

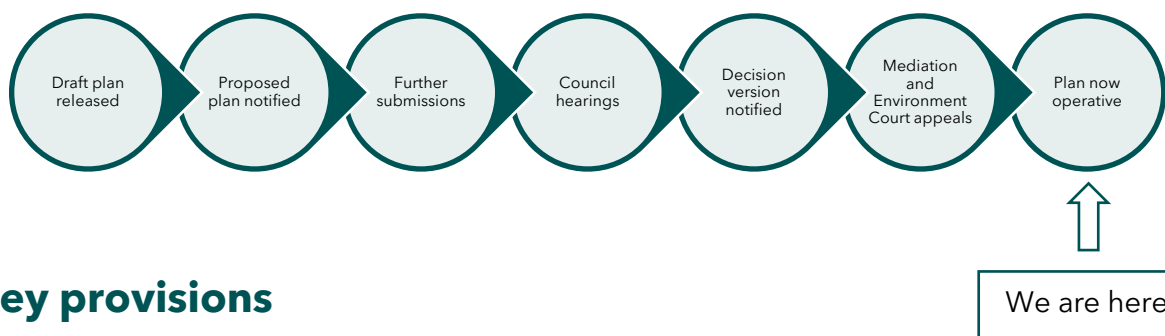
# Plan Change 13 (Air Quality)

Bay of Plenty | August 2025

## What is Plan Change 13 (Air Quality)?

Plan Change 13 (PC13) is a review of the region's air discharge rules and replaces the Regional Air Plan with a chapter in the Regional Natural Resources Plan. It sets out the policy and rules which control discharges of contaminants into air in the Bay of Plenty region.

While most of PC13 was resolved through Court-assisted mediation, the Court has directed the Regional Council to notify further provisions to manage air quality, particularly to manage particulate matter in the air from the storage and handling of bulk solid materials and logs in the Mount Maunganui Airshed. The plan has also been updated to give effect to national direction for greenhouse gas emissions from heating sources, which has implications for any greenhouse growers in the Bay of Plenty region heating with fossil fuels.



## Key provisions

- Greenhouse growers using heat devices that emit greenhouse gases (like natural gas) need a resource consent to discharge those emissions to air.
- Before granting that resource consent, the regional council must consider the total greenhouse gas emissions from all heat devices on the site and recognise that cumulatively, those discharges will contribute to climate change.
- Greenhouse growers will require an emissions plan as part of their application for resource consent.
- When evaluating that emissions plan, the regional council must consider the timing and content of updates to the emissions plan and how those updates reflect changes in technology and best practices – basically are you implementing the best available option to reduce your emissions at pace.

Note: While not explicit in the Bay of Plenty plan, the relevant national direction recognises that energy transition will occur over time, and changes must be technically feasible and financially viable.

- The changes come through policies AIR-P9 and AIR-P10 of the plan, which give effect to the [National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat](#).

## WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Bay of Plenty Regional Council website](#)
- Keep an eye on [HortNZ's website](#)