

Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

The Wairarapa has a rich biodiversity, including some special plants and animals that are unique to the Wairarapa.

The RMA requires district councils to recognise and provide for the protection of significant *indigenous vegetation* and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. In addition, a function of district councils under the RMA is the control of any effects of the use, development, or protection of land, for the purpose of maintaining indigenous biological diversity (abbreviated to 'biodiversity').

Historically, the dominant indigenous forest species of inland Wairarapa were typically a range of podocarps in the hill country, and rimu and tawa on the plains. *Natural inland wetlands* were dominant features of the plains, with Lake Wairarapa and its environs forming the largest *wetland* system in the lower North Island. Human settlement has resulted in most of the Wairarapa's *indigenous vegetation* being significantly reduced or heavily modified, through clearance of large areas of *indigenous vegetation*, drainage of *wetlands*, and the introduction of exotic species, including pests. Today, while little deliberate modification takes place, the main threats to indigenous forests are stock browsing and plant and animal pest infestation.

These pressures mean it is important to protect the remaining areas of significant indigenous vegetation and fauna on a long-term sustainable basis where indigenous species can regenerate naturally and through restoration. Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitat of indigenous fauna are identified in SCHED5 Significant Natural Areas. While a number of these SCHED5 *Significant Natural Areas* in the Wairarapa are already in public ownership and legally protected (e.g., Lake Wairarapa and wetlands, and the Tararua, Remutaka, and Aorangi Forest Parks), outside these areas many remaining areas of remnant indigenous forest and *natural inland wetlands* have no legal protection, although pockets of remnant indigenous forest and *natural inland wetland* are increasingly being protected by landowner initiatives such as QEII covenants. SCHED6 Recommended Areas of Protection is provided for informational purposes. This schedule reflects areas identified in Department of Conservation publication: Eastern Wairarapa Ecological District, 2004. The Recommended Areas for Protection (RAP) are areas that are not identified as *Significant Natural Areas* but were identified as containing indigenous biodiversity values of significance. There are no objectives, policies, or rules that relate to the RAP, but they are included in the District Plan to ensure visibility to the community and landowners of their conservation value.

A number of activities have the potential to adversely affect remaining *indigenous vegetation* and fauna habitats. Such activities and their effects include uncontrolled stock grazing that can damage indigenous forest understorey and limit regeneration, and the fragmentation of remnant indigenous forest and *natural inland wetland* areas through clearance for pasture and exotic forestry. Other threats include feral animals, invasion of weeds, and drainage.

Many landowners are aware of the value of *indigenous vegetation* on their property, and most do what they can to protect and maintain these areas. Indeed, many landowners highly value the remnant indigenous forest and *natural inland wetland* areas within their property and regard them as heritage assets for future generations. However, the costs of actively protecting and maintaining such areas long-term can be large, and support, both in terms of expertise and resources, is often required to ensure effective ongoing management.

The Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapter seeks to protect the *Significant Natural Areas* and maintain and enhance other indigenous biodiversity values through a combination of regulatory and non-regulatory methods. The regulatory methods are outlined in provisions of this chapter and other relevant chapters of the District Plan. Non-regulatory methods include:

- a. Information and education on the value of the Wairarapa's biodiversity and its significant natural areas, including the need to consider their values when planning an activity or development.
- b. Incentives and information as appropriate to encourage landowners to protect natural habitats, such as rates relief, support with fencing and pest control, funding sources, and assistance with applications for protective covenants.
- c. Use of other statutory functions and powers to promote biodiversity such as the Reserves Act 1977.
- d. Cooperation with landowners, organisations, groups and interested parties involved in conservation management.
- e. Support of local conservation care groups and programmes.
- f. The purchase of *Significant Natural Areas* where full protection of the area or public access is justifiable.
- g. As appropriate, use Heritage Orders to protect specific areas, particularly significant areas under immediate threat.

In relation to *natural inland wetlands*, the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 ("NES-F") provides a national environmental standard for activities on or near *natural inland wetlands*. The NES-F contains a set of planning controls that directs the requirement for consent or otherwise for activities on or near *natural inland wetlands*. Regional councils are responsible for applying and enforcing the provisions of the NES-F. Therefore, the District Plan and district councils do not manage *natural inland wetlands*.

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) includes specific direction for the protection of indigenous biodiversity in the coastal environment. While the provisions of the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapter apply district-wide (including in the Coastal Environment), additional provisions to protect indigenous vegetation in the Coastal Environment are located in the Coastal Environment chapter.

Objectives

ECO-O1	Indigenous biodiversity
Indigenous biodiversity within the Wairarapa is maintained and enhanced, or restored where degraded so there is at least no overall loss in indigenous biodiversity.	
ECO-O2	Significant <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and significant habitats of indigenous fauna
Areas of significant <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and significant habitats of indigenous fauna within the Wairarapa are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.	
ECO-O3	Tangata whenua relationships and traditions with indigenous biodiversity
Recognise and provide for the relationship of tangata whenua and their traditions and culture with indigenous biodiversity.	

Policies

ECO-P1	Coordination of indigenous biodiversity initiatives
Coordinate with other agencies, stakeholders, organisations, and tangata whenua in identifying risks, requirements, opportunities, and effective methods for protecting and enhancing Wairarapa's indigenous biodiversity and restoring the Wairarapa's indigenous biodiversity where it has been degraded.	
ECO-P2	Collaborate with indigenous biodiversity initiatives
Collaborate with other agencies and organisations in undertaking joint initiatives and in supporting landowners' initiatives in the protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity and restoring the Wairarapa's indigenous biodiversity where it has been degraded.	
ECO-P3	Identify areas of significant <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and significant or habitats of indigenous fauna
Identify with tangata whenua and landowners those areas that are habitats comprising significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna in the Wairarapa, including through resource consent processes using the significance criteria in the Wellington Regional Policy Statement.	

ECO-P4	Protect areas of significant <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and significant or habitats of indigenous fauna
Protect those areas that are habitats comprising significant <i>indigenous vegetation</i> or significant habitats of indigenous fauna in the Wairarapa from inappropriate subdivision, land use, and development by: a. only providing for activities that demonstrate an <i>operational need</i> or <i>functional need</i> to be located in this area; b. ensuring areas are not removed in whole or part; c. requiring activities within or directly adjacent to these areas to manage their adverse effects in accordance with ECO-P6 and ECO-P13; and d. managing effects of vegetation modification within the margins of any <i>natural inland wetlands</i> and rely upon Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 in all other cases.	
ECO-P5	Appropriate activities for areas of significant <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and significant or habitats of indigenous fauna
Enable the following activities relating to habitats comprising significant <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and significant habitats of indigenous fauna in the Wairarapa where adverse effects are avoided where practicable or minimised: a. removal of broken branches, deadwood, diseased vegetation, or pest plant; b. maintenance of the safety and efficiency of <i>network utilities</i>; c. maintenance and minor upgrading of renewable electricity generation activities and electricity transmission activities; d. maintenance of existing access tracks for renewable electricity generation activities, electricity transmission activities, and <i>network utilities</i>; e. maintenance of existing access tracks, fencelines, and firebreaks and the construction of new fencelines and firebreaks; f. <i>customary activities</i>; and g. <i>conservation activities</i>.	
ECO-P6	Management of effects within significant <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and significant habitats of indigenous fauna
Manage the effects of subdivision, use, and development of significant <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and significant habitats of indigenous fauna in the Wairarapa by requiring that: a. adverse effects are avoided where practicable; then	

- b. where adverse effects cannot be avoided, they are minimised where practicable; then
- c. where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable; then
- d. where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, indigenous biodiversity offsetting is provided where possible; then
- e. where biodiversity offsetting of more than minor residual adverse effects is not possible, indigenous biodiversity compensation is provided; then
- f. if indigenous biodiversity compensation is not appropriate, the activity itself is avoided.

Nothing in Policy ECO-P6 applies to the development, operation, maintenance, or upgrade of renewable electricity generation activities or to electricity transmission activities.

ECO-P7

Appropriate *modification* of other indigenous vegetation

Provide for the *modification* of indigenous vegetation outside of habitats comprising significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna where:

- a. the *indigenous vegetation* is kanuka, manuka, or tauhinu;
- b. other *indigenous vegetation* where loss of mature *indigenous vegetation* is minimised;
- c. timber is for reasonable personal use of up to 50m³ over any 10-year period;
- d. the naturally occurring *indigenous vegetation* has grown under the canopy of a plantation forest or as a consequence of the harvesting of plantation forest;
- e. *the plantation forestry* and other vegetation has been planted and managed for horticulture or agriculture purposes;
- f. necessary for the avoidance of imminent danger to human life or property;
- g. activities are carried out subject to and in accordance with any specific covenants or other legal agreements entered into with the District Council, or Greater Wellington Regional Council, or Department of Conservation, or QEII Trust;
- h. it is necessary for the construction or maintenance of a firebreak; and
- i. it is necessary for the operation, maintenance, and minor upgrading of network utilities, the National Grid, or renewable electricity generation activities.

ECO-P8

Management of effects on other *indigenous vegetation*

Manage the *modification* of *indigenous vegetation* outside of habitats comprising significant *indigenous vegetation* or significant habitats of indigenous fauna to ensure any

adverse effects on the indigenous biodiversity are avoided, remedied, or mitigated, considering:

- a. the significance and values of the vegetation and habitat;
- b. the extent of modification, including measures to avoid or minimise the loss, damage, or disruption to ecological processes, functions, and integrity of the vegetation and habitat;
- c. the effects of the *modification* on the significance and values of the vegetation and habitat, including potential cumulative effects;
- d. the functional or operational needs of infrastructure; and
- e. to require adverse effects of activities other than renewable electricity generation activities on biological diversity of indigenous species and habitats to be managed as follows:
 - i. Significant adverse effects are avoided where practicable; then
 - ii. Where significant adverse effects cannot be avoided, they are minimised where practicable; then
 - iii. Where significant adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable; then
 - iv. Where significant residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised or remedied, biodiversity offsetting is provided where possible; then
 - v. Where biodiversity offsetting of significant residual adverse effects is not possible, biodiversity compensation is provided; then
 - vi. If biodiversity compensation is not appropriate, the activity itself is avoided.

ECO-P9	Support and encourage protection and restoration of natural habitats on private land
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Support and encourage the protection of natural habitats on private land, including restoring and protecting linkages and ecological corridors.

ECO-P10	Public awareness of natural values
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Increase public awareness of the natural values within the Wairarapa and encourage community support for the protection and conservation of the Wairarapa's indigenous biodiversity.

ECO-P11	Keeping of goats
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Restrict the keeping or farming of goats near areas of significant *indigenous vegetation* and significant habitats of indigenous fauna to protect their natural values.

ECO-P12	Create conservation lots
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Provide for conservation lots to be created during land subdivision to protect areas of significant <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.	
ECO-P13	Renewable electricity generation activities within areas of significant indigenous vegetation or habitat
a. Allow renewable electricity generation activities to locate in areas with significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna in the Wairarapa, if: i. there is an <i>operational need</i> or <i>functional need</i> for the renewable electricity generation activity to be located in that area; ii. the renewable electricity generation activity is nationally or regionally significant; and iii. clause (b) is applied to manage adverse effects. b. Manage adverse effects by applying the following hierarchy: i. adverse effects are avoided where practicable; then ii. where adverse effects cannot be avoided, they are minimised where practicable; then iii. where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable; then iv. where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, <i>biodiversity offsetting</i> is provided where practicable; then v. if <i>biodiversity offsetting</i> of more than minor adverse effects is not practicable, <i>biodiversity compensation</i> is provided; then vi. if <i>biodiversity compensation</i> is not appropriate to address any residual adverse effects: 1. the renewable electricity generation activity must be avoided if the residual adverse effects are significant; but 2. if the residual adverse effects are not significant, the renewable electricity generation activity must be enabled if the national significance and benefits of the activity outweigh the residual adverse effects. c. When considering <i>biodiversity offsetting</i> and <i>biodiversity compensation</i>, have regard to the principles set out in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023.	

Rules

ECO-R1	<i>Modification of indigenous vegetation within a Significant Natural Area</i>
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The <i>modification of indigenous vegetation</i> is for one or more of the following: i. associated with a conservation activity or a customary activity; ii. trimming that is required to comply with the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 or the Telecommunications Act 2001; iii. modification to address an imminent danger to an electricity line; iv. carried out subject to and in accordance with any specific covenants or other legal agreements entered into with the District Council, or Greater Wellington Regional Council, or Department of Conservation, or QEII Trust; v. a pest plant species identified in Appendix ECO-1; vi. required to remove or trim branches of vegetation to the extent necessary to avoid them interfering with lawfully established structures, buildings, fencelines, network utilities, existing roads or access tracks; vii. required to remove or trim branches of vegetation to the extent necessary to erect a fenceline around the perimeter of the Significant Natural Area; viii. The <i>modification</i> is required in accordance with Section 43 and 64 of the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017; or ix. The modification is required to remove vegetation infected by an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993.
All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted Discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with ECO-R1(1)(a)(ii) or (iii). Matters of discretion: 1. The matters set out in ECO-P5 and ECO-P6. 2. The functional need and operational need of, and benefits from, the maintenance, repair, or upgrade, including the potential effects on levels of service or health and safety if the works are not undertaken.

