
Section 32 Report for the Proposed Waitomo District Plan

Section 32 Report –Energy

SUMMARY OF ISSUES	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991	NATIONAL DIRECTION	REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS	IWI MANAGEMENT PLANS CONT...
<p>The issues for this chapter are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy is an essential service and demand is growing. The Waitomo District relies on energy/electricity being produced outside of the District. Security of supply would be increased if more energy / electricity was produced within the District. The country’s strategic target is that 100 per cent of electricity generated in New Zealand should be derived from renewable energy sources by 2035. There are climate change benefits from producing energy from renewable resources but often renewable energy sources such as water and wind are located in places with landscape, biodiversity and other values. There are some locations in the District that are very vulnerable to change such as identified outstanding natural features and areas of outstanding natural character within the coastal environment. A number of these areas and features are also of significance to Māori. The characteristics and values associated with these places need to be protected. There are also Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori (SASMs) buildings, and sites of heritage importance that are also vulnerable to change and further development. Depending on the scale and impact of the proposed energy development it may or may not be appropriate Some renewable energy options have amenity effects such as noise and visual effects. To achieve a low carbon future some effects in some locations will need to be provided for. There is the potential for people, businesses, and communities to generate their own energy and there are benefits to be gained from doing so. In Waitomo District this is particularly so for isolated communities who are dependent on long sections of electricity lines that are vulnerable in extreme events. Large scale industries, such as those located within the Rural Production Zone would also particularly benefit from increased onsite generation. The effects of the level and scale of appropriate onsite generation need to be considered. There are 4 existing hydro schemes in the District, providing for the efficient operation, upgrade and development of these facilities whilst managing adverse effects needs to be managed. 	<p>Section 5 RMA The Waitomo District is recognised as having resources that are suitable for renewable electricity generation, in particular wind, solar, wave and hydro energy. Electricity related greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced through maximising renewable electricity generation at the domestic, community and utility scale. This will enable not only the current communities to meet their energy requirements but also will ensure a sustainable supply of energy to meet future energy demand in accordance with section 5(2)(a) of the RMA.</p> <p>Renewable electricity generation constitutes a sustainable use of the physical and natural resources and will enable future generations to meet their energy requirements in a sustainable manner. This will enable communities to move towards greater use of energy which avoids effects on future generations by a reduction in electricity generation derived from fossil fuels.</p> <p>The District faces several significant long term energy challenges, including reducing carbon emissions. There is a clear need to improve energy efficiency and conservation, and maximise the use of renewable energy resources. The path to creating a more sustainable energy future is through using energy more efficiently and generating more energy from renewable sources. ENGY-O2 recognises and provides for the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities.</p> <p>ENGY-O1 encourages the sustainable use of energy as a resource. This not only has benefits for the current generations in terms of increased surety of supply and cost benefits but cumulatively will benefit future generations by assisting in reducing the consumption of non-renewable energy resources. This Objective will directly contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of people and communities. Local benefits from renewable electricity can be short term and long term. Additional jobs can be created during construction or upgrade phases, but the longer term benefits for economic well-being is through the on-going benefits of an increased security of electricity supply. Diversifying electricity generation may result in lower electricity prices for the end consumer.</p> <p>An increase in electricity supply and increased security of that supply will be necessary to support improvement in the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of the community (Section 5(2) of the RMA).</p> <p>The health and safety of people and communities is both directly and indirectly dependent on a reliable supply of electricity. People rely on electricity to heat their homes, prepare and manage food, for hygiene and safety. In this regard, ENGY-O1 will enable communities to contribute to provide for their health and safety by increasing the generation of electricity and increasing the security of supply through renewable electricity generation. It therefore achieves Section 5(2) of the RMA.