including as a result of:

(c) coastal erosion and inundation (**storm surge**), and

(d) river and lake flooding and erosion, aggradation, decreased **minimum flows**, and

(e) **stormwater** ponding and impeded drainage, and

(f) relative sea level rise, using reliable scientific data for the Wellington region.

Policy P29: Natural buffers COASTAL

Provide for the **restoration** or enhancement of natural features such as beaches, dunes or wetlands that buffer development from natural hazards and ensure the adverse effects of use and development on them are avoided, remedied, or mitigated.

## 4.6 Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Policy P30: Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai COASTAL

Manage the adverse effects of use and development on biodiversity, **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** to:

*Hydrology*

(a) maintain or where practicable restore natural flow characteristics and hydrodynamic processes and the natural pattern and range of water level fluctuations in rivers, lakes and **natural wetlands**, and

*Water quality*

(b) maintain or improve water quality including to assist with achieving the objectives in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 of Objective O19, and

*Aquatic habitat diversity and quality*

(c) maintain or where practicable restore aquatic habitat diversity and quality, including:

(i) the form, frequency and pattern of pools, runs, and riffles in rivers, and

(ii) the natural form of rivers, lakes, **natural wetlands** and the coastal marine area, and

(d) where practicable restore the connections between fragmented aquatic habitats, and

*Critical habitat for indigenous aquatic species and indigenous birds*

(e) maintain or where practicable restore habitats that are important to the life cycle and survival of indigenous aquatic species and the habitats of indigenous birds in the coastal marine area, **natural wetlands** and the beds of lakes and rivers and their margins that are used for breeding, roosting, feeding, and migration, and

*Critical life cycle periods*

(f) avoid, **minimise** or remedy adverse effects on aquatic species at times which will most affect the breeding, spawning, and dispersal or migration of those species, including timing the activity, or the adverse effects of the activity, to avoid times of the year when adverse effects may be more significant, and

*Riparian habitats*

(g) maintain or where practicable restore riparian habitats, and

*Pests*

(h) avoid the introduction, and restrict the spread, of aquatic pest plants and animals[1].

### Policy P31: Adverse effects on biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health, and mahinga kai

COASTAL

Adverse effects on biodiversity, **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** shall be managed by:

(a) in the first instance, activities that risk causing adverse effects on the values of a Schedule F ecosystem or habitat, other than activities carried out in accordance with a **wetland restoration management plan**, shall avoid these ecosystems and habitats. If the ecosystem or habitat cannot be avoided, the adverse effects of activities shall be managed by (b) to (g) below.

(b) avoiding adverse effects where practicable, and

(c) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, **minimising** them where practicable, and

(d) where **adverse effects** cannot be **minimised,** they are remedied, except as provided for in (a) to (g), and

[1] Pests for the Wellington region are defined in the Wellington Regional Pest Management Strategy

(e) where more than minor **residual adverse effects** cannot be avoided, **minimised**, or remedied, **biodiversity offsetting** is provided where possible, and

(f) if **biodiversity offsetting** of more than minor **residual adverse effects** is not possible, **biodiversity compensation** is provided, and

(g) the activity itself is avoided if **biodiversity compensation** cannot be undertaken in a way that is appropriate as set out in Schedule G3, including Clause 2 of that Schedule.

In relation to activities within the beds of lakes, rivers and **natural wetlands**, (e) to (g) only apply to activities which meet the exceptions in Policy P110.

A precautionary approach shall be used when assessing the potential for adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Schedule F.

*Note*

Policy P38 applies to the management of adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values within the coastal environment.

Proposals for **biodiversity mitigation** under (b) to (d) above, and **biodiversity offsetting,** and **biodiversity compensation** will be assessed against the principles listed in Schedule G1 (biodiversity mitigation), and Schedule G2 (biodiversity offsetting), and Schedule G3 (biodiversity compensation).

### Policy P32: Fish passage


The construction or creation of new barriers impeding the efficient and safe passage of fish and kōura species at all their life stages shall be avoided, except where this is required for the protection of indigenous fish and kōura populations.

*Note*

Advice can be sought from the statutory agencies responsible for the species. Sports fish, including trout, are managed by the Wellington Fish and Game Council and indigenous fish are managed by the Department of Conservation.

### Policy P33: Restoring fish passage


Remediation to provide for the efficient and safe passage of indigenous fish and kōura is promoted, and regard shall be had to requiring this when extending, altering or reconstructing instream structures, where this is appropriate for the management and protection of indigenous fish and kōura populations.