All zones	3. Activity status: Discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with ECO-R1(1)(a)(i), (iv) – (ix).
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ECO-R2	<i>Modification of indigenous vegetation outside of a Significant Natural Area</i>
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where one or more of the following applies: a. The <i>modification</i> is associated with <i>conservation activities</i> or <i>customary activities</i>; b. Compliance is achieved with ECO-S1; c. No more than 50m³ of timber harvested for reasonable personal use over any 10-year period; d. The operation and/or maintenance and repair of existing pasture, fences, drains, <i>structures</i>, <i>network utilities</i>, and <i>infrastructure</i>, fire breaks including existing <i>roads</i> or tracks (including walking or cycling tracks); e. The modification is required for the operation, maintenance, or minor upgrading of the National Grid; f. Trimming that is required to comply with the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 or Telecommunications Act 2001; g. Activities carried out subject to and in accordance with any specific covenants or other legal agreements entered into with the District Council, or Greater Wellington Regional Council, or Department of Conservation, or QEII Trust; h. The trimming or removal of <i>indigenous vegetation</i> that has been planted and managed specifically for commercial horticulture, <i>plantation forestry</i>, or agricultural purposes; or i. For the avoidance of loss of life, injury, or serious damage to property; j. The <i>modification</i> is required in accordance with Section 43 and 64 of the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017; k. The modification is required to remove vegetation infected by an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with ECO-R2(1). Matters of discretion: 1. The matters identified in Policy ECO-P8.
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ECO-R3	<i>Keeping of goats</i>
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The <i>site(s)</i> on which the goats are kept is not located within 2km of the Natural Open Space Zone; and b. Compliance is achieved with ECO-S2.
All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with ECO-R3(1). Matters of discretion: - The effect of non-compliance with any relevant standard and the matters of discretion of any standard that is not met. - The area and location of the activity. - The risk of reinvasion should goats escape from the site (i.e. proximity to conservation land, or features that act as natural corridors to invasion). - The suitability of fencing for effectively containing goats within the property, having regard to both the goat proof fencing standard ECO-S1 and the nature of the terrain. - The method of disposing of the goats in the event of the activity being discontinued. - Potential effect on <i>indigenous</i> biodiversity on the site or in the adjacent conservation area. - Reporting and inspection requirements. - Methods of stock identification.

Standards

ECO-S1	<i>Modification of indigenous vegetation</i>
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1. <i>Indigenous vegetation</i> is not within 20m of a <i>natural inland wetland</i>; 2. The <i>indigenous vegetation</i> is kanuka, manuka, or tauhinu; and 3. Any other <i>indigenous vegetation</i> species where: a. the vegetation <i>height</i> is less than 4m and trunk diameter is less than 30cm as measured 1.4m above ground; and b. all other cases, for land held in a single record of title, there is no more than 10% of the total area of vegetation and no more than 200m² of vegetation is <i>modified</i> in any 5-year period.	Matters of discretion: 1. The matters identified in Policy ECO-P8.
ECO-S2	Fencing requirements for the <i>keeping of goats</i>
1. All goats shall be contained within fenced areas, with fencing that meets the following requirements: a. wire post-and-batten fence with no internal or external stays and with a minimum of high tensile 2.5mm diameter galvanised steel, and either: i. nine wires, with the bottom wire placed no higher than 80mm above ground level and, above that, wires placed at the following intervals: 100, 100, 100, 110, 120, 135, 150, and 165mm. The top wire should be approximately 50mm below the top of the post; or ii. seven wires, with the bottom wire barbed, and no higher than 80mm above ground level and, above that, wires placed at the following intervals 100, 120, 140, 160, 210, and 250mm. The top wire should be approximately 50mm below the top of the post. An electric wire on an	Matters of discretion: 1. Whether the proposed alternative fence design or other means of containment (by enclosure or tether) will adequately contain the keeping of goats within the <i>site</i>.

outrigger shall also extend for the full length of the fence. b. posts must be at the following intervals: i. less than 30 degrees ground slope: 5m; ii. 30 degrees to less than 45 degrees: 4m; and iii. 45 degrees or more: 3m; c. battens must be at 1m intervals; and d. fences across water bodies shall also require a floodgate to be constructed of H3 treated 100mm x 50mm timber suspended from an overhead wire or rail in such a way that the spacings will allow the passage of water but will not allow stock including goats to pass through. A cross-bar shall be positioned in the top third of the floodgate. Wire netting will not be used in floodgate construction. Flood gates across culverted watercourses shall be on the downstream side of the culvert.	
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APPENDIX ECO-1: Pest Plant Species

(Derived from the Wellington Regional Pest Management Plan)

Common name	Species
African club moss	<i>Selaginella kraussiana</i>
African feather grass	<i>Pennisetum macrourum</i>
African fountain grass	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>
Apple of Sodom	<i>Solanum linnaeanum</i>
Artemisia	<i>Artemisia spp</i>
Artillery plant	<i>Galeobdolon luteum</i>
Arum lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>
Asiatic knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>
Australian sedge	<i>Carex longebrachiata</i>
Barberry	<i>Berberis glaucocarpa</i>
Bathurst bur	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>
Blackberry	<i>Rubus spp. barbed cultivars</i>
Blue morning glory	<i>Ipomoea indica</i>
Bomarea	<i>Bomarea caldasii, B. multiflora</i>
Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Brush wattle	<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i>
Buddleia	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
Californian arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria montevidensis</i>
Californian bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus californicus</i>
Cape honey flower	<i>Melianthus major</i>
Cape ivy	<i>Senecio angulatus</i>

Common name	Species
Cape tulip	<i>Moraea flaccida</i> (syn. <i>H omeria collina</i>)
Chilean flame creeper	<i>Tropaeolum speciosum</i>
Chinese pennisetum	<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>
Chocolate vine	<i>Akebia quinata</i>
Climbing asparagus	<i>Asparagus scandens</i>
Climbing dock	<i>Rumex sagittatus</i>
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster franchetii</i> , <i>C. horizontalis</i>
Crack willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
Darwin's barberry	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>
Delta arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>
Didymo	<i>Didymosphenia geminata</i>
Elaeagnus	<i>Elaeagnus x reflexa</i>
Evergreen buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>
German ivy	<i>Senecio mikanioides</i>
Giant knotweed	<i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i> and hybrids
Giant Hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Great bindweed	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>
Gunnera	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>
Hawaiian arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Himalayan honeysuckle	<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>

Common name	Species
Hornwort	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>
Houttuynia	<i>Houttuynia cordata</i>
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Japanese spindletree	<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>
Johnson grass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Lagarosiphon	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>
Madeira vine	<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>
Manchurian wild rice	<i>Zizania latifolia</i>
Marram grass	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>
Mexican daisy	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>
Mile-a-minute	<i>Dipogon lignosus</i>
Mist flower	<i>Ageratina riparia</i>
Monkey apple	<i>Acmena smithii</i>
Montbretia	<i>Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i>
Nasturtium	<i>Nasturtium officinalis</i>
Nodding thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Noogoora bur	<i>Xanthium occidentale</i>
Pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata, C. selloana</i>
Parrot's feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>
Perennial nettle	<i>Urtica dioica (subsp.)</i>
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>
Phragmites	<i>Phragmites australis</i>

Common name	Species
Plectranthus	<i>Plectranthus ciliatus</i>
Polypodium (common polypody)	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>
Purple ragwort	<i>Senecio glastifolius</i>
Pussy willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
Pyp grass	<i>Ehrharta villosa</i>
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Saffron thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>
Salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>
Silver poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>
Smilax	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Spanish heath	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>
Stinking iris	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>
Sweet pea shrub	<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Tradescantia	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>
Tuber ladder fern	<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>
Variegated thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>
Velvet groundsel	<i>Senecio petasitis</i>
Water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>
White bryony	<i>Bryonia cretica subsp. dioica</i>
White edged nightshade	<i>Solanum marginatum</i>
Wild ginger	<i>Hedychium, gardnerianum, H. flavescens</i>
Wild onion	<i>Allium vineale</i>

SCHEDULE 5 – Significant Natural Areas

Masterton District

SNA Number	Description
SNm01	Coastal Habitat (CP 002)
SNm02	Tararua State Forest Park
SNm03	Coastal Habitat (RV-CP 007)
SNm04	Coastal Habitat (RV-CP 005)
SNm05	Coastal Habitat (RV-CP 003)
SNm06	Coastal Habitat (RV-CP 001)
SNm07	Coastal Habitat (KW-CP 004)
SNm08	Coastal Habitat (KW-CP 003)
SNm09	Coastal Habitat (CP 003)
SNm10	Coastal Habitat (CP 001)

Carterton District

SNA Number	Description
SNc01	Coastal Habitat (GL-FP 007-009)
SNc02	Coastal Habitat (GL-FP 005)
SNc03	Coastal Habitat (GL-FP 003)
SNc04	Coastal Habitat (GL-FP 001)
SNc05	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(a)019)
SNc06	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(a)019)
SNc07	Tararua Forest Park
SNc08	Carrington Creek Stewardship Area

SNc09	Trenair Bush
SNc10	Carters Scenic Reserve
SNc11	Rocky Hills Sanctuary Reserve
SNc12	Waingawa Wetland

South Wairarapa District

SNA Number	Description
SNs01	Aorangi Forest Park
SNs02	Tararua Forest Park
SNs03	Remutaka Forest Park
SNs04	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(a) 016)
SNs05	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(a) 016)
SNs06	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(a) 015)
SNs07	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(a) 014)
SNs08	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(b) 013)
SNs09	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(b) 012)
SNs10	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(b) 011)
SNs11	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(b) 010)
SNs12	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(c) 009)
SNs13	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(c) 008)
SNs14	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(c) 006)
SNs15	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(c) 005)
SNs16	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(c) 004)
SNs17	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(c) 003)

Proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan
 SCHED5 – Significant Natural Areas

SNs18	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(c) 002)
SNs19	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(c) 001)
SNs20	Coastal Habitat (WR 001)
SNs21	Coastal Habitat (CPE 008)
SNs22	Coastal Habitat (CPE 007)
SNs23	Coastal Habitat (CPE 006)
SNs24	Coastal Habitat (CPE 005)
SNs25	Coastal Habitat (CPE 003)
SNs26	Coastal Habitat (CPE 001)
SNs27	Coastal Habitat (TH-NG(a) 003)
SNs28	Coastal Habitat (TH-NG(a) 002)
SNs29	Coastal Habitat (TH-NG(a) 001)
SNs30	Coastal Habitat (WH(a) 005)
SNs31	Coastal Habitat (WH(a) 004)
SNs32	Coastal Habitat (WH(b) 003)
SNs33	Coastal Habitat (WH(b) 002)
SNs34	Coastal Habitat (WH(b) 002)
SNs35	Coastal Habitat (OB 004)
SNs36	Coastal Habitat (OB 007)
SNs37	Coastal Habitat (OB 004)
SNs38	Coastal Habitat (OB 006)
SNs39	Coastal Habitat (OB 002)
SNs40	Coastal Habitat (TH 007)
SNs41	Coastal Habitat (TH 005)

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SNs42	Coastal Habitat (TH 006)
SNs43	Coastal Habitat (TH 004)
SNs44	Coastal Habitat (TH 003)
SNs45	Coastal Habitat (TH 001)
SNs46	Coastal Habitat (TH 001)
SNs47	Coastal Habitat (LF 002)
SNs48	Coastal Habitat (LF 001)
SNs49	Coastal Habitat (LF 003)
SNs50	Coastal Habitat (CPE 002)
SNs51	Coastal Habitat (CPE 004)
SNs52	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(c) 001)
SNs53	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(c) 001)
SNs54	Coastal Habitat (WR-HR(c) 001)
SNs55	Tora Bush Scenic Reserve