</p>	<p>There are 6 National Policy Statements (NPSs) currently in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 NPS for Electricity Transmission 2008 NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 NPS for Freshwater Management 2020 NPS on Urban Development 2020 NPS for Highly Productive Land 2022 <p>There are also 8 National Environmental Standards (NESs) currently in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NES for Air Quality 2004 NES for Sources of Human Drinking Water 2007 NES for Telecommunication Facilities 2016 NES for Electricity Transmission Activities 2009 NES for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health 2011 NES for Plantation Forestry 2017 NES for Storing Tyres Outdoors 2021 NES for Freshwater 2020 <p>The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) and National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation are particularly relevant to this topic. Key directions in the NZCPS include maintaining and enhancing biological and coastal processes, protecting significant ecosystems, maintaining coastal water quality, preserving natural character and identifying areas where various forms of subdivision, use and development would be inappropriate. Policy 6 of the NZCPS in relation to the coastal environment recognises the provision of infrastructure including the transmission and generation of electricity is important to the social, economic and cultural well-being of people and communities. Policy 13 also provides clear direction to avoid adverse effects of activities on natural character in areas of the coastal environment with outstanding natural character. Policy 13 also provides direction on how to address natural character. The work that has been undertaken for the district plan has identified 2 areas of outstanding natural character within the district’s coastline. A number of areas of high and very high natural character have also been identified. A coastal environment line has also been identified and is shown on the planning maps.</p> <p>The NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 has as its objective to recognise the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities such that it meets the New Zealand Government’s national target for renewable electricity generation. The target is by 2025 all electricity in NZ is to be generated by renewable sources. The NPS provides direction that objectives, policies and methods are provided within district plans which recognise the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of various renewable energy generation options. Policy F provides direction on the need to include objectives, policies, and methods in district plans on small scale and community scale distributed renewable energy generation options. The NPS also provides direction on the importance of recognising the need to locate activities where the resources are available. Policy A of the NPS also provides guidance on what benefits are to be recognised. This includes the displacement of greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise have</p>	<p>Waikato Regional Policy Statement Issue 1.3 Providing for Energy Demand highlights the following matters to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How energy demand is met? Need to locate renewable energy generation infrastructure where the resource is Potential conflict between activities and values The need for efficiency including form existing hydro electricity generation activities. Security of supply <p>Issue 1.4 Managing the built environment also identifies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contribution of regionally significant industry and primary production to economic, social and cultural wellbeing, and the need for those industries to access natural and physical resources, having regard to catchment specific situations <p>NB The definition of regionally significant infrastructure includes infrastructure for the generation and/or conveyance of electricity that is fed into the national grid or a network.</p> <p>Objective 3.5 provides key forward direction on these issues. Of importance is the direction to reduce reliance on fossil fuels over time and recognise and provide for the national, regional, and local benefits of renewable electricity generation activities. The objective also seeks to address adverse effects and to minimise demand for energy. Policy 4.4 identifies electricity generation activities that are fed into a network as being regionally significant. The implementation methods associated with the policy say regional and district plans should provide plan provisions that enable the ongoing operation and development of regionally significant industry. The plan does this through the provisions of the energy chapter and the rural production zone. Provisions for the existing hydroelectric power schemes in the district have been included in this chapter so they can be easily read in conjunction with the policy framework for Energy in the Plan.</p> <p>Policy 4.4 is of particular relevance to this topic. The policy states when natural and physical resources are being managed provision is made for the continued operation and development of regionally significant industry and primary production. The policy states this outcome is to be achieved by recognising the value of and long term benefits of regionally significant industry to economic, social and cultural wellbeing. At the same time the policy is seeking for the adverse effects of regionally significant infrastructure to be avoided, remedied, or mitigated. Implementation Method 4.4.1 says district plan provision should provide for regionally significant industry and primary production by identifying appropriate provisions, including zones, to enable the operation and development of regionally significant industry. Also of relevance is the direction that district plans should recognise the potential for regionally significant industry to have adverse effects beyond its boundaries and the need to avoid or minimise the potential for reverse sensitivity effects.