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Submitted Report Exemplar

Level 3 Education for Sustainability

Achievement Standard 90831

Analyse the impact that policies have on a sustainable future

Achievement

TOTAL

04

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

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Education for Sustainability

Level 3

2022

90831

Policies are used by governments to address certain issues in the social and economic environment. Policies are usually generated to to public pressure about certain issues and vary widely in success and intent. Two policies that have impacted the social and natural environment are the Marine Reserves Act and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Marine Reserve Act 1971

The Marine Reserve Act of 1971 provided a basis for the creation of marine reserves in New Zealand waters. A marine reserve is a designated area that can be created by the Governor General. The Act states that it is in the national interest to protect underwater scenery or features of distinctive quality. The marine reserve is an area defined as the water of an area going from the surface of the water and vertically down to the seabed and foreshore.

The main intent of the policy was the preservation of the marine environment through the creation of marine reserves. Marine reserves are places of no-take meaning you cannot take organisms and elements of the environment such as driftwood and seashell. This helps to maintain the local ecosystem.

Research was another important intention when the policy was created. Marine reserves provide a marine environment that can be used to compare marine areas that have been impacted by humans with one that hasn't.

Another key intent is the maintaining of public access to Marine Reserves. This helps to educate the public about the local environment and ecosystems and helps conservation efforts.

The Marine Reserve Act of 1971 was brought to parliament due to the change in public opinion from a more colonial/exploitative view of the environment towards a more protective view of the environment. The act also served to support environmental research and help bring increased awareness over marine environments and the factors that threaten them.

The main factors that contributed to the Marine Reserve Act being passed was a desire to better research the marine environment and analyse the impact humans were having on it. Protecting marine areas with unique and valuable features would also support tourism and help support the pacific paradise that was being advertised to international tourists at the time. The extra money from tourism would also help offset the money lost from commercial fishing in these areas, although in the long term the establishment of no-take marine reserves would help keep the fishing industries alive by providing spaces where fish can grow and reproduce.

Because of the 51 years that have passed the Marine Reserve Act should be updated to the current climate. While a revision was created in 2002 it is yet to be voted on in parliament. Some of the issues that the Marine Reserve Act have are that marine reserves can only be created with the intent of scientific research meaning that many accessible areas might not become marine reserves because they hold more value to the public than to researchers.

In addition the act doesn't account for local iwi who often use the marine environment to obtain food. Creating a no take reserve might cut iwi off from a food supply used for generations. While some marine iwis might support a marine reserve in the area they are often ignored in the development and management of reserves.

However there are benefits to the no take style of reserves. Studies show that fish populations have gotten significantly bigger around no-take areas and do help to protect endangered biodiversity and educate people about these areas. In terms of tourism, around 350,000 swimmers and scientists visit the Leigh Marine Reserve each year. This provides a great support to the local economies since people are more likely to stay in areas that have access to marine reserves. This means that while the process for creating a marine reserve is rather dated, the reserves themselves have helped improve the sustainability of local ecosystems.

There are several developments that have been created from the Marine Reserve Act. The first one is the criteria and conditions for creating marine reserves. The policy states that a marine reserve can be created by the governor general.

Another development from the Marine Reserve Act is the protection of many marine species. A marine reserve is generally something that helps protect natural environment and resources but with the department of conservation being the main administrative agency for this act it focuses the protection of species over anything else.

One major development is the research done at marine reserves. The department of conservation has a specific marine protected area research programme that allows agencies such as DOC, fisheries New Zealand and ministry for the environment, as well as other research agencies, to research the environment present at marine reserves and have funding through the government's funding for conservation. This research helps support the marine environment and other conservation efforts.

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 is a statement created by the government from the Resource Management Act of 1991. The Resource management act states that at all times there must be a coastal policy statement and that it will guide authorities in their day to day management of coastal environments. The first Coastal Policy Statement was published in 1994 but was updated in 2010. The coastal defence policy 2010 is the current coastal policy statement that authorities use. Some practices that the coastal policy statement includes are criteria for creating and maintaining ports and areas of commerce, development of recreational coastal activities, discharge of chemicals and waste in coastal environments and a total of 26 other policies.