SCHEDULE 6 – Recommended Areas for Protection

Masterton District

RAP Number	RAP Name	Habitat type
<i>Wairarapa Plains</i>		
RAP 1	Dunvegan Forest Remnants	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 2	Waingawa River Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 6	Ruamāhanga River Terrace	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 8	Te Kopi Road	Indigenous Forest Remnant
<i>Eastern Wairarapa</i>		
RAP 11	Tinui River Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 12	Mt Percy Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 13	Springhill Station	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 14	Tauweru River Banks	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 15	Whakataki River Mouth	Wetland, Coastal Dunes
RAP 16	Rewanui and Rorokoro Gorge Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 17	Mangapakeha Taipos Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 18	Otahoua Swamp	Wetland

RAP Number	RAP Name	Habitat type
RAP 19	Waipapa Stream Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 20	Rewa Bush Extension	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 21	Whareama River Mouth	Coastal Dunes
RAP 22	Makahaka Stream	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 23	Whakatahine River Remnants	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 25	Ngaumu Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 26	Uriti Point Dunes	Coastal Dunes
RAP 30	Homewood Road Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant

Carterton District

RAP Number	RAP Name	Habitat type
<i>Wairarapa Plains</i>		
RAP 3	Waingawa Swamp	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 4	Fensham Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 5	Allen/Lowes Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant, Wetland
RAP 7	Peter's Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant

<i>Eastern Wairarapa</i>		
RAP 24	Kourarau Valley & Pukemangamana	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 27	Bankview	Indigenous Forest Remnant, Wetland
RAP 28	Kuamahanga Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 29	Wainuioru River Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 31	Te Wharau Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 32	Moetapu Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 33	Bush Stream Wetland	Wetland
RAP 34	Rocky Hills Extension	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 35	Flat Point Dunelands	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 36	Pukunui Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 38	Waiekekino Stream Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 39	Waimoana Wetland	Wetland
RAP 40	Glenburn Station Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 41	Honeycomb Light/Kahu Rock Headland	Wetland, Coastal Dunes
RAP 42	Honeycomb Rock Terrace	Coastal Dunes

South Wairarapa District

RAP Number	RAP Name	Habitat type
<i>Wairarapa Plains</i>		
RAP 9	Bucks Road Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 10	Tauherenikau	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 11	Ruamāhanga River Terrace Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 12	Lake Wairarapa Wetland Stewardship Area Extension	Wetland
RAP 13	Waiorongomai Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 14	Allsops Bay Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 15	Matagouri Scrub	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 16	Mangaroa	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 17	Lake Ōnoke, Kiriwai Lake and Ocean Beach Dunes	Wetland, Coastal Dunes
RAP 18	Wharekauhau Bush Fragments	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 19	Whangaimoana Stream Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
<i>Eastern Wairarapa</i>		
RAP 37	Mt Adams-Pahaoa River	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 43	Mākara River Bush Remnants	Indigenous Forest Remnant, Wetland

RAP Number	RAP Name	Habitat type
RAP 44	Lagoon Hills-Heights	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 45	Pahaoa	Coastal Dunes
RAP 46	Castle River	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 47	Tora Coastal Bush	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 48	Tora Coast	Indigenous Forest Remnant
RAP 49	White Rock Beach	Coastal Dunes

CE - Coastal Environment

The Wairarapa coastline extends for over 220 kilometres from south of Ocean Beach to north of Mataikona. The *coastal environment* is highly valued by iwi, and has natural character, landscape, historic heritage, and biodiversity values. In addition, the *coastal environment* is important as a recreation area, as well as for areas of pastoral farming and scattered residential occupation.

The District Councils are responsible for managing activities on land (the landward side of Mean High-Water Springs (MHWS)), and the Greater Wellington Regional Council is responsible for activities in the Coastal Marine Area (seaward of MHWS) through the Natural Resources Plan. Integrated management is necessary to manage activities that cross the jurisdictional boundary between regional and district councils.

The Combined District Plan must give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS), which requires a strategic approach to managing development on the coast. The identification and mapping of the *coastal environment* overlay, that has been undertaken in accordance with Policy 1 of the NZCPS and Policy 4 of the Wellington Regional Policy Statement, recognises the extent and characteristics of land with natural character, where coastal processes (including coastal erosion), influences or qualities are significant. It also recognises values that are important from a landscape, visual quality, amenity, historic, cultural, and ecological point of view. The *coastal environment* includes natural and modified landscapes. The *coastal environment* is made up of 12 distinctive zones or areas, each containing similar characteristics and qualities. These areas are:

- Mataikona;
- Whakataki;
- Whareama;
- Kaiwhata;
- Waimoana;
- Pahaoa;
- Awhea;
- Cape Palliser;
- Ngawi;
- Whatarangi;
- Onoke; and
- Mukamuka.

The preservation of natural character in the *coastal environment* and its protection from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development is a matter of national importance (section 6(a) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)). Policy 13 of the NZCPS provides guidance on the preservation of natural character in the *coastal environment*, and its protection from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. Policy 14 of the NZCPS promotes the restoration or rehabilitation of natural character of the *coastal environment*

including identifying areas for restoration and providing policies and methods in the District Plan. In addition to the general natural character values and attributes that exist in the *coastal environment*, the spatial extent of areas that are of *outstanding natural character and very high and high natural character* in the *coastal environment* have been identified that require special protection under Policy 13 of the NZCPS and Policy 24 of the Wellington Regional Policy Statement. These areas are identified at a localised or component scale, as opposed to the area scale of the 12 sections of the *coastal environment* outlined above.

The *coastal environment* also includes *Significant Natural Areas, Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Special Amenity Landscapes*, which are addressed through the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity and Natural Features and Landscape chapters in accordance with Policies 11 and 15 of the NZCPS. Outside those specific overlay areas, activities can be undertaken in accordance with the underlying zone provisions, subject to any other relevant overlays and district-wide rules.

Public access is to be encouraged and managing activities within the *coastal environment* allows for the consideration of the effects of proposals on existing or future public access. Any specific public access provisions relating to the *coastal environment* are contained in the Public Access chapter.

Coastal hazards, including coastal erosion, coastal inundation, and sea level rise, pose a significant threat to land use, people, and *infrastructure* in the Wairarapa. Sea level rise predictions indicate the Wairarapa coastline is particularly vulnerable as it is exacerbated through land subsidence caused by tectonic processes. The NZCPS directs councils to identify and map coastal hazards that pose a high risk with a forecast of 100 years. Where coastal hazards are not well understood, or there is insufficient information to understand the risk but adverse effects are potentially significant, the NZCPS directs that a precautionary approach must be adopted. A comprehensive coastal hazard assessment is yet to be undertaken for the Wairarapa. In the absence of this assessment, the *coastal environment* chapter adopts a precautionary approach through the identification of the *Foreshore Protection Area* where particular land use and development is restricted. The *Foreshore Protection Area* is identified as being the area 50 metres inland of MHWS in all areas, with the exception of Riversdale where this *Foreshore Protection Area* has been specifically mapped based on a local hazard assessment. The *Foreshore Protection Area* is of a width to generally provide adequate distance to avoid potential hazards associated with the natural processes of the ocean such as storm surges and coastal erosion, and to avoid the adverse effects of development on the natural character and ecology of the foreshore.

The Coastal Environment chapter sits alongside the underlying zone chapters. Objectives, policies, and rules of both this chapter and the associated zone chapter are applicable to any activities within the *coastal environment*. Generally, this chapter manages the effects of activities through effects-based provisions which differs from the activity-based provisions of the zone chapters.

Objectives

CE-O1	<i>Coastal environment</i>
The qualities that contribute to the <i>coastal environment</i> including natural character, landscape, historic, cultural, and ecological values are maintained and, where appropriate, restored or enhanced.	
CE-O2	<i>Coastal Natural Character</i>
The natural character of the <i>coastal environment</i> is preserved and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development, including by: a. protecting the qualities, characteristics, and values of areas of <i>Outstanding Natural Character</i> and <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i> in the landward extent of the <i>coastal environment</i>; and b. maintaining, and where appropriate enhancing natural character in all other areas of the <i>coastal environment</i> and restoring natural character within the <i>coastal environment</i> where it has been degraded.	
CE-O3	Risk from coastal hazards
The risk and consequences from coastal hazards including the impacts of sea level rise on people, property, <i>infrastructure</i> , and the environment are reduced or not increased.	
CE-O4	Tangata Whenua values
Tangata whenua values, mātauranga, and tikanga are recognised and provided for in resource management processes for the <i>coastal environment</i> .	
CE-O5	Activities in the <i>coastal environment</i>
People and communities are able to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, recognising that the protection of natural character and indigenous biodiversity, public access, or cultural values does not preclude subdivision, use, or development, where this does not compromise these values.	

Policies

CE-P1	<i>Coastal environment</i>
Identify the extent of the <i>coastal environment</i> based on characteristics of the environment, including: a. any area or landform dominated by coastal vegetation or habitat;	

	b. any landform affected by active coastal processes; c. any landscapes or features, including coastal escarpments, that contribute to the natural character, visual quality, or amenity value of the coast; and d. any site, structure, place, or area of historic heritage value adjacent to, or connected with, the coastal marine area, which derives its heritage value from a coastal location.
CE-P2	<i>Outstanding Natural Character</i>
	Avoid adverse effects from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development on the identified qualities, characteristics, and values of <i>Outstanding Natural Character</i> by: e. only providing for <i>conservation activities</i> and <i>customary activities</i> while encouraging the minimisation of the adverse effects of these activities; and a. avoid adverse effects on those qualities, characteristics, and values of any other activities.
CE-P3	<i>Very High and High Natural Character</i>
	Protect areas of Very High and High Natural Character by managing subdivision, use, and development by only allowing activities that: a. avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy, or mitigate any other adverse effects on the identified values described in <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i>; and b. are demonstrated to be appropriate by: i. having an <i>operational need</i> or <i>functional need</i> to be located in this area; ii. minimising <i>earthworks</i> and changes to the landform; iii. reducing the scale and prominence of any <i>buildings or structures</i>, including any proposed <i>building</i> platforms, and integrating landform and context into the design through the use of naturally occurring <i>building</i> platforms and sympathetic materials; iv. retaining and/or restoring and rehabilitating <i>indigenous biodiversity</i>, where practicable using coastal plant species sourced from the local ecological district; v. enabling the repair, maintenance, and removal of existing <i>infrastructure</i> and roads; and vi. enabling the continuation, or enhancing, of tangata whenua cultural and spiritual values and <i>customary activities</i>.
CE-P4	<i>Activities and subdivision within the coastal environment</i>
	Provide for subdivision, use, and development within the <i>coastal environment</i> only where there is a functional or operational need for the activity to be located in the coastal environment and ensure that:

- a. the form, scale, and nature of the activity will not detract from the natural character of the *coastal environment* by:
- i. considering the landscape context and landform in the planning and design process, so that development responds to natural landforms, minimises *earthworks*, and incorporates the use of sympathetic materials;
 - ii. minimising the landscape and visual effects of built form by careful siting of *buildings* and *structures*;
 - iii. rehabilitating *earthworks* to ensure that they are well integrated with the surrounding landform;
 - iv. minimising *modification of indigenous vegetation* and incorporating revegetation and planting of disturbed areas;
 - v. maintaining and where appropriate restoring the abiotic, biotic, and experiential characteristics of natural character within the *coastal environment*;
 - vi. maintaining and enhancing public access, customary access, and recreational use;
 - vii. avoid adverse effects on threatened, at-risk, naturally rare, or significant communities of indigenous vegetation, habitats of indigenous fauna, or ecosystems;
 - viii. avoid significant adverse effects, and avoid, remedy, or mitigate other adverse effects on habitats of indigenous or migratory fauna, coastal ecosystems, and areas that predominantly comprise indigenous vegetation;
 - ix. retaining and/or restoring and rehabilitating *indigenous* biodiversity, where practicable using coastal plant species sourced from the local ecological district;
 - x. taking into account the outcomes of any consultation with and/or cultural advice provided by tangata whenua, including the extent to which the activity may compromise tangata whenua's relationship with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga, and/or tangata whenua's responsibilities as kaitiaki and mana whenua in the *coastal environment*;
 - xi. ensuring that the location, design and scale of *structures*, *buildings*, and activities avoid or mitigate risks to people and property from coastal hazards and that the risk to other people, properties, and activities is reduced or not increased; and
 - xii. ensuring that open coastal vistas are protected by discouraging built development between roads and the *Foreshore Protection Area* where such roads are in close proximity to the foreshore.