</p> <p>Policy 6.5 and 6.6 and their associated implementation methods are also relevant to this section of the Plan. Policy 6.5 relates to Energy Demand Management and Implementation Method 6.5.2 states district plans should encourage energy efficient urban development and encourage the use of onsite and community based renewable energy technologies. The district plan does</p>	<p>A summary of the provisions in the Waikato Taui Environment Management (WTEP) Plan 2018 relevant to Energy activities are as follows: Section 27 seeks for existing and new electricity generation infrastructure to occur in partnership with Waikato Taui and for adverse effects to be effectively managed (Objective 27.3.1). Policy 27.3.1.1 outlines what types of effects need consideration. The effects include providing for the safe passage of fish, having adequate regard to other relevant chapters of the EMP, electricity is sourced and distributed locally wherever practicable, efficient energy conservation measures are used to ensure wastage is minimised. Section 27 also seeks for alternative sustainable forms of electricity generation to be developed, provided adverse effects on the environment, particularly on the Waikato River and cultural and sensitive sites are managed. Policy 27.3.2.1 emphasises the encouragement of small-scale domestic use for marae and papakainga. The policy also encourages the beneficial re-use of waste and other products for electricity generation. Objective 27.3.3 and its associated policy seek for electricity generation and transmission activities to demonstrate a community benefit near to their activities.</p> <p>The proposed Energy Chapter has taken into account the relevant provisions in the WTEP, as the Chapter makes provision for alternative forms of energy and requires a higher level of consent if the activity is located within a site or area of significance to Maori. The Energy Chapter also makes provision for small scale and community scale renewable energy activities. The Energy Chapter does not require or promote new energy activities to be undertaken in partnership with Waikato Taui. The objectives in the Strategic Direction Chapter seek to uphold the partnership principles inherent with the Te Tiririt (SD-01) which goes some way to take into account Objective 27.3.1.</p>

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	<p>Section 6 RMA</p> <p>Section 6 matters are required to be recognised and provided for within plans. The following section 6 matters have been identified as being relevant to this topic:</p> <p>Section 6(a) the preservation of the natural character the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.</p> <p>This matter includes consideration of how developments may affect the natural character of the coastal environment. Whether or not it is appropriate for any energy development to occur within the coastal environment will depend on benefits from the energy development as well as the developments effects including the developments scale, location and proximity to and effects on identified features of significance. In the Waitomo District there are identified areas of outstanding natural character, the preservation of these areas is important.</p> <p>Section 6(b) The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate, subdivision, use and development.</p> <p>This matter provides for the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes. The Waitomo District has a number of outstanding natural features and landscapes. Some of the outstanding natural features, in particular, are fragile and are not resilient to change. What is appropriate / inappropriate within these locations is a matter the plan needs to provide direction on.</p> <p>Section 6(c) The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.</p> <p>This matter provides for the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. As part of the preparation of the district plan significant natural areas within the district and their values have been identified. The identification of the features will provide a basis for their protection.</p> <p>Section 6(d) The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers:</p> <p>This matter provides for the maintenance and enhancement of public access to the coast and to waterbodies. Depending on their location energy developments do have the potential to change existing access and or provide new accesses. This is a matter that needs to be considered in the plan.</p> <p>Section 6(e) The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga:</p> <p>This matter provides for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their lands and sites and other taonga. The plan has identified sites and areas of significance to Māori. There may be other sites that have not been identified. Early consultation</p>	<p>been produced, increased security of supply, using renewable rather than finite resources, reducing reliance on imported fuels, and the reversibility of some adverse effects on the environment from using some renewable energy generation technologies. The energy chapter of the district plan has implemented the NPS. Of relevance is ENGY-O1, ENGY-O2, ENGY-P1 through to ENGY-P5. Methods that flow from these policies are rules. In general energy generation activities that are reliant on renewable energy sources have a reduced consent status compared with energy generation activities that are reliant on non-renewable sources. Provision has also been made in the rules for community scale renewable energy generation activities. This is a direct recognition of the isolated nature of some communities within the Waitomo District and the reliance these communities have on distribution networks. Increased generation close to the community itself will increase security of supply for these communities.