient Air Quality Guideline levels (1994) developed by the Ministry for the Environment for the purpose of protecting human health. As these Guidelines do not address the effect of air quality on components of the environment other than human health, it is important that existing air quality levels are maintained, rather than allowed to degrade to the Guideline levels. Enhancement of the resource may need to occur where ambient air quality is at a level resulting in a loss of aesthetic, ecological or cultural values or a risk to human health. This objective does not relate to specific sites. It is determined by monitoring of ambient air quality at selected sites around the Region. Individual discharges may take place, providing the cumulative effects of the discharge do not lead to degradation of air quality on a region wide basis.

Policies 4.3.1, 4.3.2¹

3.2.2 That human health, amenity values, flora and fauna and other natural and physical resources and the life supporting capacity of air are not adversely affected by the discharge of contaminants to air

Principal reason: This objective seeks to ensure that the values associated with people, amenity, flora and fauna, other natural and physical resources and the life supporting capacity of air are not adversely affected by the discharge of contaminants to air. Individual discharges occur at a local level, which is recognised as the level at which most air quality management will occur in the Gisborne Region. However, adverse cumulative effects of combined discharges will also need to be considered and provided for.

Policies 4.4.1 – 4.5.7

3.2.3 To enable use, development and protection activities involving discharges to air that provide for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of the Region while avoiding, remedying and mitigating adverse effects on the Region air resource and other receiving environments

Principal reason: This objective enables an individual to achieve social, economic and cultural wellbeing. It recognises the importance of providing a sustainable approach to the management of the Region's air resource without unduly impinging on the rights of an individual.

It also allows for the consideration of land use issues, such as reverse sensitivity, and provides for the protection and consideration of sensitive areas through the recognition of adverse effects on both the air resource and other receiving environments.

Policies 4.4.1 – 4.5.7

¹ Cross referencing has been provided within the Plan to give an indication of the linkages between the issues, objectives, policies, methods and rules. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possibilities only a guide and does not override the section 104 requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991.

3.2.4 The recognition of and provision for the relationship of Tangata Whenua with the air resource

Principal reason: Section 6(e), 7(a) and 8 of the Resource Management Act 1991 require particular regard be given to resources of significance to Tangata Whenua, the role Tangata Whenua have in managing resources and to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Air is a resource in the Region that requires management. Tangata Whenua should be provided with the opportunity to participate in this management.

Policies 4.2.1, 4.4.5