CE-P5	Residential activities within the <i>coastal environment</i>
Manage <i>residential activities</i> within the <i>coastal environment</i> by: a. providing for <i>residential units</i> within existing coastal settlements to ensure the special qualities of each settlement are maintained; b. providing for <i>residential units</i> that are located, designed, and of a scale necessary to support <i>primary production</i>; c. take a precautionary approach to the risks from coastal hazards by avoiding new <i>residential units</i> within the <i>Foreshore Protection Area</i> due to the risks from coastal hazards; and d. avoiding rural lifestyle development to ensure there is no proliferation of <i>residential units</i> and fragmentation of productive land throughout the <i>coastal environment</i> to protect its special values and characteristics.	
CE-P6	Infrastructure
e. Provide for the maintenance, repair, minor upgrading, and removal of existing <i>infrastructure</i> in areas identified as <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i>; and a. Provide for new <i>infrastructure</i> and the substantial <i>upgrade</i> of existing <i>infrastructure</i> within areas identified as <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i> where: i. it has an operational need or functional need for the location; ii. it is designed to maintain the natural character values; and iii. any significant adverse effects on natural character values will be avoided and all other effects will be avoided, and where this is not practicable, will be appropriately mitigated.	
CE-P7	Coastal archaeology
Recognise and manage any adverse effects on archaeological sites within the <i>coastal environment</i> in any subdivision, use, and development; and rely upon the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 to promote the identification, preservation, and conservation of archaeological sites of historic and cultural significance.	
CE-P8	Precautionary approach to coastal hazards
Adopt a precautionary approach to new subdivision, use, and development where knowledge is lacking about coastal processes and where the risks from coastal hazards are likely to be high, by identifying the <i>Foreshore Protection Area</i> and: a. only providing for activities that have an <i>operational need</i> or <i>functional need</i> within the <i>Foreshore Protection Area</i>; b. avoid new <i>residential activities</i> and other <i>hazard sensitive activities</i> within the <i>Foreshore Protection Area</i>; and	

c. for activities within the <i>Foreshore Protection Area</i> that satisfy the above, manage effects to ensure any significant adverse effects on people and property will be avoided and all other effects will be avoided, and where this is not practicable, will be mitigated.	
CE-P9	Soft engineered solutions
Encourage soft engineering measures and nature-based solutions when undertaking planned coastal hazard mitigation works within the identified <i>Foreshore Protection Area</i> where they will reduce the risk from coastal hazards to people, property, and <i>infrastructure</i> .	

Rules

CE-R1		<i>Earthworks or buildings and structures (including construction, additions, and alterations) within the coastal environment</i>
	All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Compliance is achieved with: i. CE-S1; and ii. CE-S3; or b. <i>Earthworks or buildings and structures</i> are associated with Temporary Military Training Activities, <i>conservation activities</i> or <i>customary activities</i>; and c. <i>Earthworks or buildings and structures</i> are not located within an area identified as <i>Outstanding Natural Character</i> or <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i>; and d. <i>Earthworks or buildings and structures</i> are not associated with a new <i>residential activity</i> within the <i>Foreshore Protection Area</i>.
		2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with CE-R1(1). Matters of discretion: 1. The effect of non-compliance with any relevant standard and the matters of discretion of any standard that is not met.

CE-R2	<i>Earthworks, modification of indigenous vegetation, or buildings and structures (including construction, additions, and alterations) within Areas of Very High and High Natural Character</i>
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Compliance is achieved with: i. CE-S1; ii. CE-S2; and iii. CE-S3; or b. <i>Earthworks, modification of vegetation, or buildings and structures</i> is associated with <i>conservation activities or customary activities</i>.
All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with CE-R2(1); b. The maximum area of <i>earthworks</i> does not exceed 500m² per <i>site</i>; c. The maximum area of any <i>modification of indigenous vegetation</i> does not exceed 500m² per <i>site</i>; and d. Any <i>building or structure</i> does not exceed: i. a gross floor area of 200m²; and ii. a maximum height of 5m. Matters of discretion: 1. The effect of non-compliance with any relevant standard and the matters of discretion of any standard that is not met.
All zones	3. Activity status: Non-complying Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with CE-R2(2).

CE-R3	<i>Earthworks, modification of vegetation, or buildings and structures (including construction, additions, and alterations) within Areas of Outstanding Natural Character</i>
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where:

		a. <i>Earthworks, modification of vegetation, or buildings and structures</i> is associated with <i>conservation activities</i> or <i>customary activities</i>; b. The maximum area of earthworks does not exceed 50m² per site; c. The maximum area of and <i>modification</i> of vegetation does not exceed 50m² per site; and d. Any building or structure does not exceed: i. a gross floor area of 50m²; and ii. a maximum height of 5m.
	All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with CE-R3(1); b. <i>Earthworks, modification of vegetation, or buildings and structures</i> is not associated with <i>plantation forestry</i>; c. The maximum area of <i>earthworks</i> does not exceed 50m² per site; d. The maximum area of and <i>modification</i> of vegetation does not exceed 50m² per site; and e. Any <i>building</i> or <i>structure</i> does not exceed: i. a gross floor area of 50m²; and ii. a maximum height of 5m, except for network utility poles, which have a maximum height of 8m. Matters of discretion: 1. The degree of change to the natural landform. 2. The effects of activity on the identified characteristics and values of the Outstanding Natural Character area. 3. Whether the activity has an operational need or functional need for the location. 4. The effect of the reflectivity and colour of external materials on the identified characteristics and values of the Outstanding Natural Character.
	All zones	3. Activity status: Non-complying Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with CE-R3(2).

CE-R4	<i>Plantation forestry</i>
All zones	1. Activity status: Non-complying Where: a. Any <i>plantation forestry</i> is within an area identified as <i>Outstanding Natural Character</i> and <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i>.

CE-R5	<i>New residential activity within the Foreshore Protection Area</i>
All zones	1. Activity status: Non-complying Where: a. Any <i>earthworks, modification of indigenous vegetation, or buildings and structures</i> (including construction) associated with a new <i>residential activity</i> within the <i>Foreshore Protection Area</i>.

CE-R6	<i>Earthworks, modification of indigenous vegetation, or buildings and structures</i> (including construction) for the development of the National Grid within Areas of Outstanding, <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i> not otherwise provided for in this chapter.
All zones	2. Activity status: Discretionary

Standards

CE-S1	Earthworks
1. <i>Earthworks</i> within the <i>coastal environment</i> must not exceed: a. a maximum cut or fill <i>height</i> greater than 3m above ground level; and b. a maximum area of 500m² per <i>site</i>. 2. <i>Earthworks</i> within areas of <i>very high and high natural character</i> must not exceed: a. a maximum cut or fill <i>height</i> of 1.5m above ground level; and	Matters of discretion: 1. The degree of change to the natural landform. 2. The effect of the <i>earthworks</i> on the characteristics and values of the <i>coastal environment</i>. 3. The effect of the <i>earthworks</i> on the identified characteristics and values of the <i>very high and high natural character area</i>.

b. a maximum area of 50m² per <i>site</i>. This standard does not apply to: a. <i>Earthworks</i> associated with maintaining existing farm tracks, roads, water supply infrastructure, fence lines and access ways are exempt from the above area standards but must comply with NFL-S1(1)(a) and NFL-S1(2)(a).	4. The effect of the earthworks on threatened indigenous vegetation, threatened indigenous and migratory species habitat, and threatened coastal ecosystems.
CE-S2	<i>Modification of indigenous vegetation</i>
1. <i>Modification of indigenous vegetation</i> must not exceed, in total area, 50m² in any 12-month period. This standard does not apply to <i>modification of indigenous vegetation</i> that is: a. 3m either side of, or within, an existing formed <i>road</i>, track, stock crossing or <i>accessway</i>; b. 3m either side of a fence, or other lawfully established <i>structure</i>; or c. within 10m of an existing lawfully established <i>residential unit</i>.	Matters of discretion: 1. The scale of the <i>modification</i> of vegetation. 2. The effect of the modification of vegetation on the identified values and characteristics within an area identified as <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i>. 3. The effect of the earthworks on threatened indigenous vegetation, threatened indigenous and migratory species habitat, and threatened coastal ecosystems.

CE-S3	<i>Buildings and structures</i>
1. <i>Buildings and structures</i> within the <i>coastal environment</i> must meet the following standards: - the <i>gross floor area</i> of any individual <i>building or structure</i> on a <i>site</i> must not exceed 200m²; - the <i>building or structure</i> must not exceed a maximum <i>height</i> of 7m except for network utility poles, which must not exceed a maximum height of 8m; - maximum of one <i>residential unit</i> per <i>site</i>; - any roof cladding must be of matt finish in a natural range of browns, greens, and greys to complement the tones found in the natural surroundings, with the colour having a light reflectivity value (LRV) percentage between 5 and 25%; and - cladding is limited to natural materials and/or recessive colours with light reflectivity value (LRV) of 35% or less. 2. <i>Buildings and structures</i> within the <i>Foreshore Protection Area</i> must meet the following standards: - the <i>gross floor area</i> of the building or <i>structure</i> on a <i>site</i> must not exceed 15m²; - the <i>building or structure</i> must not exceed a maximum <i>height</i> of 3m except for network utility poles, which must not exceed a maximum height of 8m; and <i>buildings and structures</i> must only be used for non-habitable purposes.	Matters of discretion: - Whether the <i>building or structure</i> is integrated into the landform to limit prominence and protect the identified characteristics and values of the <i>coastal environment</i>. - Whether the <i>building or structure</i> is integrated into the landform to limit prominence and protect the identified characteristics and values within an area identified as being of <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i> or <i>Outstanding Natural Character</i>. - Whether there is a <i>functional need</i> or <i>operational need</i> for the location of the <i>building or structure</i>. - The effect of the scale and location on the <i>coastal environment</i> and the identified characteristics and values within an area of <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i>. - The effect of the reflectivity and colour of external materials on the <i>coastal environment</i> and any identified characteristics and values within an area of <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i>. - The effect to natural hazard and coastal hazard risk including taking into account the likely long-term effects of climate change. - The effect of the earthworks on threatened indigenous vegetation, threatened indigenous and migratory species habitat, and threatened coastal ecosystems.

3. <i>Buildings and structures</i> within an area identified as <i>Very High and High Natural Character</i> and Landscape must meet the following standards: a. the <i>gross floor area</i> of the <i>building</i> or <i>structure</i> on a <i>site</i> must not exceed 50m²; and b. the <i>building</i> or <i>structure</i> must not exceed one storey and must not exceed a maximum <i>height</i> of 5m. Standard CE-S3(1) does not apply to the Settlement Zone.	
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NATC – Natural Character

The Wairarapa has an extensive coastline and numerous freshwater bodies, including Lake Wairarapa and the Ruamāhanga, Waipoua, Waingawa, Waiohine, and Tauherenikau Rivers, that are important natural features. Under section 6 of the RMA, preserving the natural character of the *coastal environment, wetlands, lakes, rivers*, and their margins and protecting them from inappropriate use, subdivision, and development is a matter of national importance.

Importance must also include cognisance of Te Rohe o Rongokako Joint Redress Act 2022 between Rangitāne Tu Mai Ra Trust and Ngati Kahungūnu ki Wairarapa Tamaki Nui A Rua iwi over the management of Wairarapa Moana and Ruamahanga River catchment in this chapter.

Riparian margins have natural character values and provide access to *surface waterbodies* and contribute to amenity, recreation, hazard management, and ecological values.

Surface waterbodies that require additional special protection from inappropriate use, subdivision, and development are identified as *Significant Waterbodies*. These *surface waterbodies* have been identified due to a number of significant values within their riparian margins, including those associated with natural character, public access, cultural significance, indigenous biodiversity, and natural hazard values. *Significant waterbodies* are identified based on the following criteria:

1. the *surface waterbody* and/or its margins have high natural character and ecology values, including natural aquatic habitats that support the presence of threatened, at risk, or regionally distinctive indigenous species;
2. the *surface waterbody* is of a nature and magnitude that creates a risk for *natural hazards*;
3. use of the *surface waterbody* and/or its margins for recreational and public access purposes including walking, surface water activities, fishing, hunting, and tramping;
4. cultural, spiritual, or heritage associations of tangata whenua to the *surface waterbody*, including ability to undertake *customary activities*; and/or
5. importance of water quality, including for urban water supplies, and in relation to the above values.

This chapter addresses the natural character of freshwater environments, including *rivers, lakes, natural inland wetlands*, and their margins. Natural character of coastal areas is addressed in the *Coastal Environment* chapter, including provisions relating to *Outstanding Natural Character* and *Very High and High Natural Character Areas* in the coastal environment. Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 manage vegetation removal, *earthworks, natural hazards works, infrastructure*, and public access *structures* within 10m of *natural inland wetlands*. As such, the provisions outlined in this chapter do not duplicate any requirements for these activities and they are not managed through this chapter.

The Greater Wellington Regional Council Natural Resources Plan manages *earthworks* within 5m of *surface waterbodies*, as such, the provisions outlined in this chapter do not duplicate *earthworks* rules within these riparian margins.

Objectives

NATC-O1	Preserve and enhance natural character
The natural character of the Wairarapa's <i>rivers, lakes, and natural inland wetlands</i> and their margins is preserved, and enhanced where appropriate, and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.	