</p> <p>Relevant case law considered</p> <p>Council has reviewed relevant Environment Court cases this topic and specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blueskin Energy Ltd v Dunedin City Council CHC 047 [2017] • Re Meridian Energy Ltd [2011] CHC00090 • Tauranga Environmental Protection Society Inc v Tauranga City Council NZHC 1201 [2021] • Environmental Defence Society v NZ King Salmon Company LTD SC 82/2013 [2014] <p>In the Blueskin Energy case the applicant (Blueskin Energy) wanted to erect a single turbine upto 3MW in output. The appeal was disallowed. The turbine was proposed to be in a identified landscape area. The Court recorded in its decision that a key reason for the appeal being declined was the applicant had not produced sufficient evidence on the quality of the wind resource at the site. The Court therefore could not be certain of the benefits to be derived from the project. This case emphasises the need for the benefits of any project to be clearly articulated. In this case this had not been achieved so the Court found the Purpose of the RMA would not best be achieved by approving this application.</p> <p>In Meridian Energy case at para 73 the Court commented about the NPS Renewable Energy and said <i>“In some instances the benefits of renewable electricity can compete with matters of national importance in Section 6, and the matters to which decision makers are required to have particular regard to under Section 7. Developments that increase renewable electricity generation can have environmental effects that span local, regionally and national scale and adverse effects that manifest locally and positive effects that manifest nationally”</i>. The directions from the Court here are that depending on the circumstances of the case and the benefits adduced from the renewable energy project some adverse effects on matters in Section 6 are conceivable.</p> <p>In the Tauranga Environmental Protection Society case the High Court overturned the Environment Court’s decision and decided that whether a proposal has a significant adverse effect on area of cultural significance and on Māori values of an ONFL it is not open for the Court to decide it would not.</p>	<p>this by having specific provisions that focus on on-site energy options and provisions for community scale energy options. The objectives in the Urban Form and Development Chapter and the policy and provisions in Transport and Subdivision address the direction related to energy demand management and energy efficiency.</p> <p>Policy 6.6 seeks for particular regard to be given to the locational and technical practicalities associated with renewable electricity generation. Policy 6.6 requires district plans to provide for renewable energy by having particular regard to the increasing requirement for electricity to be generated from renewable sources, the need for electricity generation to locate where the resource exist and to connect these sites with the national grid or distribution network, any residential environmental effects of renewable electricity generation which cannot be avoided, remedied, or mitigated can be offset or compensated to benefit the affected community or region, and the benefits of electricity generation activities including maintaining or increasing security of electricity supply. The Proposed Plan implements these directions through ENGY-O1, ENGY-O2 and ENGY-P1 through to ENGY-P7.</p> <p>Manawatu-Whanganui One Plan Chapter 3: Infrastructure, Energy, Waste, hazardous Substances and Contaminated Land is relevant. Objective 3-1 seeks to recognise the benefits of infrastructure and other physical resources of regional or national importance by recognising and providing for their establishment, operation, maintenance and upgrading. Objective 3-2 seeks an improvement in the efficiency of the end use of energy and an increase in the use of renewable resources in the Region. Under Policy 3-1 facilities that generate electricity of more than 1MW are recognised as being of regional importance. The existing hydro schemes in the district do generate more than 1MW but are not located within Manawatu-Wanganui area of the District. The provisions in the district plan do recognise the significance and benefits of renewable energy through the policy framework and the level of consent required compared to energy activities based on non-renewable sources.</p>	
<p>OPERATIVE WAITOMO DISTRICT PLAN</p>			<p>IWI MANAGEMENT PLANS</p>	<p>OTHER RELEVANT PLANS OR LEGISLATION</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the ODP there is no specific chapter / policy framework that focuses on Energy. • The relevant provisions are contained in each zone. If a particular project complies with the effects-based standard in the zone and the relevant general provisions then it can proceed as a permitted activity. 			<p>The Council is required to take into account planning documents recognised by an iwi authority and lodged with the territorial authority (section 74(2A)).</p> <p>A summary of the provisions in the Maniapoto Iwi Environment Management Plan (MEMP) 2018 relevant to the Energy chapter are as follows: Maniapoto seek to avoid adverse effects of infrastructure on the relationship of Maniapoto with significant sites and resources (Objective 22.3.1). In order to achieve this objective Maniapoto seek to participate at the highest levels of decision making for matters that affect significant sites and resources (Policy 22.3.1.1). Policy 22.3.1.1 gives examples of how Maniapoto seek to participate including through establishing co-operative and constructive relationships and that Maniapoto interests are appropriately considered and incorporated in the future planning and development of all infrastructure. Objective 22.3.2 focuses on electricity generation and seeks to ensure electricity generation and transmission and distribution benefits Maniapoto and protects the mauri of the environment. In achieving this outcome Maniapoto seek to promote the use of renewable energy and energy saving measures. Maniapoto also seek to ensure</p>	<p>The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000 (the Act) is