The intent of the policy is to provide a guideline for local and regional councils. This allows them to have easier access to a set of rules without needing to consult main government policy. Its main focuses are the protection of the coastal environment and ecosystems, upholding Te tiriti o Waitangi, enabling continual public access and recreation in coastal environments and to meet international standards in regards to coastal environments.

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 was published by the New Zealand government at the end of 2010. Around this time a growing number of people were drawing attention to rapid climate change, in addition an increase in the value of Maori ideas and respecting Te tiriti o Waitangi can be seen around this time.

There is a large array of issues in the coastal policy statement, however the main focus is around climate change and addressing the threats posed by rapid climate change. This is due to the rising concerns internationally and publicly about the threat of climate change. This means a much greater emphasis is put onto preserving and protecting the environment than previous policy statements.

In addition the changes between the 1994 New Zealand Coastal Policy statement and the 2010 coastal policy statement is a greater emphasis on identifying coastal hazards. This is after the 1994 versions 6 policies around identifying risks were widely ranged and many were ineffective. The 2010 version was updated to include policies of not only identifying coastal hazards but defending against them, subdivision and development of areas affected by coastal hazards and strategies for defending existing development in hazardous coastal areas.

The 2010 coastal policy statement does have some issues, policy statements in general can be problematic in regards to them usually being very broad. The Coastal policy statement is no exception. This can be problematic for local councils since the statement only provides broad strokes leaving the specifics and interpretation up to councils which can create inconsistencies and implementation of coastal policies. It has also led to the lack of consistent and accepted methods of assessing coastal hazards. This can be problematic since if a risk is not calculated correctly people could get injured or critical infrastructure could be damaged.

However the statement doesn't provide specifics, it still provides councils with the basic tools needed to approach situations. It also provides more up to date information since many policies can take a long time to get updated and promote out of date practices. The Department of Conservation in 2018 said that many councils that implemented a strategic and integrated result allowed for a better response in regards to coastal management.

The coastal policy statement creates many guidelines and criteria for different things that an authority might want to consider. This includes the identification of coastal hazards areas from threats like tsunamis and sea level rise. The main focus of this policy is the effects of a rising sea level, long term from climate change but also short term from storms. It also includes a statement about identifying human impacts on the coast.

Another policy mentioned by the statement is the identification and creation of heritage sites. This includes the identification of sites with archaeological evidence and managing heritage sites with the associated councils, heritage agencies and local iwi.

There are also many policies about coastal infrastructure and recreation. There is a focus on being clear and understanding the environmental, social and economic limits of the coastal environment. For aquaculture the policy states that “(b) taking account of the social and economic benefits of aquaculture, including any available assessments of national and regional economic benefits”. The development of infrastructure policies vary much more and include statements on ports, strategic planning (in regard to development) and the reclamation and de-reclamation of land and its impacts on the environment.

In conclusion both the Marine Reserve Act and the 2010 coastal policy statement have had a great impact on the environmental sustainability of New Zealand's coastal and marine environment.

The Marine Reserve Act has increased local fish populations, supported public knowledge and helped conservation and research efforts.

By providing a safe environment for fish they allow fisheries to continue to have plentiful fish stocks enabling them to be utilised far into the future, the act has also supported the continual support from the public in regards to coastal conservation thanks to the public being able to come and visit these areas.

The New Zealand Coastal Policy statement 2010 is a basic tools that has helped authorities manage the coastal areas of New Zealand and has allowed for many councils to better utilise their coastal environments and despite its lack of specificity it still proves a useful tool.

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Achievement Exemplar 2022

Subject	Education for Sustainability		Standard	90831	Total score	04
Q	Grade score	Annotation				
1	A4	<p>The candidate has provided sufficient evidence to meet A4 requirements. The relationship between policies and the aspects of sustainability has been explained. There was some evidence of evaluation, which meets A4 criteria. The evidence provided does not reach M5, as the policies were not evaluated in depth with regard to achieving their intended outcomes. Reference to Māori concepts and values relating to the natural environment were inferred only. This response would have been improved with closer links to aspects of sustainability.</p>				