Policies

NATC-P1	Retain special qualities and natural character of <i>surface waterbodies</i>
Manage the design, location, and scale of subdivision, use, and development adjoining <i>surface waterbodies</i> so they preserve the special qualities and natural character of <i>surface waterbodies</i> .	
NATC-P2	Restoration and enhancement
Provide for and encourage the restoration and/or enhancement of the natural character of <i>surface waterbodies</i> and their margins.	
NATC-P3	Enabled earthworks in proximity to Significant Waterbodies
Allow <i>earthworks</i> within 25m of <i>Significant Waterbodies</i> where they are for the purpose of maintenance works on <i>infrastructure</i> .	
NATC-P4	Restrict earthworks in proximity to <i>Significant Waterbodies</i>
Only allow other earthworks within 25m of <i>Significant Waterbodies</i> where: a. natural character values of <i>Significant Waterbodies</i> are preserved or enhanced; and b. significant adverse effects on the values of <i>Significant Waterbodies</i> are avoided and all other adverse effects are avoided, minimised, or remedied.	
NATC-P5	Buildings and structures
Discourage <i>buildings</i> and <i>structures</i> within 10m of <i>surface waterbodies</i> within the General Rural Zone, 5m of any <i>surface waterbody</i> in any other zone, and 25m of <i>Significant Waterbodies</i> across all zones and only allow <i>buildings</i> and <i>structures</i> within these setbacks where:	

	a. there is a <i>functional need</i> or <i>operational need</i> for their location within the setback; b. the location, intensity, scale, design, and form of the <i>building</i> or <i>structure</i> preserves natural character values; and c. any potential cumulative effects on natural character values are minimised.
NATC-P6	Modification of vegetation in proximity to Significant Waterbodies
Allow <i>modification of vegetation</i> within 25m of <i>Significant Waterbodies</i> where it involves <i>pest plant species disposal</i> of infected material for biosecurity purposes, treatment of areas to manage incursions of unwanted organisms <i>or is associated with primary production</i>, and only allow other modification of vegetation when: a. natural character values of <i>Significant Waterbodies</i> are preserved or enhanced; and b. significant adverse effects on the values of <i>Significant Waterbodies</i> are avoided and all other adverse effects are avoided, minimised, or remedied.	

Rules

NATC-R1	Earthworks within 25m of a <i>Significant Waterbody</i>
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The <i>earthworks</i> are for the purpose of: i. the maintenance of drains, man-made dams, access tracks, existing <i>infrastructure</i> or <i>roads</i>; ii. the maintenance of water supply <i>infrastructure</i>, including irrigation; iii. construction or maintenance of a bridge or culvert; or iv. <i>park management activities</i> in the Open Space and Recreation Zones.
All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with NATC-R1(1). Matters of discretion: 1. The location, extent, timing, and duration of the activity. 2. Effects on the risks from <i>natural hazards</i>, including erosion and flooding. 3. Effects on natural character and landscape values. 4. Effects on ecological values, including the aquatic values of the <i>surface waterbody</i>. 5. Effects on recreational values and public access.

	6. Effects on areas of significance to tangata whenua and archaeological sites. 7. Methods to avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects. 8. Rehabilitation measures, including recontouring and revegetation.
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NATC-R2		<i>Modification of vegetation and associated earthworks within 25m of a Significant Waterbody</i>
	All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The <i>modification of vegetation</i> only involves <i>pest plant species identified in Appendix ECO-1; or</i> b. The <i>modification of vegetation associated with an existing primary production activity and there is no modification of indigenous vegetation.</i> c. The <i>modification of vegetation</i> is for the purpose of removing unwanted organisms in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993.
	All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with NATC-R2(1). Matters of discretion: 1. The location, extent, timing, and duration of the activity. 2. Effects on the risks from natural hazards, including erosion and flooding. 3. Effects on natural character and landscape values. 4. Effects on ecological values, including indigenous biodiversity, and the aquatic values of the <i>surface waterbody</i>. 5. Effects on recreational values and public access. 6. Effects on areas of significance to tangata whenua and archaeological sites. 7. Methods to avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects. 8. Rehabilitation measures, including recontouring and revegetation.

SCHEDULE 9 – Outstanding Natural Character

South Wairarapa District

ONC Number	Description	Values		
		Abiotic	Biotic	Experimental
ONC1	Ngapotiki/Cape Palliser	Very High	High	Very High
		- Ngapotiki fan is a regionally significant alluvial fan - Intact sandstone cliffs, and exposed rock faces - Rocky reefs occur throughout the nearshore	- Areas of remnant and regenerating native coastal vegetation forming intact sequence from coastal edge - Ngapotiki fan stone field has successional colonisation of a diversity of native species that are in good condition - New Zealand fur seals (<i>Arctocephalus forsteri</i>) are present in this area - Part of the Aorangi Forest Park and Stonewall Scenic Reserve	- Highly remote section of the Wairarapa coast largely only accessibly by foot or four-wheel drive vehicle - Expansive views of the Pacific and Southern Ocean - Exposure to harsh storm conditions
ONC2	Mukamuka Coast	Very High	High	Very High
		Intact coastal hills with little erosion or	One of the last examples within the Wellington Region of a largely unmodified	Remote section of the Wairarapa Coastal Environment

ONC Number	Description	Values		
		Abiotic	Biotic	Experimental
		human modification - Regionally significant Mukamuka pillow breccia present - Wairarapa Canyon head is the closest incursion of deep water into the coastal setting (2 km off Windy Point) for the wider Wellington-Wairarapa region.	vegetation sequence from mountains to coast, with shallow rocky reefs (to ca 10 m depth) providing little modified habitats for typical Cook Strait assemblages. - Includes a closed canopy native forest, however lower slopes in places have been cleared for exotic grassland - Mukamuka Stream is classified as a Significant Indigenous Ecosystem, providing habitat for native freshwater fish species.	with little modification - Exposure to Palliser Bay and Cooks Strait which offers sweeping coastline, expansive views and harsh weather conditions - Part of the Remutaka Cycle Trail

SCHEDULE 10 – Very High and High Natural Character

Masterton District

HNC Number	Description	Values		
		Abiotic	Biotic	Experimental
HNC1	Castle Rock	High	Moderate - High	High
		- Striking sandstone and limestone rock formation with abundant fossils (over 70 species) - Supports a variety of native coastal dune vegetation, as well as the At Risk Castlepoint groundsel/daisy (<i>Brachyglottis compacta</i>), however exotic and pest plants are present. - Streams/rivers have high biodiversity values, however condition is compromised by upstream land use and riparian margins are largely exotic		
HNC2	Castle Rock Reef	High	Moderate - High	Very High
		- Impressive exposed sandstone and limestone reef abundant in fossils - Part of a larger legible tombolo beach and lagoon system - Castlepoint daisy (<i>Brachyglottis compactus</i>) grows only on the crumbled limestone of the reef - Regionally important breeding colonies of red-billed gulls and white-fronted terns inhabit the south end of the reef - Limited built development with exception of lighthouse and associated access		
HNC3	Castle Rock South	High	Moderate	High
		- Unmodified beach and coastal scarps with active erosion - Ngakauau Estuary provides seasonal or core habitat for two threatened indigenous fish species: longfin eel and inanga		

HNC4	Waimimi Shoreline	High	Moderate	High
		- Sequence of intact beaches with strong linear reefs running parallel with the shore - Undeveloped open shore with limited human interference along an expansive coastal edge		
HNC5	Riverside Dunes	High	Moderate - High	High
		- Remnant dune sequence - Wetland in good condition with diversity of native vegetation		
HNC6	Uruti Point	Moderate	Moderate - High	High
		- The largest single area of coastal duneland on the coastal platform land type - The dunes are vegetated in a mix of native and exotic species. The condition of the dunes is compromised by vehicle use, parking of fishing boats and the presence of marram grass - Largest area of dunes on the Wairarapa coast		
HNC7	Kaiwhata Shoreline	High	Moderate	High
		- Intact shoreline with sand and gravel beaches below coastal scarps with active erosion 7000-8000-year-old preserved tree stumps at Kaiwhata River Mouth		

Carterton District

HNC Number	Description	Values		
		Abiotic	Biotic	Experimental
HNC7	Kaiwhata Shoreline	High	Moderate	High
		- Intact shoreline with sand and gravel beaches below coastal scarps with active erosion 7000-8000-year-old preserved tree stumps at Kaiwhata River Mouth		
HNC8	Honeycomb Shoreline	High	Moderate	High
		- Convolutated coastal edge with intact gravel beaches extending into offshore reefs - Honeycomb Rock comprises of quartz - rich sandstone of Late Cretaceous age forming a remarkable cell - like weathering pattern - Biotically, vegetation is a mix of native and exotic species.		
HNC9	Waiuru Stream Shoreline and Coastal Cliffs	High	High	High
		- Largely intact area of inter-connected regenerating native vegetation on the hillslopes (in good condition) - Stonefield on a gravel fan with a diversity of native successional species - Intricate sequence of rugged coves hugging the shoreline and punctuated by offshore reefs		

South Wairarapa District

HNC Number	Description	Values		
		Abiotic	Biotic	Experimental
HNC9	Waiuru Stream Shoreline and Coastal Cliffs	High	High	High
		• Largely intact area of inter-connected regenerating native vegetation on the hillslopes (in good condition) • Stonefield on a gravel fan with a diversity of native successional species • Intricate sequence of rugged coves hugging the shoreline and punctuated by offshore reefs		
HNC10	Pahaoa River Shoreline	High	Moderate	High
		• Distinctive rock formations of Glendhu Rocks comprise of alternating layers of hard white limestone and mudstone • Habitat for seals and a roost site for birds • Significant biodiversity values, but condition is degraded by upstream land use • Isolated and remote section of coastline with limited built development apparent		
HNC11	Devils Creek Coastal Cliffs	High	Moderate - High	High
		• Largely intact landform backdrop, with some evidence of active erosion • Regenerating native vegetation on the coastal cliffs enhances a sense of remoteness and wildness		
HNC12	Manurewa Point Hill	High	Moderate	High
		• Intact coastal hill backdrop behind Manurewa Point • Mosaic of exotic pasture and regenerating vegetation on the hillslopes		
HNC13	Manurewa Point Shoreline	High	Moderate	High
		• Rugged coastal platform and intact shoreline • Habitat for New Zealand fur seals and seabirds • Mix of native and exotic vegetation		

HNC Number	Description	Values		
		Abiotic	Biotic	Experimental
HNC14	Tora Bush	High	High	High
		- Intact remnant of larger rural hill backdrop 9.6 ha regenerating native remnant of original titoki and ngaio forest - Forest type is one of the largest and most intact (albeit somewhat modified) examples remaining in the Wellington region - Habitat for a diversity of bird species, including the New Zealand Falcon.		
HNC15	Awhea Coastal Cliffs	High	Moderate - High	High
		- Intact coastal hill backdrop to rural activity along the coastal platform - Mosaic of exotic pasture and regenerating native vegetation on the hillslopes		
HNC16	Awhea Shoreline	High	Moderate	High
		- Awhea River mouth/estuary – site with significant indigenous biodiversity values - Mix of native and exotic vegetation - Coastal edge remains largely isolated and remote with very limited apparent modification		
HNC17	Te Kaukau Point	High	Moderate	High
		- Intact limestone and sandstone beds containing the greenish mineral glauconite - Layers of rock are dramatically folded and dip mostly to the south-west along isolated and rugged coastal edge - Limited human interference with exception of Magnet Wreck (1989) which heightens a sense of remoteness and isolation - Habitat for New Zealand fur seals and seabirds - Mainly vegetated in pasture with a narrow zone of native coastal herbfield interspersed with weed species		

HNC Number	Description	Values		
		Abiotic	Biotic	Experimental
HNC18	White Rock Beach	High	High	High
		- Striking and intact limestone rocks surrounded by sand and shingle beaches developed from alluvia from the adjacent Opouawe River and Waiarekeke Stream - Encompasses nearly all the remaining area of duneland vegetation on shingle beaches in the ecological district - Habitat for seabirds - Mix of native and exotic vegetation		
HNC19	Ngapotiki	Very High	High	Very High
		- Sequence of largely intact coastal ranges and active alluvial fan - Areas of remnant and regenerating native coastal vegetation forming intact sequence from coastal edge - Ngapotiki fan stonefield has successional colonisation of a diversity of native species that are in good condition - Some lower hillslopes and coastal platform areas are modified with exotic grasses common - Dramatic, wild and isolated section		
HNC20	Cape Palliser	High	Moderate - High	High
		- Areas of remnant and regenerating native coastal cliff and upper hill slope vegetation - Lower sections near the coast have been modified, and native vegetation has been replaced with exotic pasture - Kupe Sail forms an intact slab of sandstone containing fragmented fossils of barnacles, brachiopods and bryozoan - Largely wild and isolated area of exposed coast line		
HNC21	Te Humenga Point	High	Moderate	High
		- Narrow largely intact coastal edge - Diversity of ecosystems including gravelfields, dune systems and sandfields		