relevant to this Chapter. The purpose of the Act is to promote, in New Zealand, energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of renewable sources of energy. The Act states Ministerial responsibilities and requires the development of a strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to give effect to the Government’s policy on the promotion in New Zealand of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of renewable sources of energy. The strategy is called “Unlocking our energy productivity and renewable potential”, New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy 2017-2022. The overarching goal of the strategy is New Zealand has an energy productive and low emissions economy. Priority areas include renewable, and efficiency use of process heat, efficient and low emissions transport, innovative and efficient use of electricity. In association with the priority areas specific targets have been set these targets are: decrease in industrial emissions intensity of at least 1% per annum on average between 2017</p>

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	<p>with mana whenua is also promoted as a means to ensure this matter is recognised and provided for.</p> <p>Section 7 RMA</p> <p>Section 7 lists a range of other matters that particular regard is required to be given to.</p> <p>Section 7(b) the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources.</p> <p>This matter includes consideration of the efficient use of land and natural resources for energy generation. This relates to the type of generation and whether resources are being used efficiently. This matter can only be considered when there is a detailed proposal.</p> <p>Section 7(ba) The efficiency of the end use of energy</p> <p>This matter provides direction to consider how people and organisations utilise energy and how efficient that is. For instance, if a business/organisation developed an onsite generation option it would be highly efficient as there would be no transmission losses.</p> <p>Section 7(c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values.</p> <p>The buildings and structures associated with energy generation activities are often of a different nature and scale than those buildings or structures anticipated within a zone / area. For these reasons energy generation structures often do not maintain or enhance amenity. The degree of effect depends on the location and surrounding land uses. Given the benefits of using renewable energy and government energy targets this plan recognises visual amenity values are not static and may change in response to renewable energy generation projects.</p> <p>Section 7 (f) maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment.</p> <p>Refer to commentary under Section 7(c).</p> <p>7 (j) The benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy</p> <p>By generating energy from renewable sources there are direct benefits in offsetting greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise be released into the environment if the energy was generated from non-renewable sources. The degree of benefit is dependent on the scale of the renewable energy option and the ability to utilise energy close to sources ie minimising transmission losses.</p> <p>Section 8 RMA</p> <p>Whether or not there are Section 8 matters relevant to this Chapter will be largely dependent on the location of proposed energy activities. People wishing to pursue energy developments are encouraged to consult mana whenua as early as possible. Outcomes from consultation with mana whenua is a key assessment matter for most of the rules in this topic. The Chapter is clear that new large scale energy activities are to be avoided within identified sites and areas of significance to Māori.</p>	<p>In what has become known as the King Salmon case the Supreme Court found that the use of the 'avoid' in the context of areas of outstanding natural character in the coastal environment is a strong word, meaning not allow, or prevent the occurrence of. The Court found the use of the word avoid in this context was akin to a bottom line. In comparison the Court found what is 'inappropriate' must be assessed against the characteristics of the environment.</p>	<p>that for any application fish passage is provided, impacts on biodiversity are in the first instance avoided and where this is not possible remedied or mitigated, activities are appropriately separately from sites of human occupation, and ecosystems that Maniapoto rely on for cultural and spiritual sustenance are protected. Objective 22.3.3 seeks for Maniapoto to access to reliable, sustainable and efficient energy sources. The associated policy amongst other things supports marae and kura to develop and access reliable, sustainable and efficient energy sources. The policy also seeks to avoid new electricity generation facilities that use non-renewables resources.</p> <p>The provisions in the Chapter have taken into account the provisions of the MEMP by requiring consent for activities located within a site and area of significance to Māori unless an energy activity already exists, and the standards are complied with. For any new energy activity, the provisions and associated policies seek to avoid effects on any site or area of significance to Māori. On-site and community scale activities within the Māori Purpose Zone along with other zones are recognised and supported provided the zone is also not affected by an overlay that has a higher level of protection. In recognition of the benefits gained from renewable energy activities that rely on non-renewable natural resources such as coal there is a more restrictive activity status.</p>	<p>and 2022, electric vehicles take up 2% of the vehicle fleet by the end of 2021, and 90% of electricity generated by renewable sources by 2025.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter support these targets to the extent possible through making available a range of different renewable energy options at a variety of scales. The provisions recognise the opportunity for reduced emissions in the rural production zone by making available a range of different renewable energy options and waste to energy options. The transport and network utilities chapters also make clear provision for electric vehicle charging stations while not directly relevant to this chapter is of relevant to this strategy. Whether or not any particular renewable energy development is approved through the planning process will depend on its scale, effects and location.</p>
