

PART 1 INTRODUCTION

THE BASIS OF THE DISTRICT PLAN

1.1 STATUTORY AND COMMUNITY BASIS

This document sets out the resource management strategy, objectives, policies and rules for the management of the natural and physical resources of Papakura District. It has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act) and recognises the purpose and principles of the Act. The provisions set out in the parts that follow address the imperatives embodied in the Act and articulate the management response of the Council.

This District Plan is based on community input. Through a process of public consultation, the resources of the District have been identified and the way in which these should be managed in order to secure agreed community outcomes has been settled. As a guiding principle, the community has determined that the quality of the environment of the District should be retained and, where possible, enhanced. The provisions of this District Plan are directed at the achievement of this objective.

Further, the community has determined that the sustainable management of the resources of the District be effected by way of a conventional zoning technique. Coupled with the use of performance standards and a flexible system of classification, activities have been grouped so that the traditional and valued characteristics of various areas of the District can be managed, retained and enhanced.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE DISTRICT PLAN

Following the re-organisation of local government in 1989, the area which was formerly administered by Papakura City was enlarged. Rural areas to the north of Papakura in Takanini, Alfriston, Ardmore and the Hunua foothills, which were formerly part of Manukau City, became part of the new Papakura District. Similarly, parts of Karaka, the Hingaia Peninsula, Drury and the parts of the Hunua foothills to the south and west of Papakura, which were formerly administered by Franklin County, also became part of Papakura District. The new District has retained the name Papakura and is now administered by the Papakura District Council.

The planning controls which apply to the Papakura District have hitherto been contained in the Papakura Transitional District Plan. This Plan incorporates the Papakura District Scheme and also parts of the former Manukau City and Franklin County District Schemes in respect of the rural areas which were included in Papakura District as a result of local government re-organisation. The Transitional District Plan also incorporates changes to the provisions which the Council has made since re-organisation.

The Papakura District occupies a position as a buffer or area of transition between the urban metropolis to the north and the rural areas to the south and east. The District contains a sizeable rural area which is the subject of Section Two of the Plan but it is also a District which is clearly centred on an urban area and this is addressed in Section Three of the planning document. There is some pressure for the expansion of the urban area but the Council has determined that, in order to protect the integrity of the rural area, there should continue to be a clear demarcation between town and country. Further, the Council has determined that a conservative view should be taken of the amount of rural land which should be made available for urban development during the life of this Plan.

1.3 INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this District Plan is the integrated management of the use, development and protection of the natural and physical resources of the District in such a way that the present and future well-being of the community may be achieved. To this end, the Plan is designed to be an “enabling” document, providing opportunities for the community, while at the same time recognising the responsibilities inherent in the process of sustainable resource management.

The District Plan addresses integrated resource management by:

- identifying the resources of the District;
- setting out the resource management issues;
- presenting the strategy for resource management;
- outlining the environmental outcomes which are expected; and
- developing a management framework of objectives, policies and rules.