

## 1.2. WHAT IS THE DISTRICT PLAN?

The Wellington City District Plan sets out the policies and rules that Wellington City Council uses to manage the city's natural and built environment – sustainably, sensibly and fairly. It is a legal document which Wellington City Council is required to have under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA).

The RMA is New Zealand's main piece of environmental legislation, and provides a framework for managing the effects of activities on the environment. The key aim of both the RMA and the District Plan is sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Sustainable management means balancing current human needs and activities with the need to protect the natural, physical and built environments and the resources they provide.

In addition to outlining the appropriate scope and processes, the RMA also provides a wider regulatory structure that includes the District Plan. This structure is outlined below.

The District Plan is not the only city planning tool used by the Council. The Council's approach to city planning is much broader, drawing not only on the District Plan but also on other strategies and policies covering a wide range of issues (eg transport, urban design, heritage or parks). Some areas also have location-specific documents, such as the Johnsonville Town Centre Plan. These plans, policies and strategies often feed into the District Plan in addition to containing other processes and methods of implementation.