<p>SCALE & SIGNIFICANCE s32(1)(c)</p>				<p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION</p>
<p>The assessment is based on eight factors outlined in Ministry for the Environment's guidance on Section 32 reports. Each factor is scored in terms of its scale and significance (where 1 is low and 5 is high).</p> <p>Reason for Change: 1 Problem / Issue: 2 Degree of Shift from Status Quo: 4 Who and How Many Affected, Geographic Scale of Effects: 5 Degree of Impact on or Interest from Māori: 2 Timing and Duration of Effects: 1 Type of Effect: 3 Degree of Risk or Uncertainty: 2</p> <p>Total (out of 40): 20</p>				<p>The following objective from the Strategic Directions Chapter of the plan is relevant to this topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD-01: Uphold the partnership principles inherent within Te Tiriti o Waitangi by ensuring mana whenua are enabled to maintain and enhance the well-being (mauri) and health (hauora) of both people and the environment, and empowered in the expression and application of kaitiakitanga. • SD-08: Provide for flexible and innovative approaches to development and infrastructure provision in the district's more remote settlements. • SD-010: The buildings, structures, sites, areas, ecosystems, natural landscapes and features identified as having special qualities and values and which contribute to the district's sense of place and identity, are protected. • SD-011: The components of the coastal environment including outstanding landscapes and features, natural character and ecosystems, together with the cultural and spiritual values accorded by mana whenua, are recognised and protected. • SD-012: Acknowledge that Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlements may drive change and development in parts of the district that have until now, been undeveloped. • SD-016: The district's communities work towards reduced reliance on non-renewable sources of energy, increased use of renewable energy sources and greater energy conservation. <p>UNCERTAINTIES AND RISKS s32(2)(c)</p> <p>The degree of risk and uncertainty is low. The activities are well defined and resources consents are triggered when issues can be worked through because of locational constraints and / or because of the types and scale of activity.</p>

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OBJECTIVE(S) s32(1)(a)	
<p>Relevance – The proposed objectives directly address the issues. The objectives also reflect section 5, 6 and 7 of the RMA. The objectives will assist in people and their communities meeting their electricity needs, which in turn supports economic development as well as meeting the health and safety needs of people. The matters listed in section 6 of the RMA identify locations or areas where development(s) may not be appropriate. ENGY-O1 reflects the Section 6 matters where it refers to development being “where appropriate”. If the development is located within an overlay or scheduled site, the objectives in the relevant chapter will also apply. The objectives also reflect the relevant matters in Section 7 of the RMA including 7(ba) and 7(j) and implement the relevant NPS’s.</p> <p>Usefulness – The objectives provide clarity as to what is to be achieved under Section 104 when considering a resource consent application for any energy activity. The objectives provide an overall framework that allows the development of provisions to identify key matters/effects in relation to the location, type and scale of energy activities. The objectives also highlight the need to acknowledge the locational constraints (ie renewable energy activities need to be located where the resource is) and to recognise and provide for the benefits of renewable energy including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The provisions provide guidance as to what is appropriate / inappropriate subdivision, use or development.</p> <p>Reasonableness – The objectives do not create unjustifiably high costs for the community and could result in benefits. Benefits could accrue at the individual or community level if onsite generation options are pursued. Benefits could also accrue at a district, regional or national level if large scale renewable energy projects are developed within the District. The objectives are also enabling and do not require the council or any other person to undertake any particular action. It is also reasonable for the objectives to highlight that not all developments will be appropriate in all locations.</p> <p>Achievability – The objectives are achievable as they emphasise the benefits that need to be considered, consistent with section 7, as well as highlighting potential effects associated with scale, type of generation and location. The provisions specify how the objectives are to be achieved.</p> <p>Are the objectives the most appropriate way to achieve the Purpose of the Act? The proposed objectives are considered to meet the tests of relevance, usefulness, reasonableness and achievability. The objectives are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA because they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will provide for the use and development of natural resources for energy generation in appropriate locations and at appropriate scales which will enable people and communities to provide for their economic and social wellbeing and for their health and safety. In doing so it will promote the sustainable use of resources for future generations (section 5(2)(a)); and • Will address the requirement of section 6 to recognise and provide for matters of national importance by recognising that some developments are not appropriate in certain locations. • Will have particular regard to the ‘other matters’ in Section 7 and Section 7(ba) and Section 7(j) in particular; • Will implement the relevant NPSs; and • Is within the jurisdiction of the Council and can be achieved within the exercise of its functions; and • The objectives address the key resource management issues identified above. 	
