

Part VIII

Monitoring and Review



20.1 Introduction

This part of the Plan outlines the procedures to be used to:

- Monitor the effectiveness of the Plan as a means of achieving its objectives and policies; and
- Review the matters contained within this Plan.

In terms of this Plan, Section 35(2) of the Act places a duty on the Otago Regional Council to monitor:

- The state of the regional environment to the extent that is necessary to carry out the Council's air management functions (baseline monitoring or environmental monitoring);
- The suitability and effectiveness of this Plan and the exercise of any functions, powers or duties delegated or transferred by the Otago Regional Council (process monitoring); and
- The exercise of resource consents for discharges to air (compliance monitoring).

NESAQ Regulation 15 requires the Otago Regional Council to monitor ambient air quality in airsheds where it is likely that the standard for any contaminant will be breached, and Schedule 2 to the NESAQ outlines the method for such monitoring.

Section 67(1)(i) of the Act requires the Otago Regional Council to include within this Plan, the procedures to be used to review the matters contained within it, and to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan as a means of achieving its objectives and policies.

20.2 Elements to be monitored

Monitoring of the suitability and effectiveness of the objectives and policies within this Plan will be carried out in conjunction with monitoring of the Regional Policy Statement for Otago, other regional plans and the NESAQ. It will also be subject to the provisions of the Council's own Annual Plan and Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

In considering the elements requiring monitoring, the Otago Regional Council will have particular regard to the anticipated environmental results as stated within this Plan and will monitor the following:

1. The number and nature of discharges within Otago.
2. The type and mass of contaminants discharged into air and the effects of those contaminants on the receiving environment.
3. The effects of discharges on ambient air quality, and in particular the levels and effects of the following principal indicators:
 - PM₁₀;
 - Sulphur dioxide;
 - Carbon monoxide; and
 - Nitrogen dioxide.
4. Existing ambient air quality in areas most likely to be affected by air pollution activities, to assess whether the air quality remains within the Ambient Air Quality Guidelines contained in Schedule 1, and meets the standards set by the NESAQ, including paths to compliance with the ambient air quality standard for PM₁₀.
5. The quality of significant discharges to air from industrial or trade premises and other significant discharges will be monitored, as will the air quality near to the discharges.

20.3 Monitoring techniques

In monitoring the elements detailed in Section 20.2, the following techniques may be used:

1. Analysis of feed back and compliments and complaints received.
2. Maintenance of a regional ambient air quality monitoring programme, and expansion as necessary.
3. Recording and analysis of unauthorised discharges to air.
4. Development of an emissions inventory to identify the source, scale and distribution of discharges of contaminants into air.
5. Requiring self monitoring of consents, where necessary, and the provision of the collected information to the Otago Regional Council.
6. Compliance audit monitoring to ensure the conditions on resource consents are being adhered to.
7. Maintaining a database of air discharge permits issued.
8. Records of the number of consent applications made for each activity regulated by the Plan.
9. Commission research, as necessary, to provide additional information on the region's air resource.
10. Where appropriate, develop and implement joint initiatives with local authorities, government departments and other agencies to monitor key aspects of Otago's air resource.
11. Make available data held by the Otago Regional Council and seek the transfer of information between agencies and local authorities about Otago's air resource.
12. Consultation with key stakeholders and affected parties.

20.4 Plan review

The Resource Management Act requires that this Plan be reviewed no later than 10 years from the date upon which it becomes operative.

In the interim, the Council may determine to review part of, or the entire Plan, in response to:

1. Information from monitoring which indicates the need for a review or change;
2. The identification of any significant new air quality issues in the region;
3. Changes in national policy including new or amended laws, regulations, national policy statements or any other actions taken which require a national response;
4. Changes made to the Regional Policy Statement for Otago and to other regional plans by the Otago Regional Council; or
5. Requests for a plan change or review made by any person in accordance with Part II of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act.