HNC Number	Description	Values		
		Abiotic	Biotic	Experimental
		- Vegetation is a mix of native and exotic species - One of ten key coastal dune systems within the Wellington Conservancy		
HNC22	Whangaimoana Beach	High	Moderate	High
		- Naturally high erosion rates on steep coastal cliffs and unimpeded exposure to wind, wave action and other coastal abiotic processes - Regeneration of native vegetation on scarps, however exotic species present		
HNC23	Ōnoke Wetlands	Moderate - High	High	Moderate - High
		- Mixture of remnant and regenerating native vegetation - High native plant species diversity, communities in good condition (some weed species present in peripheral wetland areas) - Internationally recognised for birdlife - Habitat for a number of native freshwater fish species - Abiotic modification via wetland reclamation, drainage, culvert installation and stopbank creation		
HNC24	Ōnoke Spit	High	Moderate - High	Moderate - High
		- Mixed sand and gravel barrier formed by concurrent processes of tectonic uplift and marine sedimentation - Uncommon geological formation in New Zealand - Exposed to salt-laden winds, waves, climatic factors however some modification with the bar open and closed - High ecological values providing habitat for At Risk and Threatened bird species as well as katipo spider and a species of Notoreas moth. Habitat condition however is degraded through recreational use		
HNC25	Ocean Beach	High	Moderate	Moderate - High
		One of ten coastal dune systems within the Wellington Conservancy		

HNC Number	Description	Values		
		Abiotic	Biotic	Experimental
		Pingao is present in some of the dunes, however marram grass is common and compromises the condition of the system. Further degradation from recreational activities		
HNC26	Wharekauhau Stream and Scarp	High	High	High
		- Largely intact gravel scarp - Pingao is present at the mouth of the Wharekauhau stream - Manuka, kanuka and flax present on the scarp face - Part of the Ocean Beach Conservation Area		
HNC27	Mukamuka Cliffs	Very High	High	High
		- Intact coastal hills with little erosion or human modification - One of the last examples within the Wellington Region of a largely unmodified vegetation sequence from mountains to coast - Includes a closed canopy native forest, however lower slopes in places have been cleared for exotic grassland - Mukamuka Stream is classified as a Significant Indigenous Ecosystem, providing habitat for native freshwater fish species.		

NFL – Natural Features and Landscapes

The RMA requires the protection of *Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes* in the district from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. These are the features and landscapes that are outstanding due to a range of factors, e.g. scientific matters, and aesthetic, transient, and cultural values.

The Natural Features and Landscapes chapter comprises identified areas of *Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes* and *Special Amenity Landscapes* throughout the Wairarapa districts. These are district-wide overlays which apply across all zones containing these landscapes and features.

The landscapes within the Wairarapa define the characteristics and unique identity of the area, incorporating rugged and rolling hills, ridgelines, lowland valleys, and coastal escarpments. Some features remain strongly natural while others have been modified through human activity over time. Together these provide a distinct natural identity and amenity unique to the Wairarapa that is valued by the community.

Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are dominated by natural landscape components and are identified on the basis of their characteristics and values. *Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes* include both outstanding natural features and the broader outstanding landscapes. The District Plan avoids distinguishing between ‘features’ and ‘landscapes’ and instead identifies any outstanding areas collectively as *Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes*. All of the identified *Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes* within the Wairarapa are identified in SCHED9 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.

Special Amenity Landscapes are areas where either the natural components dominate and are highly valued but are not outstanding or areas with outstanding values which have been modified by human activity, such as pastoral farming. These landscapes are still important and exhibit characteristics which make them special. There are no specific rules that relate to *Special Amenity Landscapes*; however, the full list of identified special amenity areas within the Wairarapa are identified in SCHED8 Special Amenity Landscapes and shown on the District Plan Maps for information purposes.

Importance must also include cognisance of Te Rohe o Rongokako Joint Redress Act 2022 between Rangitāne Tu Mai Ra Trust and Ngati Kahungūnu ki Wairarapa Tamaki Nui A Rua iwi over the management of Wairarapa Moana and Ruamahanga River catchment in this chapter.

Objectives

NFL-O1	<i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i>
<i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i> are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.	
NFL-O2	<i>Special Amenity Landscapes</i>
<i>Special Amenity Landscapes</i> within the Wairarapa are maintained and where practicable enhanced.	

Policies

NFL-P1	Identify Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes
<i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i> within the Wairarapa have been identified as being natural features and landscapes where: a. they are exceptional or out of the ordinary; and b. their natural components dominate over the influence of human activity. While taking into account the following criteria: i. natural science factors; ii. sensory factors; and iii. shared or recognised features.	
NFL-P2	Identify <i>Special Amenity Landscapes</i>
Identify <i>Special Amenity Landscapes</i> that are distinctive, widely recognised, and highly valued by the community for their contribution to the amenity and quality of the environment of the Wairarapa, based on the following criteria: a. Natural science factors; b. Sensory factors; and c. Shared or recognised features.	
NFL-P3	Subdivision, use, and development within an <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i> outside the <i>Coastal Environment</i>
Only allow subdivision, use, and development within an identified <i>Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape</i> where it:	

	a. avoids significant adverse effects and avoids, remedies, or mitigates any other adverse effects on the identified characteristics and values of the <i>Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape</i>; and b. is demonstrated it is appropriate by: i. being associated with conservation activities; or ii. having an <i>operational need</i> or <i>functional need</i> to be located in this area; and iii. minimising earthworks and changes to the landform; and iv. reducing the scale and prominence of any buildings or structures, including any proposed building platforms, and integrating landform and context into the design and through the use of naturally occurring building platforms and sympathetic materials; and v. avoiding or minimising the removal of any indigenous vegetation; and vi. enabling the repair, maintenance, and removal of existing <i>infrastructure</i>; and vii. enabling the continuation, or enhancing, of tangata whenua cultural and spiritual values and <i>customary activities</i>.
NFL-P4	Subdivision, use, and development within <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i> within the <i>Coastal Environment</i>
Only allow subdivision, use, and development within an <i>Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape</i> located within the <i>Coastal Environment</i> where it: a. avoids adverse effects on the identified characteristics and values of the Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape; and b. is demonstrated it is appropriate by: i. being associated with conservation activities; or ii. it relates to the maintenance, repair, or removal of existing infrastructure; or iii. there is a functional need or operational need for the activity to be located in the Outstanding Natural Features or Landscapes; and iv. the form, scale, and nature of the activity will not detract from the characteristics and values of the Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes by: 1. integrating landform and context into the design and through the use of naturally occurring building platforms and sympathetic materials; 2. limiting the prominence or visibility of built form, including by integrating it into the natural landform; and 3. restoring or reinstating areas of earthworks and replanting areas of modification of vegetation.	

NFL-P5	Increasing public awareness
Increase public awareness of landscape values and their importance and encourage the community and landowners to support protection of the Wairarapa's <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i> and support the maintenance and enhancement of <i>Special Amenity Landscapes</i> .	
NFL-P6	Support and incentivise voluntary protection
Provide support and incentives as appropriate to landowners in the protection of <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i> .	

Rules

NFL-R1		<i>Earthworks, modification of indigenous vegetation, or buildings and structures (including construction, additions, and alterations) within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i>
	All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Compliance is achieved with: i. NFL-S1; ii. NFL-S2; and iii. NFL-S3; or b. <i>Earthworks, modification of indigenous vegetation, or buildings and structures</i> are associated with <i>conservation activities</i>; <u>or</u> c. <i>Earthworks, modification of indigenous vegetation, or buildings and structures</i> are associated with the maintenance, repair, minor upgrading, or removal of existing National Grid infrastructure; or d. <i>Modification of indigenous vegetation</i> required to remove vegetation infected by an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993; and e. The <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i> is not located within the <i>Coastal Environment</i>; and f. Is not associated with <i>plantation forestry</i>.
	All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where:

	a. Compliance is not achieved with NFL-R1(1)(ee); and b. Compliance is achieved with NFL-R1(1)(a). Matters of discretion: 1. The degree of change to the natural landform. 2. The effects of activity on the identified characteristics and values of the <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i>. 3. The effects of activity on the identified characteristics and values of the <i>Coastal Environment</i>. 4. Whether the activity has an <i>operational need</i> or <i>functional need</i> for the location. 5. The effect of the reflectivity and colour of external materials on the identified characteristics and values of the <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i>.
All zones	3. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with NFL-R1(1)(a); b. The <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i> is not located within the <i>Coastal Environment</i>; c. The maximum area of <i>earthworks</i> within an <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i> does not exceed 500m² per site; d. The maximum area of any <i>modification of vegetation</i> does not exceed 500m² per site; and e. Any <i>building</i> or <i>structure</i> does not exceed: i. a <i>gross floor area</i> of 200m² per site; and ii. a maximum <i>height</i> of 5m. Matters of discretion: 1. The effect of non-compliance with any relevant standard and the matters of discretion of any standard that is not met.
All zones	4. Activity status: Non-complying Where: a. <i>Earthworks, modification of vegetation, or buildings and structures</i> is not otherwise provided for by Rule NFL-R1(1), NFL-R1(2), or NFL-R1(3).

NFL-R2	<i>Plantation forestry</i>
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 All zones	1. Activity status: Non-complying.
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Standards

NFL-S1	Earthworks
1. <i>Earthworks</i> must not exceed: a. a maximum cut or fill <i>height</i> greater than 1.5m above ground level; and b. a maximum area of 50m² per <i>site</i>. This standard does not apply to: a. <i>Earthworks</i> associated with maintaining existing farm tracks, fence lines, water supply infrastructure and access ways are exempt from the above area standards but must comply with NFL-S1(1)(a).	Matters of discretion: 1. The degree of change to the natural landform. 2. The effect of the earthworks on the identified characteristics and values within an <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i>.
NFL-S2	Modification of indigenous vegetation
1. <i>Modification of indigenous vegetation</i> must not exceed, in total area, 50m² in any 12-month period. This standard does not apply to <i>modification of indigenous vegetation</i> that is: a. 3m either side of, or within, an existing formed <i>road</i>, stock crossing, or accessway; b. 3m either side of a fence, or other lawfully established <i>structure</i>; or c. within 10m of an existing lawfully established <i>residential unit</i>.	Matters of discretion: 1. The scale of the <i>indigenous vegetation</i> modification. 2. The effect of the vegetation modification on identified values and characteristics within an <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</i>.
NFL-S3	Buildings and structures
1. Buildings and structures within an <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscape</i> must meet the following standards:	Matters of discretion: 1. Whether the <i>building</i> or <i>structure</i> is integrated into the landform to limit prominence and protect the identified characteristics and values within an

a. the <i>gross floor area</i> of any <i>building</i> or <i>structure</i> on a <i>site</i> must not exceed 50m² per <i>site</i>; b. the <i>building</i> or <i>structure</i> must not exceed one storey and must not exceed a maximum <i>height</i> of 5m, except for telecommunications poles, which must not exceed a maximum height of 8m; c. maximum of one <i>residential unit</i> per <i>site</i>; d. any roof cladding must be of matt finish in a natural range of browns, greens, and greys to complement the tones found in the natural surroundings, with the colour having a light reflectivity value (LRV) percentage between 5 and 25%; and e. cladding is limited to natural materials and/or recessive colours with light reflectivity value (LRV) of 35% or less.	<i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.</i> 2. The effect of the scale and location on the identified characteristics and values within an <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.</i> 3. The effect of the reflectivity and colour of external materials on the identified characteristics and values within an <i>Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.</i>
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SCHEDULE 7 – Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

Masterton District

ONFL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
ONFL1	Remutaka and Tararua Forest Parks	Very High	Very High	Very High
		- Complete sequence of intact native forest (lowland to alpine) - Large block of uplifted greywacke rock; physically separates Wairarapa from Hutt Valley and Kapiti Coast - Dramatic size, scale and extent of ranges	- Highly natural, contiguous vegetation cover (except toe of slope); undeveloped and provides point of reference and important backdrop to the plains - Particularly dramatic with varying lighting conditions, distinctive skyline and snow in winter	- Widely recognised landscape feature in Wairarapa and Wellington region - Highly significant to Tangata Whenua - Historical links - Rimutaka rail incline, Rimutaka road formation, and early tramping huts in New Zealand
ONFL2	Pukaha Mt Bruce	Very High	Very High	Very High
		- The last sizable remnant of 70 Mile Bush - Advanced secondary regeneration including tall emergent podocarp species - Nationally & internationally	- Prominent from SH2 due to its elevated location, continuity of vegetation cover and large scale - High natural values	- Highly regarded by local, and national communities for education and conservation contributions - High significance for Tangata Whenua as