PROVISIONS s32(1)(b)	
EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS s32(1)(b)(ii), 32(2)(a)(i), s32(2)(a)(ii)	ALTERNATIVES s32(1)(b)(i)
<p>Benefits Anticipated</p> <p><u>Environmental</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed provisions clearly articulate the need to have particular regard to the environmental benefits to be gained from the use and development of renewable energy (section 7(j)). This direction flows through to the policies and the rules. An example of this is the provision for a range of on-site energy generation options dependent on the level of effect and the character and amenity outcomes anticipated from the zone. • The provisions clearly identify the environments that are most sensitive to change and for this reason these provisions require either a higher level of consent or in some situations are listed as a prohibited activity. New wind farms, solar power generation farms, and hydro generation require a resource consent in identified outstanding natural features and areas of outstanding natural character. These features and areas are outstanding in a New Zealand context and as such the provisions in the plan require these areas and features to be preserved for future generations. Within overlays, scheduled sites and features the level of consent is dependent on the ability of the site to absorb change and how appropriate it is. For example, in the coastal environment in areas of high/very natural environment have a higher level of consent than areas in the coastal environment per se. The same approach applies to landscapes for example areas of outstanding natural landscape have a higher level of consent than identified areas of amenity landscape. For heritage and cultural values, a similar approach is also used with more stringent levels of consent required within SASMs (Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori) and sites identified in SCHED 1 Heritage Buildings and Structures. The provisions have the benefit of identifying the features of the district that are important to retain for the benefits of future generations. • Unlike the ODP the proposed plan provisions make clear provision for energy projects of an appropriate scale and location. This is beneficial as it makes it easier for readers of the plan to understand where and under what circumstances a resource consent will be required. <p><u>Economic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If opportunities are taken up by people the provisions for on-site options may have economic benefits to people and communities, as they are able to generate their own energy, and as a result would be less reliant on electricity networks. There is also the potential for people who are connected to the grid to sell back any unused energy to the grid. • There is potentially significant economic benefit to be obtained if more electricity is generated within the district as industries and businesses would have increased security of supply and would be less reliant on distribution networks. It would also be more efficient (economic and resource) for more electricity to be generated within the district as there would be less transmission losses. • Clear provision is made for the ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade of the existing hydro generation activities within the District providing increased certainty to these owners and operators. • Reduces the costs of electricity for people who wish to install renewable electricity generation such as solar panels and a single wind turbine. <p><u>Social and Cultural -</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential social and cultural benefits from the provisions relate to increased choice about how electricity is generated and potential; for increased security of supply in the event more electricity is produced within the District. <p>Costs Anticipated</p> <p><u>Environmental</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provisions enable a potential change in visual amenity values, by for example enabling domestic scale wind turbines to exceed the height standard of the relevant zone by 2m. The degree of effect on neighbouring properties will be managed through applying the setback, height in relation to boundary rules and the wind farm noise standard. • The provisions enable the consideration of environmental effects on sensitive natural and cultural environments through the resource consent process. 	<p>For the purpose of this evaluation, the Council has considered the following potential options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed provisions; and 2. The status quo. <p>The ODP provisions are not considered to be efficient or effective in achieving the objectives.</p> <p>In order to identify other reasonably practicable options, the Council has undertaken the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed other relevant district plan provisions on Energy and - Considered the relevant provisions of the applicable NESS and NPSs in the development of the chapter.