### Policy P34: Values of wetlands


Activities in and adjacent to **natural wetlands** shall be managed to maintain and, where appropriate, restore their condition and their values including:

(a) as habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, and

(b) for their significance to **mana whenua**, and

(c) for their role in the hydrological cycle including flood protection, and

(d) for nutrient attenuation and sediment trapping, and

(e) as a fisheries resource, and

(f) for recreation, and

(g) for education and scientific research.

### Policy P35: Restoration of wetlands

The **restoration** of **natural wetlands** and the construction of artificial wetlands to meet the water quality, **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** objectives set out in Tables 3.7 and 3.8, to provide habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, to carry out the physical and ecological functions of **natural wetlands**, and to provide for amenity values where this aligns with **restoration** appropriate to the area and wetland type shall be encouraged and supported.

### Policy P36: Restoring Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana

The ecological health and significant values of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and **Wairarapa Moana** will be restored including by:

(a) managing activities, **erosion-prone land,** and **riparian margin**s to reduce sedimentation rates and pollutant inputs, to meet the water quality, **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** objectives set out in Tables 3.4 to 3.8, and

(b) undertaking planting and pest management programmes in harbour and lake habitats and ecosystems.

## 4.7 Sites with significant values

### 4.7.1 Outstanding water bodies

### Policy P37: Adverse effects on outstanding water bodies

The adverse effects of use and development on outstanding water bodies and their significant values identified in Schedule A (outstanding water bodies) shall be avoided, unless there is a **functional need** for operation, maintenance or **upgrade** of existing **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** in which case adverse effects of activities shall be managed by:

(a) avoiding adverse effects where practicable, and

(b) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, **minimising** them, and

(c) where adverse effects cannot be **minimised**, they are remedied where practicable, and

(d) where **residual adverse effects** cannot be avoided, **minimised**, or remedied, **offsetting** is provided where possible.

Proposals for **biodiversity mitigation** and **biodiversity offsetting** will be assessed against the principles listed in Schedule G1 (biodiversity mitigation), and Schedule G2 (biodiversity offsetting). A precautionary approach shall be used when assessing the potential for adverse effects on outstanding water bodies.

Where more than minor adverse effects on outstanding water bodies cannot be avoided, **minimised**, remedied or redressed through **biodiversity offsets**, the activity is inappropriate.

### 4.7.2 Managing adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity within the coastal environment

Policy P38: Indigenous biodiversity values within the coastal environment

COASTAL

To protect the indigenous biodiversity values, use and development within the coastal environment shall:

(a) avoid adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(a) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) namely:

  (i) indigenous taxa listed as threatened or at risk in the NZ Threat classification system lists or as threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;

  (ii) indigenous ecosystems and vegetation types in the coastal environment that are threatened or are naturally rare;

  (iii) habitats of indigenous species where the species are at the limit of their natural range, or are naturally rare;

  (iv) areas in the coastal environment containing nationally significant examples of indigenous community types;

  (v) areas set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biological diversity under other legislation; and

(b) avoid significant adverse effects, on indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(b) (i) – (vi) of the NZCPS, and

(c) manage non-significant adverse effects of activities on indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(b) of the NZCPS by:

(i) avoiding adverse effects where practicable, and

(ii) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, **minimising** them where practicable, and

(iii) where adverse effects cannot be **minimised** they are remedied where practicable, and

(iv) where **residual adverse effects** cannot be avoided, **minimised**, or remedied, **biodiversity offsetting** is provided where possible, and

(v) if **biodiversity offsetting** of **residual adverse effects** is not possible, the activity itself is avoided unless the activity is **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** then **biodiversity compensation** is provided, and

(vi) the activity itself is avoided if **biodiversity compensation** cannot be undertaken in a way that is appropriate as set out in Schedule G3, including Clause 2 of that schedule, and

(d) for all other sites within the coastal environment not meeting Policy 11(a) or (b) of the NZCPS, manage significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values using the effects management hierarchy set out in (b) to (g) of Policy P32.

*Note*

Any site or habitat in the Wellington Region known to meet NZCPS Policy 11(a) criteria is shown in the NRP Schedules by this icon 

### Policy P39: Existing Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities within a site that meets any of the criteria in Policy P38(a)(i) - (v) or (b) or included in Schedule F5 COASTAL

Consider providing for the operation, maintenance, **upgrade** and **extension** of existing **Regionally Significant Infrastructure** and **renewable energy generation activities** within a site in the coastal environment that meets any of the criteria in Policy P38(a)(i) - (v) or (b) or included in Schedule F5 where:

(a) there is a **functional need** or **operational requirement** for the activity to locate in that area, and

(b) there is no practicable alternative on land or elsewhere in the coastal environment for the activity to be located, and

(c) the activity provides for the maintenance and, where practicable, the enhancement or **restoration** of the affected significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes at, and in proximity to, the affected area, taking into account any consultation with the Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and **mana whenua**.