ONFL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
		recognised captive breeding programme		important site for food gathering, knowledge and medicine Historical associations with prominent conservationist, Elwyn Welch
ONFL3	Tinui Taipos	Moderate	Very High	Very High
		- Relatively discrete, large-scale landform, which contrasts with the more rolling topography which surrounds it - Covered in mature wilding pines and an understory of regenerating native vegetation - The jagged, rocky outcrops near the peak are dramatic and vivid	- The jagged, rocky outcrops near the peak are dramatic and vivid - Prominent location at Tinui junction - Local landmark - Highly regarded by local community, especially for its longstanding association with ANZAC day commemoration	- ANZAC Memorial cross registered as Status 1 by NZHPT - Significance to Tangata Whenua as geographical marker
ONFL4	Hidden Lakes	Very High	Very High	High
		Range of interesting and unique landforms, including	Supports an abundance of bird life — especially large numbers of tui	Historical reminder of 1855 earthquake and dynamic

ONFL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
		hummocky areas, steep escarpments, and two freshwater lakes - Landscape formed as a result of 1855 earthquake - Fringed by semi-mature native vegetation, dominated by totara, kowhai and titoki	and wood pigeons when the kowhai are in flower - The lakes are particularly vivid, being enhanced by their vegetated setting and the steep cliffs as a backdrop - Recognised as a 'hidden treasure', secluded and isolated	nature of the landscape Significance to Tangata Whenua as historical site of Tirohanga Pa prior to its destruction and the resulting loss of life during the 1855 earthquake
ONFL5	Castlepoint Reef & Scenic Reserve	Very High	Very High	Moderate
		- Dynamic and expressive coastal landscape - Accommodates rare and fragile vegetation communities - An important feeding area for a range of bird species	- Highly memorable and iconic landscape - Landforms and rock formations create dramatic coastal scenery and silhouettes - Widely known throughout Wairarapa and beyond as popular recreational destination	- Strong historical links to early stations and important role as a port, and site for lighthouse - Rich history for Tangata Whenua as important seafood gathering site, as well as longstanding associations with a number of tribes

ONFL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
ONFL6	Uruti Point & Dune Complex	Very High	Very High	High
		• Largest dune system on the Wairarapa Coast, supporting indigenous plant species • Rocky shore platform in the intertidal zone	• Expressive of formative processes with active dune systems • Wild and remote coast with high natural character	• Well known locally as a good fishing spot • Site of historical significance for Tangata Wheuna

Carterton District

ONFL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
ONFL1	Remutaka and Tararua Forest Parks	Very High	Very High	Very High
		• Complete sequence of intact native forest (lowland to alpine) • Large block of uplifted greywacke rock; physically separates Wairarapa from Hutt Valley and Kapiti Coast • Dramatic size, scale and extent of ranges	• Highly natural, contiguous vegetation cover (except toe of slope); undeveloped and provides point of reference and important backdrop to the plains • Particularly dramatic with varying lighting conditions, distinctive skyline and snow in winter	• Widely recognised landscape feature in Wairarapa and Wellington region • Highly significant to Tangata Whenua • Historical links - Rimutaka rail incline, Rimutaka road formation, and early tramping

				huts in New Zealand
ONFL7	Taipo Minor /Rocky Hills Sanctuary	Very High	Very High	Moderate
		- Three high pinnacles comprised of indurated Cretaceous sandstone - Rare example of taipo landform still with indigenous forest cover - Podocarp - broadleaf forest remnant which is rare in ecological district	- Highly expressive of formative geological and natural processes - Peaks are dramatic and visually striking - Strong visual contrast between the area and adjacent taipos which are largely grazed	- One of highest peaks in immediate area - focal point - Isolated, known predominantly by locals in immediate vicinity - Accessible via the DoC track

South Wairarapa District

ONFL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
ONFL1	Remutaka and Tararua Forest Parks	Very High	Very High	Very High
		- Complete sequence of intact native forest (lowland to alpine) - Large block of uplifted greywacke rock; physically separates Wairarapa from Hutt Valley and Kapiti Coast	- Highly natural, contiguous vegetation cover (except toe of slope); undeveloped and provides point of reference and important backdrop to the plains - Particularly dramatic with	- Widely recognised landscape feature in Wairarapa and Wellington region - Highly significant to Tangata Whenua - Historical links - Rimutaka rail

ONFL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
		Dramatic size, scale and extent of ranges	varying lighting conditions, distinctive skyline and snow in winter	incline, Rimutaka road formation, and early tramping huts in New Zealand
ONFL8	Wairarapa Moana	Very High	Very High	Very High
		- Largest, shallow, freshwater lake and wetland system in lower North Island - Diverse habitats of national/ international significance - Vivid, open expansive landscape, enclosed by ranges either side, dominant feature from some locations	- Very expressive of formative processes— ancient coastal inlet, tectonic uplift, coastal processes, flooding - Distinctive transient values such as migratory birds, spectacular sunsets, seasonal flooding - Extremely significant for Tangata Whenua, primarily as a food source	- Recreational hotspot, significant contribution to local identity - Historical ties during early European settlement — access and transport inland
ONFL9	Nga Waka o Kupe Hills	Moderate	Very High	Very High
		- A limestone landform which typifies the Martinborough landscape - The regular ‘notched’ profile of the waka is	- Important backdrop to Martinborough - The waka is readily identifiable from east and west of the landform,	Iconic status throughout the Wairarapa, but particularly in the local Martinborough community

ONFL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
		unique in the Wairarapa and very distinctive The undeveloped skyline forms a recognisable and memorable landmark throughout Southern Wairarapa	and from close and distant locations Highly legible due to lack of structures and trees	- Significance for Tangata Wheuna associated with legends about the Polynesian explorer, Kupe - Extensively researched as part of book about Martinborough — <i>The Canoes of Kupe</i>
ONFL10	Glendhu Rocks/ Pahaoa Estuary	Very High	Very High	Moderate
		- Significant white limestone rock formations and reefs at coastal edge - One of the larger river estuaries on the Wairarapa coast - Low coastal dunes	- Dramatic, isolated, expansive coastal environment - Relatively unmodified coastal platform and escarpments expressive of formative processes	- Coastal walkway route to Honeycomb Rocks meanders through the area - Many Māori heritage sites near the mouth of the Pahaoa River
ONFL11	Lake Pounui	Very High	Very High	Moderate
		- Regional significance as habitat for fish, birds & invertebrates - Largest low-relief area of black beech left	- Identified as a significant geopreservation site - Large areas of continuous forest cover around the lake margin	- Strong sense of remoteness and the feeling of being an 'untouched', secluded environment - The cobalt colour of the

ONFL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
		in the Wairarapa Intact landform and indigenous vegetation including deep lake, wetlands and forest		lake is striking and distinctive Well known in South Wairarapa — memories associated with recreational activities
ONFL12	Aorangi (Haurangi) Forest Park	Very High	Very High	Very High
		- Contains some of the highest and steepest landforms which define the eastern Wairarapa plains - Contiguous native vegetation which provides important habitat for a number of common and rare indigenous species	- Very expressive of formative processes — uplift, erosion and regeneration - Much of it is a very remote, wild landscape which is popular for tramping and hunting. - Dramatic, massive backdrop to Cape Palliser coast	- Sites of significance to Tangata Whenua alongside streams for food and shelter - Widely recognised by the wider Wairarapa community as special and iconic
ONFL13	Pūtangirua Pinnacles	Very High	Very High	Very High
		- Recognised geopreservation site and best example of badlands erosion in New Zealand - High natural values,	- Dramatic size, scale and concentration of pillars - Highly expressive of formative processes	Well known and cherished by locals, the scientific community, educators and as tourist destination

ONFL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
		including scattered patches of native vegetation identified by DoC as 'indigenous threatened environment'	The native vegetation frames and provides a distinctive contrast with the stark pillars	- Formed part of the set for the Lord of the Rings trilogy - Significance to Tangata Whenua for provision of food, shelter and inland access
ONFL14	Ruakokoputuna Chasm	Very High	Very High	Very High
		- Diverse and interesting collection of limestone formations - Advanced secondary native regeneration, and various scattered native forest remnants - Reports of abundant wildlife including, falcon, bats, tuis, eels and kokopu	- Prominent scale of Haurangi Bluff and Ruakokoputuna Chasm - The limestone landscape is highly expressive of formative geological processes - High transient values, especially for the chasm as a result of changing lighting and flooding conditions	- Highly valued by local, community for its recreational and tourism potential, in addition to its sense of seclusion and mystery - Well used by Maori in pre-european times - Historical associations with early pioneering farming and timber milling
ONFL15	White Rock	Very High	Very High	Moderate
		Rare geological feature consisting of a limestone reef which extends	- Popular locality for fossil collection - Shore platform in the vicinity of	Recognised by the local community as a popular spot for

ONFL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
		over 700m into the ocean Expressive of the natural processes — erosion and fault movement which has formed it	site includes a number of significant ecological habitats and values - Vivid, distinctive, rocky feature - Unmodified reef and largely unmodified coastal platform	fishing, diving and surfing
ONFL16	Cape Palliser	High	Very High	Very High
		- Highly valued and researched archaeological sites - Aggregation of discrete and unusual geological features such as Kupe's Sail and Ngapotiki Fan - Important habitat for various native species; well established fur seal breeding colony	- Dramatic, wild and rugged landscape; native vegetation dominant and hardened to tough coastal conditions - Very expressive of formative processes — wind and water erosion, tectonic uplift 'Iconic' and highly recognised throughout Wairarapa and wider Wellington region	- Significant for Tangata Whenua as a food source; associations with Kupe; earliest human habitation in NZ - Popular tourism and recreational destination - Historical ties to establishment of early stations, development of nearby settlements and commercial fishing bases

SCHEDULE 8 – Special Amenity Landscapes

Masterton District

SAL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
SAL1	Wairarapa Coastline	High	High	High
		- Rich in geological features - Pockets of regenerating and remnant indigenous coastal vegetation - Natural coastal processes evident and still occurring	- Coastal landforms expressive of geomorphological processes - Open, expansive, isolated and largely undeveloped - Coastal imagery used widely to promote Wairarapa region.	- Highly valued by Tangata Whenua for historical settlement and food source - Valued recreational destination and range of activities
SAL2	Te Rangitumau	Moderate	High	High
		- Moderate ecological values as the landform is almost entirely grazed - Landform itself is largely unmodified, except for the radio tower and access track	- Dramatic scale, and distinctive profile which is identifiable from various vantage points throughout northern Wairarapa - Tightly cropped vegetation reveals and accentuates the underlying topography	- Well known landmark for local community - Extremely significant to Tangata Whenua (especially Rangitane) as their ‘ancestral mountain’.