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<p><u>Economic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is unlikely there will be economic costs from these provisions. <p><u>Social and cultural</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is unlikely there will be social and cultural costs from these provisions. <p>Economic growth and employment opportunities</p> <p>There are potential economic growth and employment opportunities if more generation was developed within the District. In addition, alternative small scale electricity generation facilities will provide a more secure electricity supply to support economic activities as well as those in more remote parts of the District.</p>	
<p>QUANTIFICATION OF BENEFITS & COSTS s32(2)(b)</p>	
<p>Section 32(2)(b) requires that, where practicable, the benefits and costs of a proposal are to be quantified. Given the assessment of the scale and significance of the proposed provisions, specific quantification of the benefits and costs in this report is considered neither necessary, beneficial nor practicable in relation to this topic.</p>	
<p>EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS s32(1)(b)(ii)</p>	
<p>Section 32(1)(b)(ii) requires assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions in achieving the objectives:</p> <p><u>Efficiency</u></p> <p>The proposed provisions have considerably more benefits, and clearly set out the acceptable activities with no or minimal effects as well as those which require closer assessment through the consenting process. The package of provisions will be efficient in achieving the objectives.</p> <p><u>Effectiveness</u></p> <p>The proposed provisions are the most effective in achieving the objectives as they directly address the resource management issues and the outcomes sought through the objective. The provisions are consistent with the purpose and principles of the RMA, and recognise and provide for section 6(b), 6(c), 6(d) and 6(e). The provisions also give particular regard to section 7(b), 7(ba), 7(c), 7(f) and 7(j). The proposed provisions are considered to be the most effective means of achieving the objective as together they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist in implementing the NPS on Renewable Electricity Generation and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Give effect to the Waikato RPS objectives and policies and the Manawatu-Whanganui One Plan; and Take into account direction in iwi management plans particularly as they relate to the protection of significant sites and resources; and Assist in implementing Strategic Direction SD-O1 and SD-O16 in the Proposed Plan; and Enable the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations, including s6(f), 7(aa), 7(b), 7(c), 7(f) and 7(g) and is consistent with its functions under section 31 of the RMA; and Recognise the benefits associated with the development and use of renewable energy including the ability to offset greenhouse gas emissions that would have otherwise occurred. Ensure adverse effects on scheduled, sites, features and overlays are managed appropriately by requiring consent for activities that could cause adverse effects; and Enable the Council to effectively administer its District Plan and to monitor the outcomes of the proposed provisions in a clear and consistent manner. 	
<p>REASONS FOR PROVISIONS s32(1)(b)(iii)</p>	
<p>Section 32(1)(b)(iii) requires a summary of the reasons for deciding on the provisions:</p> <p>The proposed provisions are the most appropriate approach to achieve the objectives of this Chapter. The provisions appropriately give effect to higher order policy documents including the relevant NPSs' and are consistent with the purpose and principles of the RMA. The package of provisions is consistent with directions in the two iwi management plans as the provisions require consideration of effects on sites and areas of significance to Māori through the resource consent process. The social, cultural and environmental benefits of providing for renewable energy generation options in appropriate locations and at an appropriate scale will effectively achieve the objectives.</p> <p>The recommended policies and rule requirements assessed in this report are the most appropriate to achieve the objectives for the District Plan, having considered other reasonably practicable options and having assessed the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions.</p>	