### Policy P40: Kaiwharawhara Stream Estuary

COASTAL

When considering the effects of **port related activities** in the Kaiwharawhara Stream Estuary in Schedule F4 (which includes aquatic ecosystems, habitats, species and areas listed in Policy P38(a)(i) - (v) or (b)) or included in Schedule F5 recognise:

(a) that the estuary is located within a working port that needs to provide for efficient and safe operations, the development of capacity for shipping and take account of connections to other transport modes, and

(b) that there must be a **functional need** or **operational requirement** for the activity to locate in that area and there is no practicable alternative on land or elsewhere in the coastal marine area for the activity to be located, and

(c) the extent to which the significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes at and in proximity to the estuary, are enhanced or restored as part of a biodiversity management plan that sets out how the significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes will be affected by the activity, and

(d) the matters in Policy P39.

### Policy P41: Wellington Airport South Coastal Environment

COASTAL

When considering the effects of airport related activities within a site that meets any of the criteria in Policy P38(a)(i) – (v) or (b) or included in Schedule F5 recognise:

(a) that the existing airport is located in the coastal environment and the airport needs to provide for its efficient and safe operations, and the development of capacity to sustain the potential of the airport to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations, and

(b) that there must be a **functional need** or **operational requirement** for the activity to locate in that area and there is no practicable alternative on land or elsewhere in the coastal marine area for the activity to be located, and

(c) the extent to which any significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes are enhanced or restored as part of a biodiversity

management plan that sets out how the significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes will be affected by the activity, and

(d) the matters in Policy P39.

### 4.7.3 Sites with significant indigenous biodiversity value

#### Policy P42: Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values

COASTAL

Protect in accordance with Policy P31 and Policies P38-P41 and, where appropriate, restore the following ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values:

(a) the rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems identified in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), and

(b) the habitats for indigenous birds identified in Schedule F2 (bird habitats), and

(c) **natural wetlands**, including the **natural wetlands** identified in Schedule F3 (identified **natural wetlands**), and

(d) the ecosystems and habitat-types with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal marine area identified in Schedule F4 (coastal sites) and Schedule F5 (coastal habitats).

*Note*

All **natural wetlands** in the Wellington Region are considered to be ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values as they meet at least two of the criteria listed in Policy 23 of the Regional Policy Statement 2013 for identifying indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values; being representativeness and rarity.

#### Policy P43: Effects on the spawning and migration of indigenous fish species

Avoid more than minor adverse effects of activities on indigenous fish species known to be present in any water body identified in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes) as habitat for indigenous fish species or Schedule F1b (inanga spawning habitats), during known spawning and migration times identified in Schedule F1a (fish spawning/migration). These activities may include the following:

(a) discharges of contaminants, including sediment, and

(b) disturbance of the bed or banks that would affect spawning habitat at peak times of the year, and

(c) damming, diversion or taking of water which leads to loss of flow or which makes the river impassable to migrating indigenous fish.

### Policy P44: Managing effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values from activities outside these ecosystems and habitats

In order to protect the ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in accordance with Policy P42, particular regard shall be given to managing the adverse effects of use and development in areas outside of these ecosystems and habitats on physical, chemical and biological processes to:

(a) maintain ecological connections within and between these habitats, or

(b) provide for the enhancement of ecological connectivity between fragmented habitats through **biodiversity offsets**, and

(c) provide adequate buffers around ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and

(d) avoid cumulative adverse effects on, and the incremental loss of significant indigenous biodiversity values.

### Policy P45: Protecting trout habitat

Particular regard shall be given to the protection of trout habitat in rivers with important trout habitat identified in Schedule I (trout habitat). The effects of use and development in and around these rivers shall be managed to:

(a) maintain or improve water quality in accordance with the objectives in Table 3.4 and Table 3.5 of Objective O19, and

(b) **minimise** changes in flow regimes that would otherwise prevent trout from completing their life cycle, and

(c) maintain the amount of pool, run and riffle habitat, and

(d) **minimise** adverse effects on the beds of trout spawning waters identified in Schedule I (trout habitat).

### Policy P46: Wetland restoration management plans

**Restoration** activities that have more than minor adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Schedule F (indigenous biodiversity) are appropriate if they are undertaken as part of a **wetland restoration management plan**.

## 4.7.4 Sites with significant mana whenua values

### Policy P47: Protection and restoration of sites with significant mana whenua values

Sites with significant **mana whenua** values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua) shall be protected and restored by a mix of the following regulatory and non-regulatory methods: