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Glossary

Terms marked with a ^ϕ are terms defined in the Resource Management Act 1991

The Act	Unless expressly stated otherwise, means the Resource Management Act 1991 (including any amendments thereto).
Amenity values^ϕ	Means those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.
ANZECC	Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, comprising ministers for the environment of Australian states, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand. Used as a measure of organic pollution. The measured amount of oxygen required by acclimatised micro-organisms to biologically degrade the organic matter in wastewater.
Cleanfill	Generally a natural material such as clay, soil, and rock, and such other materials as concrete, brick or demolition products that are free of combustible or organic materials and are therefore not subject to biological or chemical breakdown.
Cleanfill landfill	A landfill used solely for the disposal of cleanfill.
Cleaner production	The conceptual and procedural approach to production that demands that all phases of the lifecycle of a product or of a process should be addressed with the objective of prevention or minimisation of short and long-term risks to humans and to the environment.
Closed landfill	A landfill which is no longer receiving waste.
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand.
Co-disposal	The disposal of appropriate hazardous wastes by mixing them, in an informed and pre-determined manner, with municipal refuse, so as to use the attenuation and biochemical processes operating within the landfill to reduce the environmental impact from the mixed waste to an insignificant level.

Co-disposal landfill	A landfill used for the disposal of special hazardous wastes in combination with community wastes. Leachate and gaseous omissions from a co-disposal landfill should not be materially different from those generated from an operating landfill managed by a territorial authority.
Composting	The biological reduction of organic waste to a relatively stable product.
Contaminant^φ	Includes any substance (including gases, liquids, solids and micro-organisms) or energy (excluding noise) or heat, that either by itself or in combination with the same, similar, or other substances, energy or heat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) When discharged into water, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of water; or (b) When discharged onto or into land or into air, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of the land or air onto or into which it is discharged.
Contaminated site	A contaminated site is a site at which hazardous substances occur at concentrations above background levels and where assessment indicates it poses, or is likely to pose an immediate or long term hazard to human health or the environment.
Controlled activity^φ	An activity which - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Is provided for, as a controlled activity, by a rule in a plan or proposed plan; and (b) Complies with standards and terms specified in a plan or proposed plan for such activities; and (c) Is assessed according to matters the consent authority has reserved control over in the plan or proposed plan; and (d) Is allowed only if a resource consent is obtained in respect of that activity.
Discharge^φ	Includes emit, deposit and allow to escape.
Discharge permit	A consent to do something (other than in the coastal marine area) that otherwise would contravene Section 15 [of the Resource Management Act 1991].

- Discretionary activity^ϕ** Any activity -
- (a) Which is provided for, as a discretionary activity, by a rule in a plan or proposed plan; and
 - (b) Which is allowed only if a resource consent is obtained in respect of that activity; and
 - (c) Which may have standards and terms specified in a plan or proposed plan; and
 - (d) In respect of which the consent authority may restrict the exercise of its discretion to those matters specified in the plan or proposed plan for that activity.
- Ecosystem** A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.
- Effect^ϕ** Unless the context otherwise requires, the term “effect” includes:
- (a) Any positive or adverse effect; and
 - (b) Any temporary or permanent effect; and
 - (c) Any past, present, or future effect; and
 - (d) Any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects -
- regardless of the scale, intensity, duration, or frequency of the effect, and also includes -
- (e) Any potential effect of high probability; and
 - (f) Any potential effect of low probability which has a high potential impact.
- Environment^ϕ** Includes:
- (a) Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and
 - (b) All natural and physical resources; and
 - (c) Amenity values, and
 - (d) The social, economic, aesthetic and cultural conditions which affect the matters stated in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this definition or which are affected by those matters.

Eutrophication	Process by which water (usually freshwater) becomes rich in nutrients, causing excessive plant growth which kills animal life by deprivation of oxygen.
Farm landfill	A landfill situated on production land in which the disposal of waste generated from that land takes place, not including any dead animal material or any waste generated from any industrial or trade process on that production land.
Greenwaste	Vegetative material. The material may include soil that is attached to plant roots and shall be free of hazardous substances and wastes.
Groundwater	Water that occupies or moves through pores, cavities, cracks, and other spaces in crustal rocks.
Hazardous substance	<p>Any substance:</p> <p>(a) With one or more of the following intrinsic properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Explosiveness; (ii) Flammability; (iii) A capacity to oxidise; (iv) Corrosiveness; (v) Toxicity, (both acute and chronic); (vi) Ecotoxicity, with or without bioaccumulation; or <p>(b) Which on contact with air or water (other than air or water where the temperature or pressure has been artificially increased or decreased) generates a substance with any one or more of the properties specified in paragraph (a) of this definition.</p>
Hazardous waste	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A hazardous substance which has not been used and requires disposal; or (b) The residue of a hazardous substance which has been used and requires disposal; or (c) Waste material containing a hazardous substance.

Highly hazardous substance or waste	Any substance or waste belonging to any of the categories described in Appendix 4 of this Plan, unless such wastes or substances do not possess any of the hazardous characteristics listed in Appendix 5 of this Plan.
Industrial or trade premises^ϕ	Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Any premises used for any industrial or trade purposes; or (b) Any premises used for the storage, transfer, treatment, or disposal of waste materials or for other waste management purposes, or used for composting organic materials; or (c) Any other premises from which a contaminant is discharged in connection with any industrial or trade process - <p>and includes any factory farm; but does not include any production land.</p>
Intractable waste	Any hazardous waste that does not degrade naturally into non-hazardous residues over time when released into the environment, and for which there is no present environmentally acceptable method of treatment or disposal currently available in New Zealand. It should be noted that not all hazardous wastes are intractable wastes.
Kai Tahu	Descendants of Tahu, the tribe.
Kaitiakitanga^ϕ	The exercise of guardianship and, in relation to a resource, includes the ethic of stewardship based on the nature of the resource itself.
Landfill	A site used for the deposit of solid wastes onto or into land.
Leachate	A liquid contaminant resulting from the liquid being exuded from or percolated through some more-or-less solid matter.
Local authority	A regional council or territorial authority.
Manawhenua	Those with rangatiritanga for a particular area of land or district.
Method	The practical action by which a policy is implemented.

Mitigate	To make or become less severe or harsh. To moderate.
New landfill	A site to be used as a landfill.
Non-complying activity	An activity (not being a prohibited activity) which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Contravenes a rule in a plan or proposed plan; and (b) Is allowed only if a resource consent is obtained in respect of that activity.
Non-point source discharge	Runoff or leachate from land, onto or into land, air, a water body or the sea.
Objective	The desired result, end state, situation or condition that is aimed for.
Offal	Waste comprised of dead animal matter.
Offal pit	A disposal hole excavated for the purpose of disposing of offal.
Operating landfill	Any landfill that is currently accepting solid waste for disposal.
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyl.
PCP	Pentachlorophenol.
Permitted activity^ϕ	Any activity that is allowed by a plan without a resource consent if it complies in all respects with any conditions (including any conditions in relation to any matter described in Section 108 or Section 220 [of the Resource Management Act]) specified in the plan.
Point source discharge	A discharge from a specific and identifiable source, onto or into land, air, a water body or the sea.
Policy	The course of action to achieve the objective.
Production land^ϕ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Means any land and auxiliary buildings used for the production (but not processing) of primary products (including agricultural, pastoral, horticultural, and forestry products) (b) Does not include land or auxiliary buildings used or associated with prospecting, exploration, or mining for minerals or used for factory farming, - and “Production” has a corresponding meaning.

Recycling	The return of discarded waste materials to the production system for utilisation in the manufacture of goods, with a view to the conservation as far as practicable of non-renewable and scarce resources.
Resource consent^ϕ	<p>Means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A consent to do something that otherwise would contravene Section 9 or Section 13 (in [the Resource Management] Act called a “land use consent”); (b) A consent to do something that otherwise would contravene Section 11 (in [the Resource Management] Act called a “subdivision consent”); (c) A consent to do something in a coastal marine area that otherwise would contravene any of Sections 12, 14 and 15 (in the [Resource Management] Act called a “coastal permit”); (d) A consent to do something (other than in a coastal marine area) that otherwise would contravene Section 14 (in the [Resource Management] Act called a “water permit”); (e) A consent to do something (other than in a coastal marine area) that otherwise would contravene section 15 (in the [Resource Management] Act called a “discharge permit”); <p>And includes all conditions to which the consent is subject.</p>
Solid waste	The combination of domestic, industrial and commercial waste including non-hazardous special wastes, also known as community waste.
Takaroa	Guardian of the waterways.
Territorial authority	A city or district council.
Waste	Any contaminant, whether liquid, solid, gaseous, or radioactive, which is: discharged, emitted or deposited in the environment in such volume, constituency or manner as to cause an adverse effect on the environment and which includes all unwanted and economically unusable by-products at any given place and time, and any other matter which may be discharged, accidentally or otherwise, to the environment.

Waste analysis protocol	A system developed by the Ministry for the Environment to provide a database/knowledge on New Zealand's waste stream.
Waste management	The transportation, resource recovery, recycling, storage, treatment and disposal of wastes, including management systems to ensure that environmental effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated. Waste management also encompasses measures to avoid waste generation.
Waste minimisation	The modification of existing processes or behaviour to reduce waste production to a minimum.
Water body^ϕ	Means fresh water or geothermal water in a river, lake, stream, pond, wetland, or aquifer, or any part thereof, that is not located within the coastal marine area.

GLOSSARY