SAL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
SAL3	Mangapakeha Taipo	High	High	Moderate
		- Representative band of steep taipo, weathered to reveal the underlying greywacke rock - Moderate to high ecological values with patches of indigenous vegetation and regenerating vegetation scattered throughout the area - High natural values - little evidence of modification of the landform and no structures apparent	- The taipo, particularly the peaks, are vivid and visually striking. - High visibility from sections of the Masterton-Carterton Road.	- The area is highly expressive of the geological and natural processes which have formed it. - General significance to Tangata Whenua through legend and association - Limited recognition by local and wider Wairarapa community
SAL4	Te Maipa Taipo	High	High	Moderate
		Representative band of steep taipos, weathered to reveal the underlying greywacke rock	The taipo forms a distinctive backdrop from Wainuioru, and a more immediate, dramatic landform from Stronvar/ Ngahape	The area is highly expressive of the geological and natural processes which have formed it

SAL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
		- Some scattered patches of indigenous vegetation identified as RAP and 'indigenous threatened environments' - High natural values — little evidence of modification of the landform and no structures apparent		- Limited recognition by local or wider Wairarapa community - Moderate to high significance to Tangata Whenua, recognised 'Te Maipi Wahi Tapu' site within the area

Carterton District

SAL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
SAL1	Wairarapa Coastline	High	High	High
		- Rich in geological features - Pockets of regenerating and remnant indigenous coastal vegetation - Natural coastal processes	- Coastal landforms expressive of geomorphological processes - Open, expansive, isolated and largely undeveloped - Coastal imagery used widely to promote	- Highly valued by Tangata Whenua for historical settlement and food source - Valued recreational destination and range of activities

		evident and still occurring	Wairarapa region.	
SAL5	Gladstone Cliffs	High	High	Moderate
		- Rare geological feature of this scale in the Wairarapa - Extensive native regeneration occurring of the cliff face, much of which has been identified as 'threatened indigenous environment'	- Forms a distinctive backdrop for Gladstone area, especially when travelling along Gladstone Road - Strong visual contrast between the regenerating vegetation and bare limestone bluffs	- Well known to local community, close association with local pub and marae - Significance to Tangata Whenua as the setting for the legend about the taniwha Ngarara Huarau
SAL6	Maungaraki Main Ridge	Moderate	High	High
		- The gently rolling, limestone hills typify the character of the area - A few scattered 'threatened indigenous environments' - Reasonable degree of naturalness — structures contained to lower toe slopes	- Undeveloped skyline and ridges form a distinctive backdrop and are readily identified from the central plains - At close range they capture an idealised rural character, with manicured small holdings, and abundant amenity plantings	- Recognised transient values associated with seasonal changes - Well recognised by the local community, particularly as a backdrop to the Gladstone/ Ponatahi area, and as a landmark when travelling along SH2
SAL7	Maungaraki Low Ridge	Moderate	High	High
		The gently rolling,	Undeveloped skyline and	Recognised transient

		limestone hills typify the character of the area • A few scattered 'threatened indigenous environments' • Reasonable degree of naturalness — structures contained to lower toe slopes	ridges form a distinctive backdrop and are readily identified from the central plains • At close range they capture an idealised rural character, with manicured small holdings, and abundant amenity plantings	values associated with seasonal changes • Well recognised by the local community, particularly as a backdrop to the Gladstone/ Ponatahi area, and as a landmark when travelling along SH2
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South Wairarapa District

SAL Number	Description	Values		
		Natural Science	Sensory	Shared and recognised
SAL1	Wairarapa Coastline	High	High	High
		• Rich in geological features • Pockets of regenerating and remnant indigenous coastal vegetation • Natural coastal processes evident and still occurring	• Coastal landforms expressive of geomorphological processes • Open, expansive, isolated and largely undeveloped • Coastal imagery used widely to promote Wairarapa region.	• Highly valued by Tangata Whenua for historical settlement and food source • Valued recreational destination and range of activities

PA – Public Access

The Wairarapa has an extensive coastline and numerous freshwater bodies, including Lake Wairarapa and the Ruamāhanga, Waipoua, Waingawa, Waiohine, and Tauherenikau Rivers, that are important natural features and highly valued for cultural and recreation uses. Therefore, public access to these *surface waterbodies* contributes to the cultural, social, and economic wellbeing of the Wairarapa.

The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the *Coastal Marine Area*, *lakes*, and *rivers* is a matter of national importance under section 6 of the RMA. Public access to and along the *coastal environment* is a key consideration of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

The District Plan has an important role in providing for public access to and along *surface waterbodies* and the *Coastal Marine Area* throughout the Wairarapa. This role includes the provision of *esplanade reserves* or *esplanade strips* when land is subdivided. *Waterbodies* that are of particular significance for public access within their margins are identified as *Significant Waterbodies*. The associated rules to manage inappropriate use and development within the margins of these *Significant Waterbodies* is located within the Natural Character chapter.

This Public Access chapter contains objectives and policies relating to public access. Rules relating to *esplanade reserves* and *esplanade strips* are contained in the Subdivision Chapter. These provisions align with the Subdivision Chapter and are considered at the time of any subdivision consent or any land use consent within the margins of the *Coastal Marine Area* or *surface waterbody*.

Objectives

PA-O1	Public access and enjoyment
Public access to and enjoyment of the coast, <i>rivers</i>, <i>lakes</i>, and <i>natural inland wetlands</i> and their margins is maintained and enhanced in a manner that: a. preserves their natural character, natural processes, water quality, indigenous biodiversity, landscape, historic heritage, and cultural values, or mitigates natural hazards; and b. minimises incompatibility of providing public access with adjoining activities.	

Policies

PA-P1	Esplanade reserves and strips and access strips
Require, where appropriate, any subdivision of land to provide <i>esplanade reserves</i> or <i>esplanade strips</i> to form a connected series of <i>esplanade reserves/strips</i> of minimum width of 10 m along <i>surface waterbodies</i> and the <i>Coastal Marine Area</i> where: a. the subdivision of land adjoins a <i>surface waterbody</i> or the <i>Coastal Marine Area</i> and access is necessary to protect natural character, natural processes, water quality, indigenous biodiversity, landscape, historic heritage, recreational, and cultural values, or mitigates natural hazards; and b. the subdivision of land adjoins or can provide improved access to <i>Significant Waterbodies</i>.	
PA-P2	Compatible activities
Enable activities within the coast, rivers, lakes, and wetlands and their margins that do not restrict or prevent public access to, or adjacent to the coast and <i>surface waterbodies</i>.	
PA-P3	Public access to the <i>Coastal Marine Area</i>
Ensure use, subdivision, and development of the coastal environment provides for, or enhances, public access to and along the <i>Coastal Marine Area</i>. Access should only be restricted for the following reasons: a. to protect threatened indigenous species; b. to protect dunes, estuaries and other sensitive natural areas or habitats; c. to protect sites and activities of cultural value to Māori; d. to protect historic heritage features and areas; or e. to protect public health and safety. f. to avoid or reduce conflict between public uses of the coastal marine area and its margins; g. for temporary activities or special events: h. for defence purposes in accordance with the Defence Act 1990; or i. in other exceptional circumstances sufficient to justify the restriction.	
PA-P4	Public access to, and along lakes, river and wetlands

Ensure use, subdivision, and development enhances public access to and along lakes, river and wetlands. Access should only be restricted for the following reasons:

- a. To protect the indigenous habitats of indigenous species
- b. To protect public health and safety
- c. To protect sensitive cultural and historic heritage values
- d. To protect the integrity and security of regionally significant infrastructure

SCHEDULE 11 – Significant Waterbodies

This schedule lists the significant waterbodies in the districts that are identified based on the following criteria:

1. the waterbody and/or its margins have high natural character and ecology values, including natural aquatic habitats that support the presence of threatened, at risk, or regionally distinctive indigenous species;
2. the waterbody is of a nature and magnitude that creates a risk for natural hazards;
3. use of the waterbody and/or its margins for recreational and public access purposes including walking, surface water activities, fishing, hunting, and tramping;
4. cultural, spiritual, or heritage associations of tangata whenua to the waterbody, including ability to undertake customary activities; and/or
5. importance of water quality, including for urban water supplies, and in relation to the above values.

Natural Wetlands have not been identified in this schedule as they are either identified in the Greater Wellington Regional Council Proposed Natural Resources Plan (appeals version 2019) and relevant protection is provided through the rule provisions, or are captured by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 which provides for relevant protection through the regulations.

Masterton District

Significant Waterbody Number	Waterbody	Biodiversity, Ecological, or Natural Character Values	Natural hazards	Recreational, Public Access, Scenic, or Amenity Values	Cultural and Heritage Values	Water Quality Values
SW1	Waingawa River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SW2	Waipoua River	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SW3	Kōpuaranga River	✓		✓	✓	
SW4	Tauwera River	✓		✓	✓	

Significant Waterbody Number	Waterbody	Biodiversity, Ecological, or Natural Character Values	Natural hazards	Recreation al, Public Access, Scenic, or Amenity Values	Cultural and Heritage Values	Water Quality Values
SW5	Whareama River	✓		✓		
SW6	South Pacific Ocean	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SW7	Ruamāhanga River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SW8	Wauhora Stream	✓				
SW9	Hapua Korari (Lost Lake)				✓	
SW10	Henley Lake			✓	✓	
SW11	Makakaweka Stream				✓	
SW12	Mākoura Stream				✓	
SW13	Mangaakuta				✓	
SW14	Mangawhero Stream				✓	
SW15	Maurioho Stream				✓	
SW16	Motuwaireka Stream	✓			✓	
SW17	Otahome (Otahaumi) Stream				✓	

Significant Waterbody Number	Waterbody	Biodiversity, Ecological, or Natural Character Values	Natural hazards	Recreational, Public Access, Scenic, or Amenity Values	Cultural and Heritage Values	Water Quality Values
SW18	Whakataki River	✓				
SW19	Kaimokopuna Stream	✓				
SW20	Unnamed River draining to the coast between E2784666 N6038022 and E2784952 N6039543	✓				
SW21	Okau Stream	✓				
SW22	Castlepoint Stream	✓				
SW23	Mataikona River	✓				

Carterton District

Significant Waterbody Number	Waterbody	Biodiversity, Ecological, or Natural Character Values	Natural hazards	Recreation al, Public, Access, Scenic, or Amenity Values	Cultural and Heritage Values	Water Quality Values
SW1	Waingawa River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SW6	South Pacific Ocean	✓	✓	✓		✓
SW7	Ruamāhanga River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SW24	Waiōhine River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SW25	Waingawa Wetland	✓		✓		
SW26	Mangatarere River				✓	
SW27	Kourarau Stream				✓	
SW28	Te Para Stream	✓			✓	
SW29	Hautokioki Stream	✓				

South Wairarapa District

Significant Waterbody Number	Waterbody	Biodiversity, Ecological, or Natural Character Values	Natural hazards	Recreation al, Public, Access, Scenic, or Amenity Values	Cultural and Heritage Values	Water Quality Values
SW6	South Pacific Ocean	✓	✓	✓		✓
SW7	Ruamāhanga River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SW24	Waiōhine River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SW30	Lake Wairarapa and any waterbody in the Lake Wairarapa Wetlands	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SW31	Tauherenika u River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SW32	Raukokoputuna River	✓	✓	✓		✓
SW33	Tūranganui River	✓	✓			
SW34	Huangarua River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SW35	Pahaoa River	✓	✓	✓		
SW36	Awhea River	✓	✓			
SW37	Opouawa River	✓	✓			

Significant Waterbody Number	Waterbody	Biodiversity, Ecological, or Natural Character Values	Natural hazards	Recreation al, Public, Access, Scenic, or Amenity Values	Cultural and Heritage Values	Water Quality Values
SW38	Ōterei River	✓				
SW39	Whangaehu River	✓	✓		✓	
SW40	Makotukutuku Stream locally known as Washpool Stream	✓	✓	✓		
SW42	Pararaki Stream	✓	✓	✓		
SW42	Otakaha Stream	✓	✓	✓		
SW43	Whawanui River	✓	✓	✓		
SW44	Cape River	✓	✓	✓		
SW45	The Stream in the Waihora Valley	✓	✓	✓		
SW46	Tauanui River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SW47	Owhanga Stream	✓	✓	✓		
SW48	Cross Creek	✓	✓	✓		
SW49	Bocketts Stream	✓	✓	✓		

Significant Waterbody Number	Waterbody	Biodiversity, Ecological, or Natural Character Values	Natural hazards	Recreation al, Public, Access, Scenic, or Amenity Values	Cultural and Heritage Values	Water Quality Values
SW50	Waiorongam ai River	✓	✓	✓		
SW51	Battery Stream	✓	✓	✓		
SW52	Wharepapa River	✓	✓	✓		
SW53	Mukamuka Stream	✓	✓	✓		
SW54	Pāpāwai Stream	✓	✓	✓		
SW55	Lake Ōnoke	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SW56	Parangarahu Lakes (Kohangatera , Kohangapirip iri including catchments)				✓	
SW57	Pounui Stream and Lake Pounui	✓				
SW58	Wairongomai River (tributary of Lake Wairarapa)	✓				

Significant Waterbody Number	Waterbody	Biodiversity, Ecological, or Natural Character Values	Natural hazards	Recreation al, Public, Access, Scenic, or Amenity Values	Cultural and Heritage Values	Water Quality Values
SW59	Burlings Stream (tributary of Lake Wairarapa)	✓				
SW60	Unnamed tributaries of Lake Wairarpaa between E2692884 N5996151 and E2694063 N5996975	✓				
SW61	Brockets Stream (tributary of Lake Wairarapa)	✓				
SW62	Prince Stream	✓				
SW63	Rivers flowing to the coast between the Huariki Stream and the Rerewhakaai tu River	✓				

Significant Waterbody Number	Waterbody	Biodiversity, Ecological, or Natural Character Values	Natural hazards	Recreation al, Public, Access, Scenic, or Amenity Values	Cultural and Heritage Values	Water Quality Values
SW64	Waitetuna Stream	✓				
SW65	Devils Creek	✓				
SW66	Mangatoetoe Stream	✓				
SW67	Ruakokopau na Creek	✓				
SW68	Pūtangirua Stream	✓				
SW69	Waiuru Stream	✓				
SW70	Waihingaia Stream	✓				
SW71	Abbots Creek	✓				
SW72	Unnamed River on the true left bank of the Ruamahanga River at E2704500 N5988700	✓				